



KRPGA News Letter
May 2010

Our season is upon us, ready or not here we go! I can only wish that I was ready, oh well I will get there. It seems like there is something new and getting thrown into our hopper all of the time, but first I would like to mention a couple of old topics. We are having signs made up for the traditional drift area at Eagle Rock and DNR will place them in the proper locations. I only ask that we observe them and yield to the guides and general public that are trying to drift fish in this area. Nobody wants more regulations on the river, but that is exactly what will happen if we don't stay out of the traditional drift areas when others are trying to drift fish. We only have one year to try and fix this problem, if we can't, the Board of Fish will, and we won't like it I promise. The other issue I would like to mention is about the dipnet fishery. KRPGA will not support the proposal to take away king salmon from the dipnet fishery. That battle will be the most controversial battle at the next Board of Fish and we want to steer clear of that one. We don't need nor do we want the general public coming down on us for this one. The Soldotna AC put it in and will take the heat for that one. We would like to place our focus on getting some things back at the next Board of Fish.

OK the new thing that has been thrown into our hopper is the exemption we can get, if we are injured and need a sixth person in our boat to help because we are unable to perform our guide duties. The Department of Fish and Game is reviewing their policy on granting this waiver, which could affect our businesses. We are keeping a close eye on this and will react if needed.

There are many issues that affect each of our businesses and we need to hear from each of you so we can better represent you! We know we won't always agree on all issues, but we need your thoughts, ideas, and opinions to better represent you and the guiding industry. It would be helpful to get your thoughts, ideas, and opinions in writing mainly so we don't forget. If you would like to email information to me that works great, my email address is dave@hookycharters.com.

This year at the Salmon Celebration at Johnson Lake, where we teach elementary school kids to cast, our guide participation was down, but it was still worthwhile and the kids had fun. Our next event is the Take a Kid Fishing Day on May 15th. If you aren't signed up and would like to help, give Jimmie Jack a call, at 262-5561, he could use some more help. The Wounded Warrior event is June 11th and 12th this year and we will need 45 to 50 boats to pull this off; we are still in need of guides. You can give Monte or Ed O' Connor a call to get signed up for this event. Ed phone number is 252-9097.

Jerry Strieby is looking for guides to help take veterans fishing on September 11th, so if you are open and would like to help, give him a call (283-9643)

Our Christmas Party will be Friday December 3rd at the Challenger Center in Kenai next to the High School. Call Jimmie Jack if you can help (262-5561)

NOTEPlease bring new, in the package lures or tackle of any sort to help with our gift bag goodies for the Wounded Warrior Event this year. We need extra items this year as we are bringing in 150 soldiers. If any of you are pro-staffers for a company, could you please check with your companies to if they would have any goodie bag items or other gift items they could donate, that would be greatly appreciated. Bonnie puts together a mixture of gift items to give each of the soldiers at the end of the event.

NEW THIS YEAR! SPRING FLING BBQ, to kick off our fishing season, for all guides and the community. Tickets will be out May 6th for sale. Kids under 12 are free, everyone else is \$10. per head. You can get tickets from Scott Eggemeyer or any board member. There will be **games for the kids, BBQ, fun, live band, an auction, and a Kassik's Beer Garden**. We will have a **Willie 19'x 66" drift boat to be auctioned** and several guides will have their boats there to be auctioned off for a day of fishing, all to raise money for our association. This should be great fun and a good way to start our season, hope to see you all there. It is on **May 29th from 4 pm to 10 pm at the Soldotna Park between Don Jose's and Tesoro.**

Our membership drive is going well and we are focusing some of our effort on associate members, those who help with and support the tourism industry. **We thank you for your support.** As our voice continues to grow it will be heard more clearly! We have attached a member's benefits list that you should look at and take advantage of. If you haven't renewed yet, or want to join, you can do it through our website: www.krpga.org , or call Aaron Cooper: 398-6335.

To those in our midst who have had misfortune, surgery, and or illness we wish you well and a speedy recovery. We also hope to see you out on the river fishing, telling stories, and having a good time. We also hope for a safe and prosperous year, FISH ON! and we will see you out there.

DON'T FORGET OUR LAST MEETING of the year, is this Tuesday, May 11th, 2010, in the upstairs conference room of the 4-D Building: the corner of Kenai Spur Hwy and Marydale. See you there at 7:00 PM.

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