

PO Box 97  
Houghton, MI 49931  
www.isleroyale.org

# Newsletter

## Winter/Spring 2019

- IRBA Update
- West End Update
- NPS Update by Dave Hand
- 2018 Fishing Tourney Results
- Membership Dues & Scheduled Events

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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.*

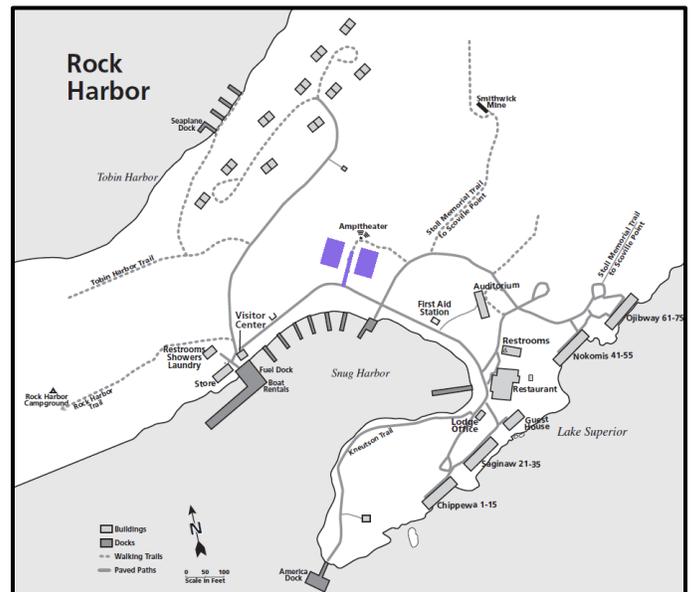
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### IRBA Update by Dave Hand

Hope everyone is staying warm this winter. It is minus four degrees, blowing 20 -30 mph and snowing. As I look out on Lake Superior, all I see is white. They call it the "Polar Vortex" ; and I call it a typical winter day in the Copper Country and probably the "North Shore" as well. We did not receive an NPS update this year because of the US government shutdown so my December meeting with Park Superintendent, Phyllis Green, takes its place.

This fall I led a group of Michigan Tech students do some work at Rock Harbor. The park service needs to redo the electrical grid, and come in compliance with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). We also did some surveying for a new road from the Snug Harbor dock to the restaurant, hotel and a pavilion. The proposed road would be used to divert tractor and trailer use away from the shoreline area where people congregate. The new road takes a right turn, proceeds into the woods north of the old amphitheater over to the restaurant and hotel. It hidden from public view. The site for the

proposed pavilion is shown in the figure below and is about 60 ft up from the dock area.



**Proposed pavilion sites in blue area**

The proposed pavilion shown on the next page would be 24 ft. by 42 ft. and have a concrete floor. The estimated cost of the proposed pavilion would be about \$ 40,000 with labor donated. NPS is seeking funds for the pavilion. It would be a nice addition for the Rock Harbor area.



### **West End Update by Mark Rude**

The Western Chapter discussed the construction of two rental cabins at Windigo. There was interest in organizing a work party to help with construction. Also would like to be able to reserve the two cabins for the IRBA summer meeting when held at Windigo.

The west end discussed the possibility of volunteers to assist with the Rock of Ages Lighthouse rehabilitation project. Gregg Libby will be involved again this summer with helping in the rehab. We discussed the possibility of using the Sivertson skiff for the transport of workers and supplies to and from the Rock Lighthouse. We will contract Stuart Sivertson to see if it might be made available.

The west end Banquet will be held Thursday, June 20, 2019, at the same site as last year, the Clearwater Grill and Events Center, 5135 Northshore Drive (Old HWY 61) just east of the McQuade boat launch area. We hope to hold the price at \$ 30 per person but is yet to be confirmed. Hope to see you there.

### **NPS Update by Dave Hand**

Because of the government shutdown, I will provide the NPS update based on my late December meeting with the IR Park

Superintendent, Phyllis Green. The contract for the Siskiwit Bay dock upgrade will be bid this spring and construction will begin in this summer. So if you are planning on using the dock, you may want to contact the NPS ahead of time to see if construction is completed. The dock design will be a crib dock with a 50 ft. bridge to shore. The file material will be dozed along the shoreline.

Construction will begin this spring on the new Windigo store near the gas dock. The old store will begin operation until the new one is in place. There are also plans for two visitor cabins to be built up near the current ones that are for rental. The NPS is looking for partners for funding these cabins.

Two docks will be rehabilitated this year, one is Moskey basin and I was not informed what the other one was to be done. There is a proposal in to the regional office to upgrade five more docks in the near future. I was not informed of which docks were to be upgraded. Wright island dock is still for day use only and it may take another year for the site to be available for overnight stay. Crystal Cove dock is in a similar situation as Wright Island.

The Rock of Ages lighthouse is in need of a ferry boat to run cargo and people to the lighthouse for repairs. If you know of such a boat that could be donated and is seaworthy please contact the Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society.

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

The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Rock Harbor. The two-day event began sunrise on Friday, July 20, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and sunrise on Saturday, July 21, 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 Rock Harbor. A special thanks to Bill Hyrkas and his crew for donating several fish for the event. Bill had a large crew with him.

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 was not as large as previous events with many fishermen not wanting to brave the rough seas. But it was still much fun for the ones that participated. For a fourth year in a row, the big winner was the 'Barbara Jean' (Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, Noah Mecklin & Mike Cardinal). Their three largest fish totaling 64.11 lbs. These guys are like the Alabama college football dynasty as they keep winning. Congratulations!



The First Place Barbara Jean Crew

The second place spot went to the "Fish Nautzi" (Bill Bailey, Jessica Bailey, Will Werner, Austin Warner) with their three largest fish weighing a total of 55.91 lbs. On a normal fish tournament year this weight would have taken first place. Bummer Guys! But a Great Job and well deserving.



The Second Place Fish Nautzi Crew

The third place spot went to the 'Miss Laurie' (John Evans, Barry Drew, John Messer Jr., & Mike Roth) for their three largest fish totaling 45.6 lbs. Nice job Guys!



The 'Miss Laurie' Partial Crew

The Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish honors went to Matt Mecklin fishing on the 'Barbara Jean' weighing in at 22.6 lbs. Nice job Matt, again!



Matt Mecklin Biggest Fish for 2018

For the largest salmon category, Mike Kukulski of the Laker Taker took this prize with a salmon weighing in at 7.5 lbs. Nice Job!



The Minnesota fishermen maintained a strangle hold on the coveted Wooden Herring Award with a total weight of 64.1 lbs. 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  '19  '20  '21  Lifetime" your dues for 2019. If there is a check mark in the 19, 20, 21 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 20, 2019, 7PM, at the Range Snowmobile Club, South Range, MI.

IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting - Saturday, May 11, 2019, 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](mailto:dwhand@mtu.edu)) with the number in your party or by phone at (906) 370 - 7354.

West End Fund Raiser, Thursday, June 20, 2019, 5 PM, at the Clearwater Grill and Event Center, Duluth, MN.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 19, 2019, and Saturday, July 20, 2019, at Windigo, IR. Meeting July 20, 2019, 5 PM, followed by the fish fry.

# 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

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.**