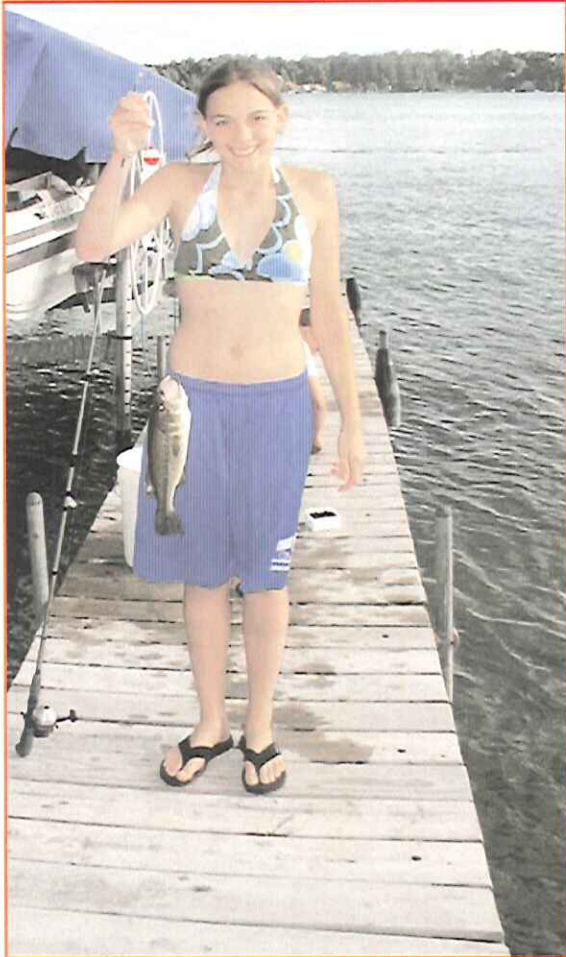




# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 9, 2005



*It was a great weekend for young fisher-people at Birch Lake! At left is Heather Cox's Big Catch of the day while visiting Rick & Patti Russwurm (North Shore) At right is proud Birch Lake fisherman Max Barnaby. Max is 6 yrs old and the grandson of Dave & Lynne Barnaby (north shore.). The fish in his right hand was over 20" long and weighed over 2 lbs. Mom's (Lisa) fish was also a good size.. Max & Mom are now fishing rivals! Below left is future Birch Lake fisherwoman Morgann Applegate (and family) who visited Pop-pop and Yummy for the weekend.*



## Fish story?

*Just in case anyone ever tells you that Birch Lake isn't an unbelievable place to fish, show 'em the the photo at left of the bass that was (allegedly) so anxious to get caught that it jumped right out of the water and tried to bite the shirt tail of this Birch Lake fisherman ... who, unlike the kids, seemed to be looking the wrong way.*

*photos by The PattiCam and Karen Blake*



### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

What a wonderful weekend we had ... only to hope you all had the same. It was full of fun things to do, and we did several of them. I guess I will start with our Friday afternoon. Nyla and the boys got home from grocery shopping, only to see the Beautiful Mrs. Parkinson (Franks Mother) She was busy hanging signs to WELCOME home her family that had been on their world trip. Nyla ran over and greeted her and shared some tape and found out Frank, Elizabeth, Maddie, Carmen, Bella and Frank, jr. would be home at 3:00. Well, 3:00 came and went. NO Parkinson family. Now we have to leave to go to dinner with our friends that live on Klinger Lake during the summer and Las Vegas (Lost Wages). Now Nyla does NOT want to leave she wants to see the neighbors. Now she was the one that made the plans to go to dinner so she can only be mad at herself. We left .

went to dinner then to Stateline Fireworks for some home entertainment. And home again.

We walked down by Frank & Elizabeth's and the house was dark. I think they seen us coming and turned the lights out and watched us. Not really!!! As soon as Nyla got up Saturday morning she had to get Ben and myself up for Baseball practice. But before we left we ventured over to WELCOME HOME the neighbors. It is GREAT to have them "home" from their 10-month trip. They are wonderful neighbors and were missed greatly! Parkinson's Welcome Home!!! Saturday afternoon the chauffeur for the Commodore and Vice-Commodore boat for the boat parade came to pick us up. Ryan, Shanna, Nyla, Ben, Luc, Mike Lutz and our friend Dave were off. #2 boat we were. Our oldest son Randy was in the paint ball boat with his friends Michael Curtis, Kyle Bernaciak and Chase Miller. I had to run to the paint ball shop on M-60 to get air for the popping sound you all heard as they

BLYC Calendar	
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

went by. They didn't have paint balls with them just he noise of the gun. They had a great time and you all did I am sure. Thank you Mike and Dave for the great ride around the lake. After the parade I took Ryan over to meet the man who is in charge of setting off the BEAUTIFUL firework show. Nyla asked him to show the boys how the show is set up and what they do. I think she really wanted to know but had the boys as front men. It sure was a BEAUTIFUL firework show this year. Thank you to all of you that donated and made it possible. I also want to

Continued on Page 5

**We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.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 (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.**

# WHATTA WEEKEND!



Images from the Fourth of July, 2005 on Birch Lake



All photos courtesy of The PattiCam and Bob King



# Birch Lake Notes

## Pancake Breakfast update

Don and I would like to thank everyone who attended the 4th of July Pancake Breakfast. We had 465 attending this year and will be donating \$1989.00 to Camp Tannadoonah.

Special thanks go out to Jim and Debbie Bolinger, Terri and Joe Sankey, Dave and Judy Olson, Mike and Katha Machalleck, Doris and Marty Sante, Sue and Bruce Wagner, Nila Erhardt and Luc, Peggy and Dick Cowen, Rick Harman and Barb (Harman) Rondot.

Again thanks for supporting Camp Tannadoonah and the Yacht Club.

*-Don and Lind Harman*

## Birch Lakers let their Creativity shine in the Sun!!

What a great showing of patriotism, creativity and ingenuity at the 2005 Boat Parade!! And this year was a first — the judges were actually bribed by the Floating Lemonade Stand.

A thank you goes to Sandy and Phil Vitale for escorting Grand Marshalls Bev and Herm Kruggel in their pontoon. A thank you also to Judges Katha Machalleck and Charlene Scheetz for their discriminating eyes to pick the champion boats, and to Dick Bender for supplying the numbers and for allowing the judges to use his pier for registration and distribution of the trophies. And a

thank you to all of you who waved and cheered for the boats as they went by.

The participants this year were:

- #1 Grand Marshall pontoon with Bev and Herm Kruggel
- #2 the BLYC official pontoon with Commodore John Erhardt and Vice-Commodore Ryan Gableman and families
- #3 Best Splash of Color — The "Got Paint" Boat with Chase Miller, Kyle Bernaciak, Mike Curtis, Randy Osborn
- #4 Best Krewe of Birch Lake — The Birch Lake Mardi Gras boat of Horvath/VanHuffel
- #5 Best Surfin' Party Boat — the Island Party Boat of the Williams family
- #6 Best Birch Lake Pirates — Patriotic Pirate Boat of the O'Neill families
- #7 Best Yankee Doodle Award — the Best of America Boat of the Wozniaks
- #8 Best Under Water Habitat Award — the Under the Sea Boat of the Lindzy families
- #9 Best Movie Theme Award — the "Never Grow Up" boat of the Troeger families
- #10 Best Birthday Barge Boat — the Uncle Bernie's 50th birthday Party Boat of the Garceau's
- #11 Best Full Moon Award — the Weesner Boat
- #12 The Big Bopper Award — the Birch Lake Bop Boat of the Witchie family
- #13 The Jimmy Buffet Award —

"Wasting away in Margaritaville" Boat of the Curtis families

- #14 Best Patriotic Award — the Lady Liberty Boat of the Green's and Lacey's
- #15 Best Treasure Boat — the Black Pearl Boat of the Luecht's
- #16 Most Refreshing Boat — the Lemonade Boat of the Phenis' and Troyer's
- #17 Best Red, White and Blue Boat — the Patriotic Boat of the Barnaby's
- #18 Best of the Class Award — the 2005 Graduation Boat of the Wos family

Now is the time to start planning for next year's boat parade while there are still lots of 4th of July ideas around.

*-Judy Olson*

## Porter Twp Sewer Board

The Porter Township Sewer Board would like residents to know that board members 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.

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**Have A Safe and Fun Summer!**

# Birch Lake Notes

## Kids Dog Day

Attention Birch Lake KIDS!! Come join us for KIDS Dog Day at the Yacht Club today, Saturday, July 9, from 11am-12:30 pm (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 Birch Lake parents or grandparents have ideas or interest in promoting future Birch Lake KIDS' events, please let us know. We'd love to get more Birch Lakers involved. 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 ptothrus@prodigy.net.

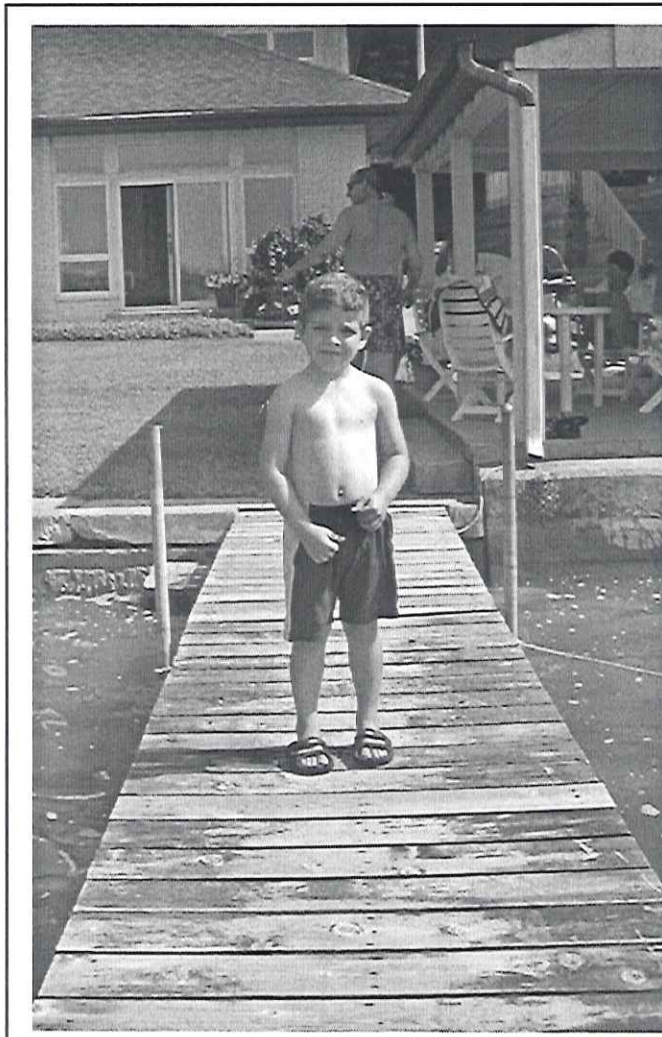
-Paula Russell

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



## Birch Barker Kid of the Week

*Jake Rogers, son of Tom and Shelly Rogers (north side), is this week's Barker Kid of the Week.*

*Jake is a neat kid who has enjoyed Birch Lake a lot, according to his neighbors, Bill and Le King (pictured in the background).*

*Jake and his family will soon be leaving Birch Lake and moving to Austin, Texas ... give them a wave as you go by in your boat and let them know we'll miss them.*

photo courtesy of Bob King

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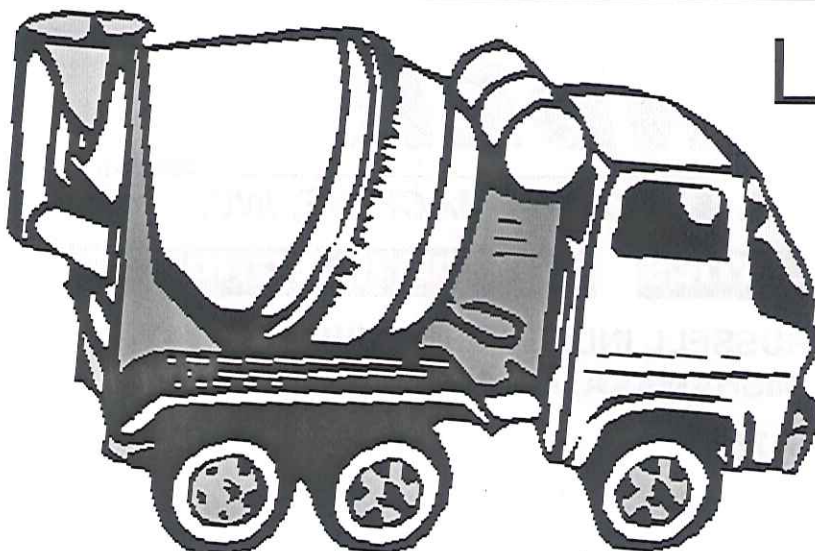
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say a big Thank you to Mike Lutz his friend Joe and our son Randy for the help cleaning up after the show. Randy was on Scuba duty when he drew the short straw. In the water he went looking for anything in the water. I think he enjoyed it though. You can call him Scuba Randy now.

Sunday was a busy day again. Nyla got her first and NOT last taste of helping with the Pancake breakfast. She said she had so much fun seeing everyone and she even remembered almost everyone's name. She said she does not want orange juice for a while. (She can't have it anyway it raises her sugar too much.) Home she came and off to Klinger Lake with the boys in tow to see how they do their fireworks. I met them there you see we were going to show the house on Monday to a family from Chicago. I had to repair the ceiling in the living room. We had a leak And I replaced the roof and

had to fix the ceiling. The fireworks at Klinger Lake were nice but not as nice as ours! We got home around 1:30am Monday morning and off to sleep we went.

Nyla cracked the whip Monday morning. We cleaned from wall to wall and floor to ceiling. She and the boys went over to Mike Lutz home to hang out with he and his sister and family. She had to take the boys and both dogs as the house was going to be shown at 4:30. Again I joined them later. Mike took us all for a boat ride and the boys for a Jet Ski ride. I am sure you all heard Nyla he took her for a ride too. She loves/hates them. She has a VERY hard time staying upright once she gets on the seat. Seems she has NO balance. She screams all the way around the lake and falls off as soon as it slows down. Poor Mike needs ear plugs when she gets on behind him. I will say WE are sorry for her loudness. No one was hurt

only having a good time.

Don't forget about the Board meeting tomorrow at the Yacht club at 9 am. Also, the Kids Dog Day at the Yacht Club from 11-12:30. Please plan on attending the meeting and going home to get the kids and come back for their time to play and make ne%v friends. It should be a great time for them all.

I am on my way to baseball practice and then home to play on the lake. For now get out there and have fun too. Splish Splashin' Away... John Erhardt, Commodore 2005

Splish Splashin' Away.

-John Erhardt, Commodore 2005

**A note on color**

Thanks to the anonymous donor who donated the money to cover the addition of color for pages 1 and 2 of this week's Birch Barker.



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## BLYC MEN'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

**Friday, July 29**  
Park Shore Golf Course  
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**\$60/golfer (with cart ... first 60 reservations with payment will get carts)**

**\$50/non-riding golfer**

**Prime rib dinner follows at 6 pm**

---

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Payment Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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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

## Fourth of July Regatta results



Birch Lake sailors enjoy a challenge.

Last weekend's light and variable winds certainly provided a great challenge. We only did 2 races on Sunday instead of 3 since the race

committee mutinied (they were getting seasick due to the chop of the power boats).

Thanks to our race committees; Saturday - Artie McElwee, Dave Olson, Cathy Norton and Chuck Scherbauer; Sunday - Artie McElwee, Deb Bolinger and Lind Harman.

Place/Name .....1st .....2nd.....3rd.....4th.....Total

### MC Class

1. Scott Troeger	.....1	.....3	.....1	.....1	.....5.7
2. Rick Harman	.....4	.....1	.....2	.....2	.....14.0
3. Don Harman	.....2	.....2	.....4	.....4	.....22.0
4. Harold Cranmer	.....3	.....4	.....3	.....5	.....29.4
5. Jim Bolinger	.....5	.....6	.....5	.....3	.....37.4
6. Phil Vitale	.....8	.....5	.....7	.....6	.....48.7
7. Bill Luecht	.....7	.....8	.....6	.....7	.....51.7
8. Caleb Walker	.....6	.....DNS	.....8	.....9	.....55.7
9. Rick Russwurm	.....9	.....7	.....9	.....8	.....57.0

### Sunfish

1. Sandy Vitale	.....3	.....1	.....1	.....3	.....14.4
1. Erica Vitale	.....1	.....3	.....3	.....2	.....14.4
3. Dave Olson	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....1	.....1	.....18.0
4. Nancy Walker	.....2	.....DNS	.....4	.....5	.....29.0
5. Steve Richards	.....4	.....2	.....5	.....6	.....32.7
6. Scofield boat	.....DNS	.....DNS	.....6	.....4	.....37.7

### Give the sailors a break

During last weekend's Fourth of July Sailboat Regatta, there were several incidences of power boats cutting off sailboats, interfering with the races and/or nearly swamping sailboats by coming too close at high speed.

Power boaters and operators of personal watercraft (jet skis) are asked to behave responsibly at all times, especially during the Sunday sailboat races. Remember that Michigan law requires that ANY power boat making a wake must stay at least 100 feet away from ALL other boats, piers, rafts and people.

In addition, please remember that a sailboat ALWAYS has the right of way over a power boat (unless the power boat is anchored or otherwise dead in the water).

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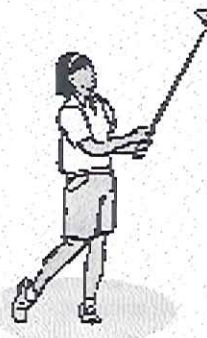
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## Ladies Golf/Lunch



**Friday, August 5**

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**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 Sale** — Recliner Chair — \$75. See Becky at Tom's Garage.

**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** — 21" Toro rear bagger, self-propelled lawn mower. 5 HP Briggs & Stratton 4-cycle engine. Asking \$100. Call (269) 476-2461 or (574) 255-8126

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

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baling; does NOT sink if tipped. good learning boat. \$300 OBO contact Lu 476-2652

**WANTED:**

Croquet set. Please contact Beth Olson at jeffandbeth1@sbcglobal.net or 317.259.7540.

**Wanted** — Older pair of rowboat oars. Call Bud at 476-2526.

**WANTED TO RENT**

Want to rent lake place with 3 bedrooms or more for the week of July 24 (or days around week-

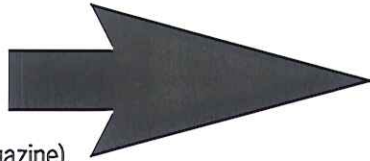
end of July 30th). Contact Diana Henderson-Wozny at dwozny@crowechizek.com or 574-272-7896

**GOT A CLASSIFIED?**

Birch Barker classifieds are free for members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members must pay \$5. Put your ad 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)



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## 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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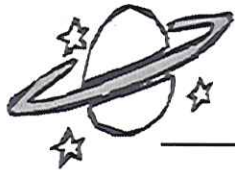
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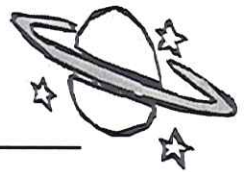


'on our knees to please'





# Stu's Star Stuff



## Dizzying speeds in space

**T**he evening sky offers up a number of beautiful treats this weekend.

One being a tight grouping of the Moon and the planets Venus and Mercury. As twilight fades this evening, brilliant Venus stands a little below the Moon, with fainter Mercury farther to the lower left.

The moon itself, a waxing crescent, rests in Leo tonight, near the neck of the cosmic cat. Four degrees (8 moon diameters) to Luna's left, and somewhat lower, sits Regulus, the lion's heart. Venus will pass close to Regulus about 2 weeks from now. The separation between star and planet is currently 15 degrees (1-1/2 fist widths).

Continue monitoring the Venus-Regulus spread each night that you are able.

To find Leo imagine the bottom falling out of the Big Dipper. If it did, water would pour down onto Leo's back. Look for the backward question mark that represents Leo's head. Regulus is the reddish star near the bottom of the question

mark.

Scorpius, one of my favorites, is now highest near the end of evening twilight. Bright reddish Antares, heart of the scorpion, skitters across the south shore about 1-1/2 hours after sundown. This magnificent constellation is a favorite of serious skywatchers, but can be easily overlooked by casual observers in temperate latitudes where Scorpius always remains low in the sky. Southern skywatchers have an advantage since the scorpion climbs higher with decreasing latitude, reaching the zenith for those 20 to 30 degrees below the equator.

Draco, the Dragon, is a popular but dim constellation in the northern sky. Its brightest star, 2nd-magnitude Eltanin, passes 10 degrees (a fist width) below overhead about 3 hours after sunset. In England, where the star climbs even closer to overhead, Eltanin has been known as "ZenithStar."

Eltanin sits within the head of the beast. The Dragon's body hangs below the head. The tail wraps around the bowl of the Little Dipper then drops between the

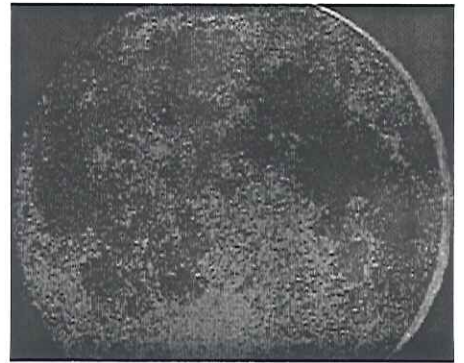
two Dippers.

Often a little imagination is useful when enjoying the night sky.

Next week some legends to go along with the pictures.

Enjoy the show. It's free.

### The Moon tonight:



The moon for July 9, 2005 (at Midnight):  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.123  
4.3 days before first quarter

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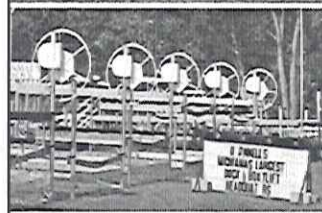


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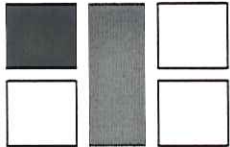
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