

Press Release – January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For further information regarding this release or the Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza, please contact Bob Slaybaugh with the Brainerd Jaycees at (218) 828-2344 or (218) 821-6044.**

Plans Continue For World's Largest Ice Contest

Anglers from around the United States are getting ready to hit the ice of Gull Lake in hopes of catching a prize winning fish at the world's largest ice fishing tournament. The 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza is scheduled for Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>.

The Extravaganza boasts a whopping \$150,000 in cash and prizes for lucky or skilled anglers. Any species counts and all can be big winners. Large prizes such as Polaris ATV's, fish houses, Strikemaster augers, Aqua View cameras and various cash amounts are placed randomly amongst the top 150 places. First place earns a new Ford 4X4, 100<sup>th</sup> place takes home \$10,000 cash.

An additional \$25,000 in cash and prizes will be up for grabs through a raffle which includes an Ice Pro Fish House, Polaris 700 ATV and more.

With ice thickness varying widely around the state there has been some concern about conditions. The Jaycees are closely monitoring the area of Gull Lake where they plan to drill more than 20,000 holes.

"Right now, our plans are a go for the 21<sup>st</sup>," says chairperson, Mary Devine. "Our ice is favorable around the contest site and we only need a little more."

Projected low temperatures, which dominate the 24 hour day in central Minnesota, are projected to range from the teens to below zero in the time leading up to the contest. With a lack of daytime sunshine and insulating snow cover, the Jaycees are confident that Hole in the Day Bay of Gull Lake will be covered with 14 inches of ice.

Devine continues, "We'll start evaluating with the Sheriff's Department early next week and make a timely decision should there be concern. We have a lot of fun planned so we want to make sure everyone stays informed"

While most anglers confess they come to have fun, all are proud of the role they play in supporting Minnesota Charities. All proceeds from the Jaycees Extravaganza directly benefit non-profit organizations serving a variety of community needs. Confidence Learning Center, an outdoor education and recreation facility for persons with developmental disabilities is the primary recipient with 70% of the funds each year. Donations to 50 organizations from last year's event totaled nearly \$167,000.

Kicking off the Extravaganza weekend will be the Extravaganza Premiere Party hosted by the Jaycees at Grandview Lodge. Twins celebrity Kent Hrbek along with the top names and manufacturers in the industry will be on hand to talk ice fishing and help develop winning strategies for the anglers. The evening will include an extravaganza size appetizer buffet, door prizes, silent auction and beer tasting sponsored by Cash Wise Liquors.

Eager anglers are encouraged to monitor the Extravaganza web site at [www.icefishing.org](http://www.icefishing.org) to purchase tickets or get information including up to date reports on ice conditions.