



January 2010
Newsletter

We the Board of Directors hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas, and also wish you a happy New Year!

We have been busy with all of the issues that affect our industry and trying to add value to being a member of Kenai River Professional Guide Association. January is the month we are focusing on membership enrolment. As you read this newsletter please consider joining this association.

Over the past several years we have worked hard to gain credibility and represent our industry among the different State Agencies, Fish and Game departments, and even made a successful trip to Juneau this past year. Our voice is being heard and it is making a difference in the way each of us continues to do our business. The Guide Association is your voice; together we have strength and power as we forge ahead with wisdom and understanding.

Our last newsletter described the charitable events we are involved in and they are great causes, they also bring respect and praise to our organization. Guide Association members are always considered first when looking for volunteers for these events. Thank you for volunteering your time to help pull these off.

Every year we are involved on different boards and committees that deal with the Kenai River and our industry. For example, several guides, board members and members alike are on the Kenai River Special Management Area (KRSMA) board and committees. Most of our hot topics are discussed and passed forward to Alaska State Parks for consideration and or approval. Two committees under the KRSMA direction are the Habitat Committee and the River Use Committee, both have been busy and we are well represented on each one.

The Kenai River Guide Advisory Board is another one that has implications to us and how we do business on the river. This board looks at behavior, complaints, citations, and accidents out on the river. All of this is looked at, discussed and sometimes comes out in our stipulations that we sign each year, always trying to better our industry.

As for the Fish and Game A/C, we are fortunate to have a pretty balanced board between all user groups. In the past the scale was tipped towards the commercial industry, so we have worked to get our interest better represented. I might just add this is why we moved our next guide meeting to Friday the 8th of January at 7:00 pm upstairs in the 4D building conference room. This board is an advisory board to the Department of Fish and

Game and can send proposals to the Board of Fish. They have the opportunity to weigh in on each proposal before the board, so their voice can be important to us.

Hot Topics...

- Turbidity
- The river use study that should be released in late January or early February.
- The endangered beluga whale and the effect it might have on the Kenai River.
- Drift only areas for power boats.
- The Board of Fish in 2011. All proposals need to be in by early April 2010.

With all of this our board has been racking our brains trying to come up with ideas to add value or benefits to our membership. This is what we are looking at for 2010.

- Insurance for health, dental, vision, marine, and roadside.
- Rental car discounts.
- Continuing education classes that will benefit our businesses.
- A mentoring program for new members.
- A spring BBQ for members

We are also planning on doing an educational /safety video for the public that can be used on any river.

Our plan is to find a grant to do a safety video with some fishing tips and information. We will film this summer and produce the video in the fall.

That should be enough information for one newsletter; I don't want to bore anyone. If you would like more details don't hesitate to ask.

Anchorage area guides

We will be coming to a conference room near you! We recognize there are many guides that live in and around Anchorage, so our plan is to bring a meeting to you and if there is enough interest we could do them on a more regular basis.

Special Meeting Announcement

January 26 2010 we will hold a Guide meeting at the West Coast International at 6:00 pm.

Our goal this year is to communicate better both as a board and with the membership. We value your expertise, thoughts, and ideas.

Please consider joining our association we need your voice to make a difference!

Agenda
January 8 2010

Call to order

Roll call of officers

Call for additions or deletions to the agenda

Approval of treasurer's report

Business Items

- KRGA – Gary Turner
- Credit card abuse – Mike Crawford
- Electronic booking program – John Faulkner
- AAA benefit plan – Scott Eggemeyer
- KRSMA – Joe Conners
- Kenai, Soldotna A/C - Mike Crawford
- New website – Aaron or Dave
- New KRPGA Charitable Foundation
- Kasilof Board of Fish proposals – Scott
- Kenai River B of F proposals – Steve McClure
- Anchorage guide meeting - Dave
- Membership drive – Dave
- Spring BBQ - Dave

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Adjournment.....Thanks for coming.