

SOLLYC CRANE PARTNERS
CRANE PROCEDURES & ETIQUETTE
April 14, 2013

Crane-in out dates are listed at <http://www.shoresofleechlake.com/calendar.htm>. Notify Shores by email of your selected lift date. This can be done directly from the web page. You can select your own date, see Crane Date Options.

History of Lifting Boats at Shores of Leech Lake:

About 30 years ago sailors started showing up at Shores that required a crane to lift their boats. They scheduled the crane, purchased necessary lifting equipment and did whatever it took to get their boats in and out. This group evolved into the Shores of Leech Lake Yacht Club (SOLLYC) Crane Partners. The first several versions of this document were created by them. Until the last decade or so, Shores had no role in how or when craning was done.

Shores boaters still do the “heavy lifting” associated with the craning of their boats. By necessity they are very much involved in how it is done.

Cost of Lifting your Boat at Shores of Leech Lake:

1. Your lift fee is a simple split of the crane cost presented by the crane operator. Splits are determined as described below. Two other charges: 1) a Shores facility fee, 2) a Crane Partners Association fee; each described below may apply.
 - a. If you rent a seasonal slip at Shores of Leech Lake, are present and assisting with the lifting or scrubbing of boats other than your own, you'll pay just one split of the crane charge.
 - b. If you cannot, or choose not to be present on crane day, you pay three splits of the crane charge. You should find a proxy who is familiar with your boat to assist with the lifting of your boat; inspecting for water, strap placement, setting placement, etc. A proxy who is lifting their own boat or other boats on that day will not reduce your crane fee split. Keep in mind, other SOLLYC boaters will be assisting with the lifting of your boat.
 - i. Paying three splits of the crane fee is a great alternative for many boaters. Many people simply don't want to help lift boats, are older, or just can't be at Shores that day.
 - c. If the lifting of your boat requires side spreaders you pay three splits of the crane charge.
 - d. If you do not rent a seasonal slip at Shores you pay three splits of the crane charge. Lifting at Shores is only possible because of SOLLYC boaters assisting with your lift. If you do not store your boat at Shores, Shores charges a \$100 facility fee.

- e. The SOLLYC Crane Partners Association fee is \$75.00. This is a one-time fee to be paid by anybody who expects to lift each spring/fall at Shores.

Lifting your Boat at Shores of Leech Lake:

2. Be prepared; if you are wishing to pay just one split of the crane charge you are expected to help out the entire time the crane is here and assist with lifting or scrubbing several boats other than your own.
3. Many jobs are available from helping to set the crane, move the crane, tear down the crane, holding a guide line, putting straps under boats, removing straps, driving trailers into position, washing bottoms, etc. The Crane Partners all work together to make the job of craning all boats efficient and less costly.
4. If your mast is up, your backstay will interfere with the crane spreader bar. You'll need to have a temporary, short, low "backstay" in place. Reconnect your backstay prior to winter storage.
5. Crane day is busy and preparation is key. If you require extra time to shorten your backstay, get your trailer in place, level your cradle, etc., you may be charged extra crane time splits.
6. Craning out in the fall; locate your trailer/cradle prior to crane day. Are there broken or rotten boards, pads, tires flat? Determine if repairs are necessary and take appropriate action prior to crane day.
7. Notify Shores of your crane date. If required, Shores will have your trailer on site or set your cradle. How your cradle is set and leveled is your responsibility.
8. Bottom scrubbing is part of the volunteer process. No one is paying or being paid for this work.
9. After all boats are lifted, the crane operator provides the Crane Partners "accountant" (a volunteer) with crane hours and hourly rate. The crane charge is then calculated and the fee for each boat is assessed. Fees are collected by the "accountant" and paid to the crane operator immediately at the conclusion of craning. Know who the volunteer acting as crane "accountant" is. Promptly provide him or her with your fee. **DO NOT MAKE ANYONE TRACK YOU DOWN!**
10. Parking/moving trailers with boats through a narrow alley is very difficult. No parking between the gas dock and crane pad please. Park east of the lodge. Do not, even temporarily, block the spur turnaround at the SW corner of the harbor.
11. The yardarm (kitchen area of shower house) is an ongoing potluck during the crane process. If you choose to participate in the potluck bring a dish or some food item to share. You are responsible for the cleanup of the yardarm at the end of the day. Don't forget your serving dishes.

Crane Date Options:

12. We lift more than 60 boats each spring and fall. In recent years, Shores has worked with boaters to schedule more rather than fewer crane dates. This offers more options to boaters and keeps the workload lighter on any given date. We try to keep total lifting time to four hours or less and one split cost at less than \$75. Of course, it's just money; you can lift on any day you like. In general, the fewer boats lifting on a given day, the higher the per split cost. We've had cranes come in here from Bemidji to lift just one boat.
- a. A crane from Walker is one option. It has a short reach so it cannot lift boats to/from cradles or blocks. It can lift any boat on a trailer that can be pushed along side of it. This crane has a two-hour minimum charge, but no travel time. If four or more boats can lift on a given day, crane split cost will be reasonable.
 - b. Bigger cranes with more reach come from Bemidji. They can set boats to/from cradles and blocks. The rate is higher and time will include 2 hours travel, 1 hour each way. While these cranes are required to lift boats to/from cradles, we need 10 or more boats lifting on a given day to keep split prices in the \$50 - \$75 range.
 - i. In the fall we can have the bigger crane out of Bemidji here several times. This is because boaters with cradles can let Shores know to set their cradles. Cradles for boats lifting on a given day are then side-by-side.
 - ii. In the spring, if we were to have two options for craning in from cradles we would have to tell the boaters which day they were going in on. This is because we have to lift the boats off of the cradles in sequence. Craning in from cradles in the spring is a longer day but we are usually done lifting by 2 PM or so.

When craning do not be in a hurry, be safe, watch out for the safety of others and be organized.