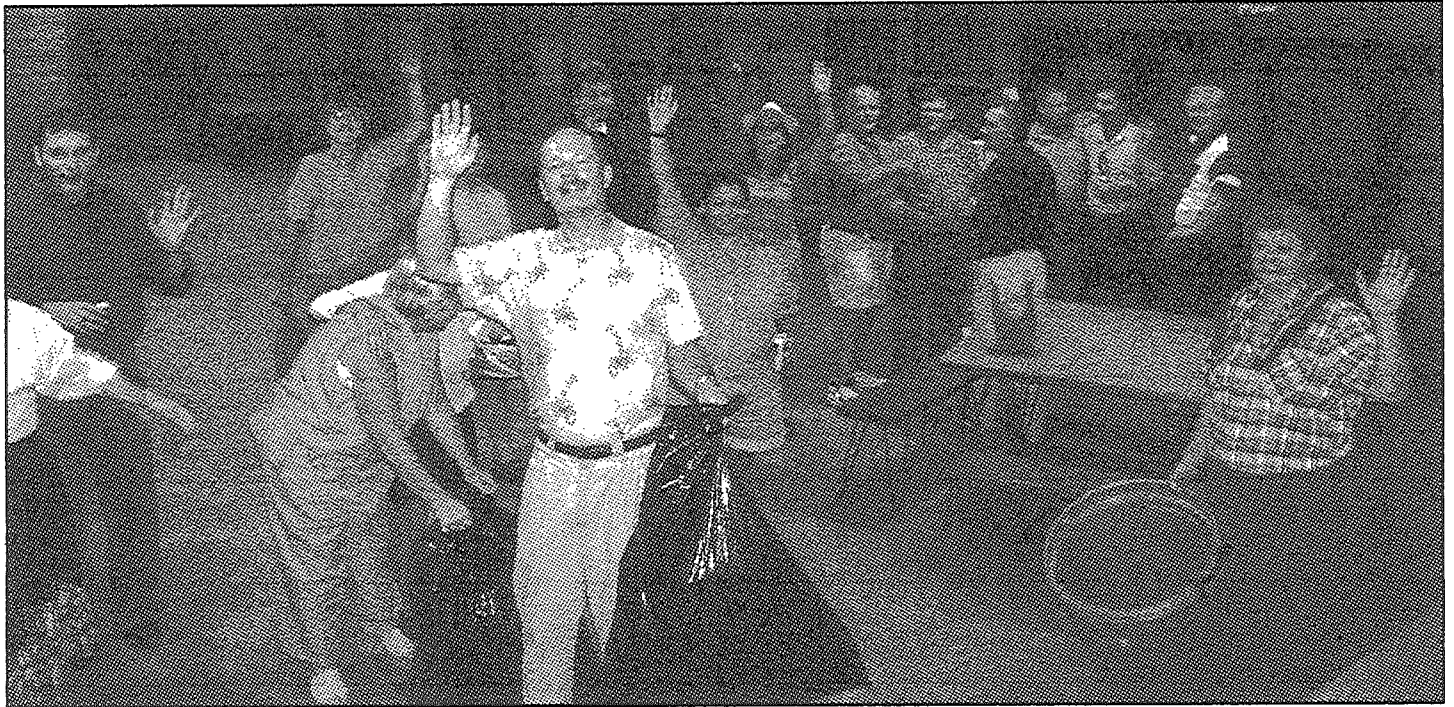


Farewell to great season!



Barker photo courtesy of Patty Russwurm and the PattiCam

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Howdy Neighbors,

Hard to believe Labor Day weekend is here already, isn't it? Seems like just a few days ago we were waist-deep in the cold spring water putting in our piers and lifts and trying to get the battery cables attached ... and this week I'm already seeing boats on blocks in some of the back yards and watching neighbors pack up and start winterizing.

I'd like to express all of our appreciation to Jim and Debbie Bolinger for their hard work during a truly great season! If Sandy and I can do half as well, we'll consider it a successful year. On a more personal note, it's been a great pleasure to be able to get to know the Bolinger family this year, and we look forward to many years of friendship with our east-shore neighbors.

I am pleased to announce (and I wel-

come the commitment and help) of my good friends Stewart and Kim Spratt as Vice Commodore and "second lady." Many of you may know Stu as the son of long-time northsiders Archie and Jennie Spratt, who bought their cottage in 1967, and every Barker reader will recognize Stu as the author of Stu's Star Stuff, a Barker staple for three years.

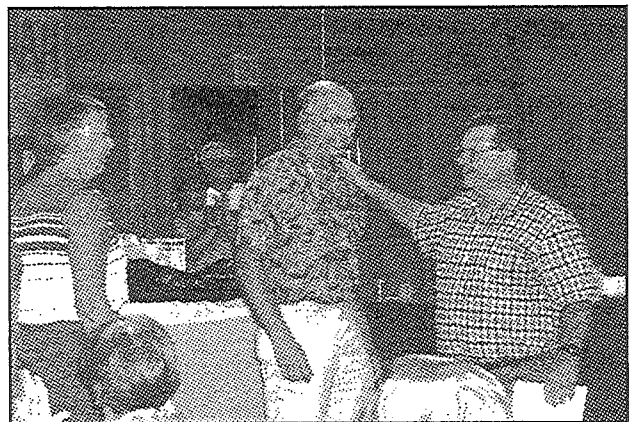
If you missed the Fall Dinner last weekend, you missed a great party. Amid all of the do-si-do-ing and alemand letting, Jim and Debbie bade a bittersweet farewell to their respective posts and turned in their keys to the Yacht Club (and a so-ratty-it's-cool orange PFD), but not before awarding the Commodore's Trophy to Don and Lind Harman (a well deserved recognition, I might add!).

Congratulations to Rick and Tish Harman on the birth of son, Alex (and to beaming grandparents Don and Lind)

Since this is the last Barker of the year, remember that if you haven't already sent me your e-mail address to subscribe to the on-line, off season edition, please send it as soon as you can — and don't forget to send in your Directory Update slip (see Page 7).

Some upcoming events to note (if you are going to be around):

- Sailors, please plan to attend the end-of-



Congratulations to Don and Lind Harman, who received the Commodore's Trophy from retiring Commodore Jim Bolinger at last week's Fall Dinner.

season award ceremony Monday (10 am at the BLYC)

- There will be a Board of Directors meeting on September 7 at the club

- A final final Yacht Club cleanup will be October 19, and that evening we will host a "Stone Soup" party beginning at 6 pm (for those who don't know about Stone Soup, it is a children's tale that provides a wonderful lesson in community and sharing).

- We are hoping for a Fall road cleanup (and are looking for volunteers to help) on Oct. 26, if the weather cooperates

Peace, love and happiness,

-Commodore Phil

BLYC Calendar

- Sept 2Sailing Awards
Yacht Club, 10 am
- Sept 7Board Meeting 9 am
- Oct. 19Yacht Club Cleanup 1 pm
"Stone Soup" Party 6 pm
- Oct. 26Road Cleanup



This is the last Barker of the year — but the on-line, off-season Barker is now accepting materials. Just put the materials in the Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com. If you must, mail to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, or fax your items to (574) 232-3853. To contact me by phone, call 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735.

Birch Lake Notes

Thanks, Barker heroes

I would like to thank all of the people who helped get this year's Birch Barker produced and distributed.

Thanks to everyone who sent in articles and photos to share with our neighbors this year, especially Sunny Waters, the Bistro Becks, Gert Temple, Starman Stu, The WordRunner, Fido's Friend, Maude, Scott Troeger, Lind Harman and Debbie Bolinger (ok, their husbands, too).

Special thanks to my friend and neighbor Barb Zesinger, and to all of the deliverers who gave up their Saturday mornings so we could read the Barker with our coffee: Doris Sante, Katha Machalleck, Holly Troeger, Judy Olson, Linda Curtis, Elaine Lockmandy, Louise Rieth and Linda Rasmussen.

I apologize to everyone I might have omitted — all of you have earned my admiration and appreciation as the real heroes of the Birch Barker.

-From the guy who slaps it all together every week

Thanks from Camp!

I can't believe that the summer is actually over! Camp is pretty much going to be closing up its doors fairly soon.

Planning is already beginning for next summer. Please

look for our brochure in March of next year. If you can't use it please pass it along to someone who can ... grandchildren, nieces and nephews, neighbors, etc.

I would also like to say what a wonderful time I had this summer. While I have been at camp for eight years now this was my first as camp director. I really enjoyed this summer and hopefully next year will surpass this on on all accounts.

I also want to thank the generous members of the Birch Lake community. Campership donations allowed eleven children to attend camp this summer. Also the money raised through the Pancake Breakfast was incredibly helpful. And I hope to work with members of the lake on some repairs and improvements over the off season.

Finally I really enjoyed (and think others did as well) the end of the season Yacht club dinner and dancing. I hope that this can continue in the future. Have a wonderful autumn, winter and spring!!

-Dug Miller, Camp Director

New Area Code

In case you missed it, your phone number at the lake has changed! Our Area Code is now 269 — please make a note...

Tentative Calendar of BLYC Events

This year

7-Sep Board Meeting
19-Oct Yacht Club Cleanup/Soup Party
26-Oct Fall Road Cleanup

2003

26-Apr Yacht Club Cleanup/Chili Cookoff
3-May Road Cleanup
17-May Spring Dinner
24-May Board Meeting
17-Jun Commodore Party
21-Jun Board Meeting
28-Jun Vice Commodore's Party "A Paris Evening"
4-Jul Fireworks
5-Jul Firework Cleanup
5-Jul Boat Parade 2PM
6-Jul Pancake Breakfast
19-Jul The Bad Patty Punch Party *and* Mark's Fancy Pants Dance
25-Jul Men's Golf Outing
26-Jul Board Meeting
26-Jul Garage Sale
TBA Women's Tea
8-Aug Women's Golf (tentative)
9-Aug Corn and Sausage Roast
16-Aug Board Meeting
23-Aug Fall Dinner

NOTE: These are tentative dates and subject to change

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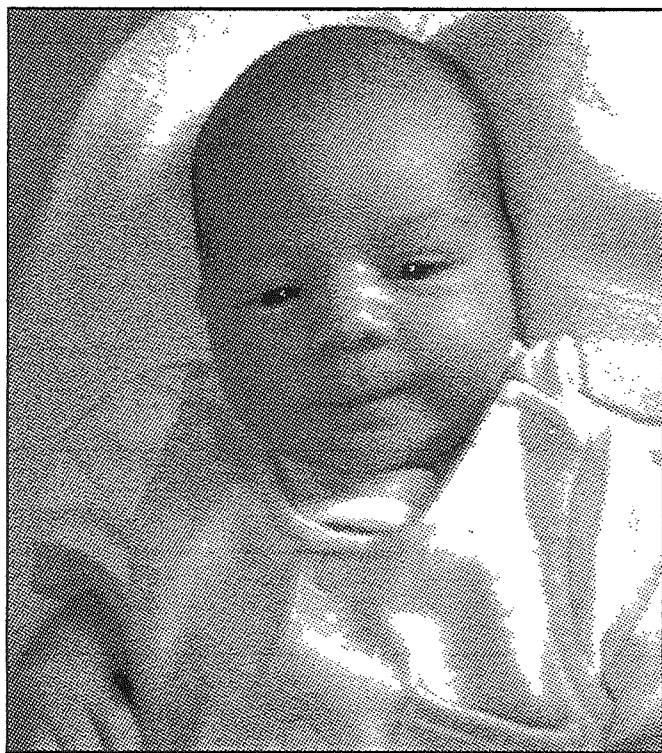
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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Barker Kid of the Week



ALEX HARMAN
BIRCH LAKE'S NEWEST MC SAILOR
WEIGHING IN AT 9 lbs., 4 oz.; 23 1/2" LONG.

Alex was born August 20, 2002 to Rick and Tish Harman.
The proud grandparents are Don and Lind Harman.

News from the Cove

By Sunny Waters
*Pulitzer Prize winner and
authority on just about
everything*

STOP! WHO PUT THIS SUMMER ON FAST FORWARD?

Another wonderful season is fading away, leaving us with tan lines and memories. When we hear squirrels and chipmunks scuttle across the roof in a game of acorn bowling, you know autumn is moving in.

The Fall Dinner at Tannadoonah, our farewell to BLYC functions, was outstanding. Because of my two left feet I couldn't even attempt to line dance but I was a superb beans server. Nobody, however, seemed to notice the nearby donations can. You may compensate, dear readers, at next year's pancake break-

fast and corn and sausage roast, where I offer my skills doling out vittles.

For this I went to college?

Well, dear ones, it's time to pack it in because I'm running out of cunning egress. Those are my clever words of the day. Look it up in your Webster.

I close with a touch of nostalgia, a very meaningful song for my dear friend, Loretta Drolet: "I'll be Seeing You."

God bless you all

-Sunny and Sidekick B.S.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot to offer my praise to past commodore Jim Bolinger for an excellent tenure. Thank you Jim and Debbie, the marvelous muralist.

P.S., B.S. — je t'aime.

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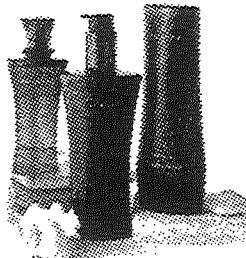
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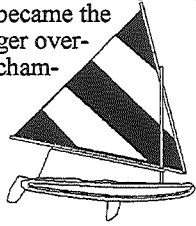
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BLYC Sailing News

Last Sunday, with barely enough wind for sailing, we concluded the regular 2002 sailing season. Only one race was held due to the light wind, with Tom Howard winning the final Sunfish "A" Fleet championship. The Sunfish "B" Fleet race was won by Amy Troeger. By winning the final race Amy also became the season winner. In the MC division Scott Troeger overcame a slow start to win the race and the MC championship.

Thanks to all the sailors for coming out and taking part this year, having a great turnout for the regular season races, Regattas and the Kidz Regatta has made my tenure as Fleet Captain a pleasure.



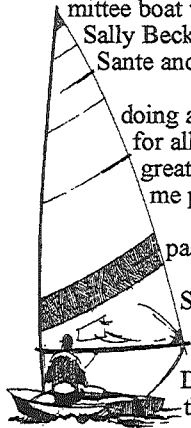
I would like to take this time to thank the starters on the committee boat who started all the races this summer Jim and Sally Beck, Bruce Wagner, Steve and Julie Plaia, Marty Sante and all their helpers.

A very special thanks goes to my wife Lind for doing all the scoring though out the summer and also for all the work she did in making the Kidz Regatta a great success. Thanks to Harold Cranmer for helping me put the marks out every Sunday.

Speaking of Harold it's with great pleasure that I pass the Captains Flag on to him for next season.

Coming up today, Saturday August 31st and Sunday September 1st is the Labor Day Regatta; races will start at 11 am, In. time, both days.

Trophies will be awarded on Labor Day, Monday September 2nd at 10 am, In. time, at the Yacht Club.



-Don Harman
2002 Fleet Captain

Final Season standings

Sailor	Race 1	Average	Place
MCs			
H. Cranmer	2nd	1528	2nd
D. Harman	3rd	1508	3rd
R. Harman	DNS	1482	4th
Phil Vitale	6th	1365	5th
Bruce Harlan	4th	1369	
John Gableman	5th	1306	
Scott Troeger	1st	1533	1st
Sunfish "A"			
J. Bolinger	4th	1433	3rd
T. Howard	1st	1591	1st
D. Olson	3rd	1438	2nd
R. Russwurm	5th	1362	5th
D. Weaver	2nd	1400	4th
Sunfish "B"			
J. Meyer	DNS		
S. Vitale	2nd	1531	3rd
C. Plaia	DNS	1584	2nd
A. Troger	1st	1587	1st
"CATS"			
B. King	DNS	1545	2nd
D. Weaver	DNS	1588	1st
M. Kelly	DNS	1542	3rd

Thanks to Fleet Cap'n Don...

The Birch Lake Yacht Club and officers, and all of the sailors who participated this year in the sailboat races extend thanks to 2002 Fleet Captain Don Harman for all of his hard work and encouragement of the sport of sailing on our lake.

Thanks, also to Lind, Harold and the committee boats (especially the Becks, who started most of the season's races).

Finally, welcome 2003 Fleet Captain Harold Cranmer — we appreciate you signing on and look forward to sailing with you.

Next Races:

The Labor Day Regatta

Sunday, August 31 — 11 a.m. (or 1 p.m.)

Sunday, September 1, 11 a.m. (or 1 p.m.)

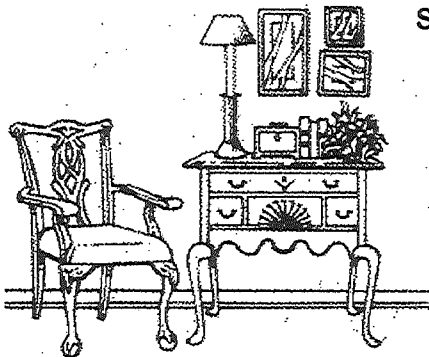
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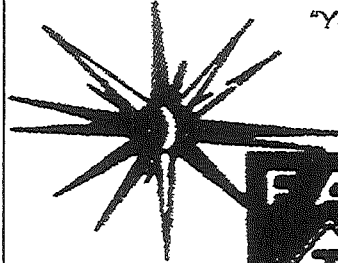
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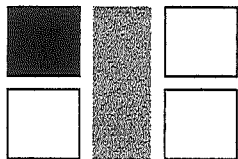
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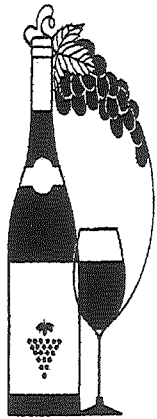
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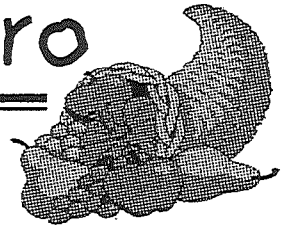
We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable
summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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The Best of Beck's Bistro



Ginger Scented Grilled Tuna

- 1/2 cup aromatic peanut oil
- 3 Tlbs soy sauce
- 1 Tlbs toasted sesame oil
- 4 large garlic cloves, minced
- 1 Tlb Dijon mustard
- 1 1/2 tsp minced peeled fresh ginger root

1/2 cup minced scallion, trimmed white part and 1 1/2 to 2 inches of the tender green.
6-8 tuna steaks
Cooking spray for grill

1. In a small bowl, combine the peanut oil, soy sauce, sesame oil, garlic, mustard, ginger, and scallions, and mix together thoroughly.
2. Gently rinse tuna steaks under cold water and pat dry. Choose a glass dish that is large enough to fit steaks in a single layer. Brush one side of steaks with some of marinade and place in dish with the marinade side down. Pour remaining marinade over

fish using a basting brush to cover fish well. Allow the fish to sit at room temperature for at least 10 minutes or cover well with plastic wrap and refrigerate no longer than 12 hours.

3. To grill: Before heating grill, brush it well with oil or spray with cooking spray. Heat grill or coals to hot and place tuna (with marinade left on) on hot grill. Cook tuna a total of 7 to 10 minutes per inch of thickness, turning once. When done, tuna will be beautifully seared on outside. For medium-rare, it should be a deeper red at very center. If desired, cook until light pink in center but avoid overcooking or fish will be dry.
4. To broil: Preheat broiler until very hot. Lay each steak (with marinade left on) on a cold broiler pan. Broil close to heat source turning once until crispy, and the fish flakes easily but is not at all dry, 4 to 5 minutes per side.

Makes 6 to 8 servings

Chicken Drumsticks Extraordinaire

1 cup lightly packed fresh basil leaves

- 1/2 cup broken pecans
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1/8 tsp pepper
- 8 meaty chicken drumsticks

1. In a blender container or small food processor bowl, combine all ingredients except the chicken. Cover and process till pureed, scraping down the sides of blender or food processor as needed.

2. Remove the skin from the chicken, if you like. Place the chicken on the rack of uncovered grill directly over medium coals. Brush with about half of the basil mixture. grill chicken, uncovered, for 35 to 45 minutes or till an instant read thermometer registers 180 when inserted in the center of the meat, turning once halfway through grilling time and brushing with the remaining basil mixture.

Serves 4



Stu's Star Stuff



While enjoying another romantic, albeit short lived, evening at the end of the pier, we were recently treated to the sight of the full moon peaking above the tree tops on the east side. The orange-ish glow was beautiful and inspired Kimberly Jane to ask, "Is that a Harvest Moon?"

"Actually, " I began, (uh oh), "the Harvest Moon won't be until next month." Certain she was dying to know more I continued. "Before the days of mechanized farming, when farmers had only a few days to gather an entire crop by hand, the light of a full Moon was a blessing. It extended the workday well into the night, providing a few more precious hours for harvesting. So the full Moon of September — prime harvest season at high northern latitudes — was especially welcome. It was named the Harvest Moon." I took her silence to mean, "do go on."

"Each full Moon has its own name to denote its signifi-

cance to that time of year. The full moon closest to the fall equinox was given the name Harvest Moon. The full Moon AFTER the Harvest Moon is the Hunter's Moon. October's full Moon was named the Hunter's Moon long ago, because with the crops harvested and safely stored for the winter, the ground was bare. That gave hunters a better look at game scampering across the fields. Hunters often took advantage of the full Moon to nab extra meat for post-harvest feasts.

"You usually can count on the Hunter's Moon to appear orange or yellow as it rises — the result of particles suspended in our atmosphere. It makes the Moon resemble a pumpkin - appropriate for that time of year.

"When the moon is full it's also a good time to experience the Moon Illusion — an optical illusion that makes the Moon look larger when it's near the horizon than when it's higher in the sky. Psychologists say it looks bigger because we can compare it to objects on the

ground. When it's higher, it stands alone." Turning to accept my praise I found that the reason for the silence was that I was alone. I headed for the couch.

Illusion or not, it's always nice to watch a full Moon as it pops above the eastern horizon.

It's just another part of a great show. And it's free. Enjoy the winter show. See you in the spring.

-Stewart Spratt

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Register now for the on-line, off-season Barker

This is the last Barker that's going to be delivered to your doorstep this season, but that doesn't mean you have to miss out on all the news and fun that's happening on our favorite lake in the off season.

The on-line, off-season edition of the Birch Barker will start next month (the first one will happen when I get around to it; thereafter it will be published during the first week of the month).

In case you didn't get in on it last year, the on-line, off-season Barker is a FREE e-mail

newsletter that is sent automatically to your computer, bringing you news, tidbits of gossip and regular photos of your summer neighborhood — sometimes under a ton of snow.

There are several ways to register to receive the Barker (and, if you ever decide you don't want it anymore, a single click will get your name taken off the list — we don't appreciate electronic Spam any more than you do). Here are a few of the ways you can make sure you don't miss a single edition of the Barker:

1. Log on to <http://www.philvital.com/barker> and click the link that says "subscribe to the Birch Barker."

2. Log on to <http://www.philvital.com> and click on the picture of the Birch Barker.

3. Send me an e-mail and tell me you'd like to subscribe (I have a bunch of e-mail addresses, the most likely to get to me are sailorphil@philvital.com or barker@philvital.com

4. Have one of your friends

send the on-line, off-season Barker to you (there's a neat link that says "Tell a friend about the Barker"), and, after you've seen it and decided you love it, you can subscribe yourself with the easy e-mail link.

Once you get on, you'll be electronically linked to read the Barker — and to send in news and photos — so you can continue to share Birch Lake news even when you're not at the lake.

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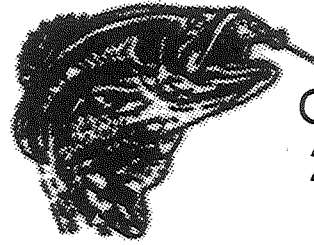
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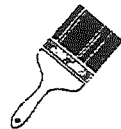
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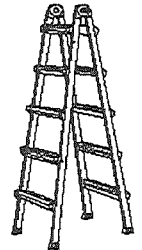
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It's time to make a new Birch Lake Directory! With your help, we will be able to publish a new one and distribute it in the Spring of next year.

Beginning this week, we will start collecting names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses for as many of our neighbors as we can possibly find.

We need your help!

Please take a look at the current directory, note whatever changes need to be made and get them to me as soon as you can

so I can start compiling the information and get the new directory ready to print (see Page 1 for address, etc.).

You can use the form at the right — or make up your own, as long as we get all of the correct new info that you want your neighbors to have.

Anyone interested in advertising in the directory or having a listing in the Directory Yellow Pages should contact Phil Vitale or Bob King.

Anyone who can help on the project should call 476-1680.

BLYC Directory Project

Names _____
 Children _____
 Lake Address _____ Cottage # _____
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 Off Lake Address _____

 Off Lake Phone _____
 e-mail address _____
 Other Misc. _____

Lloyd Vaughn
Owner



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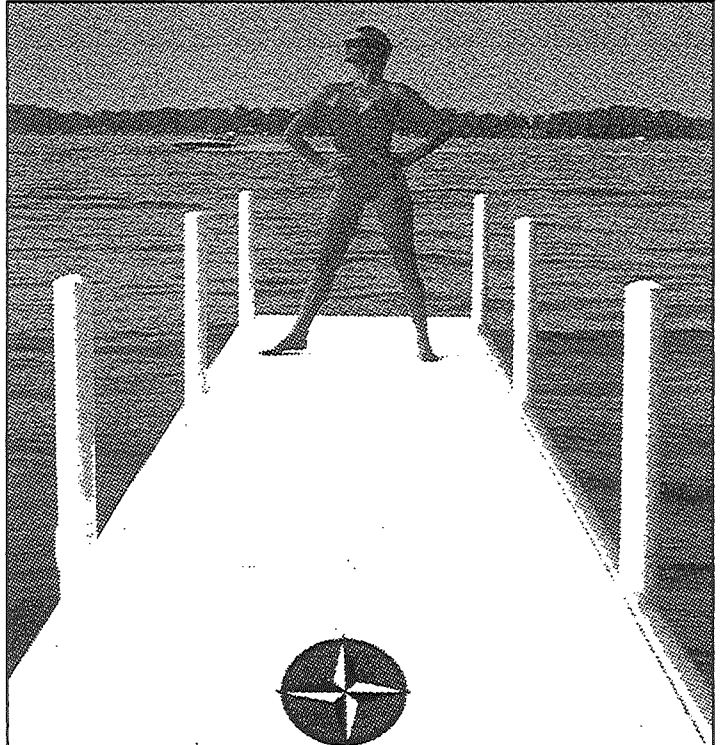
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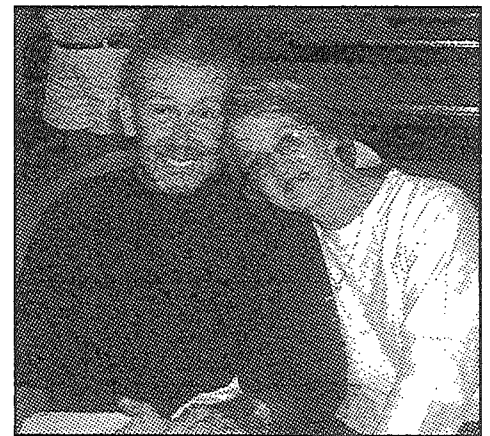
The Fall Dinner



The annual Fall Dinner of the Birch Lake Yacht Club was held last Saturday night at Camp Tannadoonah, with an old fashioned square dance that brought back some great memories for a lot of our neighbors. The board and officers thank Mr. Dug for

helping us out with the facilities, Erica Vitale, for arranging the caller and line dance instructor, and a great group of friends who pitched in to help us decorate the room, pick up the food and get it served. Special thanks to the cleanup crew (Deb and Jay).

Barker photo courtesy of Patty Russwurm and the PattiCam



The trouble with surprises

Since last fall I've been planning a surprise anniversary celebration for Shirley Anne. The heavy lifting didn't get underway until this Spring, but I got the idea for a major blowout almost a year ago, and that's when my difficulties began.

By the time this piece appears in the Barker, the activities surrounding our 40th Anniversary will be nearly complete, and my wife will know all there is to know about my surreptitious behavior of the past 12 months. With any luck she will have had a very good time, and I'll feel like the cleverest guy in six counties.

It has been an incredible kick putting all this stuff together. Phil Vitale helped me to locate a wonderful graphic artist named Karol Leiter (she and her family vacationed at Birch this summer) and Karol created a series of poster-sized photos and illustrations that took us back to the site and the time of our two day honeymoon — Chicago 1962. I hired a band, chose a local Italian restaurant (Catalino's in South Bend) to stand in for Chicago's "Italian Village," where we ate our first married meal together, invited some friends, picked out gifts for everyone, and generally scurried around getting my plan to come together.

I was determined that this not be a one-day thing. Therefore, I bought tickets to a play on the Tuesday following our Sunday night soiree, and booked a four-day land cruise in Illinois where Shirley Anne and I would be able to "get away" from all phones and responsibilities and do nothing but lay around, eat and dance. Five dances, big bands, Latin jazz bands, and a ballroom as big as an airplane hanger. It probably doesn't sound like fun to a lot of folks, but I knew my wife would love it if she could survive

the hectic pace of relaxation.

The problem with all of this was the secrecy. She had no idea what was going on, but by June of this year she knew something was afoot, and being "kept in the dark" and not having a hand in controlling events is not her best thing. It makes her nervous, and eventually it makes her cranky.

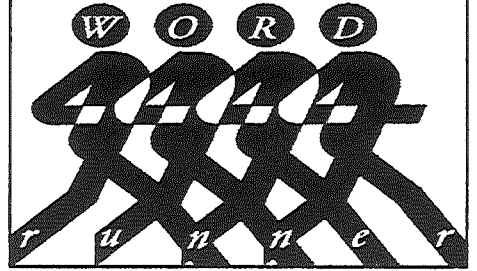
"Where are you off to?"
 "Oh, I have some errands to run?"
 "Writing stuff?"
 "No. Not really."
 "What's going on?"
 "Nothing, Baby. I just have some stuff to do."

Or the phone rings and I answer.
 "Who called?"
 "Uh-when?"
 "Just a little while ago."
 "Oh that was So and So."
 "Really? What did she want?"
 "Oh nothing. We just talked about something for the Barker."

Two months into the project she wasn't buying it anymore. She knew I was up to something, and she soon figured out that it had to do with our anniversary. She probed and she queried, she grew stern and she tried the silent treatment. I gave her nothing, and she could not sit back and simply enjoy waiting for the ride. It's not her nature. In retrospect, I understand. It isn't my nature either.

Also, we don't keep secrets in our house and I'm never involved in anything that I don't bring Shirley Anne into. We talk to each other all day long, every day. We just talk. The news is on or we check the daily progress of the market, or she's working with a landscape guy, or I'm trying to bang out a short story and we jabber on about every aspect of every activity. We've always done

By The wordrunner



it. It's a major element of our romantic dance together.

Therefore, the planning of our version of the Normandy landing without a single conversation between us, and with one of us making all of the choices, has been a frustrating experience all round. She hates it and I miss talking to her. Half the fun would have come from telling her what happened each step of the way, and I know she would have been much more excited and much less anxious if she had not been kept cooling her lovely heels outside the war room.

Am I glad I did it?

Absolutely. I have owed her an act of devotion like this one for as long as we've been together.

Would I do it again?

Not a chance. The cost in isolation is far too high to maximize the pleasure of putting something like this together. Next time around I'd minimize the surprises and wrap my arms around her.

She's the best friend I've ever had, and I miss her too much by taking a solo flight like this one.

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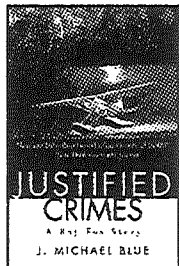
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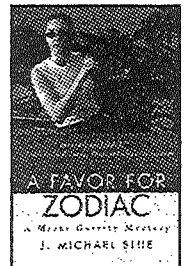
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For More Information Visit Jim's Website At www.jmblue.com, or contact Jim at 476-2708 to order an autographed book

All royalties on books ordered from Jim will be donated to The Birch Lake Yacht Club

During the past few weeks of this summer, a few residents have voiced concern about the scum or floating material on the lake at various times recently.

We feel confident in our evaluation of the situation. A microscopic examination of the material would reveal body insect parts. Mayflies appear at clean lakes and have a short life cycle. Their death is on the surface of the lake. It is usually greater than what the fish popularity can consume. The floating mass is rotting organic matter accompanied by decaying plant material on the surface. The floating mass is not associated with fecal coliform. Fecal coliform is associated with animal and human waste. Septic systems that were contributing bacteria and/or phosphorus to the lake were pinpointed and corrected.

The State of Michigan Water Quality standard for fecal coliform is 200 colonies per one hundred millimeter sample. If this standard is exceeded the water is not suitable for swimming.

At Birch Lake, the water is clean. On August 26, 2002, a member of the water quality committee collected surface water samples at different locations around the lake. Proper procedures were followed. The sample was taken well away from the shore and/or bottom, beneath the

surface of the water. The sampler submerged the sample bottle and moved the bottle away from him as he filled before lifting it out of the water. The samples were placed in a cooler and taken to Garrett Laboratories for fecal coliform testing.

On August 28, 2002 the results of the tests are as follows:

- middle north shore area: 2 fecal coliform per 100 millimeter
- middle south shore area: 11 fecal coliform per 100 millimeter
- middle east shore area: 2 fecal coliform per 100 millimeter
- middle west shore area: less than 2 fecal coliform per 100 millimeter
- there is no rise in bacteria and there is no rise in phosphorus.

According to Don Winne, executive director Michigan Lake and Stream Associations and Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program tests, Birch Lake is Oligotrophic (top quality) based on lake phosphorus, Secchi disk, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll a and the Aquatic Plant Survey. These are current findings of Birch Lake from 1999 through 2001 as evaluated by Ralph Bednarz, Howard Wandell and Niles Kevern, Michigan State University, Department of Environmental Quality.



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Homeowners' Association News

The Constantine Public Schools is seeking a property tax increase of 7 mills payable for the next 27 years to finance school construction projects.

This possible tax increase would affect taxpayers on most of Birch Lake except for those on the west side who are in the Cassopolis School district.

Constantine School's proposal this time is for two construction projects totaling \$28,310,000. The first is for \$24,850,000 for building a new high school, converting the existing high school to a middle school, and for improvements to

Be sure to vote on September 23, 2002

There will be a vote on the proposed \$28,310,000 Constantine School construction projects and 7-mill, 27-year property tax increase at Mason Township Hall at the corner of Kessington and US-12.

the two elementary schools. The second is for \$3,460,000 for a new auditorium for the high school.

Both proposals will be submitted to the voters on Monday, September 23, 2002. The place for voters from Birch Lake to cast their ballots will be the Mason Township Hall, at the

corner of Kessington Road and US-12. This is a change from the usual voting place, which was outside the Constantine School district boundaries. If approved by the voters, the proposals will result in a property tax increase estimated to be 7.00 mills (\$7.00 for each \$1,000 of taxable valuation).

Taxable value is theoretically 1/2 of market value. As an example of the impact of a 7 mill tax increase, a property with a market value of \$300,000 and taxable value of \$150,000 would pay an additional \$1,050 per year in property taxes, or \$28,350 over the 27 years of the millage increase (without factoring in the effect of increases in taxable valuation permitted under the law). Constantine Schools has previously sought tax increases for similar school construction projects on four occasions, but the voters rejected each of them.

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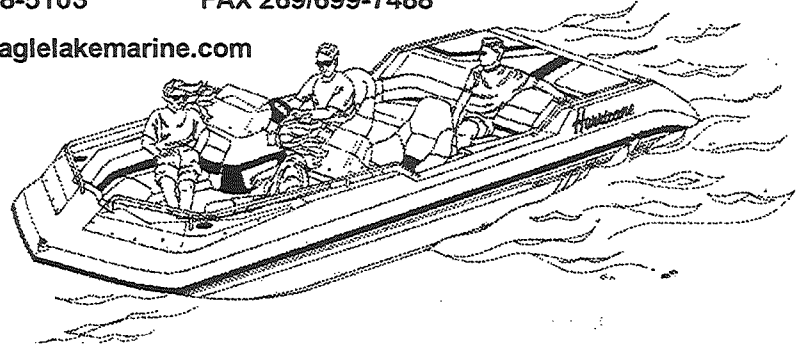
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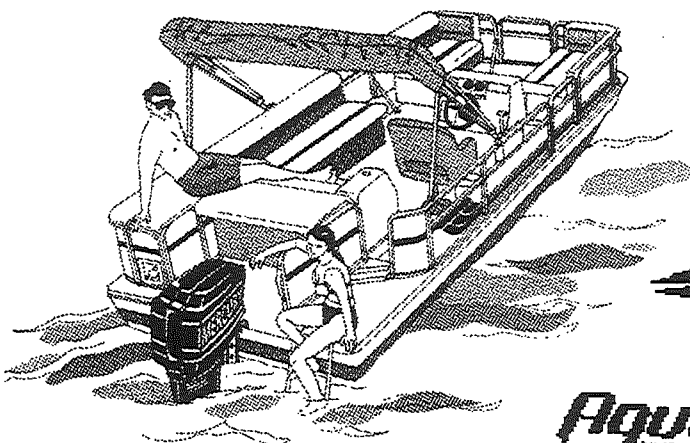
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Birch Lake Memories — We need your help

Ever wondered who had the first cottage on Birch Lake? How about the first speed boat, or the first floating raft with a diving board, or the first Snipe? Are you aware that a long-time Birch Laker is nation championship sailor? Do you wonder how Camp Tannadoonah got started?

If you know the answer to any or all of those questions, we need your help. We want to produce a brief history of Birch Lake and publish it for all of the lakers to have and keep and share with their families and visitors.

Here's what we need:

1. We are particularly interested in short (one-paragraph) "memories" that you

will write and submit for the book. Of course we can't print every memory, but we would really like to hear what you remember from your own (or your parents' own) "early days" at Birch Lake.

2. We are looking for old "scrapbook" photos of whatever you feel might be of interest to your neighbors and to posterity. Got pictures from a regatta, a family gathering or a pontoon party that was particularly memorable? We'd love to see them. Again, we can't print every one, but we'd love to have a bunch to choose from!

We will make every effort to return all photos to their owners — when you turn them in, please have them in an envelope

with your name and address printed on the front (please take the photos out of scrapbooks and frames before turning them in).

Time frame:

We'd love to have this completed to share with our neighbors by Spring. Please try to get your "memories" to me before the end of the year so I can edit, compile, process and get the book made.

I'll try to keep you updated in the Online, Off Season Barker (see page 6).

You can mail (or drop) items to me at Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; fax to me (no photos via fax) at (574) 232-3853, or e-mail me at sailorphil@philvitale.com

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FOR SALE - 1986 Thundercraft
17 ft. I/O with Trailmaster trailer, red and white. 120 HP. Good condition. \$2950. Call Betty at (574) 277-3671 or can be seen at 62977 Birch Lakeview Dr., (west side).

Shore Station for sale. May be seen at the Nagy cottage on the East Shore. Call 574-233-8702.

Boat Lift: Shore Master aluminum boat lift. Maximum boat beam is 96 inches. Holds 3600 pounds. Does not have canopy. Has cradle brackets and boat guides. This lift is in very good condition - winch, wheel, cable, boat guides and pulleys all new in last few years. Take a look - Cowens on the west shore. \$1,000. Call 476-2786 or (352) 753-1187.

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For Sale - Computer Desk, solid maple wood 48x27" \$25; Utility Stand on rollers 19"x12"x25" and Bookcase, three shelves, open back 32"x13-1/2"x33" \$5 each. Call Vicki 476-2383

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Canoe for Sale. 17 ft. Grumman square stern, excellent condition. Also 4 hp Evinrude. 269-471-7647 or 269-921-0710

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Seaworthy sunfish sailboat, ideally with trailer. Please contact Bob or Stephanie Kennedy at (269) 344-6545, or talk to John or Jody Meyers.

Interested in purchasing a small fishing boat trailer and a 5 or 6 hp outboard. Call Bud at 476-2526.

Wanted to Buy: Small cottage on Birch Lake and/or waterfront lot to build. Long-term interest. Michigan born, raised and schooled. GO BLUE!!! All leads appreciated and considered from any source. Mark and Christine Werkema, Granger, IN (574) 243-9333. e-mail: jet-books@flightline.com

I need a small trailer to move and store my MC sailboat for the winter. Call Phil 476-1680.

FOR RENT

Birch Lake cottage, west side. 269-471-7647 or 269-921-0710

FOUND

Found - Silver ring with diamonds. Found in sand on south-east shore. Call Linda or Ron Witchie 476-9354 to describe it if it's yours.

Found - "Shock Doctor" mouth guard retainer, clear with black inserts. Pick it up any weekend at Brovold cottage, 62861 Lakeview Dr. (west side) or call 476-8862 or 684-5547.

LOST

Mustang Water Ski; probably on east side. If a neighbor recovered it, please call Betty or Joe O'Brien 476-9374. Thanks!

Lost: Cover for cooler on paddle boat. It is blue plastic. Call Patti at 476-2407.

Lost: Prescription sunglasses in gray case - call 476-2227

Lost Dog - Yellow Lab; 3-4 yrs. old; 80-100 lbs. Red collar and blue & white flea collar. Named Harley. Call 476-2669

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To all of our great neighbors who contributed their dollars as members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, and who donated to the funds for sailing, homeowners association, water quality, fireworks, building improvement - and to everyone who donated for the functions, parties and events, we express our deepest appreciation.

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