

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 3, 2004



Happy Fourth of July!

Thanks to Bob King for providing us with this great patriotic photo of the famed America's Cup boat Endeavour, which was saved with a \$10 million restoration effort and now calls Newport, Rhode Island her home port. Endeavour survives and sails with sisters Velsheda, Shamrock V and a brand new Ranger replica.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Another nice weekend, eh? I even got out there and did some skiing. Now I'm paying dearly for it. When will I learn? I hope never.

The Vice-Commodore's party was a great time. The Yacht Club was splendidly decorated by John and Nyla Erhardt with decorations provided by Major O'Brien. We had lots of contestants vying for the title of Birch Lake Idol. Prize winners include Becca and Tess Carpenter, Amanda Lacy, Kaley Carpenter, and our new Birch Lake Idol, Terry Wiseman.

Thanks to Phil, Sandy and Patty for tending bar. Thanks also to our judges, Julie Lacy, Dick Bender and Lee Calloway and to Terry Wiseman for providing the Karaoke equipment. Also thanks to Ron Whiteman for allowing us to run a phone line from his house to the

yacht club so we could connect the Karaoke computer to the internet. Quite a slick way to do that.

Don't forget the fireworks display this evening. The show should blast off from the camp around 9 pm. Volunteers are needed to help clean up the fireworks area tomorrow morning. If you'd like to help show up around 8 am. After the clean up we can all enjoy the annual Pancake Breakfast at the camp. As always our hosts will be Don and Lind Harman.

Also this weekend we have the boat parade, featuring Grand Marshalls Bruce and JJ Harlan. Check in at Bender's pier (south side) at 2:30 pm to get ready for a 3 pm start. For more details see the boat parade article on Page 2.

The volleyball sign-up form is inside. Get your team together and submit your entry. Also, check out that star guy's column. It's very interesting this week ... if you can read the ever-diminishing fine print.

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

-Stewart Spratt, Commodore 2004

BLYC Calendar

- July 3 - Boat parade
- July 3 - Fireworks
- July 4 - Fireworks clean up
- July 4 - Pancake breakfast
- July 10 - Directors meeting; 9 am
- July 10 - Boat Inspection
- July 17 - Party TBA
- July 24 - Boaters Safety Course
- 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. 15 - Volleyball Tourney
- Aug. 21 - Fall dinner

The deadline for submitting Barker materials is every Tuesday at Noon!

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.

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

Birch Lake Notes

The 2004 Birch Lake Boat Parade

The annual Boat Parade will take place today, Saturday, July 3. Participating boats need to check in and get a number at Dick Bender's pier on the South Side at 2:30. The official parade will start at 3 o'clock. Trophies will be awarded at Bender's pier after the parade. All Birch Lake residents are needed to cheer and wave to the Parade entrants. As in past years, we will all be amazed at the creativity displayed.

Dine with the campers at Camp Tannadoonah

There are still several Mondays available to eat with the Campers. Please call Judy Olson, 476-2125 or Mr. Dug, 476-2177 to make your reservation. All diners need to be at the flag pole at 5:45 (IN) for the flag lowering ceremony before dinner.

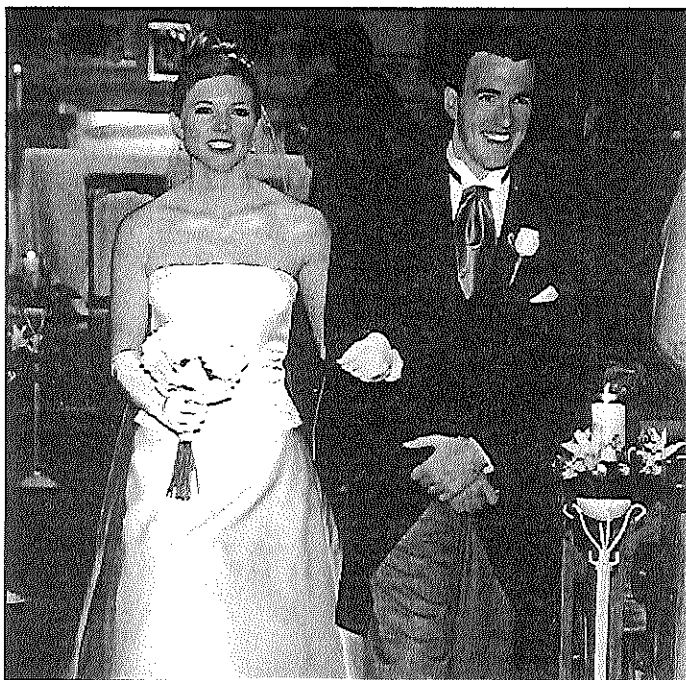
Mosquito Treatment

Pass this on to anyone who likes sitting out in the evening or when they're having a cook out.

So you don't like those pesky mosquitoes? Here's a tip that was given at a recent gardening forum.

Put some water in a white dinner plate and add a couple drops of Lemon Fresh Joy dish detergent. Set the dish on your porch, patio or other outdoor area. Not sure what attracts them, the lemon smell, the white plate color, or what, but mosquitoes flock to it and drop dead shortly after drinking the mixture, usually within about 10 feet of the plate. Check this out — it works just super! May seem trivial, but it may help control mosquitoes in areas where where the West Nile virus is reaching epidemic proportions in mosquitoes, birds, and humans.

Pass it along!



Nicholas and Angela Bergan son of James & Linda Bergan was united in marriage on May 1, 2004 at St Patricks Catholic church with a beautiful reception following at the Summit Club. The newlyweds are living in Tallahassee, Florida and will be here on Birch Lake for the 4th of July weekend. Nick has been on Birch lake for 18 years and has enjoyed many activities. We welcome Angela into our family and sharing good times on Birch Lake together.

Note: If you still have your "Vows" section from last Sunday's South Bend Tribune, contact Linda Bergan at 476-9359

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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake News

NEWS FROM THE EAST SIDE Canadian couple to visit Birch Lake

Connie and Graham Thompson from Blandford, Nova Scotia will be visiting Don and Lind Harman for the week. Joining them on Friday will be Tracy and Bill Johnson from the Grand Rapids area. It's great to see some of our Florida friends during the summer. Connie helped organize the relief effort during the Swissair disaster. Connie and her neighbors provided food and places for the recovery teams to rest. When Don and I visited them several years ago, we saw the memorial at Peggy's Cove. It's a very beautiful and moving sight.

THE SOUTH SIDE Bring the kids

Ok, so I was at my cousin's house, right? We were all eating lunch, when, out of nowhere-

land, comes about a million cars which dumped out a rather large number of kids, then drove off. Hey, who ever said if you're going off to your distant relative's house, might as well bring along a friend or three? The people were nice, even the far far away distant cousins from Alaska who have a tan. *snorts* All in all, the weekend turned out okay, apart from people throwing up, being hit on the head with weights by an over-enthusiastic 2-year-old, and almost freezing. Don't worry, I'm not always THIS negative. *coughs*

-The Zebra mussel

THE COVE Swimmer's Itch

Hi, I'm reporter Kim Bergan. I was swimming at grandma Bergan's cottage in the cove. Then I took a shower and then I saw them ... it was the swimmer's itches. They are not gone. Warning:

take a shower after you are swimming.

Interested in antiques or just the unusual?

Well a great time is the Centreville Antiques Market, for just \$4.00, free parking, food, and not too far from Birch Lake. It is held at the County Fairgrounds on M-86 in Centreville, Michigan. The second Sunday of the month, next date is July 11, then August 8, and last October 10, from 8:00 am to 4:00pm, you can also check out their web site at www.centrevilleantiques.com.

Goodies for sale

Well another year, and more Birch Lake goodies to buy. This year we will preview our wear's at the annual Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. Our new Birch Lake logo was drawn by Debbie Bolinger, East Side. We are so very lucky to have such a talented person

who has contributed so much of her artistic gift back to Birch Lake. We have used this imprint on our Sun Visors, foam with coil back in royal blue selling at \$4, Canvas Totes, navy blue in color imprinted in white selling at \$12, and a Bib Apron great for the kitchen or sizzling BBQ's selling at \$15.

There will also be a Fleece Blanket, navy blue, with a sailboat in color circled by a gold rope and Birch Lake text, all embroidered in the lower right corner selling at \$30.

We hope everyone will be as happy buying these items, knowing you truly have an original.

This year's committee is Denny Weesner, Maryann O'Neil, Judy Olson, Linda Bergan, and Vickie Rogers.



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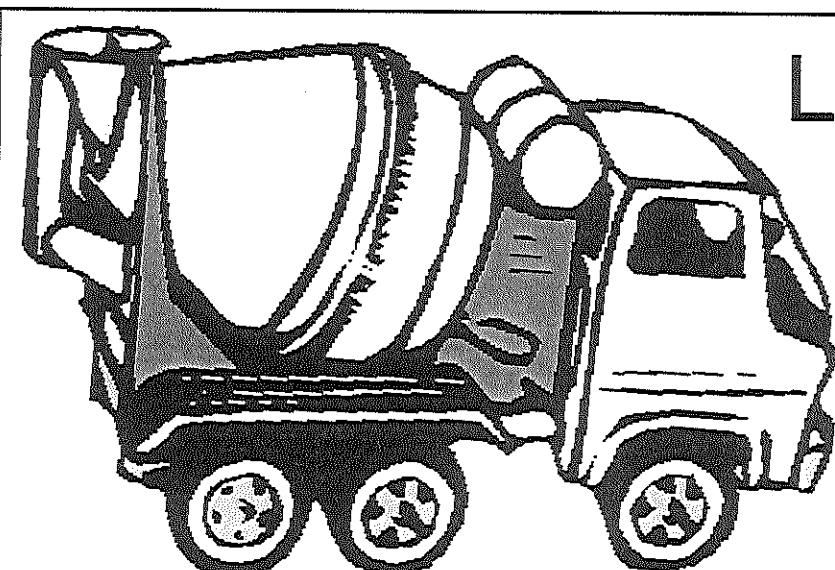
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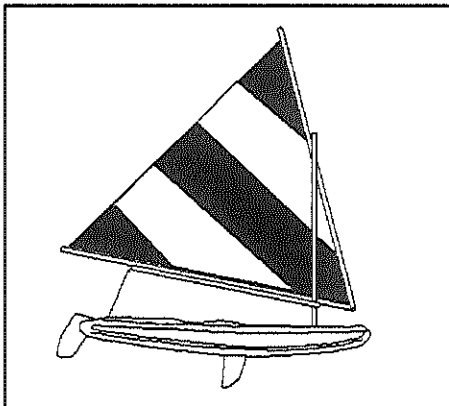
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BLYC Sailing News

Sailors!

So far so good for wind and weather this year. Sunday again produced steadily increasing wind which made for an exciting sailing day! I would like to take a moment to thank our committee boat members for this week and all those that have and will yet man this important post throughout the season. Our committee boat members are in charge of starting, timing, determining the finish line and calling the order as boats cross over the line. They are also there to help should a sailor get in trouble and need a hand or a tow. There cannot be an official race without them. But as daunting a task as this seems, it's



worth it to be there to witness, close up, the magnificent sight of all the boats lined up to start and straining to cross over that important line. Volunteers so far this year are Jim and Sally Beck (plus Stewart the dog), Bruce Wagner, Dave and Judy Olson and Julie Plaia with Steve Cranmer. If you would be interested in manning a committee boat, give me a call at 476-9737.

We have an exciting weekend of sailing coming up. The **4th of July Regatta** will be two days of sailing. Saturday's races will begin at 11 a.m. and Sunday's at 2 p.m. (to accommodate the pancake breakfast folks). Monday will be used as a foul weather day. We would love to have a large turnout so try and make it!

One of the residents asked if we could give identifying numbers or provide some way for observers to know who is sailing which boat, so I will try and give you some way to tell them apart.

Here goes:

MC Class

Jim Bolinger #1735 White boat
Rick Harman #1735 Blue boat
Don Harman #852 Blue boat
Harold Cranmer #618 Maroon boat

Scott Troeger Red numbers
Phil Vitale #500 yellow&Green boat
Bill Luecht Changing sails

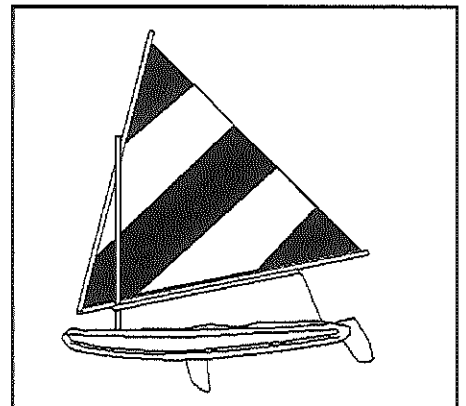
Sunfish A

David Olson White & orange boat
Tom Howard White boat
Rick Russwurm Green/white sail
Erica Vitale Yellow/White sail

Sunfish B

Amy Troeger Red/White/Blue sail
Sandy Vitale White & Orange
Caleb Walker Turquoise sail
Steve Richards - Red/white/Blue sail
Chad Plaia Green/White sail
See ya Sunday!

-Jim Bolinger
Fleet Captain 2004

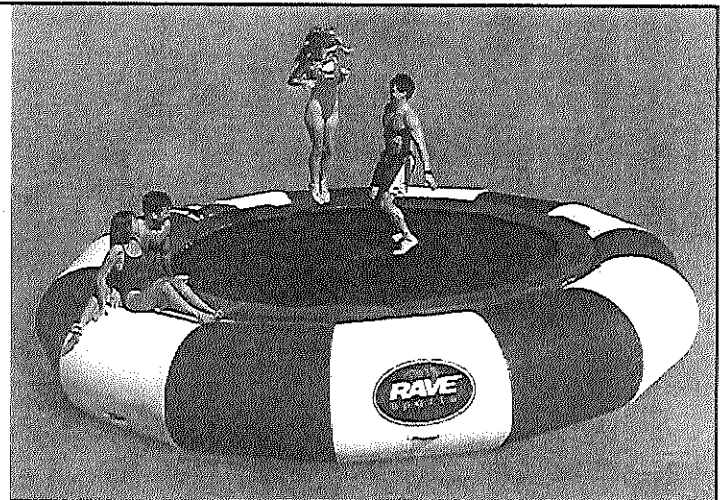


Sailor	# Races	class	1st race	2nd race	3rd race	day's total	cumulative	average	place
Rick Harman	3	MC	1st	1st	1st	4830	4830	1610	1st
Scott Troeger	8	MC	4th	2nd	3rd	4364	12305	1538	2nd
Don Harman	8	MC	3rd	4th	4th	4139	11721	1465	3rd
Harold Cranmer	7	MC	2nd	6th	2nd	4297	10190	1456	4th
Jim Bolinger	8	MC	5th	3rd	4th	4139	11101	1387	5th
Phil Vitale	7	MC	6th	5th	6th	3776	9073	1296	6th
Bill Luecht	2	MC	DNS	DNS	DNS	2470	2470	1235	7th
Dave Olson	4	Sun A	DNS	2nd	1st	3141	7971	1595	Tie 1st
Rick Russwurm	6	Sun A	2nd	3rd	3rd	4439	9032	1505	2nd
Erica Vitale	5	Sun A	3rd	4th	4th	4212	7274	1455	3rd
Tom Howard	5	Sun A	1st	1st	2nd	4751	7971	1595	Tie 1st
Caleb Walker	6	Sun B	DNS	1st	2nd	3141	9425	1571	1st
Amy Troeger	5	Sun B	2nd	5th	DNS	2837	5416	1471	3rd
Sandy Vitale	7	Sun B	1st	2nd	1st	4751	10956	1565	2nd
Steve Richards	5	Sun B	3rd	4th	3rd	4287	7197	1439	4th
Chad Plaia	2	Sun B	4th	3rd	DNS	2733		1367	5th



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Strawberry Snack Cake

Combine: 1 1/2 c. flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 c. sugar

Combine: 1/2 c. strawberry lowfat yogurt
1/4 c. skim milk
3 T. margarine, melted
1 egg, slightly beaten
2 tsp. vanilla

Add to the dry ingredients, stirring until just moistened. Gently fold in 2/3 c. sliced, mashed strawberries. Bake in 8" square pan or muffin tins at 350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool in pan for 10 minutes before removing.

-submitted by Judy Olson

Preventing a ' Big Bang'

If you think a little gasoline in your bilge won't hurt things, you're mistaken — one cup of gasoline has the same explosive potential as five sticks of dynamite. A recent study found that eight percent of all boat fires were caused by fuel leaks, and 95 percent of fuel-related fires were caused by gasoline. Aluminum fuel tanks are the most common source of these leaks and the most difficult to inspect.

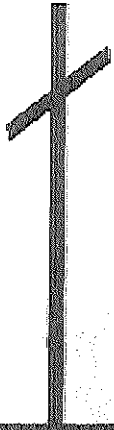
A 1992 Underwriters Labs study on tank corrosion found that the average service life for aluminum tanks is six and a half years. Experts suggest you inspect tanks regularly for signs of corrosion - white powder - before the tank's integrity is breached by a pinhole.

If you can't conduct a visually inspection do the next best thing every time you fill up - use your nose.

Underwriters' research found that 76 percent of tank leaks were discovered only after someone aboard smelled the fuel.

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Deadline: July 23



The Pledge Explained

Dear Editor,

The 4th of July is coming and I think we need to know the meaning of the Pledge of allegiance.

Please print in the Birch Barker, thanks,

-Mrs. Louise Rieth

Noted American comedian Red Skelton once recorded a version of the Pledge of Allegiance that was read into the Congressional Record. The recording is a version of the pledge that Skelton learned from a teacher while he was in school in Vincennes, Indiana. He first recited it on his television program.

Here is his pledge:

"I remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he walked over. Mr. Lasswell was his name ... He said,

"I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems

as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word:

"I—me, an individual, a committee of one.

"Pledge—dedicate all of my worldly goods to give without self-pity.

"Allegiance—my love and devotion.

"To the flag—our standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

"Of the United—that means that well all come together.

"States—individual communities that have united into 48 great states. Forty eight individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that's love for country.

"Of America.

"And to the Republic—a state in

which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

"For which it stands.

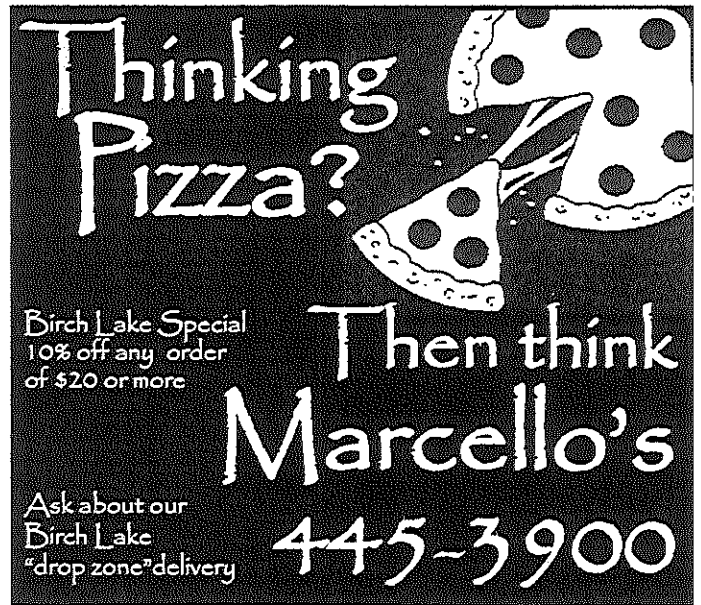
"One nation—meaning, so blessed by God

"Indivisible—in-capable of being divided.

"With liberty—which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear or some sort of retaliation.

"For all—which means it's as much your country as it is mine.'

"Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance — 'under God.'"



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VISA/Master Card Scam Alert

Editor's Note: The following was sent by Kim Sharma of the Cass County Sheriff's Department.

This information is worth reading. By understanding how the VISA & MasterCard Telephone Credit Card Scam works, you'll be better prepared to protect yourself. Thanks to Dr. Pat Cloney for passing this on.

Those con artists get more creative every day. My husband was called on Wednesday from "VISA", and I was called on Thursday from "MasterCard." The scam works like this:

Person calling says, "this is (name) and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at VISA. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern. I'm calling to verify. This would be on your VISA card which was issued by bank (such & such). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?"

When you say "No", the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards.

Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes." The caller continues, "I will be starting a Fraud investiga-

tion. If you have any questions, you should call the 1-800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control number."

The caller then gives you a 6 digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the IMPORTANT part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "he needs to verify you are in possession of your card." He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers.

There are 7 numbers; the first 4 are your card number, the next 3 are the 'Security Numbers' that verify you are in possession of the card. These are the numbers you use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. Read me the 3 numbers."

After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct. I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?"

After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states: "Don't hesitate to call back if you do" and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did!

The **REAL** VISA Security

Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charge on our card.

Long story made short, we made a *real* fraud report and closed the VISA card, and they are reissuing us a new number. What the scammers wants is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card.


Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call VISA or MasterCard direct. The real VISA told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement, you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost to late and/or harder to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of MasterCard" with a word-for-word repeat of the VISA scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up!

We filed a police report, as instructed by VISA. The police said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

Please pass this on to all your friends. By informing each other, we can help protect each other.

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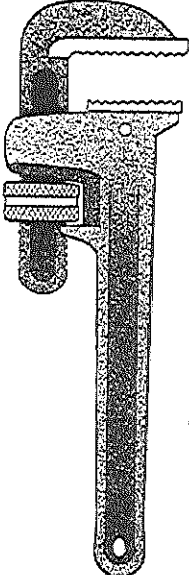
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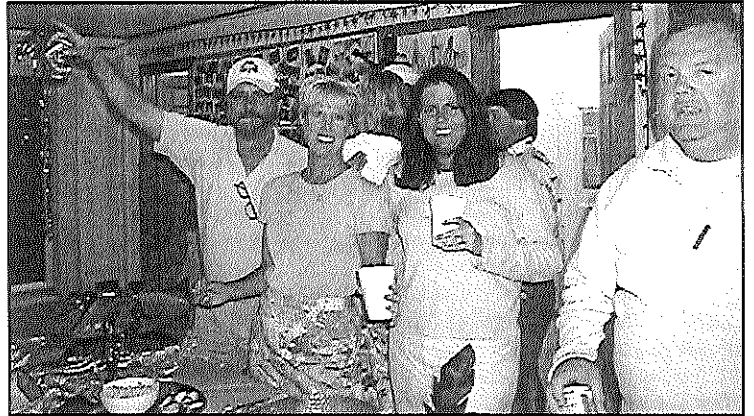
The search for the next

Birch Lake Idol



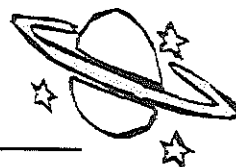
Scenes from last weekend's Vice Commodore's Party at the Yacht Club. Congratulations to all the winners and thanks to all the contestants, judges and victims

photos provided through the courtesy of the PattiCam





Stu's Star Stuff



Moon in your eyes ...

can make it hard to read small type

It's always something. If it's not the clouds spoiling the view it's light pollution. Tonight's view of the fireworks probably won't be spoiled by the clouds. We don't shoot fireworks that high. But the glare of the nearly full moon might get in the way a little.

Star gazing on nights when the moon is in its latter stages of illumination presents some challenges. The light from the moon can overpower many of the fainter objects in the night sky. On evenings when meteor showers are likely, the light from a full moon will significantly detract from the excitement you would otherwise experience. Likewise it makes

viewing faint stars and distant galaxies difficult.

But there are many objects that the full moon won't block out. The planet Saturn is one. Saturn is the second largest and most massive planet in the solar system — only Jupiter outranks it. Yet it's less dense than any other planet — lighter than water. And it's encircled by broad rings, which make it the loveliest planet of all.

Saturn is under intense scrutiny right now from the Cassini spacecraft, which entered orbit earlier this week. If all goes as planned, Cassini will orbit Saturn for at least four years, studying the planet and its rings and moons.

The planet itself is

essentially a ball of hydrogen and helium gas, probably wrapped around a dense, rocky core. Layers of clouds containing ammonia and other compounds top the planet's atmosphere. Saturn spins so fast that it stretches the clouds into bands that completely encircle the planet. This fast rotation forces material at Saturn's equator outward, so the planet is several thousand miles thicker at the equator than through the poles.

Saturn's rings span several hundred thousand miles, yet they contain relatively little material — enough to make a small moon. In fact, the rings may well be the remnants of a moon that passed too

near the planet and was pulled apart by its gravity.

Saturn's largest existing moon, Titan, is an interesting world in its own right. It's the only moon in the solar system with a thick atmosphere, and lakes or oceans of liquid methane may dot its surface.

Look for Saturn very low in the west-northwest soon after sunset. And unlike the fireworks, this show is free.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for July 6 2004 (at Midnight); 1.8 days after full moon; Illuminated Fraction: 0.946

Editor's Note: Due to the incessant whining of the author of this column (and from both of his alleged loyal readers), we have increased the type size this week for the visually impaired (and his presbyopic cronies).

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Off the page

by *Marion* (the librarian)

Fourth of July! American History had to be the theme of selections this week. While we enjoy a week-end of fun with family and friends make a note to check out one of the titles below and read how these people helped us form a nation where we can freely express our thoughts and opinions. Now that's worth celebrating!

Ø **Benjamin Franklin** (Morgan)

Chronicling the life of Benjamin Franklin, the book discusses his many inventions, the many contradictions in his life, his vast writings, and the impact he had on American history. In this relatively brief biography, Morgan depicts Franklin's personality as much as the deeds that made him famous.

Ø **First Ladies** (Sferrazza Anthony)

A two volume set that examines the unique role of our first ladies, its evolution and the astonishing influence first ladies have had. It covers the private scandals and public outcry of some of the first ladies tenure.

Ø **The Greatest Generation** (Brokaw)

The powerful voices of the American men and women who came of age during the Great Depression and World War II dramatizes the many ways they shaped the future

of the country. I know this is not a new title for all of you but is one you must pick up whether for the first time or a second read.

Ø **Uncle Tom's Cabin** (Stowe)

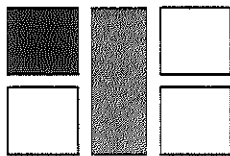
The controversial novel, published in 1852, in which author Harriet Beecher Stowe characterizes the pre-Civil War South through the story of Uncle Tom, an elderly slave who maintains his human dignity in the face of cruelty, suffering, and death. President Lincoln called it the book that started the Civil War.

Ø **The Journals of Lewis and Clark** (DeVoto, Lewis, Clark, Ambrose)

In 1803, when the United States purchased Louisiana from France, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned his young secretary, Meriwether Lewis, accompanied by co-captain William Clark, to lead an intelligence-gathering expedition from the Missouri River to the northern Pacific coast and back. Together the captains kept a journal, a richly detailed record of the flora and fauna they sighted, the Indian tribes they encountered, and the awe-inspiring landscape they traversed

Kids and Teens: Don't forget to send in your favorite book titles. I hope to spend two weeks (at least) on your suggestions. Send them to sailorphil@philvitale.com Please tell your name, age or grade, and your favorite books. I am really excited to see what you're reading.

Next week: *Sports*



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Terry Keirn
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Greek Mythology: Hades

This week we will learn about Hades! Hades, was the Greek God of the underworld, has (and had) a very cold heart. He, the unlucky one, was forced to pick the underworld in a game in which Zeus won the land and Poseidon won the sea.

He kidnapped his queen, Persephone, and keeps her for 6 months a year. Her mother grieves throughout this time, and we have winter. When Persephone returns to Earth, mother and daughter rejoice, giving us spring and summer.

Hades is a.... well..... a cruel man. Hey! What do you expect, a happy guy blessing everyone he meets?

-The Myth Obsessioner

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For Rent — Cottage for rent. Sleeps 6 in 3 bedrooms on beautiful north shore. \$700.00/week. Discounts available. Contact Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227.

For Rent — Birch Lake Storage has self-

storage units coming available. U-lock, 10'x18', \$54/month. Call 476-1001.

LOST & FOUND

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

Found — 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 Foes 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. Pick up anytime from shore between Millers and Quinlans. 476-8802.

Found — Youth-sized PFD, green, found last Sunday. Call Phil at 476-1680.

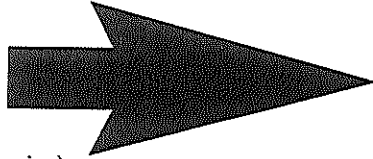
Found — A wooden raft with blue barrels found in the creek. We have had it tied up in front of our seawall hoping the owners would claim it. Call 574-288-7936 Paul or Billie Rzeszewski (south west corner by outlet)

MISC.

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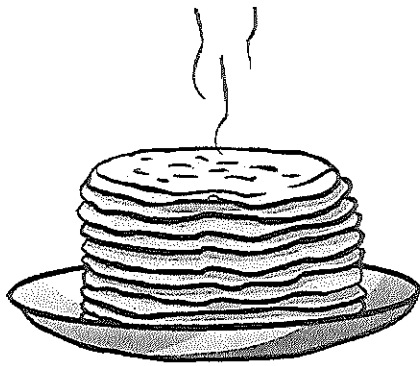
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