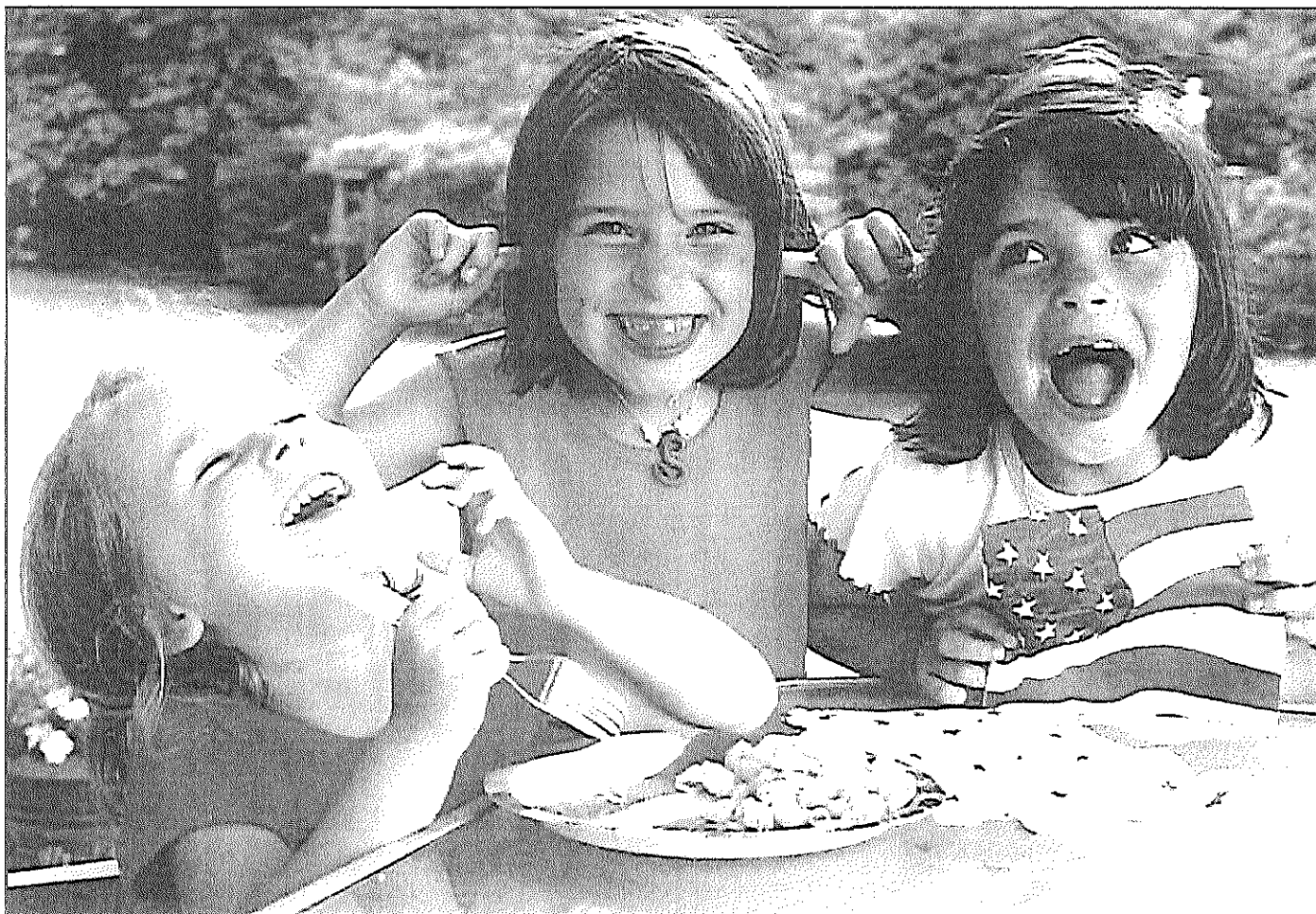


Birch Barker

Weekend of August 7, 2004



These "Birch Lake Kids" are (from left to right) Madison, Baillie, and Linnzie Richner, granddaughters of Paul and Billie Rzeszewski, spending the 4th of July holiday with grandma and grandpa.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I'm keeping it short today. I'm not locked as usual in my office. I'm sitting at my kitchen table looking out at the lake. There's a little blow-up boat out there that I found on floating loose on Sunday evening. If you're missing one, I'll be holding it down very shortly.

The men's golf outing was a blast. The rain stopped at tee time and returned just as we finished. Eighty golfers had a great day at the course and a wonderful meal at the yacht club. Thanks a million to Fred Freihofer and Rich Mullin for organizing everything.

The corn and sausage roast is a GO! Bernie Garceau was able to restack the blocks on the fire pit suffi-

ciently to get us through this year. A more permanent plan is being thought of and will be implemented at a later date. For now, come on over to the yacht club around 6 pm and enjoy the best party of the whole summer. If you aren't a fan of corn or sausage, Bernie will personally serve you with your choice of Lobster Thermadore or Osso Buco accompanied by your favorite Dom or Krystal. Not really. But you can order New York Strip or Chicken at the door and it will be custom grilled to your specifications.

What else? Board meeting at 9 am followed by Homeowners Association meeting ... Kids Regatta and Volleyball next week ... Fall Dinner August 21. Where has the time gone?

Better get out there and have some fun.

-Stewart Spratt, Commodore 2004

BLYC Calendar

- Aug. 7 - Corn and sausage 5:30-7:30
- Aug. 7 - Directors meeting; 9 am
- Aug 7 - Homeowners Assoc. Meeting
- Aug 14 - Kids Regatta
- Aug. 14 - Volleyball Tourney
- Aug. 21 - Fall Dinner



PIZZA & SAILING

Kids Regatta
August 14th - 12 noon
Meet at Harman's on
the eastside.

All kids welcome

(Be sure to bring your "boat coat")

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@philvital.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

Corn & Sausage

The traditional Corn and Sausage Roast at Birch Lake has gone upscale this year. Chef Steve "Scissorhands" Richards, whose culinary training has always been near beautiful bodies (of water), will supervise his apprentice team to bring you a fine gourmet dinner consisting of fire roasted corn and delectable beer-boiled and seared sausage. For an additional fee

diners may order tender New York Strip Steaks, grilled to your specifications, or choose a marinated chicken breast.

Rounding out the meal you may select green beans al almond, country baked beans, Grandma's potato salad, and scrumptious cookies.

Be advised that the corn and sausage will be plentiful but the steak and chicken are limited, so it will be first-come, first-served. Don't miss

this experience of fine dining and camaraderie. Bring Your Appetite!

Time: 5:30 to 7:30; **Prices:** Sausage dinner, \$6; Children 9 and under, \$3; Chicken dinner, \$7; Steak dinner, \$10.

Homeowners' Association News

The 2004 annual meeting of the Birch Lake Homeowners' Association will be today at 10:30 a.m. (Indiana, 11:30

Michigan), at the BLYC clubhouse. Members of the Homeowners' Association attend various public meetings throughout the year, including Potter Township Trustees, Zoning Board and other agencies affecting Birch Lake. At the annual meeting the Homeowners' Association Board will report on current events and developments and will welcome input from Members.


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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Garage Sale was a huge success!

I am happy to report that the Birch Lake Garage Sale was a huge success. We had return customers from last year and lots of new faces, also. I would like to thank Louise Rieth, Joyce Klimek, Lisa Dudeck, and Margaret Bouwkamp, for placing the signs and helping with the advertisement. Also, I want to thank the many people who called and told me they were

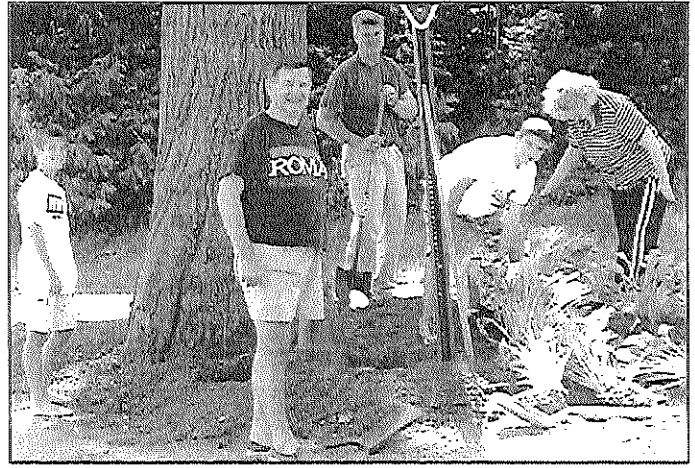
having a sale. That helped me with the placement of the signs.

-Charlene Sheetz

Hosta planters

Beautifying a corner of Birch Lake (at left) are Doug and Judie Eichorst and Doug II's sons, Trey and Dirk. Thanks to the Dobas for the plants and the Bouwkamps for the water supply.

Photograph by Carol Dugan.



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Birch Lake News

Katie is Celebrating Another Birthday at Birch Lake!!!!

Katie Luecht, daughter of Bill and Patty Luecht (east side) celebrated her 11th birthday on August 4th. She was attending Camp Tannadoonah when the momentous occasion occurred.

Katie's primary home is in Danville, Indiana. She attends South Elementary School and is an Honor Roll student. She played basketball on the 4th

grade girls' league last year, and plans on playing again this year. This year in the 5th grade she plans on taking gymnastics, and cheerleading.

Katie loves Birch Lake. She likes to catch turtles and frogs and an occasional snake (one of her mother's favorite creatures). She enjoys swimming, tubing, and even tried wakeboarding for the first time this year, thanks to her friends Jay and Olga Bolinger. It has been a good summer.

Katie really likes CSI Miami, Pirates of the Caribbean, art and writing. She has an Australian pen pal, and is learning about life down under.

Her most favorite thing to do, however, is to torment her brother John, her parents, her dog Ethyl and her next door neighbors!

Being 11 years old is a good thing!



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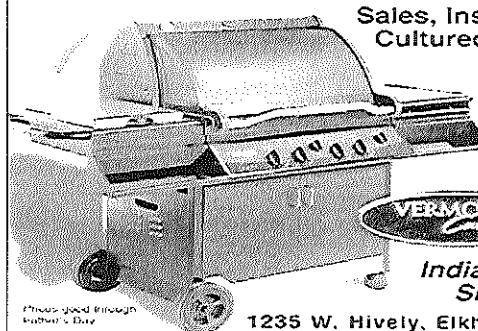
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Birch Lake News

Those Were the Days Remembered

An abundance of flowers greeted the ladies as they entered the Ladies' Luncheon on July 28th. The beautiful spirit of Birch Lake was displayed by the many ladies who came in Yesteryear outfits to compliment the luncheon's theme.

Delicious Chicken Salad accompanied by cantaloupe and cream pies were planned and created by our Chairman Darlene Troyer, who was assisted by the committee of Helen Toth, Denny Weesner, Judy Olson and Maryann O'Neill. A big thank you goes out to Phyllis Rasmussen, Amanda Lacy and Julie Lacy for helping us serve the luncheon.

We were entertained by the New Frontier Band from the Cass County Council on Aging. They sang, played and danced to the delight of all who attended.

This year's luncheon, as in the past years, has been an act of love on the committee's part. Thank you all for your support in making it such a



wonderful time.

Ladies' Luncheon

Thank you, thank you to Helen, Darlene, Maryann and Denny — and their very capable helpers!! The luncheon was delicious, beautiful and lovely.

The Victorian costumes were most charming and the entertainment so enjoyable. This team of ladies are a super

team, as they have proved in previous years.

-L. Drolet

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 Worship hour 10:45 a.m.
 Evening Service 8 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study, Men's Club 7:30 p.m.

2004 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Recap

Twenty teams participated in this year's Men's Golf Outing on Friday, July 30th at Park Shore Golf Course. Cash prizes were awarded to the first three teams who had the lowest total score played in a Florida Scramble format.

First place at 16 under par was the team of Terry Wiseman, KC Wiseman, Bud Zesinger and Jack Miller.

Second place went to Jim Bolinger, John Rondot, Dave Manspecker and Rick Harman at 13 under par.

Third place was the team of Mark VanHuffel, Steve Talos, Brian Bishop and Jerry Bishop at 11 under par.

Individual cash prizes were awarded for the longest and straightest drives, closest to the pin and longest putt.

After the golf all contestants chowed down on prime rib provided by Brian Lower from Eddies Steak Shed in Granger, IN.

The list of those to thank for help and donations is long:

Cash Donations

- Bender Mold & Bender Plastics — Dick Bender
- Claeys Candies — Brian & Mike Machalleck
- Kruggel, Lawton Co. LLC, CPAs — Herm, Kurt and Kevin Kruggel
- Transamerica — Dan Reynolds and Buzz Rasmussen
- Tim Steffen

Volunteers

- Rich Mullin — organized cash donations and put rules sheet together
- Stewart Spratt, Bob King — refreshments
- Carol Freihofer — score card preparation and dinner help
- Patti Russwurm, Sandy Vitale, Deb Bolinger — dinner help and bartending
- Jim Beck — for calling out the door prize winner
- Many people provided door prizes, including Bud Zesinger, the Freihofers, Bob Temple, Tom's Garage and many others I did not get recorded. If I forgot to mention your name, I'm sorry!
- Blair Garceau for donating her time to collect money for a par 3 contest and to take a picture of each team
- Numerous other's that handled cleanup.

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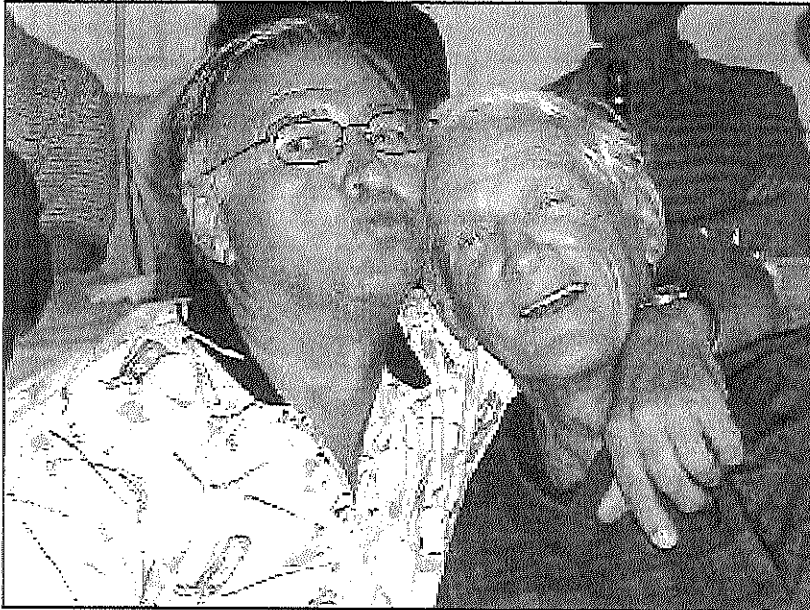
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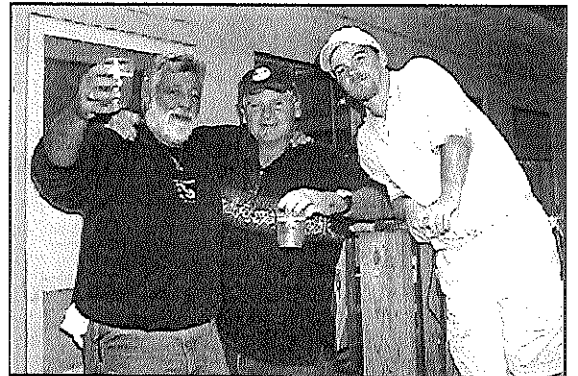
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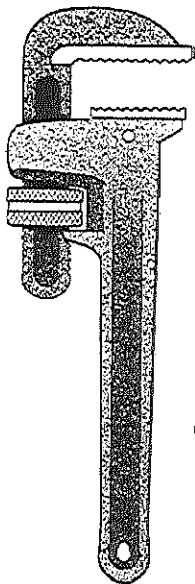
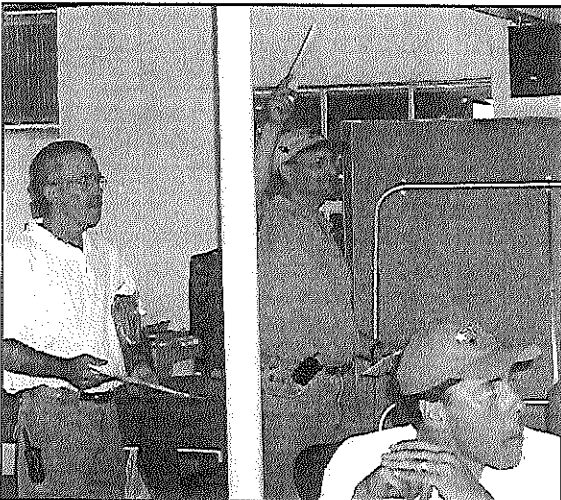
Birch Lake News



After Golf ... *Scenes from the Birch Lake Golf Outing Dinner*



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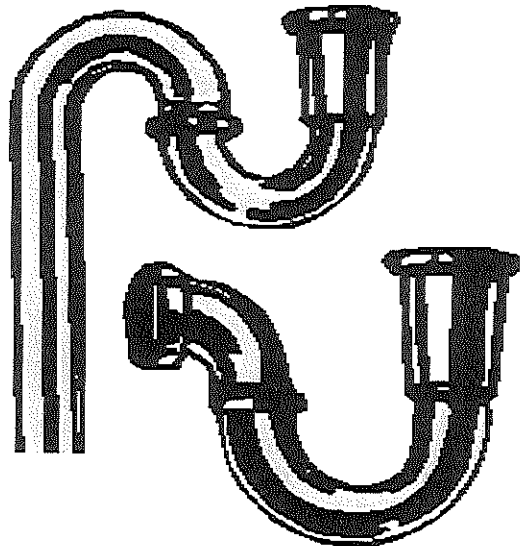
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BLYC Sailing News

Friends,

Another Sunday on the lake with three quick races. We welcomed Bruce Harlan back to the "fold" for two races in his MC and Bob King and crew came out on the Ego. Thanks to those on the

Committee Boat, Barb Rondot, Judy Olson and my own secretary/wife Debbie. Also a special thanks to the boat owners, Patty and Bill Luecht who generously loaned us their pontoon with the electric anchor wench to save the arms

of the Committee.

Don't forget the kids' regatta on the 14th at noon. Meet at the Harmans' shore for pizza before the race.

Apologies for any scoring mistakes - hopefully they are caught and rectified in the next

weeks accounting.

Steve Richards placed 4.4.3 on 7/25. Scores have been re-tabulated to reflect the correction.

-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 |
|----------------|---------|-------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|---------|-------|
| Scott Troeger | 16 | MC | DNS | DNS | DNS | 0 | 24786 | 1549 | 1 |
| Rick Harman | 13 | MC | 4th | 1st | 3rd | 4443 | 18865 | 1451 | 2 |
| Harold Cranmer | 18 | MC | 5th | 5th | 1st | 4192 | 26111 | 1450 | 3 |
| Don Harman | 19 | MC | 1st | 2nd | 2nd | 4642 | 27472 | 1446 | 4 |
| Jim Bolinger | 19 | MC | 7th | 4th | 4th | 3894 | 25765 | 1356 | 5 |
| Phil Vitale | 18 | MC | 2nd | 3rd | 5th | 4261 | 24304 | 1350 | 6 |
| Bill Luecht | 13 | MC | 3rd | 7th | 6th | 3855 | 15933 | 1226 | 7 |
| Greg Peyer | 1 | MC | DNS | 6th | DNS | 1235 | 1235 | 1235 | * |
| Bruce Harlan | 2 | MC | 6th | 6th | DNS | 2470 | 2470 | 1235 | * |
| Tom Howard | 13 | Sun A | 1st | 1st | 1st | 4820 | 25355 | 1585 | 1 |
| Dave Olson | 16 | Sun A | 2nd | 2nd | 3rd | 4506 | 24554 | 1535 | 2 |
| Rick Russwurm | 11 | Sun A | 3rd | 3rd | 2nd | 4449 | 16314 | 1483 | 3 |
| Erica Vitale | 11 | Sun A | 4th | 4th | 4th | 4137 | 15774 | 1434 | 4 |
| Bob King | 2 | Sun A | DNS | DNS | DNS | 0 | 3220 | 1610 | * |
| Caleb Walker | 17 | Sun B | 1st | 1st | 3rd | 4654 | 26566 | 1569 | 1 |
| Sandy Vitale | 18 | Sun B | 2nd | 2nd | 1st | 4652 | 26564 | 1568 | 2 |
| Amy Troeger | 8 | Sun B | DNS | DNS | DNS | 2985 | 10338 | 1496 | 3 |
| Steve Richards | 11 | Sun B | 3rd | 3rd | 2nd | 4439 | 15848 | 1441 | 4 |
| Chad Plaia | 3 | Sun B | DNS | DNS | DNS | 1454 | 4187 | 1367 | 5 |

* indicates sailor as not participated in enough races in their class to have established a place standing

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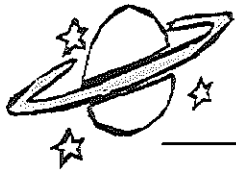
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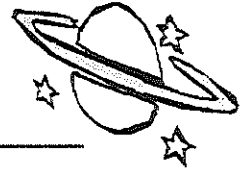


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Stu's Star Stuff



Sky tips from a cool frood

Wow. This is going to be tough. Being here at the lake this week I don't have access to my usual sources of cut and paste (read plagerisable) information. But not to worry. Now that this column is appearing in the Reader's Digest Large-Print-Edition format it shouldn't be too much of a problem filling up a good portion of a page.

Here are a couple of things to look for this week ... The Big Dipper. The Little Dipper. The Little Dipper is

easier to spot here at the lake than in town. The darker skies allow you to follow the pointer stars, the two that form the outermost portion of the bowl, over to Polaris, the North Star, at the end of the handle of Ursa Minor. Continue along that line to the lazy W, Casseopia.

In the south, enjoy the Tea Pot formation of Sagitarius. Above and a little left look for the Tea Spoon. To the west of Sagitarius look for the great scorpion, Scorpius. (not Scorpio or Serpico)

As always keep a sharp eye out for meteors and flying

saucers. The Persiod meteor shower will peak on Wednesday. Best viewing hours are after midnight when our portion of Earth is traveling headlong into the path of the comet debris that brings us the show. As for the flying saucers, the Vogon space parade is week after next but there's always a few that get started early. Get out there and have some fun. Oops, sorry. I meant the show is free.

-Stu Sprutt

(Coming next week: print so large that even blind people will be able to read it)

The moon for August 7, 2004 (at Midnight):
0.4 days after last quarter, Illuminated
Fraction: 0.458

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Off the page

by *Marian* (the librarian)

Graphic Novels are the new wave in getting teens to read. If you're not familiar with this type of book think: good story in comic book form. I don't if any teachers will accept these titles for a book report but they are definitely worth picking up and reading. While I haven't read all of these titles, so I didn't make personal comments, they have all been highly recommended by the library community.

Ø **Maus: A Survivor's Tale** (Spiegelman)

A memoir about Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and about his son, a cartoonist who tries to come to terms with his father, his story, and with history itself. Cartoon format portrays Jews as mice and Nazis as cats. Powerful stuff! There is also Maus II.

Ø **Shutterbug Follies** (Little)

Bee, a photo-finishing technician at a one-hour lab in lower Manhattan, becomes dangerously

curious after a photojournalist brings in a strange picture of a naked corpse. This one is for a more mature reader. It does have adult content.

Ø **Astro City: Life in the Big City** (Busiek)

A collection of the first six volumes from the comic-book series "Astro City," which chronicles the hopes, dreams, and trials of ordinary people and superheroes in a city with a long history of protection from such powerful figures as Samaritan and Winged Victory.

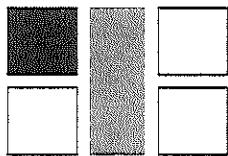
Ø **Jimmy Corrigan: Smartest Kid on Earth** (Ware)

A graphic novel about a lonely thirty-six-year-old man named Jimmy Corrigan, who meets his father for the first time and contemplates the worth of his own existence.

Ø **Usagi Yojimbo: Grasscutter** (Sakai)

Usagi Yojimbo, a samurai rabbit, having come into possession of the Grasscutter, the lost sword of the Gods, finds himself the target of the Conspiracy of Eight, a shadowy group that wants to overthrow the shogunate.

Next week: **Books in a series**



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

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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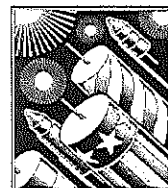
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Birch Lake Biographies

by Jules Vernon

BRUCE HARLAN

Cottage #50

Growing up in Kansas City, MO, Bruce attended Southwest High School. His family moved to South Bend where he graduated from John Adams High School. He attended Notre Dame where he received a B.S. in Business Administration, and a masters in communication. Bruce worked for Notre Dame for 44

years as Director of Photography and Television Production.

He concurrently operated Bruce Harlan Photography doing photographic illustrations for local advertising agencies.

Bruce's parents first rented a cottage on Birch Lake in 1942 at the Lazy Lodge. In 1949, Bruce married Juanita and they had 2 children, Linda and Bob. Later on, Bruce and his family rented several cottages starting in 1955. They purchased

#50 from Cecil and Millie Dixon in 1968. Bruce served as Commodore in 1970.

Bruce's favorite memory at Birch Lake is the 10 years he taught sailing at Camp Tannadoonah.

BERNIE & HELEN WEESNER

Cottage #121

Bernie went to Mishawaka High School and then worked in office

Continued on next page

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Weesners

continued from previous page

management at Uniroyal.

As a child, Helen's family lived in Elkhart where she graduated high school. During a Sunday drive, her family happened onto Birch Lake where shortly after, they bought land and built a cottage in the 1920's where she and sister, Thelma, had many adventures. She enjoyed swimming, walking in the woods with their family dog, rowing the rowboat across the lake, and swinging on a rope swing put up by her

Dad.

The Weesners married in 1936, and had 3 children named Lance, Lynn, and Leslie. In the 1940's, they purchased the land where their present home stands.

Bernie and Helen's favorite memories are the summers spent with family and friends here on beautiful Birch Lake.

Editor's Note: Birch Lake Biographies is a new column suggested (and produced) by the author. If you would like to suggest a laker to be profiled, contact me at sailorphil@philvital.com ... and I'll be happy to pass it on.



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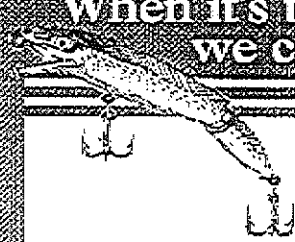
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Lost — Pair of glasses in blue case. Lost Memorial Day weekend on East side. Please call 476-2461.

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

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

Found at the men's golf outing, a

sand wedge cover — looks to be for left handed golfer; black plastic with words "face saver plus". Call freihofer @ 574-272-3683 during the week and 269-476-9823 weekends.

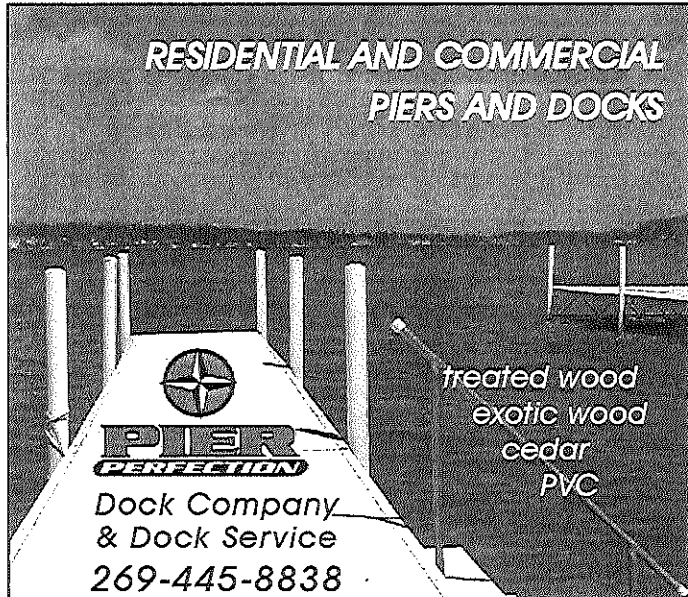
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