

Coast Guard finds no sign of downed aircraft

MARBLEHEAD — The U.S. Coast Guard searched in vain Monday evening for signs of a downed aircraft after a Port Clinton couple reported seeing what looked like aircraft lights go down over the lake.

Mr. and Mrs. William Ray, 2633 Sand Road, called the Marblehead Search and Rescue Station at about 9 p.m.

Mrs. Ray said she had walked into the darkened bedroom of the couple's home, which overlooks the lake, and saw through the window two lights of what appeared to be a north-bound airplane.

"I guess I watched it for a couple minutes," Mrs. Ray recalled this morning. "I could have sworn it was a regular plane at first, but then it veered off to the side..."

Mrs. Ray said the white and green lights moved more like a

helicopter than an airplane, but so erratically it seemed certainly to be in trouble.

Mrs. Ray said she called her husband into the room and a few seconds later both watched as the lights went down, burned a bright orange for a few moments and disappeared.

The Rays called the Coast Guard, which dispatched two boats and called in a helicopter for the nighttime search. When nothing had been found a few hours later the search was suspended.

The Coast Guard also checked with the U.S. Air Force and with area airports, but no flights were unaccounted for.

"I'm still worried," Mrs. Ray said this morning. "If I was the only one to see it, I'd say 'well...', but my husband saw it too."

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