

## DEAD RIVER CAMPERS NEWS

FIRST QUARTER

APRIL 2013

### ISSUES OF INTEREST

**Board Activities:** The Board had meetings last quarter on January 14th and 28th, February 25th and March 25th. Board members also met with UPPCO on January 24th and with MDNR on January 24.

**The opportunity to vote is something very great.** Shareholders, the time is just around the corner for our Annual Meeting once again. The meeting packets will be distributed in the near future with all the information required. Within that packet is your ballot connected to any items that need to be voted upon. Whether you vote and mail your ballot back, or attend the annual meeting and hand deliver it, your actions are wished for, appreciated and needed. We need to have about 200 ballots to conduct business and that is actually not an easy task to accomplish. To go through all the effort to create the packet, and have the meeting is very time consuming and costly. Please make all the effort worthwhile and VOTE! Thank you in advance for your interest and decision making.



**Annual Meeting Announcement:** The Board has set the date for the 2013 Annual Meeting for Dead River Campers, Inc. The Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2013 at the Westwood High School Auditorium. The meeting packet that will arrive in the mail will be addressed to you as a Shareholder, or to one of the Shareholders if the property is in multiple names.

There are two positions open on the Board of Directors this year. Shareholders interested may submit a nomination for another Shareholder or themselves, which must include a biography and resume stating qualifications, goals and the type of information that will assist the membership in making an informed vote. This information must be received by the Board by May 20, 2013.

Resolutions – Any DRCI Shareholder wishing to submit a resolution must also do so in writing by May 20, 2013. Please send written resolutions in the format prescribed in the DRCI Bylaws to DRCI, P.O. Box 323, Ishpeming, MI 49849. Any questions, please e-mail the Board at:

[drcicampers@gmail.com](mailto:drcicampers@gmail.com)

**The Fireworks Display is set, and we have been offered ...** Campers and Friends of the Basin should mark their calendars for the night of the Summer Board meeting for once again a great fireworks display. Remember that evening of warm winds, clear skies and 70 plus boats in the bay by Turtle Island? Pretty strange thought based on the last several weeks of weather.

Your individual contributions make it all take place and we are very thankful for everyone's gifts to the Fireworks Fund each year that it has taken place. New for this year is an offer from Kurt Collins, our fellow camper and licensed launcher. The Grand Finale is awesome and this year it can be supplemented by additional gifts for more Grand Finale fireworks. They are \$200 a launch which is Kurt's cost. If there are any campers who would like to

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pool their funds and provide additional Grand Finale launches, they would be most welcome. We have never listed the campers who contribute to the Fireworks, however we will acknowledge in the summer Newsletter any campers or groups of campers that would like to make a \$200 dollar gift as described above.

An envelope is available once again in this Newsletter if you would care to contribute in any amount to the Fireworks Display.

**The Most Current News from the East End Launch Ramp.** Today, April 11th, as I am sitting working on some articles for the Newsletter, I cannot help but be amazed. There is 4 to 5 feet of snow in the woods still, a Winter Storm Warning for possibly another 10 to 14 inches this evening and tomorrow, and on behalf of DRCI I signed an e-mail to the MDNR giving permission for the MDNR to submit a permit request to the MDEQ for the re-construction of the East end launch ramp and the dredging needed to go with it. For many of us that launch ramp is a most important access point to the Basin. Improvements to that ramp were made a number of years ago extending its length. That was a huge plus. As most of us know the strong West winds sculpt the sand in that area each year and do their best to cover the ramp in waves of mushy sand. We placed large rocks in conjunction with UPPCO on the North side of the ramp last summer and they helped a bit with the sand movement and also preventing the beautiful beach from being driven on.



**East End Launch Ramp**

Subject to getting all the agencies' approvals, and our being held harmless for any unfortunate activities that might take place during the con-

struction, this renovation will be at no charge to DRCI. Pretty exciting stuff!

**No Promises Made Just Yet:** As a reminder to our neighbors around the Basin who have sandy forests on their property, UPPCO is working on preliminary plans to make some significant improvements to their distribution system by plowing more wire underground. The South side of the river is certainly truly fitting that description of sandy soils and no rock outcroppings.

They have criteria that corresponds to power failure circumstances over the most recent past that certainly points out the benefit of underground power. Details I am sure will be forthcoming and your property could easily be some of the property selected for these improvements. As we understand it, from the last pole to your home or cottage would probably be at the home owner's expense. You might want to consider building a bit of a nest egg to fund the expenses associated to get the power underground all the way to your home if the opportunity becomes reality.

The DRCI Board has volunteered to help communicate the UPPCO plans when they become available. This improvement by UPPCO could start reasonably soon, and take a number of years to complete as we understand it.

A final thought on this subject is one of caution. Moving power lines is the same as moving a road in a Platted Subdivision. All of the DRCI property is platted for your information. The Township that you reside in is the Governmental entity that requires the Plats to be accurate and timely updated.

If there is any thought, by anyone, of changing the Plats, it is absolutely critical that plans are made and there are monies available to do the survey work and the legal work that will correct the Plats for the Townships and the State of Michigan.

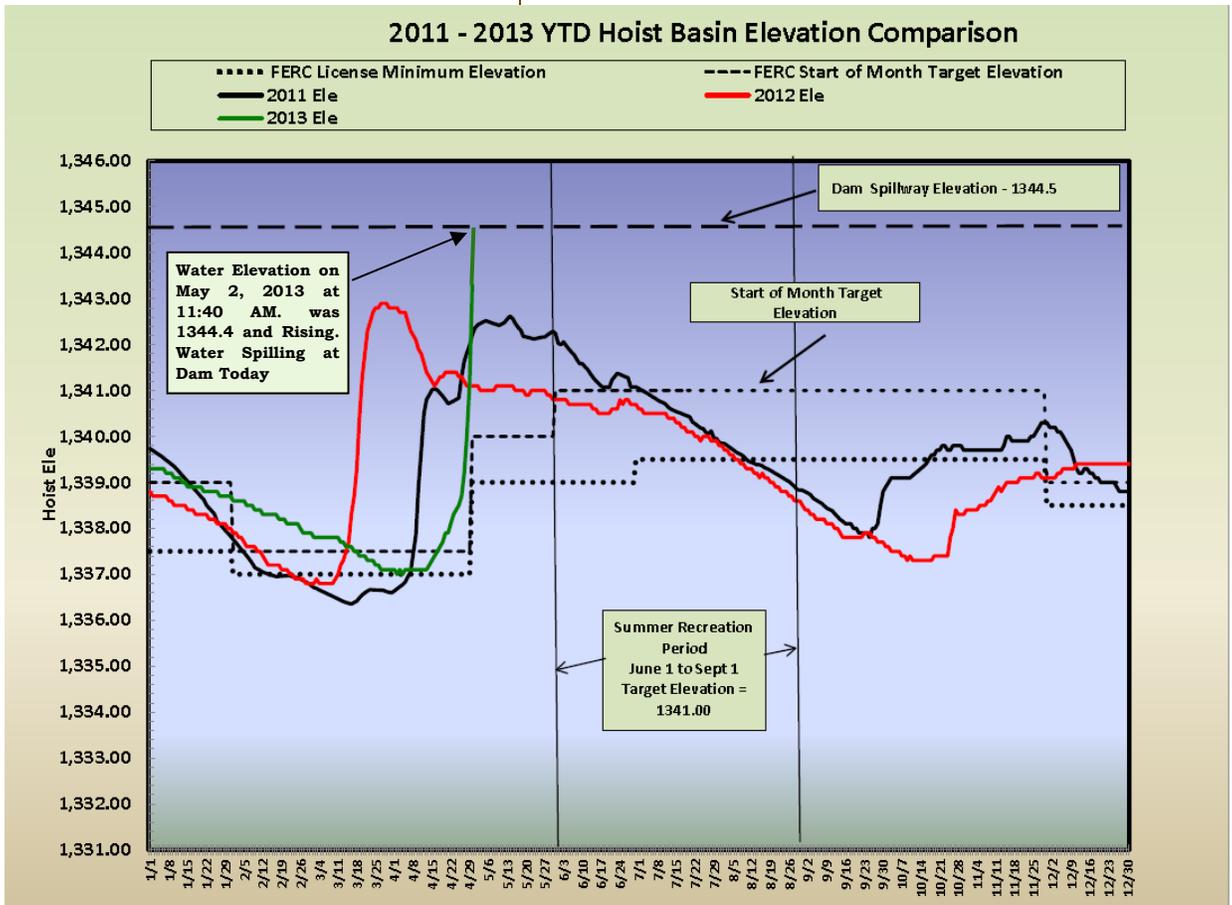
**Water, water everywhere and it could be this spring.....** Campers, please take a minute to consider these possibilities. We have had a lot of normal level snow. One might say more than probably the last 7 years of documented drought in the record books. We have had a cold winter and there is literally a boat load of ice on the river. Some people claim 4 to 5 feet of ice as a matter of fact. Agencies can produce maps for snow/water moisture equivalent that show lately the water in the snow is worth about 10 to 14 inches of water. A lot of that potential water is North and West of the Basin and heading up to Silver Lake.

Good news is there is a really great chance that Silver Lake will fill this spring. More than likely the

Basin will fill too and top the spillway at the Hoist Dam. We treasure the water, and most if not all the Basin residents are totally happy with our agreement with UPPCO to "generate down to the 1341 level" as compared to years in the past when a huge drain called the "low volume discharge" was opened and water just discharged down the river. We all understand that starting high early in the year seems to be the solution to maintaining water levels during the late summer months.

A step that you might want to consider is either moving property stored down near the river up

higher, or at least tie them off to the shore. Often times, we store property in the fall based upon the river's elevation at that time. This could be a year of more water than we have seen in a long time and potentially more ice too. Remember at this time last year the river was open, and boats were already along the shore being used. Much like the Boy Scouts it is always good to "Be Prepared".



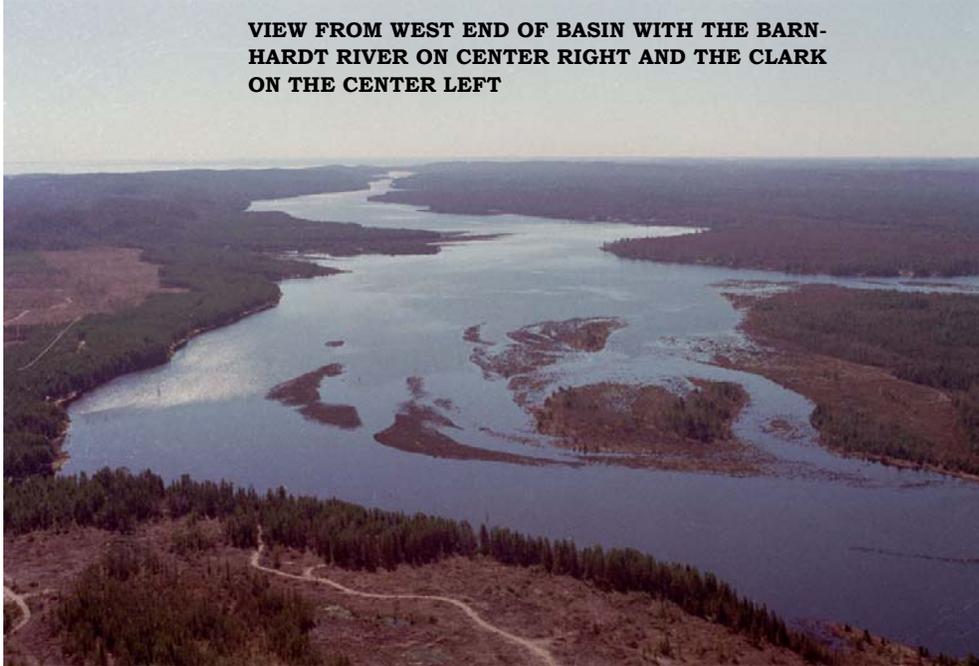
**We are probably preaching to the Choir so to speak.** Can you imagine that we have 188 inches of snow this year finally getting back to the range of NORMAL, and maybe more coming tonight? Can you imagine another 100 inches like many experienced about 10 years ago? Almost three hundred inches of snow!

What I am leading up to is the narrowing of the roads around the Basin with snow piled up 5 feet or more along the roads, and it is only just back to normal. There have been significant numbers of incidents where neighbors struggling to deal

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with the snow have been plowing it across the highways in particular around the Basin. From

**Trolls under the bridge.** It just has to make you smile. I just asked Pam how to spell Trolls, as it certainly did not look right, so she asked "what are you asking about" and I said "little urchins under the bridge". So my version really did not look right, and now the story will continue.



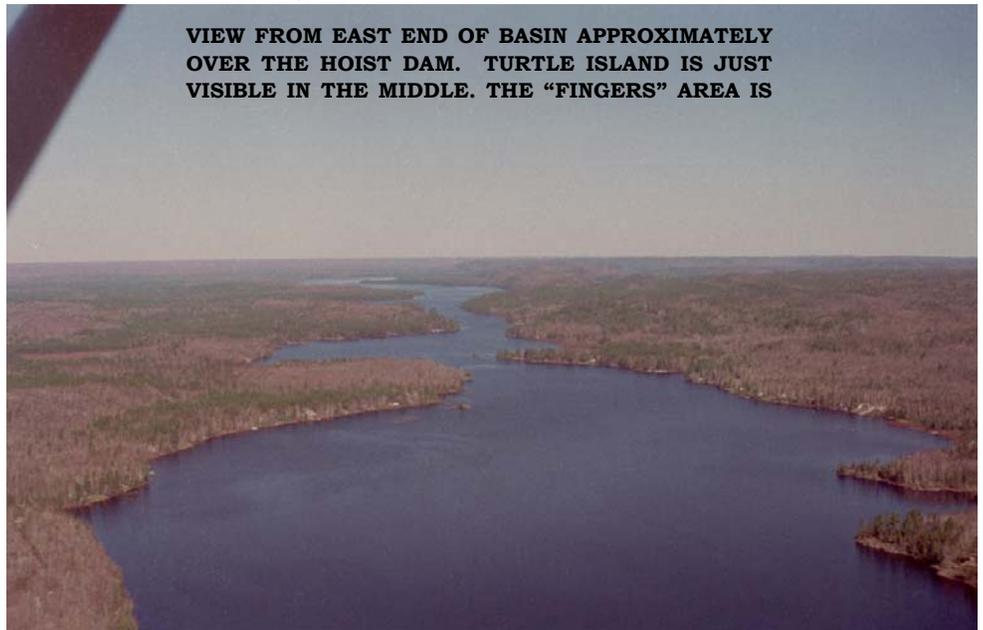
**VIEW FROM WEST END OF BASIN WITH THE BARNHARDT RIVER ON CENTER RIGHT AND THE CLARK ON THE CENTER LEFT**

All be it, highly educated Trolls, you might see Professional Engineers lurking under our two DRCI bridges this summer if you cross them enough. The Board approved this year as a Bridge Inspection Year. We are obligated to maintain both of these bridges and an inspection is certainly in order periodically.

what we are hearing contact with both the Marquette County Road Commission, and the Marquette County Sheriff's Department was made and I am sure that those neighbors were asked to stop or probably given tickets for the shrinking of the road widths.

You will also see new signage on each bridge this year for the first time ever

Please take steps necessary this summer to make room on your property for all your snow storage. It is an investment that will keep unwanted visitors from pulling into your driveway with vehicles that are painted orange or have a beacon bar on their roofs.



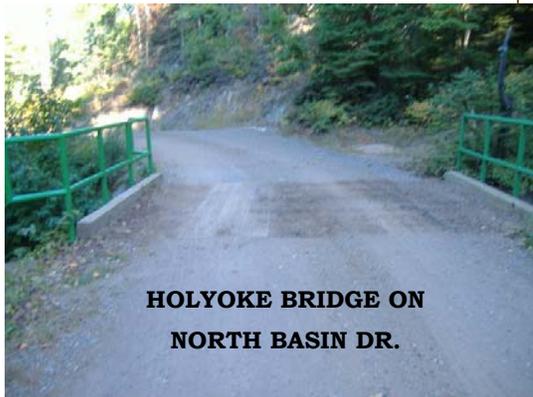
**VIEW FROM EAST END OF BASIN APPROXIMATELY OVER THE HOIST DAM. TURTLE ISLAND IS JUST VISIBLE IN THE MIDDLE. THE "FINGERS" AREA IS**

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**The Dead River Campers Association** (Not Dead River Campers, Inc.), held their annual meeting April 13th at St. Joseph Hall in Ishpeming. Dave and Cory Beth Grigg, Dave Bosio, Brian Gleason and Tracy Kauppila were elected as officers for the upcoming year. A potluck dinner and dancing followed the meeting along with door prizes and raffles. The children had fun with a costume dance party which was the hit of the night. All others enjoyed catching up with neighbors and making plans for the summer.

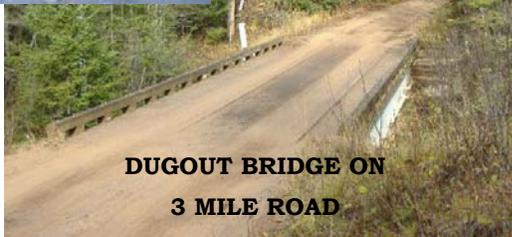
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identifying the weight loads that could cross our bridges legally. This is very important information to all who want to cross with large trucks and heavy loads. It is up to the drivers of these loaded vehicles to interpret the signage each time they make a crossing to be sure that they meet the guidelines provided.



**HOLYOKE BRIDGE ON NORTH BASIN DR.**

This was brought to a head last summer when the fire on the South shore in the narrows took place. Fire Department vehicles were not sure what the bridge can or could hold and consequently drove all the way around on Deer Lake Avenue to get to the scene. That could have created a totally different outcome as compared to the fire being extinguished



**DUGOUT BRIDGE ON 3 MILE ROAD**

on a timely basis.

**The Noquemenon Trail improvement on North Basin Drive.** Campers will be noticing if they have been gone all winter from North Basin Drive a new piece of Noquemenon Trail heading to the North near Lowell Anderson's property.

Most importantly the Andersons and the Johnsons were instrumental by allowing the NTN organization to construct the trail across those family's lands. A huge thank you goes out to them from all of the skiers who raced this year. Being able to cross North Basin Drive directly without the "skiing up the road a block or two" put smiles on the skiers faces when they found this new surprise and headed into the trees to the North.

The Noquemenon racers treasure the ability to cross DRCI lands and roads and we are pleased to see them and

welcome them to the Basin each year.

DRCI Lots For Sale	Location	# of Front Feet /Acre	List Price
Parcel 1	Clark Creek Ishpeming Twp	300 Front Feet / 1.07 Acre	\$89,900
Parcel 2	Stickney Road Champion Twp	200 Front Feet /3.18 Acre	\$89,900
Parcel 3	Barnhardt Drive Ishpeming Twp	450 Front Feet / 3.6 Acres	\$198,000
Parcel 4	#9 Road, CR GGG Ishpeming Twp	905 Front Feet / 12.19 Acres	\$225,000
Parcels 5 & 6	North Camp Road Ishpeming Twp	218 Front Feet / 1.9 Acres	\$44,000
Parcel 7	South Camp Road Ishpeming Twp	704 Front Feet / 2.8 Acres	\$169,000

**The lots for sale can be viewed by visiting DRCI's website and following the menu to the link to Century 21 Prime Realty.**

[www.deadrivercampersinc.com](http://www.deadrivercampersinc.com)

**BREAKING NEWS on Hoist Water Level Operations from UPPCO Thursday 5/2/2013 11:19 AM**

**DEAD RIVER BASIN FISHING DERBY**

Sponsored by the Dead River Campers, Inc.  
 And organized by your Fish & Wildlife Committee

When: Saturday, August 17, 2013

Registration, Coffee & Donuts at East End Boat Launch: Beginning at 8:30 am

Fishing Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (Noon)

Ages: 16 and younger

Lunch, Gifts and Prizes: East End Boat Launch - 12:00 Noon

Rain or Shine!

*This is a day for DRCI Shareholders and its neighbors to celebrate our fishery with our children and grandchildren. It is our goal to promote the sport of fishing with our next generation of stewards of the Basin.*

**REGISTRATION FORMS INCLUDED WITH THIS NEWS-LETTER AND ON THE DRCI WEB PAGE**

Good Morning Darryll

We are currently at full load at the Hoist and spilling at McClure (2<sup>nd</sup> unit is currently being commissioned). The Hoist is still rising but the rise appears to be slowing slightly (could be due to colder temps). We should start spilling at the Hoist either today or Friday.

We are also currently passing minimum flows through the LLO at Silver Lake and the elevation is still rising but has also slowed. We anticipate spilling at Silver Lake either this weekend or the first of next week. There is still snow in the woods but it has decreased significantly.

As for our plans for operation - we plan to operate according to our license. We will take all reasonable steps to lower the impoundments to the target elevations. Currently this involves maximizing generation at Hoist and McClure. I am also currently working with Environmental and Dam Safety to see if we can hold the elevations higher at Silver Lake after it spills, beyond the hold period (approx. month in duration) and release the water when needed instead of driving down to a start of month target elevation. This would help with maintaining 1341 throughout the summer and also supports generation. - - Thanks

Virgil E. Schlorke, P.E.  
 Manager Regional Generation - MI | Upper Peninsula Power Company



## FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMITTEE: by EARL HAWN, CHAIRMAN



Your Fish & Wildlife Committee continues to be busy this past winter hoping to have a positive impact on the health and well being of our fishery and the wildlife around the Basin. Since our last Newsletter, several requests of the DRCI Board of Directors and the MDNR have been made for the Committee to pursue.

We have scheduled with the MDNR a repeat of the minnow survey that we conducted last year at various locations around the Basin. This survey will be scheduled for the same dates of June 25th – July 1st as last year. During that period we will have twelve nets in the water in an effort to better understand our forage fish population. Last year results did not indicate a strong presence of minnows in most locations and our follow-up this year is to compare and verify last year's results. We will not stock any minnows this year in order to avoid spoiling our survey.

As noted in the past, the shortage of forage fish can be seen in the undersized walleye we have witnessed in the past several years. The Committee believes this issue is one of the most pressing issues on our plate. A plentiful and healthy food base will go a very long way in improving the health and well being of our entire fishery.

We are also planning to help the MDNR with another electro-fishing survey to be conducted right after ice out. This survey is also a follow-up to an electro-fishing survey conducted last spring.

We are very pleased to announce that our Board of Directors continues to show its support of our fishery by approving our request to stock about 5,000 bluegills in the Basin this year. Bluegills are very family friendly for fishing and make excellent forage fish for walleye and other predatory fish. We expect the stocking to occur in early May.

We have also submitted a request of the MDNR to be allowed to investigate and research more thoroughly the improvement of a small pond next to the East end

boat launch for family fishing and other possible uses down the road. Our request simply investigates and has no financial commitment on DRCI's part to do anything with our findings. We are exploring what, if anything can be done to improve the health of the pond. If approved by the MDNR to look more closely, we will report our findings to you and our Board.

We will be hosting a "Hoist Basin Conversation with the MDNR" at the East end boat launch on Thursday, July 11th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Our good friend and partner, George Madison – MDNR West Lake Superior Management Unit Fish Biologist along with Philip Schneeberger– Coordinator Lake Superior Basin (the U.P.) will be there to discuss the existing Hoist Management Plan along with listening to your comments regarding our fishery. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy an evening of conversation and discussion about our beautiful Hoist Basin.

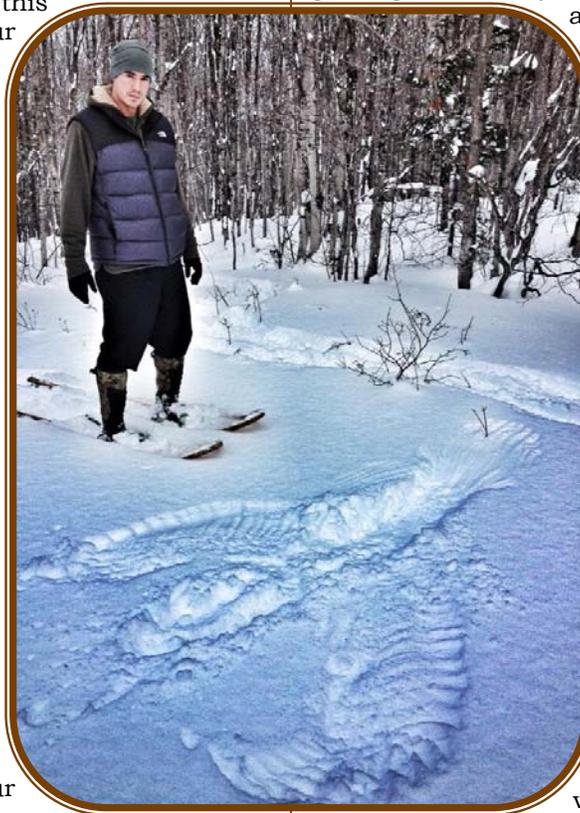
We will also be hosting a Kids Fish Derby on Saturday, August 17th this summer. Mark your calendar now and bring your kids or grandkids to join us for a great family opportunity to enjoy our Basin and the people who care so deeply about it.

Did you know that our Basin is referred to in some state reports as Sundstrom Basin? Also of interest in a recent report that we received is that our physical features include: 60% rock, 35% sand and 5% organic.

We continue to feel very fortunate and encouraged to have the support of our Board of Directors and Shareholders. We would also like to recognize George Madison and his fellow MDNR associates as partners in pursuing our mission of protecting and improving our Hoist Basin fishery and the

wildlife surrounding it.

**Committee Members:** Earl Hawn, Chairman, Dave Laitinen, Gordy Chinn, Brendan Biolo, Buffy Ervin, Tom Polkinghorne, Chris Blank, Bruce Turino, Dennis Sippola.



**This photo was taken by friends of Andy Grundstrom, son of Pam and Jim Grundstrom, in the Munising area. They watched an eagle land in the fresh snow from a distance. Once the Eagle flew, they hiked into the area and found this imprint of the bird's launch seconds after it flew off.**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### **F**ORESTRY COMMITTEE: by Bruce Bussone and Dave Jarvi, Chairman

The Forestry Committee met with Todd Penrose of Holli Forest Products in January to go over the new 20 Yr. Forest Management plan. Todd is also working with our Committee to have the rest of our forests mapped out in the same way as in the current forest plan. This will give the Committee a better overall management plan of our forest

The Committee is also working to put over 370 acres around the Basin into Commercial Forest.

Holli Forest Products has completed the cutting from 2012 and will be roller chopping those areas this summer. Future cuttings will be mostly a thinning process and be evaluated on an as needed basis.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT ACCESS:** Spring is slowly coming, and with it comes the **DRY** time of the

year. We would like to remind everyone to be careful with spring cleanup and burning!

Dave Jarvi is still working on a list for the Fire Departments for access to water. If you believe your place could be used for access to water in the event of a fire, please let him know. This information is very important to the Fire Departments and 911. Call or e-mail Dave at any time for answers to any of your questions or to be added to the list.

Thanks and have a happy and safe spring!!!

#### **Contact Information**

David Jarvi jarvidrb100@yahoo.com  
906-362-8252

**Committee Members:** Dave Jarvi, Chairman, Dave Carriere, Don Duhamel, Gerry LeSage, Greg Johnson, Bruce Bussone, Pete Dishnow, Tom Seablom.

### **F**INANCE COMMITTEE: by Joe Ervin, Chairman

The DRCI Finance Committee met at the Wells Fargo offices on Jan. 18th.

- The Committee welcomed Patrick Thomson, our newly appointed Certified Public Accountant, CPA, that will be serving the DRCI going forward. We discussed the Finance Committee charter and primary objectives with Patrick. We also encouraged Patrick to make Finance Committee enhancement recommendations and to share "best practice observations" across like organizations that he had experienced. We also asked Patrick to take a fresh look at our tax expenses and to determine if there might be alternatives for us to consider surrounding our overall tax liabilities.
- We reviewed the 2012 DRCI Investment Portfolio performance across the investment categories/allocations and the overall past twelve month growth. We were happy to see the portfolio value overall growth of 7.3% over the past 12 months. (This growth included both



"realized gains", stocks/bonds sold for more than the purchase price, and "unrealized gains" where the current market value is greater than the purchase price but not yet sold.)

- We discussed the importance of solidifying the core operating budget for 2013 and the value of clearly documenting and prioritizing the discretionary projects that the Board selects. Both items are scheduled to be finalized by the DRCI Board shortly.
- There was an update on the finalization of the "Forest Management" plan for both the short term and longer term horizon. That key planning assessment was projected to be completed in the first quarter. The longer term financial planning for the DRCI requires this blueprint in that our land is in fact our largest asset.

Overall, the financial position of our Corporation is very healthy/sound and continues to improve.

**Committee Members:** Joe Ervin, Bill Stream, Denise Albrecht, Steve Gutierrez, Jim Grundstrom, Darryll Sundberg

## The way winter is hanging on this year it seems like the summer boating season will never get here.

When it does get here always put safety your first priority while enjoying the many water activities available on the Basin. Thanks to everyone for keeping last year a particular safe one with the MDNR/Sheriff's Department reporting few to no citations. The Sheriff's Department was impressed with this record considering the number and variety of water activities happening every day.

To start this year safely make sure your boat or PWC is properly maintained and ready before it hits the water by following the owner manual recommendations. Check all flotation and safety equipment to assure they survived the winter storage. Take care while fueling and check for any leaks to minimize any pollution. Keep abreast of any new

laws or regulations by picking up a boating handbook at your local MDNR office or online at [michigan.gov/MDNR](http://michigan.gov/MDNR). The easiest advice to follow for a safe and happy boating season is to treat others on the water or shore with the same respect you would like.

**Safety Classes—ATV and Boater Safety:** There are two safety classes given by the Sheriff's Department for kids 6 years and up that will offered in May, ATV safety on May 11 at Westwood H.S. and boater safety on May 18 at Negaunee H.S. They are both all day sessions so check with Sheriff's Department for details.

## REMINDERS

**Water Surface Elevation.** If you are interested in the water surface elevation, log on to <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 Busone at 485-5901 or 362-2325. 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 from the Board 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. Be mindful that changes to a road easement, or adding a new road easement within a plat must be done in compliance with the Michigan Land Division Act provisions for plat changes and DRCI Rules. See the web page for more information. This also applies to utility easements within a plat.

**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. 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 recorded 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.

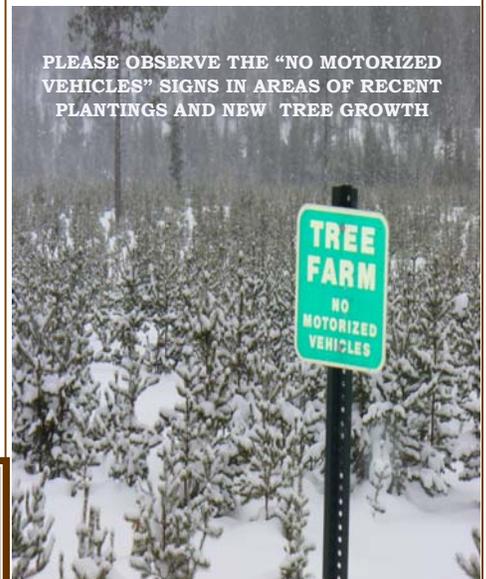
**Use of Shoreline.** As most shoreline is privately owned, when someone is in the need of bathroom facilities while out on the water

please respect that you may be using one of our Shareholder's beachfronts to do so.

**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. The reward has been paid out twice in the last 3 years.

**Maps:** (Updated June 2012) 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.

**DRCI Website:** Visit our website for other areas of interest such as Dam Safety and Inspection, Climate Prediction Center and Interactive Snowfall Information and many more. [www.deadrivercampersinc.com](http://www.deadrivercampersinc.com)



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