Santa's help sought on hunter, outdoor issues



My two daughters were busy pocking away on our home computer recently, typing up their Christ-mas wish lists. I admit it's been years since I've made such a list, but I decid-dit was time to

PARKER cd it was time to write to the Big white beard and red pants and send in my own Christmae list. I know there must be a Santa know there must be a Santa because so many songs tell me he's real: "grandma got run over by a reindeer," "I saw mommy kissing Santa Claus," "Santa Claus is coming to town." I sure hope he can help me with some of these gifts. Here

goes:
Dear Santa,
I haven't written in years, but

I hope you still remember me. The last time I wrote you brought me a neat little Remington semi-automatic 22 and a good pair of hunting boot. I got many years of use out of both. Thanks again.

If you would be so kind please give me the following gifts for Christmas this year.

Merry Christmas to you and Mrs. Claus and have a happy New Year.

All I want for Christmas is...

1. A healthy, TB-free deer herd. The tuberculosis problem in the white-tailed deer herd in northeastern Michigan is a terrible calamity and threatens not only the state's wildlife populations but the cattle industry as well. The DNR and the Department of Agriculture are hoping to quell the problem by increasing the antierless harvest in the area, but I think we need your help to really turn things around.

2. An injury-free deer hunting season. Please knock some sense into the careless and reckless hunters that make bonchead decisions. There is no room in the woods for someone who would mistake a human for a deer. That's not an accident, it's a crime. Unfortunately, there is no law in the books to keep people like this out of the woods, even after they've made such a mistake, so please knock some sense into them.

3. A combined Department of Natural Resources and Department of Environmental Quality, or at least a solid working relationship between the two. When Governor John Engler split the DNR and formed the DEQ our natural resources took a big hit. The DNR was left understaffed and the DEQ seems more interested in keeping bureaucrats and developers happy than managing and preserving our valuable natural resources.

4. An end to the bickering between hunter groups. It does no good when one group whines and complines that another group has a longer season, or is shown a preference in permit allocations. To sit down together and work out these differences is much more productive than back-stabbing and bickering. If we work together we can accomplish good things (remember the bear hunting ballot propal in 1996?). Remember, united we stand, divided we fall. Please decline of the once-abundant no good when one group whines and complains that another group has a longer season, or is shown a preference in permit allocations. To sit down together and work out these differences is much more productive than back-stabbing and bickering. If we work together we can accomplish good things fremember the hear hunting ballot proposal in 1996?). Remember, united we stand, divided we fall. Please Santa, unite these groups and help them to work together.

5. Clean water. The Great Lakes and the thousands of inland lakes in Michigan remain polluted with mercury, dioxins and other chemicals despite years of cleanup and pages of regulations to attain and maintain clean water. Unfortunately, most of the damage has already been done. We're working hard to continue the cleansing effort,

The state.

7. A few million alewives. The decline of the once-abundant alewives has raised concerns about the possible crash of the salmon fishery in lakes Michigan and Huron. The decline is so great fisheries managers in states aurrounding these lakes have agreed to reduce future chinook salmon stocks. Those stocks will be reduced by 27-percent this year in lake Michigan and by 20-percent in Lake Huron in the year 2000. If you could dump say a few million alewives

in the lakes I know it would help the salmon.
I'm sure I've forgetten a few other needs, but I'll keep those for next year. If you could help me on any or all of these issues it really would be a Merry Christmas.

Thanks in advance for your

Thanks in survives the leave some clow fall cookies and egg nog for you by the freplace, and I won't forget a few carrots and apples for the reindeer.

Your friend, Bill.

(Anglers and hunters are urged to report their success. Questions and comments are also encurred. Send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Majler Birmingham, MI 48009. Fax information to (248) 644-1314, send e-mail to bparkerGoc.homecomm.net or call Bill Parker evenings at (248) 901-2573.)

SHOWS

CAMPER, TRAVEL & RV
The 16th annual Pontiac Silverdome Camper, Travel & RV
Show will be held Jan. 27-31 at
the Silverdome.

BOAT, SPORT AND FISHING
The 16th annual Pontinc Silverdome Boat, Sport & Fishing
Show will be held Feb. 17-21 at
the Silverdome.

CLASSES

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in
Rochester offers a variety of fly
tying classes for beginners and
advanced tyers. Call (248) 650-0440 for more information or to make a reservation for an upcoming class.

ACTIVITIES

Come and explore the Ganatchio Trail, which runs from Windsor to Tecumseh parallel to the Lake St. Clair shore, during this pro-St. Clair shore, during this program, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 27. The event is sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Group Sierra Club. Participants should meet at the tourist information center on Route 3, south of the bridge in Windsor. Call (313) 581-7579.

SEASON/DATES

BASS
Largemouth and smallmouth bass season closes Dec. 31. DEER

DEER
The second archery season runs through Jan. 3. A special firearms antierless-only deer season runs through Jan. 3 on private land only in much of the Lower Peninsula. Check the DNR's Hunting and Trapping Guide for exact locations of the late hunt.

Ocose
There will be a special late
Canada goose season Jan. 9-Feb.
7 in the southern Michigan
Goose Management Unit. Check
the 1998-99 Michigan Waterfowl
Hunting Guide for specific
boundaries.

GROUSE
A special late season runs

through Jan. 1 in the Lower Peninsula.

RABBIT/HARE
Rabbit/hare season run through
March 31 statewide.

SQUIRREL Squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

CLUBS

SOLAR The School for Outdoor Leader-The School for Outdoor Leader-ship, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organiza-tion interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activi-ties, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658.

Canton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.)
The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets
at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday
of each month in the cafeteria at
Garden City High. Call Dominic
Liparoto at (248) 476-5027.

Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 MICHIGAN FLY FISHING The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information

for more information.
FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club
meets 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. the first
Wednesday of each month at the
Livonia Civic Park Senior Conter. Refreshments will be served
and visitors are welcome. For
information, call Jim Kudej at
(734) 591-0843.

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club
meets monthly in Rochester
Hills. The meetings are open to
all anglers. Call (248) 656-0556.

au angiera, Cali (248) 896-0596.

BASS ASSOCIATION

The Downriver Hass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth
Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor, Call (734) 676-2863 for information.

MEETINGS

NRC
The monthly meeting of the state Natural Resource Commission will be Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 13-14, at the Lansing Center (Wednesday) and the Steven T. Mason Building (Thursday) in Lansing. Persons who wish to address the commission or persons with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation should contact Teress Golden at (517) 373-2352 one week in advance.

ARCHERY

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman
Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444.

Sundays. Call (248) 623-0444. JUNIOR ARCHERS
A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110.

SHOOTING RANGES

RANGES
BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has sliotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Range hours through Dec. 31 are 10 a.m. to sunset Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays. On Mondays and Tucsdays only the sporting clay course is open, noon tosunset. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenshield Rd., which is three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills off N-24, Call (248) 814-9193 for more information.

814-9193 for more information.
PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in
Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range
hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wednesdays through Sundays.
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is
located at 7800 Gale Road. Call
(248) 666-1020 for information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in
Ortonville has rifle, pistol and
shotgun shooting facilities.
Range hours are 12 -5 p.m.
Thursday through Sunday. The

Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Road. Call (248) 693-6767 for informa-tion.

METROPARKS

OUTDOOR CALENDAR

MEIROPAMRS
METHOPAR REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are
free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration
and a motor vehicle permit are
required for all programs. Call
the respective parks toll free at
the following numbers: Stony
Creek, (800) 477-7756; Indian
Springs, (800) 477-3178.
HE FUNNY FARM

This one-hour program for ages 3 and older includes farm sto-ries, activities, live critters and

much more and begins at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 29, at the Kens-ington Farm Center.

ington Farm Center.

BIRD COUNT

Help census the park's bird population during this program, which begins at 8 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at Kensington.

CHICKADEE IN THE HAND Learn all about chickadees during this program, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 2, at Stony Creek. TEA TRACKIN'

TEA THACKIN.
Learn about animals and their tracks, then track up a t-shirt during this program, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 3, at Kensington.

1998 PERMITS
The 1998 Huron-Clinton
Metroparks annual vehicle entry

permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 (88 for senior citizens). The annual boat launching perm its are \$16 (89 for senior citizens). Call (800) 47-PARKS.

COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Onkland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register.

MOVIE MATINEE

MOVIE MATINEE
Enjoy some popcorn and the photography of some of Michigan's
best film makers during this program, which begins at 1 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 2, at Independence Oaks.



Here's your chance to become a member of the Detroit Lions Club! All you do is send us your question and if it's asked on WXYT radio, you'll receive all sorts of neat Lion stuff:

•T-shirt • Lions Hat • Lions Duffle Bag and all sorts of other great Lions stuff



Tune in WXYT 1270 AM every Monday at 8 p.m. to hear whether your question was

You must be 12 years old (or younger) to be a Lions Club member. Just fill in the entry blank below and mail it to:

Detroit Lions Club

c/o Observer & Eccentric
36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150
Official Big Boy-Detroit Lions Kids Club Entry Blank
My question is:
My favorite Lion is:
NAME:
AGEDATE OF BIRTH:
ADDRESS:
CITYZIP
TELEPHONE NUMBER
E-MAIL (II any)

FISHING REPORT

FISHING REPORT Dec. 18. 1998:

FISHING REPORT Dec. 10, 1998: Waileye Impressive in Saginaw River Contact Debic Pearson Northwest: Anglers in the Manistee area continue to enjoy good Steehead fishing. Surfashing in Lake Michigan, along with a surfashing in Lake Michigan, along with surfashing in Lake Michigan Lake 1998. Steehes this week. All gap better action of the Michigan Steehead Stee

Neeth Mitchell.

West: At Ludington, shoreline onglers are landing greater numbers of Steelhead their those in the Pero Mercustic River. If temperatures remain cold, expect those conditions to change. At Muskegon, there's good fishing for Walleys in Muskegon, take. Most anglers are using crawlers for the Wallington. The Missegon and White Rivers. Steelhead activity is only fair.

Seathwait Foodling analysis at Hol-

Southwest: Shoreline anglers at Hol-land, Grand Haven and Saugatuck are landing fair to good numbers of Steel-head. When weather permits, boat

angiers are trelling in waters 3050 feet in take Michigan for Steelhead. The best locations for Steelhead continue to be the lower stretches of the 5st. Joe River and the Kalomatoo River. The Alie gan Dam area of the Kalomatoo River is supporting excellent numbers of Steelines in the 10.12 pound range, in the 5st. Joe River, spawn and plugs are working well atthough local angiers are using flies near the Berriers Springs Dam with good success. Good fishing for Walleys and Crappie is taking place on Indiand lakes in southern Berriers and Cass Counties.

Northeast: Steelhead fishing remains

Ownties.

Northeast: Steelhead fishing remains fair to good throughout the region. Anglers continue to find flavorable action in the lower Ausballe River, Joing with the Audies and Oquecoc Rivers. A hot spot this week is the 6th Street Damon Alpona's Thunder Bay River, Spawn the preferred batt of choice for Steelhead fishing. Walleye anglers can choose between Houghton Lake and Grøyling's Lake Mørgertine. Both local between the control of the Walleye when migets built up with blue shiners and mannor hand Troot totton remains very good in the shallower waters of Higgins Lake.

East: Not much has chonged for

Less indusers waters of Higgins Loke.

East: Not much has changed for Thumb area anglers. Perch numbers remain good along Saginaw Bay from Linwood to Caseville. Perch action is excellent this week between 5ebewing and Quanicasses, where 9-11 inch Perch are the norm. Walleys numbers

continue to impress Saginaw River anglers. Good numbers are reported in downtown Saginaw on live busts. Some anglers are reporting an increase in Pretch fishing along Lake Nuron at Iox-ington and Port Saniloc. At Port Huron, the St. Clair River remains decent for Stecilized on spown. The best action is reserved for Walleye with limit catches reported during evening hours.

Southeast Perch and Walleye numbers remain moderate in Lake Ere. Yel-tow Perch numbers remain good in the Clinton River, while Lake St. Clair is yielding good numbers of Walleye and Northern Pike, Inland takes in Lenawee and Jackson Countles remain good for Panfish.

pand Jackson Countries teniant good to Upper Poninsuis: Even though the ice has been slow in forming throughout the region, there's still decent pection read to the pection of the pection of the region, there's still decent set on read per pection of the pection of pection of the lake Superior breakwall is providing receivent mulers of Whitehis on was worms. Rivers off Linke Superior through out the middle of the region contains full manufactures of the pection of pecting and pecting pection of pecting pecting

PARENT'S NAME: