



PO Box 97

Houghton, MI 49931

www.isleroyale.org

Newsletter April 2005

- IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting
- IRBA Annual Isle Royale Meeting & 3rd Annual Fishing Tournament
- Cruise Isle Royale Via. The *Keweenaw Star* Annual IRBA Meeting
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A newsletter to inform the members of ongoing activities within the Isle Royale Boater's Association, promote discussion among its members on various IRBA issues and share members' experiences related to boating, sport fishing, hiking, canoeing, and kayaking.

IRBA ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The IRBA Annual Dinner meeting will be held at the Ramada Inn on Saturday May 7, 2005 in Hancock, MI. The Ramada Inn next to the Portage Lake lift bridge in Hancock, MI. A cash bar will be available at 5:30 PM and dinner at 6:00 PM. The food service will include Roast Beef and Fish Buffet. The cost of the dinner will be \$ 20.00 per person. For planning purposes, we need to know if you will be coming by May 1, 2004. Please email me at dwhand@mtu.edu or call me at (906) 370 - 7354 for reservations. This event is a great way to start out the boating season.

IRBA ANNUAL ISLE ROYALE ISLAND MEETING, SATURDAY, JULY 16, 2005.

Mark your calendar again! - The IRBA annual Isle Royale Island meeting will be held on Saturday July 16, 2004 at 3:00 PM. We will be holding the meeting at the Rock Harbor Lodge and will have another fantastic fish fry and get

together after the meeting. The fishermen will supply the fresh fish, potato, salad and soft drinks. We would ask that if you are handy at making a desert dish that would be great.

For you fishermen, we will be holding the 3rd Annual IRBA Fishing Tournament on Saturday morning from sunrise to 2:00 PM. This year the tournament will be a fundraiser with a cash prize for the boat that reels in the three largest lake trout by weight. The cash prize will be one half of the tournament proceeds. Trophies will be awarded to the first and second place teams with the three largest fish. A trophy will also be given for the largest fish caught. This year the entry fee will be \$10.00 per person. Entry request must be made by 7 PM on Friday, July 15. Dave Hand will be at Caribou Island to take the entry request by marine radio or in person. The entry fee can be paid before the day of the tournament or at the time of weigh in as long as you have made the entry request. If you have questions please contact Dave Hand (Dr. Trout).

This year's annual island meeting will be attended by Buck Levasseur, the award winning producer of *Discovering* on WLUC TV6 on Monday nights. The Upper Michigan Out-of-Doors Sportsman will produce a story on the IRBA organization and cover the fishing tournament.

**CRUISE ISLE ROYALE VIA. THE
KEWEENAW STAR ANNUAL IRBA MEETING
- DWANE 'BEAR' FAULKNER**

The Isle Royale Boaters Association annual Isle Royale meeting will be held on Isle Royale at Rock Harbor on July 16, 2005. Members and guests can cruise aboard the *Keweenaw Star*, featuring the always colorful Fred Funkey and crew, to the meeting.

The cruise will depart Houghton, MI at 7am EDT on Saturday, July 16th and will arrive in Grand Portage around 10AM CDT. Departure from Grand Portage is at 10:30 AM and passengers will arrive in Rock Harbor at approximately 3PM EDT. Passengers can enjoy the meeting and fish fry and other local attractions. The *Keweenaw Star* will depart Rock Harbor after the fish fry and will proceed with the moonlight cruise to Grand Portage. Sunday, July 17th the *Keweenaw Star* will return to Houghton in the morning.

Lodging will be available at the *Grand Portage Lodge and Casino* for the evening of July 16th. Cost of round trip from either Houghton or Grand Portage is \$100.00/person. (lodging not included) Times for departures and arrivals are subject to change. To reserve your spot contact Dwane Falconer at (218) 721-3195 or the IRBA.

**FROM CREATIVE TOUCH TACKLE, THE
PASSION AND PERFECTION OF TROUT &
SALMON SPOONS - MICKEY LITWIN**

The Need'le Nose

The fusion of passion and perfection in the art of Trout & Salmon fishing there is nothing like it. Perhaps the need'le nose is the most productive spoon available to the Great Lakes fisherman. Troll it slow....the lake trout find it irresistible. Kick it up a notch....cohos and steelhead will find it. Bring the "RPMs" to where you never go....the metamorphosis happens, have the salmon net ready! Magic underwater....from its enticing flutter at a slower speed, to a porpoising meal for a big salmon when speeding up a little. If you fish with spoons... it's an "absolute must" to have the Need'le nose in your tackle box arsenal as it is the bunker buster of trolling spoons.

In the spring of 1998, Dave and Mickey were on the water early for the boating and fishing season. The Rock of Ages on the west end of Isle Royale was the spot... around and around for those who know it. Fishing you say.... Not quite....preparation for it. They were in the birthing process of what was to become the Need'le Nose Spoon. With pliers, files and shaping slugs in hand...they were in pursuit of the attributes that bring gamefish... to the baitfish. Their intention was to mimic the baitfish movement on their pieces of brass. It was then and only then that a hook would be put in place... then maybe a little fishing could take place. The entire summer of 1998 was invested into "on-the-water" research and development in making the pieces of brass, do their under magic. Matching the hatch below the waterline was the goal. Bend it here, files it there. Over the side, over and over again until it was perfect!

Several years have passed, yet the goal of perfection continues. From the 35lb Lakers at

Lake Nippogon, to the Kings of Michigan and Huron...the Need'le Nose has proven itself to outfish all others. Creative Touch Tackle has been quite creative in the design of their spoons as well as the unique paint finishes found on them. You can fish the Need'le Nose in any of the traditional ways, or use your own.

The Need'le Nose, available on IRBA home page Dave and Mickey Litwin would like to hear your story. e-mail: Creativetouch@iglide.net

IR DRAFT BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED PREMATURELY to IRBA - Dave Hand

In February, just after the January IRBA newsletter was released, IRBA was informed by the Park Service that the long awaited "Draft Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement" for Isle Royale was still in the pre-draft stages and was not suppose to be released to IRBA. According to Park Superintendent, Phyllis Green, "Park staff mistakenly gave a copy of the draft plan of the WBCM Plan to a persistent IRBA member (Ed Glowacki) prior to its publication and final review by park staff. The IRBA member was acting in good faith based on an erroneous Federal Register notice. The National Park Service in Washington DC placed the notice prior to any plans coming back from the printer. It has inaccuracies as a result of not having any addendums."

NPS UPDATE - BETSY ROSSINI (NPS)

Staffing Changes - We have had a few staffing changes this year. Pam Griffin was hired as the park's contracting officer. Kate Hanrahan was selected to be the park's purchasing agent.

Susan Sanders was recently selected to serve as the Supt's secretary. The Chief of Interpretation remains vacant and we are hoping to fill it as a 6 month to 1 year detail. Long time Isle Royale employee, Brian Ruddy retired this winter. His Telecommunication position was just filled by Ken Irwin. Jay Celmer also just retired from the Ranger III and his position will soon be filled. Jason Oles and Annalie Wright were hired vice protection rangers to replace John Fish and Dan Reed. Erin Grivicich was hired to be the Maintenance Work Leader at Windigo.

Budget and Financial Forecast - We are once again faced with a flat budget. There are across the board cuts, a series of assessments for various programs including homeland security, little to no adjustment for inflation including for annual pay increases, not to mention the sky rocketing cost of fuel. So this translates into reduced purchasing power across the board. We are looking at the loss of several seasonal positions. At this point, it looks like about 30% less seasonal positions on the island. Several miscellaneous maintenance positions were cut; several trail crew positions, two interpretive positions, 1/2 of the Edison fishery position to name a few. There will be less interpretive programs and shortened visitor center hours at all visitor center sites. There will be less trail maintenance done and less maintenance support in other areas.

Planning - A draft Wilderness and Backcountry Management Plan is anticipated for publication some time in April or May.

Work Projects - As always there is an endless list of maintenance projects that are completed every year - painting, campgrounds and trails maintenance. A few more significant projects include: replacement of the water tank at Mott Island that is in danger of imminent collapse, finishing touches on the Tobin Harbor Dock,

replacement of the docks at Ralph House, the fuel barge cove, and Crystal Cove. Decking will be replaced at Duncan Narrows. They are putting in some solar panels at the Ralph House. There is a new duplex being built at Mott Island as a replacement for two obsolete houses that will be removed. There will be sewer work being done at Rock Harbor. In Houghton, we are installing some modular offices to get staff and the visitor center out of the old headquarters building which has been determined to have excessively high levels of mold creating an unhealthy work environment.

Concession Contracts - A perspective for the two ferry boats concession contracts is anticipated to be released in the next year.

Resource Management - A few highlights of activities in the resource management division include soils and geologic features inventory, an aquatic plants inventory, research on mercury levels on inland lake's fish, a search to see if spiny water fleas can be found in inland lakes. The USCG is planning a lead contamination removal at Passage Island.

New Boating Regs - There is a possibility the new boating regulations will be released this summer. We have not seen anything on it since it came out in draft and don't know what the final regulations will look like.

**IRBA January Newsletter
Corrections/Additions**

- Correction: The all time high gas price on IR in 2004 was \$ 3.66 per gallon and not \$ 4.33 as stated in the article. Sorry, for the mistake, I do not want to make any worse that it was. However, with the present rise in fuel prices, we may see this price in the summer of 2005.

- Addition: Thanks to John and Carol Drew (Blue Water) for supplying the American fries for the July fish fry. John, thanks for frying them too! Also thanks to Jim and Mary Drew; and Bob and Jeanie Baillod for helping with the set-up and cooking.

Articles for Newsletter consideration are welcome. ----

*Please support your IRBA
P.O. Box 97
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