



PO Box 97
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www.isleroyale.org

Newsletter Winter/Spring 2017

- IRBA Update
- West End Update
- NPS Update
- 2016 Fishing Tourney Results
- Big Fish Caught on IR
- 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

In late December, I finally had an opportunity to meet with the IR Park Superintendent, Phyllis Green to talk about some park issues that concern boaters and other park related endeavors. The big issue was the fate of Siskiwit dock. Presently, nothing has taken place with respect to the Siskiwit dock (Yeah). At our IRBA summer meeting on IR, I informed you that the park's preferred plan was to take out some rip rap and 50 ft of the dock from shore and replace that dock portion with floating dock. The park is moving ahead with these plans and they are working on permits with the USACOE. They do not know if the work will take place this year because they currently do not have a tug or barge captain.

Wright Island will not be open for overnight docking until there is an outhouse installed. NPA plans to put an outhouse and tent camping site on Wright Island. Maybe IRBA can help with getting an outhouse and tent site installed as it may speed up the use of the site. Something we can think about.

Crystal Cove currently remains as day use only. The cultural resource plan is considering utilizing some of the existing buildings as shelters and allowing overnight docking. This will not happen until the plan is finalized. I think we have been waiting on this for a while.

IRBA has the opportunity to contribute to a proposed pavilion in Rock Harbor. The proposed pavilion location would be about 100 ft or so above the medical cabin located at Rock Harbor. As you walk on the asphalt walkway from the boat docks toward the restaurant, the medical cabin is just on the left hand side (hope this helps). This is a good location for a pavilion. Our participation is possible and is up for discussion in the near future.

So what's happening with the wolf/moose situation on IR? Superintendent Green said it looks like more wolves will be deposited on the island in the coming years. I mentioned to her that it would be great if they took wolves from Keweenaw or Houghton counties in the UP. She said the wolves in these counties do not hunt moose specifically and would not work on IR. Boy, I thought any hungry pack of wolves would

go after any moose no matter what the situation. So she said they will probably be taking them from northern Minnesota where wolves know how to hunt moose. You Minnesota guys have all the luck, getting rid of your wolves and putting them on IR. The only other thing I can say about this is what happened to the wilderness act with respect to ecological change? Remember the upland caribou? 😊

West End Update by Mark Rude

Our monthly meetings are held on the first Monday of each month, however due to a number of circumstances the meeting site was changed. Until further notice we will be meeting at the Earthwood Cafe, located just East of Sonju-Two Harbors Ford on the road running between 4 lane HWY. 61 and old Hwy 61. If you're coming from Duluth take a right on the first road past the Ford dealership and it is on the left.

Our next fund raiser banquet will be held on Thursday, June 15 at the Clearwater Grill, (same site as last year). Doors open at 5:00 PM, with dinner around 6:30 PM. We will have the usual raffles and silent auction, so any donations will be greatly appreciated. It's always a fun party and a great time to say hello to those folks you may only see once a year. Hope you can make it and bring a friend or two that might be interested in joining the organization.

In our monthly meetings we have discussed potential projects including the possibility of constructing a pavilion, similar to the one at Windigo, at a location easily accessible to both boaters and hikers, in Rock Harbor. NPS seems to be in favor of such a project. We also would like to see additional cabins for rent at Windigo. Rumor has it that two additional units are in the planning stage. Another point of interest was brought up by one member who had the opportunity to use a privy with a new, higher,

stool installed. It was a welcome treat for those old tired knees, as many of us are well aware. We hope these new additions will be installed in all of the privies, and could probably find a few volunteers to help with the installations if needed.

All are invited to join us at the monthly meetings, most show up around 6:00 to have food and drink, with the meeting starting around 7:00, sometimes a bit earlier if the food service is good.

NPS Update by Phyllis Green

Park plans to test a new diesel tank, pump, and fuel system at Windigo in the spring and will offer diesel fuel at Windigo to the public upon approval of the system. Call the visitor center for more information if you are an early season boater in need of this service. Park is investigating whether to expand seaplane service from the Minnesota side of the lake to better support visitors.

Fees have changed for the 2017 season. The daily user fee is being replaced with an entrance fee. Here are the specifics:

- The \$4 per person daily user fee changed to a \$7 per person daily entrance fee. It is charged to enter or remain within the park per calendar day.
- The Isle Royale Season Pass (valid April 16, 2017 through October 31, 2017) will cost \$60 and include up to 3 adults traveling with the pass holder as is consistent with other Federal Recreation Passes.
- The \$150 season boat rider pass will be discontinued. Boaters may purchase the \$60 Isle Royale Season Pass instead.

- All Federal Recreation Passes (Annual, Senior, Access, Military) will be honored. Entrance fees will be waived for the pass holder and up to 3 adults traveling with the pass holder.
- Children ages 15 and under will be exempt from paying entrance fees.

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

The 14th Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Rock Harbor. The two-day event began sunrise on Friday, July 15, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and sunrise on Saturday, July 16, with weigh-in at 2:00 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 Rock Harbor.

Plaques were given to three boats with the highest total weight. The Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish award was also given to the individual with the largest fish by weight taken in the tournament. 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 was just as big as previous events with many fishermen entered in the contest. For the second year in a row, the big winner was the 'Barbara Jean" (Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, & Mike Cardinal). Their three largest fish totaling a whopping 72 lbs 15 oz. Congratulations! They beat their last year total by 7 oz.

The second place spot went to 'Northeastern II' (Archie Abrahamson, Brian Chandler, & Jason Syett) with a total weight of 62 lbs. 6 oz.



The First Place Barbara Jean Crew



The Second Place Fish Northeastern II Crew.

The third place spot went to 'Destiney' (Mario, John, Noah, Kelvin, Ross, Conner, Jeff, Legs, etc.) with their three largest fish weighing a total of 52 lbs 10 oz.



The Third Place Northeastern II Crew.

The Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish honors went to Brian Chandler fishing on the 'Northeastern II' weighing in at 28 lbs. This fish was two ounces larger than last year's big fish caught by Matt Mecklin. Nice fish Brian!

The Minnesota fishermen maintained a strangle hold on the coveted Wooden Herring Award with a total weight of 76 lbs 11 oz. They beat the Michigan Fishermen by 15 lbs 7 oz. Congratulations to the Minnesota Fishermen!



Brian Chandler with the Largest Fish



The Minnesota Fishermen with the Wooden Herring Award

The Annual Island Meeting Fish Fry

The annual island meeting and fish fry is always a nice time. This year's event was attended by about 135 hungry participants. Big thanks to all the people involved in making this a very successful event. Many thanks go out to the fish cleaning crew who for the past several years have cleaned and prepared many pounds of fish. IRBA appreciates all those who participated in the fishing event, donated fish, and helped with the fish fry. Great Fun had by all.

BIG Fish Caught at IR in Fall 2016

This past fall Mark Kinnunen and son Noah were fishing at IR and caught and released this monster Laker. I am guessing it is in the 40+ lb range. My only question is why didn't you catch this one in the IRBA tournament? ☺ If you have an IR big fish story we would like to hear it. Just send me a pic and a little explanation and we will print it in the newsletter.



Noah Kinnunen with Big Laker

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 '16 '17 '18 Lifetime" your dues for 2017. If there is a check mark in the 16, 17, 18 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

IRBA Meeting Wednesday, March 22, 2017, 7PM, at the Range Snowmobile Club, South Range, MI.

IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting - Saturday, May 13, 2017, 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. Cost is about \$29.00 per person. Please RSVP by sending Dave Hand an email (dwhand@mtu.edu) with the number in your party or by phone at (906) 370 - 7354.

West End Fund Raiser, Thursday, June 15, 2017, 5 PM, at the Clearwater Grill and Event Center, Duluth, MN.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 14, 2017, and Saturday, July 15, 2017, at Windigo Harbor, IR. Meeting July 15, 2017, 5 PM, followed by the fish fry.

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

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Fax: _____

How do you enjoy Isle Royale?

Power ____ Sail ____ Paddle ____ Hiker ____ Lodge ____

Name of boat: _____

Please print this form and mail it 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.