



April 2011



As you read this letter, Debbie, Rudy, and I are settling in to our new home in Key West, Florida. We finally decided to sell the businesses and call it quits. We are not sure what the investment group we sold out to is going to do with the tiki huts at Parks Marina or the old 1890 Boat Works, but we do know that we are going to miss you all. April Fools!

Haaaa, haaaaaaa!

We just couldn't leave the lake we love and all of you! Oh how I love the signs of spring: The birds are chirping, the Taco House is open for business, vacuums are humming in our shop as boats come out of storage. And finally, The Barefoot Bar comes out of hibernation with its annual ride on our giant forklift, to its summer home on the lakeside of Parks Marina. Keep watching our webcams (www.parksmarina.com) as the season changes and we begin our transformation from tundra to tropical Key West paradise!

It was a long winter. The ice is going to be late in going away this year; my guess is April 10th, about two weeks later than normal. This will put the pressure on dock and hoist people. Please be patient and nice to them as they will be working 7 days a week, daylight to after dark to get it all accomplished.

April 5th we will be in court again. The City of Okoboji is suing us for the umpteenth time. They want Okoboji Boats to close forever, even though it was there first. Those few selfish complainers want the entire lake for themselves. That means no tourists, except for the ones they invite. It is just a handful of bitter, old people who live on Des Moines Beach, three who happened to be council members, Sue Larson, Jim Delperdang and Neil Christensen. We are thankful Councilmen Jim Hentges and Jerry Robinson voted against this latest battle. We are making some political headway. We have an election in November, and maybe we need an Okoboji Tea Party? The City of Okoboji spends so much money on legal expenses that they raised taxes again this year, two years in a row. Sioux City has 100 times more people (80,000) and spends only 7 times more on legal expenses than the City of Okoboji, a town of 800. You do the math. I think it is time to break the pattern of unlimited spending and raising taxes. My legal expenses defending myself and my employees future is bleeding us dry. I guess maybe they figure we'll run out of money before they do and we will quit. We may run out of money but we won't quit. My family will continue the battle and our son Rudy who is only 6 months old can take over around 2040. I wonder how many of their offspring will be proud enough of this vendetta to continue for them? So there, I said it. Please keep supporting us for another 90 years or so. Thank you.

- Good news! We have over 200 new boats in stock.
- Good news! We have two new cruise boats arriving late in May. The Big Foot Barge will accommodate 60 passengers and the other boat (yet to be named) is totally unique and hosts 30-35.
- Good news! 10 new 21 foot Crownlines, 4 new pontoons and several new waverunners will be added to our rental fleet at Okoboji Boat Works.
- Good news! O'Farrells opens April 15th! We have a new manager and chef who will be adding new items and new smiling faces to the best old diner in Okoboji! They will have breakfast and lunches as usual and are excited to add evenings to the repertoire.
- Good news! The entire O'Farrells menu will be half price in April. This is no April Fool's joke, even the full bar menu is half off for the month of April.
- Good news! We've added some new unique boats to the antique collection at Okoboji Boat Works! Thank you to the donors!
- Good news! We've found a couple of new taxi boats, \$5 per person per ride.
- Good news! We're adding more docks at the Barefoot Bar.
- Good news! The Barefoot Bar has two surprises to announce in the May newsletter.
- Good news! Okoboji Boat Works now has a full line of name brand swimsuits, sunglasses and sandals.
- Good news! All of this summer's events are posted on www.parksmarina.com!

When you are at any of our businesses this year in Okoboji and Sioux Falls, look around at the employees. Our motto for 2011 is "take turns taking the lead." We have from top to bottom the best team ever in my 29 years in the boat business. They know what to do and make me proud. You, all of our customers, make me proud. You helped make us #7 boat dealer in North America, #1 in Marketing for Boat Dealers in North America, #1 Crownline Dealer in the World and #2 Cobalt Dealer in the World. We all did it together.

See you soon!

www.parksmarina.com



**Barefoot Opens for the Season
Walleye Weekend, Friday, May 6th!**



**First Full Moon Party 2011
Tuesday, May 17th
Damon Dotson 6pm!**

Spring Hours Start April 5th!

Parks Marina, Okoboji
Mon-Sat 8-5p Sun Noon-5p
712.332.7303
sales@parksmarina.com

Parks Marina, Sioux Falls
Mon - Fri 8:30-5:00p Sa 9-1p
605-335-6766
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Okoboji Boat Works
In-convenience Store / Boat Rentals: 9am daily
712-332-9904
okobojiboatworks@parksmarina.com