



# LET'S GO FISHING HODAG

232 S. Courtney St. Rhinelander, WI 54501

Email: letsgofishinghodag@outlook.com

Christmas Newsletter 2025



## Officers & Board Members

### OFFICERS:

#### Chairman:

Mark Schroeder  
(715) 360-4079  
mfrs206@gmail.com

#### Co-Chair:

Don Theisen  
(715) 216-6890  
dtheisen@tasolberg.com

#### Secretary:

Jo Schroeder  
(360) 773-2303  
jogreco75@yahoo.com

#### Treasurer:

Linda Kruzela  
(414) 758-5313  
snobird19@gmail.com

### BOARD MEMBERS:

Bill Vancos  
(715) 360-0400  
bvancos@yahoo.com

Peter Kruzela  
(414) 248-6365  
bossman2818@gmail.com

## Christmas Past - 2025

As we look back on the past year, our hearts are full of gratitude for everyone in Rhinelander and the surrounding communities who helped us fulfill our mission: "Enriching lives through fishing and boating adventures that bring people together, build lasting relationships, and create cherished memories". Whether you supported us with generous grants, donations, volunteered your time, or simply cheered us on at our brat hut fundraiser, Red, White and Boom, or Winter Wonderland, we are truly thankful for you. Your kindness and support mean the world to us.

We'd like to give a special shout-out to the organizations, businesses and individuals who stood by us this year:

Rhineland Community Foundation  
Seventh Day Adventist Church  
Rondele Ranch  
AirPro Fan & Blower  
Evergreen Terrace  
Oneida County Tavern League  
Milestone-Woodruff  
Nicolet National Bank  
Rhineland Lions Club  
Ahlstrom  
Dahl Automotive  
NAPA  
Printpack  
Schoeders RV & Marine  
Cross Trac Equipment  
Lynda Lukowski  
Norman Tribbett / FCP Elders  
Mark Patel  
Denise Check  
Ellen Burgan

Northwoods United Way  
The Dove Foundation  
Trig's Love It Local  
Bell Tower  
Grace Lodge  
Rennes Group  
Ladies Group  
Peoples State Bank  
Rhineland Auto Group  
D & J Auto  
Knight Barry Title  
Pomp's Tire  
RIPCO Credit Union  
J & T's Bait-N-Tackle  
Postal Express



**"Bringing Nature's Healing and Well-being to Seniors, Veterans and People With Disabilities"**



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## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### FEBRUARY 27th, 2026

#### LGFH Board Meeting

TIME: 10am

LOCATION: Trig's

#### SUBJECT:

Nominations for new board members; Voting at March meeting

### March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

#### UpNorth Community Expo

TIME: 11am - 5pm

LOCATION: Hodag Dome

### MARCH TBD, 2026

#### LGFH Board Meeting

TIME: 10am

LOCATION: TBD

#### SUBJECT:

Voting for new board members

### MAY 11th-Sept. 26th 2026

#### Season Opening

TIME: 10am & 1pm

LOCATION: Hodag Park

## Christmas Past - 2025 (cont.)

We were thrilled to welcome 10 new volunteers to our crew this year. We are incredibly grateful for our amazing crew of Captains and Mates. Your dedication and love for the water make everything we do possible. Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us and with all our guests. We were thrilled to welcome 10 new volunteers to our crew this year.

Mark Schroeder	Joe Schroeder	Don Theisen	Linda Kruzela
Bill Vancos	Pete Kruzela	Neal Baudhuin	Chris Barber
Ray Burgan	Mary Debilzen	Mike Hendricks	Jeff Hogenson
Paul Jimenez	Peggy Leet	Sandy McCrory	Kay Nyberg
Anne Olson	Steve Olson	Deb Peters	Rich Peters
Donna Polarski	Jim Schroeder	Gary Storm	Kathy Zwirko

And special thank you to Darci Mohr, our cornerstone at Central Office in Minnesota.

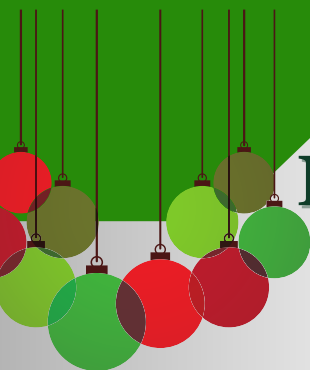
And we're excited to share that our chairman, Mark Schroeder, along with Bernie Lakus from Wausau, helped launch a new Let's Go Fishing Chapter in the Wausau area. We can't wait to see how this new adventure unfolds.

This year brought some new challenges, like road construction around Hodag Park, which meant we had to get creative with our docking arrangements. Our pontoon found a temporary home across the lake in Moonlight Bay and made many trips back and forth for our excursions. Despite smoky skies from Canadian wildfires and some windy days, we saw a 3% increase in bookings, a 22% jump in trips taken, and a 24% rise in guests on board. In total, 734 guests and crew enjoyed nearly 140 hours on the water, all thanks to our 7 captains, 17 mates, and over 400 volunteer hours.

Thank you, from all of us, for making this year so special. We look forward to many more memories together!

Please visit our website [www.rhinelander.lgfws.com](http://www.rhinelander.lgfws.com) or follow Let's Go Fishing Hodag on Facebook for the latest news and information on upcoming events.





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## What A Nice Thing To Say!

"It was great, had fun, great guides! Very helpful!" – Evergreen Terrace, Antigo

"Great ride for the YMCA!" - Marilyn Duschl

"Wonderful Program. Keep up the good work" –Julie Bruyette, ADRC

"Certainly looking forward to all of the boat rides that you provide. Keep up the great work!" – Sue Janik NAMI

"Thank you" - Victoria, NAMI

"Take care. God bless you" - Dynamic David John Marten

"Thank you, Let's Go Fishing Hodag Chapter. My students had the best time these last few weeks fishing with you!" - Kerry Mikoleit, James Williams Middle School

"Thank you for the fun boat ride! We loved it!" – Gail Maney

"Great tour and fishing! The Captain & Mate were very friendly and informative. Thank you ! 😊" – Theda Hewuse

"My husband David & I have gone on 2 rides & have enjoyed it each time. Pete has been a good guide & helped my husband & the other fisherwoman. 😊" – Denise Check

"We appreciate all you do for the area's elderly and getting them on the water." Your friends from Milestone Woodruff" – Tammy Banks, Milestone Woodruff

"Very friendly people!" – Tammy Wienandt

"You're the Best!" – Ladies Group

"Great trip always! Thank you!" - Nancy Wilson, YMCA trip

## Christmas Present - December 2025

Even when our regular activities pause for the season, our commitment to making a difference never stops. By coming together for fundraising at Rondele Ranch, we're reminded of the power of community and generosity. Their "A Christmas Wonderland" light tours partnership each December not only brightens the spirit of Christmas in the area but lights the way for area organizations like Let's Go Fishing Hodag and so many others. Money raised goes back and helps area non-profits continue their missions, and thanks to this incredible support, we're able to keep moving forward and create positive changes every day. Together, we're proving that even in the quietest seasons, our impact can shine the bright.



The construction work at Hodag Park and the nearby streets wrapped up for the year just as the season's first snow arrived. Crews managed to lay down the base coat of asphalt, including a newly paved area and walkway for Let's Go Fishing near the location of our old dock. In the spring, they'll return to finish the topcoat.





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## Christmas Yet To Come - 2026

As we reflect on the blessings of 2025, our hearts brim with hope for the remarkable opportunities that await in 2026. The promise of spring calls us back to the water, where new adventures begin. This year, we're thrilled to unveil our new poly-dock system and a dedicated guest parking area—three reserved stalls right by the dock, so visitors can step from their vehicles to the water with ease. No more long walks or shuffling vehicles; a new walkway ensures every step is safe and comfortable.

Our poly-dock's innovative T-shape and enhanced safety features mean guests can board straight onto the boat, guided by sturdy railings that offer both security and peace of mind. We can't wait to welcome you aboard and share the joy of the season ahead.

Join us at the UpNorth Community Expo on March 6th, 2026! Our team will be there, eager to share our mission and invite you to become part of something meaningful.

We're also firing up the grill for several brat fry fundraisers at Trig's Love It Local Rhinelander brat hut. Watch for updates on our Facebook page, Let's Go Fishing Hodag, and come enjoy a burger, hot dog, or one of the "World's Best Brats."

Our journey thrives on the passion of our volunteers - captains, mates, and board members alike. If you're ready to make a difference, nominations and elections for open positions are coming this spring. For more information, email us at [letsgofishinghodag@yahoo.com](mailto:letsgofishinghodag@yahoo.com) or visit our Facebook page to see highlights from past events and what's on the horizon. We'd be honored to have you join us!

To all our guests, supporters, volunteers, and community – "May 2026 bring you happiness, health, and new adventures. Together, let's make this year unforgettable."

Happy  
New Year!

2026

