

# Birch Barker

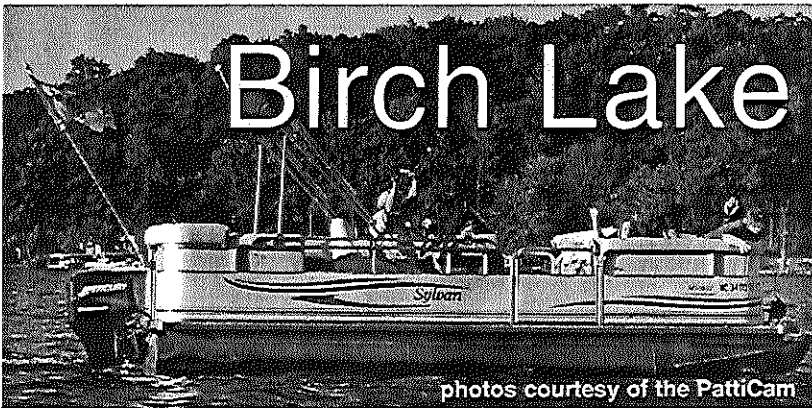
Weekend of June 4 2005



Welcome to  
on  
beautiful



summer  
FUN!



Birch Lake

photos courtesy of the PattiCam

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Well we all made it through the weekend. Boy, did we have a great time. It was awesome to see everyone come home for the summer. It is very nice to see all the homes light up at night on the lake.

#### IT'S SUMMER TIME!

I must make a correction to last week Barker. I reported that there was going to be a Homeowners Association Meeting this weekend. SORRY! There will be No Homeowners' Association meeting. I will let them announce when their meetings are.

There will only be a Board of Directors meeting at 9 am tomorrow. All are welcome to attend.

Nyla and I are busy getting ready for the big Commodore's party next Saturday night, June 11th at 6 pm. Please bring an appetizer to share with everyone. Beverages will be provided.

It was also brought to my attention that we forgot to put the Corn and Sausage Roast on the Calendar. I will get with the guy in charge ( I hope he will do it again) and figure out the date of it.

Please if there is anything else you have in mind to do, stop by and give us

your ideas, suggestions, feedback. All help greatly appreciated.

Also please add to your calendar the ladies coffee on June 14th. Sounds like a great time for the ladies to get together and catch up.

Leslie King stopped to chat yesterday and mentioned a parents-and-kids dodge ball, baseball game ... something that we could do with our kids to show them we are still able to move (momentarily at least) like they do!

I also want to remind everyone all times in the Barker are IST (Indiana Standard Time) unless stated otherwise.

Nyla, our son Randy and I went for a very nice walk Sunday afternoon, only to be met by several people driving way to fast on our roads. There are SEVERAL little folks out riding bikes, playing with friends and many of us out walking.

May I remind you to SLOW DOWN!!!!!!!!!!

If someone has to yell at you to slow down, it must be you are going to fast. We also have witnessed, boats going the wrong way on the lake — we go counter-clock-wise. Remember the Common-sense boating facts that were in last weeks Barker.

We are also looking for help delivering the Barker on Fridays. We have one

### BLYC Calendar

June 4	.....BLYC Board Meeting, 9 am
June 11	.....Commodore's Party
June 14	.....Ladies' Coffee/Get Together
June 25	.....Vice Commodore's Party
July 2	.....Boat Parade & Fireworks
July 3	.....Pancake Breakfast & fireworks rain date
July 4	.....Fireworks Clean-up
July 29	.....Men's Golf Outing
July 30	.....Garage Sale & Great Tube Float
Aug. 5	.....Ladies Golf Outing
Aug. 20	.....Fall Dinner

adult that is going to help (Thanks Judy) If you did it last year maybe you could do it this summer. The only change is we want them delivered Friday afternoon/evening. Again stop by and let my wife know if you'll help.

You can always give our cell phones a call my number is (269) 591-1627 and Nyla's number is (269) 744-7082. Please leave a message, we will get back with you.

I want to say again ...Welcome home to the lake and lets have a great fun and a super safe summer. Lets follow the rules on the water and use common sense when we are driving. Until next time, Splish Splashing Away...

-John Erhardt , Commodore 2005

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), mail to Phil Vitale, 120 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax your items to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

# Birch Lake Notes

## Township Cleanup Day

Porter Township Cleanup Day is scheduled for 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. June 4, at American Waste in Union. Common materials will be accepted free of charge, but a fee will be assessed for tires and any items containing freon.

## Greetings from the hill people

I wanted to take a moment to drop a line, or two, or three....to thank John and Nyla for insisting that my husband (Doug) and I attend the dinner at Four Lakes.

When I was little I could remember after a long day of play on the lake...my parents, aunts, and uncles getting all of us bathed and settled in for the evening, then taking off to the Yacht Club. (not before putting the oldest in charge, and "warning" the rest of us.) We never minded, we actually looked forward to it. They always returned in a really good mood. Now I know why. Well OK maybe there's more than one reason...but the dinner was a lot of fun. We met more of our neighbors and was reminded once again why it was so important to me to raise my son (Nicholas) here. After all where else can you know what they've been up to prior to their return home...some things never change. I must say being on this end of the stick is more desirable.

Speaking of sticks, I do tend to be a bit of a stick in the mud. "Stuck in my ways." Having said that I would also like to apologize to all those neighbors (you know who you are) that year after year (for the last seven years) tried to get us to attend the yacht club functions. It wasn't that you weren't convincing, but Nyla wouldn't take "No" for an answer. Have you ever tried to argue with her? Pretty scary....just kidding....sort of! Seriously she has a really big heart.

For all those others who are stuck in a rut, I can't urge you enough to join your neighbors in all the fun. It truly is a good time.

-Tammy Sobczak-Barbour  
One of the hill people....

## Coffee to kick off the season

All Birch Lake Women: Mark your calendar for a "beginning of season" get-together at the Yacht Club on Tuesday, June 14 at 10 at the Yacht Club. There will be coffee, doughnuts and other goodies (with a \$1 donation) but the main purpose will be to see each other. Hope to see a great group on the 14th!

## Deer Tick Scam Alert

I'm right up there near the top of the list for not enjoying it when people send me warnings as much as anyone, but this

one is important! Send this warning to everyone on your list! If someone comes to your front door saying they are conducting a survey on deer ticks and asks you to take your clothes off and dance around to shake off the ticks, do not do it! IT IS A SCAM; they only want to see you naked. I wish I'd gotten this yesterday. I feel so stupid.

-a neighbor

## Birch Lake stuff for sale

Sun Visors, foam with coil back in royal blue - \$4

Canvas Totes, navy blue in color imprinted in white - \$12

Bib Aprons, great for the kitchen or outdoor grilling - \$15

Fleece Blankets, navy blue with a sailboat in color circled by a gold rope and birch lake text, all embroidered in the lower right corner - \$30

Call any one of the following committee people: Denny Weesner 476-2569; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383



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**Have A Safe and Fun Summer!**

# Birch Lake Notes

## Boater Safety Classes offered

### Who needs boater safety?

Michigan conservation officers and Michigan county sheriffs encourage all persons operating boats in Michigan to enroll in a boating safety course.

The following rules apply to boaters:

- A person who is 12 but less than 14 may operate a personal watercraft if he or she obtained a boating safety certificate before January 1, 1999.
- Persons born after December 31, 1978 shall not operate a personal watercraft unless they obtain a boating safety certificate.
- The operators of a personal watercraft must carry their boating safety certificate and display it upon the demand of a peace officer.

### Local Boater Safety Courses:

All classes are free of charge

#### Midway Watersports

50663 M-152  
Dowagiac, Mi 49047  
June 25th (269)-424-6177  
Availability (70) people.

#### Indian Lake Yacht Club

55900 Indian Lake Rd.  
Dowagiac, Mi 49047  
July 16th (269)-782-6600  
Availability (60) people.

#### Eagle Lake Marina

68777 Ave.  
Edwardsburg, MI 49112  
July 6th (269)-699-5103  
Availability (?)

#### Diamond Lake Yacht Club

21316 Shore Acre Rd.  
Cassopolis, Mi 49031  
(269)-445-3201  
July 23rd  
Availability (90) people.

#### Donnell Improvement Association

Penn Township Hall  
Vandalia, Mi 49095  
May 28th  
Availability (60) people.

Handbook of Michigan Boating Laws and Responsibilities  
— Downloadable pdf

This is the source for current boating laws, so if you have questions about your responsibilities as the owner or captain of a boat or PWC (wave-runner) you should review this booklet.

Supplies of the printed handbooks are limited but this link gives you the information at the touch of a button:  
<http://boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/>

-D. Bouwkamp & BLYC Safety Committee

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# Birch Lake Notes

## 2005 BLYC Officers and Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

Commodore John Erhardt.....476-9944  
 Vice Com Ryan Gableman .....n/a  
 Secretary - Sandy Vitale.....476-1680  
 Treasurer - Holly Troeger.....476-9898  
 Fleet Captain - Dave Olson.....476-2125  
 Past Comm - Stewart Spratt.....476-2133

Judy Olson.....476-2125  
 Maryann O'Neill .....476-2831  
 Vicki Rogers.....476-2383  
 Paula Russell.....476-1880  
 Rick Russwurm.....476-2407  
 Charlene Sheetz.....476-2604  
 Denise Smitley.....476-9000  
 Holly Troeger .....476-9898  
 Scott Troeger .....476-9898  
 Phil & Sandy Vitale.....476-1680  
 Bruce Wagner.....476-2090  
 Denny Weesner .....476-2569

Rick Russwurm.....476-2407  
 Gert Temple.....476-2773  
 Bob Temple.....476-2773  
 Phil Vitale.....476-1680  
 Sandy Vitale.....476-1680

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dick Bender.....476-2591  
 Howard Blackwood.....476-2840  
 Jim Bolinger.....476-9737  
 Dave Bouwkamp.....476-1001  
 Harold Cranmer.....476-2170  
 Fred Freihofer.....476-9823  
 Jack Miller.....476-9226

### WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman .....476-8877  
 Terry Dugan .....476-2814

### HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2005 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, Bill King and Rick Russwurm. There are quite a few members of the homeowners Association; contact any officer for more information. Homeowners Association meetings are publicized in the Barker and open to members and prospective members.

**Birch Barker  
 Kid (and grandkid to be) of the Week  
 Lori & Greta Boecher**



Lori Boecher and her unborn daughter, Greta, are this week's Barker Kid and Grandkid of the Week. Lori is the daughter of proud soon-to-be-a-grampa Rick Russwurm (north shore). Lori and husband Dan live in Elkhart. Congrats to all!

## Camp Tannadoonah's new Web Site

Camp T has a new website — and everyone should make a bookmark so that they can keep updated on all things Tannadoonah including workdays and such.

[www.campfireusarbc.org](http://www.campfireusarbc.org)



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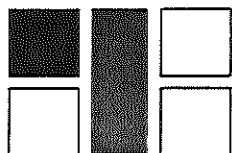
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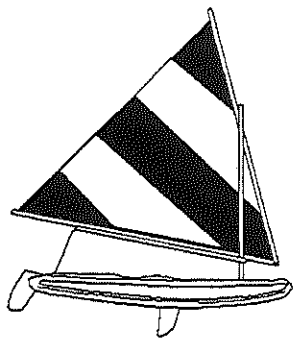
*We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!*

**-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak**

Benjamin P. Wozniak • Suite 190C • 630-773-3883 • Fax 630-773-0920

# BLYC Sailing News

## Memorial Day Regatta was a "warm-up"



The Birch Lake 2005 Memorial Day Regatta became a warm-up to the sailing season.

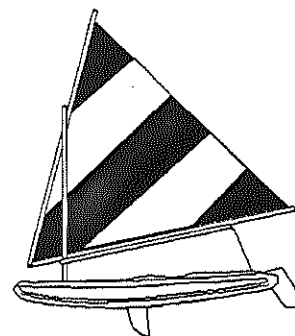
We only got in two races on Memorial Day with a total of 6 boats in both the Sunfish and MC fleets.

The wind was all over the lake, but not at the same time, and came from whichever direction it chose.

A challenging day but good practice.

### MEMORIAL DAY RESULTS

MC .....Sunfish  
**First Place**  
 Harold Cranmer ..Tom Howard  
**Second Place**  
 Don Harmon.....Dave Olson  
**Third Place**  
 Caleb Walker.....Nancy Walker



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 CLOSED SUNDAY 10:30 TO 12:30 (MI)

**\*\*TOM \* BETTY \* BECKY\*\***

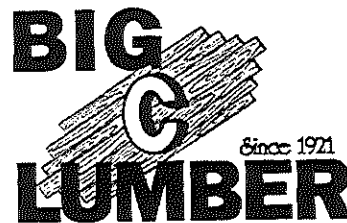
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# BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

**FOR RENT and/or FOR SALE**

**For Sale** — Two-person Sea-Ryder Pedal Boat with sun canopy, flag holder and flag staff and cover. \$350 or best offer. Call Bruce Wagner, 476-2090.

**For rent:** Cottage on beautiful north side. Three bedrooms, sleeps 6. Indoor plumbing. \$750 per week. Discounts available. Contact Stewart Spratt at 269.476.2113 or 574.291.3227.

**For Sale** — Cedar pier sections; approximately 48 foot with

approximately 10x10 platform — plus hardware and a ladder. \$500. 476-9658 or (219) 464-4268.

**For Sale** — Jr. Golf Clubs (putter, 3 irons, driver) with backpack-style carrying case. Ideal for 9-12 yr old. Excellent condition. Call 262-796-0189.

**WANTED:**

Kids' sandbox (ground level or stand-up box), toddler bike or trike (or age appropriate riding toys for a 2-year old), croquet set.

Please contact Beth Olson at jef-fandbeth1@sbcglobal.net or 317.259.7540.

**WANTED TO RENT**

Wanting to rent lake place with 3 bedrooms or more for the Week of July 24 (or days around week-end of July 30th). Please contact Diana Henderson-Wozny at dwozny@crowechizek.com or 574-272-7896

**LOST & FOUND**

**Lost:** Set of wooden stairs. Disappeared from my seawall

week of 5/15. Don't know if a wave washed it into the water or what. Contact Stewart Spratt if found. 269.476.2113 or 574.291.3227.

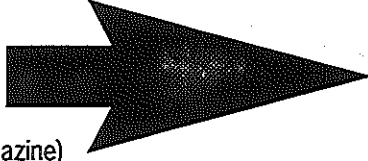
**GOT A CLASSIFIED?**

Birch Barker classified ads are published free for members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members must pay \$5 per listing.

To submit an ad, put it in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Road (east side), or e-mail it to me at: sailorphil@philvital.com

## Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

- \$ \_\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ \_\_\_\_ - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_



**Mail to:**  
Holly Troeger, Treasurer  
1516 Ash Drive East  
Elkhart, IN 46514

**Drop off at:**  
63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

Make checks payable to:  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

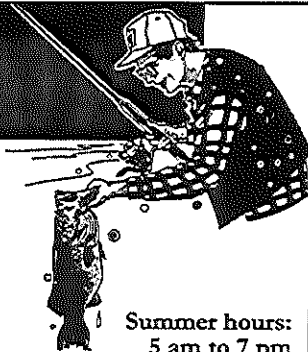
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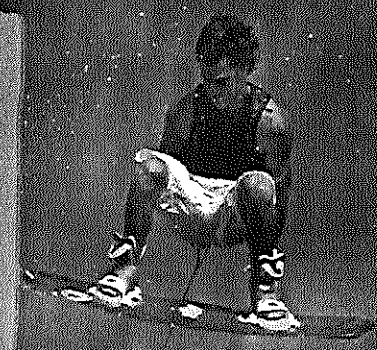
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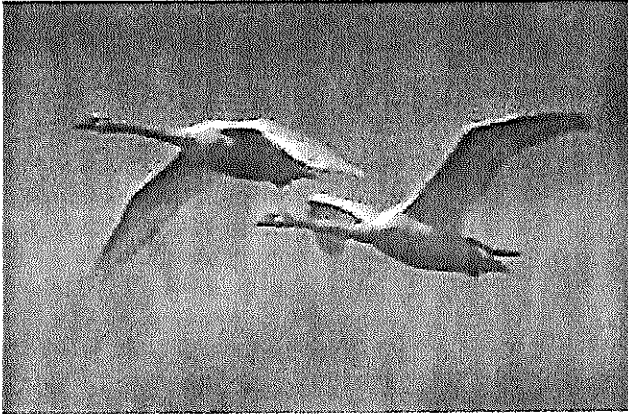
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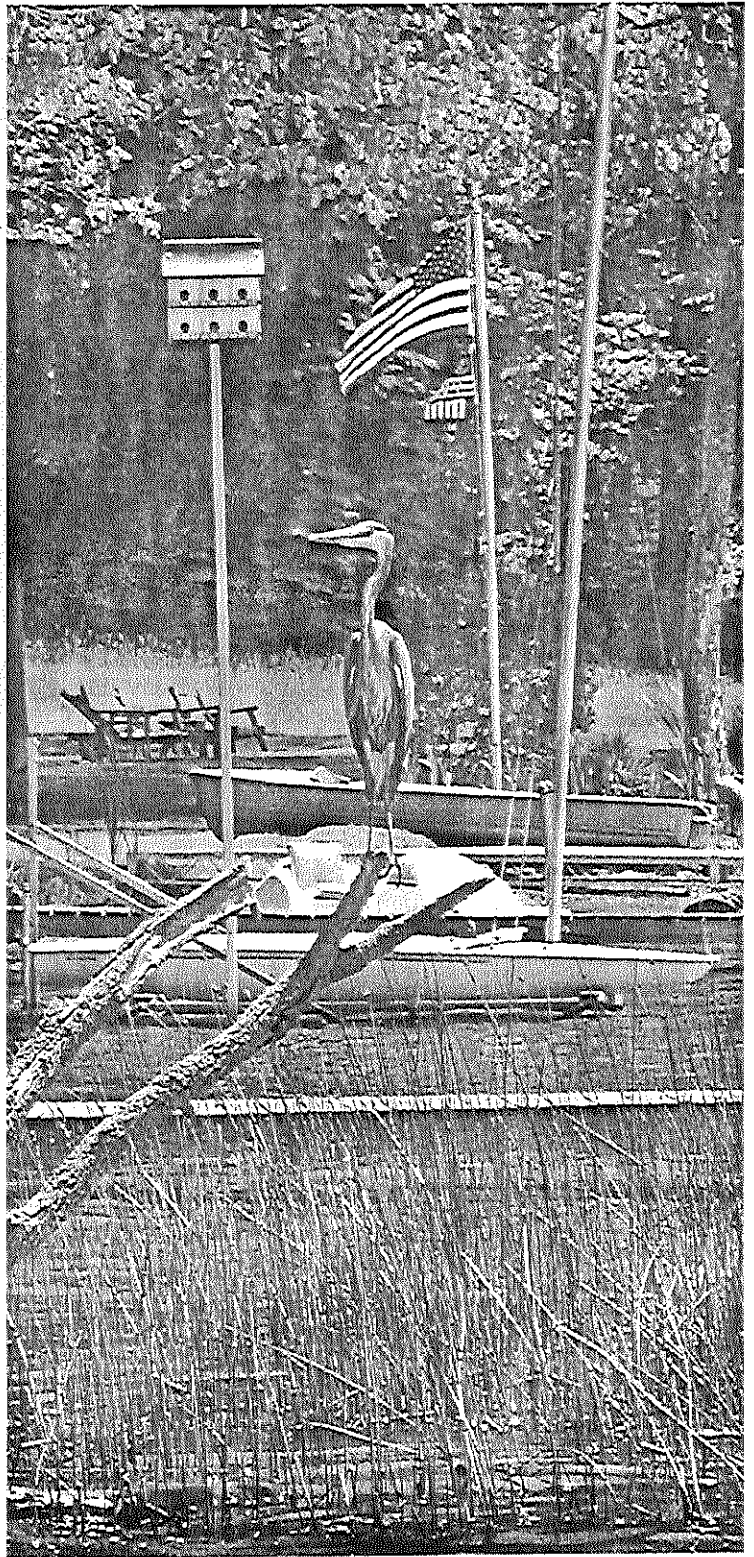
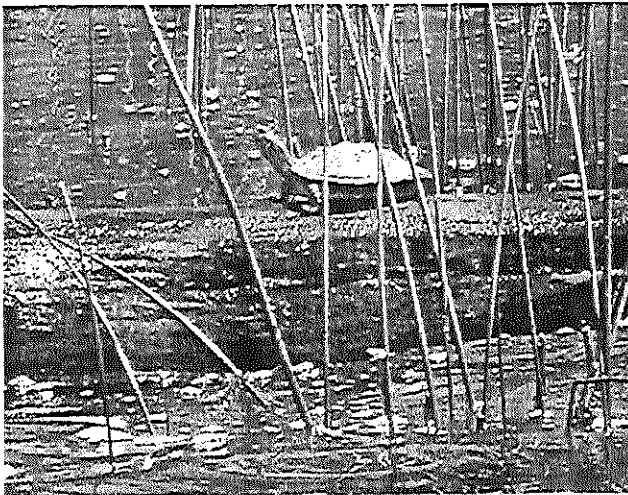
# Images from a Birch Lake Weekend



*"So I saw these white birds flying over and I couldn't figure out what they were ... I got out the binocs and they were a couple of big swans ... and they just happened to come close enough that I could get a picture or two ..."*

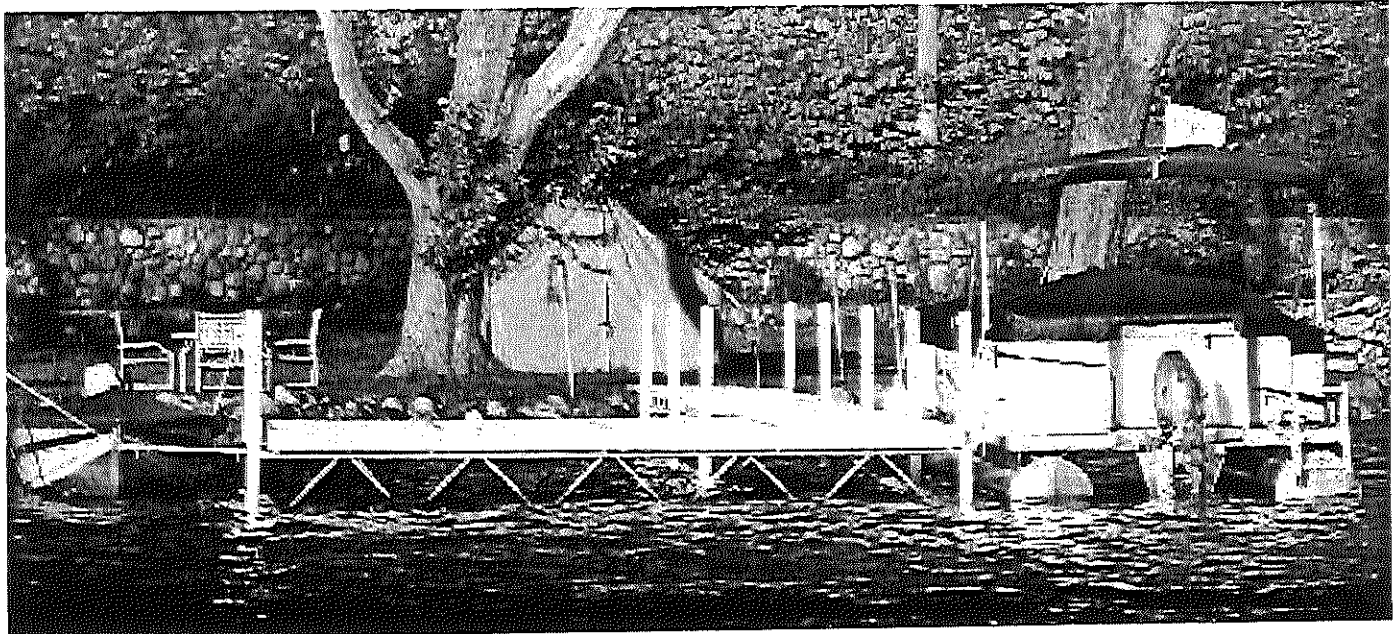
*-Bob King*

*And as long as he had his camera out, Mr. Bob couldn't resist a couple snaps of the famed North Side Turtle Log and a resident turtle who was sunning on a beautiful Memorial Day weekend at Birch Lake.*



*"And then one of the Great Blue Herons came and landed in the dead limbs on the turtle log ... and hey, ... I already had my camera out so I grabbed a couple shots of him, too ..."*

*-Bob King*



*Winning the prize for the most "I wanna be here now" is camper Artie "Buzz" McElwee III (new on the east side).*

*photo by the PattiCam*



# Stu's Star Stuff

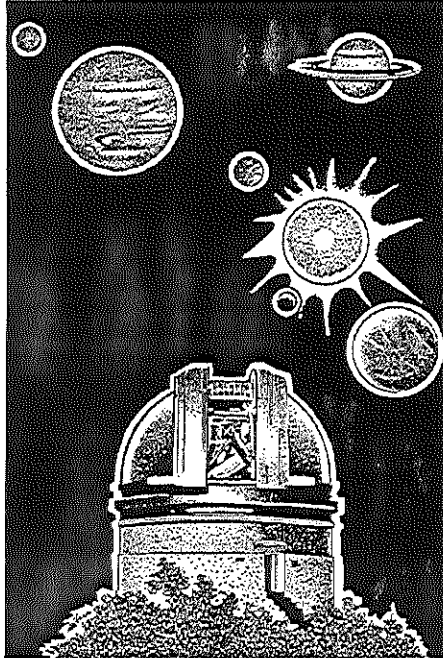
## Our solar system shines

Our solar system is an oasis of light, heat, and life in the cold reaches of the Milky Way Galaxy. It consists of a central star — the Sun — and its family of nine planets, more than 100 moons, millions of rocky asteroids, and billions of icy comets.

Recent discoveries prove that our solar system is not alone. Astronomers have discovered planets orbiting several other stars. But current technology cannot reveal Earth-like planets — the planets that are most likely to harbor life. As far as we know, then, Earth is the galaxy's only inhabited planet.

The Sun formed from a nebula, a giant cloud of dust and gas — mostly hydrogen. At the end of its life, the Sun will balloon into a red giant, swallowing Mercury, Venus, and possibly Earth. But don't hold your breath. It's not going to happen anytime soon. After expanding the red giant will then evolve into a white dwarf, surrounded by a planetary nebula.

The inner planets, Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are made up of mostly rock and metal. One even contains water.



Most of the outer planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, are mostly gas and dust. That means that there is no solid surface on which to stand, so don't try it.

Pluto consists of nitrogen ice and rock, although scientists are not sure which is more abundant. More on Pluto next week.

One can remember names of the planets in order of increasing distance from the sun by recalling the phrase "Man Very Early Made Jars Serve Useful New Purposes," the first letter of each word being the first letter of a planet. Another phrase that works is "My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizza pies." I'm sure there are more.

The planets will be putting on quite a spectacular showing later this month with a brilliant trio forming in the WNW after sunset.

More on that alter, too.

Until then get out there and enjoy the show. It's free you know.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for May 28, 2005 (at Midnight):  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.027  
1.6 days before new moon

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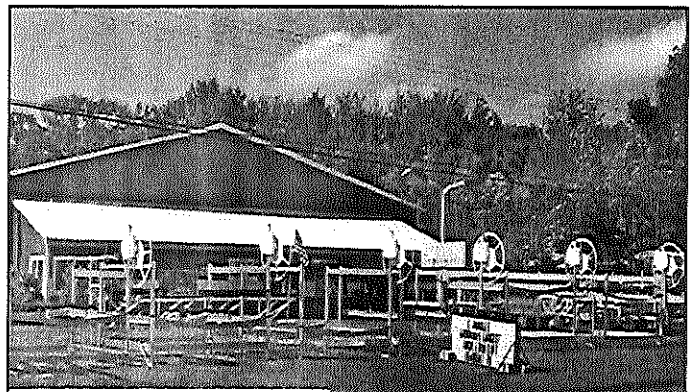
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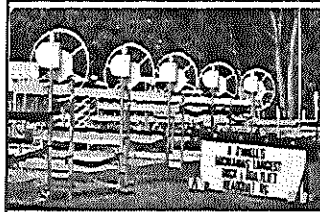
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