



PO Box 97
Houghton, MI 49931



Newsletter 2026

- IRBA Update
- Repairs at Duncan Narrows
- Passing of IRBA Members
- 2025 Fishing Tourney Results
- 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

It is the new year and time to start thinking about boating and Isle Royale adventures. Hope all our members are enjoying a nice winter this year with lots of snow or perhaps basking in the southern warm weather.

The annual spring dinner meeting was held on May 15, 2025 with 45 members in attendance. Some of the highlights included: 1) the board voted to turn over the \$ 105 k of IRBA funds into an interest- bearing account (4.04 %) for another year. The current balance is about \$ 107 k.

The 21th annual fishing tournament and fish fry on Isle Royale was a successful event. While the fishing tournament entries were again low compared to previous years, the fishermen had nice catches of fish and the event was a success. The fish fry at Rock Harbor was tasty with over 90 hungry people attending.

IRBA members rehabbed the Duncan Narrows campground shelters in early August with a fresh coat of paint and some structural fixes. See article below.

IRBA held a dinner meeting at the Moose Lodge in Two Rivers, MN, on Thursday, September 18, 2025, with 43 members in attendance. The majority of the meeting was spent on discussing maintenance of docks and camping facilities used by Boaters. IRBA members have discussed needed repair and maintenance on some shelters which include Duncan Bay and Birch Island Campgrounds for Summer 2026. We have a crew for Duncan Bay campground repairs and Marty Anderson mentioned interest in Birch Island campground repairs.

IRBA members, Kevin Maki (Sea Venture) and crew repaired some planks on the Hay Bay Dock. IRBA talked to the park service about possible repairs to the Wright Island dock so that overnight use could be accommodated for boaters. In August, the Sea Venture crew visited Wright Island dock and made

measurements on replacing the deck. It is hoped that this next summer, IRBA can work with the park service on replacing the deck so the dock can provide for some overnight docking for boaters. IRBA would be willing to provide the needed decking and manpower to bring the dock into usable form.

This past year, the park service has been replacing many of the outhouses with new cedar outhouses and new taller toilet seats that you don't struggle to get off after you do your job.



New Toilet Seats for Isle Royale Privies

Remembering John Lukowski - by Dave Hand

John Lukowski was born on November 13, 1958 and passed away on June 27, 2025 at the age of 66 years old. He resided in Hancock, MI, where he had a successful career as a professor in Electrical Engineering at Michigan Tech University. He was an avid boater and an active member in IRBA. John enjoyed spending time on Isle Royale especially with Ray Niemi on the "Sea Tramp". In fact, when Ray passed away John carried on as the Sea Tramp Captain and Owner until he fell ill and passed away.



John Lukowski (1958- 2025)

Remembering Peter Massie - by Dave Hand

Peter Massie was born March 31, 1958, and passed away unexpectedly on September 8, 2025, at the age of 67 years old. He and his brother were successful proprietors of Massie Manufacturing in Baraga, MI, until his retirement in March of 2021. Peter and Rebecca Tober cherished 42 years together. Peter was a proud life member and supporter of the Isle Royale Boaters Association; he loved boating and being on the water. I don't think Peter and Becky ever missed an annual IRBA dinner meeting.

In honor of John and Peter, IBRA received generous donations from the Massie and

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:

<https://account.venmo.com/u/isleroyaleboaters>

\$ 25 __ \$50 __ \$100 __ \$ _____ Other

Name: _____

Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Cell: _____

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.



The Minnesota fishermen took back the Wooden Herring Award with a total weight of 104.2 lbs. The Michigan catch for the three largest fish was 89.2 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 ☐ '26 ☐ '27 ☐ '28 ☐ Lifetime' your dues. If there is a check mark in the 26, 27, 28 or lifetime your dues are paid up. If there is not a check mark in 26, 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.

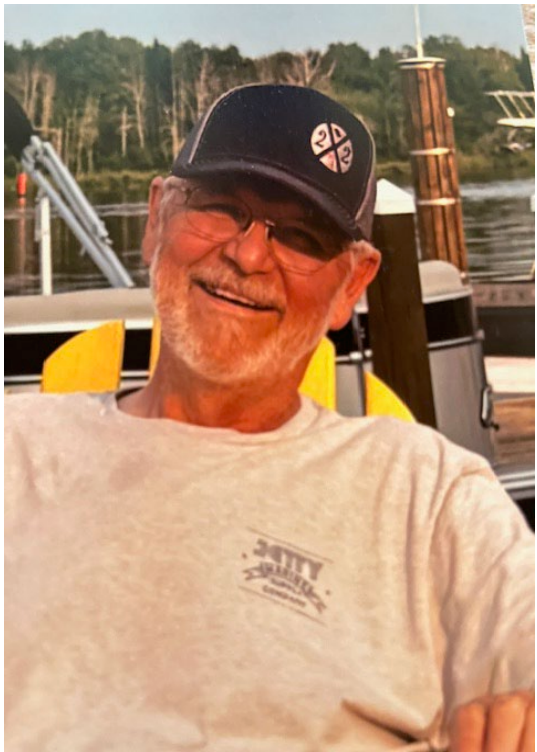
IRBA Scheduled Events

IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting - Thursday, May 21, 2026, 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) with the number in your party or by text at (906) 370 - 7354.

IRBA Fishing Tournament - Friday, July 17, 2026, and Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Windigo, IR. Meeting July 18, 2026, 4 PM with presentation of the fishing awards, followed by the fish fry.

IRBA West End Dinner Meeting - To be determined.

Polomski (Previous Owners of Superior Divers) families.



Peter Massie (1958 - 2025)

IRBA Members Provide Maintenance for the Duncan Narrows Shelters - by Dave Hand

IRBA members continue to provide volunteer repair work on the Isle Royale shelters used by island visitors. On the first week of August, the IRBA crew members performed much needed repairs on the shelters at the Duncan Narrows campground. The crew from the "Mistake" (Mark Kinnunen, Noah Kinnunen, Jase Kinnunen), the "Dr. Trout" (Dave Hand, Al Rahoi, Tom Kukulski), the Lakertaker (Dave Turnquist, Jim Matthews, Mike Harter, Mark Martin), and the "Water Witch" (Bill Siler, Pat Siler, and Eli Maynard) spent three days cleaning the outside

of the shelters and followed up with a fresh coat of paint.

There are a number of shelters that IRBA members use on a regular basis that may require some repair. You can volunteer to perform the repairs if you have the time by contacting IRNP to make the necessary repairs. IRBA can supply the paint or other materials needed. This crew hopes to do some repairs for the outhouse and shelters at the Duncan Bay this coming summer.



Eli and Jase taping screens on one of the shelters.



Dave, Jim, Mark, & Mark K painting shelter.



Shelter with a nice fresh coat of paint.



IRBA Work Crew.

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

The 22th Annual IRBA Trout Fishing Tournament was held at Rock Harbor. The two-day event began sunrise on Friday, July 18, with weigh-in at 5:00 PM and sunrise on Saturday, July 19, 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 twelve entries for the tourney. This year the big winner was the "Barbara Jean" (Noah Mecklin, Matt Mecklin, Joe Mecklin). Their three largest fish weighed

in at a total of 92.1 lbs. Congratulations fishermen!



First Place - Barbara Jean Crew

The second-place spot went to "Sea Sue" (Conner Ylitalo, Cooper Giles, Kyle Mikkola) Their three largest fish weighed in at a total of 87.9 lbs. Congratulations!



Second Place - Sea Sue Crew

The third-place spot went to the "Little Raskel" (Thomas Rask, Troy Zimmer, Mike Trettir). Their three largest fish weighed in at a total of 82.5 lbs. Congratulations!



Third Place - Little Raskel Crew

The Dwane "Bear" Falconer largest fish honors went to Noah Mecklin fishing on the 'Barbara Jean' weighing in at 43.5 lbs. Great Catch Noah!



Dwane "Bear" Falconer Award - Noah Mecklin

Again, this year there were no salmon entered in this year's event. HUH! Where did all the salmon go?