



PO Box 97
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Newsletter April 2009

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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 Update by Dave Hand

We will have an annual update from the Park Service in the May newsletter. I have been talking to Park Superintendent Phyllis Green on the bait issue and again this year there will be a ban on bringing bait to the island. IRBA will provide bait this year in freezers at Windigo and Rock Harbor. We will make a better effort to package the bait in smaller sizes, in particular the sucker bait.

There were some concerns from the Park Service that because of the bait readily available to shore fishermen that it was observed that more fish were caught from shore than in previous years. I am thinking the concern was with respect to endangering the coaster brook trout population. So be careful if you catch one of those coasters and release it as carefully as possible. I was told that Boy Scouts had successfully used the bait in catching fish at Windigo. I think that is a good thing! We will let you know in the May newsletter when the bait freezers will be in place and ready for use.

I have talked to Superintendent Green on a number of issues related to boating on Isle Royale. One is the possibility of making park reservations over the VHF radio for those boaters that have annual passes. This is primarily for north shore boaters that do not have convenient access to park headquarters for making reservations. I have also asked about putting in a credit card gas pump at Windigo gas dock to make fuel more accessible and timely. I will let you know the Park's comments when I receive them.

I know some of you will not believe this but we are working on a new website and it should be up and running in May. I will update you on the progress in the next newsletter.

There are some important dates for the upcoming season which you need to mark on your calendar. The annual dinner meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009, onboard the Keweenaw Star docked on the waterfront in Houghton MI next to Dee Stadium. Beverages will be served from 4:00 -5:00 PM followed by the dinner cruise at 5:00 PM. Reservations can

be made by contacting Kristine at (906) 482 - 0001, email me at dwhand@mtu.edu, or call me at (906) 370 -7354 and leave a message if I cannot answer.

The IRBA West End fundraiser will be held on Thursday, June 18, 2009, 5:00 PM (CST) at the Lakeview Castle, Duluth MN. Proceeds of the fundraiser will go to development of new boat dock facilities at Windigo. For reservations you may contact Bear at (907) 723-4213, Mark Rude at (218) 343-3030 or Kristine at (906) 481-0001 for reservations.

The IRBA annual Island meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2009, 3:00 PM at the Dave Johnson Memorial Pavilion at Windigo. More info will be forthcoming in the next newsletter on this meeting and the fishing tournament.

The Isle Royale Itch by Dave Hand

After another nice winter in the Copper Country, it is time to start thinking about Isle Royale. For the past two weeks the weather in the Keweenaw Peninsula has been clear and sunny. On these days, I can see Isle Royale while coming home from work. Seeing the Island starts to get me thinking about all the good times I have had out there with family and friends. I start to get anxious about heading back over for another good time. I already have some trips planned with friends and hope to sneak in a few more unplanned ones if possible. How about you?

It is time to start thinking about Isle Royale and planning your next trip(s). As I have already done, call your friends and family and get things going. I know I do not have to tell you because you probably have the 'Isle Royale Itch' more than I do. I have already been sitting in my boat in the barn thinking about what work needs to

get done to get it sea worthy for another season of boating on the Island. Oh Yah, I need to refinish my teakwood (YUCK!). And what about that nagging static I have on my VHF radio when I transmit (UGH!). You have probably been listening to your VHF radio on the Island and someone calls Dr. Trout, then you hear +#@%^&*! All I can say is HELP! If anyone out there has any suggestions on how to get rid of this static please let me know. I will gladly serve you your beverage of choice when I see you on Isle Royale.

So start thinking about your next trip to Isle Royale. Get your boat maintenance done now as summer will be here sooner than you think!

Just My Opinion! by Don Hannula

I don't go to Isle Royale to visit with the Park Rangers. As a matter of fact, I don't even want to see one. I know that they are a necessary evil and I even needed their assistance ONCE! I radioed for one - he came, took care of the problem (not totally to my satisfaction, but kept the peace on both side), and left. I have been told they are great in the area of search and rescue and first aid. Each summer there are incidents that happen on the main Island where their skills are needed.

I also believe they should protect the Island for future generations. Now those of you that know me are saying.....What? Let me explain. I like leaving the campground better than I found it. People should not litter anywhere, and that includes cigarette butts in the fire pit that I may roast a hot dog over later. What is lacking a lot of times is common sense. We all need to use common sense, including the Rangers. It only takes one overzealous Ranger to give all the Rangers a black eye.

When we go to Isle Royale we are still in the United States of America and are still U.S. citizens. When on the Island you must abide by Park rules, must obey Michigan DNR fishing rules, and special restrictions for inland fishing. You must respect the land and the water...pack out what you pack in. As a boater, I have seen some people clean their fish on the dock and that's a no-no! It attracts flies, seagulls, and a Ranger with his ticket book.

Personally, I have not had a problem with any of the Park Rangers. But last July during Boaters' week, we had a Ranger move some personal property out of a shelter into another shelter because the shelter was improperly tagged. No one was at the campground when this was done. I do not think this was right. What if a claim was made that something was missing because of the move? What would be the Rangers defense? There was a lot of personal property around - coolers, sleeping bags, backpacks, personal belongings, tied-up boats, etc. Did the Ranger go through those too - makes you wonder? After hearing three years of rumors about this particular Ranger I would not put it past him!

This Ranger and his partner came back after our group was back to the campground. We had a proper tag on the shelter and the campers' belongings returned to the shelter. The Ranger attempted to talk to one member of our party in private - our member declined. I thought this was a very smart move on the part of our member. Visitors should know that this Ranger is a retired Michigan State Police Lt. who worked in a narcotics unit in southern Michigan and is a trained interrogator. In my opinion, once he is one-on-one with you then you are at his mercy. Once his report is written who is going to believe you. I believe he is working at the wrong place for the Park Service. He belongs in Yellowstone or the Tetons; an area

where they have more undesirables. He has interrogated more than one visitor already, and several say they will not return.

As I stated before, this is my opinion. I am not an attorney. As a matter of fact, I am a retired Michigan State Police Trooper. I never knew the Ranger in question when he was in my Department. I took pride in leaving all the public on a friendly basis. Even the ones I had to arrest. In my opinion, you don't talk one-on-one with this Ranger. You show him the mandatory papers, backcountry permit, fishing license, I.D., boat registration, etc. Don't be afraid to ask to have his supervisor present. I don't believe he has the right to hold you up for an unreasonable amount of time. I am all for protecting the resource, but I am not for intimidation and ruining visitors' vacations.

What is your opinion? Let us know. Have you had an experience with the Rangers? Good or bad? Drop the Association a line at IRBA, Box 97, Houghton MI 49931.

IRBA Membership Renewal and Address Change

It is time again for some of us to renew our membership. A renewal membership form is enclosed for your convenience. In addition, there may be some members that have recently moved and IRBA does not have their forwarding address. If you know of a member that has moved and you know their new address, we would appreciate an update. The form can be used for this purpose. Just write on the form that it is for an address update. **Place the membership form and payment in the self-addressed envelope and send back to IRBA. If the print on your mailing label on the envelope of the newsletter is "black" in color, this means that your membership dues are "not" up to date**

and need to be paid for the 2009 season.
But if the print is red in color your
membership dues are paid for the 2009 year.
If you are still unsure then call Kristine at
(906) 482-0001.

IRBA Apparel Available

We have IRBA apparel available including: hats,
sweatshirts, and polo shirts. We also have nice
jackets available by special order. You can order
them by contacting Carol at (906) 482-9342.

IRBA Scheduled Events

IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting - Saturday, May 16,
2009, 4:00 - 5:00 PM cocktail hour, dinner
cruise at 5:00 PM, Keweenaw Star Cruise Ship,
located on the waterfront in Houghton MI
alongside the DEE Stadium.

IRBA West End Fundraiser - Thursday, June 18,
2009, 5:00 PM Lakeview Castle, Duluth MN

IRBA Annual Island Meeting, Saturday, July 18,
2009, 3:00 PM at the Dave Johnson Memorial
Pavilion at Windigo.

**Articles for Newsletter consideration are
welcome.**

*Please support your IRBA
PO Box 97
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