



BIRCH BARKER

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Seven, July 7, 2001

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

What a busy weekend and what a great fireworks display! It was also nice to see all the sailboats out racing. Even your commodore cleaned up and rigged his Sunfish and joined the sailors for some fun and stiff competition. I want to encourage our new sailors to keep coming out even though it's frustrating to see those good sailors sail circles around us! They all started as novices persevered and now they are the ones we call the good sailors.

John Gableman, Dan Reynolds and judges Sue King, Lynn Boss and Judy Olson did a great job of getting the Boat Parade started. We had ten boats led by Grand Marshalls John and Arline Machalleck. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of our residents as the boats made their way around the lake. This appears to be a popular event so let's plan to increase the number of boats for next year.

The Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah was a great success. We fed 459 people and netted \$1,625 which we turned over to the camp's General Fund. The success of this event is attributed to our leaders Lind and Don Harman, their helpers and our Birch Lake community. Thanks for your support of this great cause.

Plan to have your kids at the yacht club July 14, from 10-Noon for the KIDS craft



Barker photo by Phil Vitale

program. This first event will be led by Amy Troeger. She has a fun morning planned.

Watch the Barker for the next KIDS days.

Keep the changes to the directory coming so we can finalize the update.

I hope you had a relaxing and safe 4th of July.

*Your Commodore
-Mike Machalleck*

ATTENTION ALL KIDS

KIDS Craft will be held at the yacht club on Saturday, July 14 from 10 am to Noon. This is the first of three KIDS activities. The second event will be a KIDS Olympics, and the third will be KIDS Science.

The leaders are Elizabeth Parkinson, Paula Russell and Amy Troeger. Let's get all of the lake kids to the yacht club for some fun and refreshments.

The Birch Lake Calendar

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7/7 (TODAY) - Midsummer Cocktail party 7-11pm | 8/18 - Corn & Sausage Roast
BLYC Board Meeting 9am
Homeowners Assn. Meeting |
| 7/14 - Kids Craft 10-12 | 8/19 - House Walk |
| 7/21 - BLYC Board Meeting 9am | 8/25 - Fall Dinner |
| Birch Lake Garage Sale | 9/3 - Labor Day Regatta |
| 7/27 - Men's Golf & Dinner | 11/22 - Turkey Day Regatta |
| 8/3 - Ladies Golf & Lunch* | |
| 8/4 - Jimmy Buffett Party* | |
| 8/1 - Ladies Luncheon, 12:30 | TBA - Get Kidz Hooked on Fishing 2 |

Men's Golf Outing 41ST ANNUAL BIRCH LAKE OPEN

Park Shores Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI
Friday, July 27, 11 am (IST)

Shotgun start & scramble
\$55/man entry fee — covers golf, cart, favor, door prizes, refreshments and prime rib dinner (5:30 pm IST) \$20 for dinner only

Registration deadline July 23
First 60 golfers are in

Contact John Ball (9775) & drop off entry

Name/phone _____
Name _____
Name _____
Name _____

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

Ladies Luncheon

Plans are underway for this year's Ladies Luncheon. The committee is still hard at work planning a luncheon for the ladies of Birch Lake on Wednesday, Aug. 1 at 12:30 at the Yacht Club.

Check your calendars now and be ready to purchase your tickets next week when they go on sale. Full details will be in next week's Barker.

From Camp Tannadoonah.

We are getting close to the halfway point of our summer as we begin our third week of camp. This week the theme is the 1920's to celebrate the founding of Camp Tannadoonah in 1921. So far we are having a wonderful summer with perfect weather and the lake is beautiful.

We were happy to see so many people at the pancake breakfast on July 1. It was a

wonderful chance to meet and talk with many of the Birch Lake residents (as well as a chance to sell Camp Tannadoonah apparel). Later this season we are planning on having some guests from the lake come up for a meal with the campers. If you think you might be interested contact Judy Olson at 476-2125.

Thanks to all who have donated camperships for needy campers this year, we love to

give needy children the opportunity to attend camp. We are always accepting donations to the campership fund.

This year we had hoped to really expand our fishing program but we have limited equipment (a couple of old bamboo poles with fishing line attached). Donations of equipment are very welcome.

News From The Cove and outlying areas

By Sunny Waters
**fat free, sugar free,
650 grams of fiction*

Nice person of the week award goes to Matthew Kelly who provided the Wagners' grandsons with two healthy rarin' to go turtles. Many thanks ,Matthew, from James and Tyler.

Sale of the Sunny murals haven't been going well, much to my chagrin. B.S. has suggested a new marketing approach of offering wallet size photos. Surely we'll be inundated with orders so make your deposit early and receive a free nose hair clipper. Only \$59.72!!

Anyone lose a humongous inner tube? It has found its way to the Cove and may be collected at the Wagner's pier. No ransom.
FAIT ACCOMPLI: (or, finding a place

in the sun we both agreed on after years of arduous searching)

Setting: Charming couple's living room on a dismal gray Sunday afternoon in early May.

Wife: "I think I'm developing terminal boredom. Let's go cruise around Birch Lake; maybe buy a cottage."

Husband: "Maybe by an ice cream cone, sweet thing. Besides, haven't we already scoured every inch of Birch Lake for property?"

Wife: "Not today, and I have a prenotion there's something out there for us."

Husband: "You mean premonition, don't you?"

Wife: "No, Purdue guy, go look in Webster's. That means warning, foreboding."

Husband: "My apologies, all-knowing

I.U. alumna."

Wife: "Accepted. Let's go."

So the charming couple treks to Birch Lake with hope in their hearts.

Wife: "Sweetie, there's just one little thing. I really want to be in the Cove. Hope you don't think I'm being an absolute witch."

Husband: "How do you spell that?"

Wife: "COVE"

Husband: "Nice parry."

Wife: "Just watch it in the future, Buster."

After an intense perusal of the lakefront property, the charming couple made their way down Lakeview, hooked a left and . . .

Wife: "Holy Smoke; loot at that!"

Husband: "Can you believe? This could be the pot of gold we've been looking for!"

Hand in hand the charming couple climbed the stairs to the screened porch which was unlocked, giving the eager couple access to viewing the inside.

-Continued next week-

Until then,

— Sunny

People who think they know everything are very irritating to those of us who do.



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Birch Lake Notes

Waxman family visiting

Dr. Mike Waxman and family have been visiting the North side for the past week, and will continue through this week. Mike comes from Leawood, KS. His children will be at Camp Eberhart while he gets some R&R on the North shore.

Newcomers/Old Timers

There are new owners on the west side in the former Brown cottage. But they've been Birch Lakers since infancy. We welcome Annie Toth Kesmodel (with husband Charlie) and Teri Toth Carroll (and husband Dave). They live two houses from mom and dad, Helen and "Doc" Toth. Sister Paula Toth Russell with husband Mike have a summer residence across the lake. Karen

Toth Evans is visiting from Oregon, and I'm sure she has some remodeling hints.

The Four Seasons

The second and probably final order of "The Four Seasons of Birch Lake" VCR tape has been placed. We expect to have the tapes in 7-10 days and will distribute them to all who have placed orders. There will be some extras, so if you want one call Mike or Buzz.

BIG THANKS

Don and I would like to thank all those that helped with the pancake breakfast. Jim & Deb Bolinger, Mike & Marge Gotstein, Bill & Maryann O'Neill, Bob & Sue Waddle, Bruce & Sue Wagner, Terry & Linda Curtis,

Marty & Doris Sante, Mike & Katha Machalleck, Dave & Judy Olson, Terry Sankey, Darlene Troyer, Barb Rondot and our two youngest helpers, Carric Curtis and Abby Rondot. A special thanks to Miss Toody and Mr. Doug for all their help and cooperation. It was great to see the large turn out to support the camp.

-Don and Lind Harman

Happy Birthday Ashleigh

On Saturday July 7 Ashleigh Whiteman will be celebrating her 5th Birthday at home with family and friends. Thank you Lord for giving us such a sweet adorable child who dearly loves Birch Lake. **HAPPY 5TH BIRTHDAY ASHLEIGH!**

Love, Mommy, Daddy and big brother Ian

Welcome Evan Durham

Bev and Herm Kruggel had a wonderful surprise this week! Evan William Durham was born at 6:08 a.m. Wednesday, June 27th to their daughter, Shelley, and son-in-law, Ted Durham. Evan arrived two weeks early. He weighed 7 lbs 2 oz. and was 21" long. This makes 13 grandchildren for the Kruggels and is the Durham's 4th child. Parker, Ryan Lynn and Mitchell were so happy and excited about their new brother. Evan at 3 days old made his first visit to Birch Lake. He just couldn't miss the Fourth of July celebration!

Boat Parade

For details of the Fourth of July Boat Parade, see Page 9 of today's Birch Barker.



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Wind, wind and more wind greets regatta sailors

Sailors, be careful of what you ask for!!!! Wind, wind, wind; sailors always want wind! This weekend their prayers were answered, in EXCESS!!! Saturday's Regatta was a picture-perfect day with three races completed in both classes. Thanks to Steve and Julie Plaia for starting the day's races.

At the end of Saturday's races, the sunfish class was deadlocked in a three-way tie. The MC's were also extremely close. Sunday greeted the fleets with some "scary" winds, 25-30 mph!! This was not a day for the faint of heart. Tom Howard captured 1st place in the 1st sunfish race Sunday, but opted out of the second race due to the extreme wind. Scott Troeger took the 2nd race, followed by Bob King and Tom Troeger. Harold Cranmer paced the first MC race with his grandson Chad Plaia crewing. Don Harman was second and Rick Harmon third. At the start of the second race, Dave Olson and Scott Troeger got

"hooked up" and Dave's boat suffered some rigging damage, forcing Dave out of the race. Also, the MC



Birch Lake Sailing News

class had some problems. The Cranmer boat had just cleared the starting mark when a gust of wind doused them. Harold, don't cleat in High Wind!!!

Both days were graced with that little

The results of the Fourth of July Regatta

Sunfish	1	2	3	4	5
Scott Troeger	2	1	3	2	1
Bob King	1	3	2	3	2
Tom Howard	3	2	1	1	DNS
Jim Bolinger	4	7	4	DNS	DNS
Dave Olson	5	4	5	6	DNS
Rick Russwurm	6	8	6	DNS	DNS
Tom Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	3
Dewayne Weaver	9	5	DNS	5	4
Mike Machalleck	7	6	DNS	4	DNS
Temple	8	9	7	DNS	DNS
MC's	1	2	3	4	5
Rick Harman	2	2	2	3	1
Harold Cranmer	4	1	3	1	3
Don Harman	3	4	1	2	2
Bruce Harlan	5	5	DNS	DNS	DNS
Dave Troeger	1	3	DNS	DNS	DNS

Hobie Turbo, piloted by "Vel," a good friend of Don and Lind Harman. What a joy to watch!! One heck-of-a-sailor. He makes it look so easy!! You really need to see this man out on the water.



After 2 days of racing and some great weather, here are the results:

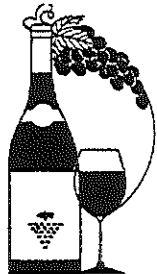
Sunfish class: Scott Troeger 1st, Bob King 2nd, and Tom Howard 3rd.

MC class: Rick Harman 1st, Harold Cranmer 2nd, and Don Harman 3rd.

Congratulations to all. On Saturday we had 10 sunfish compete, and 5 MC's. That was great. I wish we could see that many boats every week. A big thank you to everyone this weekend, the mark setters, Steve and Julie Plaia for starting the races Saturday, and helping Sally and I start on Sunday. I know the sailors all slept well after Sunday's action. Remember when you're wanting more wind, sometimes Mother Nature does respond. Have a great week, and Happy 4th of July.

See you next Sunday.
Jim Beck, Fleet Captain 2001

Best of Beck's Bistro



Gourmet Crab Ring

1 tsp unflavored gelatin—1/4 cup cold water
2 8 oz Packages cream cheese softened
2 Tlbs Dry Sherry
1/4 tsp seasoned salt

1 2-oz jar diced pimentos, drained
1 6 oz can or frozen package crab

meat, thawed, drained and flaked.

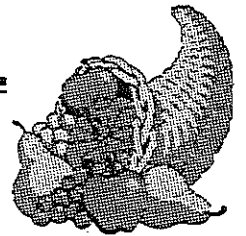
1/8 tsp ground black pepper
4 Tlbs chopped parsley, divided parsley sprigs for garnish
Snack Crackers

Mix all ingredients together, and serve in bowl or shape into ring on a plate. Use Parsley for garnish.

All Nighter

2 oz. Galliano
1 oz White Creme de Cacao
1 oz cream

Mix ingredients with ice in a blender and strain into a cocktail glass.



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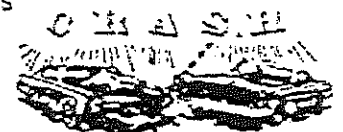
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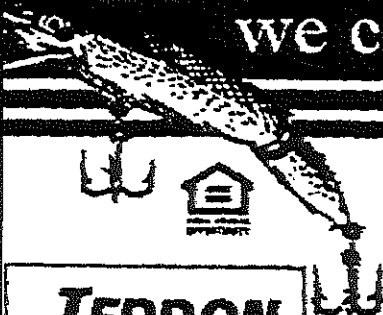
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A word from Birch Lake

*from BIRCH LAKE'S SONGS OF THE SEASONS
by Gertie Temple*

*The pretty wild flowers of spring
A bud, a leaf, a bird to sing
Mushroom hunting, gardening*

*Summer sunning
swimming, sailing, skiing, tubing, running
Croqueting, strolling, fishing,
cycling and funning*

*Warm soft rains and cookout flames
Babies toys, falling stars, wishes, joys
~~Girls, giggles, frogs, toads, turtles, boys~~*

*Fluffy clouds and butterflies
Trees and sunsets, morning skies
Good friends and family ties*

*Air turns cold
Leaves of yellow, red and gold*

*Snowflakes gently touch – disappear
Tracks in snow, sight of deer*

*The winter moon is slow to rise amid the silent star.
The winter sun sends brilliant rays to set my ice aflame.*

*My waves begin to grow
There is a splashing sound as I gulp more ice and snow
I wonder who sees this wondrous sight
the chase, the trap, the winter flight
devoured by such fragile night*

*There is a magic to my name that glistens with delight
Smiles of love, glows of beauty day and night
It is a name so often heard
Sometimes a whisper, a ripple, splash, a stir, a shout
silence, sometimes a doubt*

*A change of hue with every scene
There is no season best of all
Reflections from upon the land greet
winter, spring, summer, fall*

*Any day I spend with you
My shore is filled with pride.
Your presence here is all I need
I have you on my side.*

*Caring for me, holding me dear
Missing me when I'm not near
Because of you, the magic's clear
Because of you, I am here.*

BIRCH LAKE

The camp across the lake

Camp Tannadoonah sits right on our shores, but aside from the candlelight ceremony, fireworks, pancake breakfast and groups of kids at their Sunday swimming level test, people who haven't been there know very little about it.

Camp Tannadoonah was started in the '20s as an all-girl Campfire camp. Since then, boys and non-scouts have been admitted, but the camp hasn't changed much beyond that. Most of the unpowered, wooden cabins have been there since the beginning, and the first "plumbing" facility was bulldozed just recently. The youngest and oldest campers are treated to electricity and in-cabin sinks and toilets, but showers and the rest of the cabins' plumbing is located in a large shower house (boys and girls divided, of course). Many of Tannadoonah's quirky traditions, from re-shutting the door three times after slamming it to digging up a pickle jar full of past campers' experiences, have remained as well.

Campers wake up at Reveille (ever heard that trumpet noise coming from across the lake?), and get ready for breakfast. A few help out in the kitchen while the others attend the



Kids have more fun

by Amy Troeger



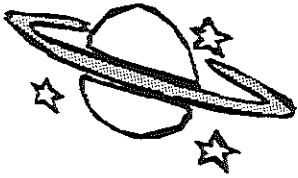
flag-raising ceremony. After breakfast, campers help clean up the camp and go on to their first and second activity periods. Then comes free swim (swim in your level at the waterfront or hang out in the cabins), lunch, and then sing, where counselors teach kids songs they'll sing at the Friday-night campfire. After sing is rest hour, then store, where campers can "buy" two things (candy, pop, and ice cream) with coupon booklets purchased earlier. Campers attend one more activity period and free swim, then head to dinner and flag lowering. After dinner is an all-camp activity, such as Capture the Flag, and everyone gets to bed before Taps plays.

Campers (except for first-timers under 10 years of age) can choose whatever they want to do on a daily basis; if you want to take

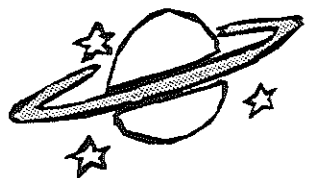
handicraft one day and archery the next, you can. Each activity (handicraft, archery, sports and games, drama, campcraft, and nature) does something different every day. Only tennis, swimming and boating (sailing, canoeing, kayaking, and rowing) classes must be attended each day.

At the end-of-the week campfire, awards are given out for improving in classes, winning the archery tournament, or just plain attending camp. Five-year campers going into eighth grade (or older), can receive the highest award, the Order of the Birch, for completing certain requirements throughout the week.

From cookouts to campfires, Tannadoonah, though seemingly separate, is an essential part of our Birch Lake culture.



Stu's Star Stuff Saturn Rising



Although hard to really see from the bowl of the lake, Venus dominates the eastern pre-dawn sky as the brilliant "morning star." It rises about two and a half hours before the Sun, and is still fairly low in the east at first light.

Although it's not nearly as bright as Venus, another planet is climbing into view in the mornings — Saturn, the second-largest planet in the solar system. It looks like a bright, pale yellow

star to the lower left of Venus. It's about as bright as nearby Aldebaran, the orange "eye" of Taurus, the bull.

Saturn is one of the most beautiful sights in the entire solar system. Broad, bright rings encircle the planet, so it looks like a cosmic jewel.

Seen through telescopes on Earth, the rings look solid — but they're not. In fact, they're mostly empty space. They're made of

countless small bits of ice and rock. These bits reflect a lot of sunlight. And seen from our great distance away, they appear to blend together to form solid rings around the planet.

Each ring particle orbits Saturn like a tiny moon. They may actually have started out as parts of a BIGGER moon that was pulled apart by Saturn's gravity. Today, some SMALL moons within the ring system act as shepherds, their gravity keeping

the ring particles in place, so they don't drift away into space or fall toward Saturn.

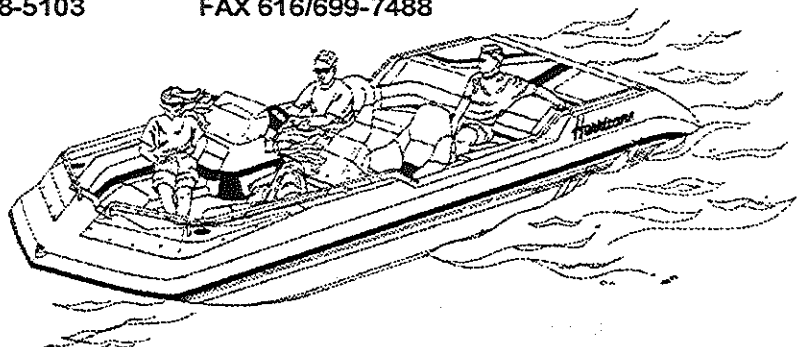
Look for Saturn beginning about 90 minutes to an hour before sunrise. Over the coming weeks it'll climb farther from the Sun, and will swing past Venus in about two weeks. For now, keep watching and enjoy the show. It's free.

-Stewart Spratt



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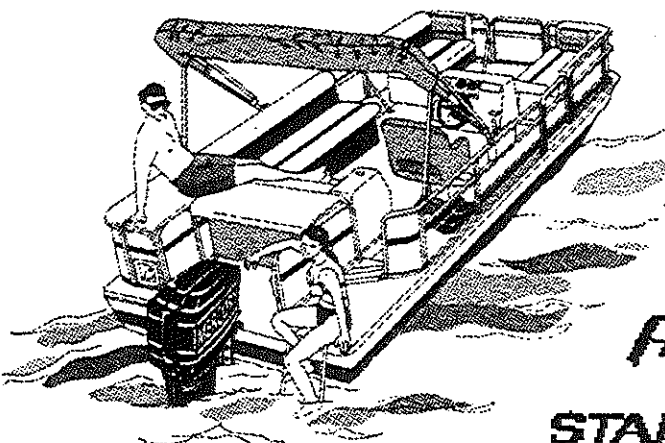
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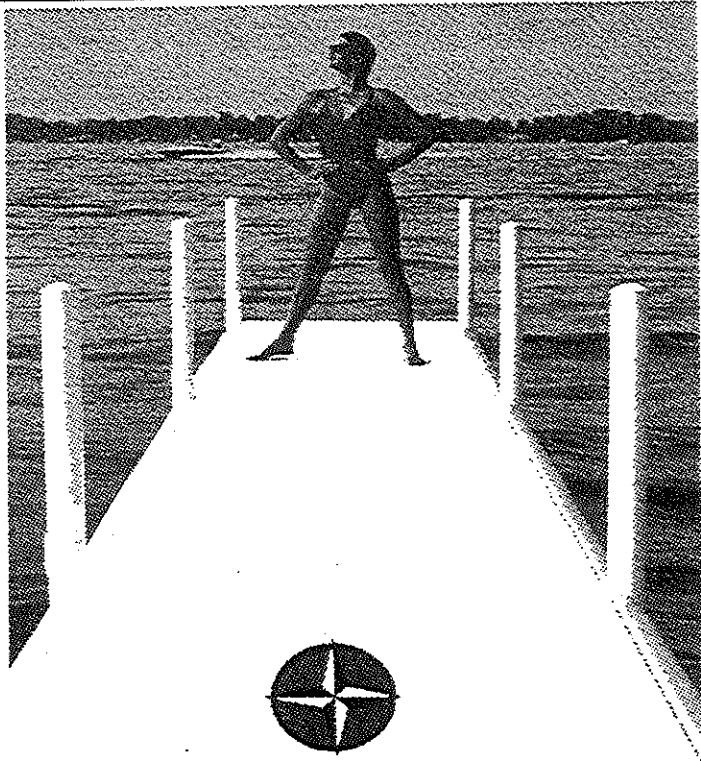
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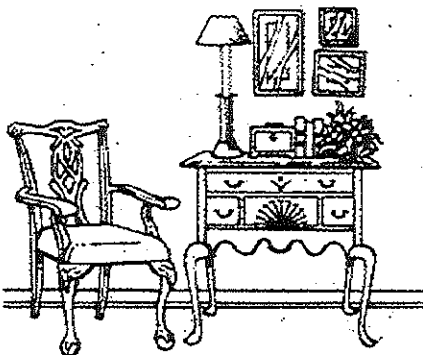
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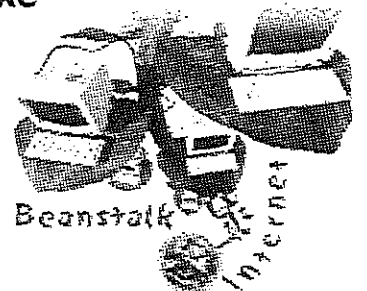
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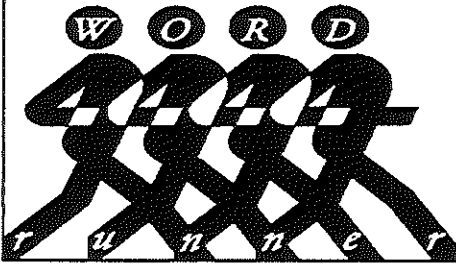
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Neighbors

By The WordRunner



Our property is dissected by Birch Road. Our house sits east of the street, and our lake lot is west. On the south corner of the yard above the road is a set of concrete steps that my wife loves to use as she does her flower tending and my son-in-law would be happy not to have to trim around. The steps lie half on our property and half on the property of the house next door, and this unusual overlapping property improvement occurred because two men who used to live here wanted to build the steps that way.

Noel Bright and Jack Hartranft were great friends. For years they lived side by side and enjoyed each other's company. They did things, neighborly things, that seemed natural and even important in a community like ours, though you would never find such behavior in towns or cities.

One of their shared projects and acts of declared trust and friendship was to build and use that set of steps that straddled their property lines. Nobody worried about encroachment, or the potential for bickering or the possibility that a future property sale might have some confusing information on the survey or the title insurance policy. In fact, both men liked the steps the way they were and took pride in the manner in which they had been construct-

ed.

It's easy to imagine how the idea might have evolved. Somebody probably got tired of trying to negotiate the steep slope from yard to road, and conversation between the two men, or between their wives, Sylvia and Betty June, could have led to a "let's do it together" kind of decision. That way the project would be easier to accomplish and might involve a laugh or two.

In the years we've been at Birch, I've witnessed many examples of this sort of lake-life neighborliness, and I know it is one of the things that many here treasure about our lives on these shores. It speaks of tolerance, and trust, and a sense of generosity that we find nowhere else outside our families.

All of that may get tested sometime soon if we should become the focus of a governmental sewer project. Diamond Lake now has sewers as does Donnell Lake. Eagle's sewer project is underway, and many believe it is only a matter of time before the sanitary district plan turns toward Birch.

If that happens we will have folks on the

lake who are strongly opposed to getting sewers and others who are just as strongly in favor of the work being done. Some will insist we don't need them and others will complain loudly about the cost, but those who are fearful of water problems or possible property value losses due to pollution will stand up and cheer. Lines will be drawn, petitions may develop and heated discussions will go on up and down these roads.

On other lakes, this issue has led to battles among neighbors that escalated into attacks on property, physical confrontations, violence, and the fracturing of close, long term relationships. I know all of that sounds crazy and unbirchlike, but it has happened again and again to people who thought they had a near-perfect lake community.

If the sewer discussion comes to Birch, please let's all remember Jack Hartranft and Noel Bright and their unusual set of steps. Let's give each other the benefit of trust and tolerance, and let's remember that just like you, the other guy only wants what's best for Birch.

Birch Lake Fourth of July Boat Parade Winners

A big congratulations to all of the participants in the annual July 4th Boat Parade held on Saturday, June 30. Winners this year were –

- Grand Marshalls Arline and John Machalleck – Most Royal
- The Dave and Tom Troeger Families in the "Aloha" boat – Most Tropical Boat
- The LaPierre Family in the Cheeseburger Paradise – Best Party Boat
- The Witchie Family and friends in the Mickey Mouse boat – The American Award
- The Wos Family in the Paradise Birch Island boat – Best Lake Theme
- The McCay Family in the "other" Aloha boat – Best Island Theme
- The Scott Troeger Family in the "60s" boat –

Nostalgia Award

- The Zesinger, Rasmussen, King, Bernaciak, and Rheinhardt Families in the "It's a Bug's Life" boat – Best Movie Theme
- The Green Family in the Hogwart's School Boat – Best Book Adventure Award.

Judges were Charlene Sheetz, Lynn Boss, Suzy King & Judy Olson. Grand Marshalls Arline and John Machalleck were escorted around the lake by Doris and Marty Sante.

A big thank you to John Gableman for the trophies and the use of his pier for the judges. Thank you also to Dan Reynolds for the registering of the participants.

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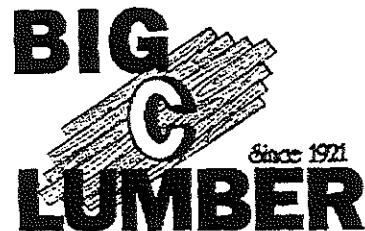
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Boat trailer for fishing boat. Call Bud at 476-2526

WANTED: a man's bicycle with coaster (not handlebar) brakes, call Olson at 476-2125

BLYC NOTES

If you ordered a "Four Seasons Of Birch Lake" VHS tape, you can pick it up at Machallack's or Rasmussen's. If you haven't

ordered one yet, you may do so at either home.

MISCELLANY

OK, the beer thing has been working pretty well... Will still trade beer for boat rides, and will promise not to sing, dance or otherwise be annoying, obnoxious or irritating. Sue, I also promise not to tell any more "first thing you know" jokes. Inquire at Phil & Sandy's house.

OOPS — Last week I sent a million e-mails to family, friends and Birch Lakers announcing a change in our e-mail address...but I neglected to give the *full* correct address to replace the old one. Anyone wishing to e-mail Bob, Leslie or Calvin King should send their e-mail to: typetowe@aol.com. Thanks for your understanding and help — Bob, Les & Cal

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