

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 6, 2005



The starting line of last Sunday's sailboat races.

photo by BadPatty Luecht

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Wow what a great weekend we all had. The weather was beautiful.

I want to start this article off by saying a huge 'Thank You' to Fred Freihofer for a great mens' golf outing. He did a great job again this year. Thank you Fred.

This week was as usual. Monday Nyla and the boys were watching the show Average Joe when our GOOD friend Mike Lutz came a-knocking. He was taking a leisure drive around the lake, and wanted us to join him. Nyla was concerned about the rain coming. Mike convinced her there was NONE. Ha ha. As we turned the curve to head to the east side the rain started lightly. As we went on the harder it came and the colder she got. Mike being the fine Captain he is turned around took us home. She didn't get too wet and made it to the house safely.

Not much on Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday Nyla and the boys were invited to join Patty, Katie and John Luecht for a swim in the middle of the lake. It really doesn't take her long to get ready when someone offers her a boat ride. They always have fun when playing in the water. Thank you Patty and family for taking them along.

Becky Wiseman and Deb Taghon and Nyla had a girls night out. After getting showered and ready to go Nyla picked up the girls and went out to dinner. It was a good time for them all. Good conversation and quiet time just for friendship. Social time.

Friday I had to work early but joined all the guys at the golf outing. I had a 3-

man team. One of my teammates could not get out of work at the last minute. I think my team of Bill Luecht, my son Randy and myself had the most fun. "MY" other team, of our son Benjamin his father Corky and friends from Klinger lake, also had a great time. It was nice to have Corky join us this year. Again Thank you Fry for a great day. The dinner in the evening was oh so good. It is always fun to socialize with all our friends.

Nyla and our littlest one Lucas joined Patty and the kids and Sandy & Phil Vitale's family for dinner in Elkhart. They had a great time. On her way home she stopped at Dr. Peyer's home to see if her shoulder was ready for some lake water. He checked the incision and said she was good to go as long as the wing was not used. Man did he make her a happy woman.

Saturday morning Nyla woke up early and thought it would be nice to get all of us up to check out all the garage sales and get a jump on the professional garage salers. We did find some good things we thought we had to have. I hope everyone did well and got rid of their treasure. Thanks to Char Sheetz for placing the ads and putting up signs.

In the afternoon we decided it was time to think about getting ready for the Mardi Gras party at the Yacht Club. Up we went to decorate and ready the place. It was a good time for those who made it. We did have the pleasure of having Denny & Keith Weesner and one of our old neighbors on the lake, John Gableman. It is always nice so see their smiles out and about. Mike Lutz purchased hurricane mix, he & I mixed them up. Man did Nyla enjoy them.

BLYC Calendar

- Aug. 5.....Ladies Golf Outing
- Aug. 6.....Corn & Sausage Roast
- Aug. 13.....Board of Directors Meeting
- Aug. 13.....Kids Turtle Raft Project
- Aug. 13.....RegattaKidz
- Aug. 27.....Fall Dinner

Sunday was a special day at the Erhardt's — my sister and brother-in-law (Cheryl & Tom) came in from Dallas. Tom has meetings in Chicago so they flew in Friday night and are staying with their daughter Tracy in town (South Bend). They came up for dinner and laughs. It was and always fun when we get together. Sorry I forgot to let all her "OLD" friends know she was going to be in town so you could stop by for a visit.

MEETING!!!

Okay now that I have your attention there will be a Board Meeting at the Yacht Club on August 13th at 9am IST. This will be the last meeting of the year for myself as Commodore, and I will pass the gavel on the Vice Commodore Ryan Gableman. Please plan to attend. Everyone is welcome.

Corn & Sausage!!!

Please plan to attend the Corn & Sausage Roast tomorrow night at the Yacht Club starting at 5:30 - 7:30pm. I will tell you it will be yummy. You can also catch up with the lake neighbors you don't see often. It is very social. See you there!

I will let you get our to enjoy yourself on the lake just remember be safe and have fun.

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 (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

Birch Lake Notes

Homeowners Meeting

The BLYC Homeowners Committee will have its annual meeting on Saturday, Aug. 27 at 9 am at the Yacht Club. To answer questions regarding the sewer, special guests will include Ken Jones of Wightman Petrie and Carl Klappauf of the Porter Twp. Sewer Board.

The Princess

The Princess leaves Friday night, the last night of camp for the summer. We think it will start around 7:15 or 7:30, at least that is when Council Fires were scheduled on the previous Friday nights.

Corn & Sausage

The Corn and Sausage Roast will be this Saturday, August 6, serving food from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. Combo meals include your meat choice, corn, four sides, cookies and one beverage. Prices are \$5 for a hot dog meal, \$6 for a bratwurst meal, and \$7 for a chicken breast meal. The donation can will be out for additional canned drinks.

Line Dancing

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



Three generations of "Golden Girls" L to R: Amy, Baby Easton, Lisa, and Ilene Golden

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.

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

EMS Port-A-Pit BBQ

August 13th the Newberg Ambulance Department will sponsor a Port-A-Pit chicken and rib dinner fund raiser at the Fire Department at M-60 and M-40 starting at 11 a.m. Chicken dinners are \$6 per person and rib dinners will be \$7. Come on over and support your local Fire Department. Carry outs are available!

Marine Division

If you witness a boating crime, you are urged to call the Cass County Marine Division at 445-1225 and make a report.

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 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 the Website: <http://www.wightmanassoc.com/porter/porter.html>

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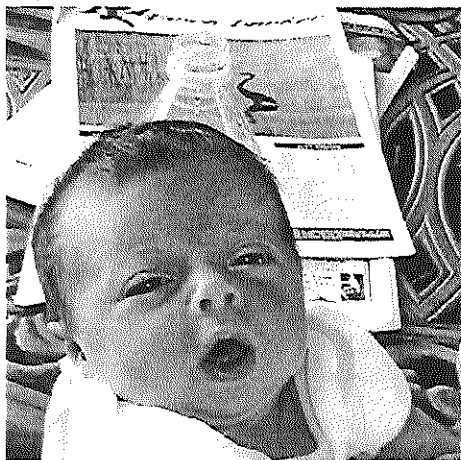
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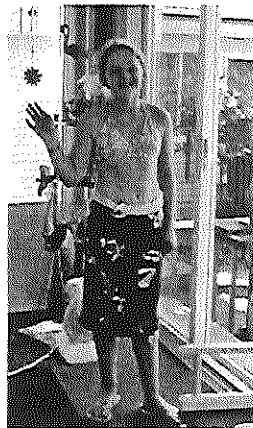
Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

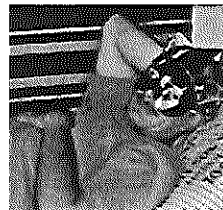
Birch Barker Kids of the Week



This week we have three kids of the week. Greta Boecher, left, enjoys her morning Barker with grandma, Patti Russuurm. John Luecht, bottom left, prefers his Barker had Mario Bros.



Katie Luecht will celebrate her 12th birthday 8-4-05! She has been coming to Birch Lake since Sept 1993 - and has celebrated every birthday here. She wants to learn to sail and would like to someday compete in the sailboat races with the "big kids" on Sundays. Katie takes gymnastics, and will be playing the clarinet in the 6th grade school band this year. She enjoys fighting with her brother John. Her primary goal in life is to make her parents nuts., and it seems she is close to reaching that goal.. Happy Birthday Katie! We love you very much!



Turtle Raft Craft Day at BLYC

Hey Kids!!

Join us for Kids Day at Birch Lake next Saturday, August 13!

We'll start the day with the Turtle Raft Craft between 10-11:30 (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 mate-



rial we will need, please call Paula Russell (476-1880) or Denise Smitley (476-9000) if you will be coming.

Special thanks to Bender Plastics, Big C Lumber, Art McElwee,

Fred Freihofer and Bob King for their generous donations.

Hope to see you at the Yacht Club!

-Paula Russell and Denise Smitley

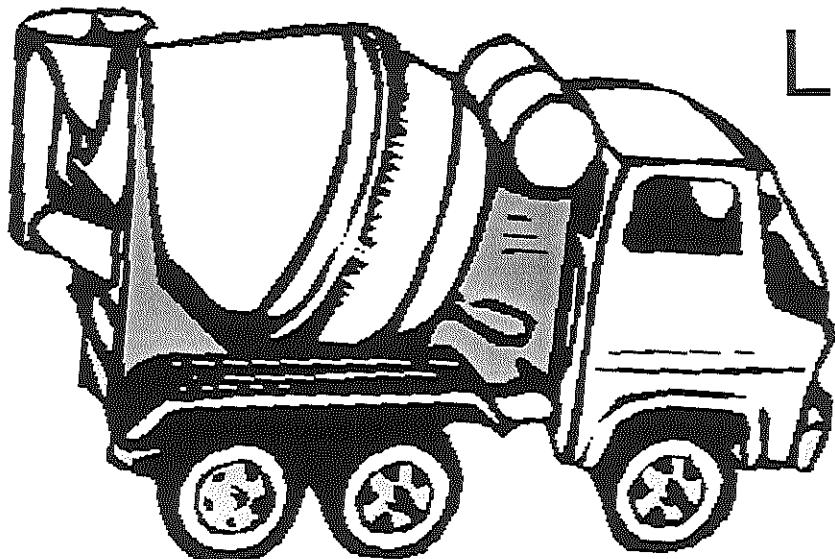
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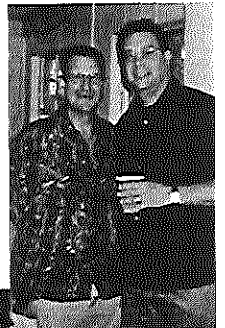
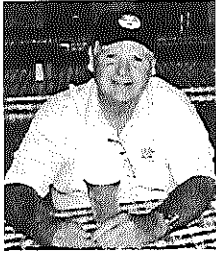
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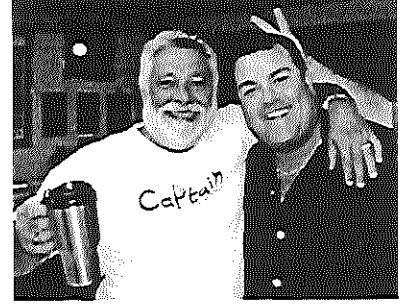
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Men's Golf Outing



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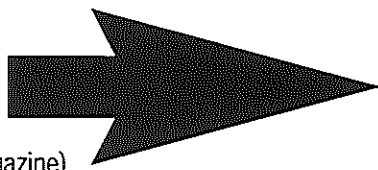
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Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

- \$ ___ - 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 31 sailing was as good as it gets!

Fishers, golfers, boarders, tubers and skiers aside, life doesn't get much better than this. Changing but constant, warm breezes propelling a sailor all over the lake with a touch of competition thrown in; you've just defined nirvana. And July 31, 2005 at Birch Lake.

Thank you Race Committee: Deb Bolinger, Paul and Tim Fallon, Ryan and Shana Gableman.

We still can use volunteers for starter and/or race committee boat pilot.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain 2005

RegattaKidz next Saturday

Saturday August 13; 1:30 pm

Sunday August 14 (back-up)

Bill King's (north side)

Rules: Kids must be onboard to enter.

Bring: PFD, water shoes, kidz.

Refreshments, briefing, sailing

Name1st Race2nd Race3rd RaceAverage

MC Class

1. Scott Troeger	1	1	1	1688
2. Harold Cranmer	2	2	5	1633
3. Don Harman	4	4	4	1588
4. Rick Harman	3	3	2	1582
5. Jim Bolinger	DNC	DNC	DNC	1435
6. Phil Vitale	5	5	3	1433
7. Bill Luecht	6	8	7	1410
8. Caleb Walker	7	6	DNF	1349
9. Rick Russwurm	8	7	6	1257

Sunfish

1. Tom Howard	DNR	DNR	DNR	1718
2. Dave Olson	2	1	1	1689
3. Erica Vitale	3	2	2	1611
4. Sandy Vitale	1	4	3	1586
5. Steve Richards	5	3	5	1511
6. Chris Lintner	DNC	DNC	DNC	1480
7. Nancy Walker	4	5	4	1480
8. Cal King & Neil Troeger	6	DNC	DNC	1356

DNC--Did Not Compete

DNF--Did Not Finish

DNR--Did Not Race, taught instead as in STT - Stopped To Teach



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Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report

submitted by Dan Reynolds

BIRCH LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

August 1, 2005 Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report to Residents

Submitted by Dan Reynolds, Chairman

Birch Lake is a deep stratified lake *sensitive* to phosphorus. Birch Lake retains its water for an estimated 15 years. Any phosphorus entering the lake remains for a long time and builds up. When evaluating the physical, chemical and biological condition of a lake, temperature/dissolved oxygen relationships, total phosphorus concentrations and chlorophyll-a levels are of primary importance. These parameters permit an assessment to be made on the overall trophic condition of Birch Lake.

Thermal Stratification/Dissolved Oxygen /Phosphorus

Water is more or less uniform from surface to bottom when ice cover breaks up in early spring. This is referred to as "spring overturn". As the surface water warms, deep lakes exhibit a phenomenon known as thermal stratification. Once thermal stratification occurs, there is little mixing of warm surfaces with the cool bottom waters. The "thermocline" is the transition layer, which separates these layers. As fall approaches, the warm surface waters cool and becomes more dense. Density gradually breaks down and the lake undergoes complete mixing. The lake will again stratify when ice begins to form.

- The quantity of oxygen dissolved in the water column is an important factor which influences water quality. In eutrophic (low quality) and some mesotrophic (middle quality) lakes bottom oxygen loss is a common occurrence. The cool deep waters do not contain sufficient oxygen and trout cannot live. The quantity of phosphorus present in the water column is especially important. Phosphorus is the nutrient which controls aquatic plant growth, which controls the rate at which a lake becomes eutrophic. In the presence of oxygen, lake sediments act as a phosphorus trap. Phosphorus becomes unavailable for aquatic plant growth. If bottom water oxygen is depleted, phosphorus will be released from the sediments. Phosphorus is then made available to promote aquatic plant growth.

1978 data from the Birch Lake Watershed Analysis Study tells us that there was little or no evidence of nutrient regeneration in the hypolimnion (cold bottom water). Birch Lake was mesotrophic. It was estimated that phosphorus loading would have to be reduced by 6% to return Birch Lake to oligotrophic (top quality). The controllable sources of phosphorus loading were septic seepage and lawn fertilizers.

Recommendations were made for Birch Lake

- Establish a lake preservation committee: Disseminate information to residents. Facilitate implementation of a plan to achieve and maintain high water quality.

1986 it was estimated that phosphorus loading would have to be reduced by 10% to 20% to maintain a mesotrophic condition. There was an elevated phosphorus concentration of 103 ug/l at the bottom of the lake. This was related in part to the fact that in an oxygen deficient aquatic environment, chemical conditions were such that phosphorus was being released from the underlying sediments. Bottom water oxygen was depleting. Green algae were prevalent. Submerged aquatic plants were widespread.

- Birch Lake was headed down a path of destruction until recommendations from the Watershed Analysis Study were put into the capable and professional hands of the Director of Environmental Health, Lee Maager. Birch Lake became his priority and he implemented a plan to achieve high water quality. Don Winne, Executive Director of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, commended the plan. It was the beginning of a wise and effective long-term management program: 96 out of 181 lakefront sewage disposal systems that were contributing bacteria and/or phosphorus to the lake were brought into compliance with the Cass County Sewage Disposal Regulation.
- Randy Welch, Commodore, established a lake preservation committee, the BLYC Water Quality Committee, to assist the Health Department and to disseminate information to the residents. The original committee, Randy and Fran Welch, Earl and Connie Troeger, Bob and Gert Temple, Bernie and Helen Weesner were to be assisted later by Terry and Linda Curtis and Dan Reynolds.

2002 Birch Lake Assessment prepared by Tony Groves, Progressive Architecture Engineering: Recent sampling data, which indicates the lake, exhibits excellent water quality attest to the success of the septic system upgrade program at Birch Lake.

Participation in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) provides sampling methods, training, technical support, quality control, laboratory assistance for Bob Temple, who is the lead sampler for Michigan Lake & Stream Associations/ Department of Environmental Quality. The plant nutrient phosphorus; and the algal plant pigment chlorophyll has been monitored on a consistent and regular basis beginning in 1998, and classifies the overall trophic condition of the lake: oligotrophic. The decrease in phosphorus coincides with the increase in dissolved oxygen and the decrease in weed and algae growth.

- 2001 CLMP Aquatic Plant Mapping: Moderate plant populations.
- 2000 and 2001 CLMP Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Profiles: Birch Lake is a lake with a large hypolimnion (cold bottom water) it produces minor amounts of organic material that must be decomposed. Its hypolimnion has a substantial oxygen supply (that supports trout) that is gradually depleted by the decomposition of the organic material. Dissolved oxygen levels remain high in the hypolimnion into mid summer. The upper hypolimnion retains some oxygen even into late September. The oxygen concentrations at mid depth (20 to 40 feet) are higher than at the surface. This is due to a layer of deep algae producing oxygen in the colder water, which can hold more dissolved oxygen.

With respect to the construction of a gravity sewer in a "no phosphorus zone" lake data has been analyzed for point sources of phosphorus input in a lake that is oligotrophic and *sensitive* to phosphorus. Continued monitoring of total phosphorus concentrations, chlorophyll-a levels and temperature/dissolved oxygen relationships may provide the data needed to recognize changes in lake productivity. Loyal residents understand Birch Lake data and are protective of their precious resource in its *fragile* environment

Cc: Diane Konneck, liaison to represent Porter Township Board in meetings with contractors, engineers

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Wanted — Queen Sized Mattress in good condition. Call Heather at 574-243-8367.

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For Sale — 17' Viking deckboat with 170 HP I/O. Shore Station. \$3000 for both or make separate offer. Sunfish with all gear, \$500. Call Kathlene at 476-2627 or e-mail KathMac50@cs.com.

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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 — 1992 Yamaha Waverunner - Good condition -

includes 2 place trailer \$ 1,000 Ball # 104, 476-9775

For Sale — 1987 Viking (IO) 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.

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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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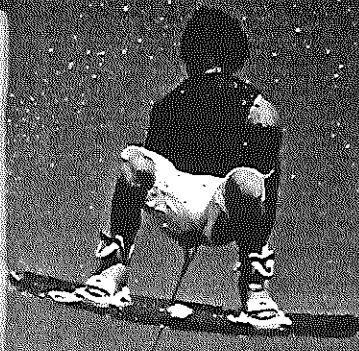

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 Past Comm - Stewart Spratt.....476-2133

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 Terry Dugan.....476-2814

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

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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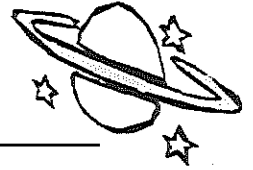
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Stu's Star Stuff



Why the sky is blue

Legend says that Isaac Newton gained illumination while sitting underneath an apple tree. As he watched the apples fall, he devised his theory of gravity — a law that explains why apples fall to Earth, and why the Moon stays in orbit around it.

The story may or may not be true, but Newton definitely gained illumination from another source: a beam of light.

Three hundred years ago, Newton published a book called Optics. Unlike his previous writings, Optics offered very little math. Instead, it described Newton's experiments with glass prisms and a thin sunbeam formed by poking a hole in his window shade. Newton demonstrated that white light is made up of a spectrum of colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet (remember Roy G. Biv?). As the beam passes through the triangular prism, different colors are "bent" at different angles, so the beam is spread into a spectrum.

Newton correctly pointed out that this effect explains the colors of the rainbow. Raindrops in the air behave like a myriad of tiny prisms, each bending sunlight to

form a colorful arc in the sky. Our atmosphere also bends and scatters light. This explains why the sky is blue — the blue light is bent or scattered downward toward our eyes. The other colors are sent elsewhere by the particles in our atmosphere. (Actually the sky isn't blue. That's just the word we use to describe the color we see when we look up.)

Well then why isn't the sky blue when we see pictures of astronauts walking on the moon? The answer is because there is no atmosphere on the moon to scatter the light. Stars can be seen from the surface of the moon both day and night. One further and startling conclusion can be reached...the sky on Earth is not blue at night because there is no atmosphere on the side facing away from the sun. But I digress.

Not all scientists at the time appreciated Newton's efforts. Newton believed that light travels as particles. Yet the emerging theory of the day suggested that light is a wave. The debate wasn't resolved until the 20th century. Today, scientists understand that light has properties of both waves and particles — a bit

of illumination on the workings of nature.

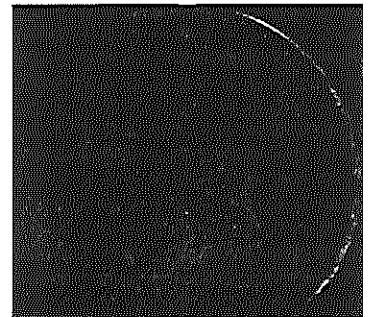
Look for the crescent Moon and the planet Venus as they pass within a degree or so of each other Sunday evening. Venus is the dazzling "evening star." It brightens into good view within a few minutes of sunset.

Take a deep breath and go out and enjoy the show. It's free.

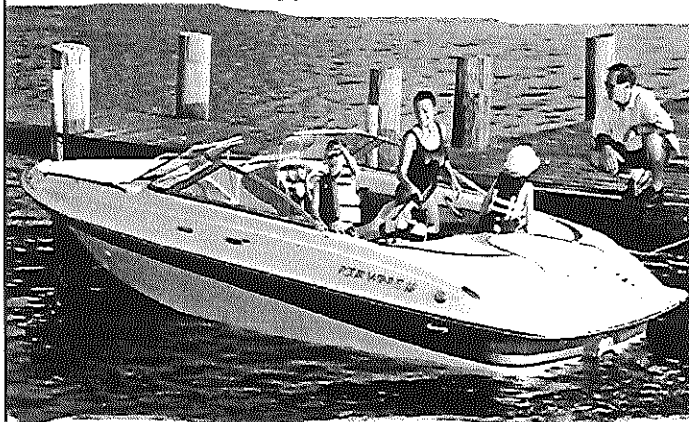
-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:

The moon for Aug. 6, 2005 (at Midnight):
Illuminated Fraction: 0.042
2.2 days since new moon



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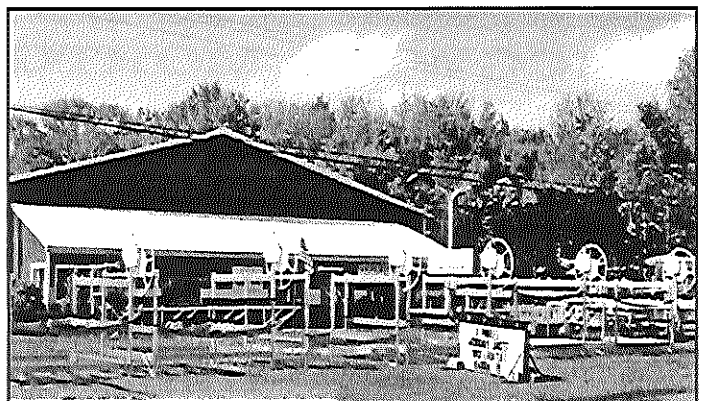


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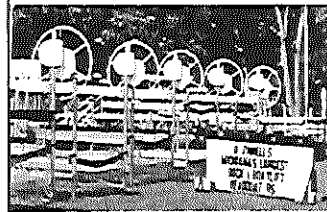
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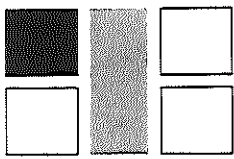
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