



PO Box 97  
Houghton, MI 49931

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

## Newsletter 2022

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- Paintings of Isle Royale
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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

Seems like things are coming back to normal for IRBA activities and boating on Isle Royale. We held the 18<sup>th</sup> annual fishing tournament and fish fry on Isle Royale and it was a successful event. While the fishing tournament entries were a bit less than previous years, the fishermen had nice catches of fish and it was a fun event. The fish fry was a big hit again as we served over 150 hungry people. During the annual island meeting, IRBA vice president, Fred Beiti presented long time life member Woody Petersen with a wooden plaque of Isle Royale for his generous contributions to IRBA. We appreciate all of Woody's contributions to the organization.

The annual IRBA dinner meeting was held on September 18, 2021 with over 40 members attending. The main outcome from the meeting is that the organization is in very good financial shape.

In recent phone conversation with the new Isle Royale Park Superintendent, Denise Swanke, and

Interpretation and Cultural Resources Manager, Liz Valencia, we learned of the ongoing strategic planning process for the next five years. The report is to be completed this next year. Some of the issues discussed included: maintaining docking facilities, a Rock Harbor pavilion, Wright island overnight stay including privy and possible shelter (help reducing boating dock congestion in Siskiwit area), expanding more dock space on the west end, placing shelters or cabins closer to the Windigo dock to accommodate older visitors, redesign outhouse privies with taller toilet seats, and fuel situation. The response from the park service was positive and will evaluate our suggestions in the planning process.

In April, the park service will be soliciting public comment on their wilderness plan which includes management options for Wright Island, Crystal Cove, Fishermen's home and other issues. We will have to provide public comment sometime in April. I urge members to provide constructive comments to the park service on these issues. IRBA will also provide comments. If you are

interested in helping IRBA provide comments please contact Dave Hand.

With respect to the fuel situation, the fuel barge did not pass inspection by the Coast Guard so IRSO will be looking for an alternative fuel delivery means. They have a contract for two fuel deliveries in 2022 but will need to find a more permanent solution.

The park service will no longer provide toilet paper in the outhouses. So make sure to bring your own toilet paper.

We also discussed some joint ventures including maintenance of some of the shelters. It is hoped that Superintendent Swanke will meet IRBA at the upcoming July meeting at Windigo.



Woody Petersen with Plaque

## NPS Update by Elizabeth Valencia

The Rock Harbor Ranger III dock project is nearly done. The contractors will be out in late April/early May to finish the last few remaining tasks. Here is a photo of what it looked like in October 2021.



For the other docks - possible repair/ replacement of face boards on some this summer, but no large dock replacement projects are planned.

The Horne fire, which started on August 10, was still smoldering when staff departed in October. The last mapping showed the fire at 335 acres. The fire was left to slowly burn itself out over the winter.

We are making a few changes with stay limits in 2022 to address overcrowding due to increasing visitation:

- Extend stay limit at Rock Harbor, Three Mile, and Washington Creek to September 17.
- Change stay limit at Lane Cove to 1 night through September 17.
- Change Windigo docks stay limit to 3 nights.

The final tasks to finish the Windigo store will be done this summer. While we anticipate getting the store completed and potentially ready for move-in, it's unlikely the store will be open for visitors until next summer.

Thanks to all the boaters who got backcountry camping permits from Houghton last summer. We're encouraging getting permitted through Houghton again in 2022 instead of on the island. It greatly streamlines the process for everyone. There are a couple of entrance fee changes for 2022. There is a new, free, lifetime interagency pass for veterans that will cover entrance fees at Isle Royale and all parks that charge entrance fees. The pass is available to current US military, veterans, dependents and Gold Star families. It's a new pass so it might be a few months before we have them in stock. We anticipate having them by the time the park opens in April. The other change is that the park will not be collecting cash on the island for payment of entrance fees - credit cards only on island.

The process to develop a Wilderness Stewardship plan has resumed. A Notice of Intent will be issued in early April asking for public comment. The plan includes options for managing Wright Island, Crystal Cove, and Fisherman's Home, backcountry permits, group size, fire rings, and overall wilderness and backcountry use.

The main construction project this summer will be roof replacement, window and shutter repairs, and interior painting at the Rock Harbor lighthouse. The park has plans in place for a tug and barge contract to deliver fuel this summer so we don't anticipate any delays or shortages. For the large boats with large capacity tanks, it would help if they didn't fill up in the park if they don't need the fuel to get to their next destination.

The park received a grant from the National Park Foundation to develop a Junior Angler program this summer. We'll be offering a program for families about fishing and we'll also have gear to check out so they can give it a try.

## IRBA Scheduled Events

IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting - Thursday, May 19, 2022, at the Bonfire at the Continental Fire Co. in Houghton, MI. There will be a cash bar from 5:00 to 6:00 pm with cheese and cracker platter. Dinner will be at 6:00 pm and the menu will be marinated roast beef and mushroom gravy, shrimp, mashed potatoes, wild rice, green beans with almonds, and salad. The meeting will begin following dinner. Please RSVP by sending Dave Hand an email ([dwhand@mtu.edu](mailto:dwhand@mtu.edu)) with the number in your party or by phone at (906) 370 - 7354.

### IRBA Fishing Tournament

Friday, July 15, 2022  
and Saturday, July 16, 2022  
at Windigo Harbor, IR.

#### Meeting

July 16, 2022, 5 PM  
followed by the fish fry.

## Rock of Ages Lighthouse Needs Help!

Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society is looking for volunteer positions to work on the Rock of Ages Lighthouse. This year they have a need for some qualified volunteer boat operators in helping out this summer. They also have some other volunteer opportunities. Here is a little about the positions.

Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society is offering three different types of volunteer opportunities during the summer 2022 lighthouse restoration season in July and August. Each of these positions will contribute in different ways to the mission of restoring Rock of Ages Lighthouse in Isle Royale National Park. Apply online at: <https://rockofageslps.org/support-us/volunteer/>



### Boat Drivers

The Boat Drivers will provide transportation for Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society volunteers and supplies between Windigo Ranger Station, Barnum Island, and Rock of Ages Lighthouse during the summer using the ROALPS work boat, the Rock Hopper. This position is for volunteers with significant experience operating motor boats on Isle Royale or similar

areas. Commitment is 3-7 weeks. View the position description. Application available February 1-25 at <https://rockofageslps.org/support-us/volunteer/>.

### Crew Leaders

The Lighthouse Restoration Crew Leaders will oversee and work alongside a small crew of 3-4 lighthouse restoration volunteers as they conduct restoration projects at Rock of Ages Lighthouse. This position is for returning Rock of Ages volunteers who want to step up and help the organization in a leadership role. Commitment is 1 or more weeks. View the position description. Application available February 1-25 at <https://rockofageslps.org/support-us/volunteer/>.

### Crew Members

The Lighthouse Restoration Crew Members will work with a small crew of 2-3 other Lighthouse Restoration Volunteers and 1 Crew Leader completing restoration projects at Rock of Ages Lighthouse. Commitment is 1 week. View the position description. Application will be available (released via email) to current Rock of Ages LPS members (anyone who has donated \$25 or more in the last 12 months) from March 1-15. Then the application will be released to the public (if positions remain) from March 15-31 at <https://rockofageslps.org/support-us/volunteer/>.

\*\*Volunteers for all three positions are required to read the 2022 Volunteer Handbook before applying.

## Paintings of Isle Royale

by Dave Turnquist

After 30+ years fishing Isle Royale as Captain of the Awggiedawg or crew of the Dr. Trout, countless pictures, numerous fisherman's tales (all true of course), I decided to put to canvas some of my favorite scenes of the Isle we love. I have dabbled with oil painting as a hobby on and off for many years. Inspired by the likes of Bob Ross and Bill Alexander in my youth, past pieces reflected what little I knew at that time. Fast forward to 2017 and the opportunity to try something different...Chippewa Harbor.

With taking on the challenge to create scenes of Isle Royale, simple Bob Ross style paintings weren't going to cut it, they had to be much more realistic and unique. So, I set out on this journey to create a series of realistic, and hyper-realistic paintings in ways that aren't readily available elsewhere. Mind you, none of these were intended be recreations in print, but merely one-offs for my own satisfaction. It was my fishing buddies who talked me into creating a few prints for friends with an offer to sell them if I wasn't interested in doing so. So, I give you the first of many with "Moskey Mornings".



These prints are high quality canvas prints, coated to protect from UV damage and fading. Print dimensions are 16 x 20, with plenty of border to provide numerous options for mounting. These can be traditionally frame stretched or mounted to hardboard for standard picture framing. This is a very limited run of 20 rolled canvas prints, all signed and numbered and ready for easy shipping. If you are interested in supporting my art and our shared love of the island, feel free to reach out to me for details.

Email contact: [turnquistdave@yahoo.com](mailto:turnquistdave@yahoo.com)

# Annual IRBA Isle Royale Trout Fishing Tournament Results

by Dave Hand

The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Rock Harbor. The two-day event began sunrise on Friday, July 16, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and sunrise on Saturday, July 17, with weigh-in at 3:00 PM. Each boat was allowed to enter the three largest fish by weight. Many thanks to fishermen who donated their fish to the IRBA Fish Fry after the awards presentation held at Windigo.

Plaques were given to three boats with the highest total weight. The Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish award was given to the individual with the largest fish by weight taken in the tournament. A plaque was also given for the largest salmon. 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's event had only fifteen entries which is the lowest turnout we have had since the start of the tourney. Hope we can increase the entries next year's tournament.

This year the big winner was the 'Sashaquinn" (Steve Smith, wife Karen, and daughter Sashaquinn). Their three largest fish weighed in at a total of 65.40 lbs. Nice Job!

The second-place spot went to the "SeaSue" with their three largest fish weighing a total of 57.64 lbs. Congratulations! I can see these young guys winning it all in the near future.



**Second Place - The Seasue**  
Kyle Mikkola, Conner Ylitalo, Bryce Vanderwest

The third-place spot went to the "Barbara Jean" for their three largest fish totaling 57.58 lbs. Nice job Guys!



**Third Place - The Barbara Jean**  
Joe Mecklin, Noah Mecklin, Matt Mecklin

The Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish honors went to Steve Smith fishing on the 'Sashaquinn' weighing in at 29.47 lbs. Great Catch Steve!



**Biggest Fish for 2022**  
Steve Smith

The largest salmon category prize went to Zeyad Ahmed fishing on the "Dr. Trout" with a salmon weighing in at 8.1 lbs. Nice Job!



**The Zeyad Ahmed with Largest Salmon Award**

The Minnesota fishermen took the Wooden Herring Award with a total weight of 77.07 lbs. They have retained the Wooden Herring Award for 2022. Congratulations to the Minnesota Fishermen!



**The Minnesota Fishermen with the Wooden Herring Award**

## **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  '22  '23  '24  Lifetime" your dues. If there is a check mark in the 22, 23, 24 or lifetime your dues are paid up. If there is not a check mark in 22, 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.



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## Isle Royale Boaters Association

Founded June 5, 1996

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

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