

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 11 2005

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Oh what a beautiful weekend we all had to enjoy. Storms that hit Chicago and the heavy rain that hit Granger missed us (mostly). Now that the beginning of the work (ugh) week is here let it rain, let it rain, let it rain.

If it does rain the boys will drive Nyla crazy, but maybe she can get them to clean their bedrooms and make their beds every day! They won't want to hurry off to Nicholas, Michael and Ashleigh's to play outside. Nyla can finish the painting in the house. I do want to brag real quickly, I came home from work Thursday night and had the whole lawn mowed, and ready for the weekend, Thank you Boys!

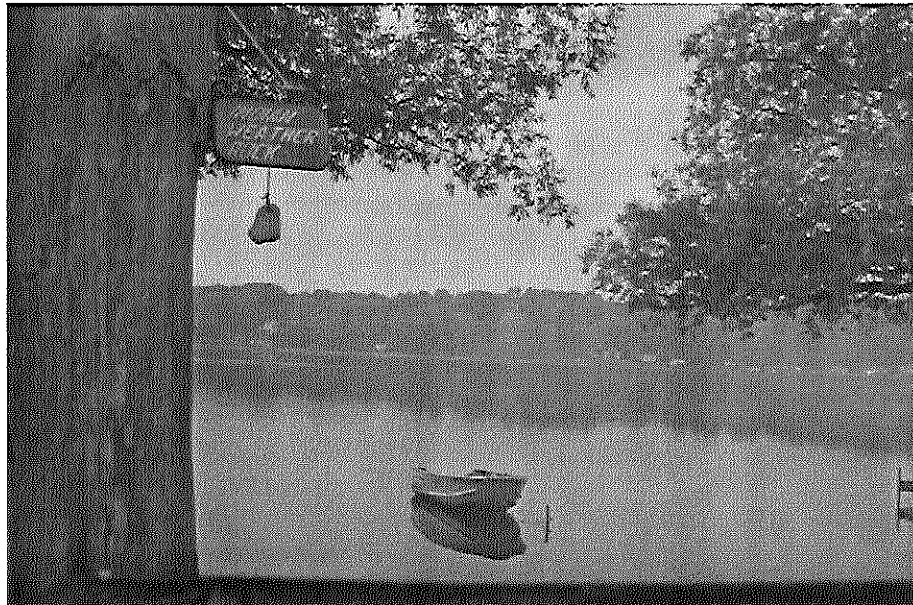
I want to tell you about some special people that Nyla met Friday evening while delivering the Barker. She stopped the van and hopped out and said to this beautiful couple sitting on their front porch, "here is your friendly Barker lady with your Barker." They both jumped up to greet her and welcomed her into their home. I could NOT figure what was taking her so long delivering them.

First she DID say she was going to drop them off at homes of people that said they would help deliver them. She does have a hard time asking for help and does not want to bother anyone. So she just did it herself. We had company coming over to visit and the kids were swimming but that was not a problem for Nyla as she knew I was home for them. She got home about 8:30 with a big (bigger than usual) smile on her face ready to tell us something. She was so excited to tell us about her new friends on the North end of Birch Lake. Hint: they live in the oldest cottage on the lake, which was est. in 1902. They have been married 5 years ... she worked for him for 24 years before they married. Okay give up. Its Mr. & Mrs. James Thayer. She loves them, and wants to take the boys and lover to meet them. I can hardly wait after what she has told me

about them. After her story we started a great bonfire and sat around and enjoyed the lake, watching the boys swim.

A couple more of our friend's stopped over and we told more stories about the lake. It was none other than Rick & Patty Russwurm. Oh while we are on the subject of the Russwurm family, there was a beautiful picture of Lori and grandpa-to-be in last weeks Barker. The WONDERFUL GRANDMA-to-be was not even mentioned. Patty Russwurm is going to be a grandma to Greta Ann Boecher. Lucky Greta!

Saturday two of the boys had baseball games, so off the lake we had to go (BOO). Nyla found a sunny spot to sit and the boys and I headed to the dugout



for the coach's speech (yes the coach is me). Both the boys won their games. Randy helped a great deal in the dugout keeping the boys in line, and Nyla, well lets say she does NOT want to sit out in the sun today. She is a little sore and RED. We spent Saturday night again out front watching the boys swim and enjoying a camp fire. Steve Cranmer and Artio McElwee stopped over to enjoy our view. It is always fun to have good friends over to visit. Feel free to stop by anytime you want; our door is always open. Nyla won't let the boys shut it. Okay she tells them to shut the door every time they come in or go out.

Okay the fun stuff is over for now to the boring stuff.

1. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN.** Again, I heard about a long-time laker, his wife and dog were out for a walk and had a few cars blow past them. I will admit

BLYC Calendar

June 11	.....Commodore's Party 6 pm
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

Nyla & I are both guilty about driving fast, but we are trying to SLOW down. There are neighbors out walking and the children and pets are out playing. We All must SLOW DOWN!!

2. We must do something about the garbage on Sunday nights. Last week we were driving home and someone left four bags of garbage on the ground for Monday pickup. Ricky Raccoon was helping himself to some curly fries. Luckily for us their neighbor from New Jersey was still here and offered to let us put the garbage in their cans, and he would wait to go back to New Jersey until after the G-Man

came so he could take care of the cans. Another neighbor had several bags ripped open Monday morning by either dogs that run free or Ricky Raccoon, and trash was all over the roads and yards. Please think of us who are here Monday when you put your trash out Sunday night.

Tomorrow night, Saturday, June 11th is the BL Commodore Party, starting at 6 pm IST. Don't forget the munchies to share with our friends. We will have the Line Dance Teacher there to teach us 2 left footed people how to do line dancing. We will have other music also to dance to. Bring your friends new and old and have a good time. If you have a friend on the Lake that has not been to the Yacht Club show them the way so they too can meet all the fun people on the Lake.

For now Splish Splashin' Away
-John Erhardt, Commodore 2005

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to 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

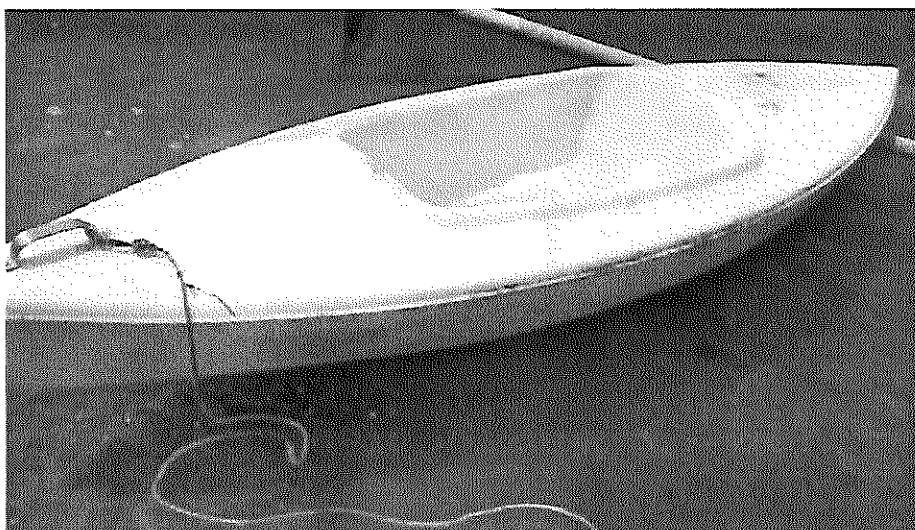
Ladies Coffee / Get Together

Tuesday morning at 10, all Birch Lake ladies are invited to the Yacht Club to greet old friends and to meet some new ones, drink some coffee, eat some goodies and have a good time. Lind Harman will also be giving a line-dancing demonstration and teach a dance to those ladies who want to learn. Hope to see many of you this Tuesday morning.

Line Dancing lessons

I have been approached by several people asking me to teach Line Dancing at the Yacht Club. We will give it a try on Monday mornings at 10:30 Ind. time. This is good exercise and hopefully fun. Beginners welcome. Hope to see you Monday.

-Lind Harman



Kayak lost in the storm of April 23-24, 2005 ... the blue sistership to the yellow plastic kayak pictured below was swept away from her moorings. If you know the whereabouts of the little blue kayak, please contact Scott or Holly Troeger, (Eastside #102) at 476-9898. Thank you.

Welcome Rodriguez family

Welcome to our new lake neighbors, Lisa and Mike Rodriguez (along with their children, Julia and Jack) from Granger. The Rodriguez Family purchased the former Herms cottage.

BLYC membership/dues

The BLYC Board of Directors would like to remind everyone to please pay their dues for the year. As of last Saturday's board meeting, only 64 home-

owners (out of 235) have paid.

Vice Commodore contact info

Ryan and Shanna Gableman asked to have their phone number published ... to contact them, call (574) 215-0336.

Memorial Service planned

A Memorial Service for Berneil B. (Bernie) Weesner will be held on Aug. 27 at 10:30am in the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Barker delivery people needed

The BLYC needs people to deliver the Barker on Friday evenings near their homes. If you have time on Fridays and wouldn't mind taking a short walk (and meeting your neighbors ... and your neighbors' kids and dogs) to deliver, please contact John or Nyla Erhardt at 591-1627 or 744-7082.

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Birch Lake Notes

Gone but not forgotten

It was in the year 1958 when an opportunity to purchase a cottage on a lake came to Joe and Lee Sikorski. The property was located on Birch Lake in Vandalia, Michigan. The cottage was number 28 on the south side. It wasn't a big cottage but it was a get-away from the trials and tribulation of a hard working life. With the help of a 3-year old girl, Virginia, that cottage became a lively, well-loved home away from home.

Over the years add-on and improvements were made under the a keen eye for creativity blended with practicality. Of course when there was a little extra in the "building fund" there was the fun stuff to buy. Stuff like a fishing boat for the avid fishermen and women that would stay at the cottage. And of course a speed boat for the young female also in this cottage.

Aunts and Uncles that brought their families to this lost paradise, found nothing but good times and good food provided by the matriarch of the house, Lenore.

Lenore loved this place. She spent every weekend through Monday soaking in the beauty and serenity of Birch Lake. With Joe's help this was truly a place to live for the rest of your life.

The families that once visited have grown and now have found other activities to do with their larger families. The close friends have since past away as well

as the Aunt and Uncles.

This year is the first year that Lenore is not with us. She has found a more beautiful place to stay.

Gone are the big dinners. Gone are the many fishing stories. Gone are the all night card games.

What is not gone are the laughter and the memories. The many times we ask ourselves, "what would Lee do."

What Lenore has left behind is the love that she has placed eternally in our little paradise. We will never forget her devotion to family and generosity to all. With every morning over Birch Lake, we know that Lenore is right there with the first rays of the sun. When you see all the flowers, you know Lenore would wanted them there and there and there.

As the waves from the boats hit the sea wall, you can sense that Lee is wading in the shallows enjoys every bit of it.

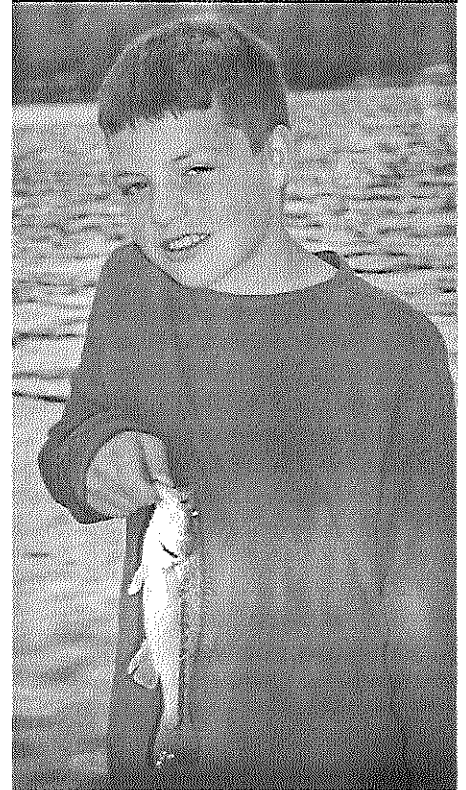
With each sunset, we know that Lenore is playing cards and laughing right with us. She may be gone from us, but Birch Lake helps to remind us that she will never be forgotten.

We love you Lenore and miss you terribly.

-Steve Manor

Steve Manor married virgina (Ginny) Sikorski some 20 years ago, and her parents, Joe and Lenore (Lee) Sikorski, have had cottage #28 (next to Eberharts) for 47 years.

Birch Barker Kid of the week John Jarrette



John Jarrette, son of Steve Richards (beau to our daughter, Erica) caught his first Birch bass off our pier last Saturday. Congrats John!

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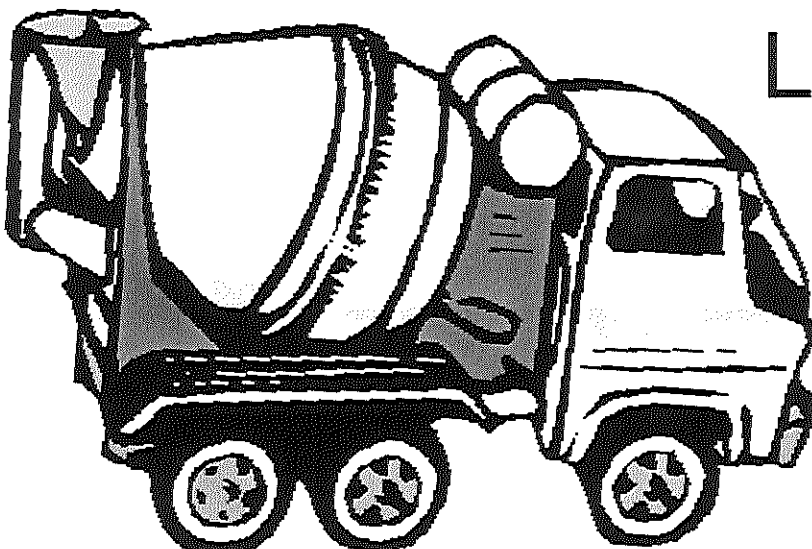
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Birch Lake Notes

Porter Twp Sewer Board

The Porter Township Sewer Board would like residents to know they are available to help. If you have questions or concerns, call a member or attend one of two monthly meetings (Monday nights at 7 pm (MT) at the town hall. Members of the committee are Steve Holtz (chairman), of Long Lake, 641-7008; Carl Klappauf (vice chairman), Birch Lake, 476-2663; Herm Kruggel, Birch Lake, 476-2169; Pam Bryant, Shavehead Lake, 641-2001; and Vicki Hall, Union, 641-2375.

Newburg - Porter EMS

Many thanks and deep appreciation from the King family to our local EMS professionals for their speedy response to a medical emergency last Sunday evening. We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and skilled people who will answer the call. Thanks again!

-The Kings

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

To buy or order any item, call any of the committee people: Denny Weesner

Barker Kid of the Week - II

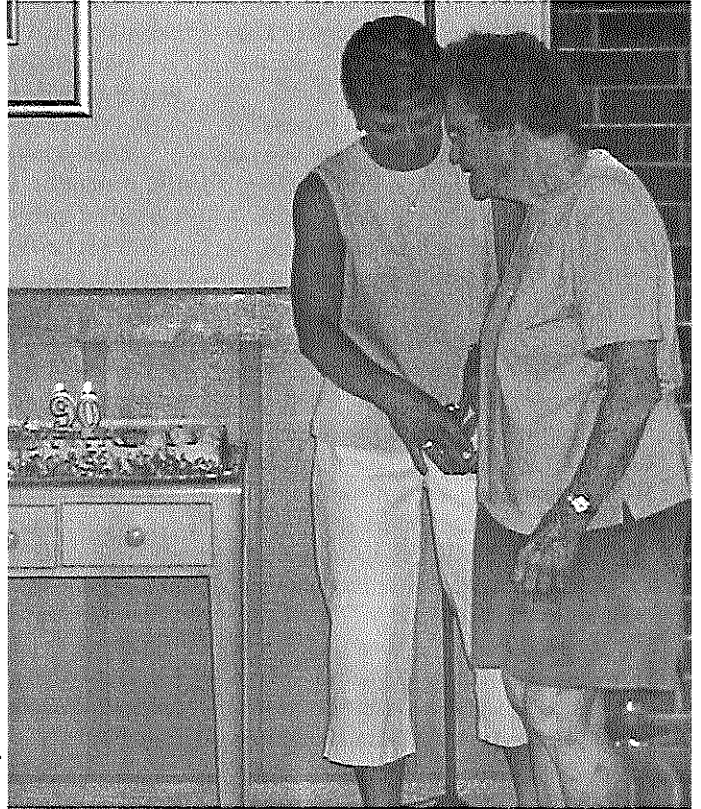
Maybe another barker kid of the week in 1915.?

Happy Birthday to Betty Cary.

A wonderful surprise 90th birthday party given by her daughter and son-in-law Vickie & Tom Rogers.

Mighty brave thing to surprise a 90 year old. Lots of family and friends were there to share the day.

photo courtesy of the PattiCam



476-2569; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383.

Chalet plans special sale
Chalet Party Shop on CR 17 in

Elkhart will have a special "Blow-Out" sale at all locations on Saturday, June 18.

All wines will be sold at 20% off regular prices; spirits will be 10% off, and all imports and microbrew beers will be 10% off regular prices.

A note from the Safety Committee

*It has been a long fall, winter and spring,
so it just stands to reason.
With a few boating basics,
you'll have a safer boating season.*

WHEN TOWING A SKIER OR TUBER

Every vessel towing a person(s) on water skis, a tube, or a similar device must have a person, in addition to the vessel operator, observing the towed person(s) at all times. Drivers should

be seated and focused on operating their boat, not the towed person.

WHEN PICKING UP SKIER OR TUBER

Pick up your fallen skier/tuber on the driver side of the boat. It allows for better visibility and safety.

100 FOOT RULE

You must idle out 100' from the end of any dock before taking off. This is a no wake zone.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

A simple rule of thumb; the boat on the

right has the right-of-way.

PFDs

You must have Personal Flotation Devices for each person on your boat and kids under 6 are required to wear theirs at all times.

BE SAFE & HAVE A GREAT TIME

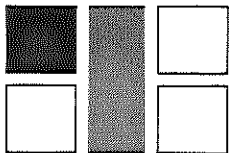
Your Birch Lake Safety Committee:

David Bouwkamp

Dan Covey

Mike Lutz

Howard Blackwood



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

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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BLYC Sailing News

Lots of wind for first official sailing week

None of the sailors could successfully complain about lack of wind last Sunday, we certainly had enough.

"Nice Guy of the Week" award goes to Tom Howard for helping Caleb Walker after Caleb capsized, and then giving tips to other sailors while sacrificing his own race position.



Thanks, Tom.

We also thank Art McElwee, Deb Bolinger, Jay Bolinger and Erica Vitale for starting the races.

See you tomorrow on the lake, we'll start at 11 am IN.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain

Standings after week 1:

Name	1st	2nd	3rd	Avg.
MC Class				
Scott Troeger	1	DNS	DNS	1610
Rick Harman	3	1	2	1532
Don Harman	5	2	1	1482
Harold Cranmer	2	3	3	1480
Caleb Walker	DNF	DNS	4	1369
Jim Bolinger	4	4	5	1355
Phil Vitale	6	5	6	1259
Bill Luecht	7	6	7	1189

Sunfish "A"

Tom Howard	1	1	2	1584
Dave Olson	2	2	1	1557
Sandy Vitale	3	3	3	1454

Sunfish "B"

Steve Richards	1	2	1	1584
Nancy Walker	2	1	2	1557

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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.

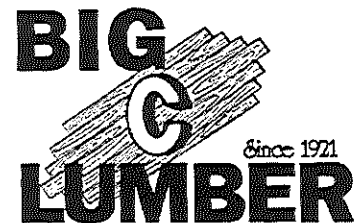
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For Sale — Two-person Sea-Ryder Pedal Boat with sun canopy, flag holder and flag staff and cover. \$350 or best offer. Call Bruce Wagner, 476-2090.

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

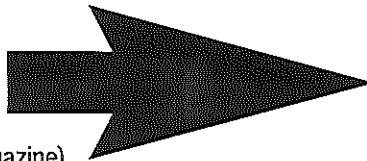
week of 5/15. Don't know if a wave washed it into the water or what. Contact Stewart Spratt if found. 269.476.2113 or 574.291.3227.

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)
- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other (non-party related expenses)



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

Drop off at:
63696 Birch Road (call 591-1627)

Make checks payable to:
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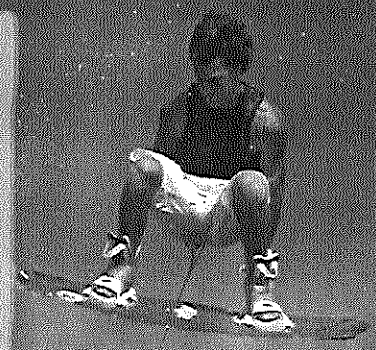
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WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman476-8877
 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.



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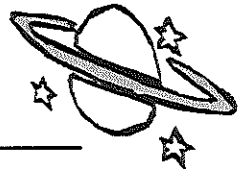
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'on our knees to please'



Stu's Star Stuff



Pluto discovery a fluke

Astronomers searched for a ninth planet during the 1920s because they thought something was tugging at the giant planet Neptune. In 1930, Clyde Tombaugh, a young astronomer at Lowell Observatory in Arizona, found Pluto. But astronomers soon realized that Pluto is far too small to affect Neptune. Recent calculations, in fact, show that nothing is pulling at Neptune at all; astronomers had simply miscalculated Neptune's mass, so its orbit is slightly different from what they expected.

Although it was the last planet discovered in our solar system, tiny Pluto is not always the farthest planet from the Sun. Because of Pluto's unusual orbit, Neptune was farther from the Sun from 1979 to 1999. Pluto's orbit is more elliptical, or stretched out, than the orbit of any other planet. On average it lies 39 times farther from the Sun than Earth, and ranges from 2.9 billion to 4.6 billion miles.

We will make 248 trips around the sun before Pluto finishes one.

Pluto is the smallest planet — smaller

even than our own Moon. Its diameter is only 1423 miles, and with a mass of about a quarter of a percent of Earth's a 160 pound person standing on Pluto's surface would weigh only about 11 pounds.

Because it is so unlike the other planets, some people wonder if Pluto should be considered a planet at all. It probably formed by a different process from the other planets, and was pushed into its peculiar orbit by Neptune.

Pluto consists of nitrogen ice and rock. There is a small amount of frozen methane as well. Astronomers have also detected a very thin atmosphere of nitrogen, methane, and carbon monoxide.

Like Earth, Pluto has only one moon. But its moon, Charon, is half the size of Pluto. Pluto and Charon are closer in size than any other planet-moon system in our solar system, and are sometimes called a double planet.

If you went to Pluto you could see Charon from only one side of the planet, because the moon's orbit around Pluto takes just as long as one day on the planet (6.39 Earth days). Thus, the moon always

remains "over" the same spot on Pluto's surface, and the same side of the moon always faces Pluto.

Surface temperatures right now hover at about 400 degrees below zero Fahrenheit, although the planet will get colder as it moves farther from the Sun.

The Sun is so far away it would look like a bright dot in the sky — the brightest star visible.

The solar system's smallest and most distant planet is never visible without the aid of a good-sized telescope. It can be found in the constellation Ophiuchus right now. It rises in the east around 10:00pm and passes high across the southern sky.

Get out there and enjoy the show. You won't see Pluto but there's lots of other good stuff up there.

And it's free.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for June 11, 2005 (at Midnight):
Illuminated Fraction: 0.243
2.8 days before first quarter

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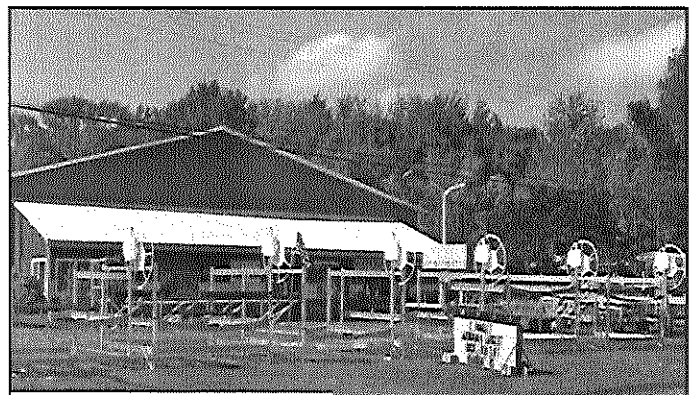


FOUR WINNS

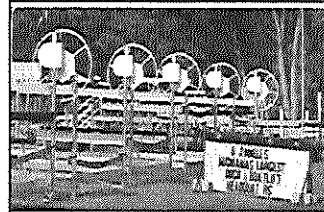
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