

KENAI RIVER PROFESSIONAL GUIDE ASSOCIATION

OCTOBER 2019

2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Ray DeBardelaben	President	(907) 398-2854	krpga1@gmail.com
Alex Douthit	Vice President	(907) 398-2080	ray@longlivethekings.com
*Kasey Loomis	Sec/Treasurer	(907) 252-1578	aksportfishing@yahoo.com
*Steven "Redman" Blunk	Director	(907) 252-8699	ericloomisfishing@hotmail.com
*Murray Fenton	Director	(907) 398-6250	akredman99611@yahoo.com
Monte Roberts	Director	(907) 398-7461	mbfenton@ak.net
Ty VanLier	Director	(907) 252-5464	montesfishing@alaska.net
Adam White	Associate Dir.	(907) 202-3971	swifter@alaska.net
			ajwak@ak.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am proud to serve as the President of KRPGA. I am proud of the KRPGA Board Members and what the Association has done these past 2 years is phenomenal.

For the past 18 months, the community minded KRPGA has worked hard and spent countless hours to prepare for the 2020 Board of Fish meetings in February 2020. We need all guides, lodges, hotels, and bed and breakfasts to join together for the future, of not only the Kenai River sport fishing, but also the health of the State of Alaska recreational tourism.

Some of us are still fishing into October, but essentially, the 2019 season is over. Personally, this was my most challenging season of 25 years. However, I was able to somehow make it work. Welcome to the fishing industry! In the business we are in there are good years and tough years. That said, KRPGA's main objective is to put more harvestable fish of all species into the Kenai River.

The early fishing on the Kenai was a good surprise with a strong return of the Russian River sockeye. This run was strong through June and was a blessing as the extreme warm temperatures made water conditions tough for king salmon fishing. With just over 4000 kings past the sonar, hopefully most of them made it to spawn.

Moving into July, the water conditions were still poor, high and muddy, and made for some more tough king salmon fishing. Those who fished hard in July were able to catch some kings without the use of bait and with a single hook. Several guides and locals chose to pursue sockeye instead. A grind was the answer on both fisheries. Sockeye made a show in late July and August, however the in-river king salmon count did not. Just over 11,000 king salmon in the Kenai system is not acceptable.

Moving to mid-August was frustrating to say the least. An at-best average silver salmon run, then no bait again, made fishing for all in-river sport fisherman tough. Meanwhile, there was the significant impact of commercial fishing. Through the end of August and all of September, silver salmon really did not improve to what I would call good fishing. We had a few good days, followed directly by some tough days, and this continues to present day October.

To me, it was an extremely frustrating season. Some sport fishing was better in areas and less in some. In-river sport fishing has continued to change. We have all learned to adapt. All of this said we have a new State administration, they had to adhere to the management plan the was adopted in 2017. At the 2020 Board of Fish meetings there is an opportunity to alter the management plan. KRPGA will be there. We need your support in big numbers, so please join and be active in KRPGA!

Keep a tight line,



Ray DeBardelaben, President



Call for Nominations!

Nominations will occur at the October 8, 2019 meeting.

Four Board of Directors positions are open. Board members with an asterisk have served their two-year term. Nominations can also be e-mailed to krpga1@gmail.com prior to the meeting.

2018-19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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akredman99611@yahoo.com
mbfenton@ak.net
montesfishing@alaska.net
swifter@alaska.net
ajwak@ak.net

*Denotes a position that is up for election at the November 12 meeting.

Renew your membership now! Remember that 2018-19 memberships expire October 31, 2019. Membership must be current in order to vote at the November 12 Annual Meeting.



JOIN OUR ASSOCIATION AND HELP US SUPPORT YOU AND OUR FISHERY

The Kenai River Professional Guide Association (KRPGA) is comprised of sport fishing guides, business owners and individual citizens concerned about the future of the fisheries and the guide industry.

As a professional guide, being a member of the KRPGA has many benefits. Some of these benefits can include discounts at local merchants, pro-gear suppliers and some insurance policies. The KRPGA.org website includes links to member's websites and contact information.

KRPGA's goal is promote sport fishing guide opportunity and industry on the Kenai River and the Kenai Peninsula. Additionally, it is our goal to achieve a fair and equitable allocation of salmon resources for sport fisheries and fishing guides.

2019-20 Membership

Professional Membership:

In order to be a professional member, you must hold an Alaska State Parks commercial operators permit for the Kenai River. Membership dues are \$100 per year and are good until October 31st.

Associate Membership:

Any person or non-fishing guided business may become an associate member. If you are interested in helping the Kenai Peninsula Sport Fishery, this is a great place to start! Membership dues are \$50 per year.

Please circle one: **PROFESSIONAL / ASSOCIATE** Is this a renewal? **YES / NO**

Personal Name: _____

Business Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Website: _____

I am interested in these community service opportunities KRPGA is involved in:

- Kenai River Clean Up Take a Kid Fishing Day Kenai River Guide Academy
- Salmon Celebration Scholarship Committee

For more information and a list of our current members, please visit our website at www.krpga.org

KRPGA PO Box 3674 Soldotna, AK 99669

OCTOBER 8 MEETING AGENDA:

KRPGA's next regular meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the Four D Professional Building Conference Room.

Agenda items include:

Call to Order

Board Nominations

Kenai Soldotna AC - Mike Crawford

KRSA - Ricky Gease

NPF - Mike Flores

KRSMA - Monte or Joe Connors

CIRI Commercial Surface Access Agreements

Salmon Celebration

Kenai River Clean Up - Mark Glassmaker

Board of Fish

Charitable Fishing Days

LA LIO office - Monte Roberts

Fundraiser

Good of the order



CONTACT US

Kenai River Professional Guide

Association

PO Box 3674

Soldotna, AK 99669

krpga1@gmail.com

www.krpga.org

krpga1@gmail.com

Karen Crapps, Administrator

NEXT MEETINGS/EVENTS

- October 8, 2019 Membership Meeting 4D Conference Room – Board Nominations
- November 12, 2019 – Annual Meeting – Board of Directors Elections
- December 7, 2019 – Annual Fundraiser Dinner & Auction – Soldotna Sports Center
- December 10, 2019 – Membership Meeting

KRPGA

PO Box 3674

Soldotna, AK 99669

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