

# SCARANO BOAT BUILDING, INC.

April 27, 2006  
Morgan Turell  
NTSB  
490 L'Enfant Plaza East  
S.W. Washington D.C. 20594-2000

Dear Morgan:

This letter is intended to express concern that the Thornell interview of 11-10-05 may have caused your investigation to be unduly influenced.

We suggest that Mr. Thornell's comments should be considered only in light of the following:

- 1) He refers to a specific attraction that he theorizes was the object of the passenger's efforts to observe by leaning in that direction but the building he described as the attraction was not exposed to view at the accident location.
- 2) According to his statement he received a phone call suggesting that he might proceed to the accident to assist where there were people in the water and, though stating that he had rented a powerboat earlier in the day, he decided to drive to the scene where he states he observed people still in the water needing assistance at which time he began to give his opinions to the media on shore.
- 3) He states he had a similar boat that he added a canopy to and that it had a great effect on it's "handling capacities" but makes no comment on what, if any responsible action he may have taken or recommended regarding that vessel.
- 4) His opinions about SBI shop practices are the result of one visit approximately 16 years ago where he was shown the door after attempting to sell his consulting services that were deemed expensive and ineffectual to SBI at the time.
- 5) While not impressed by SBI "as far as boat building" and being "expert" about Lake George he remained unaware that two of the Lakes largest excursion boats were built by SBI. Thornell's "good friend" who "had sailboats built there" had turned down Thornell's efforts to sell him a different sailboat manufactured by one of his clients at the time. We have attached a letter from the same "...friend" which thoroughly refutes Thornell's expressed opinion about SBI.
- 6) He acknowledged a long and broad association with the Dow family, owners of Lake George Steamboat Company who have been long detractors of their competitors (Shoreline Cruises) and SBI by association.

Sincerely,

  


John Scarano

# Canoe Island Lodge

JANE and WILLIAM BUSCH JR. Owners

On Beautiful Lake George

P.O. BOX 144, LAKE SHORE DRIVE  
DIAMOND POINT, NEW YORK 12524  
(518) 668-5592



March 19, 1993

Messers John and Rick Scarano:

Dear John and Rich:

Over the past years it has been a great pleasure not just to know you two fellows; but also a great pleasure doing business with you.

When John and I began talking about two new boats for Canoe Island Lodge; John took notes on ideas that I wanted. Such as -- it must be a safe boat. Comparing the old Interclubs, which had done their duty after sixty-five years of service.

John came up with many new inovations -- for example, we would increase the length by one and one-half feet, six inches more freeboard and six more inches in width. Adding more length in the cockpit would make the craft more comfortable and easier to maneuver.

Airtight chambers both forward and aft were a must should the boat fill with water; it would be unsinkable.

Building cost was projected that would be fair to both parties, and we did business on a hand shake. The fine boats were built and delivered on time scheduled.

My enjoyment of seeing these boats being built in the Port of Albany, with such craftsmanship was a very special thrill. I couldn't wait for the next day or two to pass, so that I could go to Albany again and see more.

Upon launching these magnificent craft, both parties were delighted in the hanging, speed, safety, and performance.

The official name of these class boats is "The Canoe Idland 30' " Our guests for many years have enjoyed sailing, but are just smittened with these new beauties.

I have always admired John's ability to design and build all kinds of boats, especially building the Santa Maria. I had the great experience of watching this boat being built and delivered overland to Columbus, Ohio. Wow! !

If John and his brother Rick say they can do it -- they will do it!

Sincerely,

  
BILL BUSCH