

Press Release – January 18th, 2006

Brainerd Ice Fishing Extravaganza On Good Ice

(Brainerd, MN) ---A fourteen-inch walleye equals one pound. Fourteen inches of ice equals an Ice Fishing Extravaganza!

Mother Nature has come through and the Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza will take place as planned this Saturday, January 21st from 12:00pm to 3:00pm.

Contest organizers along with the members of the Crow Wing County Sheriff Department evaluated the ice on Brainerd's Round Lake this morning and have found appropriate conditions to handle the more than 10,000 anglers who typically attend.

Crow Wing County Sheriff Eric Klang says that his deputies found 14 or more inches of clear ice throughout the contest area this morning, January 18. Sheriff Klang says he is pleased that the contest will be able to take place as planned and is confident that it will take place safely, both on and off the ice.

This comes as good news to anglers who will be competing for well over \$150,000 in cash and prizes and to the charities that will share in the contest's proceeds. Non-profit organizations shared more than \$167,000 from last year's event.

This will mark the first time in the contest's 16-year history the contest will not take place on Gull Lake. Nearby Round Lake was chosen due to ice conditions, traffic safety and the similar fishery anglers have grown accustomed to.

Parking and shuttles to the ice will be the same as in years past with Brainerd International Raceway serving as the main parking area. Shuttle busses will provide transportation to and from the contest site throughout the day. (By order of the Sheriff, Round Lake will be closed to motorized vehicles the day of the contest) and bordering public roads will be posted as no parking areas. Anglers and spectators are highly encouraged to use the designated shuttle system and to show respect for property owners who have supported the move to Round Lake.

"We have a lot of logistical changes with the move to Round Lake," says Jaycee Chairperson, Mary Devine, "but for the anglers, it should be very similar to past years. We have good ice conditions, our plans are in place and everyone will have as much fun as ever. Of course how much fun will depend on what they win."

One change that will effect participants is the DNR mandated release of Northern Pike measuring less than 30 inches. This regulation is in effect year around on Round Lake and as the contest rules state; "all laws of the state of MN will be abided by". Pike under the 30 inch minimum must be released immediately so anglers are encouraged to bring a measuring tape to make sure their fish is eligible for contest entry.

Members of the local Walleye Alliance and newly formed T.I.P. chapter will be on hand to assist anglers at the weigh in tent. The Brainerd Extravaganza is a catch and release event and the Jaycees have worked closely with regional DNR staff to optimize the release of registered fish. Participating anglers can help with this process by keeping their prized fish in water from the time it is caught to the time it meets the scale. Buckets or plastic bags with water are encouraged.

Kicking off the weekend is the Extravaganza Premiere Party at Grand View Lodge where anglers will have the opportunity to talk ice fishing and meet with baseball legend, Kent Hrbek, as well as industry sponsors and ice fishing pro's. A hearty appetizer buffet, beer tasting, and prizes will add to the festivities.

Tickets are still on sale at Brainerd-area retailers or at the contest web site. They will also be available on the ice the day of the contest. Premiere Party tickets are available at Cash Wise Liquor in Brainerd or Baxter. Eager anglers are being asked to keep an eye on the Extravaganza website, www.icefishing.org, for updates and information leading up to the event.