

# KENAI RIVER PROFESSIONAL GUIDE ASSOCIATION

February 2018 Newsletter

## 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ray DeBardelaben	President	(907) 398-2854	ray@longlivethekings.com
Alex Douthit	Vice President	(907) 398-2080	aksportfishing@yahoo.com
Kasey Loomis	Sec/Treas	(907) 252-1578	ericloomisfishing@hotmail.com
Eric Loomis	Director	(907) 252-9094	ericloomisfishing@hotmail.com
Greg Geller	Director	(907) 398-6801	greggellerak@gmail.com
Steven "Redman" Blunk	Director	(907) 252-8699	akredman99611@yahoo.com

(Vacant) *If you are interested in this vacant position please contact a board member.*

## President's Message

Officer elections were held at the January 2018 meeting and a new Board was elected. The KRPGA Board for 2018 is:

President	Ray DeBardelaben
Vice President	Alex Douthit
Secretary/Treasurer	Kasey Loomis
At-Large	Greg Geller, Eric Loomis, Steven "Redman" Blunk

There is still one seat available on the Board. Nominations will be taken at the beginning of the February meeting, followed by elections.

Taking care of the Kenai River is important to me. I first fished the Kenai River in 1986 as a 13-year old kid and a tourist with my parents. I started my Alaska guiding career in 1992 at Lake Creek but always had a passion for the legendary Kenai River King. 1995, I started guiding on the famous Kenai and joined KRPGA the same year. That year, I hand wrote a letter to each representative on the Board of Fish. My letter stated that 'I don't care what you decide as long as my future kids have a chance to catch a legendary 50-lb Kenai King'. Well, here I am now, twenty-plus years later, with two kids and a beautiful wife "living the dream". I can say that my kids have an honest chance at a 50-lb King. They haven't quite caught that hog of a fish yet; Steven's catch tops out at 22-lbs and Katie at 42-lbs, with minimal fishing hours.

As the KRPGA's new president, I look forward to working with our members and raising our membership numbers. I have always respected the KRPGA, past Presidents, and the Board positions, although sometimes I have disagreed with them. The Association should be proud of what the past Board has accomplished. That being said, KRPGA continues to have a tremendous amount on its plate that needs attention; ADEC Turbidity study, Senate Bill 135, and NPFMC Salmon Fisheries Management Plan for Cook Inlet to name a few. We have and will continue to be active in the community, as the community supports



## CONTACT US

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us. We will continue to help organizations such as Take a Kid Fishing, Take a Vet Fishing, Wounded Warriors and Boys & Girls Club.

KRPGA has accomplished some amazing goals and protected the Kenai River and our way to make a living off this priceless resource. I hope my passion for the Kenai Peninsula, the River and its resources will help gain new accomplishments for KRPGA.

We have an upcoming fundraiser on March 10 at the Soldotna Elks Lodge. Please contact (907) 398-2854 or (907) 252-9094 to donate prizes, help organize or for tickets.

The next KRPGA meeting will be held at 6:00pm Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, upstairs in the Four-D Interiors Professional Building. The address is 35477 Kenai Spur Highway. I invite all river guides to attend, join or renew your membership and voice your opinions.

Long Live the Kings!

You're invited...

**2018 Annual  
Dinner & Fundraiser**

**Saturday  
March 10, 2018  
Soldotna Elk's Lodge**

**5:00 Cocktails & 6:00 Dinner  
\$55 single/\$100 couple  
\$500 Perks Table for 8  
Call for tickets: 398-2854**