



Happy Holidays from the KRPGA! President's message for December 2009

November brought some changes in the Board of Directors you should be aware of. Myself Dave Goggia as your new President, Jerry Strieby is Vice President, Aaron Cooper is Sec/Treasurer, with members at large Gary Chamberlin, Jimmy Drath, Scott Eggemeyer, and Ed O'Connor.

I hope Thanksgiving brought good times to all. As this year comes to a close I think of all the joys and successes of 2009. I try not to dwell on the disappointments and ailments, but rather the good things that happened this year. Most of the joys, successes, and good things were centered on fishing, as it should be. I think we all enjoyed some great stories and fishing trips with our clients. Yes I'm sure we all could have enjoyed more clients, but if we focus on the positives and how we can grow our business... it will happen.

I have been thinking about what it is that I like about being involved with our guide association and the value it brings to me and my business. The top of my list starts with the good people that I have met and have associated with since I have been a member. Next would be the great activities we are involved in. If you stop and think about each activity for just a minute or two, you and others can see all of the service and dedication that goes into each activity. Each one of these activities helps our industry in so many ways.

For example, teaching kids to cast at Johnson Lake. Some of the comments that come back to us from parents and teachers are sincere and heartfelt praise and this spreads through our community.

Take a Kid Fishing day - parents and teachers comment that it is a good thing we do for them. Some of the kids we take fishing are some of the same ones we taught how to cast.

The next activity would be the Wounded Warrior fishing event. John Witlach was the guide that started this event and asked if we would help grow it into what it is today. The military, sponsors, and people in our communities can't say enough good about KRPGA for putting on this event.

To end our activities for the year every September 11th we take veterans fishing! These guys love to be taken out for a day of fishing, & we receive even more praise from them. Wow! These are some great events rivaled by none. I know we get recognition, not that we seek it, but it is there. We also get clients by participating. We have some awesome stories to share with our clients, if we choose to, and for me we get a good feeling knowing we made someone's day or taught them something. Being

involved is a win-win for all that participate.

In years past, most all of the press our guide industry received was negative. Over the past few years we are seeing more and more good news in the press, radio, and on the TV. This all comes from being members of KRPGA, our professional guide association, always giving back to the community. We also try to keep issues on a professional level by not bickering and quailing about them.

So THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU! For being involved, it does bring value to your business. Also as a thank you we have been handing out a tee shirt and hat with our logo on them to all who participate. We have some other value added ideas we are working on for our members and would appreciate any ideas you might have that would bring value to our members. I guess it boils down to if we had more money to work with we could do some great things for our members. If all guides on the Kenai River were members we would have more money and more options for benefits.

We recognize we need to involve you old timers per say, you that have been guiding for a long period of time. We need your knowledge, wisdom, and ideas to grow our industry. We are looking at proposals and potential proposals for the up and coming Board of Fish in 2011. All proposals need to be in by April of 2010.

We will also be conducting a membership drive in January 2010. Being a member will keep you better informed and give you a bigger voice as we face some major issues in the coming years. The more solidarity the bigger our industry voice is, and will carry more weight as we move forward dealing with Industry leaders.

We hope all will enjoy the use of our new web site. It should be more user-friendly and you can sign up for each of our events on the site or even renew your membership on site as well.

The Board of Directors invites you to our Christmas Party and annual fund raiser this weekend, December 5th. For reservations or more information call Jennifer or David Guyer at 262-6004. Cocktails will begin at 6:30pm followed by dinner at 7:30pm. This party will take place at the Soldotna Elk's Lodge. There will be an auction as part of the fund raiser and door prizes too. Tickets can be purchased at the Elk's Lodge. Tickets prices are \$40 per person or \$75 per couple. We wish you and yours a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!

We value your thoughts and ideas so here is my email address and cell phone I would love to hear from you.

David Goggia KRPGA President
dave@hookycharters.com
Cell phone 252-3503