

# Birch Barker

Weekend of August 27, 2005



**End-of-summer fun at Birch Lake**

*Carly Troeger's "End of Summer-Start of Middle School" party at Birch Lake on Monday, August 22nd. Carly and her friends will start 6th grade at Schmucker Middle School on Wednesday the 24th. They spent the day tubing, sailing, swimming, badminton, and boating. They then went to*

*Schnucker for the Orientation Night and they are all very excited. Thank you Nana and Grandpa Troeger for letting us have the party. Carly and Lauren (2nd Grade at Prairie Vista) wish everyone a Happy and Safe School year.*

*photo by Dave Troeger*

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The weekend went by way too fast. Why does that always happen? The week always goes slowly and poof the weekend is gone.

I will start by saying we went out to eat only one day this week. Tuesday and Thursday Nyla went to Physical Therapy and felt the pain so she is in hopes the gain is coming.

Thursday night we took the boys and Amanda Lacy to the Silver Hawks game and did have dinner at Wendy's before.

Friday Nyla met the boys' father at the Shell Mart in Jones and we were childfree for the weekend. Friday night we had a quiet evening and watched each other grow old.

Saturday we went to Twin Mills campground to see our friends that we made last year. We had dinner and went for the Saturday night Golf Cart Parade. Nyla has the camping itch again and she can hardly wait to go again.

Sunday we slept in and our good friend across the lake, Mike Lutz, called us to join him for dinner. He can cook some mean ribs on the grill. After dinner Mike took us for a very nice and enjoy-

able boat ride around the lake a couple of times. While we were out we seen our good friends Bernie & Blair Garceau and Jim Hettmansperger and Carrie Rogers also enjoying the lake.

There has been a change in the Erhardt family. Randy was going to stay with us but changed his mind and moved in to Kalamazoo with his father and new Stepmother, Jen. He will be going to Lawton schools. That is where Jen teaches. She will be able to keep an eye on him and watch his grades. He is also going to play hockey with the Lawton High School team.

Let remind you all about the happenings this weekend. There will be a Homeowners Assn. Meeting at 9 am at

### Homeowners Meeting Moved

Due to a scheduling conflict the BLYC Homeowners Committee will have its annual meeting this Saturday, Aug. 27, at 9 am at the **Camp Tannadoonah Dining Hall.**

To answer questions regarding the sewer, guests will include Ken Jones of Wightman Petrie, Paul Fallon of HRP Cosntruction, and Carl Klappauf of the Porter Twp. Sewer Board.

### BLYC Calendar

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

the Camp, and The Memorial for Bernie Weesner at 10:30 am at the Yacht Club.

Then in the evening is the Fall Dinner with cocktails and appetizers at 5:30, and Dinner at 6 pm IST. Please plan to attend these happenings. The dinner is going to be a great time. As I can tell you last year was the best. You can also find out who Ryan is going to name as Vice-Commodore. Who will it be? Nyla says she is not going to run this year...she wants someone else to join in the fun.

I would also like to take a minute to Thank everyone that has stepped up and helped with everything this summer. If I took time to mention everyone I would fill up the whole Barker. I will ask that we all do the same next year with Ryan and Shanna and their Vice Commodore. THANK YOU all and we will see you at the Yacht Club and on the lake.

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 —

## August Birthdays

Iva Badger, a longtime south side resident recently celebrated her 95th birthday at beautiful Birch Lake. Iva's daughter, Martha Ponsler and her son-in-law Lee had two beautiful birthday cakes for Iva. Char and Hal Sheetz stopped by to wish Iva a happy 95th birthday. We indulged in big pieces of cake from her birthday cake number one.

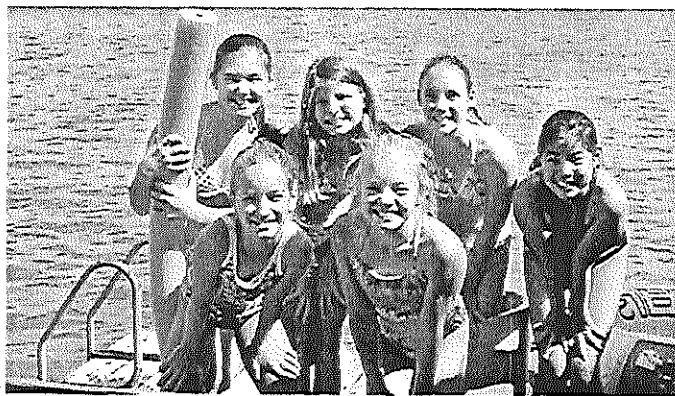
Iva confided to all of us that her goal is to celebrate her 100th birthday at Birch Lake. By the way, Iva still drives her car everywhere she goes!! Iva is a very special lady.

-Charlene Sheetz

## 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

## Birch Barker Kids of the Week



Carly Troeger (granddaughter of Earl and Connie Troeger) and her friends are this week's Barker Kids of the week!

## Marine Division

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

## Paid your dues ?

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!

## Turtle rafts available

There are a limited number of completed turtle rafts for sale from the Yacht Club for \$20.00. Please contact Denise Smitley at 476-9000 if you are interested.

## Line Dancing

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

## 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.

## 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>

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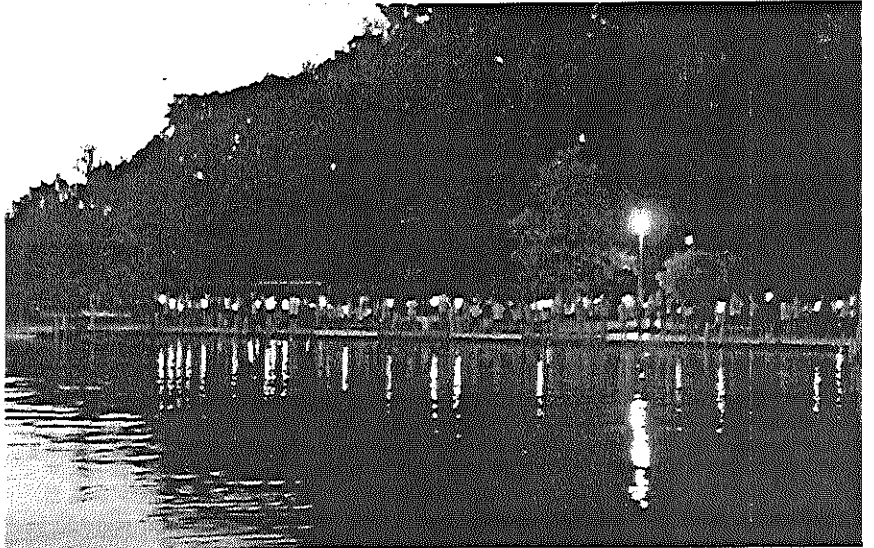
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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!



Princess Tannadoonah left the camp two weekends ago amid a traditional ceremony attended by the campers and about a dozen Birch Lake boats ... we all are counting the days until she returns for next summer's fun at camp!

photos by Bob King



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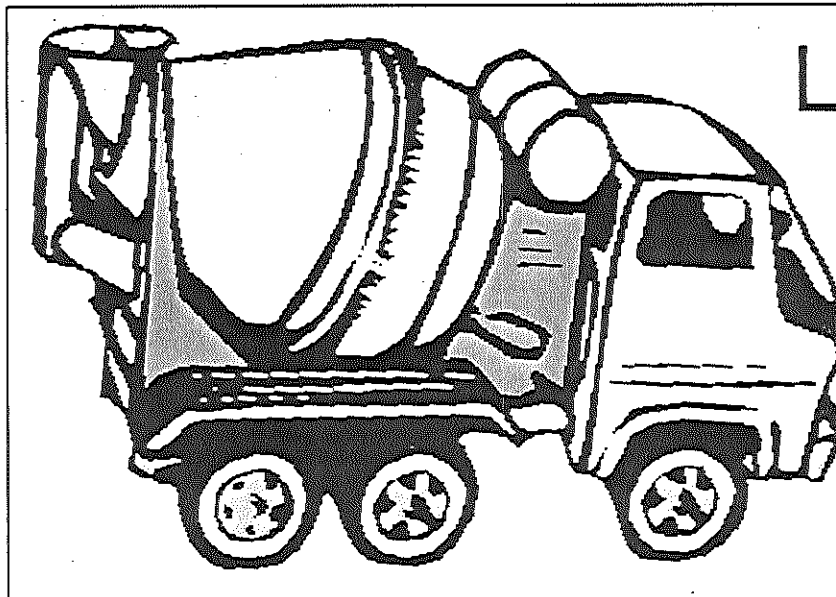
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# BLYC Sailing News



## Week 9 results

Last Sunday was the day the sailors have been waiting for all summer. Lots of wind on a warm, sunny day, it just doesn't get much better. Seeing Earl Troeger racing for the first time in quite a while really made it a good day.

Tom Howard, Tammy Renner and Nancy Walker handled our Race Committee chores. And did a good job. Thank you.

Tomorrow will be our last scheduled season races. Next weekend will be the Labor Day Regatta. We'll try to get in three races on Saturday starting at 2 IN, then two races on Sunday starting at 11 IN. We'll give out awards and have a wrapup meeting on Monday (Labor Day) at the yacht club at 10 IN.

*-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain 2005*

Name.....	1st Race.....	2nd Race.....	Average
<b>MC Class</b>			
1. Scott Troeger .....	2.....	DNC.....	1717
2. Harold Cranmer .....	DNF.....	1.....	1627
3. Don Harman .....	1.....	2.....	1613
4. Rick Harman .....	3.....	3.....	1592
5. Phil Vitale.....	5.....	DNF.....	1474
6. Jim Boinger.....	7.....	4.....	1443
7. Bill Luecht.....	6.....	5.....	1433
8. Earl Troeger.....	4.....	DNC.....	1379
9. Caleb Walker.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1377
10. Rick Russwurm.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1306
<b>Sunfish</b>			
1. Tom Howard.....	Starter.....	Starter.....	1710
2. Dave Olson.....	1.....	1.....	1693
3. Erica Vitale.....	2.....	DNF.....	1646
4. Sandy Vitale.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1608
5. Nancy Walker.....	Starter.....	Starter.....	1555
6. Steve Richards.....	3.....	DNF.....	1521
7. Chris Lintner.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1480
8. Cal King & Neil Troeger.....	DNC.....	DNC.....	1356



*We're not sure who they are but these two fishermen floating in tubes on the southeast side of the lake were making the most out of a warm and sunny weekend at Birch Lake.*

*photo by the PattiCam*

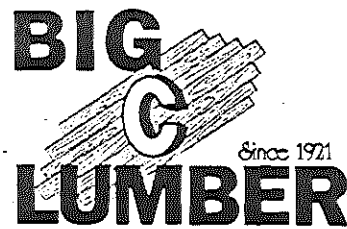
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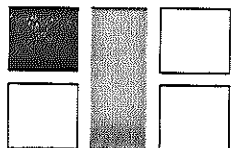
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*We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!*

*-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak*

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# Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report

submitted by Dan Reynolds

## BIRCH LAKE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

August 20, 2005 Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee Report

Submitted by Dan Reynolds, Chairman

### Birch Lake Monitoring Program (BLMP)

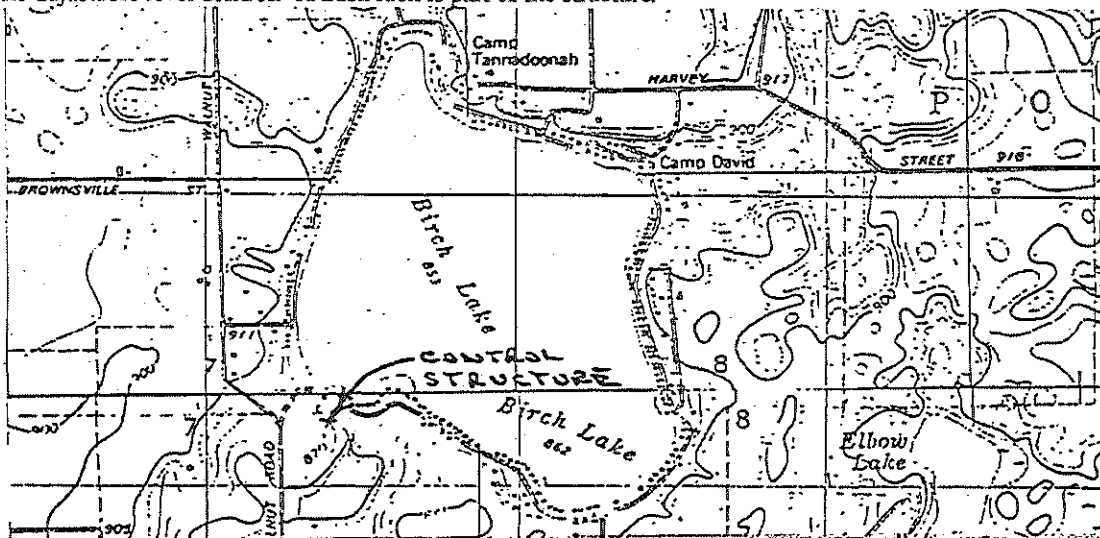
- The Health Department partnered with the Birch Lake Watershed Analysis Study and established BLMP in 1986. The Health Department, the Birch Lake Yacht Club and its water quality committee during the Cass County Health Department Birch Lake Survey Program administered the program. BLMP data provides important watershed background information. The purpose is to monitor point sources of phosphorus contamination and point sources of bacteriological contamination.

### Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP)

- In 1998 the CLMP was added to the lake management program to monitor the basic indicators of trophic state: water clarity, as measured with a Secchi disk, the plant nutrient phosphorus, and the algal plant pigment, chlorophyll. Birch Lake is a deep stratified oligotrophic lake sensitive to phosphorus. Because of the 619-acre watershed and the 296-acre lake's volume of water its retention time is estimated at 15 years; therefore, any phosphorus entering the lake will remain there for a long time. The purpose is to collect water quality data to keep track of the lake's productivity.

### WEIR DAM

The outlet structure of Birch Lake is located at the southwest side and the structure is a wide crest weir with no adjustable level control. A trash rack is part of the structure.



Equally important to monitoring the chemical, physical, and biological parameters of the lake is maintaining the lake at its normal height and level. Data provides the receiving and recording of all inspection reports as established in the BLMP.

DAM NAME		DAM ID	COUNTY
Birch Lake Level Control Structure		1934	Cass
DATE OF INSPECTION	NAME OF WATERBODY	SECTION, TOWN, RANGE	LEVEL THIS DATE
March 20, 2002	Birch Lake	Sec. 7 T.7S. R.13W.	854.7
DATE OF ELEVATION SET BY	LEGAL LEVEL	DRAWDOWN LEVEL	HIGH WATER MARK ELEVATION
COURT January 17, 1927	854.2 Winter 854.2 Summer	NA	NA

### STATE OF MICHIGAN CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE COUNTY OF CASS

In the matter of the determination and establishment of the natural height and level of the water in Birch Lake in Porter Township in said County.

At a session of said Court held in the Court house in the Village of Cassopolis in said County on the 17 day of January 1927.

Present, Honorable Glenn E. Warner, Circuit Judge,

The above matter having come on to be heard upon the petition of the Prosecuting Attorney filed herein and after reading said petition and hearing the testimony of witnesses it is hereby ordered and determined;

That the natural height and level of the water in Birch Lake in Porter Township in said County is 854.20 feet above sea level

*[Signature]*  
Circuit Ju

# Memories from the archives

*Helen Weesner wrote about her history on Birch lake for the August 20, 1994 Barker. Following are highlights of her article with some updates included:*

In 1926, my parents, Chester and Louise Hemminger, bought a lot on Birch Lake and built a small week-end cottage which became the cottage of my sister Thelma and her husband Leo Koontz—E116. Celia and Paul Fallon purchased the cottage last year. I will attempt to recreate what I remember of this beautiful place from 1926 to now (1994). Traveling to the lake from Elkhart in our Oakland Touring car, we would pass through Williamsville. The grocery store (next to what is now Tom's Garage) was open and stocked with staples, home-grown vegetables, penny candy, etc. It was owned by a Mr & Mrs. Jones and then sold to Lanky and Lavon Breece. There was a very old wooden building on the curve that was right out of the "old West" era. We were told by old-timers that it had been a stage coach stop in the late 19th century. I wanted very much to believe this story but have never been able to figure out where the stage would be coming from nor where it would be heading. It was fun to imagine the horses with their passengers, resting from a long, weary trip.

Standing at the bottom of the hill on the South side of the lake (now the Bouwkamp home) was an ice house. It was built to store ice cut from the Lake and then sold to area farmers for their ice boxes. Later on, when enough people warranted it, the ice was delivered to us. One of our delivery "boys" was Ed Lowe, the "Kitty Litter" entrepreneur!! From one summer to the next, the ice house disappeared and I learned from Louise Rieth that it was moved across the ice to become part of their home in the Cove.

The Ron and Linda (Larson) Witchie (E106) home was a two-story, tenant farm house that had been moved—or rather, rolled down the hill on wheels from the Henry Sears farm, now the Lyle Manning Farm. The elder Henry Sears was Linda's great, great grandfather and he with his 15 year old bride came to this area and start-

ed "house-keeping" on 300 acres. An important part of this acreage started at the bottom of Birch Road and ended with the Clem & Annie Haines' (now Tom DeCocker) property. The road ran right along the lake in front of the newly plotted properties. Henry Sears traded what is now the boat landing in exchange for the County changing the road to where it exists today.

Genevive Parker Lagoni's home (now owned by Dan Waxman) had also been moved down to the lake; it had been the summer kitchen of the Henry Sears Farm. In the woods behind the Lagoni's, my father and sister found several arrowheads made of stone by the Potawatomi Indians, who occupied this area prior to any of us. I still have the arrowheads along with a basket made by the Indians. The basket was received in a trade for chickens and some eggs by Leola Kollar's mother who lived in Jones many years ago. Leola and Ora Kollar lived in the home that is now owned by Sue and Duffy Dufour.

In the 1930's, Jean and Harry Deman built a log cabin that was the Gableman Cottage (now owned by Jim Hettmansperger). On many a hot summer day, Jean and I would sit watching our 6 children swim together. As we watched, we figured that if we only counted 4 heads, everything was OK because at least 2 of them were always under water!

Moving north there were no cottages until the Ruchl Harvey house, now belonging to the Bernaciak family. The Harvey's were very early settlers in this area. Next was the farm house and barn (now owned by Steve and Deborah Curtis). It was bought by Howard Anderson for \$4500—what a deal! There were many great parties and dances were held in that barn! On the last property along the East side of the Lake stood a large old house with a few small cottages across the road. This was called Lazy Lodge and was bought in 1943 by Wanda and Peter Winarski. We were told by "old-timers" that a large pavilion was on this property in 1926 and it was used to hold puppet shows, square and round dancing, etc. After 1947 when the Winarskis moved year 'round to the lake,

Wanda opened a little restaurant and served the best hamburgers, hot dogs, malted milks and milk shakes. She also sold candy, bubble gum, etc. What a popular place that was!! The older home was torn down and a new brick home was built (now owned by Ben and Vanessa Wozniak).

On the North side of the lake there was just one old abandoned house. With its doors open and a few broken windows, the house invited us to come in. The kitchen table was still set with dirty dishes and it appeared that someone had eaten a meal and left, never to return again. A mystery that was very fascinating to two young girls.

Woodland Cove had been deeded to the County and was the nesting place for our herons. It was also a place that many tent-campers would come and spend a week-end or a week. Later, relatives of the original owners took the County to court to seek possession and won. The land was then subdivided and lots were sold.

I do not remember any cottages on the West side of the lake. There were several small, unoccupied cottages on the South side in 1926. There was also a substantial marsh area that was unbuildable until a farmer who lived on Sears Road behind this property eventually filled it all in, subdivided and sold lots.

As I sit here dreaming of yesteryear and all the wonderful times my parents, my sis and I had way back then, my dreams move forward a few years to 1944 when Bernie and I moved to the Lake. Lance was 5 and Lynn was 2 years old; Leslie Ann was born 5 years later. We all shared so much happiness in that little, easy to care for cottage but over time that cottage grew and grew with more rooms, sliding glass doors and lots of windows.

Good heavens! I have just come back to reality, as I look around, there are windows to wash, rooms to clean and those pesky spiders to be "blasted" off the siding. Right now, that small cottage sounds just great to me.

Thanks for listening.

-Helen

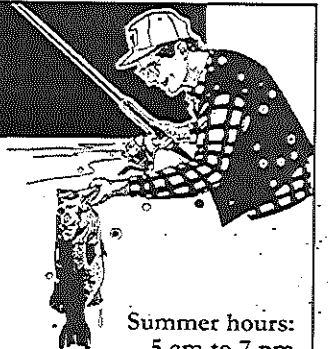
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**For Sale** — Two-person Sea-Ryder Pedal Boat with sun canopy, flag holder, staff and cover. \$350 or best offer. Call Bruce Wagner, 476-2090.

**For Sale** — 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!

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**Condo vacations at Myrtle Beach, So. Carolina** available. Very reasonable. Please call for availability. Call 476-2604 and ask for Harold.

## 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: sailorphit@philvital.com



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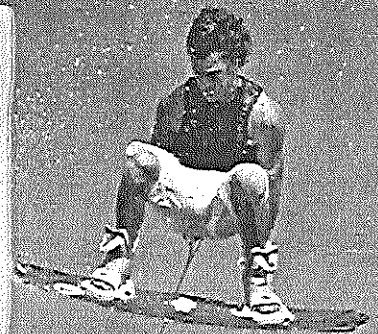
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 Treasurer - Holly Troeger.....476-9898  
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 Past Comm - Stewart Spratt.....476-2133

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 Maryann O'Neill.....476-2831  
 Vicki Rogers.....476-2383  
 Paula Russell.....476-1880  
 Rick Russwurm.....476-2407  
 Charlene Sheetz.....476-2604  
 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

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

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 Howard Blackwood.....476-2840  
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 Mardy Miller.....476-9226

## WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman.....476-8877  
 Terry Dugan.....476-2814

## HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2005 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, 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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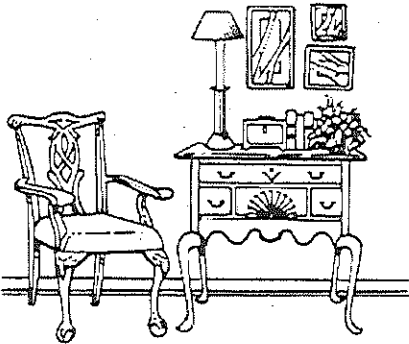
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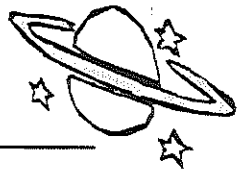


'on our knees to please'





# Stu's Star Stuff



## Fireworks from Arp 299 ...

The Big Dipper hangs in the northwest this evening, with its handle up high and its bowl below it, as though it were ready to take a dip from a celestial stream. If it did, though, it might douse one of the fieriest objects around: a pair of colliding galaxies known as Arp 299. The galaxies are about 130 million light-years away, near the middle of the dipper's bowl.

Over the last 10 million years, Arp 299 has given birth to millions of new stars. Many of these stars live short lives. In fact, some of them are already blasting themselves to bits as supernovae. Astronomers have detected six supernovae in Arp 299 in the last 15 years — the most recent in January. That makes the commingled galaxies one of the biggest supernova factories in the nearby universe.

All of these star births and deaths are the result of the collision.

As the galaxies come together, big clouds of gas and dust are squeezed tightly. They split into clumps, which shrink

under their own gravitational pull. As a clump condenses, it heats up. Eventually, it gets hot enough to trigger nuclear fusion — and a star is born.

The heaviest of these newborn stars "burn" through their nuclear fuel in a hurry. When they're done, their cores collapse and their outer layers explode.

Most galaxies produce a supernova every few centuries. So the galaxies that make up Arp 299 are producing supernovae at a brisk rate, creating fiery displays in the Big Dipper.

Speaking of galaxies, at the end of twilight, about 1 3/4 hours after sunset, look for the Milky Way, appearing as clouds of steam rising up from the spout of the Teapot of Sagittarius in the south. It continues up through the Summer Triangle and the Northern Cross nearly overhead, and down through Cassiopeia and Perseus in the northeast. The patch of the Milky Way just south of the center star of the Northern Cross is very interesting to observe with binoculars. Known as the Cygnus Star Cloud, it is part of the

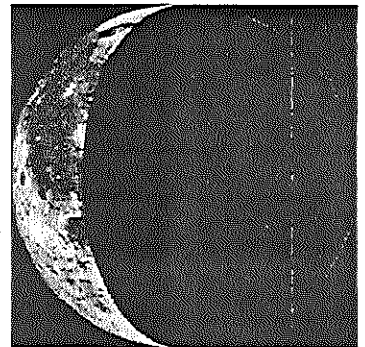
spiral arm in which our Sun is located and can easily be resolved into stars. Compare it to the more distant Greater Sagittarius Star Cloud (the puff of steam over the spout), in the spiral arm next inward from our location in the Galaxy.

This show's better than a three-ring circus. There's something going on everywhere you look. And it's free.

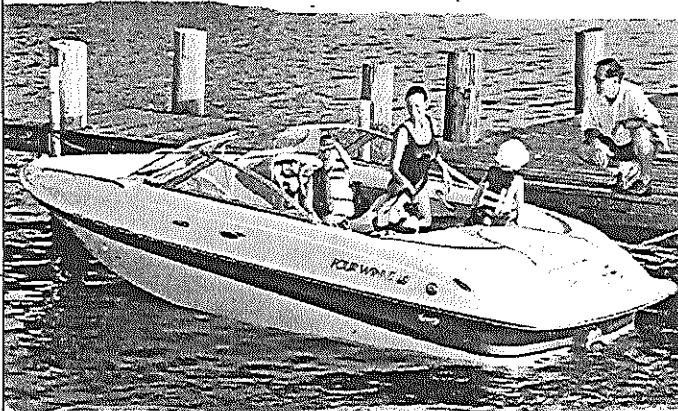
-Stu Spratt

### The Moon tonight:

The moon for Aug. 27, 2005 (at Midnight):  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.333  
1.7 days after last quarter



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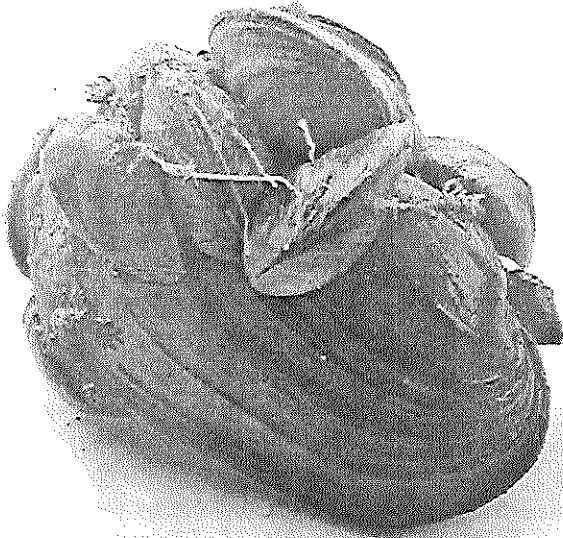
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*photo by Bob King*



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