



Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Fifteen, August 25, 2001



Birch Lake Calendar

TODAY

Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting
Cocktails 6 pm; Dinner 7 pm
Annual Meeting 8:30 pm

Summer's not over yet — Next Week...

Sat. & Sun., 9/1 and 9/2 — Labor Day Regatta 11 am
9/3 — Sailing Awards, Yacht Club, 10 am
9/8 — BLYC Board Meeting 9 am

Thanks Mike Machalleck!

This weekend heralds the changing of the guard at Birch Lake Yacht Club. Commodore Mike and First Lady Katha need be thanked for helming the ship of state through this first season of the New Millennium. Few have repeated Commodore duties — thanks for standing the wheel again Mike.

The new administration is passing the orb tonight — best of luck to Commodore Jim and First Lady Debbie, likewise to the mystery Vice and First Spouse. They need help (and therapy), so let's all volunteer (or chip in and prepay for a session or two).

-Bob King, Past C2k

Eight-year-old Katie Luech (East side) was none too happy to bid farewell to Birch Lake from a neighbor's pier as her family prepared to return to their Indianapolis home after a great summer of fun that included fishing, swimming, boating and a week at Camp Tannadoonah.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

My thanks to John Gableman, Lynn Boss, Sally Beck and their crew of cooks and servers for the Corn and Sausage Roast. It was nice to see so many people brave the rain and make it to the Yacht Club for a delicious feast.

Our last major activity of the season will be the Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting. Jim and Debbie Bolinger have almost 100 reservations for the evening. If you haven't made a reservation, contact them and I'm sure they can accommodate you. They have a great meal planned at 7 pm (cocktails start at 6 pm), and after dinner, at 8:30 pm, the annual Birch Lake Yacht Club meeting will be

held. We have a slate of Directors to replace those whose terms expired this year to elect. We will also pass the gavel to the new Commodore.

This will be my last newsletter as your Commodore. I would like to thank my officers, directors, editor, fleet captain, chairpersons, volunteers, my wife Katha, and especially, all the members who participated in all the activities that made this a very successful and fun year.

Jim Bolinger will be the Commodore and I know he will carry on the GREAT tradition of the BLYC. I ask everyone to give him the same support you have given me. We all will look forward to a great time in 2002!

*Your Commodore
Mike Machalleck*



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

"Birch Lake Sweatshirts"

As the nights get cooler many Birch Lakers will keep warm in their new Birch Lake Sweatshirts. Hope you are enjoying them! Since no project is successful without dedicated people behind it, let's recognize the team.

Special thanks goes to our efficient distribution team: Denny Weesner, Mardy Miller and Judy Olson. Also, Extra Special thanks goes to Denny and Mardy for taking orders and fielding questions.

Any outstanding orders should be ready for pickup **TODAY** at the Custard's (west side — 476-9835). There are a few sweatshirts still available in the following sizes: youth medium (birch), youth large (navy), adult large (white), adult 2X (navy) or adult 3X (birch). Call Betsy before 5 today or see the final selection at the fall dinner.

Thanks to all who made this a successful project.

-Betsy Custard

CORN ROAST 2001: The Dancing Cooks!!!!

Thanks to all who attended and supported this event. The guys headed by John Gableman, and his able bodied cooks, Jim

Beck, Bernie Garceau, Bob Waddle, Phil Vitale, Jim Hettmansperger, Buzz Rasmussen, Tim Lauver, Jim Bolinger, Ben Wozniak, and Tom Nagy did a great job this year. The Corn and Sausage was the best ever.

If you made it up to the fire pit, you were entertained by the dancing cooks, Jim Beck, Tim Lauver, Phil Vitale, and Bob Waddle. Also they have talent playing the tongs!!!

Inside, the kitchen was manned by Lynn Boss, and her crew of Sally Beck, Sandy and Erica Vitale, Tom and Vicki Rogers, Rick and Patti Russwurm. Mike and Katha Machalleck, and Dave and Judy Olson helped out by taking money at the door.

Many thanks go to John Gableman and Lynn Boss for all of their hard work.

Dear Sunny and Sandi,
We thank you for giving us great pleasure and lots of laughs during the 2001 season. We always read your "column" first. PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE US. Your eyelashes are divine. Lovingly,
The Betrothed Chinese Twins
(you know the ones!)

News From The Cove

By Starman Stu
(sitting in for Sunny)

During the especially warm evenings of summer an unusual display can sometimes be spotted at the waterline near the northernmost shore of the lake. Back in this sheltered and secluded area known as the Cove, under cover of darkness, at an hour when one would logically figure that there would be witnesses, an eerie white glow has been recorded moving slowly just above and below the surface of the water. I've seen this on several occasions, mostly when the sky is cloudy or when Earth's own natural satellite is in it's very old or very new stages, offering little light to drown out even the faintest stars.

Through a telescope this white apparition resolves into not one, but two closely paired white orbs, separated by a deep valley, or terminator line. With more light available, I'm sure the reflection from the shiny surface would be quite stunning — perhaps

visible for quite some distance from shore.

Trust me folks, this phenomenon is not of Earthly origin. When trying to get a closer look, the sparkling surface has been observed to suddenly rise from the water and mysteriously float and bob its way through the air, retreating in the direction of the Wagner home, not to return for several more evenings.

Look for this unnatural (or maybe au natural) spectacle after midnight on any warm summer evening. Be very careful not to make much noise in your approach, as whatever this thing is appears to be quite shy. There is no need for alarm though. This low orbiting moon has not shown any aggressive tendencies.

It would appear that looking up is not the only place to get a good show. Come on down to the Cove one evening and enjoy the excitement there. It's free too.

-Stewart Spratt



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Birch Lake Notes

Happy Birthday Carmen

The Happy Birthday flag was flying high again last week at the Parkinson's. Carmen celebrated her big "2" on Friday. Older sisters Maddie and Bella taught her the fine art of blowing out birthday candles, opening gifts and baked and decorated the special cake — yet another special lake party!

It's a Girl!

Ken and Darlene Troyer are the proud grandparents of their 4th grandchild, Keirsten Nicole Phenis who was born on August 16th and weighed in at 7lbs., 1oz. and was 19-1/2" long. She is the first grand-daughter in the family.

Keirsten is the daughter of

Kelly & Carl Phenis and has two proud big brothers, Christopher and Noah.



Calvin King is 8

Well almost...the actual anniversary of his birth being 4:05 pm Monday the 27th.

Watch for a passel of kids at Grandpa & Grandma's this Saturday & wave as you go by (as if that needs be mentioned on Birch).

Navigational Notice: all craft be forewarned that squirt guns may be in play & adjust your course accordingly.

Be afraid...

-Bob King

toe, but a favorite mind you. The cut opened and bled repeatedly for several days. I'm mad as hell and not gonna take it anymore!

-Bob King

Open season declared on Zebra Mussels

Beginning Saturday at Cal's Birthday party I'm declaring a bounty of a penny apiece on these nasty knives. Kids under the age of 16 are invited to scour our swim area for the striped beasts. Extra credit will be given for any found attached to the lakeland clams.

Last: if the appetizers seem strange at the Fall Dinner, forgive me, never one to waste.

-Bob King

Save our indigenous clams

Gert Temple, the ever vigilant Guardian of the North mentioned last week about our endangered clam. I don't know what the clam is good for, but it belongs here so greater purpose seems above my pay grade.

A couple weeks ago I managed to slice a toe, not just any



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Sailors brave rains to compete



Sunday brought our sailors moderate winds and threatening skies. Some of the sailors were a bit heavy-headed, possibly the after effects of the Corn and Sausage Roast!!!

Even after getting soaked twice during the races, we were able to complete three races.

It's great to see so many sunfish sailors out there. Thanks to Don Harman for setting the marks, and to my

crew on the Committee boat of Bruce Wagner, Phil Vitale, and my wife Sally.

A reminder to all you sailors, the Labor Day Regatta will take place on Saturday Sept 1st, 11 am with 3 races and Sunday Sept 2nd, 11 am with 2 races.

The sailing awards will be Monday, Sept 3rd at 10 am at the yacht club.

-Jim Beck, Fleet Captain 2001

The results of last week's races are as follows:

MC's	1st race	2nd race	3rd race
H. Cranmer	1st	3rd	2nd
D. Harman	3rd	2nd	3rd
R. Harman	2nd	1st	1st

SUNFISH	1st race	2nd race	3rd race
J. Bolinger	4th	DNS	4th
Jeff Howard	2nd	6th	3rd
Bob King	1st	1st	1st
Dave Olson	5th	3rd	5th
R. Russwurm	7th	4th	6th
S. Troeger	3rd	2nd	2nd
D. Weaver	8th	5th	7th
S. Spratt	6th	DNS	8th

Best of Beck's Bistro



Elvis Presley's Barbequed Bologna

On the anniversary of Elvis's death a week or so ago, NPR (National Public Radio) aired an interview with Elvis's former cook, and she divulged this recipe as one of his favorites. It sounds rather disgusting, but actually quite good.

1 Bologna ring
Equal parts Lemon Juice and Cider Vinegar
Red Pepper Flakes (1 tsp or to taste)

Stick holes all over in Bologna. Simmer in the cider vinegar, lemon juice, and red pepper for 1 hour at low heat, basting occasionally. As the liquid reduces, add your favorite barbeque sauce and continue cooking another half hour.

Enjoy!!!! It's actually pretty good.
Tested by the Becks

Sip and Strip
(compliments of Patti Russwurm)

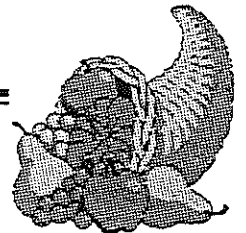
12 cans Beer
1/5 of Vodka

4 cans frozen
Lemonade

Mix ingredients and chill. Serve over ice.

This has actually been made up by Patti, and tried by all. It's very good, and you would never know that beer is one of the ingredients!! Try it, You'll like it!

Thanks Patti!!



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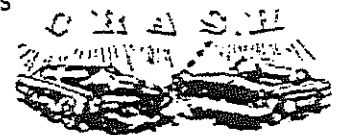
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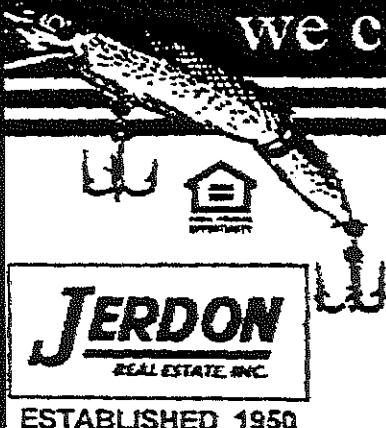
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2001 Great North American Secchi Dip-In

An aid in the ability to perform analysis of transparency trends on individual sites

Department of Biological Sciences, Kent State University invited Birch Lake to participate in the 2001 Great North American Secchi Dip-In. To participate all we had to do was measure transparency on any day between June 30 and July 15.

We used a black and white Secchi disk.

We went to the site where we normally measure transparency: 95' Deep Basin

A clear, calm day is best and we chose June 30

Our monitoring program name is The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program.

The size of Birch Lake is 296 acres in Cass County, in Michigan.

Birch Lake is a natural lake (spring fed)

The time of observation was 12:30 p.m. The day was partly cloudy.

The Secchi disk reading was measured in feet and was recorded at 29 feet.

Sunglasses were not worn during the measurement.

The reading was taken from a boat on the shady side of the boat.

Perception of the general water quality of our waterbody: Beautiful, No Problems.

LandSat Satellite and Secchi Disk

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Geological Survey, and Michigan State University is testing a new method for assessing the trophic status of Michigan's inland lakes.

The method uses a combination of traditional lake monitoring methods, such as water sampling and Secchi disk transparency measurements, combined with multi-spectral images of lakes collected by the LandSat satellite. These images are then used to estimate trophic status in lakes statewide, even for lakes that are currently not being monitored by conventional techniques.

Cloud-free images from the LandSat satellite and transparency measurements on the lakes at approximately the same time as the satellite overpass are needed to test this method. Unfortunately there is little that can be done about Michigan's weather.

However, with the help of the volunteer lake monitors enrolled in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program transparency measurements can be obtained and hopefully adequate images from the LandSat satellite.

The Birch Lake Water Quality Committee has been asked to help in the testing of the remote sensing technique during the period from August 6, 2001 through October 6, 2001. The LandSat satellite passes overhead every 16 days, but because of overlaps in the field of view, much of Michigan is potentially viewable by the satellite as often as every 8 days.

During these weeks, we will continue the transparency monitoring measurements at Birch Lake on a weekly basis and extend the transparency monitoring season through October 6, 2001.

We will record our additional transparency measurements on our CLMP Secchi Disk Transparency Data Form in the spaces provided including date, time, weather conditions and unusual conditions on the form as indicated. Also, we will draw an outline of the lake and mark the 95' Deep Basin monitoring location.

The completed data forms will be submitted to Don Winne, Executive Director Michigan Lake and Stream Associations.

-g temple

Hummingbirds — we've got 'em at Birch Lake!!!

By Darlene Troyer

I have worked for years planting flowers to attract hummingbirds. When we were first married our lovely neighbor Della Myers had them flitting all around her house. I never could get them established with our one feeder and she told me "you just needed to plant the right flowers." Well, 30 years later we have so many hummingbirds flying around here you need a protective helmet! I found the right combination of flowers, no thanks to the muskrats, and we have oodles of hummingbirds. We have friends that come to sit on our porch in the evening just to watch the feeding frenzy (we have 8 feeders); they can't believe how many hummingbirds we have.

The hummingbirds peer into our windows and hover in front of the door each morning waiting for their feeders to be refilled, whoa to us if we forget. Most people when they travel have house sitters to take care of their house pets, we have a sitter to fill our feeders. Our grandsons delight in watching the hummingbirds feed from our window feeders. They have given us hours of pleasure — and so that you may better get to know these tiny creatures this weeks article is on the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, the most popular of all species combined and the one that we

see here at Birch Lake. The male hummingbirds have the beautiful red throats (thus the name, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird), and their green feathers have a darker hue than females'. Females do not have red throats but have a gray neck and underbelly.

Hummingbirds can fly right, left, up, down, backwards and even upside down. When hovering, hummingbirds hold their bodies upright and flap their wings horizontally in a shallow figure-eight. Most hummingbirds flap their wings about 55 times per second. Normal flight speed is about 25 mph. The tiny feet of hummingbirds are almost useless except for perching; if hummers want to travel two inches, they must fly. Hummingbirds live about 4 years on average.

Hummingbirds must feed about every 10 minutes during the day; they consume almost 2/3 of their body weight per day. Sugar is a major part of a hummingbird's diet, which they get from flower nectar, tree sap and hummingbird feeders. They also need protein in order to build muscles, so they eat insects and pollen. The tongue of a hummingbird has grooves on the side. They can take nectar at the rate of about 13 licks a second. Hummingbirds compete for nectar and insects and guard their territories fiercely, perch-

ing high near flowering bushes or feeders. Many hummers will emit a loud chatter when their territory is invaded. In duels the hummers use their bills and claws as weapons. They sometimes collide with a loud thud.

Male and female hummingbirds establish separate territories shortly after arriving. The female will establish a nesting territory to feed her young; he chooses an area to protect a reliable food source.

Hummingbirds communicate with one another by making visual displays. The male will find and lure a ready female through posturing and sound. He will engage in a nuptial flight during which he may repeatedly fly in a large U-shaped dive pattern. Only the male does dive displays and during the dive you may hear him as he makes buzzing or popping sounds with the wing feathers or the vocal cords.

During nesting season your birds will drastically draw away from your feeders and you may wonder where they have gone. Visits to distant feeders take too much time away from the eggs. Chicks need protein to grow, not sugar, so hummingbird nests are not located in feeder areas. Chicks hatch in 2 to 3 weeks. The mother spends most of her time catching small insects and spiders for them. The

male takes no interest in nests or the care and feeding of babies. When females enter his territory, he does aerial displays to keep them away. After the chicks leave the nest (about 2-3 weeks), expect the number of hummers at your feeder to be double what it was before the mysterious "disappearance" act. You can tell the juvenile hummingbird from the females by the green contour feathers that have a thin, tan or light gray outer edge (that is if you can get them to hold still long enough). Many young birds will also show broken streaks of dark feathers, like a "5 o'clock shadow."

Hummingbirds migrate in response to hormonal changes, which are triggered by decreasing length of daylight; nothing you can do will make them stay too long, so it's not necessary to stop feeding them to force them to go south. They need to fatten up to nearly double normal body weight to survive the journey, and thus appreciate your feeder more than ever up until literally the last minute before they depart. Hummers are fully capable of traveling astounding distances on their own wings. Contrary to belief, they do not hitch a ride on the wings of geese. The fall departure for the southward

See HUM on next page

Lloyd Vaughn
Owner



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HUM

Continued from previous page

migration occurs in October in our area, unless an earlier hard frost drives the birds south ahead of schedule. Hummingbirds are carnivores (nectar is just the fuel to power their fly-catching activity), and depend on insects that are not available in subfreezing weather, so most of them must retreat back "home" to Central America in the winter or risk starvation. Most Ruby-throated Hummingbirds winter between southern Mexico and northern Panama.

Hummingbirds lead solitary lives and do not migrate in flocks. Ruby-throats begin moving north as early as January, and by the end of February they are at the northern coast of Yucatan, gorging on insects and spiders to add a thick layer of fat in preparation for flying to the U.S. Before departing, each bird will have nearly doubled its weight, from about 3.25 grams to over 6 grams. Males depart first, followed about 10 days later by the first females. By scouting ahead for food as the migration progresses, the males protect the females and young from the risk of starvation posed by scarcity of food in unknown territory en route. The species can more easily recover from loss of a few males than from that of egg-laying females. The migration is spread over a three-month period, which prevents a catastrophic weather event from wiping out the entire species. Once in North America, migration proceeds at an average rate of about 20 miles per day, following the earliest blooming of flowers hummingbirds prefer.

Making your yard hummingbird friendly

Studies suggest they may follow a set route year after year, often arriving at the

More Fido Training Tips

Sit: This is a useful command and will be used often once mastered. It too requires those small bite size pieces of hot dogs. Again, you should only use two word commands such as "Fido Sit". While facing give the command and push down on their rear. When Fido sits, praise enthusiastically and reward him with a treat. Once Fido understands this command begin training

with Fido at your side at a heel position. This is great when you are walking your **LEASHED** dog around the lake and a car is about to pass. The driver and you are more comfortable that Fido is controlled and will not jump into harms way.

Scratch a dog behind the ears and you'll find a permanent job!

Have a butt wagging kind of week!

Checking his p-mail



-Fido's Friend

same feeder on the same day. Hummers have good memory; they can remember food sources from previous years. So how do you go about attracting these tiny creatures anyhow? Start with a good hummingbird feeder — more than one is recommended. Huge hummingbird feeders tend to be a drawback as the sugar-water can sour quickly during those really hot days and become ridden with bacteria that can be harmful to the hummers. Feeders need to be hung and ready by early May before their arrival! Feeders have a positive impact on the number of birds that survive, especially in the dry Midwest, so please keep them clean and fresh. When establishing a feeder for the first time it is good to color the water with a little red food coloring. Once the feeder is established you no longer need to add the red coloring. You can buy commercial feeding mixes but it is easier and cheaper (and just as good for the hummingbirds) if you mix your own sugar water by using a ratio of: one part sugar to 4 parts water. It's that simple! Well, not that simple. Hummingbirds are attracted to tubular

flowers, especially red ones.

The following list of flowers are all hummingbird favorites that grow in our area: salvia, coral bells, red hot poker, honeysuckle, pineapple sage, jewelweed, butterfly bush, bee balm, abulilon, fox glove, lilac, trumpet vines and hostas. One or two varieties will increase your chances for attracting new hummingbirds.

Another way to get hummingbirds' attention is to festoon (be *tasteful*, now!) your feeder with red or orange surveyor's tape, available in hardware stores. Sooner or later a hummingbird will come to investigate in their relentless quest for food. In addition to food sources, convenient perching opportunities will make your yard more hospitable to hummingbirds, since they spend around 80 percent of their time sitting on twigs, leaf stems, clotheslines, etc., between feeding forays and sorties against trespassing rivals.

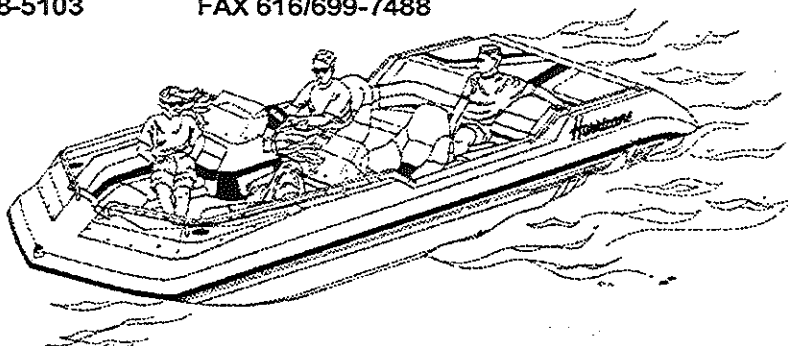
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-Darlene



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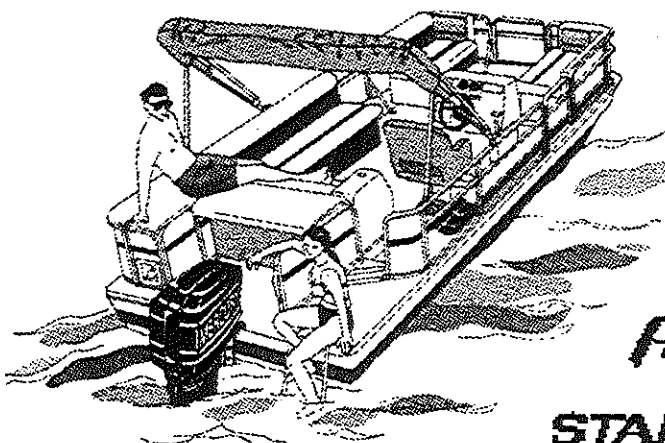
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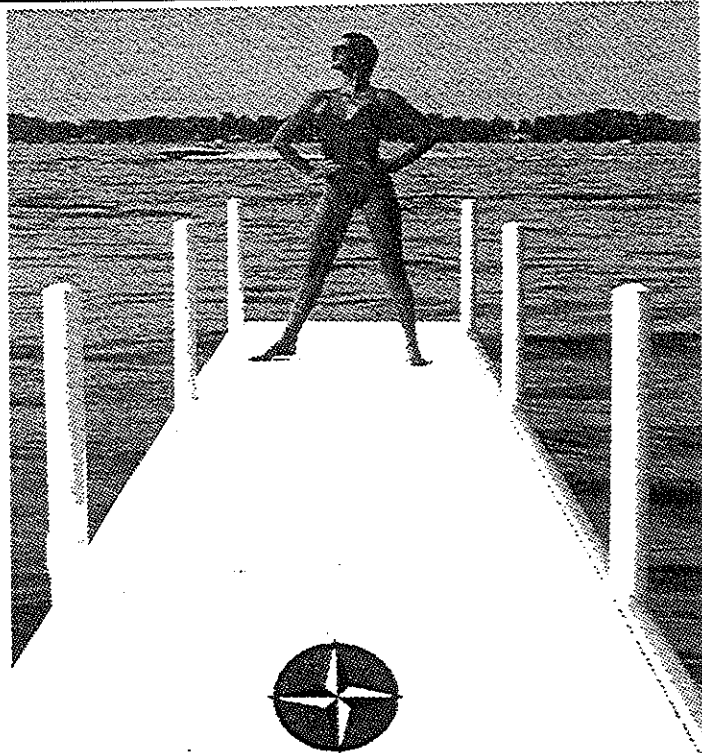
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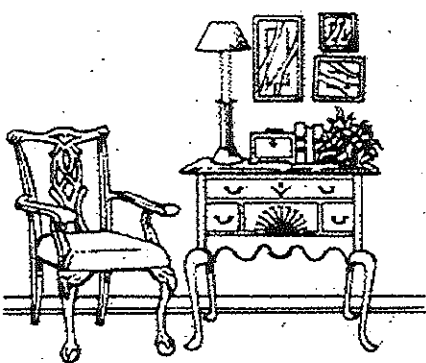
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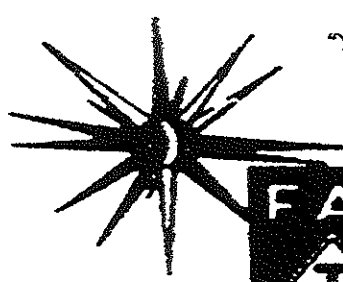
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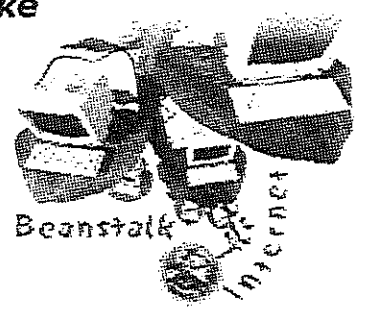
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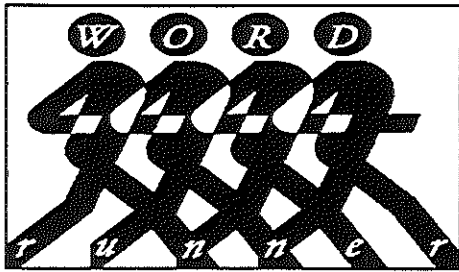
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The more things change...



Shirley Anne and I went back to camp this week. True, our stay lasted only one evening, but it was our first "camp" experience in almost 50 years, so it probably deserves a mention. Neither of us attended Tannadoonah during our camping days, but we immediately recognized the customs, rituals, activities and behaviors of this woodland community from time spent in other locales.

As far as I could tell, we didn't do any real damage. We probably altered the flow and the volume of conversation at one dining room table, but even there, my wife's charm and sense of humor kept the party rolling pretty well for the five campers and the counselor who allowed us to join them for dinner.

The most amazing thing to me about the evening was how, in a world where everything seems in constant flux, camp life has been guarded and brought for-

ward with little alteration since the 1950s. The cabins, dining hall, lodge and dispensary looked and smelled like buildings from my past, and the songs at meal time, the cheers, the announcements, and even the food serving and clean-up methods all mirrored experiences I lived through at 12 and 13.

The flag pole that stands as the center of ceremony and that provides a daily home for our nation's flag was donated by members of the South Bend Fraternal Order of Police during the 1920s. I wonder if those marvelous cops had any idea how long lasting and influential their generous gift would be for thousands of other people's children.

There is a schedule for the day at Tannadoonah, and every minute has built-in purpose and opportunity. Counselors carry Miss or Mr. in front of their names, and campers ask permission before they leave the tables during mealtime. If it hadn't been the last week of the season, I could have signed up, returned, and known exactly how to behave.

It isn't easy to keep camps alive these days. Costs have blown up to 20 or more times what they were when I last attended. Kids have a much shorter summer than they used to have, and more alternatives when it comes to summertime activities. They can participate in organized

sports of all kinds, go to concerts, get involved in park programs, or go to summer school. Some prefer just "hanging out" and going to the movies or the mall or renting videos and watching TV. Camping fees have risen and not everyone can find the money to send one or more children off on a "private vacation."

But Tannadoonah is a blessing to everyone it touches, the kids who attend, the young adults who work there, the camp directors, and all of us who live on this gorgeous lake. We are lucky to have such a beautiful and considerate neighbor, and I hope everyone around Birch will find some way to help the camp prosper and continue its non-changing growth. The memorial walk bricks they are selling provide a great opportunity.

Let's remember those terrific guys from the post World War I, South Bend FOP. The lesson they offer to us is that "giving" provides an endless stream of benefit. When we give to the camp today, we tend to think in terms of our own time and of the children who will come here next year and the year after, but that doesn't begin to tell the story. The truths and values we all believe in and love may well be practiced daily in that compound 50 years from now, and we can all help to make that happen. Let's keep things going.

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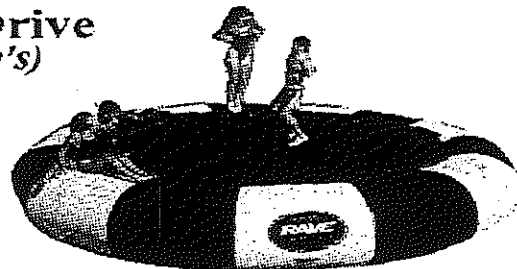


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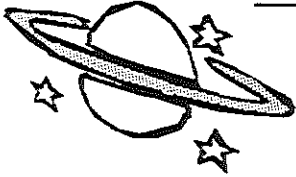
Fri - Cod (all you can eat)

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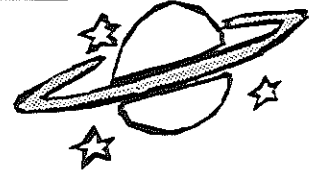
2 lb. \$14.95

Sat - Steak Sizzler (all you can eat)

or - Prime Rib with Salad Bar



Stu's Star Stuff Corrected information



*critiqued and corrected by
Sunny Waters*

As much as I have enjoyed reading Stewart Spratt's weekly contribution to the Birch Barker I feel an obligation to inform fellow readers of the misinformation which has been doled out routinely by the newly-wed Stewart who obviously has stars in his eyes; the wrong kind.

To begin with, Pleiades has been described as a cluster of stars about 400 light-years away. What on earth (little touch of humor there) could this man be thinking? The Pliedes is a Russian Olympic synchronized swimming team, as everyone knows, just as we also know that Copernicus is a childhood illness. Don't we all remember having our little ones inoculated?

Stu goes on to label Lagoon Nebula as a famous stellar birthplace. Anyone under 90 knows that Lagoon Nebula (pronounced Nayboolah) is a hot Reggae artist, Jamaica's finest.

And, in conclusion, Meteor Showers are scaled-down bathroom fixtures designed for small areas and RVs. They also meter water flow to unburdened septic tanks, hence the name. B.S. and I love ours.

Sorry, Mr. Spratt. I certainly did not intend to defame you but my dedication to precise journalism motivated me.

Let's do lunch.*
Your friend,

-Sunny

*Milky Ways for dessert — tee hee



Guest writer Sunny (Stars on the) Waters

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