A publication for people who love Birch Lake Birch Lake Weekend of June 19, 2004

Rain

go
away!

Storms continue to ravage Birch Lake area

Corn fields full of standing water and pine trees snapping like matchsticks along Birch Road have been a common sight around the lake for the past couple of weeks.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

f you attended A Nite at the Races did you notice how clean the yacht club was? Don Harman did a great job of getting the place ready for our fun event. Thanks to Don.

Also there are many others to thank. Pam and Rich Mullin were our ticket sellers/cachiers. Charlene Sheetz, Denise Smitley, Paula Russell and Sandy Vitale arranged prizes. John and Nyla Erhardt, Bob King, Rick and Patti Russwurm, Jim and Debbie Bolinger all helped with set up/clean up. Thanks to our bartenders; many helped out there. Thanks to Becky Wiseman for providing the delicious

cheese fondue and Kim Spratt for making snacks for all to enjoy.

And thanks to all who simply showed up to have fun.

It was nice to see the sailors out having fun this weekend. With luck they will enjoy a nice breeze again this Sunday too.

In two weeks John Erhardt will host the Vice Commodore's party at the yacht club. Stay tuned for details on this big event.

Have a swell weekend everybody. Let's get out there and have some fun.

-Stewart Spratt, Commodore 2004

BLYC Calendar

June 19 - Kids event 10 am

June 26 - Vice Commodore party

July 3 - Boat parade

July 3 - Fireworks

July 4 - Fireworks clean up

July 4 - Pancake breakfast

July 10 - Directors meeting; 9 am

July 17 - Party TBA

July 28 - Women's tea

July 30 - Men's golf outing

July 31 - Garage sale

July 31 - The Great Tube Float

Aug. 6 - Women's golf outing

Aug. 7 - Corn and sausage roast

Aug. 15 - Directors meeting; 9 am

Aug. 21 - Fall dinner

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), mail to Phil Vitale, 120 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax your items to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

Birch Lake Notes

Pancake Breakfast plans set

The annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast will be held Sunday, July 4th from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. All proceeds will go to support Camp Tannadoonah. Please plan to bring your family and friends up to camp for a great breakfast and visit with your neighbors.

Prices: Adults \$4; Children 5 to 10 \$2; Children under 5 free

Barker Kid of the week

Vickie and Steve Quinlan are the proud grandparents of Jack Thomas Applegate born May 21st in Asheville, NC. This is their first grandchild and the first child of their oldest daughter Jennifer who spent many summers on the lake from 1988 to 1998.





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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

The Museum at SMC

Last week I made a trip on a rainy day to the museum at Southwestern Michigan College, just outside of Dowagiac, with my grandsons Sean, 10, and Liam, 7. My friend Jan had told me about it and what a wonderful experience they had on their trip there.

The museum explores and presents hands-on science technology exhibits along with exhibits on local history. The exhibits are presented with materials that compete for your attention through an interacting with the welldesigned hands-on exhibits. The learning comes from play and exploration.

I mentioned the museum to some of my friends on the lake and they were not aware of it. I wanted to share knowledge of the museum so that others can have as much fud as we had.

The museum at SMC is just this side of Dowagiac on M62. you'll see a sign that points left for the college on a street called Cherry Grove Road. The museum is open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm (Michigan time), and Wednesday from 10 am to 8 pm. If you have any questions you can call the museum at 269-782-1374.

The admission is free and not only fun for children but also adults. Please make a visit there, you will find we have a mini Museum of Science and Industry in our community.

-Maryann O'Neill

Birch Lake Towels available

There are also a limited number of Birch Lake towels for sale. For information, contact Denise Smitley at 476-

Aerial Photos available

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is selling these beautiful, full-color photos of the lake as one of its fund raisers this year. The photos, which were shot last summer, are suitable

for framing, with two sizes available, 20 x 24 and 11 x 14. Prices are \$55 and \$40 respectfully.

Check must accompany order. Please make checks payable to BLYC, and send orders to Fred Freihofer 50631 Deer Ridge Ct. Granger, IN 46530. Orders must be received by July 17, 2004. Delivery will be completed by August 14, 2004. Fred will deliver. If you want more info, send an e-mail to fred.freihofer@agedwards.com

Safety Flags still available

There are still a yellow yellow "skier-down" safety flags available for sale at \$5 each. Contact Fred Freihofer at 476-9823 or 574-272-3683.



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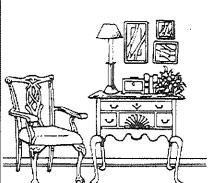
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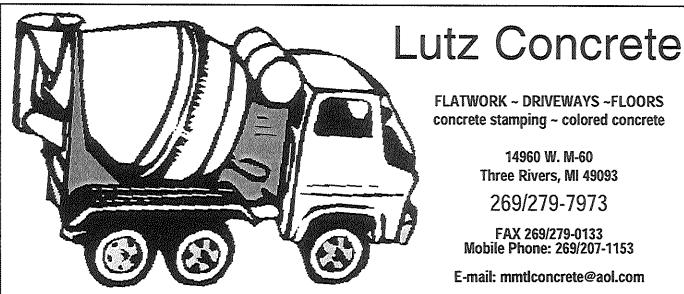


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<u> S</u>tu's Star Stuff



ummer arrives tomorrow at 8:57pm (EDT) in the northern hemisphere. Most of us know this because we saw it written on a calendar or heard it during a TV weather report. But in this modern age, few of us understand the astronomical significance of the summer solstice. The solstice occurs at the moment the sun reaches its farthest point north in our sky; a point above latitude 23.4 north. 8:57pm for us, but just about high noon north of Wake Island in the Pacific Ocean. The Sun

appears farthest north for the entire year at that moment. It rises well north of due east, and sets well north of due west. And it indicates that the days will soon start getting shorter.

But in the not-so-distant past, just about everyone followed the changing seasons by watching the Sun. Ancient societies built observatories for tracking the motions of the Sun. Some were small rooms with windows aligned to important sunrise or sunset points. Others were massive structures — from

Stonehenge in England to ChichEn Itz- in Mexico.

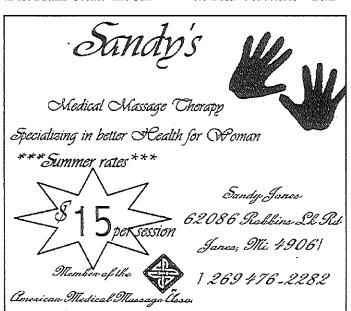
These societies also watched the Moon and the stars. The first appearance of a particular star in the morning sky might indicate that it was time to plant crops. The stars even served as the hour hands on nighttime clocks, telling monks when to say their prayers.

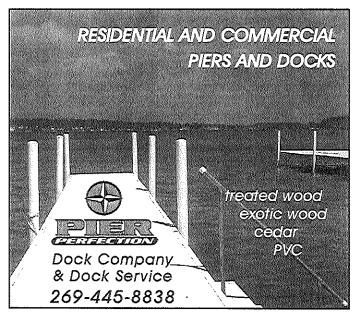
This connection to the rhythms of the sky persisted into more modern times — and is important even today in some societies. But the pace of modern life, and the rise of cities

where the horizon and the night sky are blotted out by buildings and light pollution, have stripped away that connection for most of us. The stars have become mere decorations — not important markers of daily life. Still, on a moonless, cloudless night here at the lake the show can be totally awesome and inspiring. And it's free.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for June 19, 2004 (at Midnight); 2.4 days since new moon, Illuminated Fraction: 0.053





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Off the page

by Marian (the librarian)

All of this rain sure makes it easy to find a good book and read. The science fiction and fantasy genre is not my expertise and I admit to only reading a few of these titles although all of them come highly recommended. A Barker reader requested a summary of each title so the format has changed a bit. So with a wave of a wand here are this week's reading suggestions:

? Watership Down (Adams) Chronicles the adventures of a group of rabbits searching for a safe place to establish a new warren where they can live in peace. People have been known to talk "rabbit" after reading this.

? <u>Hitchhiker's Guide</u> (Adams)
Seconds before Earth is demolished to make room for a galactic freeway, an earthman is saved by his friend. Together they journey through the galaxy. A favorite for sci fi afficionados.

? <u>Timeline</u> (Crichton)
A group of scientists, having learned how to travel through time, enter life in fourteenth-century feudal France and threaten the history of the world. I've been told this is a must read.

? Burndive (Lowachee)
Ryan Azarcon, a
media celebrity
due to his
father's

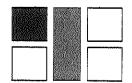
infamy as a starship captain, is still recovering from the trauma of seeing his grandfather's embassy bombed by a terrorist when he becomes a target of an assassin who objects to his father's actions in the ongoing war against the alien Strits. A new one that is on many library reading lists.

And of course,

? Lord of the rings (Tolkien)
Frodo the hobbit and a band of warriors from the different kingdoms set out to destroy the Ring of Power in the fires of Mount Doom. If they are successful they will save Middle-Earth and celebrate Aragorn's ascent to become King of the West.

KIDS, TEENS and the YOUNG AT HEART: In the next few weeks we will feature favorite books that will appeal to young Birch Lake readers. Please email the editor (Phil) at sailorphil@philvitale.com or drop off a note in the Birch Barker mailbox (eastside) and let me know what is your favorite book or books. For the few of us that are out of school tell us what your favorite book was when you were a bit younger and enjoyed reading out on your swim raft. I'd like to do two columns: one for young adults and one for beginning readers through middle school. Please tell your name, age or grade, and your favorite books. I am really excited to see what you're reading.

Next week: Classics



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

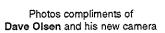
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a Night





Haces



Men's Golf Outing

Friday, July 30 ~ Park Shore ~ 11 am 4-man scramble ~ Shotgun start Prime rib dinner (follows) at BLYC Prizes, refreshments \$60/man. Sign up NOW!



Team Members:

Send checks to Fred Freihofer, 50631 Deer Ridge Ct., Granger, IN 46530, or drop in Barker Box on East Shore.

Deadline: July 23

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astronomy*nature*crafts*canoeing*archery*campfires Lots of new friends!

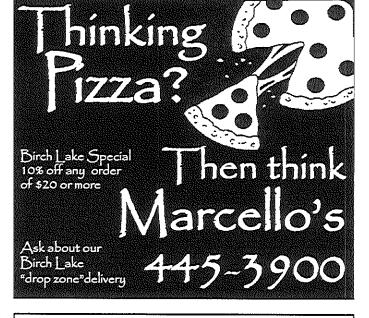


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BLYC Sailing News

Happily, for our first official race day, the weather decided to cooperate with a steadily increasing wind that some might say was even a little too good. But we certainly won't complain! It beats the alternative of looking at our boats out on their lifts, through rain spotted windows or, equally bad, a

I would like to welcome Caleb Walker who is a newcomer to our Sunfish B class. I hope you will be able to sail every race day. You too, Amy, welcome back. We love to see the younger sailors take an interest. I'm also happy that David Olson was able to join us, since his Sunfish met such a terrible demise in one of our killer storms. Several of our regulars had other commitments, so the field was small. Hopefully, in the coming weeks we will see more sailors take to the waters

in the spirit of very friendly competition.

Again, I would like to encourage any of you that have a sailing vessel that is not being used, to get out there and give it a try. Or, if you are interested in learning, please call and we will see what we can do to get you started. Sailing is a great way to spend a few hours on the lake, and with the ever increasing cost of gas, it is a lot cheaper than cruising around

in a speedboat!

Now, on to business. Scoring this year will be on the "Square of 40" method (same as last year).

1st place - 1600 (sq. of 40) 2nd place - 1521(sq. of 39) 3rd place - 1444 (sq of 38 etc) 4th place - 1369

5th place - 1296 6th place - 1225

Bonus points of 10 per race will be awarded for the first 15 races completed during the season. Zero points will be awarded for 'Did Not Finish/Did Not Sail.' Points for completed races plus bonus points are added together, then that number (total) is divided by number of completed races that day to get the average. After the first race day, there will also be columns for total number of races run and cumulative total/cumulative average. Regattas will be scored separately and will not affect the season scores.

See ya Sunday! Jim Bolinger, Fleet Captain, 2004

Here's the statistics on our first race day:

Sailor	class	1st race	2nd race	3rd race	total/
Scott Troeger	MC	2nd	1st	1st	average 4721 / 1573
Don Harman	MC	1st	2nd	2nd	4672 / 1557
Harold Cranmer	MC	3rd	3rd	DNF	2908 / 1454
Jim Bolinger	MC	4th	4th	3rd	4202 / 1401
Phil Vitale	MC	5th	5th	DNS	2612 / 1304
Dave Olson	Sun A	1st	1st	1st	4830 / 1610
Rick Russwurm	Sun A	2nd	2nd	2nd	4593 / 1531
Caleb Walker	Sun B	1st	DNS	1st	3220 / 1610
Amy Troeger	Sun B	2nd	2nd	DNS	3062 / 1531
Sandy Vitale	Sun B	3rd	1st	DNF	3064 / 1532

Sunday's race times (1st place finishers) were as follows:

	IVIC	Suntish (only Class A)
1st- race	36:50	28:58
2nd race	29:06	26:55
3rd race	20:37	24:28



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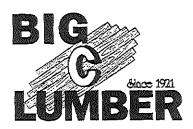
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HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2004 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, Bill King and Rick Russwurm. There are dozens of members of the homeowners Association; contact any officer for more information. Homeowners Association meetings are publicized in the Barker and open to all members and prospective mem-



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LOST & FOUND

Lost — One pair of regular glasses in blue case. Lost Memorial Day weekend on East side. Please call 476-2461.

Found — Cylinder-shaped canvas-covered boat or pier bumper. Approx. 2-1/2' long, 3" - 4" in diameter. 14902 Birch Lakeshore Rd. (south side). Phone: 476-2578.

- One is XS-with Flamin on the back and the other is XL with Wet Line on the back. They will be on the pier at the Foos Cottage in the cove over the Father's Day weekend.

Found - Aluminum row boat -16' washed up on the west shore in mid May. Older model, no brand or identifying labels. Please pick up anytime from shore between Millers and Quinlans. Phone 476-8802.

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HELP WANTED

Newspaper Correspondents - Remember Emie Pyle? Remember the Maine? Remember the Alamo? It doesn't matter, the job of Barker correspondent doesn't require you

to remember any of those things ... it only requires that you remember to send me some news every week for the Barker. I would like to have one (or more) person from each shore/area of the lake who will take responsibility for rounding up and sending in the news from their area. This is your chance to get your name in the paper (someplace other than under your photo in Crime Stoppers). If you think that maybe you've got ink in your veins, contact Editor Phil at 476-1680.

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- BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)

- Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)

_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

_ - Building Improvement Fund

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- Water Quality Program

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_____ - Other ______

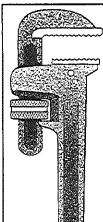


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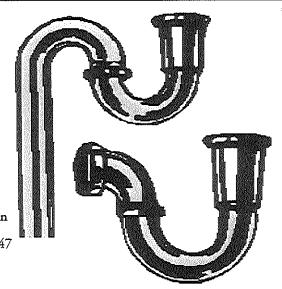
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