

Press Release – January 9th, 2007

Brainerd Ice Fishing Extravaganza to Take Place January 20th

With ten days of colder than average temperatures in the forecast, organizers of the 17th Annual Brainerd Jaycees \$150,000 Ice Fishing Extravaganza are moving ahead with plans to host the world's largest ice fishing contest as scheduled on Saturday, January 20th.

On Monday (Jan. 8th) Sgt. Phil Stoll of the Crow Wing County Sheriff's Dept. met with Jaycees on Gull Lake's Hole in the Day Bay to evaluate existing conditions and discuss the ice making potential of the current ten-day forecast.

According to Crow Wing County Sheriff, Todd Dahl, "There is 11.5 inches of ice in the middle of the bay and approximately 16 inches toward shore (Jan. 8th). We have not called off the contest as the forecast calls for colder weather in the next ten days and we are hoping that it makes enough ice to hold the contest as planned."

Last year's event was moved to nearby Round Lake where ice conditions were more favorable to stage the event which typically attracts more than 10,000 anglers from Minnesota and beyond.

"Conditions on other lakes are very similar to Gull Lake," Says Jaycee Chairperson Taylor Fitterer. "Right now we are all encouraged by the forecast and don't see the need to discuss a postponement or relocation."

Available forecasts indicate below freezing temperatures with sub-zero lows in the next ten days. With a lack of insulating snow on Gull Lake, those familiar with ice formation anticipate up to an inch of ice can be made each night.

"Our number one concern is safety," says Fitterer, "We are planning site adaptations to ensure this remains one of Minnesota's greatest winter events."

Adaptations being discussed include weight restrictions for vendors, limiting official vehicles to being ATV's and moving the stage area toward shore on the outside of the contest boundaries. The weigh-in tent would remain in the center of the 250-acre fishing site to give anglers equal opportunity to register their fish in a timely manner.

Sheriff Dahl includes, "Everyone wants this to go on as planned as this is a wonderful event that goes to a great cause."

The Jaycees and Crow Wing County Sheriff Dept will continue to monitor ice conditions and official updates along with complete Extravaganza information and tickets will be available on the Extravaganza web site www.icefishing.org