



PO Box 97
Houghton, MI 49931
www.isleroyale.org

Newsletter

December 2005

- IR Draft Backcountry Management Plan
- IRBA Scheduled Events
- IRBA West End News
- Second Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament Results
- First Annual Rock Harbor Fish Fry
- IRBA Life Member Receives Park Award
- IRBA Directory Information
- The Fourth Annual Walleye Challenge

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.

IR DRAFT BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN - ED GLOWACKI

Once we have thoroughly analyzed the WBMP/EIS we will send members our assessment. The plan should soon be available at the NPS's Isle Royale website www.nps.gov/isro/planform.htm (as of 1/4/2005 it had not been posted). Also by calling Isle Royale offices at 906-482-0986 you can request a plan be sent to you.

There is a 60 day comment period on this draft plan.

IRBA SCHEDULED EVENTS

IRBA WEST END NEWS
- DWANE "BEAR" FALCONER

THIRD ANNUAL IRBA ISLE ROYALE TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT RESULTS- DAVE HAND

The Third Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Snug Harbor on Saturday, July 16, 2005. The weather was near perfect with sunny skies, temperatures in the middle 80's and calm winds.

The rules of the tournament were each boat entered in the tournament would provide the highest total weight of three fish caught between sunrise and 2PM with weigh-in at Snug Harbor. The fish caught were donated to the fish fry at Rock Harbor Lodge (see story below). A plaque and the bragging rights were given to the boat with the highest total weight. Plaques were given to second and third place winners, and the largest fish taken. A trophy was also given for the three largest fish taken by trolling. IRBA member, John Evans (Lanse, MI) donated trophies for the event for the second year. Thanks Again John!

This year was special as Upper Michigan's famous outdoor sports enthusiast, Buck Levasseur, was here to catch all the action.

Again this year, most of the fishermen headed to the east end of the island and fished between North Government Island and Passage Island with some going out to the famed Gull Rock fishing grounds including the humps. The pressure was on the fishermen of the Miss Laurie (2003 winner) and the Miss Conduct (2004 winner) as they were going head to head to win the rubber match and try to claim the prize as the repeat IRBA champions. This year the bragging rights and first place prize went to the "Miss Laurie" and crew [John Evans (Captain), Mike LeClaire and John Messer Jr.] with their three largest fish weighing a total of 46 lb 11 oz. (bobbing). The "Miss Conduct" and crew [Jim Markham (Captain), Rodney Markham, Joe Asiala, and Scott Hyrkas] came in second place with the three largest fish caught weighing a total of 43 lb 11 oz. (bobbing). The first and second place teams were separated by only 3 lbs. The "Mishin Fishing" crew [Paul Peterson, Ship Lavold, Bob Annala and Jim Sellman] placed third with the three largest fish weighing a total of 26 lbs 10 oz (trolling). The trolling trophy also went to "Mishin Fishing". The "Miss Laurie" retained the trophy for the largest fish as Mike "Odie" LeClair caught a 21 lb 13 oz monster.

In addition to plaques, cash prizes of \$ 100 (first place), \$ 70 (second place), \$ 50 (third place), \$ 100 (biggest fish), \$ 100 (trolling trophy) were awarded.

This year we need to recognize other successful fishermen who participated in the tournament as the difference between the third, fourth and fifth places were only 15 ounces. Fourth place went to "Trout Tamer" and crew [Dennis Roy, Louis Roy and Don Lambert with a total weight of 26 lb 4 oz. (bobbing). Fifth place went to "Waterwitch" and crew [Bill and Pat Siler] with a total weight of 25 lb 11 oz. (trolling). It should also be mentioned that the "Creative Touch" and crew [Mickey Litwin Dave Durland, Gary Ayers and Jeff Rossi] had a total weight of 19 lb 13 oz.

(trolling). The "Mistake" and crew [Bob Forsman Mark Kinnunen (Captain) and son, Paul Takhtinin and son and Todd Kinnunen] had a total weight of 18 lb 10 oz. (bobbing), and the "Spare Time" and crew [Don and Tammy Beauchamp] had a total weight of 14 lb 1 oz. (trolling). Don and Tammy also caught a 4 lb king salmon.



John Kappler (right) awarding the first place trophy and prize money to the Miss Conduct Captain Jim Markham (middle) and Joe Asiala (left).



John Kappler awarding the second place trophy to the Crew of the Miss Laurie, Mike LeClaire

(right), John Evans (middle) and John Messer (left).



Third place winners of the Terra II, Biddle Almlı (right) and Hube Campeau (left).



John Messer holding the largest laker caught in the tournament.

Overall, the tournament was a great success with a lot of participation from IRBA members. About \$ 200 in tournament proceeds were

raised for the IRBA general fund. IBRA thanks the fishermen for their participation. The tournament is in the planning stages for third annual tourney and suggestions are welcome. ----

FIRST ANNUAL ROCK HARBOR FISH FRY-DON HANNULA

When planning the July Boaters' Association Meeting at Rock Harbor, it was decided to have the fishing tournament again. We decided to go one step further and have a fish fry after the tournament, weigh-in, and meeting. As with any first-time event, it was unknown how many to plan for. We decided to keep it simple and ordered coleslaw, tossed salad, and cold pop from the concessions; thus cutting down on the more perishable items that we would have to bring from the mainland. We brought over frozen Freedom fries, peanut oil, seasonings, fryers, and the desire to put on a heck of a fish fry.

When signing up the 10 boats for the tournament, we asked that the fishermen donate some fillets for the fish fry. They came through with flying colors. A special thanks to Scott Hyrkas for filleting all the fish for the fish fry. We also put the word out several weeks earlier that members could bring a dessert for after the meal. The lady boaters sure filled the bill. We had lemon bars, brownies, cakes, and cookies.

Thanks to John Evans and crew, Dave Hand and Don Hannula, two fryers for the fish and one for the French fries were going at full capacity. Once we had several batches done, we rang the dinner bell. Hungry people kept coming and coming. I didn't think there were that many people in Rock Harbor. The meal was open to everyone. When finished, we had fed over 80 people. One youth group from Minnesota had just come off of the trails from several days of volunteer work. They were hot and hungry. President Dave Hand invited them for seconds

and they were smiling from ear to ear. When everyone ate their fill, the same group asked if they could do the cleanup. I guess there are a lot of good kids in the world yet.

We did have an unexpected guest that was not allowed to eat - a young moose (see picture below) came within 30 feet of the fryers; kept his nose in the air smelling the hot peanut oil. After the cleanup, a mother fox and two kits came out of the underbrush and were licking the ground where the fryers were set up.



IR moose looking for handout.

It was a great meal on a beautiful day with fantastic scenery. For some reason people were too busy eating and there were not many pictures taken of the event except for one shown below of some happy boaters. In review of the event, we will make improvements for July 2005. Everyone mark your calendar, our next Island Boaters' Meeting will be held on July 16, 2005, at Rock Harbor. Bring your appetite. --



IRBA members Pat Siler, Mary Drew, Carol Drew, and Deb Hannula

IRBA LIFE MEMBER RECEIVES RECOGNITION FROM ISLE ROYALE NATIONAL PARK

IRBA life member Dr. David H. Gilbert, retired General Surgeon, received the Presidential Volunteer-In-Park award from the National Park Service for his over 30 years of dedicated service as the Sponsoring Physician for Isle Royale National Park. The award is the highest available for such service. Dr. Gilbert has hiked and boated the park for decades.

The entire IRBA organization would also like to thank Dr. Gilbert for his many years of service to the park by helping many boaters, hikers, kayakers, canoeists and park employees in need of medical attention.



Park Ranger, Liz Valencia presenting the Presidential Volunteer-In-Park award to Dr. David Gilbert. --

IRBA DIRECTORY INFORMATION -MARK RUDE

In response to a number of member inquiries IRBA will be making an IRBA membership directory list which will be available to members at their request. The membership list will be

distributed ONLY to the membership participating in the directory. Recognizing that some may wish to remain anonymous, only those members indicating a desire to be listed would be included in the directory. Additionally, if you wish to be included in the directory only the information filled in on the enclosed form would appear in the directory. If you wish to participate in and receive the directory fill out the enclosed form and send to:

IRBA Directory
PO Box 97
Houghton MI. 49931

Only those submitting the enclosed form would be included in the directory and receive a copy. IRBA would appreciate your input, and be assured the directory would be made available only to participating members at their request.--

4TH ANNUAL LAKE WHITTLESEY WALLEYE CHALLENGE - DAVE TURNQUIST

The 4th annual Lake Whittlesey Walleye Challenge was again a success. This year, the teams decided to make it a two day event, a decision that would later haunt the team of Doctor Trout and company.

The teams consisted of the usual members for Doctor Trout and the AwggieDawg, with Doc Trout himself opting to go it alone in a kayak provided by Don Hannula. On day one, the bite was a little slow due to foul weather. A few walleyes were being caught, but most of them were small and had to be thrown back. Team Doctor Trout managed to catch a couple keepers that day, leading team AwggieDawg after a day one bust. However, an interesting event occurred on day one when Adam Downs, first mate of the AwggieDawg, managed to catch a couple small walleyes on top water plugs. I have never heard of such a thing, but after two days, Adam was able to produce 7 fish on top water

plugs similar to buzz baits. Since the bite was slow, this allowed the opportunity to explore the lake beyond previous outings in search of fish. Revealed was a mid lake hump, a deeper region on the far west end, and lots of weeds if you know where to look for them.

Day two lead both teams immediately away from non-productive areas into the "zone", an area that gave up large numbers of big fish the previous year. This region of the lake again yielded nice numbers of fish for team AwggieDawg including 2 triples, or 3 fish on at one time. The fishing was still a bit slow, but the pattern was established and it worked for most of the day. The pattern of the day was similar to last year, dead drifting jigs. The twist to this pattern came in the form of bait relationship to the bottom. The fish wanted a presentation where the jig was dragged about 2 feet off the bottom with little or no additional action added. Dragging lures directly on the bottom produced no fish, but the ultimate pattern had yet to be discovered. Doc Trout himself got caught up in the action with a nice walleye for his team, but the planets were aligned on this day, and the tables soon turned on team Doctor Trout. Later that afternoon, team AwggieDawg discovered walleyes, lots of them, in five feet of water in the weeds.

Still dead drifting, the Dawg team decided to take a chance on an area that just didn't seem good for walleyes. The day was sunny, winds were calm due to the protection of the trees, and waters were shallow and clear...not usually a good place for mid-day eyes. To this group's surprise, the walleyes were holding tight to the base of the weed beds, shooting out for a bite as the jigs drifted through them. One pass produced 6 fish for the stringer with at least that many lost on the way to the canoe. Alas, the real pattern of the day was discovered, only it was a bit too late. You see, this was the final pass for the day, and this team was on its way to the fish cleaning station

at Rock Harbor. The final two day tally? Team Trout 3, Team Dawg 12.

Once again, these two teams fought a hard battle to out fish the other, but luck can play a major role in these things sometimes. The key to this kind of fishing is to quickly try everything until a pattern is established. If no pattern can be established and the bite is slow, finesse fishing with tiny jigs may be the only way to go. Don't overlook anything since there can be different patterns for different parts of the lake. Fish in deeper waters may prefer a jig bounced off the bottom while those residing in shallow waters may prefer a crank bait or fast action lure. The key is to establish the patterns early so you can exploit them over a period of time. Keep in mind, if the fishing action suddenly quits, it may be due to a change in pattern, not fish movement. Fish patterns often change by the hour, so you may need to adjust your tactics to suit the change in attitude. Either way, team Dawg has some advice for team Trout for next year...

...you need a Big Dawg in your boat.
Good fishing, we'll keep you informed of other fishing developments on Isle Royale.---

Articles for Newsletter consideration are welcome. ----

*Please support your IRBA
P.O. Box 97
Houghton, MI 49931*

