



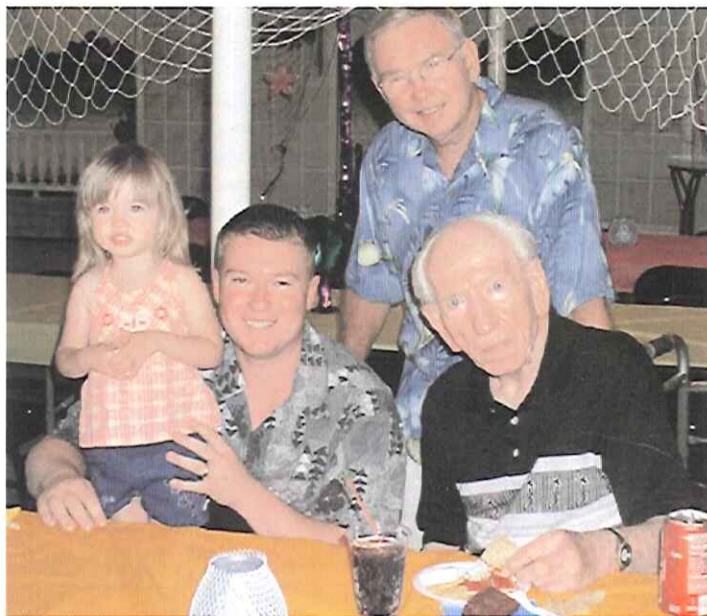
Birch Barker

Weekend of July 4, 2005

Happy Independence Day!



Take two floaties and call me in August ... Bill King and the ever faithful Nurse Kratchet (aka Le) apply water therapy to his injured hip. Healing nicely, thanks everyone for the kind concern.



The Vice Commodore Party attendees were honored to have 4 generations of Machallecks visit. Great Grandpa John, Grandpa Mike, Dad Brian and the lovely Addison Machalleck.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

VANDALS! Okay, now that I have everyone's attention! We have VANDALS on Our lake and it has to stop. Thursday night/Friday morning last week they struck the south end and east side, which is all we know of... It was around 12:30a.m. There was a deck boat in front of our home ramming our raft at least three times, unhooking it from the anchor and dragging it, then letting it go. We found it in the cove with a couple of large dents in it. Two different families heard them. On the east side someone decided a raft needed to be pushed into shore. We heard from a neighbor about some young people on the lake Thursday night, who were tubing, driving VERY dangerously at a high rate of speed after dark, to the point the neighbors had to pull their drapes so not to see them. The police were almost called — and will be called next time. I have contacted two members of the safety committee and we are going to do something about it. We do not want anyone hurt (or worse) on our lake. And the rafts are put in places so boaters know where the drop off is. Lets be smart.

Now, on to more pleasant happenings. Lets start with the Vice-Commodore party. It was a complete success. All had a GREAT time. Ryan and Shanna throw a mean party. We had several good munchies and lots of laughs. Sorry you missed it if you were not there. You can

make it to the next one. Don't forget about the Directors meeting next Saturday July 9th at 9 a.m.

We have had a few questions about the happenings this weekend on the lake. Let me tell you how things are going to fly. Saturday afternoon there will be a Boat Parade at 3p.m and fireworks at dusk if it rains Saturday we will have the fire works Sunday). Sunday morning there will be a GREAT pancake breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. Breakfast will be served 8-11 am (Indiana Time).

Last Monday morning Nyla was making our bed when someone knocked on the door. She went to see who it was. Little Peter Carpenter was here to see what Luc (our little one) was up to. She said she almost jumped out her skin. she told Peter she could NOT let him in with what he had in his hands — the largest frog she had ever seen. Peter just giggled and said, "I know I just want Luc to come out and play." You can bet she sent Luc out as fast as she could. Thank you Peter for sharing your giant frog with her.

Thursday night Ryan and Shanna headed to the Yacht club to ready it for the party. Nyla, Luc and Ben joined in. I had a meeting for All Star Baseball; yes I am the manager of the White Pigeon Little League All Star Team (11 & 12 year-olds). My son Ben is on the team. My mom & dad would be so proud of me. We start our games July 7 at 8 pm in Niles, so if you are out and about with nothing to do come and root us on.

Please get your team signed up for

BLYC Calendar

July 2.....	Boat Parade & Fireworks
July 3.....	Pancake Breakfast & fireworks rain date
July 4.....	Fireworks Clean-up
July 9.....	BLYC Board Meeting, 9 am
July 9.....	Kids Dog Day
July 29.....	Men's Golf Outing
July 30.....	Garage Sale & Great Tube Float
Aug. 5.....	Ladies Golf Outing
Aug 6.....	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 20.....	Fall Dinner

the men's golf outing. I have my two teams ready to go. I will let you figure out why I have to have two teams. We are not sure if Nyla will be able to golf this year with her team at the woman's outing, she finds out Thursday when she is going to have shoulder surgery. Seems she tore a rotator cuff and is very tired of living with the pain. We will get back to you on this. The ladies are looking for any donations for their outing. If you have something to donate that they can auction off in the silent auction, give as prizes, please drop them off at our home any time. Everything is greatly appreciated.

I will let you go enjoy the lake but remember BE SAFE AND SMART! See you on the water.

Splish Splashin' Away.

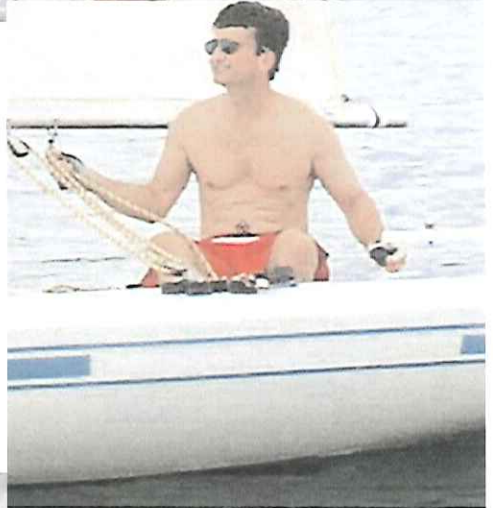
-John Erhardt, Commodore 2005

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.

Scenes from a warm week at Birch Lake

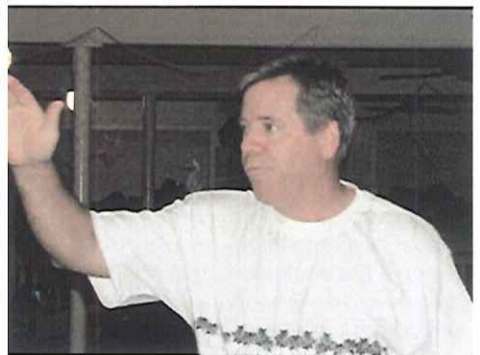


Above, a Mini-Olson Reunion — Don Olson and Fran (Olson) Roddiger had trouble locating the cottage they grew up in as they putts around on brother Dave's pontoon last Saturday. Parents Mary & Bill Olson bought the cottage in 1955 on the east side. It has had several changes over the years. It is now the red & white home of Bob and Sue Waddle. Looks just a little different. Don and Nancy of Mishawaka, Fran and Henry of St Louis, Margie (Olson) and Gary Snyder of Florida and Dave & Judy Olson enjoyed being together and reminiscing on times gone by.



Sailing, the Vice-Commodore's party, a really cool red open convertible, a new bear totem, happy families and smiles everywhere — despite a week of miserably hot weather ...

Just another crummy week at Beautiful Birch Lake ...



photos by the PattiCam and Bill Luecht



And so we don't forget ... the dog days of summer haven't even started yet ... the weatherman is predicting more of the same for the foreseeable future. Happy Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

SATURDAY is the BIG DAY — Boat Parade and Fireworks!!

The Boat Parade will begin at 3 on the south side. Registration for all entrants will begin at 2:30 at Dick Bender's pier. The parade will be led by the Grand Marshall's boat piloted by the Vitales.

The Grand Marshalls this year are Bev and Herm Kruggel. The Kruggel's first bought property on the lake in 1957 and built a small cottage near where the Rasmussen's are today on the West Side. This cottage soon became too small with the addition of 5 children plus a mother-in-law, and in 1966 they bought Dr. Cleveland's cottage which is now occupied by the Lindzy family. In 1993, Bev and Herm moved into their present home. Over the years, the Kruggels have been active in Birch Lake activities — past commodore, Barker deliverers, activity planners, etc. Give them a big wave as they float by your cottage!

Pancake Breakfast

The 4th of July Pancake Breakfast will be July 3rd at Camp Tannadoonah from 8 - 11 am (Indiana time). Adults \$5; Children 6 to 10 \$2; Children under 5 free.

Be Safe & Have Fun on this Holiday Weekend!

There will be a lot of guests coming to Birch Lake and we want to care for them and guide them to a fun

weekend.

Here are a few basics to share on this busy holiday weekend:

- Go over the boating basics before a guest captains a boat or PWC.
 - Drinking and Boating is illegal. If you know someone has had too much, please don't let them captain a vessel of any kind.
 - PWC's (Wave Runner) must be at least 150' from any other boat.
 - Boat drivers need to be observing traffic and downed skiers/tubers. Let your observer watch your skier/tuber.
 - The boat on the right has the right-of-way.
 - Share the hand signals with tubers and skiers if they are new or young.
 - Watch for downed skiers / tubers
 - No Wake within 100' of any dock.
 - Boat Traffic is counter-clockwise.
 - Kids under 7 must wear a life jacket in a boat.
 - When refueling; don't smoke, don't spill and turn on your blower & lift the engine compartment cover to remove fumes.
- Shocking News: Water and Electricity Do Not Mix!**
- If you are near water and using an electric power washer, battery charger or any corded item, be sure that the cord does not come in contact with water. Seems simple but it happens

quickly and then it is too late. Also, any outdoor cord you use should have a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) as part of the cord or outlet. This device actually shuts off the flow of electricity before it can harm you.

We have a few Birch Lake safety brochures remaining so if you lost yours or are new to the lake you can ask for a copy by calling David Bouwkamp @ 476-1001.

-Your Safety Committee

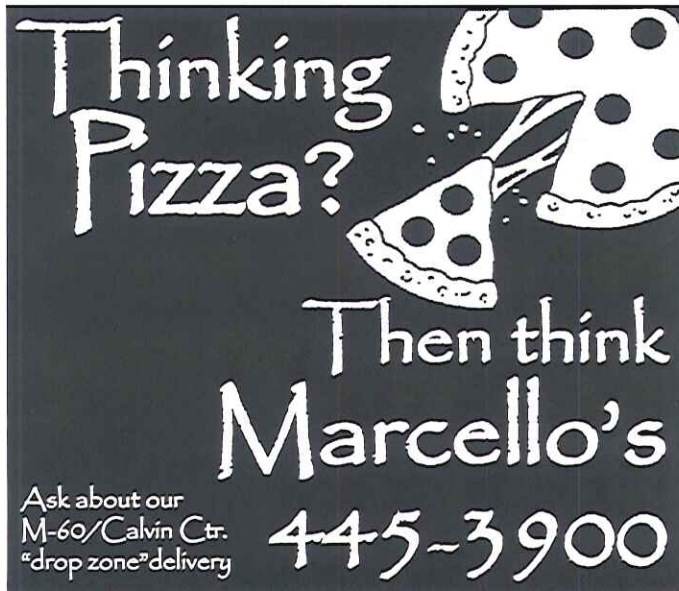
Kids Dog Day

Attention Birch Lake KIDS!!

Come join us for KIDS Dog Day at the Yacht Club on Saturday, July 9th, 11am-12:30pm (IN time). We'll rekindle some old KIDS friendships and make some new ones, as we munch on hot dogs and play games. Just bring your appetite and your imagination. Hope to see you there!

If any of you wonderful Birch Lake parents or grandparents have any ideas or interest in promoting future Birch Lake KIDS events, please let us know. We'd love to get more Birch Lakers involved, and provide an opportunity for the KIDS from around the lake to form friendships and memories. I'd be happy to help coordinate any events you have in minds. You can contact me at 476-1880 (Thursday-Sunday) at the lake, or e-mail at ptothru@prodigy.net.

-Paula Russell



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Porter Twp Sewer Board

The Porter Township Sewer Board suggests that it is not too early to think about the eventual hook up from your house to the main sewer line.

Most connections will be "normal" with no surprises. Some, however, will entail additional equipment and have their own unique problems. If you are not sure which category you will fall in it is recommended that you contact a qualified contractor for an estimate. A list of contractors who have shown interest in doing this work by attending recent Sewer Board meetings is available at the Township Office.

For people who have not paid 100 percent of their sewer assessment, the 2005 bill will be in the mail July 15. Enclosed with this billing will be information that can be useful when dealing with contractors and other suggestions about your sewer hook up. For those not receiving this mailing, copies will be available at the Township office.

Business owners in Zimmeyville, are going through a hard time. Business has been limited due to the "no through" road closure of Sunset St. resulting from the construction. Residents are urged to patronize the businesses located in this area (Mills Grocery, Zimmys, Tri-Lakes Marine and Old Tyme Cafe)

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 (MI) 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; and Pam Bryant, Shavehead Lake, 641-2001.

For information see <http://www.wightman-assoc.com/porter/porter.html>

Water quality report

A member of the Porter Township Sewer Board has reported that a water quality report from the state of Michigan is expected to be distributed within the next couple of weeks. More will be reported in the Barker as it becomes available

Dues and dons

Every few weeks Commodore John has asked for residents to submit their annual dues to Birch Lake Yacht Club. A common misunderstanding is that you only benefit by attending social functions. BLYC is more than a place to party!

The Yacht Club has several standing committees, such as water quality, which safeguards your

swimming and drinking water and in process protects your property value. The annual loosestrife hunt keeps our shoreline from being a purple haze.

Let me count some other ways ...

The YC sponsors the road cleanup, safety committee, is a liaison to various governmental bodies, provides donations to support our police, fire and EMS, safety classes on and off the lake, has fund-raisers, produces the fireworks show we will watch this weekend, the sailing races and regattas, and ... yes, social gatherings for kids and sailors and golfers and tea drinkers, etc.

During my term, several board members were worried I was being too harsh, always pestering for dues. A favorite story: one resident explained he did not pay dues since he did not attend the parties. We happened to both be standing at the corn and sausage roast at the time!

In 2000, I had Editor Phil change the Barker masthead to read: for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club. Don't be confused about the advertising in our weekly paper ... that money belongs to the Yacht Club. The paper you are reading

continued on next page

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Birch Lake Notes

right now costs money to produce. Please pay your dues.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Club, the various committees or for the fireworks, it will be gladly accepted (please attach the dues / donations slip so we know who to credit).

Maybe we can send a boat around the lake and make this convenient. Watch for a boat, before or after the Boat Parade, with a sign saying DUES / DONS.

Stepping off the soap-box, do have a fine Independence Day one and all!

-Bob King, C2k

Birch Lake stuff is still 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 476-2569; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383.

Review submitted to Marian the Librarian

Kite Runner

by *Khaled Hosseini*

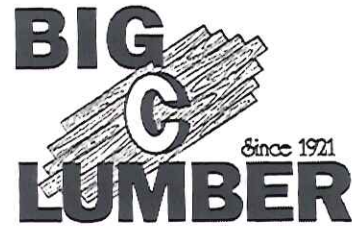
"I became what I am today at the age of 12, on a frigid overcast day in winter of 1975." So says Amir, the son of a wealthy businessman in Afghanistan. Amir is haunted by a childhood incident in which he betrayed the trust of his best friend, Hassan, who was also the son of his father's servant. This book is an educational and an eye-opening account of Afghanistan's political turmoil. Struggles and triumphs are long remem-

bered through the developing characters. The reader follows the life of Amir, his family's flight to America and then Amir's return to a Taliban-governed country to recover Hassan's son. Readers will learn some of the Afghanistani culture and maybe understand a bit more about a part of the world that we hear daily

in the news. A must read on everyone's list.

Kids wanted ...

WANTED: kids to attend BLYC functions. How about a car wash to raise some dough? And then we could raise some more dough, maybe at a pizza-pool-ping-pong-party. Or, pop-corn and a movie? Watch this space!



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Ed Bessinger
574-262-4346

BLYC MEN'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 29

Park Shore Golf Course
Florida Scramble / Shotgun Start
at Noon

\$60/golfer (with cart ... first 60 reservations with payment will get carts)

\$50/non-riding golfer

Prime rib dinner follows at 6 pm

RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

No. of Carts reserved: _____

Mail reservations to: Fred Freihofer, 50631 Deer Ridge Dr., Granger, IN 46350 (please include your entry fee for your team with your reservations ... make checks payable to BLYC).

BLYC Sailing News



Week 4 sailing scrubbed by too little wind and too much heat



Sailing Results — week 4

No wind, lots of heat, therefore no races, no scores, no race committee to thank (but Art McElwee and Deb Bolinger were on standby).

Bummer.

Fourth of July Regatta this weekend.

Start at 11 IN (due to Boat Parade at

3) on Saturday, try to get in 3 races.

Sunday start at 2 IN (due to Pancake Breakfast), try to get in 2 races.

Monday will be the rain or, in our case, lack-of-wind date if we need it.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain

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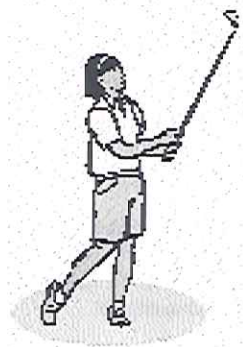
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Ladies Golf/Lunch



Friday, August 5

Park Shore Golf Course,
Cassopolis

9 am (IN) golfing
Noon Lunch
(at Lindy's, Dowagiac)

All levels of golfers welcome!

**Golf Entry Fee- \$27/per golfer
Fee covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's**

Interested in joining us for Lunch only? No pre-pay is necessary, but reservation is requested.

Send check (payable to BLYC) and reservation for golf and/or lunch by **Mon, Aug 1** to:

Nyla Erhardt
15214 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
Vandalia, MI 49095
Attn: Golf Outing

Name.....Golf.....Lunch

BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR RENT and/or FOR SALE

For Sale — Two-person Sea-Ryder Pedal Boat with sun canopy, flag holder, 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. 262-796-0189.

For Sale — 1992 Yamaha Waverunner - Good condition - includes 2 place trailer \$ 1,000 Ball # 104, 476-9775

Sale boat for sail: 14' day sailer with trailer. yellow and white. has competed successfully in the kids regatta. self baling; does NOT sink if tipped. good learning boat. \$300 OBO contact Lu

476-2652

WANTED:

Toddler bike or trike (or age appropriate riding toys for a 2-year old), croquet set. Please contact Beth Olson at jeffandbeth1@sbcglobal.net or 317.259.7540.

WANTED TO RENT

Want to rent lake place with 3 bedrooms or more for the week of July 24 (or days around weekend of July 30th). Cal Diana Henderson-Wozny at dwozny@crowchizek.com or 574-272-7896

LOST & FOUND

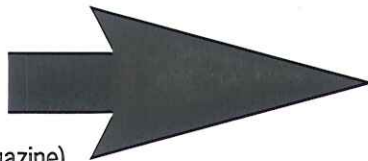
Lost: Wheel mounted to a short axle used on a shore station. Floated away this spring. Cottage 00, east lot next to the creek. Call Paul Rzeszewski 574-288-7936 or cell574-340-3542

GOT A CLASSIFIED?

Birch Barker classified ads are 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 the Barker 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:
Birch Lake Yacht Club

Total \$ _____

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 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.



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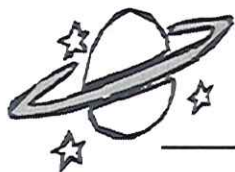
Linda & Terry Curtis

476-2431

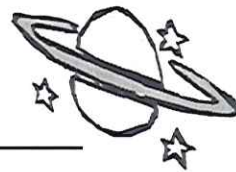
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Stu's Star Stuff



Dizzying speeds in space

How fast is Earth moving through space?

To begin with, Earth is rotating on its axis at the familiar rate of one revolution per day. F

or those of us living at Earth's mid-latitudes — including Birch Lake, most of the United States, Europe, and Japan — the rate is almost a thousand miles an hour. The rate is higher at the equator and lower at the poles.

As we all also know, in addition to this daily rotation, Earth orbits the Sun once a year at an average speed of 67,000 mph, or 18.5 miles a second.

Perhaps that seems a bit sluggish — after all, Mars Pathfinder journeyed to Mars at nearly 75,000 miles per hour. But buckle your chin straps folks. The Sun, Earth,

and the entire solar system also are in motion, orbiting the center of the Milky Way at a blazing 140 miles a second.

Even at this great speed, though, our planetary neighborhood still takes about 200 million years to make one complete lap — a testament to the vast size of our home galaxy.

Dizzy yet?

Well hold on.

The Milky Way itself is moving through the vastness of intergalactic space. Our galaxy belongs to a cluster of nearby galaxies called the Local Group, and together we are easing toward the center of our cluster at a leisurely 25 miles a second.

If all this isn't enough to make you feel you deserve an intergalactic speeding ticket, consider that we, along with our cousins in the Local

Group, are hurtling at a truly astonishing 375 miles a second toward the Virgo Cluster, an enormous collection of galaxies some 45 million light-years away.

A collision is inevitable, but not immanent, so don't reach for the ejector seat button just yet.

I'll let you know.

For now just stare out the windshield and enjoy the trip. The ride's free.

-Stu Spratt

million miles from earth) with an 820 pound impactor probe.

"It's a bullet trying to hit a second bullet with a third bullet in the right place at the right time," said Rick Grammier, project manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena.

No one knows what the outcome will be IF this shot is successful. The collision is hoped for on July 4 around 1:52 a.m. EDT, (that's 00:52 Indiana Standard Time).

The Moon tonight:

The moon for July 2, 2005
(at Midnight):
3.2 days before new (no) moon
Illuminated Fraction: 0.095

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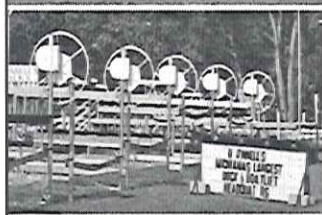
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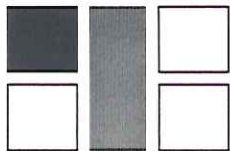


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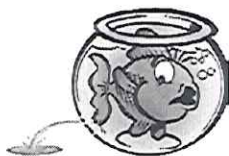
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-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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