



## DEAD RIVER CAMPER NEWS

EDITION 3

OCTOBER 2010

**Board Activities:** The board had meetings last quarter on July 6 and 27, Aug17 and Sep 7 and 21.

**Wireless Internet:** We have been approached to see if there is enough interest to have a wireless network surrounding the Basin. What we need is a basic “headcount” of potential interested individuals that would like to hear more about it. We cannot get specs without numbers, and it is hard to get numbers without specs. So we suggest that we throw the thought out to the members and see who will respond. If you are interested in wireless internet access please let us know by sending an email to the Board at [www.deadrivercampersinc.com](http://www.deadrivercampersinc.com) and we will save

the responses. From our early discussions it appears we need 30 to 40 to make any one take interest in this market. This may be a spring 2011 opportunity and if you could respond by November 15<sup>th</sup> that would be great

**West End Boat Launch:** UPPCO was timely in receiving its permit with DNRE for construction of the west end boat launch facility early this fall. Construction of the new boat launch is now complete. The board as well as the adjacent property owners had input during the design Phase of this facility.



MORNING SUNRISE ON FIRST DAY OF FALL.  
NOTE TURTLE ISLAND IN CENTER OF PHOTO.



NEW RAMP AT WEST END BOAT LAUNCH

**Thank You Needed!** Thank you to Chuck Oberstar, MDNRE, and UPPCO

It is with great pleasure that we can all use the East End Launch Ramp at the Hoist this fall as the season comes slowly to a conclusion. Through the help and expertise of Chuck Oberstar (one of our residents) and his company Oberstar Excavating, the MDNRE for providing the proper permit and advice, and UPPCO for providing the extension concrete planks, we have added approximately 25 linear feet to the ramp.

We all remember the scene a year ago with mud off the deep water end of the ramp that captured more than one hardy vehicle attempting to use the facility. It was so bad even the Sheriff finally threw in the towel and said even in an emergency they could not access the Reservoir with their boats in the terrible mud.

So Thanks go out to the Oberstar Family, who by the way spent a day there with very large equipment at no charge to any of us. Certainly if you need the resources of an excavating contractor it would be wonderful to consider re-paying the favor.

Just some interesting information also for your reading enjoyment is the background to the ramp itself. To help prevent the damage from power launching there is a vertical thick rubber flap on the very last plank. It is there to deter the volume of water created by "power launching and retrieving" your vessel. So, please just float your boat on to the trailer. Even with the extension power launching will still have very bad effects. The MDNRE is the agency that takes care of the facility. Each spring MDNRE comes down from Van Riper State Park and cleans the ramp of drifted in sand and mud. They have a large John Deere tractor and they actually go out and scoop up the sand. That is where the large pile each spring comes from. They also reinstall the skid pier. By next spring they will also be handling the West End Launch Ramp too.

Partnerships come with great effort and this is one that all of us as members of Dead River Campers, Inc. can be very proud of.

### **Safety and Security Around the Hoist**

**Basin:** Recently the Board was approached concerning vandalism and breaking and entering

events that occurred last winter and spring. The question was what is the process to find out if their "borrowed" belongings could be viewed and possibly retrieved?

If you have the unfortunate experience of someone breaking into your property it is absolutely critical that you take the time to report it to the appropriate Police agency. While conversing on this subject with the Post Commander at the Negaunee Post of the Michigan State Police we were informed that in some cases reports are never written on the event. No report and no investigation mean's no way to ever contact individuals if there is property in recovery mode. So please take the time to call 911 and initiate a report as it may be the key information that solves other incidents around the Reservoir.

Being proactive is certainly a good thing to consider also. A Neighborhood Watch Program is something that we should all consider. Areas around the Reservoir have started Neighborhood Watch efforts and awareness and signage is something that can be the beginning steps to help prevent bad things from happening. It sounds like a second neighborhood group is considering the investment in video camera security systems. Video security and video security signage is a strong deterrent to the problem. We have some suggestions that can be shared if you are considering that kind of investment based upon systems already in place.

Neighbors defending neighbors is certainly very important. Please be watchful of what is happening in your neighborhood. Keep a notepad in your vehicle and consider writing down that license plate number that makes you wonder as you pass on your road. Help all of us protect what we consider special and are proud of at each of our properties.

Lastly as fall approaches and winter is down the road a piece, please remember the outdoor display at the annual meeting. We are blessed with some of the best firefighting and rescue vehicles in Negaunee and Ishpeming Cities and Townships. They are HUGE and VERY EXPENSIVE! The personnel in those Departments are amazing and will do their jobs in fine fashion if they can get to your cottage, camp or residence. Now is the time to get with Bruce Bussone and make sure that those dead and leaning trees over or along the road get cut down and ready for the wood stove or fireplace. Wet heavy snow will pull them down for you, but cutting them this fall is a much better idea. The new state of the art Fire Fighting

Vehicles are close to 14 feet tall, 10 feet wide, and just over 40 feet long. Narrow roads, low limbs, and tight curves will make it all but impossible to have those services come to you in time of need. Please look seriously at your road so we do not have an additional chapter this coming winter in the book of "they could not get there".

### **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

**Water Levels:** As I am writing this, it is the conclusion of an absolutely beautiful beginning of fall day. A Cloudless sky last evening, a sunrise over a mirror like body of water this morning, Two foot waves and a strong west wind most of the middle of the day, and now the sun is setting in a golden ball. The Hoist Basin Reservoir is a totally amazing place!

Since our last newsletter, we have continued to converse with the Agencies on the water elevation subject and we hope you would agree that with a little luck, some needed rain, and the reduction to 75cfs in August the boating has actually been pretty darn good. We have been addressing FERC, (the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission) with our concerns and it was ultimately their 75 cfs order that really started to help us keep the water on our side of the Dam. Our work however is never going to be "done". The stakeholders including DRCI, MDNRE, UPPCO, and FERC are all trying very hard to fine tune the balance of Generation, Evaporation, and Recreation.

We need a really snowy winter! So please if you are so inclined, please pray for snow! The Hoist Basin is 1339.26 this evening. Silver Lake is this evening holding at 1469 and change. We need it to rise to 1485 which is of course a 16 foot change. That elevation will trigger the start of a 3 year study on the combined Silver Lake and Hoist Basin interaction. In the mean time we will continue our discussions with all of the stakeholders. Being proactive on the subject we feel is the best course of action and we have asked for face to face meetings with MDNRE and UPPCO in October, December, and in March of 2011. October will allow us to review the past summer, and December's subject is the annual draw down plans. In March we are trying to be very proactive this year and talk about spring, water elevation preservation, and plans for the summer.

One thing that we believe is beginning to help our cause is a philosophy change on the subject of who enjoys the Hoist Basin Reservoir. The user population is much larger than just our members

and their families. We are discovering that by asking on behalf of a larger population group, who come from the Marquette County Area and beyond, our voice seems to be heard more clearly when we speak about water elevation concerns that impact safe boating and fishing.

Please know that your Board is working on our collective concerns. We can be contacted via the E Mail address, the US Mail address and certainly the new phone number at the office (906)485-1975 which has an answering machine. Have a wonderful fall season on the Dead River!  
Jim



**IS THERE A POT OF GOLD? PHOTO TAKEN  
LOOKING AT THE POINT AT THE END OF  
THE LITTLE DEAD.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **Fish Committee:**

So far this summer it's been quiet. We are getting some encouraging reports on the number of minnows being seen and hopefully this is a sign that our minnow plants are helping. Good reports have also been received on some nice Perch being caught and Walleye fishing being okay, but somewhat down from the past. The good part of this news is that what we are catching now is mostly naturally reproduced fish since we haven't had a DNRE Walleye plant since 2004. We had hoped the DNRE would start the plants again this year, but no word yet. With the current demand for Walleye since the virus scare, it's understandable it will take awhile to catch up. We appreciate everything the DNRE has done for the Hoist Basin over many years. They have worked very hard to keep us in fish through some tough times.

The committee will meet in October to primarily discuss having a fish derby on the free fishing weekend next June. If so, we will pass on the details so we all can plan accordingly to have a fun fishing weekend.

As always we thank our Board of Directors and all of our members for your support and fishing updates. We pass this information on to the DNRE and it helps them plan a program for the Basin fishery.

### **Finance Committee:**

The Finance Committee met with our Wells Fargo Investment Advisors on August 13. The purpose of the meeting was to review our most current investment results including any possible recommendations to investment directions or priorities.

DRCI Treasurer Darryll Sundberg reported on the current overall financial position for 2010, reviewing revenue streams and projected expenses for ongoing operations of DRCI.

Committee Chairman Joe Ervin led a review of the DRCI Finance Committee Charter and investment policy directions first established in August 2008.

### **Common Lands Committee:**

Holli Forestry has completed cutting on the 70 acres north of the Boise Creek Bridge and is now operating on 40 acres east of the "Totem Pole" on South basin Drive in Negaunee Township. When Holli finishes around the "Totem Pole" they will start thinning hardwood at the end of Braadstad Rd. in Ishpeming Township and north of Tonkin Dr. sometime around mid October



LAKE TROUT PLANT ON BASIN

## REMINDERS

**Water Surface Elevation.** If you are interested in the water surface elevation, log onto <http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/news/hydro/hydrodata.asp> or get to this same website via the DRCI website link for current information. We thank UPPCO for making this information available to us.

**Tree Removal Issues.** If you have trees to remove please fill out a cutting permit and send it in to DRCI or contact Bruce Bussone at 485-5901 or 362-3226. In an effort to maintain some control on time limits, the Board has put a limit of 1 year from date of issue for tree cutting permits. Each shareholder is responsible for any trees cut by contractors you have hired. You are reminded that tree cutting on common /CFR lands is prohibited.

**Road Improvements.** Shareholders are reminded to get permits for road improvements. This would include any changes to current roads as well as tree removals to widen access. Each shareholder is responsible for roadwork done by any contractor you have hired.

**Bridges.** DRCI committed to maintain two bridges in our original documents; they are located on North Basin Drive and Three Mile Road. Please report any bridge damage you observe to the Board immediately.

**Stock Certificates.** You are reminded to update your stock certificate ownership and addresses when something changes that would change those certificates. This would include a death, divorce, move, etc. Your ballot must be signed by all owners for it to be valid. There is no charge to change the certificate and it can be done easily by sending the certificate to DRCI with supporting documents for the change. Please let new shareholders know that they should submit a copy of their deed and obtain a stock certificate upon purchase of their camp. Additionally, the corporate bylaws, declarations, rules and regulations can be found at our webpage at [www.deadrivercampersinc.com](http://www.deadrivercampersinc.com)

**Utility Easements:** Please keep all utility easements such as overhead power line areas clear of boats, trailers and other items so that UPPCO

has clear access to the easement areas at all times. This is especially important during the winter months when they may have to get in an easement area to repair power lines or transformers.

**Zoning Violations.** Shareholders should report perceived zoning violations to their respective townships. These violations would include multiple camps on single lots and excessive blight or junk. The townships can be contacted at, Ishpeming Township-485-5411, Negaunee Township-475-7869 and Champion Township-339-2920.

**Renting of Shareholder Single Family Residences.** DRCI Declaration Section 4.1 reads "Lots shall be used solely for the construction of one single-family residence and structures and outbuildings incidental to the use of it (including, without limitations, barns, stables and garages for private, and not public or commercial, use) and shall be limited in use to single-family residential purposes and incidental uses." This declaration prohibits the rental of any shareholder single family residences on the basin.

**Use of Shoreline.** As most shoreline is privately owned, when someone is in the need of bathroom facilities while out on the water please respect that you may be using one of our shareholders beachfronts to do so.

**Submerged Hazards.** With the water level starting the year off so low take extra caution to avoid submerged hazards while boating this summer. We should all try to mark hazards as they are found, but safety is still up to the operator.

**Reward** The Board continues to offer a \$1,000 reward for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of any illegal activity on camper's property.

**Maps:** Maps of the Basin ownership by DRCI and each lot by shareholder are now available. Each map includes Champion, Ishpeming and Negaunee Townships on a page and an index of shareholders by plat and lot number or by parcel number for non-platted lots. Maps are 24 x 36 inches printed on quality paper in color. Order forms are available on the DRCI web page under Documents. Cost is \$35.