

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 20, 2005



Three of the MC sailboats crossing before last Saturday's Kidz Regatta

photo by Bad Patty Luecht

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello all my fellow lakers, I am sorry about the weather last weekend I will tell you I did NOT order it!

Nyla felt brave after her surgery and had our friends over from Klinger Lake. Shawn & his little brother Garth joined us for the whole weekend. She was glad to see Sunday evening come.

Let me start by saying it was a very quiet week here at the Erhardt home. Monday Nyla thought she was tough and we went for a bike ride, she in her sling and one hand on the handle bars. She got a little nervous when we stopped to say "hi" to the Garceaus — a BIG wind came up and the rain was on its way. She hopped on her bike and I on mine and we were off.

Tuesday night we joined several of our lake friends at It's The Pitts in Union for 50-cent tacos. Patty & John Luecht, Blair, Bernie, Callie & Ben Garceau, Ryan & Shanna Gableman, and all the Erhardt family. It was fun and good tacos.

On Thursday night we went to the GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY party for Donna and Harold Cranmer. It was wonderful. CONGRATULATIONS Harold & Donna.

Friday, she went to change the two youngest boys to White Pigeon schools. Randy is going to stay at Constantine because of the classes they offer in the high school. Nyla got the release form and went and filled out the papers. They are now in rival schools. Should be fun at football time.

After she was done at the schools we went over to Klinger Lake and got the boys and headed back home. We decided we would be brave and take all 5 boys to Four Lakes for dinner. Now that's a great place for dinner. All-you-can-eat fish on Friday nights. It was great fish too. Home and a little TV, then off to bed.

Saturday morning we got up early for the board meeting and then the turtle raft building. All five boys were there to build. They all had a great time.

Bob King guaranteed good weather for the kids' regatta sailing (okay he really didn't but we did sail). We had a great turnout of children. THANK YOU, Bob

BLYC Calendar

- Aug. 27Homeowners Assn. Meeting
- Aug. 27Weesner Memorial Service
- Aug. 27Fall Dinner
- Sept. 10.....Board of Directors Meeting

King for all you did putting on the regatta for the kids. They all enjoyed it. Also thank you to the captains for your sail boats.

THANK YOU to Paula Russell and Denise Smitley (and husbands) for the good time had by the kids building turtle rafts.

Sunday Nyla and I made waffles for all the boys, and let me tell you they can eat home made waffles. We went for a swim before I had to escape the boys and got to go on the committee boat for the sail boat races.

Get your reservations in for the fall dinner to Ryan and Shanna it is sure to be a fun time!

I will close for now and you get out an enjoy the beautiful weather and the great lake we all love.

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

Line Dancing

New Day and Time for Line Dance. Dancers will meet at the Yacht Club on Tuesday mornings at 9 am.

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, guests will include Ken Jones of Wightman Petrie, Paul Fallon of HRC, and Carl Klappauf of the Porter Twp. Sewer Board.

Board of Directors meeting

The Birch Lake Yacht Club's Board of Directors will meet Sept. 10 at 9 am.

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.

Marine Division

Cass County Sheriff's Department Marine Division can be reached by phoning 445-1225.

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 call Vickie Rogers at 476-2383

East side noise

There have been several reports of a horrendous noise coming from the East side on a recent Sunday night. Some descriptions include a possible cat fight, a herd of buffalo in pain, or maybe the landing of a UFO. No need to be alarmed. After some investigation, it seems Julie Greene, Deb Bolinger and Patty Luecht were only singing Karaoke!! (Don't quit your day jobs, ladies!)

Paid your dues for 2005?

If you haven't paid your dues for 2005, checks are still being accepted. Make check payable to The Birch Lake Yacht Club and give it to any director!

Porter Sewer Board

Porter Township Sewer Board 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>

Kid of the Week



No one turned in a kid of the week photo, so my granddaughter Morgann Applegate gets to be kid of the week. Morgann visited Birch Lake last weekend caught her very first Birch Lake fish (on her own pole) on Saturday evening.

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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Congratulations Harold & Donna



Harold and Donna Cranmer, Cove #316, were honored at a 50th anniversary reception on Thursday, August 11 at the Matterhorn Restaurant in Elkhart

The party was given by their children, Robert, Julie and Steven, Julie's husband Steve, and their children, Chad and Jared.

In attendance were many family and friends and Donna's father, Dr. Maurice Longenecker, who is 99 years old (Dr. Longenecker will be 100 on January 13, 2006).

Harold and Donna were married on Sunday, August 14, 1955 in Elkhart, IN at the Longenecker residence on the upper St. Joe River.

Harold's mother, Dortha Wagner Cranmer told many stories about her family coming to Birch Lake by horse and wagon. This family tradition started in the 1850s with Harold's great grandfather, Egbert Wagner, who homesteaded a farm just south of Shavehead Lake on Rainbow Rd., after emigrating from Germany about 1850. Egbert fathered nine children. One

was Dortha's father and Harold's grandfather, Albert Wagner, who introduced Harold's father, Joseph Cranmer to Birch Lake for the first time about 1925 after dating Dortha. For most of young Albert's life he came to Birch Lake to camp in the old cove campground. This became the annual family reunion retreat.

Harold's father Joseph purchased two lots on the West side in 1928 and built

their first home on the property that is now owned by Jim and Juanita Tjaden. Harold was born in 1936 while his folks were living at the lake. In 1940 they sold that property and kept the lot next door where they erected a small summer cottage. They moved to Elkhart for Harold to attend school.

In 1957 they rebuilt the cottage into a year-round home where they retired until their deaths.



You are invited to the BLYC Fall Dinner

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27TH

**At the Birch Lake Yacht Club
Cocktails & Appetizers at 5:30 pm
Dinner at 6 pm
\$20 per person**

Reservations must be made by Saturday, August 20

Ryan Gableman's cell phone: 574.215.0336

Shanna's cell phone: 269.501.9379

Or drop the reservation form at the Gableman home
— 63266 Kinsey Street (East Side Hill)

Menu

Appetizers

- § Roasted Red Pepper, Spinach & Goat Cheese Crostinis
- § WonTon Cups filled with Dried Cherries, Gorgonzola Cheese, Pears & Rosemary Walnuts
- § Shrimp Spring Rolls with Hoisin Dipping Sauce & Spicy Mustard

Main Dish

- § Roasted Herb Chicken

Sides

- § Layered Potatoes with Bechamel Sauce & Pesto Bread Crumbs
- § Roasted Summer Vegetables & CousCous (tiny Pasta)
- § Mixed Green Salad & Two Dressings

Dessert

- § Chocolate Molten Cakes with Rum Chocolate Sauce & Berries

BLYC Fall Dinner Reservation

Name _____

Number to attend _____

x \$20 per person = Total amount due _____

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Kidz Regatta



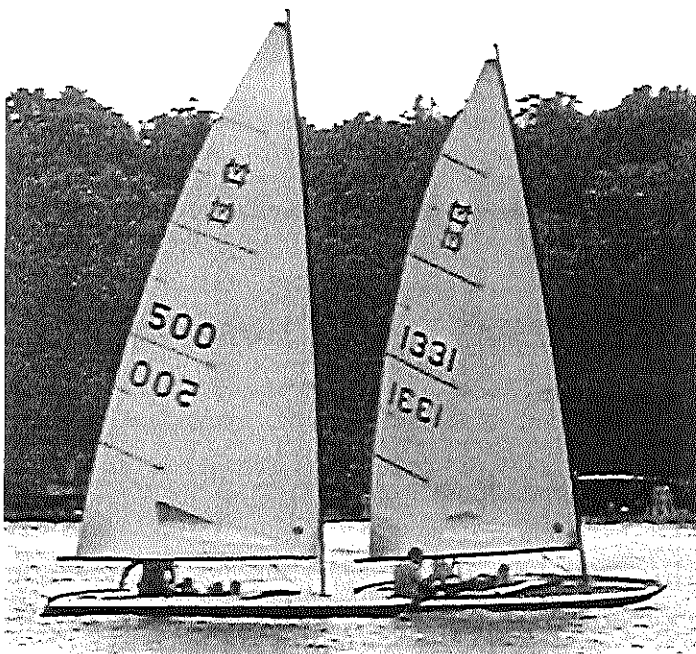
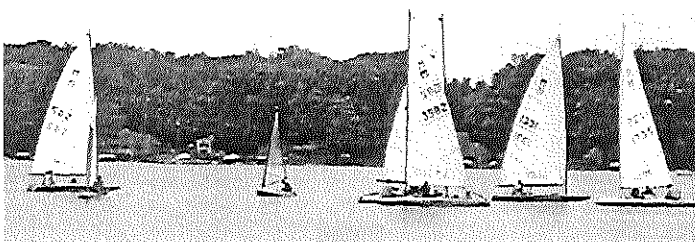
Many thanks to those who helped launch the 10th annual kids sailing event, including: Jim and Sally Beck (RC), Don Harman (marks), the King family, the sailors for bringing boats and kids for attending (despite inclement weather). We had good fun and sailed one race before Mother Nature provided a shower.

RESULTS:

1st Place
Carly Troeger, Lauren Troeger, Dave Troeger
2nd Place
Morgann Applegate, Meghan Russell, Amanda Butler, Barbie (the doll), Phil Vitale
3rd Place
Tyler Rondot, Abby Rondot, Don Harman

4th Place
Patrick Russell, Conner Russell, Maris Marazita, Aiadan Donahue, Harold Cranmer
5th Place
John Luecht, Katie Luecht, Bill Luecht
6th Place
Cal King, Luce Osborn, Ben Osborn, Garth Reynolds,

Shawn Martin, Bridget Hickey, Irina Lyles, Dave Olson, Bob King
7th Place
Randy Osborn, Nick Stevens, Jim Bolinger
8th Place
Neil Troeger, Scott Troeger
9th Place
Eric Oldenwald
Kidz RULE!



Sailboats full of kids skimmed across the surface of Birch Lake during last weekend's annual Kidz Regatta — at least until the afternoon shower put a damper on things.

photos by Bad Patty Luecht

2004 Water Testing Results

APPENDIX 1
2004 COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM
SECCHI DISK TRANSPARENCY RESULTS

Lake	County	Secchi Disk Transparency (feet)						Carlson
		Number of Readings	Range		Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	TS _{ISO} (transparency)
			Min	Max				
Birch	Cass	19	12.0	43.0	19.6	14.0	9.26	34

APPENDIX 2
2004 COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM
TOTAL PHOSPHORUS RESULTS

Lake	County	Total Phosphorus (ug/l)							Carlson	
		Spring Overturn				Late Summer			TS _{TP} (summer TP)	
		Vol	Rep.	DEQ	Rep.	Vol	Rep.	DEQ		Rep.
BIRCH	CASS	5					11			39

APPENDIX 3
2004 COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM
CHLOROPHYLL RESULTS

Lake	County	Chlorophyll a (ug/l)					Mean	Median	Std. Deviation	Carlson TS _{ICHL}
		May	June	July	Aug	Sept				
BIRCH	CASS	4.1	1.0<	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.8	1.3	41

Results provided by Michigan Lakes & Streams Association and published at the request of the Birch Lake Yacht Club Board of Directors

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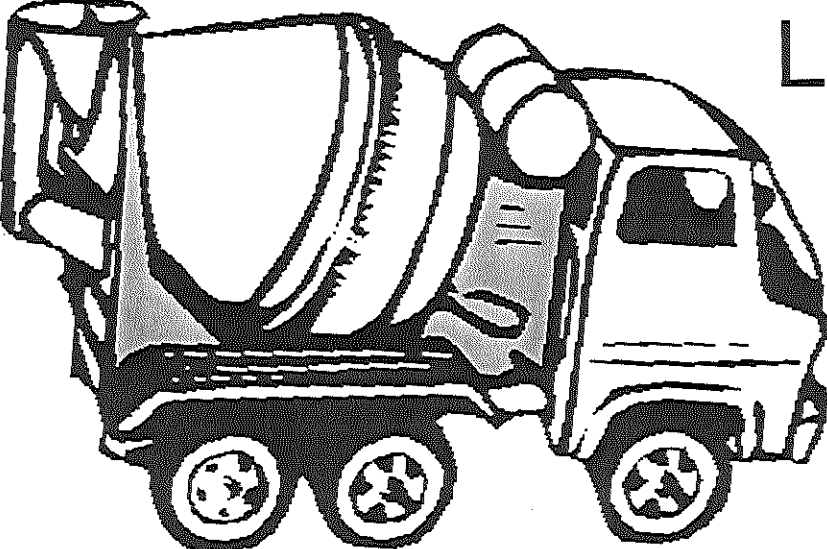
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BLYC Sailing News



Week 8 results

Last Sunday we faced cloudy, challenging but breezy conditions. Not a bad day to be on the water. We thank our Race Committee: Harold Cranmer; Celia, Paul and Tim Fallon; Ryan Gableman and John Erhardt.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain 2005

Sailing starter(s) still needed

There aren't many weeks left in this year's sailing season, but we still are in need of a person (or people) to help us start the races. The process is very simple and easy to learn (I can teach you in 10 minutes or less).

If you can help us out for a couple hours on any Sunday we would love to hear from you! Please call Dave Olson at 476-2125 to volunteer.

Name.....	1st Race	2nd Race	Average
MC Class			
1. Scott Troeger.....	1	1	1712
2. Harold Cranmer.....	Starter.....	Starter	1642
3. Don Harman.....	2	3	1604
4. Rick Harman	DNC.....	DNC	1582
5. Phil Vitale	3	2	1482
6. Bill Luecht.....	5	4	1434.8
7. Jim Bolinger	DNC.....	DNC	1434.7
8. Caleb Walker.....	DNC.....	DNC	1377
9. Rick Russwurm	4	5	1306

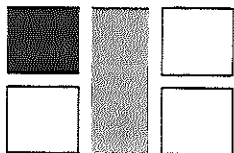
Sunfish

1. Tom Howard.....	2	STT	1710
2. Dave Olson	3	1	1687
3. Erica Vitale.....	1	4	1628
4. Sandy Vitale.....	5	3	1608
5. Nancy Walker.....	4	2	1555
6. Steve Richards.....	6	DNC.....	1511
7. Chris Lintner.....	DNC.....	DNC	1480
8. Cal King & Neil Troeger	DNC.....	DNC	1356

Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report

submitted by Dan Reynolds

A Water Quality
Committee report
was not
submitted
for publication
this week



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

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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Turtle Raft Craft day a big hit!

Birch Lake Kids had a great turn out for Turtle Raft Craft on Saturday! Nothing but the best for our Birch Lake Turtles! We have a talented bunch of junior carpenters on the lake. You may notice some very happy turtles on the water, basking on one of dozens of newly constructed rafts!

I would like to give a huge thanks to all of the very generous adults who made this project such a huge success. Thanks to Denise and Jeff Smitley, who designed the rafts, ordered, prepared, and delivered the materials, and taught the kids some great hands on skills! What a labor of love!

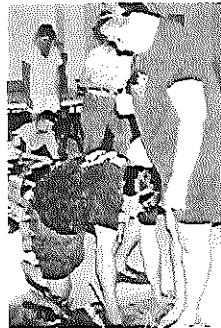
Thanks also to Dick Bender of Bender Plastics and Big "C" Lumber, who donated the wood for the project, and to Bob King, Fred Freihofer, Artie McElwee and the Birch Lake Yacht Club who donated the funds for the finishing materials. We are so fortunate to have such a generous group of contributors on the lake who made this such a memorable and fun experience for the kids!

-Paula Russell

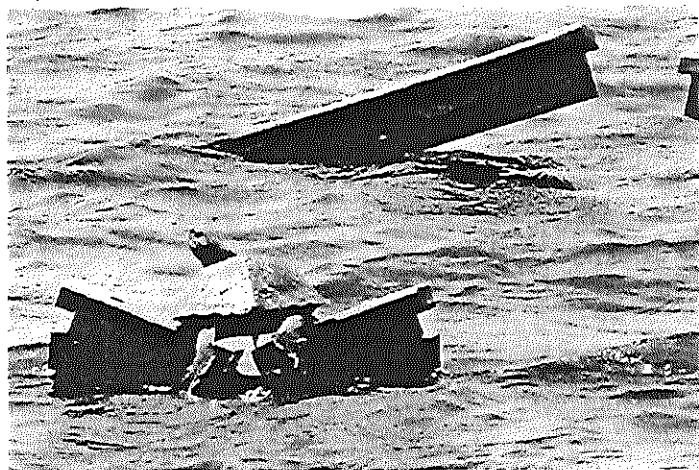
p.s. There are a limited number of completed turtle rafts for sale from the Yacht Club for \$20. Please contact Denise Smitley at 476-9000 if you are interested.



*photos by
Bob King*



Turtle Feed-back



Turtlicious:

Never more will our amphibian residents be relegated to limbs and boat lifts thanks to the little people who built floating turtle patios last weekend. The project was way fun for kids ... the Yacht Club filled with a cacophony of chatter and hammers. Many thanks to the good folks who worked to pull this off.

-Anon

Thank You!

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Turtle Raft Project! Our boys (ages 8 & 6) loved building it, and two turtles enjoyed basking in the sun on it later that same day!

-The Witchie Family

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Sea captain graces Cowens' yard

There's some new news from the little gray two-story house in the cove. Most of the people around the lake seem to have already noticed that the Cowen family has a new addition to the decorations in their yard. There now stands a 22-ft.-tall carving of a sea captain, a blue heron, an owl, rope, some dragonflies and cattails, and, on the backside, a spirit face.

This beautiful carving is owned by Dick and Peggy Cowen. When they built their



new home a few years ago, they tried to preserve as many trees on the property as possible; one of these trees was a 160+ year-old red oak that they used to make the hardwood floors upstairs. Another was an old white oak tree that was used to make the stairway in the back of the house.

Sadly, a 100+ year old tulip tree, the only tree left on the property, died while the house was being built. The

Cowens didn't want to just cut it down, so they looked into other options. Earlier this summer their old neighbors, the DeYoungs, had a dead tree of theirs carved into a beautiful piece of art with bears and flowers. The Cowens saw it and thought it was a great idea. So, they asked for the name of the carver and gave him a call.

The carver is Bob Depner, and he planned with the Cowens what they wanted on their tree. It took only six days to cut, carve, paint and finish the whole thing. Bob's wife Alicia even came over to stain it. They used five chainsaws to do the sculpting and Bob paid excruciating attention to detail so everything would come out just perfect. They worked in 90-degree weather to turn the 92 ft dead tree into a 22 ft masterpiece.

Now that the work is done both Bob and the Cowens are happy with the carving, and the Cowens would like to welcome any visitors that would like to stop by and see their new piece of art. I've seen a lot of people drive by slowly in their boats to take a look, but it is hard to see all of the detail and work that went into it from the water, and from the water you can't see the beautiful spirit face on the back. I highly recommend taking a short walk or drive to this side of the lake to get an up close look.

Bob is very experienced at what he does and he has a very thick portfolio of carvings that he has done over the years full of eagles, bears, fish, flowers, birds, etc.; but he is very willing to work with anyone's ideas. If anyone else has a dead tree, or just a tree

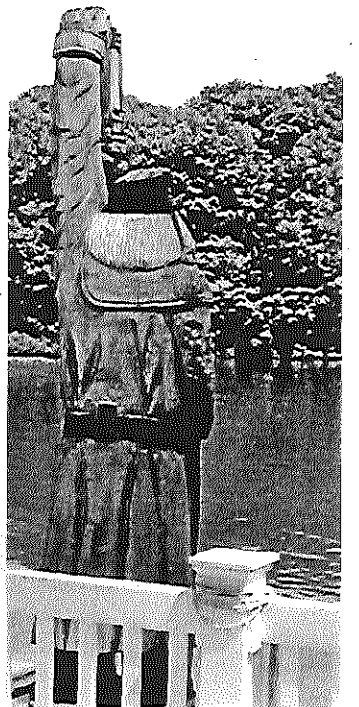


that has become a hazard because of its height that has to come down and they are interested in having their tree carved, you can call Bob



Depner at (219) 324-8806. He'd be glad to hear from you!

-Biz Andriano



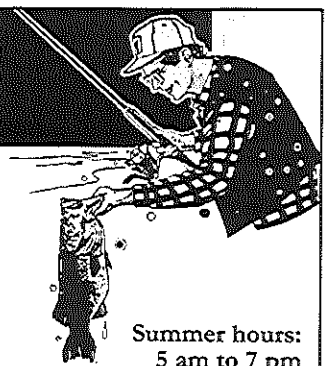
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For Sale — 2,500 lb. capacity Shore Master lift. Has a new cable, with a 2 yr-old grey top and a lift motor that works from the boat battery. \$1,500. Call LaPierres (269) 476-2733.

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 RENT

Now taking reservations for the 2006 season: cozy cottage in the cove. \$600 per week with multi-week discount available. Call 476-2175 or

email Marty at MASire87@aol.com. Book now for a great summer in 2006!

Cottage for rent. Fall Special. Three bedrooms on beautiful north side. Indoor plumbing and color TV. Fall discounts available. Contact Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227.

MISC.

Sweet Kitten needs a home! Around 6 months old, male, and light grey. Loves to be petted and played with. Call the O'Briens at 476-2126

LOST:

LOST SKI — Blue-green Wetline

Metallic Composite ski lost on north side Saturday, August 6. If found, please call Dugans at 476-2814.

WANTED:

Wanted — Used Johnson or Evinrude 4 to 6 gallon fuel tank, single hose. Doesn't matter if it's corroded, I just need the fuel tank connector. Call Dave at 476-2125.

GOT A CLASSIFIED?

Birch Barker classifieds are free for members of Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members pay \$5. Put your ad in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Road (east side), or e-mail the Barker at: sailorphil@philvitale.com

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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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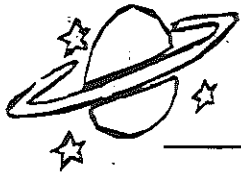
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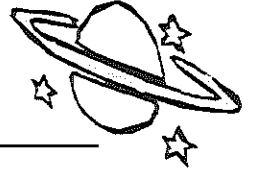
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Stu's Star Stuff



Moon illusions and names

Early Friday morning, at 1 a.m. CDT, (that would be the time at the lake) the Moon passed the perigee (closest point of its orbit), 222,074 miles from Earth. That makes Friday's Full Moon the 2nd closest of the year. Tonight the Moon rises in ESE about 25 minutes after sunset, as seen from the lake and southern Michigan.

When the Moon is rising or setting, regardless of its distance, it always seems much larger than when its overhead, even though when overhead the Moon is nearly 4000 miles closer. This effect, occurring only in the mind of the beholder, is called the Moon illusion.

Moon illusion occurs because viewers watching a rising or setting Moon have points of reference with which to compare the disk of the moon. Seeing the Moon just above a tree or a barn makes it seem relatively large indeed. When the moon is high over head there are no reference points, thus it doesn't seem quite so imposing.

Each full Moon of the year has its

own name, most of which are associated with the weather or agriculture. Friday's full Moon is called the Grain Moon. The full Moon that occurs closest to the autumnal equinox, next month is commonly referred to as the "Harvest Moon," since its bright presence in the night sky allows farmers to work longer into the fall night, reaping the rewards of their spring and summer labors. Because the equinox always falls in late September, it is generally a full Moon in September which is given this name, although in some years the full Moon of early October earns the "harvest" designation.

Below is the full list. The most common names used in North America include:

- January -- Moon after Yule
- February -- Snow Moon
- March -- Sap Moon
- April -- Grass Moon
- May -- Planting Moon
- June -- Honey Moon
- July -- Thunder Moon
- August -- Grain Moon

- September -- Fruit Moon (or Harvest Moon)
- October -- Hunter's Moon (or Harvest Moon)
- November -- Frosty Moon
- December -- Moon before Yule

No matter what you call it, the full Moon is always a beautiful part of the show here at the lake. And it's free.

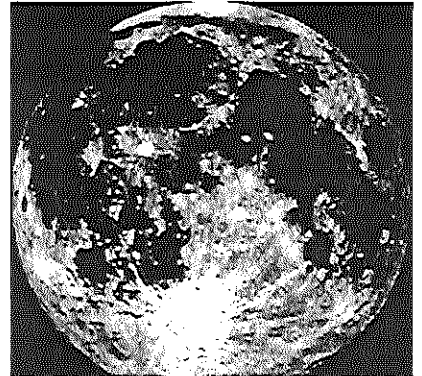
-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:

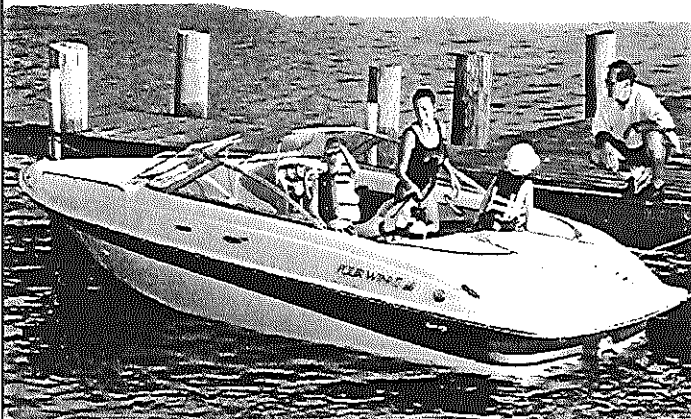
The moon for Aug. 20, 2005 (at Midnight):

Illuminated Fraction: 0.963

1.5 days after full moon



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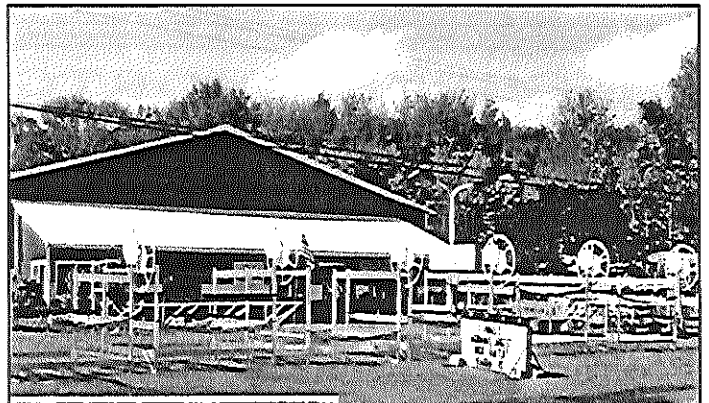


FOUR WINNS

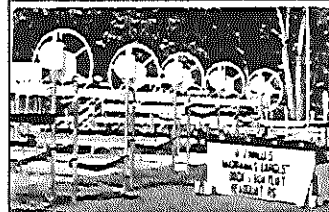
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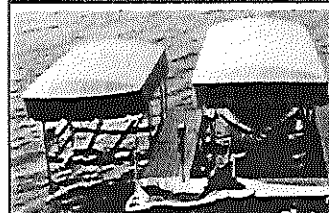
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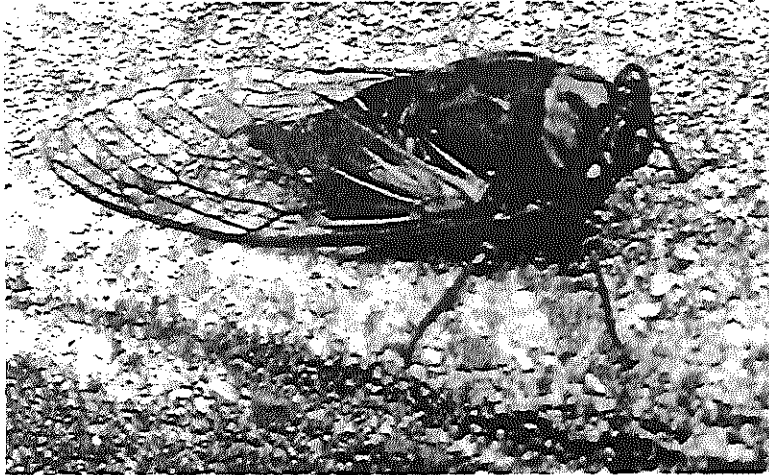
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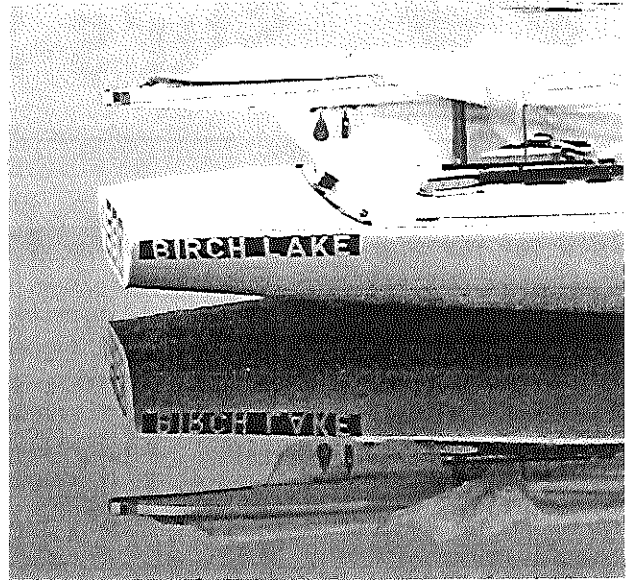
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There was a wonderful article last week in the Chicago Tribune about denial at summers end. The author suggested it's not over until the cicadas stop singing ... photos by Bob King



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