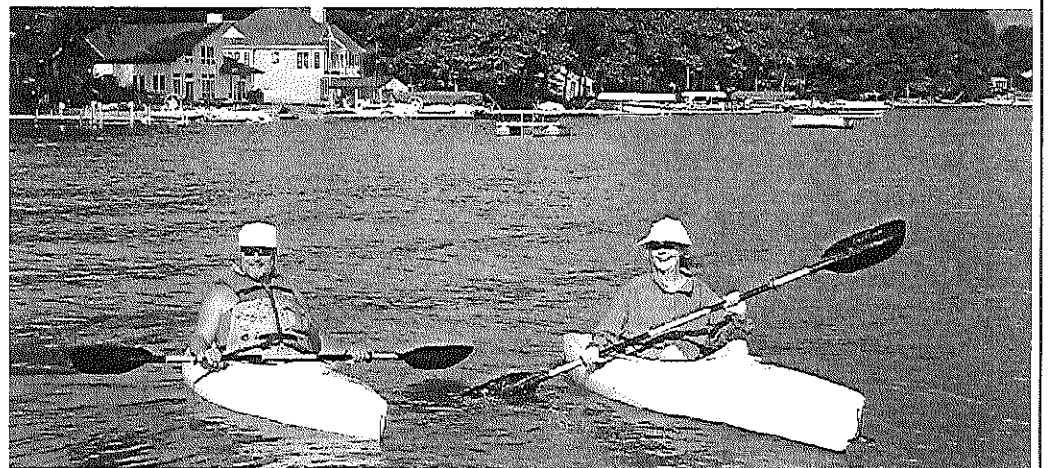
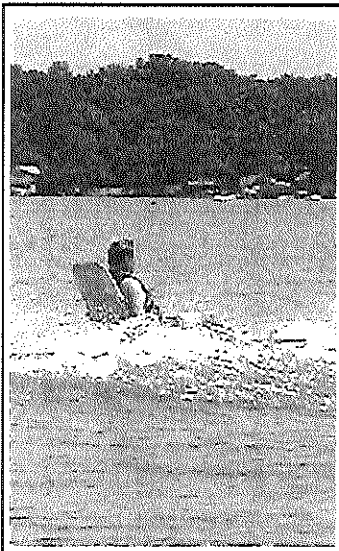


# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 24, 2004



Yes, that really is someone being towed behind a ski boat on a lawn chair ...



... and Bob & Les King kayaking

photos by the PattiCam

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Last weekend's Euchre party was a lot of fun. Twenty players competed for valuable prizes and lovely parting gifts. The top spot and bragging rights went to Phil Vitale. Jim Bolinger was second and Pam Mullin finished third. Dave Olson took home the coveted treasure chest award. We might have to do that again. Thanks to all who came.

So what's next? The boater safety course is today. The women's tea is scheduled for Wednesday, July 28th. See inside for details. The annual garage sale will be on Saturday, July 31st from 8 am to Noon

Indiana time. Next Friday is the men's golf outing at Park Shores. Contact Fred Freihofer to sign up.

Please note that the Board of Directors meeting has been changed to August 7th, and the Homeowners Assoc. meeting will follow it. August 14th is the volleyball tournament. No one has signed up for it yet but I've been reminded that it's not the last minute yet. And last but not least don't forget the Great Tube Float. Bring whatever you have to float on and join us in the middle of the lake from 2 pm to 3 pm next Saturday. The more the merrier.

One note from the pot to the kettle...Fourth of July is over. Fireworks can annoy and disturb your neighbors. Another good way to annoy and disturb you neighbors it to...never mind.

### BLYC Calendar

- July 24 - Boaters Safety Course
- July 28 - Women's tea
- July 30 - Men's golf outing
- July 31 - Garage sale
- July 31 - The Great Birch Lake Float-in
- July 31 - Kids Luau 1 pm
- Aug. 6 - Women's golf outing
- Aug. 7 - Corn and sausage roast
- Aug. 7 - Directors meeting; 9 am
- Aug 7 - Homeowners Assoc. Meeting
- Aug 14 - Kids Regatta
- Aug. 14 - Volleyball Tourney
- Aug. 21 - Fall dinner

That is all. Carry on. Let's get out there and have some fun.

-Stewart Spratt, Commodore 2004

## Commodore thanks the Barker staff

How about a big round of applause for our Birch Barker delivery people? These wonderful folks give up a piece of their weekend to make sure your news is delivered to your door in a timely manner.

Charlene Sheetz	South Side
Margaret Bouwkamp	South Side/Hill
Holly Troeger	East Side
Judy Olson	East Side

Linda Curtis	East Side
Elaine Lochmandy	North Side
Vickie Rogers	Cove
Buzz Rasmussen	West Side

Also a special thanks to Margaret Bouwkamp for delivering to the delivery people. The Barker doesn't just walk into Margaret's hands either. Thanks to Becky Wiseman for picking it up at Staples and

getting it over to Margaret. Thanks to Bob King for his assistance in getting the electronic copy over to Staples. And we all owe a huge thank you to Phil Vitale for putting it together each week. We all look forward to the Birch Barker and without the teamwork and co-operation we are fortunate to have we wouldn't be enjoying it on Saturdays.

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](mailto: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

## Cove News

Normally when I come to visit the lake it is a quiet, relaxing weekend (excluding the noisy card games), but this weekend the small gray cottage in the cove belonging to Dick and Peggy Cowen came to life with visitors from all over the east coast.

My great grandma Dory was here to spend time with us all the way from Leesburg, Florida. Also all the way from Florida

(Miami) was Dawn, a family friend, and her two children, Casey (age 8), and Samantha (age 13). And last, but not least, my uncle John and Aunt Karen from Elma, New York, brought their two sons, Kyle (age 4), and Evan (age 2). John is son of Carolyn Cowen McCoy.

All of the guests had a great time and enjoyed plenty of yummy food and sunshine (other than Saturday night's shower).

The little boys all caught fish, and everyone enjoyed a pontoon boat ride, dominoes, cards, a campfire with hot dogs and marshmallows, and lots of laughs. Birch Lake is the best for creating great memories!

-Biz Andriano

## Thanks!

A Big Bouquet of roses and thank you to: Billie & Paul Rzeszewski & John & Nyla Erhardt for rescuing & returning our runaway raft! Thanks!  
Dave & Lynne Barnaby

## Happy Birthday Bernie

Bernie Weesner, will turn 90 years old on Aug. 3. Please tell him happy birthday, if you see him out and about.

## Lake Garage Sale

The annual Birch Lake Garage Sale will be Saturday, July 31. If you plan to participate, contact Charlene at 476-2604.

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# Birch Lake News

## Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Steve & Vickie Quinlan (west side) who's daughter Caroline was married to Hank Kappel on July 3rd at St. Stanislaus Church in South Bend. The newlyweds live in Akron, OH. For the next 3 weeks Caroline will be spending time here at Birch Lake when she has free time from teaching dance at Saint Mary's College Fine Arts Summer Camp.



## Cove News:

Great Grandmother Laveta Scofield and grandparents, Karen and Jon Scofield are pleased to announce the birth of Magdelene Marie, born July 12, 2004.

"Maggie" is the daughter of Valerie and Chris Lintner, South Bend. Her siblings, Graciella and Patrick, already love Birch Lake and we're sure Magdalene will also.

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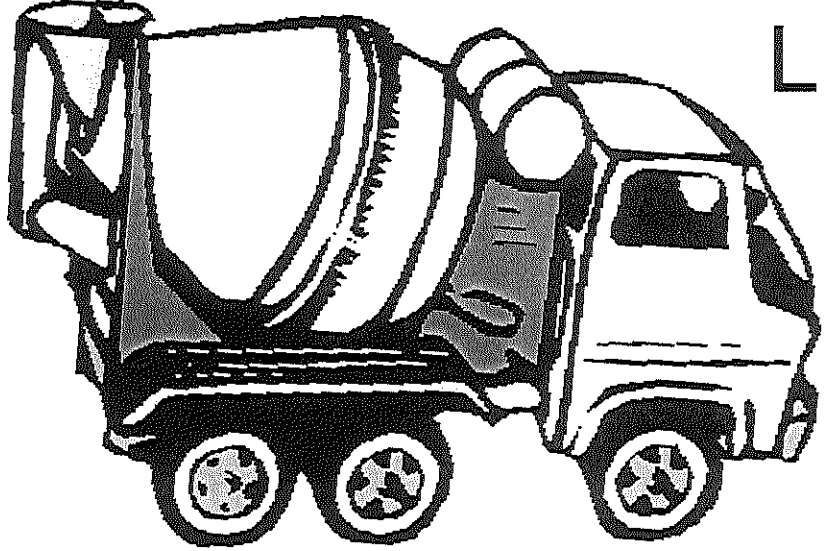
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# Birch Lake News

## Isabella's birthday

The birthday flag was proudly flying over the Parkinson's home on the South Side last week. Tuesday was Isabella's 9th birthday and Saturday was Madeline's 11th. Lots of fun in the sun, cake and ice cream was had by all. The birthday banner has been lowered and stored for now, until next month when Carmen will celebrate her 5th birthday. So as to not forget, young Frank will be hoisting his own 3rd b'day flag in

October. This weekend, the Parkinson's will be hosting the famous Friend family (Kevin, Margaret, Isabelle, Austen and Cameron) for an action-packed weekend at Birch Lake.

## KIDS LUAU

Please join us for the 2nd annual Kids Luau, back by popular demand! Bring your grass skirts and Hawaiian shirts to the Yacht Club on Saturday, July 31st, between 1 - 2:30 pm (IN time). Don't miss the fun ... including Limbo,

dancing, games, and treats! Hope to see all the Birch Lake kids there!

## Spratts revisiting North Shore

Wes and Rhea Spratt have returned to the north shore for a few days of R&R. Wes and Rhea live in Elgin, SC. In exchange for a few chores they are being allowed to actually sleep inside the cottage. Wes and Rhea have been training for and competing in triathlons. Wes has been known to run for fif-

teen hours at a time. After one such workout he was so hungry that he entered a pancake eating contest and took second place. All the food gave him so much energy that he painted his house and two of his neighbors' homes. Then he and Rhea went for a jog. Wes is best known for his antics on the golf course. Just ask anyone that's ever ridden in the cart with him. I also hear he's pretty good. Hope they had a swell week.

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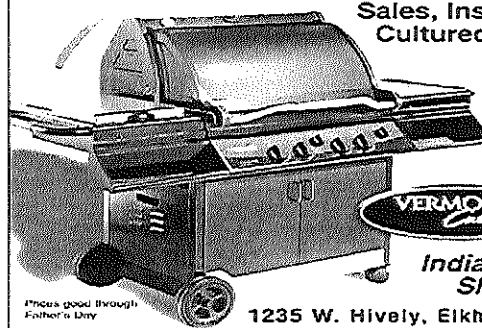
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# News From The Cove by Sunny Waters

by *Sunny Waters* she who enlightens your lives

Let it be know that I do not make spelling errors. Thank you.

B.S. and I spent a lovely afternoon clearing away the nasty loosestrife. B.S. did the dirty work and I held the huge bag. We need to keep beautiful Birch Lake healthy. Other than that nothing exciting has happened except B.S.'s brand new underwear. I'm a little concerned about the undies with roses. Also, I've noticed my lipstick has

gone done quite a bit.

Now, let me ask, what is it with you people? I made it clear that I am available to help you in difficult situations. Don't fool me, I KNOW you have problems and put dead fish on you spouse's pillow. You need help. I don't charge but it would be all right if you wanted to send me cash or a gift certificate, preferably for a diamond toe ring or a face lift.

Except for some lightning and thunder there ain't a whole lot of shaking going on.

That's about it but remember to wash your toothpicks so

they may be used again.

Need something to perk you up?

Bill Clinton was born August 19, 1946. Doesn't that just thrill you (if you're a Democrat)? Personally I stick with president Lincoln.

Are you tired of the babble? Okay, I'll quit. Be good to yourselves and others.

-Your ever loving Sunny

P.S. I'd include a picture of me but I'll wait until the face lift is done.

## Reunion a hit

Last Saturday a family reunion was held at Tom & Vickie Rogers home. With the last Cary family reunion being two years ago in Fort Wayne, Birch Lake was a big hit, with everyone who was able to attend.

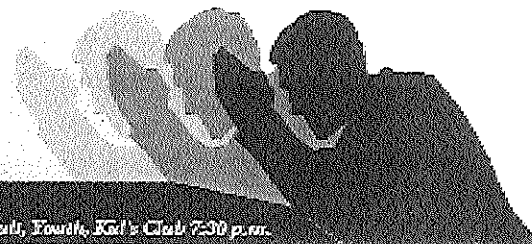
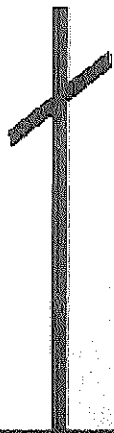
With having, and eating enough food for an Army, everyone enjoyed a boat trip around the lake with their favorite beverage in hand. To our great pleasure our weather held out with sunny sky's and a refreshing breeze across our deck. It was only an hour after everyone had left that the sky's opened with a downpour of rain. It was a great day with many pictures taken and new memories made.

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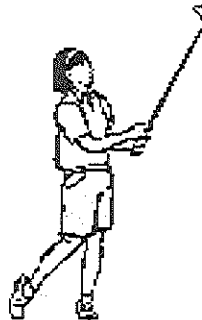
## Ladies Golf/Lunch

Friday, August 6

Park Shore Golf Course,  
Cassopolis

9 am (IN) golfing  
Noon Lunch  
(at Lindy's, Dowagiac)

All levels of golfers welcome!



Golf Entry Fee- \$27/per golfer  
Fee covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's

Interested in joining us for Lunch only? No pre-pay is necessary, but reservation is requested.

Send check and reservation for golf and/or lunch by **Mon, Aug 2 to:**

Allyson Weaver  
69609 Hilltop Dr  
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Attn: Golf Outing

For info call (269) 641-5513 or contact Julie Weaver at 476-2869 or Katha Machalleck at 476-2642

Name.....	Golf.....	Lunch

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## Men's Golf Outing

Friday, July 30 ~ Park Shore ~ 11 am

4-man scramble ~ Shotgun start

Prime rib dinner (follows) at BLYC

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Team Members:

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Send checks to Fred Freihofer  
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or drop in Barker Box (on East Shore).

Dinner only is \$22/each

**Deadline: July 23**



# BLYC Sailing News

## Friends,

Sunday proved to be an interesting day on the water. If some of you non-sailors have watched the sailboats on race day and wondered why some of the boats seem to stop in the middle of the race and let others catch

up, it's because of the tricky winds in the middle of the lake. Being round and set in a sort of bowl, our lake has strange, unpredictable winds and dead spots that keep the sailors literally on the edge of their seats some of the time and frantically searching

for any little breeze at other times. That is what makes it a fun and challenging, if not downright frustrating sport!

Clear your calendars for Saturday, August 14th and plan to participate in, and have your children or grand children attend the

Kids' Regatta. It's always good fun and a great way to expose the kids to this great pastime. More details on the "Kidgatta" will appear in future issues of the Barker.

-Jim Bolinger  
Fleet Captain 2004

## Results from last week's sailboat races

Sailor	# Races	class	1st race	2nd race	3rd race	day's total	cumulative	average	place
Rick Harman	7	MC	6th	5th	DNS	2541	10131	1447	3rd
Scott Troeger	13	MC	1st	2nd	4th	4520	19966	1536	1st
Don Harman	13	MC	3rd	4th	2nd	4364	18626	1433	4th
Harold Cranmer	12	MC	2nd	3rd	6th	4190	17551	1473	2nd
Jim Bolinger	13	MC	4th	1st	1st	4599	18314	1401	5th
Phil Vitale	12	MC	5th	6th	3rd	3965	15906	1325	6th
Bill Luecht	7	MC	7th	7th	5th	3638	8578	1225	7th
Dave Olson	10	Sun A	1st	2nd	2nd	4672	15376	1538	3rd
Rick Russwurm	8	Sun A	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	11865	1483	4th
Erica Vitale	5	Sun A	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	4212	1455	5th
Tom Howard	10	Sun A	2nd	1st	1st	4751	15784	1578	2nd
Bob King	2	Sun A	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	3220	1610	1st
Caleb Walker	11	Sun B	2nd	1st	2nd	4672	17082	1553	2nd
Amy Troeger	6	Sun B	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	7353	1481	3rd
Sandy Vitale	12	Sun B	1st	DNS	1st	3220	17396	1581	1st
Steve Richards	5	Sun B	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	4287	1439	4th
Chad Plaia	3	Sun B	3rd	DNS	DNS	1454	4187	1367	5th

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# Bringing Birch Lake closer together

by Biz Andriano

**F**or a few years now, my grandma (Peggy Cowen, with the little, gray, two-story in the cove) has been bugging me to write an article for the Birch Barker.

My responses were constantly "maybe later," "there's nothing to write about that anyone would be interested in," "who cares what a kid has to say," or sometimes, when she bugged me until I was irritated, I would start off on a rant starting with "What's the point?"

Just this weekend, my grandma finally got to me. She told me, not asked me, but told me, that I was going to write an article for the Birch Barker. When I asked what about, she told me that I should write about the out-of-state relatives and family friends that were up this weekend.

Of course, I did my usual routine. I scoffed and told her that I didn't want to, but she was determined. So, instead of giving me her 'disappointed' face and leaving me alone, she sat down to talk with me.

She told me about how she was sad that the only people that are writing for the Birch Barker are adults. (Not that there is any problem with adults writing for it. You will see what I mean in a minute.) And if it weren't for those same few dedicated people submitting articles, the paper that has been running since my mom was my age (and even before) would cease to exist.

She told me that the

Barker was created to help bring the of Birch Lake closer together; it was a way to get tidbits of information about everyone around the lake to everyone else.

No groundbreaking news, just things people wanted to share. She also said that most of the articles in the paper were written by the younger kids around the lake who would often go door to door asking if anyone had any news they were willing to contribute that week. (She says she even remembers Marty Asire's weekly visits.) This got everyone, including the kids of the lake, involved in the community, helped develop their writing skills, and made it so people around the lake knew a bit more about each other.

I asked my grandma for her old copies of the Birch Barker she used to collect. She told me that when she moved into this cottage from her house a ways down the lake, she threw them all away. (She used to have issues dating all the way back to the 1960's.) So the oldest one I could find was from last year around this time (July 26th to be exact).

After reading about the kid of the week, how local bulls were on a televised rodeo, how to make the winning chili of the 2003's chili cook off, about an upcoming meteor shower, and the ABC's of healthy eating, I turned to this week's Barker (July 17th). I looked it over and compared them. The number of ads has increased thirty some percent and the number of articles had decreased about that much,

not to mention the writers now vary less and less (not that there is anything wrong with what is being written, I read the Barker every week and the articles are always interesting.)

What I am trying to say is: people (especially the younger generations) need to get more involved in the Barker!

Every week, on the bottom of the front page, there is a long black box telling people how they can submit articles to the Barker. It isn't that hard, and all anyone has to do to help get this paper filled with more articles and different writers is to send something in.

It doesn't have to be anything too special. It could be about relatives from out of state coming to visit (you could even get them to write something), where to find blackberries around the lake, how wonderful your pets are, your favorite recipes, why you like skiing, tubing, or any other sport so much, how wonderful an event you attended (like the pancake breakfast or the corn and sausage roast) was, about an interesting bug you saw the other day, how to get certain birds like humming birds and gold finches to hang around your yard, a poem you wrote the other

day, and interview of another Birch Laker, helpful household tips, or even about how you thought that last week was the best week for sailing all summer. Anything. Well, you get the idea. It would just be wonderful to read about things people from all over the lake have to say.

So, parents, encourage your kids to send something in. Wouldn't you be proud to see your child enjoying writing and learning interesting new things?

And kids, wouldn't you like to see what you wrote published and your name in print?

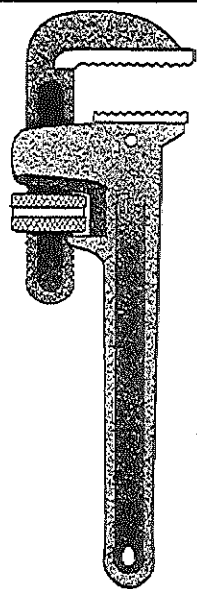
I am making a promise to try and write an article every few weeks and I hope that other people will start, too. There are many interesting people around our lake that have a ton of things that other people would like to hear. Now is the time to share them.

At least now I'm back on my grandma's good side and I really did write that article she wanted me to write. It isn't much, but you can find it elsewhere in the paper.

**Editor's Note:** Thanks Biz for the great article ... We'd all love to see a lot more people send in articles for the Barker!

## Corn & Sausage Update

This year's BLYC Corn & Sausage Roast, which will be held on August 7, is being expanded! Event Chairman Bernie Garceau has announced that in addition to the yummy corn and sausage, attendees can now special order (at the door) New York Strip Steak or Chicken (at a modestly increased price).



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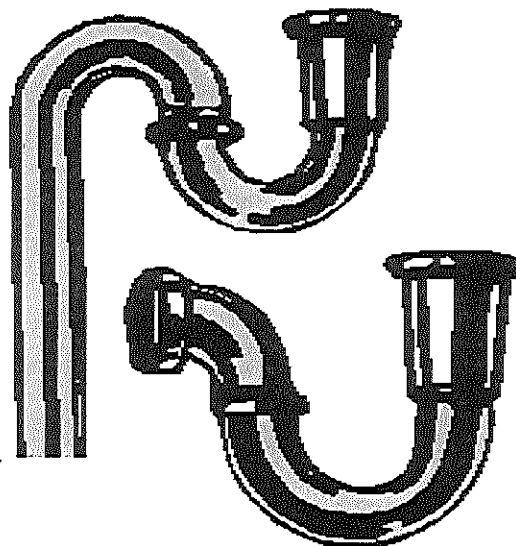
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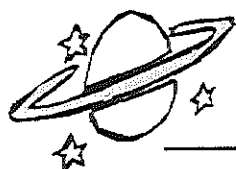
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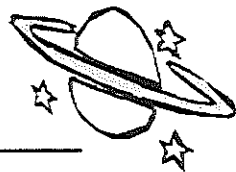
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# Stu's Star Stuff



## Turn your eyes to the southern sky

The southern sky holds a couple of wonderful constellations; favorites of summertime sky watchers. Sagittarius and Scorpius sit low at nightfall and just to the left (east) of due south. Experienced observers usually think of Sagittarius as the "teapot" because the outline traced by its brighter stars bears a resemblance to that piece of tableware. Sagittarius hosts a number of well known "deep sky objects" within reach of small telescopes and binoculars. Look before the middle of next week when the bright Moon arrives in that area.

While known to most observers as the "teapot," the classical representation for Sagittarius is the Archer. The names of several of the constellation's

stars allude to this ancient centaur figure armed with bow and arrow. The star at the top of the "lid" is Kaus Borealis, which literally means "northern (part of) bow." At the bottom of the spout is Kaus Australis, or "southern bow." Between the two, resides Kaus Meridionalis, "middle bow." And the spout's tip, Nasl or Nash, translates as "the point" (of the arrow).

Scorpius, the scorpion, also skitters across the southern sky. Summer is a pretty good time of year to watch Scorpius. Its tail clears the southeastern horizon in late evening, and the scorpion remains visible for the rest of the night.

The brightest star in Scorpius is Antares, which is in the middle of the scorpion's curving body.

This brilliant red star is one of the behemoths of our stellar neighborhood. If you placed it at the center of our own solar system, it would swallow Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, and almost reach Jupiter.

Antares is so big because it's nearing the end of its life. The star's nuclear furnace has consumed its original hydrogen fuel, and is now "burning" heavier helium. As the star switched fuels, its outer layers puffed up like a balloon.

Antares will someday consume its helium, too, converting it to heavier elements like carbon and oxygen, which will in turn continue to feed the star's nuclear fires.

Eventually, though, Antares no longer will be

able to use the elements in its core as fuel. The star will explode as a supernova, outshining even the Moon in Earth's sky. All that will remain of Antares will be a crushed corpse: either a neutron star — a ball so dense that a teaspoon of its matter would weigh millions of tons -- or a black hole — an object with such powerful gravity that not even light could escape from it.

But don't mark your calendars just yet. Antares will be part of the show for quite some time to come. And it will continue to be free.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for July 24 2004 (at Midnight): 0.1 days since first quarter; Illuminated Fraction: 0.510

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# Off the page

by Marian (the librarian)

I just finished Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix book for the second time. It was even better than the first time I read it. So with a nod to the Harry Potter series let's look at some other good books for our younger Birch Lakers.

## Ø Parts (Arnold)

This book was recommended by John from the eastside. A five-year-old boy thinks his body is falling apart. An hysterical look at losing teeth, skin peeling and hair falling out. If you fell in love with parts get the sequel More Parts.

## Ø Tacky the Penguin (Lester)

Tacky the penguin does not fit in with his sleek and graceful companions, but his odd behavior comes in handy when hunters come with maps and traps. So funny, Tacky is really, um, tacky. Great book.

## Ø Chrysanthemum (Henkes)

Chrysanthemum loves her name, until she starts going to school and the other children, like Rose and Marigold, make fun of it.

## Ø The Giver (Lowry)

Given his lifetime assignment at the Ceremony of Twelve, Jonas becomes the receiver of memories shared by only one other in his community and discovers the terrible truth about the society in which he lives. A great science fiction book. I know kids who have read this book over and over again.

## Ø The Bad Beginning (Snicket)

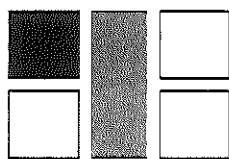
After the sudden death of their parents, the three Baudelaire children must depend on each other and their wits when it turns out that the distant relative who is appointed their guardian is determined to use any means necessary to get their fortune. This is the first book in The Series of Unfortunate Events.

## Ø My Secret War: The World War II Diary of Madeline Beck (Pope)

Thirteen-year-old Madeline's diaries for 1941 and 1942 reveal her experiences living on Long Island during World War II while her father is away in the Navy. This is from the Dear America series.

This list tried to go from a younger point of view to an older one. I know some of you have read most of these but summer is such a good time to reread favorites or try a new title in a series of books.

Next week: Teen favorites



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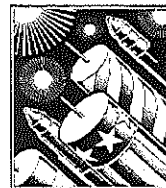
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## Birch Lake Merchandise for Sale

Sun Visors, foam with coil back in royal blue selling at \$4; Canvas Totes, navy blue in color imprinted in white selling at \$12; Bib Aprons great for the kitchen or sizzling BBQ's selling at \$15; Fleece Blankets, 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.

Call any one of following committee people: Denny Weesner 476-2569 ; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383

## An open appeal for door prizes

We're soliciting door prizes for the Men's Golf Outing. If you can donate a prize, please contact Fred at 476-9823 or Phil at 445-9200 or 476-1680

## Ladies Day — Wednesday July 28 Those Were the Days . . .

Summer's not over ladies, and we have lots of fun in store for you at the Ladies Day Tea. We will have a salad and desert luncheon at the Birch Lake Yacht Club, with Ice Tea and Lemonade.

We have other surprises in store for you ... so stay tuned for more information!

Tickets are available now from the following committee members: Mary Ann O'Neil, Helen Toth, Darlene Troyer and Denny Weesner. Seating is limited so get your tickets now!

**Tickets: \$8; Time: 12:30 IN**

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## Spike It Up!

Only 3 more weeks until the Birch Lake Volleyball Tournament on August 14th. Matches will get under way at noon in the field next to Ben's barn in the north-east corner. Games will be played to 15 points with a cap of 17. The first team to win two games wins the match and moves on. Sign up for co-ed fours and/or co-ed sixes. Registration is \$5 per team. You may phone in your registration and pay courtside or drop it off at Spratt's on the north side. Contact Stewart at 574.291.3227 or 476.2113.

Team Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_

Competing in: (check one) Fours \_\_\_\_\_ Sixes \_\_\_\_\_

Roster: \_\_\_\_\_

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**For Rent** — Birch Lake Storage has self-storage units coming available. U-lock, 10'x18', \$54/month. Call 476-1001.

**For Sale** — Fairfield 223,000 Point

time share. Good at any Fairfield, RCI or Interval Int'l. Network for 1-2 week stay during any week and any location you request. Very reasonably priced. For information and questions call Mike Machalleck, 476-2642.

**WANTED**

**Wanted:** 1980 or newer Sunfish hull in good condition. Call Dave Olson, 476-2125 or 574-255-3722.

**LOST & FOUND**

**Lost** — Pair of glasses in blue case. Lost Memorial Day weekend on East

side. Please call 476-2461.

**Found:** Blue hooded sweatshirt at pancake breakfast. **LONGBALL** in red letters on front. Contact Stewart Spratt at 476.2113 or 574.291.3227.

**Found:** A water lounge float was found at the Vath's shoreline this past weekend. It folds and has a mesh center with a head rest, blue in color. Since the Vath's do not have a telephone, please call Vickie Rogers at 476-2383.

**Lost:** White windbreaker at yacht club. Contact Carol Freihofer at 564.272.3683 or 476.9823.

**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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