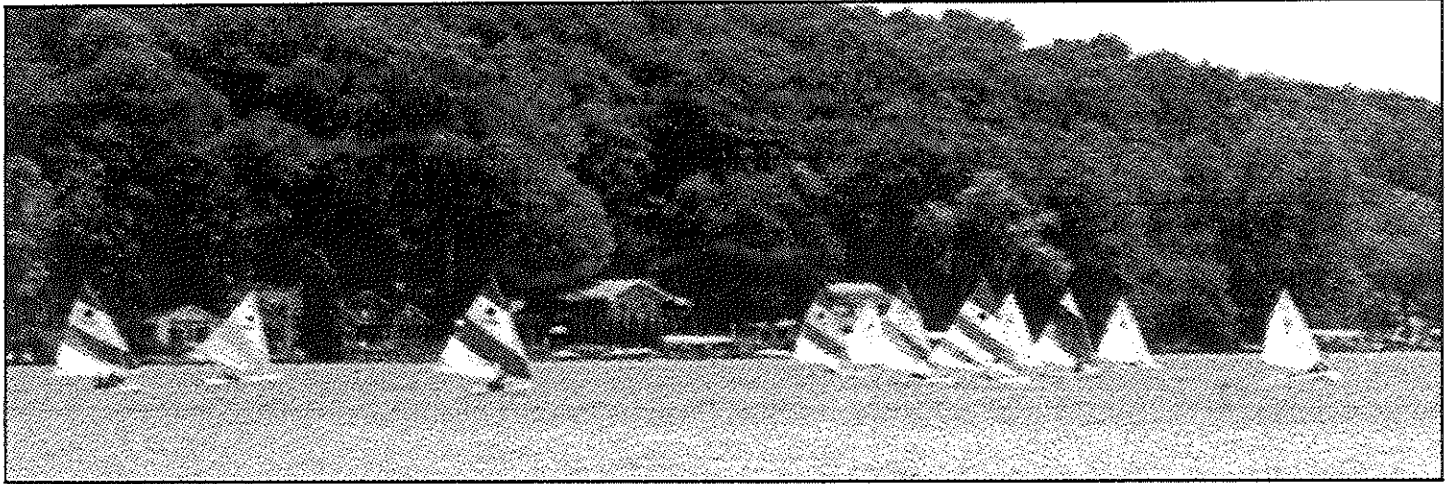


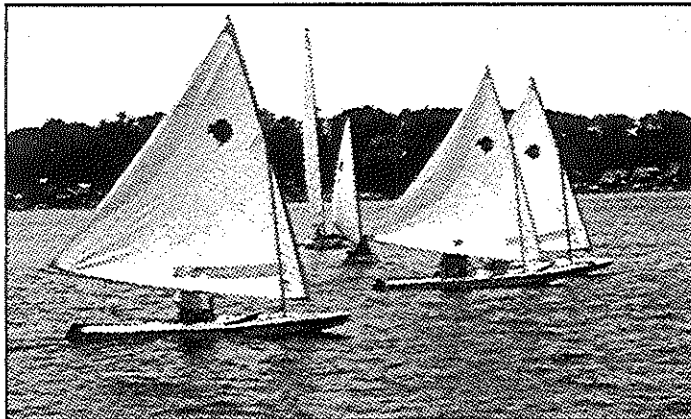
# Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Eight, July 14, 2001



Barker photo by Leslie King



Barker photo by Bruce Wagner

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**W**e've had an action-packed first half of summer and are looking forward to the second half!

The midsummer Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party was well attended. It's so nice to see the "regulars" there and to meet our new homeowners getting involved in the BLYC activities. The snacks were delicious, once again!

Saturday, July 14 from 10-Noon we will have KIDS Crafts at the Yacht Club. Get your chil-

dren there for a fun time.

Don't forget to sign up for the Ladies and Mens Annual Golf Outings. Our chairpersons Mardi Miller, Betsy Custard and John Ball have the events set up and some great prizes for all. Let's get those golf clubs dusted off and join the fun.

Also, get your ticket to the Ladies Luncheon on Wednesday, August 1 starting at 12:30 at the Yacht Club. Darlene Troyer and Maryann O'Neill are busy preparing the menu and setting up the Yacht Club for a pleasant dining experience.

Your Commodore  
-Mike Machalleck

## BIRCH LAKE GARAGE SALE

The Birch Lake Garage Sale is scheduled Saturday, 7/21, from 8 am to 2 pm. So far we have Miller on the West side, and Greenig/Weaver, Harlans, Bender and Weesner on the South side. Anyone else interested should call Mike Machalleck at 476-2642.

## ATTENTION KIDS

KIDS Craft will be held at the yacht club today, 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

7/14 - Kids Craft 10-Noon  
7/21 - BLYC Board Meeting 9am  
Birch Lake Garage Sale 8-2  
7/27 - Men's Golf & Dinner  
8/1 - Ladies Luncheon, 12:30  
8/3 - Ladies Golf & Lunch  
8/4 - Jimmy Buffett Party

8/11 - Kids Regatta 1 pm  
8/18 - Corn & Sausage Roast  
BLYC Board Meeting 9am  
Homeowners Assn. Meeting  
8/25 - Fall Dinner  
9/3 - Labor Day Regatta  
11/22 - Turkey Day Regatta

## Saga of a Near Miss on Birch Lake — Be Careful When Boating!

Having nearly been run down by a fellow Birch Laker on Friday 7/6 in the afternoon, I feel it is time to once again remind our neighbors of the boating safety rules which have been published previously in the Birch Barker, and to ask people to please use common sense when driving your boat.

My incident took place on the West side, near the sandbar. We had our boat anchored and were floating with noodles near it. My brother, husband and I were in the water and my sister-in-law was in the boat. A boat driver towing a skier pulled out and headed in our direction. He kept heading towards us as we began yelling and waving the noodles, but he paid no attention as he was facing backward looking at the skier

rather than ahead to where his boat was heading. Finally, the skier must have seen us as he motioned to the driver to head the other direction which fortunately he did before he either ran over us or crashed into our boat.

If you have never faced this situation, and I hope you never do, it is terrifying!!! All you see is the bow of the boat coming at your head and you can't move fast enough to get out of the way as you don't know when or if the boat will turn or which way it will turn. Also, I was very concerned for the safety of my sister-in-law in the boat. Unfortunately, we were unable to obtain the boat license number at that time or this reckless driver would have been reported.

We also observed on Saturday, 7/7 a boat

driver towing a skier who was standing in the boat and facing backwards 50 percent or more of the time directing his skier, rather than watching where he was driving. Obviously, this is against the law and very dangerous.

Please, friends, neighbors and visitors – read and follow the boating safety rules. Also, please think and use common sense while driving. If you are the boat driver, your full attention should be ahead and to both sides of your boat to anticipate any obstacles coming into your path. The spotter watches your skier or tuber. Let's not have any more tragedies at beautiful Birch Lake.

Lois Groszek  
South Side



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.

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

# Birch Lake Notes

## Message from the Zs

We would like to thank all the Birch Lake community for their help and prayers during the near drowning of our son Clark III on July 4th. Many people were involved in the lifesaving effort.

He was released from Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo on Saturday, July 7, with no ill effects. Words cannot describe our feelings of gratitude to those involved.

-The Zesingers

## New beds at camp

Camp is in the process of replacing the old metal beds with new wooden bunks. We are hopeful that all lumber will come from donations. Tom Foley, a Birch Lake resident, has generously donated enough lumber for eight bunk beds. If anyone else is interested in assisting with this project, please let us know. Thanks again, Tom, for your generosity!

Speaking of generosity, the pancake breakfast was a huge success and a sizeable check was given to camp. We are very appreciative of all the support we receive from our Birch Lake friends.

We are halfway through our 2001 camping season and there are still openings in the weeks to come. Please call camp for more information. (616) 476-2177.

-janie stephenson

## Thanks Bernie

Bernie Garceau from the East side spent part of his Sunday on his jet ski. He made a long spear and was picking up trash, (beer and pop cans mostly) from the bottom of the lake close to the shore line and as deep as

he could see and reach. Thanks, Bernie!

## Birthdays

Happy Birthday Isabella and Madeline On July 12th Bella Parkinson will celebrate her 6th birthday. July 17th is Maddie

Parkinson's 8th birthday. Cake, ice cream, tubing and swimming are on the menu for this weekend in NeverNeverLand. One month to go for Carmen's big number two. The birthday flags are flying high this summer at 15236 Birch Lakeshore.

## News From The Cove and outlying areas

By Sunny Waters

*Where the men are pretty and the women are hairy chested\**

### FAIT ACCOMPLI Part 2

We left off last week with the charming couple peering through windows of the cottage in the Cove.

Husband: "Holy Smoke! Looks like Fonzie's hangout!"

Wife: "Check out those avocado and orange curtains hanging on a piece of clothesline."

Husband: "They go well with the three-tiered turquoise lamp, don't you think? And how about that high tech television antenna cleverly disguised as a clothes hanger?"

Wife: "Oh look, B.S., that cute little plaque over the brown and gold sofa; two frogs on a lily pod saying 'Welcome to our pad.'"

Husband: "Crane your neck a bit and you can see into the bedroom. It's really us."

Wife: "Looks absolutely crammed with white and gold 'French provincial.' This place says Architectural Digest right down to the crumpled brown carpet which, I sus-

pect, was originally beige."

Husband and Wife: "It's ours!"

The charming couple, all aglow, returned to their fashionably furnished home (no frogs), called the realtor, met with him the following day and became Birch Lake property owners two days later.

Twelve years and a few improvements later the charming couple still pinch themselves over their good fortune. Birch Lake, a little chunk of Heaven.

Dave, Ann Mallory, Michael and Benjamin THomas trekked all the way from their Georgia home to allow Thomas and Blackwood grandparents some heavy-duty cuddle time. While here, Benjamin was baptized at St. Joseph Church where his parents were married. Not simultaneously, you understand.

If a man speaks in the forest and there is no woman there to hear him, is he still wrong?

Your devout, if a bit deviant

— Sunny

\*We girls have a heck of a time. Turtleneck swim suits aren't easy to find.



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# Birch Lake Notes

## Have you seen the New Birch Lake Sweatshirts?

The BLYC is selling sweatshirts with "Birch Lake" and a heron embroidered on the left front. Several lake residents that attended the Pancake Breakfast or last Saturday's get-together at the Yacht Club have already made their purchases. If you missed those opportunities, don't panic! **You have until July 20 to place your order.**

Red, Birch (pale gray), and navy sweatshirts can be ordered in youth sizes: Small(6-8), Medium (10-12), and Large (14-16) for only \$15.

White, Birch, Sandstone, Mallard Green, Navy and Red sweatshirts can be ordered in adult sizes Small, Medium, Large, X-Large for \$20 and sizes 2X, 3X and 4X for \$23. These sweatshirts are Jerzees Z Nu-Blend, 50/50 cotton/polyester 8 oz. fleece.

All orders must be paid for at the time the order is placed. Delivery is expected within 3 weeks of your order.

Please use the order form printed in this Barker.

**Remember to enclose you check or deliver cash to Betsy Custard, Mardy Miller or Denny Weesner.**

## Birch Lake Sweatshirt Order form

Youth sweatshirts are Red, Birch (pale gray), and navy in sizes: Small(6-8), Medium (10-12), and Large (14-16) for \$15 each.

Color \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Adult sweatshirts are available in White, Birch, Sandstone, Mallard Green, Navy and Red in sizes Small, Medium, Large, X-Large for \$20 and sizes 2X, 3X and 4X for \$23.

Color \_\_\_\_\_ Size \_\_\_\_\_ Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_

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## Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

# Best of Beck's Bistro



ground beef

**Mexicali Appetizer Meatballs**  
 2/3 cup Steak Sauce  
 2/3 cup chunky salsa  
 1 1/2 pounds

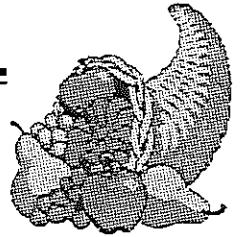
1 egg  
 1/2 cup dry bread crumbs  
 Mix beef, egg, and egg crumbs. Shape meat mixture into small balls, and lightly brown in a skillet. Combine meatballs and sauce in a crock pot, and heat for about one hour on high, and serve.

These would probably be good with Margarita's!!!

**Wet Socks (rum drink)**

1 1/2 oz. coconut rum  
 1 oz amaretto  
 3 oz cranberry juice  
 1 1/2 oz. pineapple juice  
 Combine ingredients in a

hurricane glass  
 2/3 full of ice.  
 Top with a pineapple wedge and a cherry stuck on a paper umbrella.



## Sailing News

Well, what can I say? Last Sunday we had too much wind, and this Sunday, no wind at all!! It's either feast or famine for our sailors. Needless to say, we scuttled Sunday's races due to lack of

wind. Let's hope we get some wind this weekend. PS — We are in desperate need of starters (committee boat) for the July 29th season races. If you could help us out that weekend, please contact me at 476-2760.

**Kidzgatta**

I would like to give you the

date for the Kidzgatta. It is Saturday, Aug 11 at 1 PM (Indiana time). Don and Lind Harman are hosting the event again this year. Last year we had a great turnout, and we're hoping for more this year. We had a simple course last year, and we will use the same format this year. Get

those vessels rigged, and maybe even get some practice in!! You don't need to pre-register, it's FREE. Just show up at Harman's pier, Sat, Aug 11 before 1 PM.

-Jim Beck, fleet captain 2001

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

## Ladies' Golf Outing

Park Shores Golf Course, Cassopolis

Friday, August 3, 9 am (IST)

Best-ball scramble  
 \$25/man entry fee — covers 9 holes of golf, cart, and fabulous prizes

Luncheon follows at Noon at Lindy's  
 Contact Mardy Miller 476-9226 or  
 Betsy Custard 476-9835 or 219-255-8894

Name/phone \_\_\_\_\_  
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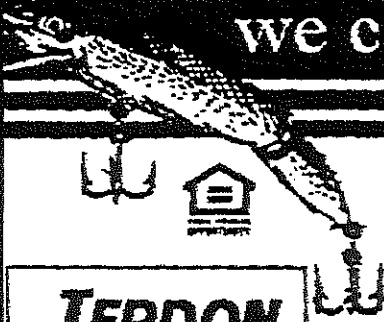
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| S005 GOTSTEIN, MIKE & MARGE<br>15208 Birch Lakeshore Dr.<br>476-2123<br><br>The Villages<br>2122 Zaragoza<br>Lady Lake, FL 32159<br>352-259-5496                    | S073 BARBOUR, DOUG & TAMMY<br>14826 Walden St.  | 1002 Barrington Place<br>Mishawaka, IN 46545<br>219-256-1673<br>JEFF & BETH OLSON,<br>TODD & AMY OLSON  | N0259 MULLIN, RICH & PAM<br>14859 Birch Northshore Dr.<br>476-8820<br><br>3326 Deer Lake Dr.<br>South Bend, IN 46614<br>219-231-1380<br>PATRICK, SARAH                 | W300 HUETTEMAN, MARK & WENDY<br>62705 Birch Lakeview Dr.<br>476-9430<br><br>431 S. Garfield<br>Hinsdale, IL 60521<br>630-455-0844<br>RACHEL, TEDDY,<br>MARYFRANCIS, & ANNIE  |
| S022 TROEGER, EARL JR. & CONNIE<br>15100 Birch Lakeshore Dr.<br>476-2237<br><br>706 Country Club Lane<br>South Bend, IN 46615<br>219-234-4313<br>etroeger@webtv.net | S076 RUSSELL, MICHAEL & PAULA (TOTH)<br>14820 Birch Lakeshore Dr.<br>476-1022<br><br>60644 Whispering Hills Dr.<br>South Bend, IN 46616<br>219-291-4203<br>PATRICK, CONNOR,<br>MEGHAN   | E140 GOLLATZ, CHARLES & PATRICIA<br>63392 Birch Rd.<br><br>10221 Jackson Rd.<br>Osceola, IN 46561<br>219-522-6901   | N245 THAYER, JAMES & ELEANOR<br>14801 Birch Northshore Dr.<br>476-2298<br><br>36 North St. Joseph Ave.<br>Niles, MI 49120<br>LYNN, PATTY & JOE                         | W319 SMITLEY, JEFF & DENISE<br>62893 Lakeview Drive<br>476-4900<br><br>354 Ridge Avenue<br>Elmhurst, IL 60126<br>630-279-4900<br>dsmitley@ameritech.net  |
| S051 MACHALLECK, JOHN & ARLINE<br>14878 Birch Lakeshore Dr.<br>476-9391<br><br>Apartment 132<br>400 E. Main St.<br>Midland, MI 48640<br>517-835-6575                | S100 BOUWKAMP, DAVID & MARGARET<br>14746 Birch Lakeshore Dr.<br><br>E109 YOSHIZAWA, JIM & LOTT, LINDA<br>63646 Birch Rd.<br>476-2308<br><br>4082 Walter Rd.<br>North Olmsted, Ohio 44070<br>440-237-8883<br>LindaL1008@aol.com<br>ymann123@aol.com<br>MIKE & JENNIFER | E172 VITALE, PHIL & SANDY<br>63174 Birch Rd.<br>sailorphil@beanstalk.net<br>sailorphil@philvitale.com<br>476-1680   | N267 FREIHOFFER, FRED & CAROL<br>14921 Birch Northshore Dr.<br>476-9823<br><br>50631 Deer Ridge Ct.<br>Granger, IN 46530<br>219-272-3683<br>NICK & ANN                 | W386 BENJAMIN, RITA CAROL BENJAMIN, JOHN M. (son)<br>63346 Storey Hill Ct.<br>476-2243<br><br>17461 Eldorado<br>South Bend, IN 46635<br>219-272-9918<br><br>219 West Troy Ave.<br>Indianapolis, IN<br>317-791-9048 |
| S054 MACHALLECK, MIKE & KATHA<br>14874 Birch Lakeshore Dr.<br>476-2642<br><br>104 Hydrangea Court<br>Barefoot Bay, FL 32976<br>561-664-7515<br>BRIAN & LORI         | E124 DeCOCKER, TOM & NANCY<br>63514 Birch Rd.<br>476-9821<br>JOHN & KAREN<br><br>E126 OLSON, TODD & AMY OLSON, JEFF & BETH<br>63490 Birch Rd.<br><br>Todd & Amy<br>19388 Strawberry Hill Rd.<br>So. Bend, IN 46614<br>219-231-8759                                    | E200-4 BOSS, LYNN<br>63037 Birch Rd.<br>476-1611<br><br>H004 HETTMANSPERGER, JIM<br>63228 Kinsey St.<br><br>H007 O'NEILL, BILL & MARYANNE<br>62358 Kinsey St.<br>476-2831<br>PATRICK & LEZLI<br>MIKE & LAURA<br>ERIN & PHIL | N268 KOLBER, CHRIS & BARB<br>14933 Birch Northshore Dr.<br>476-9492<br><br>320 Hyatt Dr.<br>Libertyville, IL 60048<br>847-247-0530<br>KATIE, BRENDAN, ANNA,<br>BETHANY |  |
| S072 MOLHO, MANNY & MARYLU<br>14842 Birch Lakeshore Dr.<br>476-9899<br><br>916 Pontiac St.  | Jeff & Beth<br>2333 W. St. Paul #209<br>Chicago, IL 60647   | N025 O'BRIEN, MAJOR & KERNI<br>14819 Birch Northshore Dr.<br>476-2126<br><br>N205 HERMS, BOB & KOHNKE,<br>EILEEN<br>62982 Birch Rd.<br>476-9381<br><br>N228 FOLEY, WILLIAM & GLADYS<br>14739 Kiloqua Woods Lane<br>476-9951 | C289 LYZEN, WILLIAM & RITA<br>62746 Woodland Dr.<br>476-8836<br><br>709 Strong Ave.<br>Elkhart, IN 46514<br>219-295-5111   |  |

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**UNDERSTANDING BIRCH LAKE CHLOROPHYLL DATA**

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is one of over 300 lake associations that is a member of the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (ML&SA). Bob Temple, water quality committee, is the Sampler for Birch Lake in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP).

*The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) assists in the collection of samples on a consistent and regular basis. The data is needed to recognize changes or trends in the lake and to document data in lake quality over time. CLMP was designed to provide data on parameters that are indicators of the health of the lake. The program was put together by Pearl Bonnell and Don Winne, ML&SA, and Ralph Bednarz, MDEQ*

In 1999, the Birch Lake Yacht Club was one of 68 lake associations that participated in the *chlorophyll* study. In 2000, the monitoring study was expanded to 80 lakes.

In 2001, Bob Temple continues to collect summer *chlorophyll* samples which are delivered frozen to the MDEQ's Laboratory which provides the analytical support for the chemical analysis. *Mr. Bednarz tells us that during the 5 monitoring events of the summer, we are collecting algae and looking for the "beast" within.*

*Chlorophyll* is a difficult parameter to monitor. Monitoring for *chlorophyll* is a high level of environmental monitoring. Ralph Bednarz explains procedures and demonstrates the sample collection and handling techniques in his workshops at the ML&SA's conference.

**Parameters Used to Calculate the Health of Birch Lake**

Secchi disk readings (an indicator of water clarity)

*June 2001 Report #5*

Spring Overturn and Summer Phosphorus (important for algae growth)

*June 2001 Report #6*

**Chlorophyll** concentration (measure of the amount of algae present)

*July 2001 Report #8*

*Clearly, low levels of phosphorus are associated with low levels of algae (chlorophyll) which are associated with high Secchi disc readings.*

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	Chlorophyll (ug/l)
Oligotrophic	2
	5
Mesotrophic	8
	10
Eutrophic	11
	15

<b>1999 CLMP Chlorophyll Results</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
	2	5	1	3	4

<b>2000 CLMP Chlorophyll Results</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
	5	2	1	2	3

**BIRCH LAKE IS UNIQUE**

*Before the Health Department Program and the replacement of septic systems that were contributing bacteria and/or nutrients to the lake, Birch Lake was Mesotrophic (middle) to very low Mesotrophic. Because of loyal cooperative Birch Lake residents,*

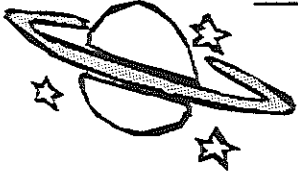
**BIRCH LAKE DOES NOT HAVE A SEPTIC SYSTEM POLLUTION PROBLEM.**

*Birch Lake is free of contamination, algae blooms and is "oligotrophic" beautiful.*

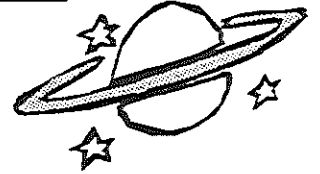
And now a word from Birch Lake

**DO NOT FEED THE GEESE. THEY MAY BE CUTE, BUT THEY POLLUTE**

*-g. temple*



## Stu's Star Stuff Summer triangle



The trio from the warm months dominates the dome of the sky for much of the night. The summer triangle is composed of: Deneb, the brightest star in Cygnus the Swan, also known as the Northern Cross; Altair, in Aquila the Eagle, a double triangle that can look like a swooping bird of prey; and Vega, the brightest, in hard-to-see Lyra the Harp.

Within one leg of the triangle, Sagitta, the arrow, slices through the heart of the Milky Way. It's one of the smallest of the 88 constellations though, so you need to look carefully to find

it. As darkness falls this evening, look low in the eastern sky for Deneb, in the northeast, and Altair, far to its lower right. Sagitta is directly between these two stars, a good bit closer to Altair.

Sagitta is small, but its four brightest stars make a distinctive arrow. The direction the arrow points depends upon which of the two ancient myths you think it represents.

If you see it pointing to the northeast, then it symbolizes the arrow that Hercules used in his fifth labor — killing the Stymphalian birds. These man-eating monsters had claws and

beaks of brass, and could shoot their feathers like arrows. Hercules frightened them by rattling cymbals, and as they flew up, he shot them with poisoned arrows.

If you see Sagitta flying to the southwest, on the other hand, then the arrow represents the myth in which Prometheus was chained to a rock. Every day Aquila, the eagle, ate his liver. It would grow back overnight, only to be devoured again the next day. Hercules set Prometheus free and killed the eagle with an arrow. The eagle had been a servant of Jupiter, the king of the gods, so Jupiter placed him in the

stars — with the arrow chasing him endlessly across the sky.

High overhead stands the third and brightest corner of the triangle, Vega, a white-hot wonder some 25 light years away. Due to the Precession of the Equinoxes, our planet's spiraling as it is tugged by the Sun and Moon, Vega will be Earth's North Star in some 13,000 years. But let's not worry about that now. Just enjoy the show. It's free.

-Stewart Spratt

## Ladies Luncheon

The BLYC will be the site for the ladies of Birch Lake as they come together to celebrate the "Peaceful Waters of Birch

Lake." Appetizers will be served prior to lunch giving ladies time to discuss the joys of Birch Lake life and look over an assortment of crafts made by several women from Birch Lake. If you see some handsome men slaving over the grills when you arrive, do not fear, they have volunteered to

**Ladies Luncheon**  
**"Peaceful Waters of Birch Lake"**  
August 1  
12:30 Indiana Time  
Tickets \$9 per person

help grill the savory shish kabobs for the luncheon. Plan to attend this luncheon and leave your cares at home for the afternoon, you

might even win a door prize.

Get your tickets early as there is limited seating for this event. Tickets can be purchased from: Mary Ann O'Neil 476-2831, Helen Toth 476-2877 or Darlene Troyer 476-2639. Call today to purchase your tickets, as they will not be sold at the door.

## Fido IQ testing

Some cute thoughts from Fidos everywhere:

How do I love thee?

The ways are as numberless as my hairs on the rug. I am your best friend, now, always, and especially when you are eating.

Look in my eyes and deny it. No human could love you as much as I do.

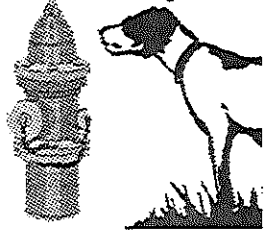
Onward...Leash your dog. Nag, nag, nag, that's what your

thinking.

How do you tell how smart your dog is? Simple test.

Take an empty can such as a vegetable can. Clean it well. Place it on the floor upside down with a treat under it. A dog intelligent is measured by how quickly the dog retrieves the treat. This is fun for the whole family to watch. Try it and see how smart your dog is.

**Checking his p-mail**



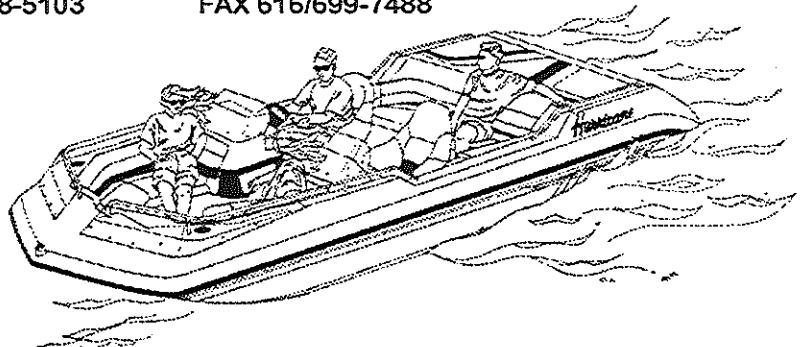
Have a safe and happy-as-a-pup kind of week.

-Fido's Friend



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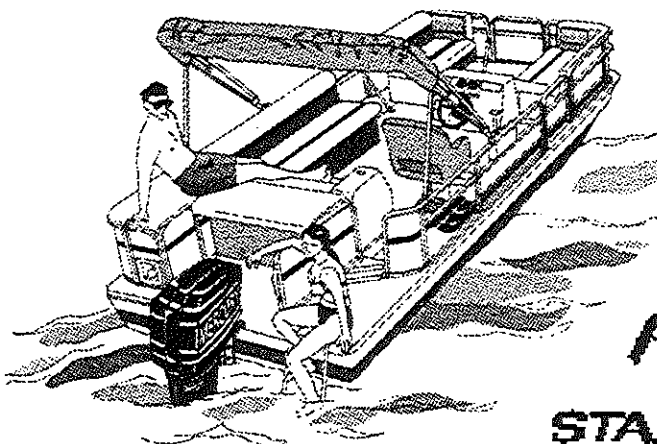
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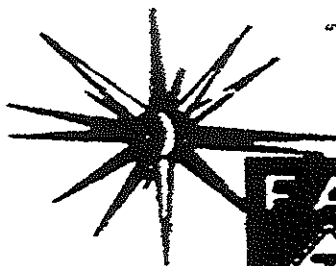
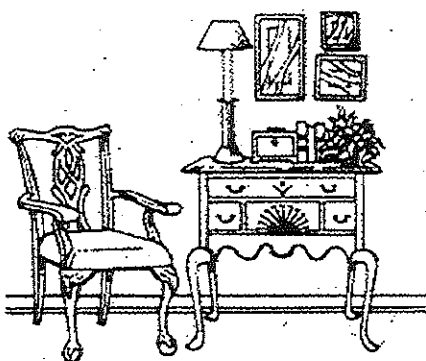
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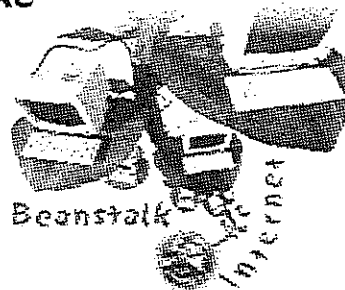
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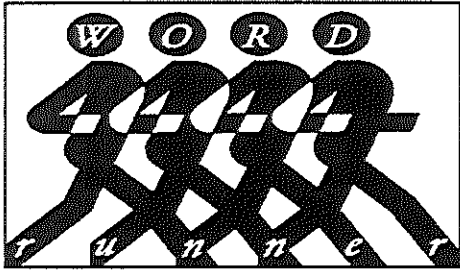
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## Small Kindnesses

Word came this morning that Jack Asire has died, and Jack's passing has led me to reflect once again on the power of small kindnesses, and the amazing influences they can have on our lives. Those who have read my musings in this column know of my admiration for and indebtedness to Jack. He was a man of strength and character and his easy acceptance of me at a time when I was struggling to accept myself meant far more to me than he could understand.

Jack was not the only one at Birch to demonstrate such generosity. When we bought our place on the East Shore in 1972, everyone around us was open and gracious, good neighbors from the beginning, but among the men I met in those early days, Leo Zelasko was the person who went out of his way to let me he was glad I'd arrived. We didn't have all that much in common, and we didn't become close friends, but he welcomed me without reservation and without waiting to discover whether I met any of his standards of acceptability. I knew from the day we met that he would be someone I could count on

if I needed a hand.

My mother-in-law was a champion at dealing out small kindnesses. Millie Wentworth and her husband Starr summered in a cottage called Add-A-Bit, on the west side of the cove, and I never spent a day with Millie that she wasn't busy doing something for someone else. As a young girl, Marti Asire used to call her, "the lady in the window," because frequently when Marti and her family passed the Wentworth place, Millie would smile and talk to her through a small kitchen window at the back of the cottage. "She always had time for you and was always so nice," Marti has said. We could have engraved those words on Millie's cemetery marker, because they sum up the way countless people saw her.

My friend, Dean Davis, who could teach us all a few things about courage, and toughness, and fortitude, did a small kindness of the most generous sort when we talked a few days ago. He sang the praises of someone who was not around to appreciate his singing, and he created a link of respect and admiration between me and a man I've never met. "Do you know Doc Toth?" he asked, and I had to admit that I did not. "Oh, you really should meet him sometime," he said. "My biggest regret in leaving the West Shore when Phyllis and I built our place over here was that I would no longer have him as a neighbor. I don't see him as often as I did when we lived next door to each other, and he is a great friend."

I told Dean that he had paid Doc quite a compliment, but he insisted it was just a statement of fact. "Doc is a true

Renaissance man," Dean said. "He was an outstanding athlete as a young man, and a medical professional with a 50-year career. He's a gifted and accomplished woodworker, a gourmet cook, a man with a brilliant mind who reads constantly, and he knows more about antiques than anyone I've ever met. He is fascinating to be around."

I'd like to live in a world where every one of us spread the word of someone else's value and worth in the way that Dean spread Doc Toth's worth to me. It would be a lovely counterbalance to the unkind gossip and petty quibbling that often passes for casual conversation. Also, after listening to Dean hold forth about Doc, I'm thinking seriously of asking him if he'll do my eulogy when I die.

Whether it is the kindness is Doug Courier doing an unrequested and anonymous spring cleanup on a neighbors' yard in preparation for their arrival, or the Pancake Breakfast kitchen crew showing up each year to prepare and serve the rest of us breakfast for the benefit of the camp, the power of the acts are the same. Mike Machelleck took the Commodore's spot when no one else seemed willing to do so, and a handful of Birch Lakers give up a valued Saturday morning to clean the trash off our roadways every Spring.

Mother Teresa once said, "We can do no great things, you and I, only small things with great love." I'm not certain anyone can do "great things" in this world of unintended consequences, but I do thank God for small things done with great love and for the many Saints, here at Birch and elsewhere, who do them.

Rest well, Jack Asire.

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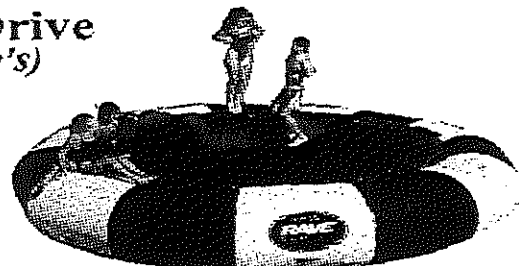
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**BLYC NOTES**

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 great ... Will still trade beer for boat rides. Inquire at Phil & Sandy's house.

Happy Birthday Tom Rogers (the one in the Cove) — Our congratulations on having reached the ripe old age of 50; condolences on having to go to bed so early, though.

Put your Barker Classified Ad in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) or e-mail to: [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com)



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 Stout, Wauneta  
 Went, John and Roma

## Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

**Mail to:**

Holly Troeger, Treasurer  
 1516 Ash Drive East  
 Elkhart, IN 46514

**Drop off:**

63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - Fireworks Display Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$ \_\_\_ - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address)

Make checks payable to:  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**

TOTAL	_____
\$	_____

**"The Lake Expert"**



**Nancy Walker**  
 CRS, GRI

[www.swmichiganhomes.com](http://www.swmichiganhomes.com)



**RE/MAX**  
**Shore Acres**  
 21550 Shore Acres Rd  
 Cassopolis, Michigan 49031

## RE/MAX

### Shore Acres

21550 Shore Acres Rd  
 Cassopolis, Michigan 49031  
 Office: (800) 385-2763  
 Residence: (616) 476-2515  
 Email: [nancywalker@realtor.com](mailto:nancywalker@realtor.com)

In today's competitive real estate market, you need fresh and creative ways to sell and buy homes. That's why it's a good idea to use a real estate agent who fully understands the latest techniques that get results . . . *fast!*

I'm a professional real estate agent for RE/MAX. So, if you're looking for an innovative and hard-working individual to represent you, or someone you know, in buying or selling a home, please call me today. Fresh ideas are my specialty.

Sincerely,

*Nancy Walker*