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Newsletter Winter 2010

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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

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. This is the time of year to start thinking of planning your next trip to Isle Royale. The 2010 IRBA annual island meeting and fishing tournament will be the weekend of July 16 - 18 on the east end of the island. More details will be forthcoming on the event so mark that date on your calendar. Last year's event on the west end at Windigo was a huge success and I invite everyone to visit the IRBA website to see pictures of the event.

Earlier this month the U.S. Coast Guard and Homeland Security announced that after February 8, 2010, Loran-C would be turned off and not available for navigation. Canada also announced that its Loran-C system would be turned off by October 1, 2010. Those of you that still rely on Loran-C for navigation may have to upgrade to GPS or go back to the compass and a chart map (just

kidding). I was still using my old Raytheon Loran-C for a backup system, but now is the time to take it off the boat. You may also have heard this past month that Cornell University Researchers found the fish virus, viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), in some locations in Lake Superior. According to Cornell researcher, Dr. Paul Bowser, "VHS in fish causes fatal anemia and hemorrhaging in many fish species, poses no threat to humans." And he says, "VHS is considered one of the most serious pathogens of fish, because it kills so many fish, is not treatable, and infects a broad range of fish species." The virus was found in fish from Paradise and Skanee in Michigan and St. Louis Bay and Superior Bay in Wisconsin. At this time, it is not known if the virus has spread to Isle Royale but it can be assumed that if it is not there at the present, it is only a matter of time. If we want to continue to enjoy the great fishing opportunity that Isle Royale provides us, we must help in preventing the spread of the VHS virus.

The June West End IRBA fundraiser held on June 18, 2009 at the Lakeview Castle was a big success. Special thanks go out to the West fund organizers for all their hard work in making this event successful.

This past fall, I received an email from a person that frequently visits the Apostle Islands National Park (AINP). This person was frustrated with the way AINP is being managed. Apparently, the infrastructure is being allowed to deteriorate. Dock spaces are now 50 percent of what they were 10-15 years ago (due to dock deterioration, allocation of spaces to NPS, silting problems, and removal of docks and cleats). There is only one potable water source (Presque Isle) for all the islands as compared to four a few years ago. Over 75 percent of all the hiking trails need major clearing as many are not maintained (impassable/overgrown). The AINP General Management Plan (GMP) is recommending to remove two of the most scenic camping areas on all the islands and replacing them with some mosquito infested areas. In addition, visitation is down by 38 percent in a ten year period.

More recently, the NPS spent \$ 5 million dollars of our tax dollars on refurbishing one of the lighthouses (Raspberry Light). Just think what that money could have done in the short term fixing the deteriorated park infrastructure (e.g. docks, trails, fresh water supplies, camp grounds) for the visitors. Seems a lighthouse is more important to the NPS than visitor infrastructure, enjoyment and safety.

Presently, AINP is in the process of forming a General Management Plan (GMP) for the Apostle Islands. There are the usual four options in the GMP and everyone can voice their opinion through the comment period but the final decision is made by the NPS in Washington D.C. (business as usual).

IRBA members Fred Bieti and Dave Hand have spent time talking to this concerned citizen about how and why IRBA was formed and suggested steps that need to be taken to organize for protecting visitor rights to AINP. Many of us can remember when IRBA was in that very situation when it organized in June of 1996. We can all be proud of what we have done over the years in protecting visitor's rights to continued enjoyment of Isle Royale. IRBA will continue to work with (or without) the NPS to educate, represent, and promote the interest of power and sail boaters, sport fishermen, canoeists, kayakers, backpackers, and all visitors of Isle Royale National Park.

I will try to keep IRBA members updated on any actions taken by concerned citizens to organize to protect visitor's rights on AINP. If a group is formed to protect visitor's rights to AINP, IRBA may be able to provide more advise if our membership is willing.

West End Update - Mark Rude

The plan to add new finger docks at Windigo is proceeding as scheduled. NPS personnel are processing the required paperwork (compliance, clearance, assessment forms etc) and expect all will meet with timely approval. Procurement of materials will be undertaken when approvals are received.

IRBA funds will be made available to NPS for purchase of materials. Dates and places for work projects to assist NPS personnel with this project will be announced when available to us. IRBA would like to thank all the banquet attendees for their support at the annual IRBA fundraising banquet.

The 2010 annual IRBA fundraising banquet will be held on Thursday June 17 starting at 5:00 PM, but will be at a different location this year. The Lakeview Castle restaurant which has hosted our past banquets closed on Jan. 1, so we are in the process of securing a different location this year. At this time have narrowed our search to three places: Spirit Mountain banquet facility located atop the Spirit Mountain ski area in Duluth; Two Harbors Moose lodge located in downtown Two Harbors; and, Superior Shores resort complex located about one mile East of Two Harbors. Final decision on site will be made at the West End March 1 monthly meeting, [to be held at the Dixie Star restaurant, 7 miles North of Two Harbors on Hgwy. 2]. Suggestions regarding choice of site may be addressed to;

Bear Falconer 218 628 2385

Dwight Moe 218 834 3969

Mark Rude 218 343 3030

We also welcome your attendance at the March 1 meeting. Selected site will be published in the spring newsletter. We also would appreciate contributions to our silent auction and raffle prize list. Join us at the banquet for good conversation, fellowship, and food.

Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament Results - by Dave Hand

The Seventh Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament was held in the Johnson Pavilion (Windigo) on the third weekend of July 2009. This year was 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 was allowed to enter the three largest fish by weight. Fish caught on Friday and entered could not be upgraded on Saturday if the catch was larger. So fishermen had to gamble a bit on which fish to enter from Friday's catch. The fish caught were donated for the IRBA Fish Fry after the awards presentation.

Plaques were given to the boat with the highest total weight, second place and third place. Plaques were given for the three largest fish taken by trolling and the largest fish taken in the tournament. Also, a cash prize was given to the smallest fish entered in the contest. IRBA member, John Evans (L'Anse MI) donated trophies for the event. Thanks John! In addition, the "Wooden Herring Award" travel trophy was also up for grabs by either the Minnesota or Michigan fishermen for the three largest fish by weight.

With the Tourney being held on the west end of the island, there was a sense the Minnesota fishermen were primed to show the Michigan guys how to fish their territory and claim the prized Wooden Herring award. The number of entrees this

year was exceptional with over 30 fishermen entered in the contest.

The fish entries were a little on the light side at the end of the first day of fishing. On Saturday, several additional fishermen had arrived to participate in the tourney and the fishing activity got heated-up especially with the Minnesota fishermen. At the end of the day, the boat 'Nasty Habit' (Dwane & Sue Falconer, and Erin Grivicich) took the top spot with their three largest fish totaling 42 lb 8 oz.



Erin Grivicich & Sue Falconer receiving top honors.

The second place honors went to the boat 'Bad Load' (Capt. Paul Falconer & Brian Jackson) with a total weight of 39 lbs 0oz. The 'Miss Laurie' and crew [John Evans (Captain), Mike 'Otis' LeClaire, John Messer Jr., Barry Drue, and Charlie Townsend] took third place with their three largest fish weighing a total of 37 lb 13 oz. The largest fish honors went to Erin Grivicich fishing on the 'Nasty Habit' weighing in at 22 lb 12 oz. The smallest fish honors went to Peg Ylitalo

weighing in at a mighty 2 lb 4 oz (good eater).



Sue Falconer receiving the second place honors for the boat "Bad Load".



John Messer, Mike 'Otis' LeClaire, Chuck Townsend, John Evans & Barry Drue receiving the third place honors.



Erin Grivicich receives the largest fish honor.



Peg Ylitalo receives the smallest fish prize.

Other notable fishermen that need credit for their catch include: 4th place which went to boat 'Three Seas' (Skip Brandt, Dave Johnson, Tim Alseth and Dwight Moe) with a total weight of 35 lb 9 oz; fifth place which went to the boat 'Late Entry' (Marty Anderson, Quinn Anderson, Mason Anderson

& Dave Kraft) with a total weight of 30 lb 5 oz.

The coveted Wooden Herring Award went to the Minnesota Fishermen with a total weight of 63 lb 6 oz as compared to a total weight of 41 lb 14 oz for the Michigan Fishermen. Congratulations to the Minnesota Fishermen. I am sure the Michigan Fishermen are already looking towards the 2010 tournament to reclaim the island fishing rights from those Minnesota Fishermen.



Minnesota Fishermen Dwight Moe, Skip Brandt, Tim Alseth, Erin Grivicich, Sue Falconer & Dave Johnson claiming the Wooden Herring Award.

IRBA appreciates all those who participated in the fishing event and helped with the fish fry.

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 Scheduled Meeting, Wednesday,
February 24, 2010, 7 PM Copper Country
Moose Lodge on M26 in Dollar Bay, MI.

IRBA Scheduled Meeting, Wednesday,
March 24, 2010, 7 PM Copper Country Moose
Lodge on M26 in Dollar Bay, MI.

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

**Articles for Newsletter consideration are
welcome.**

*Please support your IRBA
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