

# SOLLYC CRANE PARTNERS

## CRANE PROCEDURES & ETIQUETTE

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

### **History of Lifting Boats at Shores of Leech Lake:**

In the early 80s, 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. They created the first several versions of this document. 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:**

There are two potential fees associated with lifting your boat:

- Lift fee
- Shores facility fee

#### ***LIFT FEE:***

Your lift fee is a simple split of the crane cost presented by the crane operator.

If you, are present, do not require extra time, and assist with the lifting of boats other than your own, you'll pay just one split of the crane charge.

If you cannot, or choose not to be present on crane day, or assist with the lifting of boats, you pay three splits of the crane charge.

If you will not be present, you may wish to find a proxy who is familiar with your boat to assist with the lifting of your boat: identifying and examining thru-hulls, inspecting for water, strap placement, setting placement, etc. A proxy will not reduce your crane fee split.

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.

#### ***SHORES FACILITY FEE:***

If you do not rent a seasonal slip or winter store your boat at Shores, Shores charges a \$100 facility fee.

## Lifting your Boat at Shores of Leech Lake:

1. Notify Shores of your crane date. If required, Shores will have your trailer on site or set your cradle. Your cradle will be set and leveled, you will want to inspect it to be sure it is set appropriately for your boat.
2. Crane-out in the fall; locate your trailer/cradle prior to crane day. Are there broken or rotten boards, boards to be placed under the keel, pads, flat tires? Determine if repairs are necessary and take appropriate action prior to crane day.
3. 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/after crane-in.
4. 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.
5. Extra splits will be charged for additional crane time to take down/put up masts, perform boat repairs, etc. If your boat requires side spreaders, this may require extra time.
6. The yardarm (kitchen area of shower house) is an ongoing potluck during the cradle crane process. If you choose to participate in the potluck, bring 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.
7. Parking/moving trailers with boats through a narrow alley is very difficult. No parking between the gas dock and crane pad. Park east of the lodge. Do not, even temporarily, block the spur turnaround at the SW corner of the harbor.
8. Be on time! Be ready! If you are wishing to pay just one split of the crane charge you are expected to help the entire time the crane is here and assist with lifting until all boats are craned-in/craned-out. If more than a dozen or so boats are being lifted, taking shifts would be appropriate
9. Lifting requires many jobs including the following:
  - Crane setup, moving the crane, crane tear down.
  - Holding boat guide lines, putting straps under boats, removing straps, driving trailers into position, getting boats in queue, Crane Partners "accountant", etc.
10. Volunteers no longer provide boat bottom scrubbing.
11. 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. Be sure to have a check blank, correct cash, or you may charge your fee to your Shores account (must inform "accountant"!!!)  
**DO NOT MAKE ANYONE TRACK YOU DOWN!**

## Crane Date Options:

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 \$100. 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 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 alongside of it. This crane has a two-hour minimum charge. If six or more boats can lift on a given day, crane split cost will be reasonable.
- 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 - \$100 range.

In the fall we can have the bigger crane out of Bemidji here more than once. This is because boaters with cradles can let Shores know to set their cradles according to the day they will be lifting out.

In the spring, there is only one option for craning in from cradles because we must lift the boats off of the cradles in sequence. As a result, craning in from cradles in the spring is a long day, but we are usually done lifting by 2 PM or so.

### **Remember the 3 Bs: BE READY! BE SAFE! BE ON TIME!**

Safety Tips: Never walk under a "flying"/craned boat.

Be aware of your surroundings especially on docks.

Use good body mechanics; especially when hauling/placing straps.

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