



PO Box 97

Houghton, MI 49931

[www.isleroyale.org](http://www.isleroyale.org)

## Newsletter Spring 2010

- IRBA Update
- Membership Renewal
- NPS Update
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- IRBA Apparel Available
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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.*

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### **IRBA Update** by Dave Hand

I met with Phyllis Green (IRNP Superintendant) and Paul Brown who is the new Chief of Natural Resources at IRNP in March on a number of issues related to boating and fishing on IRNP waters this year. The NPS is concerned with the recent findings of the VHS virus in Lake Superior and zebra mussels in some of the bays within IRNP, they will impose a ban on fish bait brought in from outside the waters of IRNP. This means we will not be able to use the fish bait freezers or bring in bait from the main lands. Fishermen will be allowed to catch bait for use within waters of IRNP.

The main reason for the ban is that tests have been done on frozen bait (suckers) and found that some of the larva from invasive species such as spinney water flea will survive in the stomachs of fish for several years in the frozen state. Consequently, the fish bait cannot be guaranteed to be invasive species free. The

NPS is trying to protect the fishery that we presently have on IRNP.

With respect to the boating issue, Rangers will be visually inspecting boat hulls, bilges and live wells to see if they are clean and free of invasive species hitch hikers. If they are not clean and appear to contain invasive species, you will be given a ticket. So make sure the bottom of your boat is clean, and that you clean and disinfect your bilge and live well with a little bleach before the trip to IR. Most of us have clean boats and do not have to worry. I know the engine room in the Betty Mae is so clean one can eat off the floor (Hey Betty!). I am warning you now to get those boats cleaned up if you are headed to IRNP. I have placed the 2010 IRSO compendium on IRSO website so you can see what methods are recommended for disinfecting your boat. I guess we all have our opinions on these two issues.

I recently heard from IRNP that the gasoline that was bought by concessions almost 21 months ago was still going to be sold this year at

\$ 5.38 per gallon. Even though I have no evidence, I have a feeling that this product may not have an acceptable octane rating and may also contain other items in it that are not good for boat motors. I called the Michigan Department of Agriculture and was told the State of Michigan has no jurisdiction on IRNP. I then called the US Department of Agriculture. They said they would look into it (I have yet to hear from them). But, I did receive a call from the new Chief Ranger (Dan Pontbriand) at IRNP who was also concerned about the safety of the fuel. Dan is having the fuel tested before use by boaters this season. This is good news as none of us want to end up on the rocks due to bad fuel. I sometimes have enough problems staying off the rocks without bad fuel.

The IRBA annual dinner meeting will be held on Saturday, May 15, 2010, at the Ramada Inn in Hancock, MI. Beverages will be served from 5:00 - 6:00 PM followed by a dinner buffet at 6:00 PM. Reservations can be made by contacting Kristine at (906) 482 - 0001, email me at [dwhand@mtu.edu](mailto:dwhand@mtu.edu), or call me at (906) 370 -7354 and leave a message if I cannot answer. The cost is \$30 per person. Come and join us for a good time.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual IRBA Fishing Tournament will be a two day event; beginning at sunrise on Friday, July 16, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM (Caribou Dock) and on Saturday, July 17, from sunrise to weigh-in at 2:00 PM (Behind Rock Harbor Lodge). Each boat will be allowed to enter the three largest fish by weight. Fish entered Friday can NOT be upgraded on Saturday (For example, if two fish are entered on Friday then only one can be entered on Saturday). Fishermen can fish either or both days as long as they make the weigh-in deadline on each day. We will provide a leader board for the two-day event located at Caribou dock on Friday and Rock Harbor Lodge on Saturday. 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. **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 Minnesota West End Group presently has the bragging rights to this award.

Entry requests can be made by 7 PM on Friday, July 16. Dave Hand (Dr. Trout) will be at Caribou 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. The fishing contest awards will be held at 4 PM after the weigh-in and during the IRBA meeting. If you have questions, please contact Dave Hand (906) 370 - 7354.

IRBA will hold the annual fish fry on Saturday, July 17, 2010, around 6 PM at the Rock Harbor Lodge. Everyone is welcome to attend. Desserts are welcome. IRBA will supply the rest of the dinner.

### **IRBA Membership & Address Change**

Some members have asked me to let the membership know when their IRBA membership dues are up and need to be paid. Take a look at your mailing address on this newsletter, under your name are three boxes followed by the year (e.g. 10, 11, 12, Life member). If there is a check in the any of these boxes then you are paid up for that year. For example, if the 10 box is checked, that means you are paid up through the year 2010. If all three boxes are

checked then you are paid up through the year 2012. If you are a life member no dues are required. If no boxes are checked then you need to get your dues in this year. If you have an address change please let us know. Attached is membership form to send in with your dues, change of address or a donation which we always really appreciate.

### **NPS Update by Betsy Rossini (NPS)**

There is a new firearms regulation in effect for all National Parks. The following is just pulled from our web site: Legislation: As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under applicable federal, state, and local laws to legally possess firearms in this park. Refer to Section 512 of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009, Public Law 111-24, 123 Stat. 1764-65

**Park User Responsibility:** It is the responsibility of visitors to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearm laws before entering this park. As a starting point, please view the Michigan MCL Section 28.425b and visit the Michigan State Police website. Please note that Michigan does recognize other states concealed weapons permits and licenses. **Weapons Prohibited in Federal Facilities:** Federal law also prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those places are marked with signs at all public entrances. Refer to 18 U.S.C. § 930 Possession of Firearms and dangerous weapons in Federal facilities.

**Weapons restrictions aboard Federal vessels and Concession vessels:** Federal law also prohibits firearms aboard federally owned vessels servicing this park and restricts firearms aboard concession vessels servicing this park; those vessels and boarding areas are

marked with signs. Refer to 18 U.S.C. § 2277 Explosives and dangerous weapons aboard vessels

As always, there are a number of projects going on. In addition to the normal natural resource monitoring activities, there will be the start up of a lake trout genetics study, research into migration routes for loons, and the development of a zebra mussel response plan.

As you may or may not have heard by now, there have been zebra mussels located at several locations on Isle Royale. Please encourage your boaters to take measures to ensure that their boats have been inspected and treated to eliminate the possibility of transport of zebra mussels to the island. Boaters can refer to our web site at [www.nps.gov/isro](http://www.nps.gov/isro) for more information on what you can do to reduce the risk of transporting exotic invasive species to the island.

Along these same lines, the park has funding to research potential ballast systems for the Ranger III and will hopefully have a solution to implement within the next year.

The park is working on having all of its oral histories transcribed and preserved by contract in the near future. We have a small amount of funding to initialize stabilization of ruins at Island Mine. We hope to finally improve our phone and radio systems this summer with the installation of a microwave system as well as other improvements.

Stabilization will continue on the main Lodge building at Crystal Cove. The water filtration plant at Windigo will be replaced. Improvements will be made on the Rock Harbor auditorium and the Rock harbor main NPS dock. We hope to install electrical service on the Windigo dock.

Staff Changes: Last fall, two new division Chiefs reported for duty. Paul Brown is the new Chief for Natural Resources at Isle Royale. Paul came to us from American Samoa. Dan Pontbriand, is the new Chief Ranger who transferred from Sequoia. Two staff transferred out of Isle Royale - Wanda and Chuck Lassiter to the Hubbell Trading Post where Wanda will be the Administrative Officer and Chuck has taken a position in nearby Petrified Forest. Jill Burkland, long time director of the Isle Royale Keweenaw Park's Association will be retiring this spring. We will also be finally filling Liz Valencia's prior position of cultural manager for the park. This will be advertised and filled in the near future.

### **West End Update - Mark Rude**

Our fund raiser will be held June 17 at Superior Shores Resort, located 1 mile northeast of Two Harbors along Hgwy. 61. Twenty one rooms have been reserved for our use on the night of June 17, call for reservations, - 218 834 5671 or 800 242 1988. Price for single or double occupancy has been guaranteed at \$69. Should you wish to stay additional nights, I suggest calling as soon as possible since Grandma's Marathon will be held that weekend with the probability that they will be filled on Friday and Saturday. When making reservations identify that you are with Isle Royale Boaters Association. Major credit cards will be accepted at the time of reservation to guarantee rooms. Superior Shores is situated on a picturesque setting along the lakeshore, - a "really neat setting". See our website for pictures - [www.isleroyale.org](http://www.isleroyale.org). Ticket price will again be \$25. We welcome contributions to our prize list; call Bear Falconer 218 628 2385, Dwight Moe 218 834 3969, or Mark Rude 218 343 3030 with information on prizes. Join us for an enjoyable evening, renew acquaintances, and catch up on the latest BS.

### **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 15, 2010, at the Ramada Inn in Hancock, MI. Beverages will be served from 5:00 - 6:00 PM followed by a dinner buffet at 6:00.

IRBA West End Fund Raiser - Thursday, June 17, 2010 at the Superior Shores Resort in Two Harbors, MN. The fund raiser begins at 5 PM.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 16, 2010, and Saturday, July 17, 2010, on East End of IR. Meeting July 17, 2010 5 PM followed by the fish fry.

**Articles for Newsletter consideration are welcome.**

*Please support your IRBA  
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