

THE AFTERMATH

Submitted by Bob Becker

After a weekend of torrential and tropical like amounts of rain we found our lakes and streams rising from runoff throughout the week. Wednesday the newly installed Paw Paw River canoe launch in Watervliet escaped a short distance only to be snagged by the M 140 Bridge as reported in last week ends edition of the *Tri City Record*. The high water prompted enacting flood control measures by the Drain Commissioner, opening the weir, opening the M 140 damn to relieve lake pressure only to close it shortly after as the river rose higher than did the lake.

It also caused the Sheriff's Marine Division to issue a NO Wake advisory *for all lakes in Berrien County* and 'by order of the DNR' the Department closed our two DNR public launch sites, placing barriers across the entrances. This advisory and order was issued for safety and ecological reasons. Due to the high water there were numerous pier sections floating in the lake at or just below the surface, creating a hazard for navigation and the safety of anyone traversing the lake. Wakes thrown by boats or personal watercraft could have created erosion of shorelines causing damage to property.

Quite a few craft 'escaped' from their moorings and were derelict on the lake wreaking havoc with marine traffic, in some cases causing potential damage to piers or with piers and other flotsam washing up on shore. Some of the escapements were due to rising waters; but others may have 'escaped' by the wakes caused by unthinking boaters. If any identifiable craft has run aground on your shore, visit our web site, www.ppla.info click the tab "Contact Us" and advise us and the PPLA will attempt to reunite any such craft with its rightful owners.

We placed the Marine Division advisory on our Home Page and would recommend in any future event similar to that which we recently encounters that you visit our site for up to date information. The lost and found Contact Us tab was an attempt by the PPLA to serve its members and indeed any resident on the lake. In general, if we do not have your email or it has changed recently, but would like to be advised of important lake issues use the same tab to send us your email addresses so we might do so.

The PPLA commends the County Drain Commissioner and the Sheriff's Marine Division for their efforts to minimize damage to property and to help maintain a safe environment on the lakes.

The next PPLA meeting is on October 4, 2008 at 10:00 AM. Coffee and bakery will be available.