

2015-8

**We saw the oddest thing on the lake and I was hoping you may know what it was. One August Friday night at about 11:30pm a boat with several huge spotlights appeared to be traveling along the shoreline. It looked to maybe be an air boat (the lights were so bright you couldn't see) it reminded us of a hovering space ship. It came again on Saturday night at 10:45pm and followed the same exact path. We ran down to the dock to try and see what it was but they were already past us and again the light too blinding to see what it was. We are weekenders but the full time residents claimed to have never seen such a thing. Do you know if Cornell was out doing research or what was going on? We are very curious about what "odd" thing was happening on the lake.**

This boat, or something similar has been spotted several nights over the last few of years.

I suspect that what you (and others) saw it is a tricked out boat being used by some bowfishermen looking for carp. (Of course, gamefish would be illegal prey to target.) Archer-anglers stand atop an elevated platform. This is a lawful recreational pursuit provided the archer has a license.

State and federal agencies also periodically operate electrofishing boats. These can be well lighted when operating at night for fisheries surveys. Large booms up front deploy apparatus to shock fish which are netted, measured and generally replaced into the lake.

In 2015 you may have seen another pontoon boat with a yellow flashing light running lines out in the lake. This is Utica surveyor, performing a bathymetric survey for one of the commercial firms with 'recreational interests'. It is creating a new map of the lake bottom.