



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

Newsletter June 2009

- IRBA Update
- NPS Isle Royale Updates
- NEW IRBA Website
- IRBA Apparel Available
- IRBA Scheduled Events

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

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 (218) 349-5600, Mark Rude at (218) 343-3030 or Kristine at (906) 482 - 0001 for reservations.

Even though spring has been rather cool, it is time to start planning your summer trips to Isle Royale. Make sure you put the weekend of July 17-19 on your calendar. The IRBA annual Island meeting will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2009, 3:00 PM at the Dave Johnson Memorial Pavilion at Windigo. The fish fry will be held following the meeting.

The 7th Annual IRBA Fishing Tournament will also be held the same weekend. This year we will have a two day event; beginning at sunrise on Friday, July 17, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and on Saturday, July 18, from sunrise to weigh-in at 2:00 PM. Each boat will be allowed to enter the

three largest fish by weight. Fish caught on Friday can be upgraded on Saturday if the catch is larger. Fishermen can fish either or both days as long as they make the weigh-in deadlines on each day. We will provide a leader board for the two-day event located in the Johnson Pavilion. The tournament is a fundraiser with a cash prize for the boat that catches the three largest lake trout by weight. The cash prize will be one half of the tournament proceeds. Plaques will be awarded to the first, second and third place teams. A plaque will also be given for the largest fish caught. (Plaques courtesy of John Evans). This year the entry fee will be \$10.00 per person.

The Wooden Herring Award is also up for grabs this year. This award is given to either the Minnesota or Yooper (Michigan) fishermen for the three largest fish by weight. The Yoopers presently have the bragging rights to this award.

Entry requests can be made by 7 PM on Friday, July 17. Dave Hand (Dr. Trout) will be at Windigo Dock to take the entry request by marine radio or in person. The entry fee can be paid on 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 (906) 370 - 7354. Again this year, Buck LeVasseur from WLUC TV6 in Marquette Michigan will be on hand to capture all the fishing excitement.

NPS Isle Royale Updates by Betsi Rossini

New Ken Burns documentary, *The National Parks, America's Best Idea* premieres in September on PBS. Will be 12 hours, six nights. There may be some local shows about the parks in the Great Lakes as a prelude to the series.

Greenstone newspaper - is at the designer and should be ready for printing soon. Won't be doing the kids paper this year because we didn't get a Parks as Classrooms grant, but hoping for 2010 on submerged resources

Chief Ranger Larry Kangas retired in January 2. We are not filling the position immediately, instead going with Acting Chief Rangers for the next few months. Steve Martin first and then Marshall Plumer. Status of the two division chief vacancies (Chief Ranger and Chief of Natural Resources) still up in the air. We may not fill either one soon, same with the Cultural Resources Specialist.

Interpretive division staffing same as last year in the visitor centers, which means one and possibly two more volunteers at Windigo.

Ferry services:

Ranger III passenger season June 2 - September 12.

Not going to Windigo regularly this year. Too costly right now to be adding trips. Will do one Saturday round trip on June 27.

Isle Royale Queen passenger season May 15 - September 28.

They will be going every day in August, every day except Weds. in July.

Voyageur II season starts May 2 and will run to October 18.

Wenonah will operate this year from June 20 to Sept 5. Not running on Mondays or Tuesdays.

Royale Air Service: season and costs still being determined.

Upcoming Projects for 2009:

Energy audit: Dept of Interior and Dept of Energy initiative to identify sustainable alternative energy projects in park. An energy audit by the National Renewable Energy Lab took place on the Island in August 2008. The audit evaluated our energy use and identified options to limit/eliminate generator use. Preliminary findings are that Windigo and Rock Harbor both have good solar power potential and Mott has good wind and solar potential. They gave recommendations on pellet stoves and replacing lightbulbs. Plans underway in 2009 to put Ralph House on solar power and take it off the electrical grid. Working with the team to identify and implement alternative energy recommendations will be a top priority for park and Region.

Cultural Resources and Interpretation:

Archeological study of aboriginal copper mining sites - 2nd year of a 3-yr study to inventory and document prehistoric copper mines.

Cultural Landscape Report for Washington and Barnum Island will start this summer.

Oral history collection - Index, transcribe, and catalog oral history tapes and migrate to new media as needed.

Funded for this year.

Crystal Cove - beginning stabilization of the main lodge building with crew from the NPS Historic Preservation Training center.

Siefert cabin - general stabilization including reroofing and rebuilding porches and stairs.

Rock Harbor visitor center floor - will be replaced with hardwood floor in May 12 - 20 so Visitor center will open after May 20.

Rock Harbor concessions - Forever Resorts was awarded the 10 year contract.

New Houghton HQ: Still planning for the new orientation center in Houghton. The project was submitted with this month for the 2009 service-wide call as a line item construction project, possibly funded in 2011.

Continued work on VHS: The main focus is on developing a delivery system for treatment of ballast water for all ballasted tank vessels.

Dock projects: Completed the McCargoe Cove dock and Malone Bay dock replacement in 2008. Edisen Fishery main dock and Ralph House Dock are scheduled for 2009.

The New IRBA Website by Zeyad Ahmed

The IRBA website isleroyale.org has been changed into a new form that adapts more interactive format. The new format allows members to contribute to the website and raise issues, express their opinions, and share photos and various types of media with other members. After registering, members can post and comment on other posts, non-member visitors can only comment on posts and their comments will be published after administrative moderation. Detailed instructions for posting and registration are available at the website. The new website still has the good old features and services such as useful links, weather

information, newsletters, and many other features.

The new website is a combinational effort of Dave Hand, Shawn Laemmrich from the UP.net, Ed Glowacki, and Zeyad Ahmed. The website is still hosted generously for free by the UP.net, special thanks to Shawn for his instant response for any help request.

Your feedback is highly appreciated; building better website now is up to your contribution, posts, and thoughts. For any comments, please send an email to the site administrator at irba.org@gmail.com

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

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 17, 2009, and Saturday, July 18, 2009, at the Johnson Pavilion, Windigo IR.

IRBA Annual Island Meeting, Saturday, July 18, 2009, 3:00 PM (EST) followed by the fish fry 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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