



August 2010



Top 20 - 5 years running
Recipient of Best In Class
#1 in North America for
3-4 Location Dealers!

My how beautiful the weather has been, in between the storms, that is. In typical Midwest fashion, the heat and humidity give way to Thunderstorms, then beautiful blue sky days. I shed a tear for every mature oak tree we lose at the Lakes. The oak trees we are enjoying are 200 to 400 years old. I wonder what it looked like when all these oaks were babies. Each of us should plant some new trees each year so our next generations will enjoy what we have. With all the homes and yards the trees don't reseed naturally. Let's all do our part.

We are having a terrific year at Parks Marina, Okoboji Boat Works, O'Farrell Sisters and the Barefoot. The amount of young families that are choosing Okoboji for their recreation seems to be growing. I hope the area keeps up with the demand. In the 40's and 50's and even the 60's, we enjoyed many more resorts, cabins and motels.

We have a great selection of new Cobalts, Crownlines, Southbay Pontoons, Scout and Grady Whites. Most are still at last year's prices and 2010 is the year to buy that new boat without the new government catalytic converter tax. This is a \$2500 to \$6000 savings per motor. We are attempting to beat inflation!

Our August is going to be exciting with something going on almost every day. We invite you to spend some of your precious vacation and summertime with us and we will do our best to make your time memorable. The parties at the Barefoot start on August 7th, with our annual Parrot Head Bash and the Cedar Island Band. This band opens up for Jimmy Buffet every year for his outdoor concert in Alpine Valley, WI. We invited Jimmy to join us too, so maybe we're one step closer to the man himself making an appearance! Monday, August 9th, we welcome the Lakes Art Center and Doghouse Jon and the Misbehavers. They will be playing the Blues and you'll be able to take part in the silent auction, door prizes and other great fundraising activities. The Barefoot Bar will experience a British Invasion on the 21st when we welcome "Hard Days Night" a total Beatles Tribute. Let's do this right and pick your favorite 60's outfit to wear and celebrate some of the great pioneers of Rock and Roll music. The Full Moon Party on August 24th features J.P. and the Cats, a Chicago band that will knock your socks off. Those are the biggies, but check out the calendar for all the days in between and make a plan to join us, summer goes too fast and if you are like me, you don't want to miss ANYTHING!

Most of you are aware the City of Okoboji is suing us again. This time they are saying our Cluckers Chicken is stinking up the neighborhood. They are also saying we should not use our parking lot to access the cruise boats moored at the Marina. I'm confused on this because they told me that was what they wanted. A Marina. So we operate BOATS at the marina, but the city thinks we shouldn't have any way to access the water at our MARINA. It just doesn't end. The Fish House, Glass Bottom Boats, The Barefoot Barge, Diamond Lady, our Rental Fleet of pontoons, ski boats, waverunners, paddleboats, all of our boats are on State Property and are clearly out of their jurisdiction. I say they have a lot of nerve and if a city council vote of 3 to 2 can get away with this stuff, we must not live in America anymore. Here are the names of the complaining city council members: Sue Larson, Jim Delperdang and Neil Christensen. The two council members that voted to leave us alone are Jim Hentges and Jerry Robinson. Thank you, we appreciate your "no" vote.

The trial is set for April 2011. The complainers are a small group of people acting like hyenas, getting strength from each other. Here are the names of those who Councilwoman Sue Larson will testify as having complained to her how bad Okoboji Boat Works is: Rod and Trish Roberts, Jim Caffrey, Dorothy and Greg Sloma, Dave Kuker, Gretchen Graham, Wayne Christensen, Duane and Joan Haith, Don and Barb Wandling, Marge Mueller, Lou Schwartz, Chris Hedgpeth, Cinder and Bill Murphy, and Nyla and Tom Throckmorton. In future newsletters I will include some of the outrageous statements that Sue submitted each of these people have made. Councilman Delperdang and Councilman Christensen have also made some outrageous statements. In the meantime, we would welcome emails and reasons you think we are improving the Boat Works and the Lakes Region. Direct your emails to butch@parksmarina.com and to the city okobojich@mchsi.com. We know that the majority of people are supporters, but it is not easy to fight City Hall with their seemingly endless supply of money to sue their largest taxpayer.

I hate to have to fight, and as I said before, it's only change they can't deal with. If their grandparents and great grandparents did not change, these complainers would still be in Europe, never to have experienced beautiful Okoboji. This is NOT their private lake! Don't ever let them have it! If they beat us, they will zone away your vacation place too! Remember, you are next.

www.parksmarina.com

PS. The greatest oak was once a little nut that held its ground.