

Volume Fifteen, September 4, 1999

## COMMODORES COMMENTS

I wanted to begin by thanking the people who helped tackle all the tasks this summer. Instead, let me list what the Birch Lake Yacht Club did for the Lake community. The initial database was assembled... we sent the April flyer & held the Spring Dinner... followed by the Road Cleanup, Yacht Club Cleanup, Commodore's Cocktail Party, Boat Parade, Fireworks Display, Tannadoonah Pancake Breakfast, Garage Sale, Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party, Men's Golf Outing, Ladies Golf Outing and Luncheon, Corn and Sausage Roast, Fall Dinner, ran over 20 Season Sail Races for two boat classes, the Regatta Kidz, Memorial Day Regatta, Fourth of July Regatta and the Labor Day Regatta this weekend (for those of you who read aloud, now would be a good time to take a breath).

We also organized and printed 500 new Directories (some still remain for sale), arranged advertising, sold 150 Birch Lake mugs and about a kazillion t-shirts/sweatshirts, held four Board meetings and one Homeowner Association meeting plus some of the residents are also active on area government boards, both in an official capacity as well as contacting governmental agencies and officials on behalf of the Lake residents (attending endless meetings in the process). We were able to offer an on-lake Marine boat check and the Boating Safety Class, published the Marine Rules for Boats and PWCs, made contributions to the Marine Sheriff Dept, local Fire Department and a group of people helped raise funds so that the "gathering of friends on a hill" are still campers - not condo owners.

The Blackwoods and their delivery team edited, assembled and distributed 3,450 Birch Barkers, the Water Quality Committee did countless tests, reports, responded directly to resident issues, interfaced with County officials, enrolled Birch into the CLMP and published educational articles on their process, efforts and results. (Do I know how to write run-on sentences or what?)

Frankly, having related the above, it's surprising that only 3 of 5 residents pay their dues as members of Birch Lake Yacht Club! We are more than social. We are a powerful collective.. working for the benefit of everyone on Birch, now and through the next Century. It is my hope that we can enlist even more support next year.

Only a couple items remain this summer: The Regatta is this weekend (see Sailing News). Please come out on the water as players or spectators. Before some of you drag your sailboats back to their winter resting places without having hoisted sail, how about having a sail-around this Sunday at 2? Imagine seeing 50-100 boats out together! We may have a Club cleanup/bonfire this fall. There is also the lingering thought of celebrating the New Year at the Lake. Watch your mail for the flyer this spring announcing a new location for the Spring Dinner.

The huge response for Vice Commodore has made "tryouts" necessary... they will be in our yard Monday at high noon - bring your squirt guns for battle #2. I will be the first Commodore-in-absentia. Rather than leaving messages at my folks, please call me in the evenings at 219-299-0705. On the other hand, if you are calling with a complaint, we have no phone - write (in triplicate) to Bob King, 1958 E. Denslow Dr., South Bend, IN 46614. Those of you have computers and internet service should email your address to blcking@aol.com. We will send you the Birch Lake web-site when it is launched this fall.

Thanks for your support - we need it! See you on the water... Bob, C2k, VC-ret, FC-ret  
Bob King, Commodore

## NOTES ON UP COMING EVENTS

Football Starts! School Starts! Fall Starts! Barker closes down for the season!

## CAMP NOTES

Camp donations continue to come in from our Birch Lake Friends. Since July 15 the following have made significant monetary contributions to the camp fund. The Campfire River Bend Council and our fund raising committee are most appreciative. Thanks again Birch Lakers!!

John and Dorothy Parnell

Ronald and Kathryn Niezgoski

James and Shirley Blue

Helen Toth

Mary Ann O'Neil

James Hettmansperger

Blair Garceau

### The Committee

Bob Herms

Dean Davis

Rick Russwurm

Ben Wozniak

*Send us your camp memories for next year*

## Homeowners' Association News

At the annual meeting of the Homeowners' Association on August 14, 1999, the Board reported on and obtained input from the members concerning various items affecting Birch Lake. Among the matters discussed was the defeat of the recent Constantine School property tax increase request; the Homeowners' Association complaint to the Michigan Department of Agriculture about the "appliciation" of hog manure on the fields to the South of the lake, and the results of that complaint; the new waverunner legislation; the Canada geese problem; the boat launch; developing contacts with the new Porter Township police officer; sewers; new Michigan Supreme Court case holding the DNR must comply with local zoning requirements before developing boat ramps, restrooms and parking lots; fire department and EMT considerations affecting insurance premiums; and meetings of the local governmental boards attended by members of the board of the Homeowners' Association, including the Porter Township Board of Trustees, the Constantine School Board, the Department of Public Works; the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Community Policing agency.

After the annual meeting of the Homeowners' Association it was learned that an item being considered by the County Commissioners and the DNR is to pave the entire boat launch, lot line to lot line, cut down the big tree at the road intersection at the bottom of the hill, and make some unspecified widening of the road at the bottom of the hill by the boat launch. It is not known if this will actually proceed. The Homeowners' Association board wanted the Birch Lake community to be aware of this possibility, because it raises issues affecting all at Birch Lake. Among other things, paving the entire boat launch would have an environmental and safety effect on this small lake, by increasing runoff into the lake and possibly increasing the day use by more and larger boats and waverunners. Let your Homeowners' Association and BLYC board members know how you feel about this.

When you receive your property and casualty insurance bill for your Birch Lake property, you might wish to make sure the insurance company has the correct information about which fire department and EMT team responds to calls from Birch Lake. Birch Lake is located in Porter Township, so the insurance company might assume that Porter Township's fire department and EMT handles calls from Birch Lake. In fact, however, Birch Lake is served by the Newberg Township fire department and EMT. This can make a difference in your insurance bill, because the Newberg Township fire department and EMT facilities are located much closer to the lake than are Porter Township's. Because your insurance premium is based in part on how long it would take the responsible fire department or EMTs to reach the insured property, you could possibly save some money on your insurance premiums if the insurance company has the correct information about the local fire protection and EMT arrangements.



## LAKE NOTES



*Lake Notes are compiled from local history publications including Birch Barkers and other newspaper archives.*

Skiing, Herb Cleveland went 15 feet barefooted and Rick Doolittle went 30 feet. (*Birch Barker 8/19/61*)

Larry Pletcher beat his old record by 3 min when he swam from the Public Beach to the Tannadoonah Cove. This time it took him 42 min. (*Birch Barker 8/22/64*)

Carl Klappauf and Steve King ran around the lake by way of Lanky's. It was 4.5 miles....took approximately 331/2 minutes. (*Birch Barker 8/5/67*)

Joe Toth of Cottage #320 last Friday and Saturday evening reeled in 9 bass ranging from 12 to 16 inches. The surprising part is that he caught 5 in 30 minutes. (*Birch Barker 8/5/67*)

Babysitting: See Susie King, or call 476-2128. (*Birch Barker 8/9/69*)

Earl Troeger, Jr has been elected Rear Governor of District 3 of the Snipe Class International Racing Assoc. This district encompasses 8 Midwestern states. (*Birch Barker 8/23/69*)

Sandra Krchmar



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE LAKE OR... (these people can't really be serious)

NEWS FROM THE WEST SIDE

You lost your chance til next year.  
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NEWS FROM THE SOUTH SIDE

No last word here either!  
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NEWS FROM THE EAST SIDE

We enjoyed a very nice weekend. Our grandson Ben was here (and his mom, who sometimes gets left out when Ben is around!). Ben enjoyed the sandbox and beach area that Tony Sacco built. (Good thing we have handy neighbor - Marc sure isn't.)

We had our annual gathering of the "softball crew". By 8pm nobody was feeling any pain.

Speaking of "no pain", its rumored that Patty Leucht tiptoed in around 3:00am Saturday morning. She was here for some R&R - it seems he accomplished the relaxation part! The Sacco's and Dennerts weren't here - they were missed!

Another rumor I heard was that this is the last paper of the summer. Why? I figure we have at least another few good weeks left... (wishful thinking)

I want to say a big thank you to Jim and Sally. You did a great job and we enjoyed getting to know you both. All the activities were so much fun and we are always thankful for so many nice people to be around. If, in fact, this is the last paper, we wish everyone happy New Year.

Keep in touch with us! Our So. Bend number is listed in the directory and we'd love to visit and/or party this winter!

Gabby

NEWS FROM THE NORTH SHORE  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, CAL

NEWS FROM THE COVE  
(and thereabouts)

By Sunny Waters

Jack and Evelyn Asire celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in unique style. Since Jack couldn't leave the rehabilitation center the party went to him. A private dining room, complete with flowers, candles and champagne was the site of a lovely festive dinner for the Asires and family members.

Congratulations, Jack and Evelyn.

B.S.'s Unforgettable Seaweed Supreme.  
Serves 80, approx.

- 12-18 lbs. Seaweed (do not rinse)
  - 2 liters diet Dr. Pepper
  - 8-10 boxes sugar-free lime jello
  - 6 cans butterscotch Slim Fast
  - 1 lg box Cherrios or Rice Crispies
  - 7 lg jars chunky peanut butter
- Mix all ingredients, cook on low heat in various crockpots all day. Let cool to room temp. Serve on chilled plates, garnish with anchovies and M&M's  
Wine suggestion: Thunderbird

Terribly sorry, Sandy Beach was not available for a final shot. She is spending the week at Tattoo World with fellow members of the World Wrestling Federation Fan Club.

Sunny Salutes: The Blackwoods

The Birch Barker has been excellent this year, due to their diligence and expertise. Thank you, Beth and Howard, for a big job WELL DONE. (Ed. Note: ...blush!)

B.S. and I will be spending a major portion of the winter in Hawaii. We'll try to remember all of you with cheery postcards while you suffer from chilblains. We are terribly concerned about our faithful readers in our absence and, for your well being, we'll be offering advice and counseling by mail. Simply send us your concerns c/o Wagner (check directory). Of course this is strictly gratis but should you wish to make a donation to Sunny's face-lift fund, it would be greatly appreciated and tax exempt.

Oh.. all right... so I fibbed a little. We're not really going to Hawaii but we'll be perfectly happy in Mishawaka on cold Winter nights. We simply crank up the thermostat, open a #10 can of Dole's pineapple and put on our favorite Don Ho records. B.S. looks so cute in his grass skirt and plastic lei.

Well, dear ones, it's the end of the trail. Another beautiful season at Birch Lake is fading away. May the new year, century, millennium be good for all of you. God Bless!

Sunny and Beloved Spouse (B.S.)  
\*\*\*\*\*

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Cove Party at the Rogers was, as always, fun, great food, and comfortable conversation. But this annual event was also a christening of our house by it's neighbors, headed by Loretta Drolet.

After 16 years split between two homes, we have moved full time to Birch Lake. Another page in our life has turned.

We received gifts such as a pink flamingo dressed in beads, rust coated orange lantern, yellow toilet seat ready for framing, cherry pie candle, official mosquito trap, binoculars, hanging plant w/hanging fish, a gold brick to chip and cash (it should be so easy), a few other classy gifts, and a great bottle of Champagne to toast all.

We would like to say thank you to all lake neighbors who were here, but Loretta Drolet said it best, "We're all lake family."

Tom and Vicki Rogers

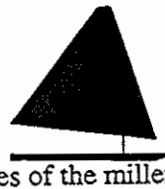
*Ed note: We all thank the Rogers for their good nature and hospitality. However, there now seems to be another bird flying around the cove. If something pink shows up on your lawn add a touch of class and pass it on!!*

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NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL FRONT

Well it looks like my brother-in-law from TX will not get his fondest wish, as attorney for Ella, who is suing Texas over her dismissal from her post overseeing funeral homes, the court finally ruled he would not be able to depose Geo. W. If that would have been possible, perhaps we would have finally known all the answers...and of course this leaves us in a tough position in competition for that national award for coverage of national events in a lake paper. To compensate, I am trying to get my press pass to cover The Reform Party Convention to be held in 2000 in Minnesota (perhaps Duluth, a place I've spent a lot of time this summer) where "The Guv" is expecting to either be nominated or will wrestle whoever is nominated!

From the editor



## BLYC SAILING NEWS



The final season races of the millennium were favored by gusty northerly winds that gave Dave Olson another opportunity to wash his sail. At times the wind had the boats "planing", but it could turn light and shifty at the upwind mark. Harold Cranmer won both MC races to overcome Don Harman's long-held season lead in the MC's class. Tom Howard sealed his leadership of the Sunfish class with two convincing first place finishes. The race committee of Jim and Sally Beck, Bruce and Sue Wagner, Rick and Patti Russwurm, and Stan Pitakos, operating under Jim's new "past commodore" flag, seemed to have as much or more fun as the sailors, and were certainly more comfortable.

There were 22 Season races this year. To place in the Season standings, a competitor must have completed 2/3 of the races. The races in the Memorial Day Regatta and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Regatta count towards the Season standings, but the Labor Day Regatta does not. The August 29, 1999 race results and final Season standings are:

Class	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points Average	Season Finish
<b>MC</b>				
Harold Cranmer	1	1	1522.18	1 <sup>st</sup>
Don Harman	4	3	1514.91	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Rick Harman	3	4	1494.65	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Dave and Carly Troeger	2	2		
Bruce Harlan	DNS	DNS		
<b>SUNFISH</b>				
Tom Howard	1	1	1522.36	1 <sup>st</sup>
Scott Troeger	2	2	1514.45	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Bob King	4	3	1466.82	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Dave Olson	3	4	1385.30	4 <sup>th</sup>
Lindsey Williams/Liz Dugan	5	5		
Jim Bolinger	DNS	DNS	1341.96	5 <sup>th</sup>
Dennis Savastano	DNS	DNS		
John Slayter	DNS	DNS		
F. Petit	DNS	DNS		
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS		

On behalf of the sailors, I wish to give special thanks to those who officiated on the committee boat during the year and who handled with style the howling gales and deadly calms of Birch Lake, lost anchors, broken starters and unsolicited advice from sailors:

Jim and Sally Beck	Stan Pitakos	Rick and Patti Russwurm
Mike Gottstein	Marty Sante	Stewart, Chris and Mike Spratt
Steve, Julie, Chad and Jared Plaia	Phil and Sandy Vitale	Bruce and Sue Wagner

This year's laurels for officiating at the most races go to Jim Beck, who beat out Stan Pitakos by a slim margin. Stan's car problem one weekend earlier this Summer may have cost him bragging rights.

**Labor Day Regatta:** Saturday and Sunday, September 4 and 5 at 11 a.m. (Ind. time), 12 m. (Mich. time), with Monday, September 6 (Labor Day) as a possible make-up day.

**Trophies:** Monday (Labor Day), September 6, 1999 at 10:30 a.m. (Ind. time), 11:30 a.m. (Mich. time) at the BLYC clubhouse, subject to rescheduling if a race needs to be sailed on Monday.

Scott Troeger, Fleet Captain

**Ed. Notes:**

Unfortunately we were unable to attend the Fall Dinner. I had hoped to thank all of you personally who have been such a great help in putting out the Barker this year. I will try to thank you in the reverse order of handling, since, without our delivery staff, all the work would be for naught: Louise Reith, Peg Cowen, Sue Montague, Holly Troeger, Katha Machalleck, Judy Olson, Nancy DeCocker, Dean and Phyllis Davis, Loretta Drolet and Sarah Mullins.

Bob's help with getting the printing done, filling in blanks... and the way he and Dick Bender were able to fill enough ad space to make this one of the biggest Barkers ever, was exceptional.

Our regular columnists deserve much of the credit for the Barker this year: Gert Temple with her tremendous effort to educate us on lake health and her poems from the lake... Sandy Krchmar with some of the most interesting selections of news from the past... Gabby, aka, Ilene Golden... Sunny Waters, aka Sue Wagner (and of course her cousin Sandy Beach)... Stewart Spratt with Star Stuff, which has made looking up at night a lot more interesting for all of us, and to all of you who contributed information (or gossip) from your neighborhood.

Jim and Sally helped us in every possible way. contributing a wonderful "Commodore's Comments" and "Best of Beck's Bistro" every week, plus they were always ready to help with pickup and delivery as needed and filling in wherever we couldn't be.

And, of course, last but not least, my wonderful husband, Howard. Up until doing the Barker, my computer experience consisted almost entirely of various Accounting Programs. Howard (reluctantly) agreed to do the final edit. His patience in teaching me more about Word Perfect, cutting and pasting, deleting, and of course when not to hit ctrl, alt, delete, earns my undying gratitude.

In all ways, this has been a very rewarding experience. I would strongly recommend participation in the Birch Lake Community to all of you. Thank you for your readership.

Beth Blackwood... Editor

August 27, 1999

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is a member of Michigan Lake & Stream Associations. The water quality committee serves as representative for Birch Lake.

Was Birch Lake represented at the ML&SA Annual Conference in 1999?

*Bob and Gertie Temple attended "COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM" TRAINING SESSION - Secchi Disk (Transparency) Spring and Summer Phosphorus, Chlorophyll Programs. Ralph Bednarz, Inland Lakes Division, MDEQ Lansing, Michigan.*

*and also attended*

*SEPTIC SYSTEM ORDINANCE - WORKING TOGETHER WITH LOCAL TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT - Cecile Kortier, Lake Avalon Property Owners Association, Hillman, Michigan.*

(Not all lakes in Michigan are agreeing that a sanitary sewer system is an answer to lake preservation and are addressing the problem of inadequate septic systems through their township and their local health department)

In May of 1990, Lake Avalon sponsored a *Septic Ordinance* for the purpose of upgrading septic systems affecting their lake.....

- *Owner was contacted to return an application- for-inspection form*
  - *Owner was asked to submit all information about system (drawing, etc.)*
  - *Was there an approved permit on file in the County Health Dept. office?*
  - *Was the existing system constructed without a permit?*
  - *Owner was asked to uncover septic tank, locate field, etc.*
  - *Owner was contacted to schedule inspection of his system*
  - *Public Health Officer made an on-site inspection to determine compliance*
  - *Report filed by Health Officer with details about tank, field, distance, etc.*
- Immediate upgrade was required. Many new systems were installed voluntarily. That's the good news. The bad news is that some problems have arisen. Will there be a "get tough" policy in the end? Enforcement is a responsibility. Their goal, over a period of 10 years culminating in 2005, is to upgrade all drywells, waste pits, and other antiquated waste systems to modern septic systems with a septic tank and drain field of adequate size and remote siting from the lakefront.*

#### BEEN THERE ——— DONE THAT

##### 1979 - Birch Lake Watershed Analysis Study

- *Dr. Snow, Andrews University, and Peter Elliott, Planner, SMRPC, recommend that Birch Lake reduce the impact of inadequate in-place systems.*

##### 1984-1994 Cass County Health Department Birch Lake Survey Program

*The Cass County Health Department enforced the Cass County Sewage Disposal Regulation at Birch Lake - A Public Health Officer made an on-site inspection at every lakefront and stream property - 96 septic systems were in non-compliance - 96 septic systems were brought into compliance .*

- *Bacteriological contamination at Birch Lake was eliminated.*
- *Phosphorous loading from septic seepage was reduced.*
- *What Can You Do For Birch Lake now that properly sized and located septic systems have been installed Conscientious maintenance is one of the most critical steps you can take to protect your lake. Clean your septic regularly and have it inspected every 1 to 2 years.*



# Have a great Holiday weekend ... a lazy Labor Day Monday

& please, let's be careful out there!

What should the Birch Lake Yacht Club do - look like, next year - next Century?

Having room, Howard Blackwood & I discussed including a survey on this page. You creative Lakers can probably come up with better ideas on your own (& I'm out of time today). Give it some thought. I encourage everyone to send a brief note (rather than calling please) & tell us what you might think would be of the most interest. BK

I mentioned that we might celebrate New Years Eve at Birch. What better place to be in case the lights go out? Should we choose to use the Yacht Club it would mean keeping the water on, the heat above freezing. Maybe, maybe not. In addition there might be Lakers whose cottages are not heated who might need to "bunk" with those whose places are year-round homes.

We will circulate plans by jungle drum ...

I heard a great knock-knock joke the other day ... you start.

Tom DeCocker & I had some early morning conversation about having a Fishing Club in 2000, maybe a contest where a kid has to be on board? The Lake Notes mentioned that we had a Club in the past. Get your kids hooked on fishing ... not wave runners?

Give a man a fish & you feed him for a day, teach a man to fish & you can sell him tackle.

Give a man a fish & he will eat for a day, teach a man to fish & he will sit in a boat & drink beer all day ...



**Kidz Corner:**  
Let the little  
Lakers color  
this pirate!

## ~ Prayer of Senility ~

God grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

Now that I'm older, here's what I still remember:

- \* My wild oats are now prune & all Bran.
- \* Funny, I don't remember being absent-minded (did I print that already?)
- \* If all is not lost, where is it?
- \* It's not hard to meet expenses ... they are everywhere.
- \* I started out with nothing, I still have most of it ...
- \* I wish the buck stopped here, I sure could use a few.
- \* It's hard to make a comeback when you haven't been anywhere.
- \* If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would have put them on my knees!
- \* It's easier to get older than it is to get wiser ...

borrowed from a friend, printed in fun ...

## BEST OF BECK'S BISTRO

### Entree of the Week

#### TACO ROLL UPS

10 flour tortillas (lg)

1 16oz sour cream

1 packet Taco seasoning

1 can refried beans

1 pkg. Cheddar cheese (finely shredded)

1 can black olives (chopped)

1 can jalapeno peppers (finely chopped)

2 boxes cream cheese

1. Mix taco seasoning with container of sour cream
2. spread cream cheese in a thin layer over tortilla shell
3. Spread refried beans in a thin layer.
4. Spread sour cream mixture over next
5. Top cheese, olives, and peppers to taste.
6. Roll up tortilla shells and place in fridge for 15 to 20 minutes.
7. Slice shells and place on serving tray.



### Drink of the Week

#### SHIPWRECK

1/4 banana

1 1/2oz spiced rum

2 scoops lime sherbert

5oz pineapple juice

Mix in blender with 1/4 C ice until smooth.

*Ed note: For those of you who have been faithfully using Sally's drink recipes all summer, we have a winter tip.*

*Mix the leftover exotic liquors in a non-reactive container. Store away from other combustibles, and, when the temp drops, use them for warmth.*



## CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: 91 Yamaha Wave runner. Runs strong but needs chassis system work. \$850 O.B.O. Call Larry Katz (Marc & Ilene Golden's brother) at W (219)232-3081 or H(219)273-9412  
He also wants to buy a Jet Ski shore station

Wanted: Nice young couple wants Birch Lake Cottage/home. We always seem to miss dream spots as they sell (overnite). Pleases give us a call if you know of a property coming on the market.-Phil & Sandy Vitale at 219-291-6102

For Sale: 16' open hull speedboat; 85HP \$1200. See it at Tom's Garage or call Steve & Jackie Frew (708)799-4779

For Sale: 1989 23 ft. Sunchaser Deck Boat; excellent condition. Can see and drive at Nagy's. Call 476-2612 or 219-291-5010. \$10,000.

For Sale: Shore Station bench, 60" wide redwood with mounting brackets for either Shore Station pier or any 2" (2"x 4", 2"x 6") pier board. Excellent condition \$75. Call Bruce Harlan 476-9714 or see at 14886 Lakeshore Drive.

For Rent: Cottage West Side. Call Brad Walker 476-2515.

For Sale: 1993 Ebbtide Campione OMC 6 Cylinder, 4 barrel carb IO and custom trailer. \$8,700. Call Al or Liz Cover @ 476-9339 or (219) 825-3911

For Sale: Honda CT-70 Motorcycle. Smaller trail/road bike. Great for riding around the lake. New condition - 300 miles...\$1200.. Call 476-2526.

For Sale: Looking for a good home for our M-16 Racing Scow. In near perfect condition, always stored inside. Includes trailer and Starr boat lift. Call 476-2082, Larry Flora 14723 Kiloqua Woods Lane.

Lost: A yellow-orange piece of ensolite (buoyant foam) approximately 4'x6'x 1/2". If it floats up on your shore, call the Kings at 476-2128.

Lost: White styrofoam 2' X 10' board. Everyone's favorite lake toy for over 30 years. Call Cowens at 476-2786

Garage and Rummage Sale: Household items, clothing, shoes, odds and ends, craft items, furniture...cleaning out closets & cupboards. On going thru Labor Day Weekend. Machallecks, South Side  
14878 Birch Lake Shore Drive

Pre Bulldozer Sale: Claim one of many treasures before the bulldozer does its job on the Decocker Cottage. Everything must go! 63514 Birch Rd. East side .....See you Friday and Saturday 9/3-4

For Sale: Woodstove "Wonderwarm", good shape, black, with electric fan unit, double door, front load. Made in IN. \$175. John and Jody Meyers. Call during the week at 616-337-8212 (days) or 616-344-8186 (evenings) or stop by at cottage E149 anytime on the weekend.

### Star Stuff

*If you look carefully just before sunrise the next few weeks, you might see a bright "morning star" standing very low in the east. That's the planet Venus, which is pulling away from the Sun right now, and is getting ready to put on a dazzling early morning show.*

*Until mid-August, Venus highlighted the EVENING sky. But two weeks ago, it passed between Earth and the Sun, moving into the morning sky.*

*This back-and-forth motion, combined with the planet's brightness, made Venus one of the most revered astronomical objects of the ancient world and one of the most misunderstood.*

*Some cultures thought the MORNING-star Venus was a completely different object from the EVENING-star Venus. It's not, though. It's a single planet that changes positions because it's moving around the Sun, just like we are.*

*Other cultures understood that Venus was a single object, even if they didn't know its true nature. To many, its cycle represented the death and rebirth of an important god. To others, morning and evening appearances represented two separate gods.*

*Look for Venus about a half-hour before sunrise. Although it's brighter than anything else in our night sky, except the Moon, it's so low that you might have trouble finding it if you're down by the lake. But keep trying. It rises a few minutes earlier each day, so within a week or so, it should be quite easy to find in the waxing color of twilight.*

Thanks for all the positive comments about my articles. Sorry I missed last week. I was a victim of computer failure. Thanks also to Beth for tolerating my habitual lateness.

In many sci-fi movies a hushed voice speaks, "There's something up there." You bet there is. This line is usually heard in reference to an extraterrestrial spaceship. But the line is truer than its author or scriptwriter intended. There IS something up there and it does bring a hush of awe to our voices at times.

What is up there is not just something... it's everything. It's the universe we live in. And, though that universe may extend to truly inconceivable distances, it is also incredibly close... as close as your backyard, your window, a tilt of your head to the sky. I hope you continue to enjoy the night sky and all its wonders. See you next summer. Until then, you know what to do...

Keep looking up.

Stewart Spratt

### DIRECTORY'S

**EXTRA DIRECTORY'S CAN BE PURCHASED FOR \$2.00. Please call Jim and Sally at 476-2760 or stop and pick one up. Evenings after 5pm or anytime on weekends.**



**FOR  
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Aug. 28 KANSAS	Oct. 16 USC
Sept. 4 at Michigan	Oct. 30 NAVY
Sept. 11 at Purdue	Nov. 6 at Tennessee
Sept. 18 MICHIGAN STATE	Nov. 13 at Pittsburg
Oct. 2 OKLAHOMA	Nov. 20 BOSTON COLLEGE
Oct. 9 ARIZONA STATE	Nov. 27 at Stanford



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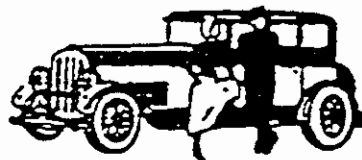
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