

BASS
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warm community spirit felt throughout the many events of the tournament.

“We love International Falls, we absolutely love this tournament and everything you guys do to make this special,” said Duane Peterson, a part of the 2012 championship team. The team finished fifth this year. “The fishing is good and the scenery and Rainy Lake is absolutely spectacular.”

Team 48, Tony Holenko and Larry Foss of the Falls, finished ninth with 28.50 pounds. The pair said they caught more than 100 fish in the last three days. “It can’t get better than this,” said Holenko.

Father-daughter team Lexi Erickson and Kevin Erickson, International Falls, brought in 27.45 pounds to finish 11th. Lexi joked she caught all of the fish Saturday. Kevin said Saturday he had the best day of small-mouth bass fishing he’d ever had and caught a ton of bass.

Team 46, Justin Mostad and Tom Biondich of the Falls, finished in 20th place with 23.55 pounds of fish. They said they wanted to have a few more larger fish, but said they had a lot of laughs. “It was good time,” Mostad said.

Team 6, Jeff Hamilton, Ranier, and Joel Pagnac, International Falls, finished 29th with 21.70 pounds. Pagnac described a few exciting moments on the lake as they worked their way back from Finlander’s Island and ducked near the Brule Narrows to get a break from the wind.

“We threw out a top water, flicked a little bit, and



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Three-time IFBC champs Scott Dingwall and Jeff Gustafson catch a bass Friday on Rainy Lake to bring in a two-day total of 32.70 pounds for a second place finish.

wham, I hollered at Jeff to throw a worm, and he did and wham, he pulled that out and it was a nice fish and had a bigger one with it, and we threw his back and bam we get another,” Pagnac said. “And then bam the big one that followed, it was like three and a half pounds. Brought it up to the boat, just about had it, and it dived and snapped off. It would have helped; we waited all day for that.”

After all that, Hamilton tells Pagnac that it’s 4:26 p.m. and they had to be back from the Brule to the landing by 4:45. “We took off, rode hard, opened the windshield and made it by a minute and a half,” Pagnac said. “You wait all day for that last chance.”

Jon McDonald took a break from fighting fires out West to come home to

fish the IFBC again with his dad, George, as Team 22. The pair, which has fished the IFBC together for six or seven years, finished 20th with 23 pounds. “It’s special and something we look forward to every year,” George said. “It’s a good time. Win or lose, it’s a great event and we enjoy doing it together.”

As they waited to weigh in Saturday, George said he and his son were satisfied that they caught 10 good fish to weigh in over the two-day tournament. “We’re not going to cash a check, but we’re hoping for top 20,” he said. “We have the old boat that’s all scratched up and I am sure it’s the slowest boat in the tournament. We got passed all over today and a couple of our spots were taken, but that’s OK — it shows that

you don’t have to spend \$60,000 on a boat to go out, compete and have fun.”

Setting the stage as the veteran women IFBC anglers, Kristi Taylor and Bonita Korzinski brought in 19.75 to finish 38th. The pair not only fish well together, but finish one another’s sentences. “It was hot,” said Korzinski, “and windy on the river,” added Taylor. “We did really good,” said Korzinski, “but we worked hard for our fish,” added Taylor.

The close friends grew up fishing together and decided to team up for the IFBC a few years back — three or four years ago — they said they’d been debating the number recently. “We love it, we try to encourage other girls to do it, and there have been a lot more women in it now,” Taylor said. “We were the

IFBC results

Pos.	Team	Day 1	Day 2	Total	Captain	Partner
1	47	17.75	16.10	33.85	Nathan Bringham	Brett Meyers
2	3	17.50	15.20	32.70	Scott Dingwall	Jeff Gustafson
3	42	16.15	16.10	32.25	Jason Pavleck	Derek Bilben
4	43	19.40	12.65	32.05	Mark Fisher	Dave Skallat
5	1	16.50	14.35	30.85	Duane Peterson	John Peterson
6	8	16.05	12.85	28.90	Lauren Ras	Scott Ras
7	9	15.05	13.75	28.80	Bill Godin	Ralph Galusha
8	5	16.55	11.95	28.50	Brian Brosdahl	Heather Brosdahl
9	48	15.25	13.25	28.50	Tony Holenko	Larry Foss
10	35	14.35	13.30	27.65	Gord Watson	Darrin Ward
11	30	12.15	15.30	27.45	Kevin Erickson	Lexi Erickson
12	12	14.90	12.30	27.20	Rick Jansen	Dan Thorstad
13	2	13.50	12.75	26.25	David Hartig	Eric Kielb
14	4	15.50	10.65	26.15	Tracey Pogue	Chuck Olson
15	40	14.45	11.25	25.70	Kelly Bloome	Jason Bloome
16	16	15.25	9.55	24.80	Travis Peterson	Chad Johnson
17	23	11.95	12.65	24.60	John Sandberg	Ralph Ruelle
18	34	13.70	10.30	24.00	Dale Labelle	Karl Howells
19	36	10.05	13.60	23.65	Eric Latena	Kirk Grupa
20	46	12.55	11.00	23.55	Tom Biondich	Justin Mostad
21	26	10.20	13.05	23.25	Tyler Kocou	Kyle Potter
22	20	11.95	11.05	23.00	Jon McDonald	George McDonald
23	27	11.10	11.80	22.90	Tim Olson	Mike Leahy
24	28	13.29	9.45	22.74	Van Pavleck	Jared Baldwin
25	41	11.10	11.50	22.60	Bill Walls	Denis Barnyard
26	17	13.90	8.40	22.30	Ross Taylor	Brent Carlson
27	25	9.80	12.35	22.15	Darin Stish	Jeff Sijjord
28	31	13.05	8.80	21.85	Chad Jonson	Ashley Jonson
29	6	12.65	9.05	21.70	Jeff Hamilton	Joel Pagnac
30	55	8.95	12.70	21.65	Tyson Romy	Matt Redford
31	19	11.45	9.80	21.25	Jody Spypit	Paul Jewiss
32	22	12.05	8.80	20.85	Tony Casareto	Dom Casareto
33	18	10.75	10.05	20.80	Troy Jutting	Ryan Rud
34	7	7.15	13.35	20.50	Jay Taylor	Ed Taylor
35	37	8.35	12.05	20.40	Dale Johnson	Rhonda Johnson
36	52	12.00	7.80	19.80	Chris Zahn	Nick Ysen
37	54	15.50	4.30	19.80	James Kaemlingh	Ryan Witherspoon
38	33	11.60	8.15	19.75	Kristi Taylor	Bonita Korzinski
39	10	10.80	8.90	19.70	John Ruud	Eric Ruud
40	14	10.65	7.95	18.60	Jake Ruelle	Charlie Leduc
41	45	7.35	9.95	17.30	Tim Arnold	Billy Bright
42	50	12.05	4.55	16.60	Les Bragg	Dave Tews
43	44	8.15	7.50	15.65	Leroy Wilson	Larry Keep
44	24	15.15	0.00	15.15	John Cann	Ted Olson
45	38	8.05	6.75	14.80	Richard Rud	Kim Rud
46	49	10.40	4.20	14.60	Derek Stish	Stu Dye
47	39	10.10	4.30	14.40	Chuck Coombe	John Myers
48	29	9.10	5.05	14.15	Adam Rasmussen	Stacy Rasmussen
49	21	6.85	5.75	12.60	Bill Sloneker	Mike Johnson
50	15	11.45	0.00	11.45	Calvin McKay	Dan Fontenot
51	13	0.00	11.10	11.10	Scott Thompson	Chad Budde
52	56	10.70	0.00	10.70	Tom Burri	Paul Morrison
53	51	5.25	0.00	5.25	Randy Graves	Sarah Graves
54	32	0.00	0.00	0.00	Adam Potter	Matt MacKenzie

first all-girl fishing team,” said Korzinski.

The team said they learn more about fishing every time they fish the tournament, and added some of the pros have offered fishing tips they have put to use.

Jake Ruelle and Charlie LeDuc brought in 18.60 pounds to finish 40th. They said they had a few nice fish at the end of the day Saturday, and despite the tough

fishing, Ruelle thanked his mom for making the team sandwiches both days. “They were awesome,” he said.

The husband and wife team of Richard and Kim Rud weighed in a total of 14.80 pounds. Richard joked he wouldn’t waste time and money pre-fishing next year and instead save the money for refreshments after the weigh ins.



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

Brittany Hayes of Fort Frances sings her way to first place during the Casting Call competition Friday.

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Dylan Ossachuk of Fort Frances took home the top prize for the Teen Idol contest and Brittany Hayes, also of Fort Frances, came out on top for the Casting Call contest.

“The crowd turnout was awesome on both nights,” said Carol Pullar, organizer of the singing competitions.

While the participation was down for Teen Idol, Pullar said Casting Call reeled in one more act than last year.

Next year, as the tournament prepares to celebrate its 10th year, Pullar said the contests will be held on the same night.

Damian the Hypnotist sent a large crowd into a fit of laughter with the stunts of hypnotized community members.

The classic car show featured about 60 classic automobiles from Minnesota and Canada.

Bob Marvin of Warroad snagged the most awards including the people’s choice, the mayor’s choice and first place for his 1957 Thunderbird, 1957 Buick Road Master and 1962 Chevy Impala convertible, respectively.

Several other awards were given for favorite interior, favorite paint and best model.

Next year, organizers say they plan to incorporate motorcycles in the competition.

All in all, the atmosphere around Smokey Bear Park and events of the bass tournament was nothing short of festive community spirit. Plans for the 10th celebration are already in the works and those who love the tournament have begun the countdown until next year.

EDA
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Eklund said the city is serving as the fiscal agent for the state grant, similar to how it serves as the fiscal agent for other entities, including the airport commission, of which Anderson serves as chairman. The city allows the airport commission to market the airport on its own, Eklund added.

Rognerud said the grant has been dealt as Anderson had earlier suggested — in the city’s funds. Now, she said, the marketing of the district should be lead by the EDA director.

EDA Commissioner Pete Kalar made a plea that Anderson and Mason work together to market the district.

“I don’t care which one does it, I just want to trust that they do it together,” he said, adding while he appreciated the advisory board’s recommendation, the decisions about the district are ultimately made by the EDA Commission.

EDA Commissioner Cynthia Jaksa said the community is fortunate to have Anderson and Mason, and with their “charm, contacts

and knowledge — we can do just about anything.”

But she said the structure of the EDA calls for its director to take the lead on marketing, similarly to how the community’s response teams were developed by the mayor and county representatives, with a committee taking the lead over other committees in addressing the Boise Inc. paper mill job reduction.

Anderson said he’d already met with representatives of the gas company on installing gas lines, which he said will pose challenges. He added, the gas company must know the needs of the clients, which are now unknown.

“I will continue to work on this,” he said.

Rognerud said she appreciated Anderson’s work on the matter.

In other business Monday, the EDA Commission heard a recommendation from the advisory board, voiced by member Mike Katrin, to continue to lease Voyageurs National Park Headquarters to the federal government and maintain ownership of the property.

Katrin and Jaksa had been asked by the EDA Commission to investigate

whether it would be financially prudent to sell the lease and the property.

Katrin told the commission after meeting with brokers and considering the current and future value of the lease, it makes sense to continue to own the property and lease it to the federal government.

“The work shows that for realistic rates of return on city investment, the lease is a far better use of funds because it generates a 4.17 percent rate of return — which is historically better than the city’s investment rate,” he wrote in an executive summary of the issue. “As long as the city, on average and over time, earns less than 7.13 percent on investments, we should keep the lease.”

The summary said the present value of keeping the lease is more than twice the present value of selling it — \$15 million versus \$7 million — using a discount rate of 4.17 percent.

However, Katrin said it would be wise to watch interest rates should it make sense to refinance the bonds.

Anderson suggested in June the commission consider whether it makes

sense to sell the lease and/or property to the private sector.

The federal government pays the city \$108,000 in monthly lease fees for the VNP facility. From that amount, the city keeps just less than \$20,000 each month for maintenance. In addition, the city keeps money for operation expenses of the buildings and to fund permanent improvements. The project was financed by the city selling bonds for the project.

Some commission members also said there were benefits to owning the property aside from financial, including access to Rainy River and other city amenities at the site. In addition, they said the deal with the federal government kept jobs based at the VNP headquarters in International Falls.

But Anderson said he had been working with an investor interested in purchasing the property and would continue to do so.

The headquarter jobs were not in jeopardy of being moved from International Falls, he said. He added, property and other items were given away to make the contract favorable.

From the Family of Jim McKelvey

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who helped make Jim's memorial turn out so beautiful. To his Boise family: Thank you for all your support during Jim's sickness and after his death from lawn care to helping prepare his memorial. To the staff and faculty at RRCC: Thank you for your kindness, it is very much appreciated. To all the other people who've helped and contributed with everything during Jim's year long battle with cancer.

THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts. We are truly thankful to you all.

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