



## Newsletter 2020

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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

This past year saw a number of important events with respect to Isle Royale and the IRBA association. In November, IR Superintendent Phyllis Green, announced her retirement. IRBA would like to thank Phyllis for her many years of service with the NPS and working with the IRBA on issues important to boaters. We wish her well in retirement.

IRBA mourns the loss of Mark Rude who passed away this last year. Mark was a strong supporter of the IRBA, including a key organizer for the annual west end fundraiser, and instrumental in the building of the Johnson pavilion at Windigo in 2007. He will be sorely missed.

This past year longtime IRBA member and co-founder, Dave Jukuri, stepped down from treasurer, a position he held since the founding of the Association. Dave's health would not allow him to continue his active role with the Association. Dave's business, Century 21 in Houghton, supported the daily operations of the IRBA. Dave, many thanks for all your support

and wisdom throughout the last 23 years of the Association. Dave was honored with a plaque from IRBA.



Retired IRBA Secretary Dave Jukuri

### West End Update by Dave Miller

The West End Banquet has a new date. This year it will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. It will be held at the Clearwater Grill at 5135N Shore Drive, Duluth, MN 55804. Please note the new date!

This year it will be a gathering of Isle Royale Friends with a special focus on Mark Rude. We are looking for pictures of Mark and of Fisherman's Home to add to the event projector. Please send any pictures to Dave Miller at 1814 Belknap Street, Superior WI 54880 or email at [dmiller@nwoutlet.com](mailto:dmiller@nwoutlet.com). We will return any pictures after we have digitized them.

We are looking for donation of prizes for the event too. Please contact Dave Miller. Your help is really appreciated! Mark really worked hard to make the banquet a success and we need your help to carry on.

We are always looking for projects to support on the island. Additional cabins at Windigo and/or a pavilion at Rock Harbor may come to mind.

We are looking for younger members that have a love of Isle Royale to become active members in the IRBA. The Rock of Ages Lighthouse Preservation Society met and exceeded out match of \$ 2,500 and we will match their amount. Nice job ROLPS!

### **Passing of Mark Rude - Dave Miller**

Mark Rude was born February 26, 1939 and passed away on September 27, 2019 at the age of 80 years old. Mark was an only child of Sam and Elaine Rude, Duluth MN and Isle Royale, MI. Mark attended Denfield High School in Duluth and Michigan Tech in Houghton MI.

Mark was a partner who started Carbco in Rockford, IL area that manufactured carbide bits for the tire industry. Mark has a deep understanding of the heat treatment and furnaces needed to create the products they sold.

Mark spent summers on Isle Royale from birth until passing away. He and his parents and

grandparents commercially fished out of Fisherman's Home on Isle Royale's south shore. Fisherman's Home was a small community of commercial fishermen and families that dated back into the mid-1800s. Several shacks still standing date back to that time. For many years the Rudes did assessment fishing for a university in Michigan. Every trout card reflected weight, sex, and a scale sample in an envelope. That took time! As long as there were tags herring and whitefish could be fished too. Fishing started around the first of May and ended the end of October. Those starts and ends were tough times with quieter times in the summer.

Mark was a character and a friend to all that met him. Anyone who stopped at Fisherman's Home was welcome, from kayakers to sail and power boaters. The Home was a refuge in the storm to all. He was a member of IRBA and Isle Royale Friends and Family. Mark's sense of humor, showmanship temper (he could really put on a show), love of cards, Capt'n Morgan, song and guitar, amateur radio (AKOZ), just sitting on the dock chatting about so many topics will forever be missed.

The evening Mark passed away the wind at Rock of Ages was north at 6kts. A good time for crossing!

Mark is survived by his two sons, Pat and Scott and their families.



Mark Rude at 2011 Fundraiser

## NPS Update by Elizabeth Valencia

Phyllis Green retired on November 1, 2019 after 18 years as Superintendent. Her replacement is anticipated to be selected in March or April of 2020. Chief Ranger Coral Conway is acting Supt. Jan- Feb, then Administrative officer Heather Boyd will be for March - April 2020.

We hired a permanent career seasonal (subject to furlough) park ranger, Katie Keller, to work in the Houghton visitor center in the winter. She will be the Rock Harbor leader in the summer. Katie worked at Isle Royale previously, Windigo, and then went to work at Keweenaw National Park.

We will be advertising for two utility related positions at Rock Harbor, both permanent career seasonal (subject to furlough); Maintenance Mechanic and Utility Systems Repairer Operator.

### Dock Projects:

- Raspberry Island
- Rock Harbor Ranger III dock - in design stages with work possibly starting this spring and summer.

- America Dock - project is possible, status depends on funding.
- Ralph House - Hope to complete emergency work due to fall storm damage.
- Windigo T-dock - status depends upon funding.
- Siskiwit Dock - Could start in 2020, funds are in place and environmental compliance is done, currently working on permitting.
- Grand Portage, MN Voyageur Marina - major dock project to start this spring/summer.

### Construction and Maintenance:

- Windigo store exterior completed fall 2019 and interior work and finishing planned for early season with potential move in July.
- Continued work on Ben East Dorm in Rock Harbor.
- Replacement of the Tobin Harbor sewage lift station.
- Preservation maintenance of Rock Harbor lighthouse and repair of tower stairs.

New Ranger III trips to Windigo: June 2-3, July 7-8, August 4-5, Sept. 1-2.

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

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Windigo. The two-day event began sunrise on Friday, July 19, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and sunrise on Saturday, July 20, 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 some large fish counts as compared to previous years. For a fifth year in a row, the big winner was the 'Barbara Jean" (Joe Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, Noah Mecklin & Mike Cardinal). Their three largest fish totaling 81.74 lbs which is 17 lbs greater than last year's total. Nice Job!



First Place -The Barbara Jean Crew

The second-place spot went to the "Afishinado" (Chuck and Dave Johnson) with their three largest fish weighing a total of 80.00 lbs. Only 1.74 lbs separating first and second place finishes.

The third-place spot went to the 'Sea Venture' (Kevin Maki, John Ylitalo, Conner Ylitalo, & Noah Vanderwest) for their three largest fish totaling 74.16 lbs. Nice job Guys!

The Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish honors went to Chuck Johnson fishing on the 'Afishinado' weighing in at 36.5 lbs & 43" long. Way to go Chuck!



Second Place - The Afishinado



Biggest Fish for 2019 - Chuck Johnson

The largest salmon category prize went to Blue Fox (Rob Jones & Janelle Konfny) with a salmon weighing in at 3.5 lbs. Nice Job!



Third Place - The Sea Venture



The Blue Fox Crew with Largest Salmon

The Minnesota fishermen set a new record for the largest three fish total weight of 96.82 lbs. They have retained the Wooden Herring Award

for 2019. 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  '20  '21  '22  Lifetime" your dues for 2020. If there is a check mark in the 20, 21, 22 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 Annual Dinner Meeting - Saturday, May 16, 2020, 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 \$30.00 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, May 14, 2020,  
5 PM, at the Clearwater Grill and Event Center,  
Duluth, MN.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 17,  
2020, and Saturday, July 18, 2020, at Rock  
Harbor, IR. Meeting July 18, 2020, 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.**