



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

Newsletter Winter/Spring 2013

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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.

IRBA Update by Dave Hand

As this newsletter is being put together, it is difficult to begin to think about boating and Isle Royale when the snow is falling at a hefty pace. Having said that, I will say there is much to do on the Dr. Trout too before it is launched in the spring. I am sure all of you also have a number of tasks to perform on your boat before Launch. The newsletter is a good sign that will remind you to begin looking at all those boating catalogs received during the winter and to start placing an order even if it is for a set of new flares for the ones that just expired this past year. Now is also the time you may want check out the schedule of events section in this newsletter to see if you can fit these IRBA events into your summer plans.

Our two main events include: the West-End fund raiser in June held at the Superior Shores Resort in Two Harbors, Minnesota, and the Isle Royale Fishing Tournament and Fish Fry to be held at the Rock Harbor Lodge held in July. These events are a good time to talk to fellow

IRBA members and friends. See the IRBA schedule of events section for times and dates. These events are also posted on our website.

I recently had a conversation with IR park superintendent, Phyllis Green and discussed the status of our floating dock proposal and other possible projects with the park service. Phyllis said the park service performed a scan of the lake bottom area where the proposed dock is to be located at Passage Island Cove and it showed nothing unusual that would be a cause for concern. She did say it may be difficult to get approval of a new dock because the boating numbers are down and sequestration is causing them to prioritize their near term island projects. I did tell her the IRBA is willing to pay for the facility and future maintenance of the dock and it would not cost the park service anything. She said they will look into the cost and let us know if the project is possible.

Phyllis also said there may be some opportunity for IRBA to help out with the facility on Wright Island, but she gave me no specifics at this time.

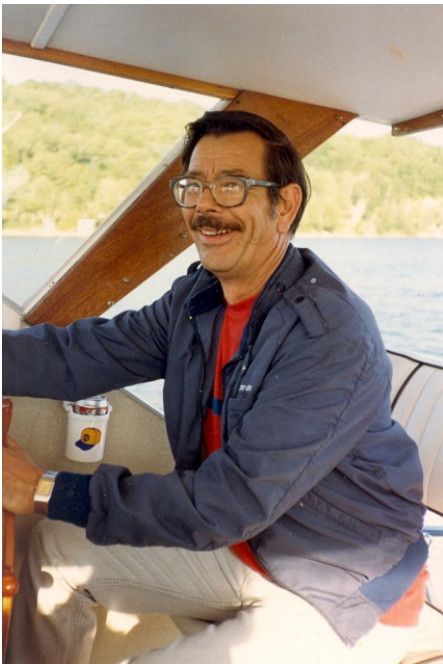
I will be scheduling a meeting with the park service sometime in late April or early May to have further discussion on these issues.

IRBA Member James Markham Passes Away – Ray Niemi

Jim Markham passed away at his home on February 7, 2013, with his children by his side.

He was a charter member and board member of the Isle Royale Boaters Association and past president. It was during his reign as president that the IRBA was involved in the law suit with the National Park Service. He along with others donated many countless hours researching through thousands of pages of material for the law suit.

Jim spent his growing up years on Isle Royale as his father was employed by the park service. He developed many friendships with the resident families while growing up with their children. Frank Johnson of the Milford Johnson family was his lifelong buddy whom he stayed in contact with throughout his life.



Jim at the Helm

On the island he worked as a surveyor for a geological service and for commercial fishermen. Jim retired from Semco energy. He was also a businessman establishing Canal Boat Sales in 1960 which later became Markham's Marina. It is now operated by his son-in-law, Paul Heitala.

Isle Royale was very special to Jim. He visited the island every year with family and friends aboard his boat the MISS CONDUCT. He passed on the love of Isle Royale to all 13 of his children who visit the island each summer.

Jim was a valuable member of the IRBA. His dedication and contributions will always be remembered and appreciated.

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

The Tenth 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 at Caribou Island and sunrise on Saturday, July 21, with weigh-in at 2:00 PM in Rock Harbor. Each boat was allowed to enter the three largest fish by weight. Many of the fish caught were donated for the IRBA Fish Fry after the awards presentation held at Rock Harbor.

Plaques were given to the boat with the highest total weight, second place and third place. Plaques were given for the three largest fish taken by trolling and the Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish award 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.

The number of entrees this year was exceptional with 56 fishermen entered in the contest. The boat 'Sea Su' (Nick Meneguzzo, Gozy

Meneguzzo, Jason Meneguzzo, & John Ylitalo) took the top spot with their three largest fish totaling a whopping 61 lbs 7 oz. Congratulations !

The second place honors went to the boat 'Fish Nautzi' (Willie Werner, Ron Bailey, Bill Bailey, & Matt Marciniak) with a total weight of 51 lbs. 9 oz. The 'Three Seas' (Dwight Moe, Skip Brandt, Greg Boyle & Dave Johnson) took the third spot with their three largest fish weighing a total of 47 lbs 0 oz.



The Sea Su Crew

The largest fish honors went to Ron Bailey fishing on the 'Fish Nautzi' weighing in at a massive 28 lbs 4 oz. I must add that the Fish Nautzi won this award for the second year in a row.



Ron Bailey with the Largest Fish

The coveted Wooden Herring Award went to the Minnesota Fishermen with a total weight of 69 lbs. 8 oz. Congratulations to the Minnesota Fishermen as they have extended their lead in the number of Wooden Herring Awards. The 2013 tournament to be held at Windigo Harbor will be exciting. The rules for the fish tournament will continue to be the same.



The Minnesota Fishermen.

The Fish Fry was a huge success this year as we had about 160 people attend the feast. IRBA appreciates all those who participated in the fishing event and helped with the fish fry.



IRBA Members enjoying the Saturday Fish Fry.



More happy IRBA Members.

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 ☐ '13 ☐ '14 ☐ '15 ☐ Lifetime" your dues for 2013. If there is a check mark in the 13, 14, 15 or lifetime your dues are paid up. If there is not a check mark, you will need to pay your dues for this year. Of course we always appreciate a donation! 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 Apparel Available

Presently, we have a lot of medium, large and extra large sweatshirts, fleeces, and polo shirts. You can contact Carol during the day at (906) 482-9342.

IRBA Scheduled Events

IRBA Meeting Wednesday, April 17, 2013, 7PM, at the Range Snowmobile Club, South Range, MI.

IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting - Saturday, May 4, 2013, 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 \$30.00 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 20, 2013, 5 PM, at the Superior Shores Resort, Two Harbors, MN.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 19, 2013, and Saturday, July 20, 2013, at the Johnson Pavilion at Windigo, IR. Meeting July 20, 2013, 5 PM, followed by the fish fry.