

**Dash  
for bass**  
More than 100  
run Bass Dash 5k

**B1**



**Shooting  
for strikes**  
Bowling alley begins  
season with new leagues

**A10**



# The Journal

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International Falls, Minnesota [www.ifallsjournal.com](http://www.ifallsjournal.com) \$1

## Wait-and-see attitude pays off

Emo, Ontario,  
team brings in  
33.85 pounds;  
takes home  
\$30,000

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Nathan Brigham and Brett Meyers said they were taking a wait-and-see attitude Saturday as they rode their boat into the big tent at Smokey Bear Park for the final day of weigh-ins at the International Falls Bass Championship.

The team from Emo, Ontario, said they are more used to river fishing and told Gary Potter, IFBC emcee and president, they weren't sure where they'd end up as the final boats with the top anglers from Friday's weigh ins rolled through and weighed their catch.

The team didn't have to wait long to find out they were the 2013 champions. The surprise registered on their faces as they stood on stage watching as the 12.65 pounds of Rainy River bass brought in by Mark Fisher and Dave Skallet was weighed. Skallet and Fisher led the event after a productive day Friday on Rainy Lake weighing in 19.40 pounds.

But Saturday's 16.10 pounds of smallmouth caught on Rainy River brought in by Brigham and Meyers Saturday, along with the 17.75 pounds weighed Friday from Rainy Lake, put them over the top at 33.85 pounds.

"We got real lucky," said Meyers, adding despite bringing in the second heaviest weight from Rainy Lake, they had hoped for larger fish from the river Saturday.

The team took home \$30,000 and bragging rights as the 2013 IFBC champions. Now the team will be referred to as team No. 1 for the 2014 IFBC.

Three-time IFBC champions Scott Dingwall and Jeff Gustafson of Ontario took second place with 32.70 pounds.

Falls anglers Jason Pavleck and Derek Bilben were the top local finishers, placing third



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

**2013 IFBC champs Nathan Brigham and Brett Meyers show four of the fish that helped them clinch the top spot in the tournament with 33.85 pounds of smallmouth bass. The seemingly modest anglers from Emo, Ontario, said they were taking a wait-and-see attitude at Saturday's weigh ins.**

TO SEE MORE PHOTOS FROM  
THE BASS CHAMPIONSHIP  
TURN TO **A12** AND **B12**.

with 32.25 pounds. As the team stood on stage, Pavleck joked about the stress causing him stomach troubles. It was apparent on his face when their weight Saturday took longer than normal to register on the computer.

Pavleck told the crowd Saturday he was a little nervous on Rainy Lake Saturday, but Bilben encouraged him to stick it out and keep casting, and it resulted in bringing in a big bass at the end of the day.

As Potter's voice grew hoarse from announcing the two-day, catch-and-release bass tournament weigh ins, he said many of the teams remarked about the heavy bags of smallmouth caught by anglers deep in the field of 54 teams.

As in other years, most anglers remarked about the hard work of the volunteers and



**Music blared through the big tent Saturday as Jason Pavleck and Derek Bilben hoisted smallmouth from their livewell. The International Falls team finished in third place with 32.25 pounds.**

**Bass to A7 ➤**

**EDA to A7 ➤**

## Commission instructs director to lead process

Recommendation  
to retain VNP HQ  
lease, property

BY LAUREL BEAGER  
Editor

Following a recommendation from its advisory board, the International Falls Economic Development Authority Commission Monday instructed its director to take the lead on seeking shovel-ready certification for the multimodal district it owns east of the city.

The action, taken on a 4-1 vote, prompted comments from Falls Mayor Bob Anderson, who earlier told city officials he would lead the process toward certification by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Anderson voted against the motion.

"The advisory board wants the tail to wag the dog?" Anderson asked.

EDA President Gail Rognerud said the EDA Advisory Board believes it makes sense for Shawn Mason, EDA economic and community development director, to lead the process and asked for the assistance of Anderson and city Public Works Director Gary Skallman. The EDA Commission is made up of the city council.

The district is owned by the EDA and the state shovel-ready certification is a marketing tool, Rognerud said.

Anderson said a grant awarded by the state to help install utilities to the district property was awarded to the city, not the EDA. And, he said, he has already discussed the shovel-ready certification and the grant with state officials.

EDA Commissioner Paul Eklund told Anderson his comment was inappropriate. "I don't know where the dog is," he said. "We are all in the same pack."

Eklund said Anderson's comment shows he has poor communications with the EDA director. "You need to get over it and get to work," he told Anderson.

## Tournament reels in fun for all

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

Hundreds of people flocked to Smokey Bear Park and "stayed for the fun" during the ninth annual International Falls Bass Championship Aug. 22-24.

New to the lineup this year was a kid's fishing tournament Saturday morning at the Rod Smith Memorial Fishing Pond. The event attracted about 50 young anglers and a lot of excitement.

"I just keep catching fish," one angler said as he carried a fish to be measured by members of the Rainy Lake Sportsfishing Club — the group that sponsored the event.

The event's participants were broken down into three different age categories, but everyone went home a winner, organizers said. Even for the kids who didn't reel in the catch of the day, they were awarded a trophy to take home and show off to family and friends.

In addition to the new event, the weekend returned tournament favorites including a Family Fun Zone, around 15 food and beverage vendors; an arts and crafts fair; the 5-kilometer Bass Dash; a classic car show; and nighttime entertainment featuring Damian the Hypnotist, music from Jonah and the Whales and the Teen Idol and Casting Call singing competi-

tions.

Smokey Bear Park and the event's main tent were packed with people young and old, who came out to enjoy the variety of events and what turned out to be a warm and dry festival, despite a strong wind storm that moved through Saturday night.

Thursday's boat parade was again a fan favorite, drawing hundreds of kids and adults who lined up along Third Street waving and shouting at anglers who were throwing goodies to the crowd.

The singing competitions saw a good turnout and proved to once again be a fan favorite.

**Fun to A7 ➤**



STAFF PHOTO BY EMILY GEDDE

**Anglers Bonita Korzinski, left, and Kristi Taylor, throw goodies to the crowd at Smokey Bear Park Thursday during the International Falls Bass Championship parade of boats. The duo finished in 38th place and was the only all-female team that fished in the ninth annual event. See more photos on B11.**

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