

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 30, 2005



Three butterflies discovered by Kim Spratt and Carol Freihofer in the Freihofer yard.

photo by Bob King

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Well it was a very different week for the Erhardt family. Nyla had her shoulder surgery on Tuesday at the wonderful O.S.M.C. in Elkhart. She had a wonderful experience there and is recommending them to anyone who needs that type of service. We have a neighbor that is a Doctor there, Dr Peyer and his family purchased the Nagy home on the east side. Nyla had her rotator cuff repaired Tuesday morning and I brought her home early afternoon. She is doing great. I think the only problem she is having is doing her seat belt up to drive. If she pulls up without it done up please help her click it so she does NOT get a ticket.

I hope everyone made it to the spaghetti dinner Saturday night, if not sorry about your luck. It was the best I have had. Sorry Nyla, Beth is a better pasta sauce maker. I took some sauce home for Sunday lunch and Nyla ended up having it for her breakfast. She couldn't wait. It was wonderful. THANK YOU Beth and Howard and to all your helpers for all you did.

The baseball is really over now no

more for this season. We ended it Friday night after the game on Thursday was postponed because of the big rain storm in Sturgis. I had a great time coaching the boys and I think the had a great time playing.

I heard a rumor this past week. It was told to me that I retired from pest control. The rumor is false. Please if you have anything to be done give my cell phone a call and I will get back to you. You can also call Nyla's cell phone and leave a message. 269-744-7082. I am working at Goshen Coach during the days but I am available in the evenings and weekends. We needed medical insurance so to the factory I went. Nyla is staying home with the boys.

This weekend is going to be a busy one at the lake. Get ready to start running to keep up with things. The mens' golf outing was today (Friday), and Saturday we have the garage sales, great tube float and the Mardi Gras Party at the yacht club. Please plan on doing as much as you can.

The tube float is going to be as many of us as we can get together out in the middle of the lake and socialize. Nyla heard of another way to do a tube float and it sounds like good fun to her, but we

BLYC Calendar

July 29	Men's Golf Outing
July 30	Garage Sale & Great Tube Float
July 30	BLYC Mardi Gras Party
Aug. 5	Ladies Golf Outing
Aug 6	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 27	Fall Dinner

have to wait until she gets her stitches out. Blair & Bernie told her that we start at someone's home and all float around the lake visiting everyone that is outside. Now that sounds like a great time too. Nyla wants to do that one too. More to follow on that one.

This is the last weekend for the ladies to get signed up for their golf outing. If you do not want to do the golf and plan on meeting them for lunch at Lindy's, just let Nyla know if you are coming to lunch so you have a seat. They are also still looking for donations for their auction. Ask Pam Mullen about the clock she got last year.

I think I have mentioned everything so let's get busy and have some fun on the lake. Be safe and enjoy yourself.

Splish Splashin' Away.

John Erhardt
Commodore 2005.

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

Birch Lake Notes

Garage Sale Saturday

I have had a good response to our annual garage sale event. To those of you who called me, a big thank you. Birch Lakers and many from around our area can come visit garage sales on the east side, west side, south side, Harvey Street and Kinsey Street.

In addition to garage sale items, you can find craft items on the south side of the lake. Have fun!

Remember, someone else's no-longer-wanted-treasures may be just what you are looking for. Please look for the posted garage sale signs.

-Charlene Sheetz

Line Dancing

Line Dancers continue to have a great time. Feel free to join us at the Yacht Club every Monday morning 10:30 am Indiana time.

Corn & Sausage

Mark Your Calendar! The Corn and Sausage Roast will be held on Saturday, August 6, serving food from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm.

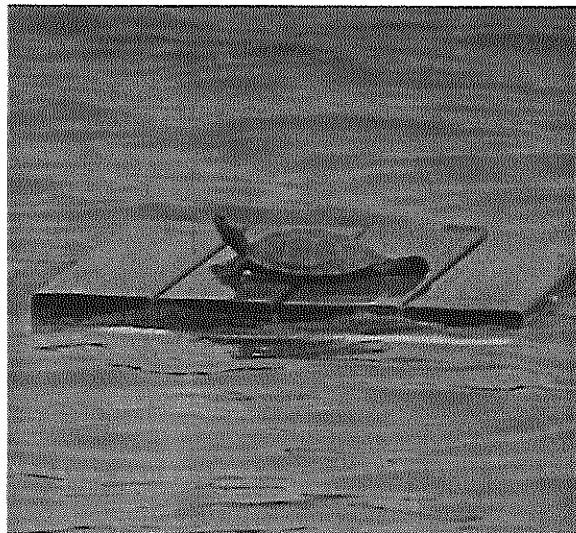
Once again we will be serving grilled chicken breasts on a limited basis, so come early if brats aren't your thing. Our combo meals include your meat choice, corn, four sides, cookies and one beverage. The donation canister will be out for

Turtle Raft Craft Project

Hey Kids!!

Join us for Turtle Raft Craft on Saturday, August 13th, between 10:00-11:30 (IN time). We'll help you construct your very own Turtle Raft, thanks to the creative idea of Jeff and Denise Smitley. We'll have some other crafty turtle treasures as well.

In order to get an idea of how much material we will need, please call Paula Russell (476-1880) or Denise Smitley (476-9000) if you will be coming. We're trying to raise donations to cover the cost of materials, but we may ask for a small



fee if we can't cover the entire cost. More on that in future Barkers...

Hope to see you at

the Yacht Club!

-Paula Russell and
Denise Smitley

additional canned drinks.

Prices are: \$5 for a hot dog meal, \$6 for a bratwurst meal, and \$7 for a chicken breast meal. Hope to see you there.

Ladies golf info

The ladies golf outing is still looking

for donations for the auction at the luncheon. Anything you have would be greatly appreciated. Please drop them off at the Erhardt's or give Nyla a call at 269-744-7082 and leave a message she will return your call. Also ladies please get your reservations in soon.

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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

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; **Tee Shirts,** Jerzee heavyweight blend white with navy blue imprint, Youth Sizes Small (6-8) Medium (10-12) Large (14-16) — \$10; Adult Sizes Small, Medium, Large, and X-Large — \$12; Adult XX-Large, and XXX-Large — \$14.

To buy or order any item call Vickie Rogers at 476-2383

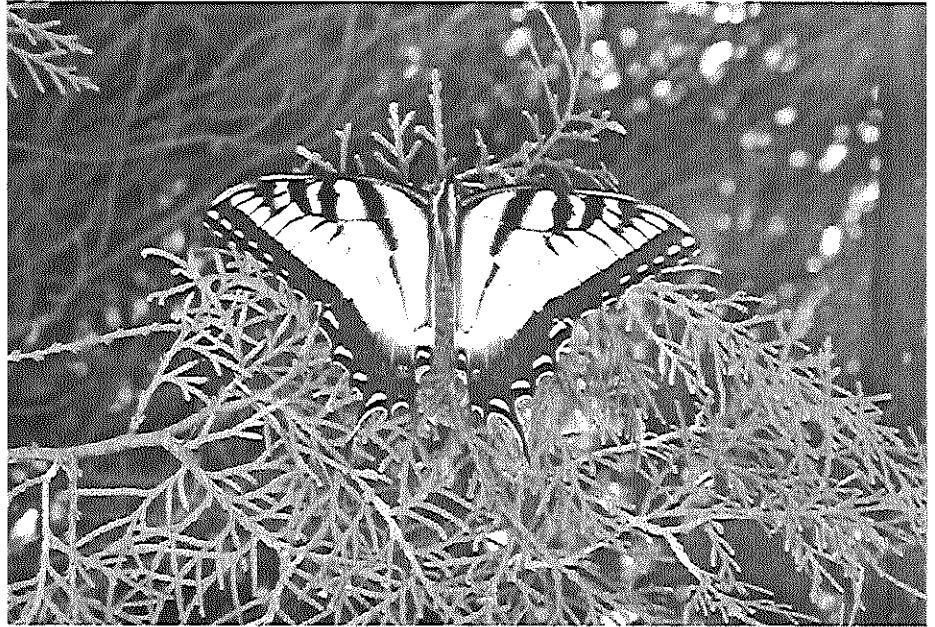
Newberg EMS Ambulance Department Port-A-Pit BBQ

August 13th the Newberg Ambulance Department will be sponsoring a Port-A-Pit chicken and rib dinner fund raiser at their Fire Department on the corner of M-60 and M-40. They will be serving savory roasted chicken and ribs starting at 11 a.m. until they are gone.

Chicken dinners are only \$6 per person and rib dinners will be \$7. Come on over and support your local Fire Department on Saturday August 13th and have a great dinner while your at it. Carry outs are available too!

Marine Division phone number

At the last BLYC board meeting, several people expressed concern about bad and illegal boating practices. If you witness a crime, you are urged to call the



Another nice butterfly photo from Mr. Bob.

photo by Bob King

Cass County Marine Division at 445-1225 and make a report.

Weesner memorial planned

There will be a memorial service on Aug. 27 at the Birch Lake Yacht Club for Berneil Weesner. It will be at 10:30 AM.

Porter Sewer Board

The Porter Township Sewer 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; Gert Temple, 476-2773 and Pam Bryant, Shavehead Lake, 641-2001. For information see <http://www.wightmanassoc.com/porter/porter.html>

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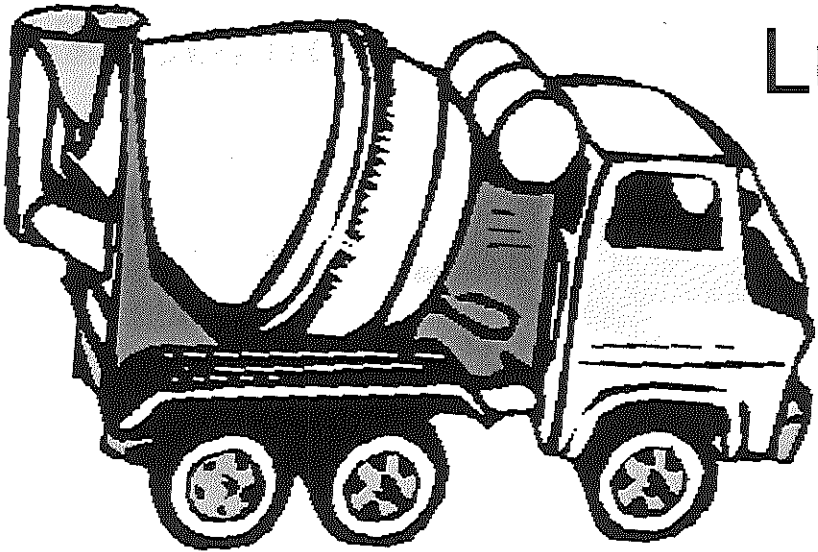
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Birch Lake Notes

Starters needed

Birch Lake Yacht Club Fleet Captain Dave Olson has issued an urgent call for help.

The weekly sailboat races are in need of a starting committee boat and crew to help start, finish and score the races. No experience is necessary; Olson will provide all the training needed.

The races take approximately 2 hours beginning at 11 am or 1 pm on Sundays

(depending on the wind).

If you can volunteer, please contact Dave Olson by calling 476-2125.

Spaghetti Dinner

What a wonderful dinner last Saturday at the Yacht Club! Thank you, Beth and Howard Blackwood and your "Cove Crew," for cooking and serving such great spaghetti.

-Judy and Dave Olson

Safe boating reminders:

Capacity plates are located in the vessel for your safety. Remember each person weighs 150 pounds according to the law (but not your tailor). Do not exceed this number or pound value. Failure to do so may be viewed as "careless operation".

Other Important Reminders:

- PFDs cannot be stored in plastic bags.
- All boats must stay at least 200 feet away from a diving flag. A diving flag is a red flag with a diagonal white stripe. It may be seen on a floating buoy or even displayed on a boat.
- The operator of the vessel must have the registration on board.
- Intoxicated vessel opera-

tors go to jail!

- You are liable for damage caused by your wake.
- It is illegal to ride on the side (gunwale) or covered bow of the boat, unless the manufacturer designed the boat for that use.
- Children 12 to 16 years of age must have a Boating Safety Certificate to operate a motorboat of six horsepower or more. The certificate must be in their possession while operating the boat.
- Some insurance companies give lower rates to skippers who have completed safety courses.
- When towing a skier or tuber it is essential to let your observer observe while you pilot the boat.

-Dave Bouwkamp
Safety Committee

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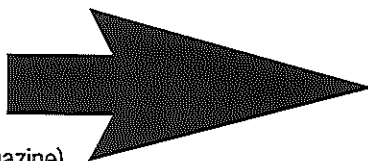
Birch Barker Bug of the Week



Since no one submitted a photo of a kid this week, we chose the Bug of the week ...
photo by Bob King

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 \$ _____



BLYC Sailing News



July 24th Regatta windy & hot!

Windy and hot. What more could we ask for. So we sailed 4 races, one more and we would have had a "Twenty Fourth of July" Regatta.
We thank the Race

Committee — Phil and Sandy Vitale, and Morgann and Sanya Applegate.

*-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain
2005*

Kids ... want to sail? RegattaKidz!

Date: Saturday August 13...Sunday August 14 (back-up)
Place: Bill King's (north side) — Watch this space in next Week's Barker for more details
Rules: Kids must be onboard to enter.
Bring: PFD, water shoes, kidz. Refreshments, briefing, sailing

Name	1st Race	2nd Race	3rd Race	4th Race	Average
MC Class					
1. Scott Troeger	DNC	DNC	2	1	1650
2. Harold Cranmer	1	2	3	4	1622
3. Don Harman	2	1	5	3	1593
4. Rick Harman	3	3	1	2	1544
5. Jim Bolinger	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	1435
6. Bill Luecht	4	5	6	5	1423
7. Phil Vitale	RC	RC	RC	RC	1390
8. Caleb Walker	5	4	4	DNC	1358
9. Rick Russwurm	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	1227

Sunfish					
Name	1st Race	2nd Race	3rd Race	4th Race	Average
1. Tom Howard	STT	STT	STT	STT	1708
2. Dave Olson	3	1	2	3	1671
3. Erica Vitale	1	2	1	1	1583
4. Sandy Vitale	RC	RC	RC	RC	1552
5. Steve Richards	4	DNS	5	2	1487
6. Chris Lintner	DNC	3	3	4	1480
7. Nancy Walker	2	4	4	DNC	1459
8. Cal King & Neil Troeger	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	1376

DNC-Did Not Compete
DNS-Did Not Start

RC -Race Committee
STT -Stopped To Teach



Dave's Residential Services

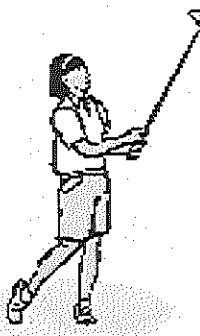
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Ladies Golf/Lunch



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

Spaghetti Dinner a huge success!

MAMA MIA what a gathering we had for our first Spaghetti Dinner. We sold more than 200 tickets, and served 198 people with very little left over.

Everyone seemed to enjoy not only the dinner but a true family dinner where people stayed to socialize with neighbors and friends.

This successful dinner was made possible with the help of many people. We had many volunteers, and the following people we thank: our kitchen helpers Phil and Sandy Vitale, relief help from Erica Vitale, Steve Richards, Deb Bolinger, and Anne Thomas. Our appreciation to our dessert server Blair Garceau, and the volunteers who baked in the heat of the day, Loretta Drolet, Kay Dennert, Judy Olson, Ilene Golden, Blair Garceau, Deb Bolinger, Patty Luecht, Sandy Vitale and Linda Bergan.

Judy Olson was our greeter and ticket

taker. Lind Harman sold our new tee shirts and other Birch Lake stuff with great success. Bob King was our energizer traffic-control person. Dressed in a fluorescent orange vest and safari hat he had your attention, a great job.

We walked the lake to leave flyers about the dinner one week before the event, then walked the lake again to knock on doors and sell tickets in advance, which helped in our food planning and preparation.

Our ticket holders on the lake were: South side Dave Bouwkamp, North side Patti Russwurm, Tom and Vickie Rogers covered the Cove and West side, and Judy Olson, who covered the East side, was ruthless in her ticket sales, outselling all of us. She is therefore crowned our Super Sales Person of Birch Lake!

It is with great joy that we are able to present our Yacht Club with a profit check

of \$900.

A Huge "Thank You" goes to all the Birch Lake residents their family and friends who supported us and Birch Lake Yacht Club in making our dinner one to remember in the summer of 2005.

**-Howard and Beth Blackwood
Jim and Linda Bergan
Tom and Vickie Rogers**

Tee shirt sales kicked off well

Our new tee shirts were intruded at the Spaghetti Dinner with Lind Harman taking the table to handle sales. The shirts were well received, and Lind sold shirts for a total of \$492. Hats off to Lind for a great job.

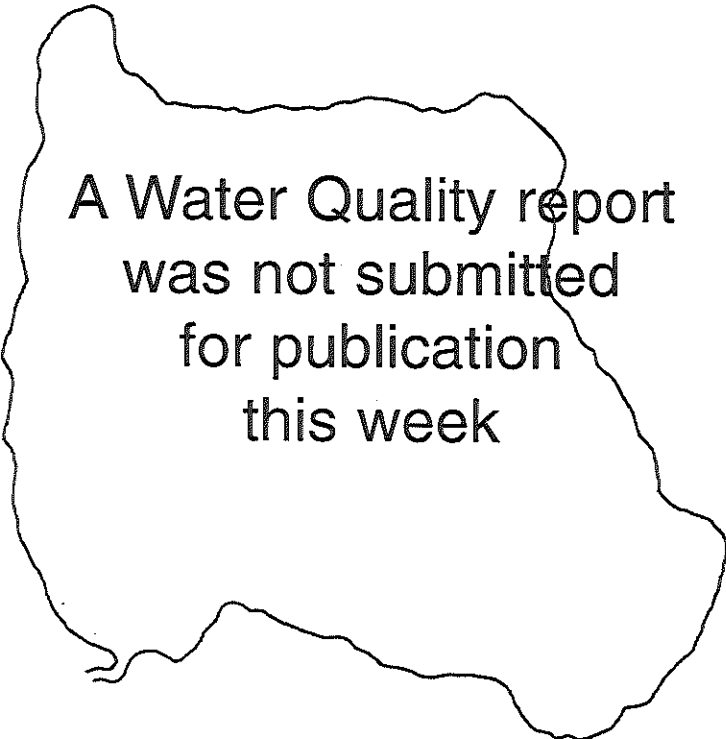
These tee shirts along with visors and totes can be purchased by calling Vickie at 476-2383.

Thank you!

-Vickie Rogers

Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report

submitted by Dan Reynolds



A Water Quality report
was not submitted
for publication
this week

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BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

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 — Cedar pier sections; approximately 48 foot with approximately 10x10 platform — plus hardware and a ladder. \$500. 476-9658 or (219) 464-4268.

For Sale — 20" White Electric Range, approximately 7 years old. In perfect working condition, we just prefer a gas stove. \$100. 476-9000 Fri-Mon, west side.

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

For Sale — 1987 Viking (10)

Deck Boat. Interior was redone in 2001. Motor is in good running condition. The gas gauge may not work correctly, cause my (grown) children keep running out of gas. We also have a shore station with a good cover. \$3,000 for both or make us an offer on either. Call 476-2840

For Sale — 1994 Dodge Caravan SE with hitch. Asking \$500 or best offer. 1989 Yamaha Wave Runner with lift, \$600. Float with aluminum pontoons \$200. Contact Charlene, 476-2604.

FOR RENT

For Rent — One week, aug. 6 - 13 at Broadway Sheraton Plantation in Myrtle Beach, So. Carolina. 2 bedrooms; sleeps eight with full kitchen. Also Lazy River, swimming pool, tennis court, weight room and daily activities for adults and children. Sheraton Broadway Plantation is close to Restaurant Row, the Atlantic Ocean and the Palace Theatre, Alabama Theatre and Legends in Concert. There are many golf courses, also. Call for

particulars, 476-2604. Ask for Charlene or Harold. Other dates are available. Please call for those dates.

WANTED:

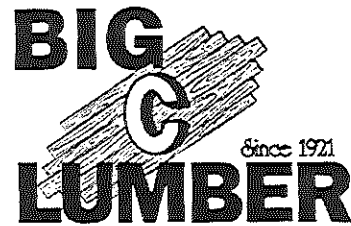
Wanted: Croquet set. Contact Beth Olson at jeffandbeth1@sbc-global.net or 317.259.7540.

Wanted: Queen Sized Mattress in

good condition. Call Heather at 574-243-8367.

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@philvitale.com



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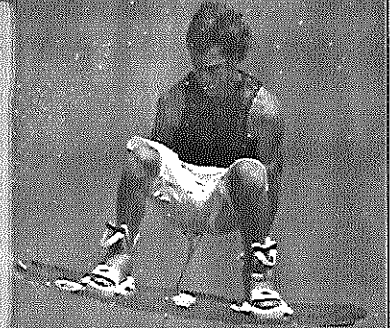
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2005 BLYC Officers and Board of Directors

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Secretary - Sandy Vitale.....476-1680	Vicki Rogers.....476-2383	Bob Temple.....476-2773
Treasurer - Holly Troeger.....476-9898	Paula Russell.....476-1880	Phil Vitale.....476-1680
Fleet Captain - Dave Olson.....476-2125	Rick Russwurm.....476-2407	Sandy Vitale.....476-1680
Past Comm - Stewart Spratt.....476-2133	Charlene Sheetz.....476-2604	

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


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

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, Phil Vitale 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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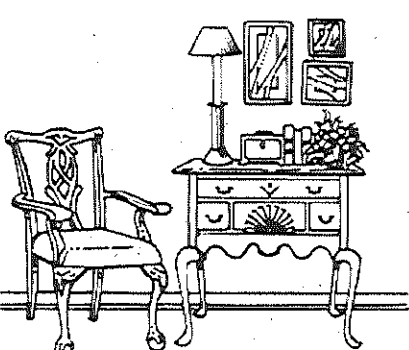
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fax (269) 476-9555

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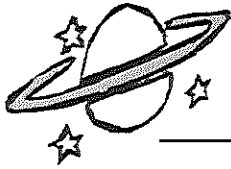
Linda & Terry Curtis

476-2431

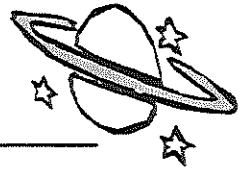
63093 Birch Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095



Bonded & Insured
'on our knees to please'



Stu's Star Stuff



Defining the constellations

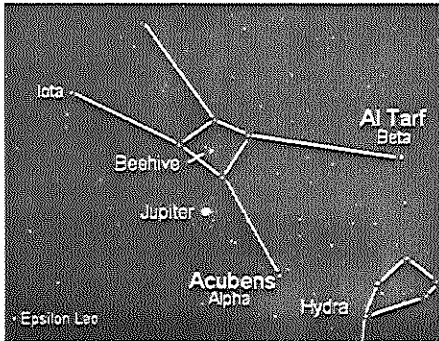
Several constellations of the zodiac stretch across the southern sky at nightfall. Leo nosedives toward the western horizon; Virgo stretches to its southeast; Scorpius is due south, and Sagittarius is climbing in the southeast, close to the full Moon.

These famous constellations consist of more than stick figures outlined by bright stars, though. They have precise boundaries, like the borders between countries or states here on Earth. Those boundaries received final approval from astronomers 75 years ago.

Until then, there was no universally accepted system for defining the constellations. Different star atlases showed different borders, and even entirely different constellations. But this chaos made it tough for astronomers to compare notes on their discoveries.

So in 1925, the International Astronomical Union appointed Eugene Delporte, an astronomer and draftsman, to create a uniform map of the sky — divided into 88 constellations.

Using several existing atlases as guides, Delporte drew boundaries along



lines that are equivalent to the lines of latitude and longitude on Earth. But he created some odd shapes to make sure that the constellations incorporated all the correct stars from the classical star patterns.

The IAU approved Delporte's work in 1928. But it wasn't finalized until it was published in 1930. This work laid out the geography of the sky, and gave every star its own constellation to call home.

On a different note, for you meteor enthusiasts, the Delta Aquarid meteor shower reached its peak on Thursday night. It is not a strong shower, producing a meteor every 4 or 5 minutes on average. But its peak is broad, lasting a week or

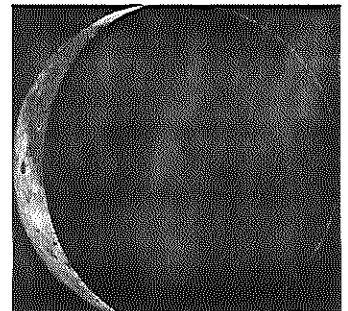
more, so there are still some meteors to be seen. Also, the Delta Aquarid shower overlaps with the beginning of the well-known Perseid shower. So some observers think of the Delta Aquarids as the warmup act for the Perseids.

More on that later. Get comfortable in a lawn chair and see how many you can spot. The later you're out there the better. This show goes on at no charge.

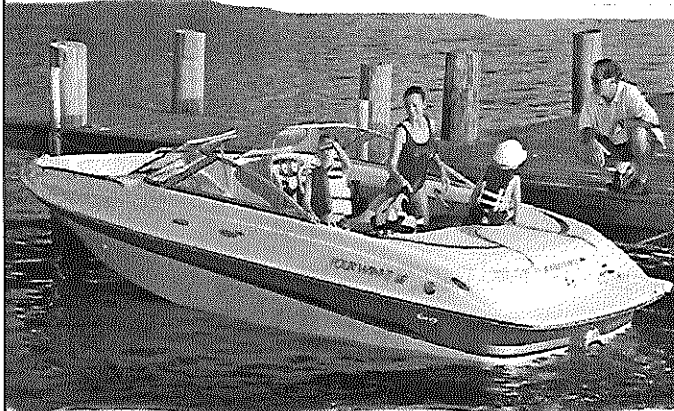
-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:

The moon for July 30, 2005 (at Midnight):
Illuminated Fraction: 0.198
3.2 days after last quarter



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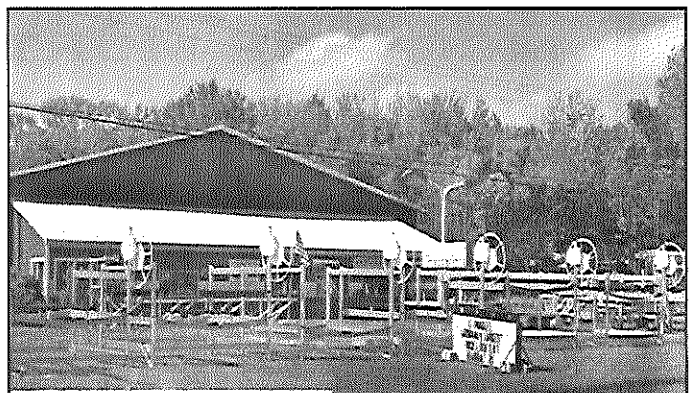


FOUR WINNS

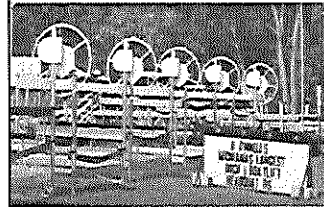
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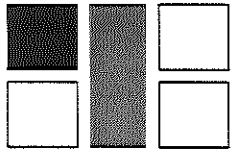
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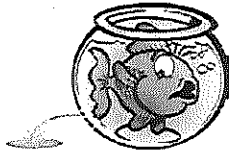
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