

St. Croix River ice out

by James Taylor Dunn

Editors note: The ice left the St. Croix River at the Marine Landing this year at 2:25 p.m. Monday, March 29. The Rev. Tom Nyman rang the bells at Christ Lutheran Church to mark the event. John Burrill at the Marine Landing supplied the following ice out dates:

- 1992 - March 19
- 1991 - March 24
- 1990 - March 20
- 1989 - April 2
- 1988 - March 23

At this time of the year, river watchers look to the St. Croix for the possibility of spring flooding or if they can figure out when the ice in the river will break up. Back in the 1950s there used to be a guessing contest as to when ice would go out of Lake St. Croix and exactly when. For the closest guess as to the day, hour, minute and second the chairman of the "Breakup Committee" offered a prize of \$100. Here are some interesting facts I have taken from a record book kept by my father, John W. C. Dunn, for many years a resident of Marine on St. Croix. Following are the ice breakup figures for the period beginning in 1917 and extending on to 1935:

- 1917 - April 5
- 1918 - March 23
- 1919 - March 22
- 1920 - March 24
- 1921 - March 17
- 1922 - March 27
- 1923 - April 12
- 1924 - April 4
- 1925 - March 27
- 1926 - April 6
- 1927 - March 15
- 1928 - March 26
- 1929 - March 29
- 1930 - March 16
- 1931 - March 1
- 1932 - April 1
- 1933 - March 28
- 1934 - April 1
- 1935 - March 20

Additional investigation has proved that in 1931 Marine enjoyed an unusually mild winter. The only other figures presently available show that ice went out of the St. Croix at Marine on April 5 in 1956; and on March 30 in 1957. Does anyone know where we could locate the dates missing from the above when ice went out of the St. Croix at Marine? Anyone who has witnessed the river ice breaking up with a bang knows what a sight it is and how thunderous the noise.

More St. Croix River ice out dates

Bill Ployman reports that on February 27, 1987, he canoed from the Osceola Bridge to Log House Landing in Otisville. The river was completely open and the temperature was 73 degrees.

Barb Hudson sent us the following ice out dates:

- 1987 - March 4
- 1986 - March 28
- 1985 - March 18
- 1984 - March 24
- 1983 - March 5
- 1982 - March 30

The Hudsons moved to Marine in 1970, so this is as far back as their records go.

- 1981 - March 15
- 1980 - No record.
- 1979 - April 4
- 1978 - March 29
- 1977 - March 24
- 1976 - March 24
- 1975 - April 10
- 1974 - April 6
- 1973 - March 15
- 1972 - March 31
- 1971 - April 7

- GREG CARLSON
- 2013 - 4/6 @ 10:00pm
 - 2014 - 3/30 @ 12:30pm
 - 2015 - 3/17 @ 9:11 am
 - 2016 - 3/7 @ 2:00pm
 - 2017 - 2/22 @ 2:58pm
 - 2018 - 3/28 @ 3:30pm
 - 2019 - 3/24 @ 5:00pm
 - 2020 - 3/12 @ 4AM
 - 2021 - 3/11 @ 12:08
 - 2022 -
 - 2023 -
 - 2024 -
 - 2025 -

- WIN Miller
- 2000 - 3/1
 - 2001 - 4/4
 - 2002 - 3/25
 - 2003 - 3/24
 - 2004 - 3/21
 - 2005 - 3/21
 - 2006 - 3/13
 - 2007 - 3/20
 - 2008 - 4/1
 - 2009 - 3/19
 - 2010 - 3/15
 - 2011 - 3/22
 - 2012 - 3/13 - Day picked!
 - 1988 - 3/24
 - 89 - 4/2
 - 90 - 3/20
 - 91 - 3/24
 - 92 - 3/19
 - 93 - 3/29
 - 94 - 3/19
 - 95 - 3/18 - (took our dock)
 - 96 - 4/6
 - 97 - 3/27
 - 98 - 3/15
 - 99 - 3/17