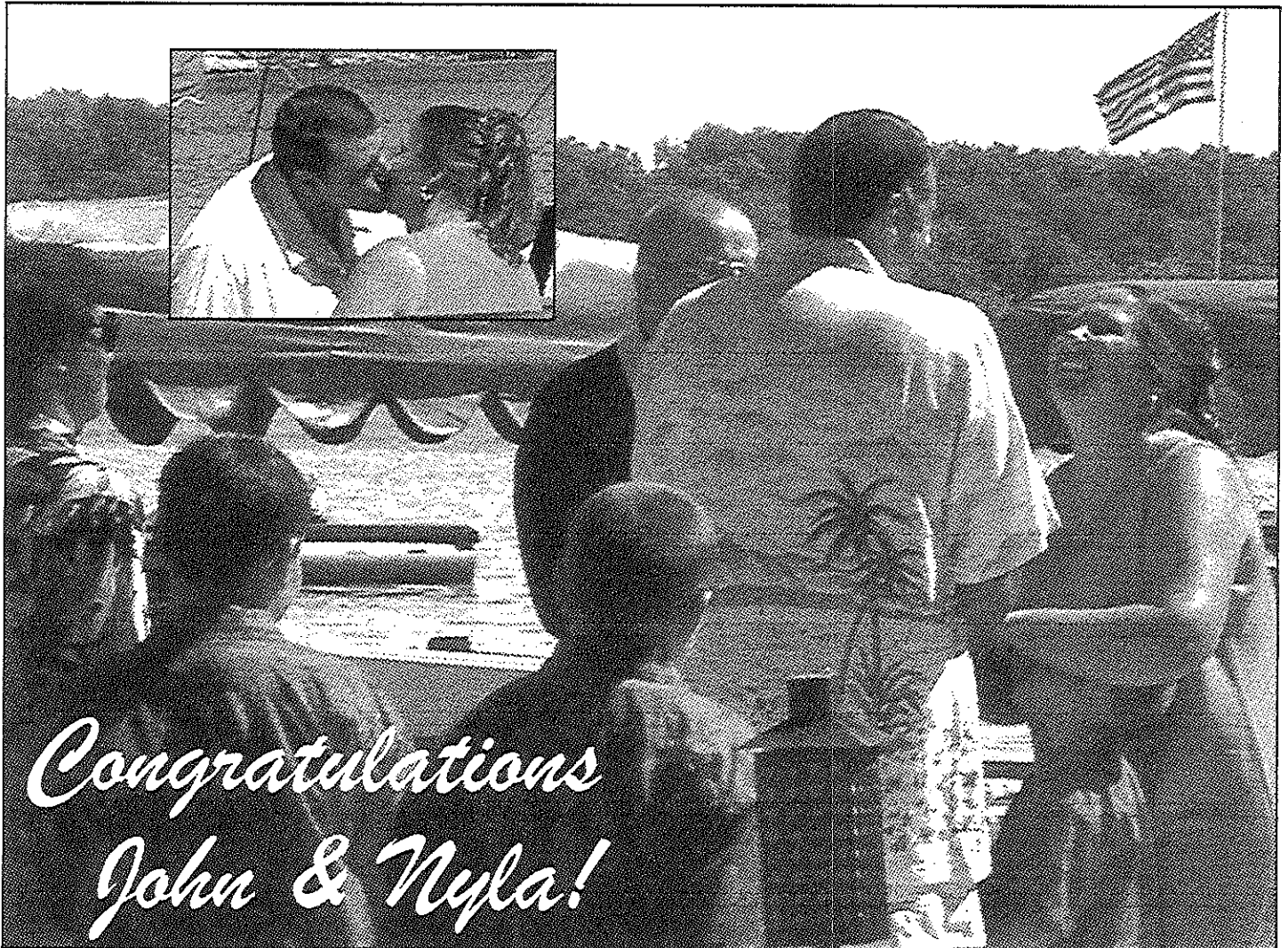


# The Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Nine, July 20, 2002



*Congratulations  
John & Nyla!*

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Birch Lakers,

What a week! Last weekend was another beauty! During May's cold and rain, who would have thought we would end up having so many beautiful days this summer. The weather was perfect for John and Nyla Erhardt's wedding (and celebration after) on the lake last Saturday. Congratulations and best wishes to you both!

The BLYC directors met on Saturday and the good news is that a committee was formed to look into repairing the bathrooms at the Yacht Club! We would like to thank Tom Rogers for taking the time to repair the Yacht Club eaves that had been torn down.

This weekend will be another special one around the lake. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Regatta that was a "no blow" was re-scheduled for today and tomorrow, making it the 20<sup>th</sup> of July Regatta! With the luck (or no luck) we have had this year, we thought a sacrifice to King Aeolus, the god of wind, might be in order. According to Homer's

*Odyssey*, Aeolus gave Odysseus a bag of wind so that he could control the wind on the seas. I thought the Fleet Captain could surely use that! So, for the sacrifice, in lieu of a live chicken, we thought maybe a 10 piece order of KFC might work.

Tonight, put on your Hawaiian shirts, sarongs, grass skirts, or what have you, and join us for the Jimmy Buffett Tropical Beach Party! The margarita machine will be churning and CDs turning, so join us for a lot of fun. We may even have some limbo later in the evening if the margaritas do their thing! We will be doing our best to turn the Yacht Club into an island paradise (though the cleaning staff drew the line at covering the floor with a few yards of sand like I wanted) so be sure to come! Bring with you an appetizer to share, perhaps something tropical, like with coconut (?).

Some upcoming things to be sure to put on the calendar:

Birch Lake Garage Sale the 27<sup>th</sup>  
Corn and Sausage Roast - August 10<sup>th</sup>  
Kids All Day - August 17<sup>th</sup> More info later but there will be craft events in the morning followed by the Kid Regatta in the afternoon - fun for the kids all day!

## BLYC Calendar

July 20 ..... Beach Party  
July 26 ..... Men's Golf Outing  
July 27 ..... Garage Sale 8 am - 2 pm  
July 27 ..... Kids Sport Event  
Aug. 7 ..... Women's Luncheon  
Aug. 9 ..... Women's Golf Outing  
Aug 10 ..... Corn and Sausage Roast  
Aug 17 ..... BLYC Board Meeting  
Aug 17 ..... Kidz Regatta  
Aug 17 ..... Kids Event — TieDye  
Aug. 24 .... Fall Dinner

NOTE: All parties at the Yacht Club start at 7 pm unless otherwise noted

Do we know how to have a good time or what? Please make the most of your weekends at the lake by meeting all your neighbors at one or all of our lake celebrations! We love to have new acquaintances become old friends!!

-Commodore Jim



If you have articles or photos 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](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) by Tuesday 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 (574) 232-3853. To contact me, call Phil at 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735.

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

# Birch Lake Notes

## Puppy found at camp

Wednesday morning a small dog wandered into Camp Tannadoonah through the main entrance. He is all black and appears to still be a puppy. He was wearing a blue collar and appears to be pretty well trained! If you own this puppy, or know who does, please contact Camp Tannadoonah. 476-2177. Thank you!

## Scoop and Sprinkle Success

About 35 Birch Lake Kids had fun at last Saturday's Scoop and Sprinkle at the Yacht Club. They

launched water balloons from a catapult (thanks to the handiwork of Mike Russell), squirted each other (and any adult who stood still for long enough) with water pistols, and drenched each other by any means possible. Most kids ended the morning with at least 2 helpings of ice cream, complete with all the toppings! Thanks to all the kids, parents, and grandparents who helped make the morning fun for all!

We will have a Kids Sports Day on July 27th at 10:00 at the Yacht Club, and August 17th has been declared Kids Day at Birch. There

will be a party at the club at 10 followed by the Regatta at 2 pm. Details will follow. Hope to see all the kids there!

-Paula Russell

## Correction

Being known as a teetotaler, many were surprised at the Beer Scooter submission last week. To clarify, I did not write the expose, but borrowed it from Karen Walker, an Australian freelance writer for Waiheke Marketplace who writes under the pen name Ivana Yotalot. To read more of her writing go to:

<http://www.gotowaiheke.co.nz/marketplace.htm>.

Ivana posted the Beer Scooter story to the Sailing Forums at <http://www.2003ac.com>. Incidentally, a selection of my sailing images are published on the web at the 2003AC.com site (click on Bob's Pix) thanks to the web wizards at Phil Vitale Publishing.

-Bob King

## Basket Party planned

July 27th Open House from 11 - 2 with Longaberger Baskets and more. Vicki Rogers, 476-2383.



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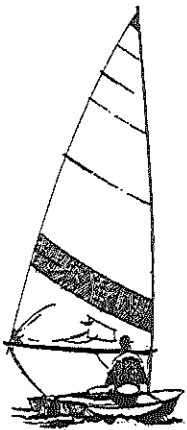
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# BLYC Sailing News

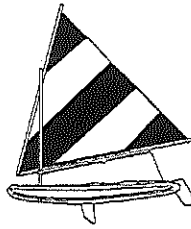


Once again last Sunday the sailboat races had to be scuttled due to lack of wind at the 11 a.m. start time. Ironically later in the afternoon a good Northwest wind came up. With that in mind, I think it's time we tried to outsmart the Wind Gods. If there is no wind and you don't see the marks out on the lake at 11 a.m., check again at 12:30

p.m. If the wind comes up we will put the marks out and try for a delayed 1 p.m. start.

This week is the "better late than never 4<sup>th</sup> of July Regatta" with races on Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. Indiana time and Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> at 11 a.m. Indiana time. Trophies will be presented to the top finishers in all fleets at the end of the season, so come out and enjoy the fun of sailing.

Next week Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup> we will



**Come Sail with us!**

**Next Races:  
Better Late than Never  
Today, SATURDAY, July 20,  
2 p.m. and tomorrow,  
SUNDAY, July 21 at 11 a.m.**

have our regularly scheduled races at 11 a.m. Indiana time. Mark your calendars, coming up Saturday August 17<sup>th</sup> will be the Kidz Regatta. Last year we had a great turnout and we're hoping for even more kids this year.

**Don Harman, Fleet Captain**

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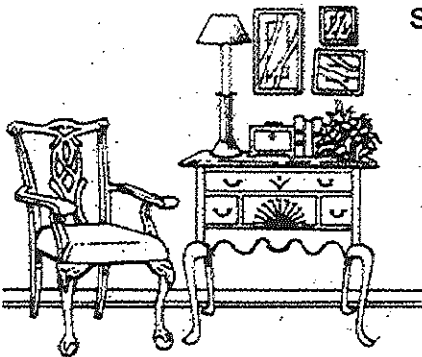
## Accents & Images

Interior Design

Sheryl Papandria

63680 Birch Rd.  
Vandalia, MI 49095

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fax (616) 476-9555



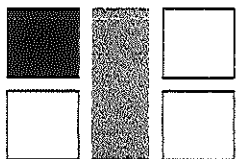
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**We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable  
summer at Birch Lake!**

*-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak*

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# The Best of Beck's Bistro



## Caribbean Spice Chicken

- 4 boneless skinless chicken breasts
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 1/4 chili sauce
- 2 Tlb Dijon mustard
- 1 Tlb dried basil
- 1 Tlb minced fresh parsley

Pre-heat the grill or broiler. Combine ingredients in a shallow baking dish to create marinade. Cover dish and refrigerate for 30 minutes, and up to 2 hours. Drain chicken and discard marinade. Grill or broil over medium heat 18-25 minutes or until juices

run clear.

## Garlic Potato Wedges

- 4 Lbs small red potatoes, cut into wedges
- 1/3 cup olive or canola oil, divided
- 16 unpeeled garlic cloves
- 2 Tlbs minced fresh rosemary, or 2 tsp dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/3 cup white wine vinegar or cider vinegar
- 4 tsp dijon mustard
- 3 tsp sugar
- 1/4 tsp pepper

1/3 cup chopped green onions

In a bowl, combine the potatoes, 1 Tlb of oil, garlic, rosemary, and salt. Pour into a 9x13 baking dish coated with non-stick cooking spray. Bake, uncovered at 450 for 25-30 minutes or until potatoes are tender, stirring every 10 minutes. In a small bowl, combine the vinegar, mustard, sugar, pepper, and remaining oil until smooth. Squeeze garlic mixture into vinegar mixture discarding skins. Pour over potatoes and toss to coat. Sprinkle with onions.

Yield: 8 servings.

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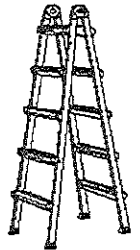
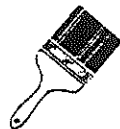
*Come worship with us*

## Mark The Painter

Greetings Birch Lake Campers! Do you need, want or desire a quality painter this summer?

Does your home or cottage have a need for some fixing up? I am now booking jobs for the summer of 2002...dates will go fast.

I have references on Birch Lake, why not give Mark a call today!!!



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# Red Hat Tea tickets still available

August 7<sup>th</sup> is right around the corner and the Ladies Tea is sure to be an afternoon to enjoy. Remember how much fun it was to dress up and put on your mothers hats when you were little?



The theme "Red Hot Summer" arose from the famous Red Hat Society whose only rule is to wear a red hat and

purple dress; unless you are under age 50 and then the rule is pink hat and lavender dress.

We will be awarding three great prizes for the ladies of Birch Lake who have the best red/pink hats!

You still have plenty of time to pick out the perfect "red hat" and purple dress.

There will be a wonderful assortment of fancy sweets, tea and lemonade for the ladies attending to enjoy while they watch a fashion show.

The Alternate Shop in Dowagiac will be providing several outfits and our own Birch Lake Ladies will be modeling.

Ticket sales were hot and heavy last week and at this writing only 4 tickets remained. You can call Mary Ann O'Neil at 476-2831 to see if there are any tickets remaining.

-Darlene Troyer

## "Red Hot Summer Ladies Tea"

August 7<sup>th</sup> 1:30 p.m.  
BLYC

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple  
With a red hat which doesn't go and doesn't suit me...*



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**Birch Lake is not like other lakes in Porter Township, Cass County.**

Birch Lake is not in the same category of other lakes. Birch Lake is an excellent lake with a management program to maintain its integrity. Birch Lake has a lake association, the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Within the lake association is a *water quality committee* that has *represented Birch Lake* for 18 years *under the direction of water quality and environmental specialists*. It has always been their desire and our desire to reward Birch Lake residents with a clean lake.

The *accomplishments* of the water quality committee *surpass other lakes* in Porter Township, Cass County. By reducing pinpoints by correcting faulty septic systems, Birch Lake is now an excellent lake. There is no problem with groundwater. There is no problem with phosphorus runoff from soil erosion within our watershed, no problem with agriculture. No problem with fertilizers (thanks for buying our no-phosphorus fertilizer).

Water quality data began in 1984, and in that data are the names of those who served Birch Lake, not only on the water quality committee but those who assisted the committee and showed *respect and appreciation* for the *professionals* who the committee worked for.

In 1999, the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program was added to the lake management program at the advise of Don Winne, Executive Director of the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations (ML&SA). In the words of Winne: we rely on ML&SA to keep us informed and they depend on us to continue to collect valuable data. They have assumed the leadership role and assist us in making decisions for wise use and management in order to maintain the integrity of Birch Lake. ML&SA brings the *experts* to the annual and other regional conferences and provide the opportunity for us to get answers to questions about Birch Lake water matters.

*BLYC renewed its membership in ML&SA for the year 2002. It is the desire of the water quality committee to continue to make this partnership successful, to continue to work for the water quality experts and on water quality matters, to continue to represent "the lake."*

Membership provides professional interpretation of collected data, provides an annual check-up on the trophic state of Birch Lake, and gives us the answers to actions that are essential to protecting and guarding the excellent water of Birch Lake.

Not only are the experts concerned about the continued excellence of the water, but also management of the invasion of the exotics. Howard Wandell, Specialist Lake and Stream Management Outreach, Michigan State University assists us with "Milfoil Watch." Mike Klepinger, Michigan Sea Grant College Program recommends programs to help control the spread of Zebra Mussels and Purple Loosestrife. The Hand-Pick Zebra Mussel Program results will be forwarded to Mike Klepinger at the end of summer "picking." Following is a report on our Purple Loosestrife Program which will also be forwarded to Mike Klepinger at the end of summer "blooming."

-g.temple

**"PURPLE ALERT"**

It's that time of year again. We are going into our third year of the "Birch Lake Purple Loosestrife Project." Each year the sites have been cleaned up by 1) Identification; 2) Bagging to prevent the seeds from spreading before the plant is dug out; 3) Digging the plant out.

This year, so far, two old sites have returned, but not as strongly as last year. We need to keep looking for the pinkish-purple flowers. This plant blooms from June through September along the shoreline. Although it has been found on all the shores of Birch Lake, it seems to favor the West shore. If you see this weed, or are not sure, please let us know so we can identify and advise or assist in the proper removal. *Purple Loosestrife unchecked will overrun the native lake plants. It has no natural enemies, so it is up to us to keep it in check.* Each year we see the problem improving, so we are having a positive effect on the problem. *Please do your part and help with the eradication of this nuisance plant.*

-R. Russwurm

## BIRCH LAKE OPEN

Join us for the 42nd Annual Men's Golf Outing

**Friday, July 26**

Park Shore Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI

**11 am shotgun start**

**\$55/man entry fee**

covers golf, cart, favor, door prizes, refreshments  
and prime rib dinner

**Registration deadline is July 22**

First 72 golfers are in

Contact Rich Mullin at 476-8820

or drop entry at Mullin or King home on north shore

**Dinner at 5:30 pm (\$20 to attend the dinner only)**

Name/phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### LADIES GOLF OUTING UPDATE

Join the Birch Lake ladies Friday, August 9, for the annual Golf and/or Luncheon. We play a best-ball scramble. Arrange your foursome or be grouped with some new friends.

The cost is \$25, which includes 9 holes of golf and half a cart at Park Shore Golf Course in Cassopolis, and lunch at Lindy's. Golf will begin at 9 am (IN); the luncheon will be at Noon. Prizes will be awarded at the luncheon.

Please send reservation and check to Mardy Miller, 63255 Storey Hill, Vandalia, MI 49095. If you have questions, call Mardy at 476-9226, or Betsy Custard at 476-9835.

Non golfers are welcome to join us for the lunch at Lindy's. Select from an open menu with individual checks. Please call Mardy or Betsy to reserve a space.

### MEN'S GOLF OUTING UPDATE

At present, 48 golfers have signed up for the outing (there are enough carts for 66 golfers). We have a few partial foursomes, so if you want to play but can't come up with a full foursome, we can match you up with other golfers.

The outing is less than a week away and at the time this notice was written, only two golfers and one sponsor had dropped off their checks. We must commit to a certain number for dinner by July 22, so it is very important that you drop off your checks and entry form (see below) no later than July 21 to me, Bill King or Phil Vitale. Procrastinators will be penalized 2 strokes a side!

Also, we have only received 12 door prizes to date and we want to be sure everyone gets home with a prize. If you have a door prize to contribute, please drop them off with your check. This way we can see how many prizes we are short.

Finally, it would be helpful to receive all hole sponsorships by Sunday the 21st, as well.

See you at the Outing!

-Rich Mullin

## Ladies Golf Outing and Luncheon Friday, August 9

Park Shore Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI  
9 am golfing; Noon Lunch (at Lindy's)

**\$25 entry fee**

covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's  
Contact Mardy at 476-9226 or Betsy at 476-9835

Name	Golf	Lunch
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

# Stay at home dads

My son-in-law, Scott, is a stay at home dad, a vocation so foreign to men of my generation that when he began doing it, I paid special attention to what he was doing and how he went about it. When he and Dawn found out they were going to have a baby, they invested a lot of time in thinking about and talking about what they would do about daytime child care. We heard some of the peripheral portions of those discussions and we knew of their concerns.

Scott was a Respiratory Therapy Technician at Memorial Hospital in South Bend. He worked the second shift, coming home about midnight and leaving for work in the early afternoon. Dawn taught English at Penn High School. She left for work around 6:30 AM, and got home about 4 in the afternoon. For nearly three years they put up with their conflicting work schedules and the short times together, because both of them enjoyed what they were doing.

However, once Madison was on the way, they saw a big problem looming, and they knew they would have to make some changes in their lifestyle.

Did they want to use a baby sitter or a daycare provider? Nope, not for a small child. Did they have anyone in the family who could step in and help? Maybe, but they weren't going to ask. Could they get by on only one salary? It wouldn't be as easy as doing it on two, but they could manage.

And so it came to pass that they decided one of them would stop working outside the home for a few years. Scott drew the short straw. As (soon to be) grandparents, we were relieved. Shirley Anne had worked for a time while I went to college, but we had always traded baby-sitting shifts with

our two girls. One of us was at home at all times, and we thought it worked well for the kids.

Nevertheless, I knew that had it fallen on me to become the stay-at-home parent while Shirley Anne pursued a career, I wouldn't have known how to handle it. I had way too much of my ego tied up in what I did for a living, and I would have worried entirely too much about how others would have judged my choice.

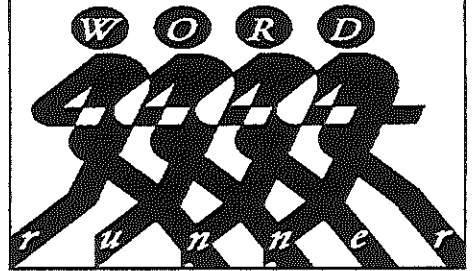
If Scott gave a thought to what anyone other than he and Dawn thought about what they were doing, he never talked about it or showed it. In fact, he seemed so focused on making certain that their new baby was going to be well cared for, he paid little attention to anything else.

Madison is now almost a year and a quarter old, and he and his Dad are doing great. (This is probably a good place to put in the warning that whatever claims I make for the perfection of my own grandchild may need to be read with a modest amount of skepticism.) This is the happiest little boy I've ever been around. He has the fearlessness of a child who has been encouraged to try new things, but who has not been put in situations in which he might hurt himself and become tentative or fearful.

He runs from new adventure to new adventure all day long, talking with the speed of Chris Mathews in a language only he (and sometimes his Dad) can understand. Most of all he makes up games from each new contact and conversation, and he laughs, ceaselessly.

I look at my son-in-law and ask myself, now how did he do that? I know I could not have done it. I didn't and don't have the skills, or the patience, or the sense of voca-

By The WordRunner



tion. I would have always been eager to lay down my life to save my daughters, but I could no more have been their primary parent than I could have been their ballet instructor.

Is it generational? That is certainly a piece of it. Careerism no longer has a stranglehold on the young men of this country. If child rearing is appealing to them, they don't sweat the "loss" of not climbing the business ladder. However, I think there is more at work here than differing attitudes between men of different generations. There is something fundamental going on, an ability to see children and child rearing through a prism that appears opaque to me. Until recently, I'd never met any men who could see clearly through that prism. Many women, but no men.

Thank God for the change. If all little boys whose dads stay at home with them have an experience equal to that of my grandson, in about 20 years, we are going to be blessed with the best crop of young men we've seen in a long, long time.

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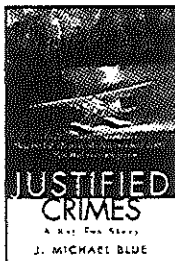
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# Stu's Star Stuff



"Venus is the evening star." "No, Venus is the morning star." "No, Jupiter is the morning star." Actually, all of the above are correct. It just depends on when.

Jupiter dropped out of sight late last month. The giant planet, along with all the others, has been trudging along its orbit, as has the Earth. As a result of these two motions, Jupiter now sits behind the sun, at what astronomers call "conjunction," or more properly, "conjunction with the sun." Because Jupiter's orbit is on a slightly different plane than ours, the planet usually appears above or below, rather than directly behind the sun. This time it passes above. Conjunction also marks Jupiter's official

anointment as a morning object. Several more weeks must pass, however, before Jupiter emerges from the sun's glare and becomes visible in the dawn glow ahead of sunrise.

While today marks Jupiter's conjunction, tomorrow it will be Mercury's turn. The situation is somewhat different, however, with this speedy little planet. Because Mercury's orbit is smaller and inside the Earth's orbit, when it lines up with Sol, the planet can appear in front of or behind the sun. To distinguish those two possibilities, astronomers refer to superior conjunction when Mercury is beyond the sun and inferior conjunction when it lies between Sol and Earth. Tomorrow we note the former. With

superior conjunction Mercury technically passes into the evening sky, but it won't become visible until the second week of August, and then with difficulty as it is quite low and so tiny.

Out of the fading blue of the western sky comes Venus, brilliant as ever and low on the horizon, heading for it's next conjunction. Mars and Saturn are up there too, but that's another program. For now let's just enjoy the show. And don't forget...it's free. Next week, back to basics.

-Stewart Spratt



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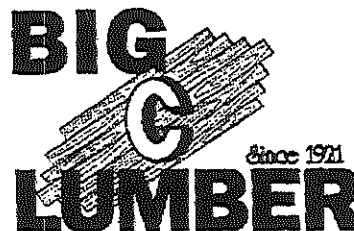
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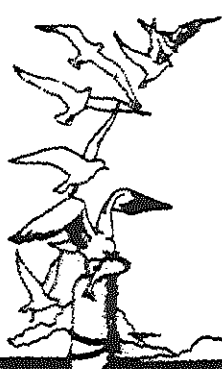
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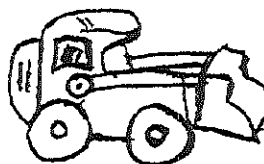


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# Zebra Hunt Update

At Cal's 2001 birthday party we gave each kid a bucket and offered a bounty of a penny per mussel. The kids scoured the beach, removing over 1,000 mussels. They were restricted to a roped off area approximately 54' x 48' ... or, 2,592 square feet. So, that was nearly 1 mussel found in every 2 square feet!

This past weekend Cal and I harvested the area from knee-deep to the end of the pier and removed another 1,043 of the critters. These were mostly adult mussels (very bad on the feet). I was under the impression the Zebra mussels were primarily in a shallow band, say 10-20" deep ... not so. To clean the area waist deep I put on mask and snorkel. Swimming out 6' deep — sure

enough, the exposed rocks were sprouting mussels.

You can ignore this infestation for now, but if so, invest in water shoes. I keep thinking of the quote published in the Barker, 07/06/02: "... people better purchase a good rake because they'll need it to rake their beaches." -Don Winne, Executive Director, Michigan Lakes & Streams Association.

## TWO-FER:

The Yacht Club bounty will continue through July. Kids who clean the beaches are asked to notify any Lake Director of their count — a penny per mussel will fund kids events at the Yacht Club. Last week I suggested property owners might offer to

pay the kids directly (on top of the YC bounty) so they would get both immediate and deferred reward. Well, we are doing it!

The owners on each side of our place have agreed to double the bounty. Any kids who want to harvest mussels can come clean the beaches at Mullins/Kings/Rogers this weekend. You will be paid a penny per mussel and the count will be reported to the Yacht Club. Please wear water shoes and bring a bucket.

Any other resident who wants to join in is encouraged to do so. If you will be around (to pay the kids) and want help, maybe put a bucket on your pier as a signal to the kids?

-Bob King

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## Opinion ~ Forum

### The Sky is Falling

All this talk about sewers lately got me thinking about the folks who, for the past 15 years or so, have worked so hard to keep Birch Lake clean. Birch Lake is one of the cleanest lakes in the state due to the preventative approach lake owners have taken in maintaining their own septic systems and, where needed, have updated and/or installed new septic systems before a problem occurs.

Recently a *lobbying* campaign started approaching area lakes (Baldwin, Long and Indiana Lakes) due to the quality of the water these lakes contain. It appears to me that

Birch and Shavehead Lakes are only being considered because of the need at Baldwin, Long and Indiana Lakes, which I understand have serious septic problems.

After all, the more lake homes hooking up to the proposed system, the less cost per home. I believe another reason Birch Lake is so clean comes from the fact that the majority of the residents are here only in the summer months. The majority of Baldwin, Long and Indiana Lakes' residents are year-round dwellers.

To include Birch Lake in the proposed septic system would pave the way for a condominium to be

built right here on our clean, quiet lake. Just because other lakes haven't yet built a condo doesn't mean one won't be built here. After all, we still have ample room if the right person came along with enough money or power.

We have been told to hook up to the proposed system NOW! in order to forego the cost increase in the future. Big New Flash! everything goes up every year. Why don't folks worried about that put \$12,000 in investments to grow.

Hey! You never know, down the road when there isn't any problem, you would have a nice chunk of vacation money!

I would like to suggest everyone check the tires on their automobile. If they show any wear, please buy new *now* as the cost will be going up!

In closing, whenever someone wants to put their hand in *my* pocket, I want to know that person reallllly well!

-Bob Morrison

**NOTICE:** While officers and board of directors of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, and the editor of the Barker WILL NOT ENDORSE ANY opinion on the issue of a sewer system, the Baker will publish opinion letters that meet the following stipulations:

■ Letters must be signed and the writers

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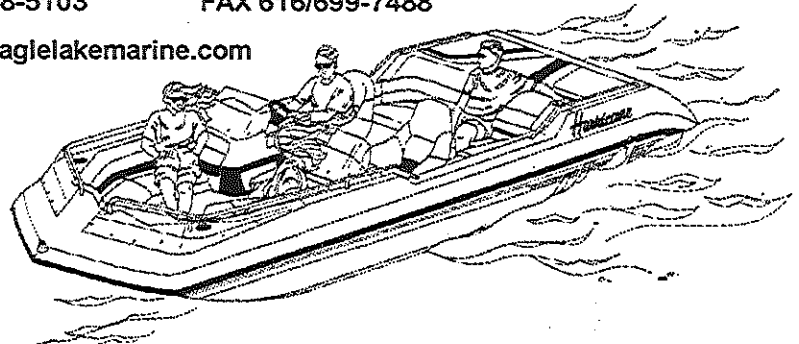
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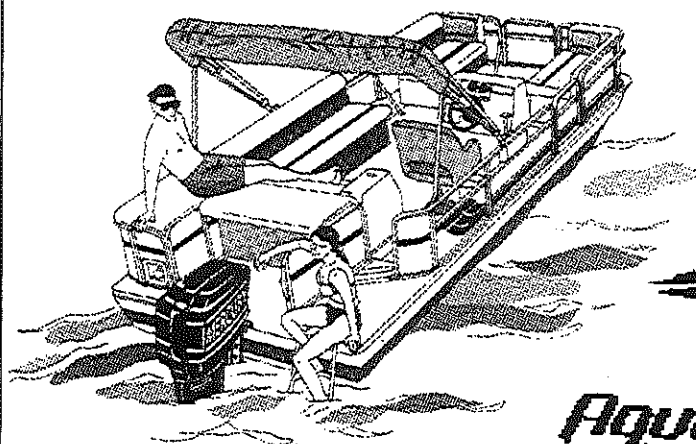
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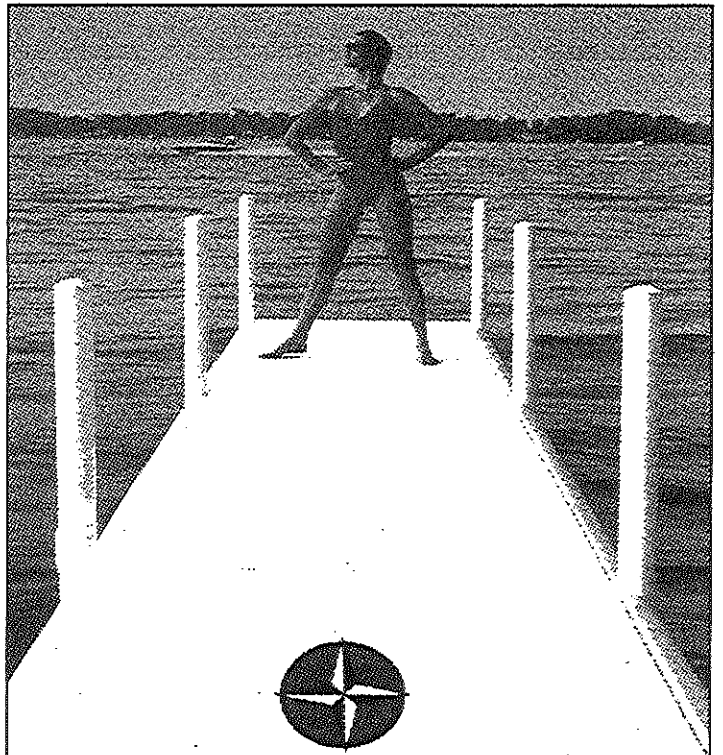


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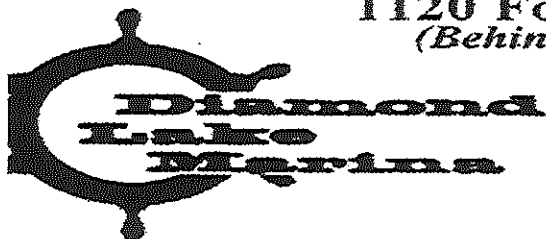


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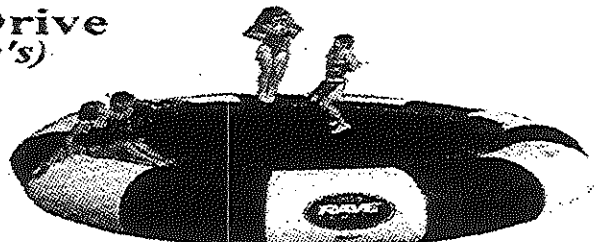


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