

Newsletter 2021

- IRBA Update
- NPS Update by Elizabeth Valencia
- Historical Fishing Tourney Info
- Membership Dues & 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

Hope you and all your family members have been staying safe during this pandemic. The IRBA organization has been kind of put into a state of hold during this time. Our annual dinner meeting of the IRBA officers and members, the west end fundraiser, the Isle Royale annual fishing tournament and island meeting were canceled due to government actions. A big thanks to new and existing members that made contributions and dues this past year. The organization appreciates your loyalty.

This past year, one action the organization did get involved was related to the opening of Isle Royale. When news releases by the National Park Service (NPS) back in May were delaying and possibly closing Isle Royale (IR) for visitor use in 2020, the association contacted Michigan Representative Jack Bergman's office to help open it up to visitor use. Representative Bergman and his office contacted me and said they would contact the NPS and raise boater concerns over its possible closure. IR did open somewhat from mid-June through August with limited facilities available. A big thanks to

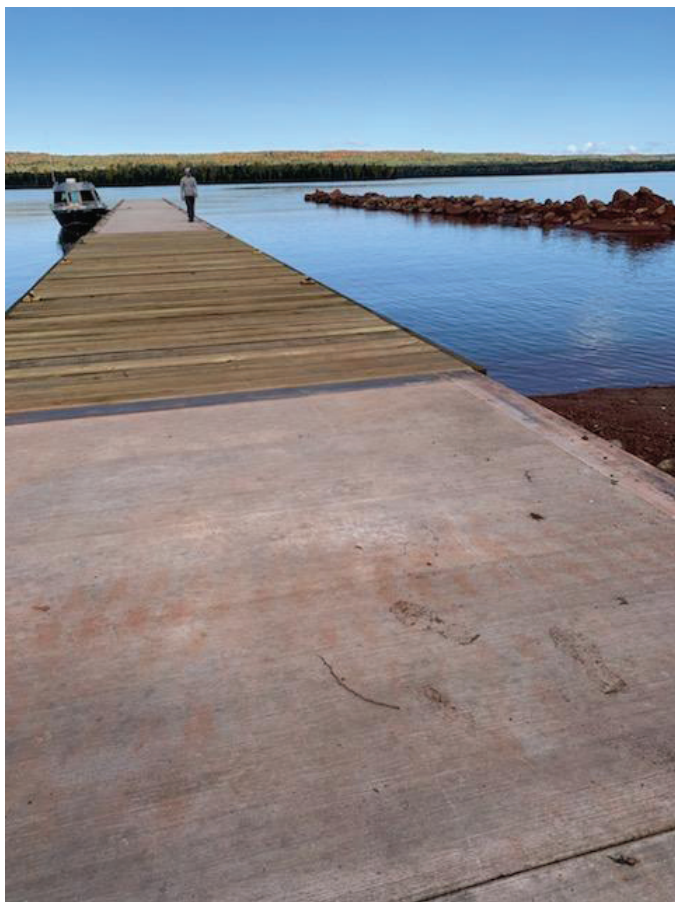
Representative Bergman and his office for their help in taking up our cause to open the park this past season.

Like myself, several of our members did have the opportunity to go to IR this past year. Many were able to see the work the park service performed this past year: 1) the Siskiwit dock was rebuilt (see pics); 2) the Raspberry island dock was rebuilt due to storm damage; 3) the Windigo finger dock was worked on and will be completed this summer (see pic); 4) the Moskey Basin dock was repaired; 5) the new Windigo store was completed. A thanks goes out to the park service for completing these infrastructure projects. In the NPS update discussed below, the association looks forward to further improvements in the infrastructure on IR.

With respect to the upcoming year, IRBA has only scheduled one meeting and that is the Isle Royale annual fishing tournament and island annual meeting (see dates and times below). This will be contingent upon permission from NPS based on CDC and State of Michigan Health Guidelines. The association will keep members informed and sometime in June you will receive

notification if we are able to meet. The association will not schedule the annual dinner meeting of the IRBA officers and members usually it is held in May and it is doubtful that we will be able to meet this early due to the pandemic. It may be possible to schedule this meeting in late summer or early fall and I will keep you posted.

The west end fundraiser will not be held this year. It is hoped that some event can be held in the future.



Rebuilt Siskiwit Bay Dock.



Rebuilt Siskiwit Bay Dock - Steve Hanke



Construction progress of Windigo Finger dock.

NPS Update by Elizabeth Valencia

The current plan for the 2021 season is to open on time and a return to more normal operations with COVID-19 mitigations in place. We anticipate the ferries and seaplane will operate and the Rock Harbor Lodge will be open but there may be limits in services and/or capacities. Details on park opening will be provided on the park website, [Isle Royale National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/isle-royale). Information will be updated throughout the summer to reflect any changes due to guidance from the CDC, Public Health Service, and State of Michigan.

Items of interest this past year include:

- New Superintendent hired: Denice Swanke was hired as the new Park

Superintendent and arrived in late August.

- Long- time Facility Manager Randy Rastello retired in the fall having worked 36 seasons on Isle Royale. We're in the process of hiring his replacement and hope the new facility manager will be on duty by April.
- The restoration of the fishing gas boat TERN by Jeff Sivertson was completed and the boat was brought back to the island in the fall of 2020. You will be able to see it at the Edisen Fishery this summer.
- Raspberry Island dock and Siskiwit Bay dock projects were completed in 2020.
- Work on the Windigo finger docks is scheduled for this summer.
- The new Windigo store was completed in 2020 and is ready for move in.
- We have a major dock rehab project planned for the Rock Harbor Ranger III dock. The tentative schedule is to start in the spring with work shutting down during the summer and then starting back up again in the fall. More details need to be worked out.
- Winter study did not take place this winter. Research from last winter and over the summer using collar data and

trail cameras shows that pups were born in at least one pack.

- The Minong Mine was recently designated as a National Historical Landmark. It's the park's first NHL. The Minong Mine was recognized for having one of the largest, best preserved Indigenous copper mining landscapes combined with the well-preserved remains of the largest historic copper mining operation on Isle Royale.

IRBA Historical Review of the Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament - by Dave Hand

Since the 18th Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was not held this year because of the virus, it would be good to highlight the successes of the annual tournaments. Table 1.0 summarizes the top first place winners since the start of the tournament in 2003. For those of you that do not know the tournament rules, it is a two-day tournament in which the three largest fish are tallied for each boat entered. The largest three fish weight entered was by the Barbara Jean back in 2017 with a total weight of 84.5 lbs.



Barbara Jean Crew 2017

Another highlight is the Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish award given to the individual with the largest fish by weight taken in the tournament. Table 2.0 summarizes the largest fish caught since the start of the tournament. The largest fish was 36.5 lbs taken on the Afishinado by Chuck Johnson in 2019 (photo right). Now that IRBA fisherman have mastered catching the TIRDY pounders, it is now time to see a FIDY pounder in the tournament. Last time I saw a FIDY pounder on the IR was in the early 1980s on the dock in Rock Harbor. I think it weighed in at around 55 lbs at the lodge.



Biggest Fish for 2019 - Chuck Johnson

Table 1.0 - Summary of IRBA Annual Fishing Tournament First Place Winners

| Year | Boat Name | Crew Members | Total Weight (lbs) |
|------|----------------------|---|--------------------|
| 2003 | Miss Laurie | John Evans, Mike "Odie" LeClaire & John Messer Jr. | 50.9 |
| 2004 | Miss Conduct | Jim Markham, Rodney Markham, Joe Asiala, Scott Hyrkas & Mike McMurphy | 44.5 |
| 2005 | Miss Laurie | John Evans, Mike "Odie" LeClaire & John Messer Jr. | 46.7 |
| 2006 | Nasty Habit | Dwane "Bear" Faulkner, Sue Faulkner, and Jan and Charlie Townsend | 47.4 |
| 2007 | Miss Laurie | John Evans, Mike "Odie" LeClaire, John Messer Jr., & Dave Barry | 31.5 |
| 2008 | Liquid Plumber | Scott Hyrkas, Rodney Markham, Jason Massie, and Roger Pennala | 50.9 |
| 2009 | Nasty Habit | Dwane & Sue Falconer, and Erin Grivicich | 42.5 |
| 2010 | Mad Dog | Mike Detlefson, Brad Ronning, Jeff Gros Guth & Randy Lemay | 41.8 |
| 2011 | Fish Nautzi | Kent Hoffman, Ron Bailey, Bill Bailey, & Grant Sorenson | 71.5 |
| 2012 | Sea Sue | Nick Meneguzzo, Gozy Meneguzzo, Jason Meneguzzo, & John Ylitalo | 61.7 |
| 2013 | Barbara Jean | Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, & Mike Cardinal | 63.4 |
| 2014 | Sea Sue | John Ylitalo Jr., Nick Meneguzzo, Greg Meneguzzo & Jason Meneguzzo | 63.6 |
| 2015 | Barbara Jean | Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, & Mike Cardinal | 72.4 |
| 2016 | Barbara Jean | Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, & Mike Cardinal | 84.0 |
| 2017 | Barbara Jean | Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, & Mike Cardinal | 84.5 |
| 2018 | Barbara Jean | Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, Noah Mecklin & Mike Cardinal | 64.1 |
| 2019 | Barbara Jean | Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, Noah Mecklin & Mike Cardinal | 81.7 |
| 2020 | Tournament cancelled | | |

Table 2.0 - Summary of IRBA Big Fish Winners

| Year | Boat Name | Fisherman | Total Weight (lbs) |
|------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 2003 | Miss Laurie | Mike "Odie" LeClaire | 22.6 |
| 2004 | Miss Laurie | John Messer Jr | 21.1 |
| 2005 | Miss Laurie | Mike "Odie" LeClaire | 21.8 |
| 2006 | Nasty Habit | Charlie Townsend | 27.1 |
| 2007 | Nasty Habit | Sue Falkner | 13.9 |
| 2008 | Liquid Plumber | Jason Massie | 19.8 |
| 2009 | Nasty Habit | Erin Grivicich | 22.8 |
| 2010 | Mad Dog | Brad Ronning | 19.4 |
| 2011 | Fish Nautzi | Kent Hoffman | 30.8 |
| 2012 | Fish Nautzi | Ron Bailey | 28.4 |
| 2013 | Barbara Jean | Mike Cardinal | 29.8 |
| 2014 | Sea Sue | Nick Meneguzzo | 23.3 |
| 2015 | Barbara Jean | Matt Mecklin | 27.9 |
| 2016 | Barbara Jean | Matt Mecklin | 32.0 |
| 2017 | Barbara Jean | Matt Mecklin | 30.0 |
| 2018 | Barbara Jean | Matt Mecklin | 22.6 |
| 2019 | Afishinado | Chuck Johnson | 36.5 |
| 2020 | Tournament Cancelled | | |

IRBA Annual Membership Dues

If you're not sure about membership dues, please take a look at the mailing address on this newsletter. Underneath your name there is a line that shows 'Dues paid ☐ '21 ☐ '22 ☐ '23 ☐ Lifetime" your dues for 2021. If there is a check mark in the 21, 22, 23 or lifetime your dues are paid up. If there is not a check mark, you will need to pay your dues for this year. A donation is always appreciated! There is a membership form attached to the newsletter if you need it. If not, then pass it on to someone you may know that would be interested in joining.

IRBA Scheduled Events

(TENTATIVE) IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 16, 2021, and Saturday, July 17, 2021, at Rock Harbor, IR. Meeting July 17, 2021, 5 PM, followed by the fish fry.



PO Box 97
Houghton, MI 49931

IRBA Annual Membership Dues

If you're not sure about membership dues, please take a look at the mailing address on this newsletter.

Underneath your name there is a line that shows:

Dues paid '21 '22 '23 Lifetime

If there is a check mark in the 21, 22, 23 or lifetime your dues are paid up. If there is not a check mark, you will need to pay your dues for this year. A donation is always appreciated! There is a membership form attached to the newsletter if you need it. If not, then pass it on to someone you may know that would be interested in joining.

Isle Royale Boaters Association

Founded June 5, 1996

www.isleroyale.org

Our mission is 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. Membership is open to all interested people.

Renewal Membership New Membership

Dues: (Check one)

1 Year Family Membership...\$ 35

3 Year Family Membership...\$ 90

Life Family Membership.....\$ 500

Additional contribution to support the IRBA mission:

\$ 25 \$50 \$100 \$ _____ Other

How do you enjoy Isle Royale?

Power Sail Paddle Hiker Lodge

Name of boat: _____

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Fax: _____

email: _____

Please mail this form with your payment to:

Isle Royale Boaters Association
PO Box 97 • Houghton, MI 49931

Contributions and dues paid to the Isle Royale Boaters Association, a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, are deductible for computing income and estate taxes.