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Newsletter Fall 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

The NPS is beginning public scoping for their Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP). This plan addresses the general management including preservation, public use, and interpretation of cultural resources around the island. We have posted the notice on the IRBA website for your viewing pleasure. If you have any substantial comments on this plan please let the NPS know by mail correspondence or at the scheduled meetings they are holding in Michigan and Minnesota. We will need to keep a close eye on this process and ensure that two major cultural resources, namely, boating and fishing, are preserved as a part of the cultural resources of Isle Royale.

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

The Eighth Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was our largest fishing event to date. The two-day event; beginning at sunrise on Friday, July 16, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and on Saturday, July 17, from sunrise to weigh-in at 2:00 PM. Each boat was allowed to enter the

three largest fish by weight. The fish caught were donated for the IRBA Fish Fry after the awards presentation behind Rock Harbor Lodge.

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. Again this year, 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.

This year the Minnesota fishermen were on a mission to unseat the Michigan guys on their own waters and claim the prized Wooden Herring award. The number of entrees this year was exceptional with 47 fishermen entered in the contest.

Again this year, the fish entries were on the light side at the end of the first day of fishing. But on Saturday, several additional fishermen

had arrived to participate in the tourney and the fishing activity got heated-up especially with the Minnesota fishermen. By the time all the fish had been caught for the day, the boat 'Mad Dog' (Mike Detlefson, Brad Ronning, Jeff Gros Guth, & Randy Lemay) took the top spot with their three largest fish totaling 41.8 lbs, which is one lb lighter than last year's winner 'Nasty Habit'.

The second place honors went to the boat 'Barbara Jean' (Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin & Mike Cardnel) with a total weight of 40.5 lbs. The 'Three Seas' (Dwight Moe, Skip Brandt, Dave Johnson & Tim Alseth) took the third spot with their three largest fish weighing a total of 34.5 lbs. The largest fish honors went to Brad Ronning fishing on the 'Mad Dog' weighing in at 19.4 lbs

As you can see from the winners, they are all Minnesota Fishermen. WOW! What happened to those Michigan Guys? Obviously, the coveted Wooden Herring Award went to the Minnesota Fishermen with a total weight of 51.5 lbs. Congratulations to the Minnesota Fishermen as they have tied up the number of Wooden Herring Awards with the Michigan Fishermen. Next year should be a good match on the west end at Windigo.

The Fish fry was another big success this year as we had about 130 people attend feast. IRBA appreciates all those who participated in the fishing event and helped with the fish fry.

Sorry about not having pictures of the fish tourney this year. My camera unexpectedly lost the pictures of the event.

West End Update by Mark Rude

The west end group has begun holding monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month. Meetings start at 7:00 PM although we always

have a group who arrive at around 6 PM for a bite to eat and a little socializing. The November meeting was held at the Dixie Café located about 3 miles north of Two Harbors on County 2. The December meeting will also be held at the Dixie, although we may select alternate sites January through June. Call Bear; 218 628 2385, Dwight; 218 834 3969, or Mark; 218 624 9483, for updates. Stop by and join us.

The recent post to the website regarding the camera found in Colorado resulted in a Happy day for Cindy Falconer, as she contacted the gentleman in Colorado and got the camera back all intact. We certainly wish to thank the gentleman [forgot his name] for making the effort to contact IRBA with the information. Helps to restore ones faith in mankind.

We regret to inform you of the passing of Richard "Dick" Sundland on October 28, 2010. Dick and his family have been strong supporters of IRBA since very early in our existence. We will certainly miss him, and send sincere condolences to his family.

IRBA Sponsored Michigan Tech Senior Design Projects by Bill Baxandall (IRBA Member)

On behalf of the senior design students, Bill (Michigan Tech Instructor) and myself would like to extend a special thanks to the Isle Royale Boaters Association for their great support in getting the class out to Isle Royale, feeding everyone (Thanks, Deb, for the beans, chili & spaghetti) while there and the support furnished by Don Hannula and Dave Hand in getting the students out to the project sites.

This fall semester, our senior design class took on three projects on Isle Royale. The first being a dock in the cove on Passage Island, the second, the refurbishing of the buildings at Crystal Cove, and the third being rehabilitation of the dock at Rock of Ages lighthouse.

Initially, we were to travel to the Island on the Ranger III, but that did not happen. As backup, the association provided transportation on the Isle Royale Queen. Though the plan was to go out to the Island on Friday, September 24, due to gale warnings, we were unable to go until Saturday. It was quite a ride over on Saturday morning as the seas had not subsided much. Dave and Don had taken their boats out on Wednesday to beat the weather so they were waiting to transport the students and faculty down to Daisy Farm.

Sunday was the work day and thanks to Dave and Don, we were able to get the students to Passage Island and to Crystal Cove. Due to the distance and sea conditions, we were unable to visit Rock of Ages lighthouse. The students gathered much needed information for their projects. If anyone is interested, we now have a fairly detailed topography of the entrance to the cove on Passage Island; thanks to one of the students swimming across the inlet dragging a cloth tape behind, and using his body height to determine depths at a given channel width. Using GPS on Don's boat and his trusty depth sounder, the students were able to map the channel depths at its centerline as well as throughout the cove.

The students working on the buildings at Crystal Cove were able to gather a great deal of information on the condition and repair needs for all of the buildings. Their efforts have most likely generated the most in-depth study of the buildings that have been done to date. The students continue to work on their projects with the emphasis on doing an environmental assessment along with the structural design for each project.

Again, a special thanks to the Isle Royale Boaters Association.

The students will be making oral presentations on their projects on December 9th from 9:15 to 10:45 am in Ballroom A1 in the Memorial Union Building. All Boater Association members are more than welcome to attend the presentations.



Michigan Tech Isle Royale National Park Senior Design Projects

IRBA Apparel Available

Need IRBA apparel for a Christmas present? Presently, we have a lot of medium, large and extra large sweatshirts, and polo shirts. You can contact Carol during the day at (906) 482-9342.

IRBA Scheduled Events

See IRBA website for scheduled winter meetings.

Articles for Newsletter consideration are welcome.

*Please support your IRBA
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