



# Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Special 4th of July Edition

Volume Six, June 30, 2001



Have a fun  
and *SAFE*  
holiday

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**W**hat a gorgeous weekend! As the weather improves, the activity on the lake increases. Make sure you and your guests know the watercraft laws and the safety rules of the lake. The two most common rules that I see violated are boats not going in a counter-clockwise direction around the lake and wave runners spinning and speeding within 100 feet of the shore and piers. I want everyone's experience at Birch Lake to be a fun and safe one.

Get your boat decorated for the boat parade starting Saturday at 4pm at Reynolds pier and then passing Judge John Gableman's pier.

Also, the Fourth of July Sailboat Regatta starts Saturday. Get your sailboat rigged and join the sailors for a good time. It's really pretty to see all those multicolored sails out there!

On Sunday we will be serving pancakes at Camp Tannadoonah from 8-11 am. Bring your family, guests and neighbors for a great breakfast. You can meet the camp director and see the improvements and activities offered at the camp. "The Four Seasons of Birch Lake" (VCR tape) will be show-

**A Birch Lake Garage Sale is scheduled for 7/21 from 8-2pm. We will have one if we can get 20 families to participate. Please call Mike Machalleck at 476-2642 if you are interested.**

ing so you can preview it before ordering one. Also, we will be accepting dues, fireworks contributions and changes to the directory. It's our one stop shopping place!

We are updating the 1999 Birch Lake Directory with addendum pages. Please review your listing. If you want any changes made, call or drop off your corrections to Katha Machalleck (476-2642).

We are adding a Midsummer Cocktail Party on Saturday, July 7 at the Yacht Club from 7-11 PM. It will be hosted by your Vice Commodore Jim Bolinger and Commodore. Admission will be an appetizer to share. Come and join us for a good time.

I look forward to seeing you at breakfast.

*Your Commodore  
-Mike Machalleck*

## The Official Birch Lake Yacht Club Calendar

6/30 - Boat Parade - 4 pm  
Fireworks - dark  
Newberg Twp. Port-a-Pit 11am-5pm  
Fourth of July Regatta 1 pm  
7/1 - Pancake Breakfast 8-11am  
*Birch Lake Sweatshirts available*  
Fourth of July Regatta 1 pm  
7/7 - *Midsummer Cocktail party 7-11pm*

7/21 - BLYC Board Meeting 9am  
*Birch Lake Garage Sale\**  
7/27 - Men's Golf & Dinner  
8/3 - *Ladies Golf & Lunch\**  
8/4 - *Jimmy Buffett Party\**  
8/1 - *Ladies Day Activity\**  
8/18 - Corn & Sausage Roast  
BLYC Board Meeting 9am

Homeowners Assn. Meeting  
8/19 - House Walk  
8/25 - Fall Dinner  
9/3 - Labor Day Regatta  
11/22 - Turkey Day Regatta  
TBA - Get Kidz Hooked on Fishing 2  
TBA - Birch Lake Craft Sale  
*\*Note changes of date*



If you have items for the BARKER, please put the materials in the Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) by 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com by Monday at Noon. If you must, mail (10 days prior to desired publication date) to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, or fax your items to (219) 232-3853. To contact me, call Phil at 476-1680 or (219) 232-3735 or (219) 232-3735.

*Note: All times in the Barker are IST ( Indiana Standard Time) unless stated otherwise*

# Birch Lake Notes

## Boat Parade info

The Boat Parade will be Saturday at 4 pm. Start at Reynolds pier; judges will be on Gableman's pier.

## Newberg Fire/EMS Port-a-Pit

On June 30, the Newberg Township Fire & EMS Open House will have Port-a-Pit food

at the Jones Fire Station from 1 to 5pm (or until the food is gone). Meals are 1/2 barbecue chicken dinner for \$5; chicken only for \$4; or barbecue rib dinner for \$6. Delivery is available if you can't get to Jones. For information call Darlene Troyer at 2639 or Julie Weaver at 2869.

## Pancake Breakfast

The Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah will be Sunday from 8 - 11am. Adults \$4. Kids 6 to 10 are \$2. Children under 5 eat free. All you can eat.

## Tom's to close early

Tom's Garage will close at 5 pm (Indiana time) on Saturday,

6/30 for a family function.

## Tannadoonah begins season

Camp Tannadoonah began its 81st season this past week with 94 campers. My assistant, Mr. Dug, and I are looking forward to seeing many of you at the pancake breakfast this weekend.

-Miss Toody

## News From The Cove Where everyone wears designer undies

### By Sunny Waters

Last Saturday B.S. and I, in the interest of our circulatory systems, decided to burn some fat and hike around the lake. What we had estimated to be an hour turned into three and worth every moment as we stopped frequently to chat with B.L. friends. We met, for the first time, Phil and Betsy Custard, talked gardening with the Olsons, schmoozed with Rick Doolittle and heard a detailed account of Phyllis Rasmussen's busy camp schedule. What a precious child.

Our Birch Lake friends become more dear to us as time passes.

### GRIZZLY BEARS AND CHOCOLATE CHIPS

A number of decades ago

my cousin, Jay Walters, and his pal Bud Zesinger and I embarked on a trek in the woods behind my grandparent's cottage. The boys warned me that the "deep dark forest" was the habitat of various wild beasts and killer snakes. After having thoroughly traumatized me they told me to wait quietly while they scouted the area and took off snickering. Being naive and having a huge crush on Bud, I waited for the brave pioneers to return. The hours passed; more like fifteen minutes but time expands when bears and boas lurk nearby.

A rustling sound sent me breaking Olympic records to the safety of my grandmother's kitchen and warm fresh chocolate chip cookies which unfortunately remain a source

of comfort to this day. Thanks, guys.

For those of you who are devotees of Sunny Waters, and who isn't, room size murals of this week's cover girl are available for a reasonable \$600.35. All proceeds will go to a worthy cause\*

**Annual Events — June 30**  
Siberian Explosion Anniversary (must be a real blast).

Dixon Petunia festival — Dixon, IL. (where staring at bloomers is acceptable).

Happy Birthday, AMERICA! and to you, too, Elizabeth and Lauren.

*Devotedly,  
— Sunny*


\*Hey, full body liposuctions don't come cheap!




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# Birch Lake Notes

## A message from Bob

I miss some things from my year at the helm, especially the chance to write weekly comments in the Barker. I have enjoyed sitting at the boathouse reading what you have written this season. Some items I thought to include in this Holiday Barker:

Last year we produced both T-shirts & mugs. Though I took the shirts to the parties for pick-up, some lakers never came to get their order. Every week the Barker informed you that "we don't deliver" and you had to pick up your order. We continued to replace those sold through the season. Unfortunately, some who ordered teal medium tanks never received their order. Apparently the manufacturer was on winter production and no more were available. Ask for a credit on the 2001 shirt, towards the lake video,

or a refund from the Club.

There are many people who need parts for Sunfish sailboats. I have found good service ordering from a company called Tackle Shack in Florida at 800.537.6099 <http://www.tshack.com> -or- you can go direct to Vanguard (the current maker of Sunfish) on the web. If you need help rigging / repairing your boat call me at 476.2128 on weekends. Let's get more out of those boats sailing on Sundays.

I know I irked (to put it mildly) some folks about paying their Club dues. Take a look at the front of this weekly paper. Last year we changed the masthead to read - *For the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club*. The Barker alone consumes less than \$7 of the annual stipend. After Club expenses, the paltry sum requested does not cover the costs

incurred for the lakeland community. Please send your dues to Holly today.

**Last but not least:** Our intrepid but wrong-way star-gazer columnist has gone astray so often I feel compelled to respond. First, of course there is no IST (Indiana Standard Time) so often quoted in this publication. That's just a term of convenience to state "we don't mess with time." Likewise there is no daylight-savings-time. If one could actually *save daylight* that would be a feat. Further, if one could save time (s)he would be well advised to release it during the dim months of February when we really need it rather than squander it during the long days of summer!

I was particularly surprised to read the "horse and buggy" thinking in Stew's Star Stuff a couple weeks ago. Yes, travel at the

speed of light (299,792,458 meters/second) is hard to imagine at this time. Not long ago (a blink of the eye in human history), dating from Icarus to Orville and Wilbur, flight was relegated to birds. More recently the speed of sound was thought unsurpassable. During the *X program* experts speculated that a plane exceeding the speed of sound would disintegrate. Soon after the X-15 went booming through the impossible. Now comes this resident naysayer saying the speed of light is fantasy. The gauntlet being thrown down, I shall attempt to extend past light and do time travel this very weekend! My first go will be at 4 pm IST Saturday 06/30/01. I will travel back to the 1960s when friendly folks built home-brewed floats for a Boat Parade.

Stand by and please remain seated until we come to a complete stop - I'm taking you along for the ride. Have a fine Holiday,  
-Bob King, Past Commodore



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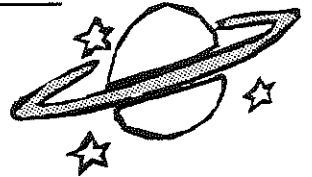
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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!



## Stu's Star Stuff

# Welcome to Summer!



Identifying the brightest stars and finding constellations from my home in northern Kentucky is easy. The city lights from nearby Cincinnati drown out all but the brightest stars in the night sky. From near Birch Lake, because light pollution is minimal, there are so many more stars visible that separating out the ones I know is sometimes a challenge.

So how does one go about figuring out which star is which? A good place to start is by finding the Big Dipper, or Ursa Major as it's also known. Look north on any clear evening and it

will be plain to see, high above the horizon. Seven stars form the dipper, 3 for the handle and four make up the bowl. Using the stars in the dipper as pointers, you can easily locate and identify several other bright stars. Two easy ones are Arcturus and Spica (pronounced spike-a). These two stars are often associated together in beginning stargazers' minds because of the way they are located. "Follow the arc to Arcturus and speed on to Spica" is a phrase used to describe the method of tracing a curved line from the Big Dipper's handle through each of the stars.

Using the two bowl stars

opposite the handle as pointers, you can follow a line away from the top of the bowl that will lead you to the North Star. Polaris, as it is also known, marks the end of the handle of the Little Dipper. Ursa Minor is difficult to see in urban areas because the stars are faint, but at the lake it's generally visible. Continue following the same line past Polaris and you will find a crooked letter M formed by five bright stars, Cassiopeia. Throughout the night you can watch Cassiopeia and the Big and Little Dippers wheel about Polaris in the sky.

Over the next several nights watch the waxing gibbous Moon

approach, then pass Mars. Tonight Luna is 30 degrees (three fists) to the brilliant planet's upper right. Tomorrow night the Moon is 18 degrees away, and the following night only 7 degrees separate the two bodies. You'll also see the Moon get bigger and brighter as it approaches full on July 5th. After the fireworks tonight continue looking up. The second part of the show will continue, so enjoy. It's free.

-Stewart Spratt

## Plenty of sun but not much wind for sailors

Again our sailing fleet was greeted with beautiful skies, but very little wind. The sunfish were off the line first in a grueling 35 minute race. Tom Howard



paced the first race followed by Scott Troeger in second place, Jim Bolinger third, Bob King fourth, Dave Olson fifth, newcomer Robert Kamins sixth, Dewayne Weaver seventh, and

Rick Russwurm eighth. In the MC class, Rick Harman was victorious over his father Don Harman.

As the first race finished, the winds picked up dramatically, so rather than scuttle the second race, it was decided to give it another try. Both classes started together, and through most of the race, there was wind. However, it basically died during the final leg. Rick Harman was victorious again, followed by his father

### Birch Lake Sailing News

Don. The time for the MC's was 20:45. Bob King did a "horizon" job on the sunfish class with a time of 22 minutes. Dave Olson was second, Scott Troeger third, Tom Howard fourth, Jim Bolinger fifth. Dewayne Weaver barely avoided disaster for a six place finish, as a strong gust of wind nearly separated him from his craft, a few yards from the finish line. Rick Russwurm finished seventh, and Robert Kamins was eighth. It was great to have eight sunfish this week, but it would be wonderful to see more turn out.

Phil Vitale, Bruce Wagner, and myself counted the number of sunfish on the lake Sunday afternoon, and had a total of more than forty!! Come on out and join the fun. There

are also several MC's around the lake that we certainly would like to see compete. How about it Bruce??

Thanks to Don and Lind Harman for setting the marks — now if you could just do something about the wind! Thanks again to my able bodied crew on the committee boat, my wife Sally, Phil "anchor boy" and Sandy Vitale, and the "Hornblower" Bruce Wagner. Also a big thank you to Don Harman for the great bottle of wine.

Don't forget the 4th of July Regatta is next Saturday, June 30th at 1 PM, and again on Sunday, July 1st at 1 PM. See you on the water.

-Jim Beck, Fleet Captain 2001



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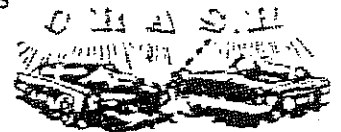
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\*We recognize that this listing is not complete. Please review your listing in the directory (and check it against this list for updated information) and let us know what we need to change.

We will allow two weeks for corrections and changes, then publish a complete list of updates (and provide instructions for updating your own directories).

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**Understanding Birch Lake Phosphorus Data**

Birch Lake continues participation in the spring overturn phosphorus monitoring program. Ralph Bednarz, Senior Limnologist, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) Land and Water Management Division, is the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) Coordinator.

Mr. Bednarz tells us that *Spring overturn*, when the lake is generally well mixed from top to bottom, is an opportune time of the year to sample just the surface of the lake to obtain a representative sample for estimating the total amount of phosphorus in the lake.

Bob Temple, CLMP participant, collected the sample on April 9, 2001 over the 95' deep basin of the lake and delivered the frozen sample and data sheet to the MDEQ District Office in Kalamazoo, Michigan on April 10, 2001. The sample is delivered to the DEQ Lansing office where it is analyzed for state recording.

*Late summer* sampling date is September 23-27 with turn in on the 28th. During late summer when the lake has distinct temperature-defined water layers, the surface grab sample represents only the upper water layer of the lake where most algal productivity occurs.

*Phosphorus* is the most important nutrient and is often used directly as a measure of *eutrophication*. Major sources of phosphorus include soil erosion, septic systems and runoff from farmland or lawns. *Eutrophic* lakes are generally shallow, turbid, and support abundant aquatic plant growth. In deep *eutrophic* lakes, the cool bottom waters usually contain little or no dissolved oxygen. In reality, lake water quality is a continuum progressing from very good to very poor conditions. *Oligotrophic (top) Mesotrophic (middle) Eutrophic (bottom)*.

Before the Lee Maager Cass County Health Department Birch Lake Survey Program which inspected each lakefront property and corrected 96 systems, Birch Lake was classified as *Mesotrophic to very low Mesotrophic*. The faulty septic systems were deteriorating Birch Lake to *eutrophication*. **The Health Department Program turned Birch Lake around. A decrease in phosphorus loadings placed the water in the Oligotrophic range.** Lake management specialists suggest that the near million dollar program requires proper septic tank maintenance and the reduction of phosphorus runoff from lawn fertilizers: *Pump your tank every one to two years.*

*If you fertilize, use LAKESIDE available at Reynolds, Russwurm, Temple.*

**Birch Lake Phosphorus Data**

A precise method of describing the productivity of the lake is to use a numerical index which can be calculated directly from water quality data.

Trophic class	Total phosphorus (ug/l)
Oligotrophic	3
	10
Mesotropic	18
	27
Eutrophic	30
	50

**1999 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Total Phosphorus Results (ug/l)**

Spring - Overturn.....10  
 Late - Summer.....8

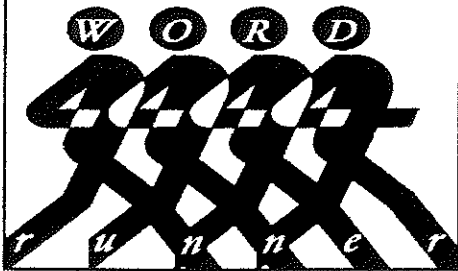
**2000 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program Total Phosphorus Results (ug/l)**

Spring - Overturn.....7  
 Late - Summer.....8

-g. temple

## Retirement

By The WordRunner



**W**e rarely get to know another person well. Time is short and demands are legion, and we all have friends and acquaintances at work, at home, at school, at church, on teams and organizations and at the lake. We simply can't get to know everybody intimately.

Most of the time we deal with the folks outside our families through transactions, exchanging information and carrying out tasks on matters of mutual interest or concern. We develop bonds of respect and affection with outsiders, but few of our social relationships penetrate below the line of our public persona. We walk among our fellows like icebergs passing in the sea, nine-tenths of who we are hidden beneath the surface of our lives.

That is why the present Buzz Rasmussen has given to all of us is so unusual and generous. We have a great deal to thank him for, but most of all we should thank him for the gift of himself.

I've known Buzz a long time, but we know each other much as weekly riders on the same train come to know each other. We're more than acquaintances, but less than close friends. We're friendly when we find ourselves in the same place at the same time, but our encounters are

almost always organizational or accidental. We like each other, but we're respectful of the limits the other guy needs to put on the relationship.

He's a runner and I'm a runner. That tells us something about each other that non-runners may not know, and it makes us long term members of the same athletic community. We've each been fortunate enough to marry a beautiful, intelligent, full-of-life woman, and we are blessed with wonderful daughters whom we consider "best friends."

Nevertheless, until I saw Buzz's film, "The Four Seasons of Birch Lake," I knew little about who he is in his heart, and I knew almost nothing of his extraordinary talent. What a warm, sensitive, caring, and insightfully observant person he must be, and the proof of that claim can be found woven throughout his marvelous movie.

"The Four Seasons of Birch Lake" is a love poem written by Buzz about this wonderful lake home we all share. It is a portrait of a gorgeous lady painted by her lover and given to others as a tribute to her beauty. If you haven't seen it, you have missed a great experience, and if you don't own it, I believe you risk losing out on something that could forever enrich your life.

This short film parades like a symphony, spinning out its story in melodies so sweet that they make you cry. It is orchestrated with a thorough understanding of craft, and is conducted with wit and emotion. All of this visual music flowed from the same gifted man. Buzz is an artist, and he realizes his artistic vision with his camera.

His selection of locations and subjects and moments to photograph grow from his genius, and his ability to capture radiant color and to freeze inexpressible moments of beauty are awe inspiring. "The Seasons of Birch Lake" is simply a

small masterwork, and we are all very lucky to have it.

At the age of nine I knew I wanted to become a writer. I usually express myself far better and more completely through written words than I do through social interaction. I am one with the staff writers of the old New Yorker Magazine, of whom it is said, "they were secretive, and dull and never introduced anyone properly."

That's why art in all of its forms means so much to me, and it is why I knew when I saw Buzz's film that this was a creation that displayed both subject and author to their essence. Buss Rasmussen has opened himself up to all of us, and if you see his marvelous film you can also see right to the center of his soul.

## The Four Seasons of Birch Lake

"The Four Seasons of Birch Lake" video (VCR tape) is now available.

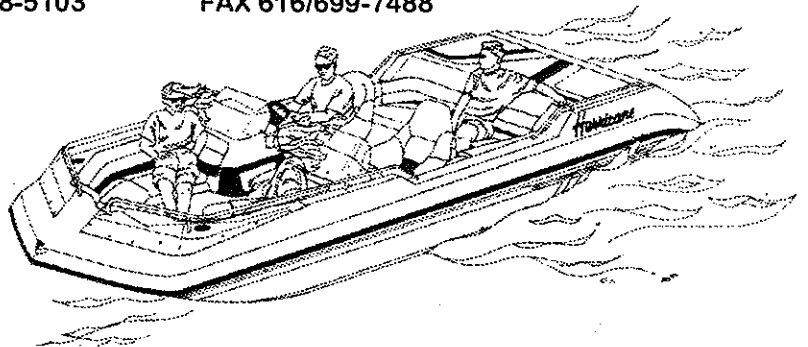
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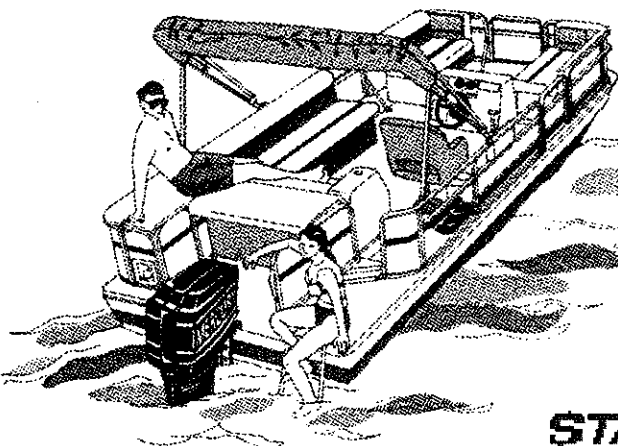
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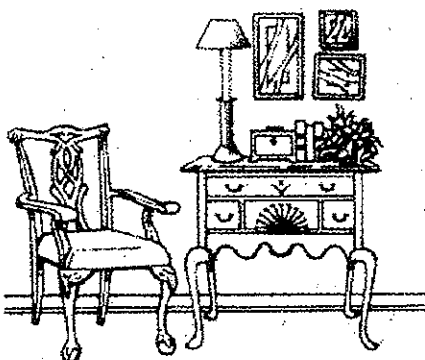
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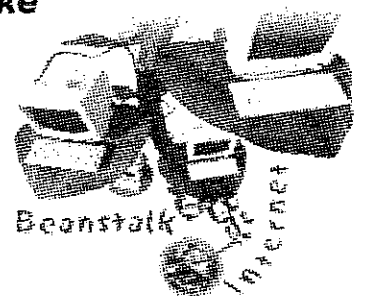
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A large dog walks into a butcher shop, carrying a purse in its mouth. He puts the purse down and sits in front of the meat case.

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"Woof!" barks the dog.

"Hmm," Says the butcher.

"What kind? Liver, Bacon, Steak."

"Woof!" interrupts the dog.

"And how much steak? Half a pound, one pound."

"Woof!" interrupts the dog.

The amazed butcher wraps up the meat and finds the money in the dog's purse. As the dog leaves he decides to follow. The dog enters an apartment building, climbs to the third floor and begins scratching at a door. The door swings open and an angry man starts shouting at the dog.

"Stop!" yells the butcher. "He's the most intelligent animal I've ever seen!"

"Intelligent?" counters the man. "This is the third time this week he's forgotten his key."

**Health tip:** Mosquitoes, fleas and ticks are off the scale in population at the lake. Tell your vet Fido has a cottage on a lake. They will give you what you need to protect them from all the diseases these pests carry.

There will be a lot of extra vehicle and pedestrian traffic out there this weekend. **Leash em up!!!!**

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## Tandoori-style grilled chicken

2 cups plain whole milk yogurt  
2 Tlbs fresh lemon juice

2 Tlbs minced peeled fresh ginger, or one tsp ground ginger  
4 garlic gloves, minced  
1 tsp salt  
1 tsp ground coriander  
1 tsp ground turmeric  
1/2 tsp saffron threads, crumbled  
1/2 tsp ground cumin  
1/2 tsp ground black pepper  
1/2 tsp cayenne pepper  
8 skinless leg-thigh chicken pieces, or 4 large chicken breasts cut into serving-size

pieces  
3 Tlbs butter, melted  
1 small red onion, thinly sliced crosswise, separated into rings  
1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro

Blend 1 cup yogurt and next 10 ingredients in processor or blender until smooth. Transfer to large bowl. Mix in remaining 1 cup yogurt.

Add chicken and turn to coat. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Prepare barbecue (medium-high heat). Place marinade coated chicken on barbecue. Grill chicken until just cooked through, occasionally basting with butter the last 2 minutes, about 12 minutes per side.

Transfer chicken to platter. Top with

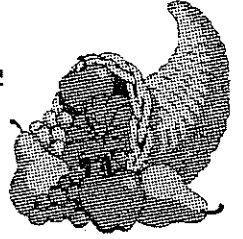
sliced onions and cilantro and serve.

If you have chicken left over, you can cube it and mix with mayo, and it makes a great cold chicken salad.

## Last Mango in Paris

Salt your glass. Fill shaker with 6 oz ice.

Add 1 oz Margaritaville Tequila, 1/2 oz triple sec, and 4 oz Mango Margarita mix. Shake. Strain into glass over ice or serve straight up. Or you can put ice into a blender, add everything and blend until smooth.



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**Cottage for Sale** — 14768 Birch Lakeshore Dr. \$240,000 or best offer. Contact Marty Ball 219-262-1819, or John Ball Jr., 616-476-9775.

**Shore Station** — 3600 lb. aluminum boat lift w/canopy and white vinyl cover, direct drive electric motor, best reasonable offer. Lift in great condition; on Birch Lake. Call 476-9714 on lake or in South Bend 219-272-2904.

**Sylvan 17-foot open bow runabout.** 140 hp I/O. Excellent condition; \$4,950. Contact John Ball Jr. at 476-9775.

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**BLYC NOTES**

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