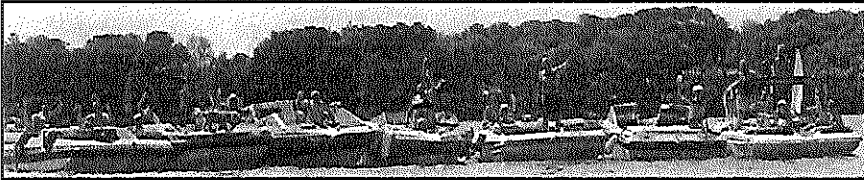


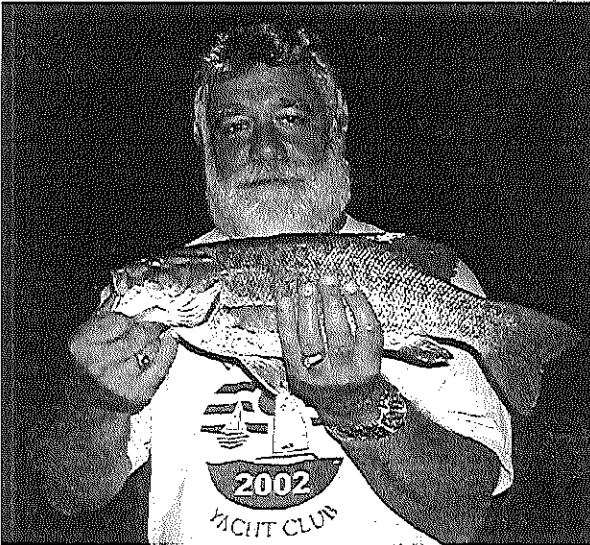
Birch Barker

Weekend of August 21, 2004



Lake Scenes

Birch Lake has been hopping in August as residents and visitors try to make up for time lost to unseasonably cool and wet weather. Above, the weather-delayed Float-in finally took place a couple of weeks late ... at right, three-year-old Evan Durham (grandson of Herrn & Bev Kruggel and son of Shelley Kruggel Durham) makes one of several "flexiboard" trips around the lake ... and below, yours truly poses with a prize small mouth bass taken last Monday on a dry fly off the end of his own pier (for the record, the fish was returned to the lake in good condition).



COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Where has the year gone? It seems like only yesterday that we were preparing for the Spring Dinner and now tonight's the Fall Dinner.

The weather and the water are cooling off and that means that summer is coming to a close. That also means that my term as commodore is coming to a close. Tonight I will hand over the flag and the sacred PFD to John Erhardt and say my goodbyes.

Before that though I want to again thank all the folks that helped me out in such a big way this summer ... Jim Bolinger for the Spring Dinner and fireworks; Don & Lind Harman - Pancake

Breakfast; Bernie & Blair Garceau - Corn & Sausage Roast; Fred Freihofer - Men's Golf Outing. There were also quite a few that helped out tremendously on events that I had little or nothing to do with — Darlene Troyer - Women's Tea; Nyla Erhardt, Lesley Greenig, Lorie Noyer and Allyson Weaver - Women's Golf Outing; Charlene Sheetz - Garage Sale; Judy Olson, Suzie King, Charlene Sheetz, Dick Bender - Boat Parade. Special thanks to Phil Vitale and the Barker Delivery and Distribution team.

Also thanks so much to the many who assisted with clean ups, serving, tending bar, selling tickets, fund raising, water quality and all the other jobs that go along with the many events we all enjoyed this summer. Without all the great effort and teamwork I couldn't have been as successful. I am sincerely most

BLYC Calendar	
Aug. 21 -	Fall Dinner
Aug. 28 -	Board Meeting - 9 am
Sept. 4 -	Final Barker of the Season
Sept. 5 -	The Great Birch Lake Sandbar Stand - Noon
Oct. 1 (or thereabouts) —	First Online Barker of the Off-Season.

appreciative.

I wish John and the new vice commodore all the best in 2005. John will hold the last board meeting of the season next Saturday at 9 am. If everyone pitches in again for him as they did for me he too will have a successful summer.

Let's get out there.

-Stewart Spratt, Commodore 2004

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

Camp Fun

Camp Tannadoonah? If not, then you should soon, that is, if you are a child. The camp has lots of fun activities. Ones that your parents can sign you up for or activities that the camp provides no matter what! Some of the extra activities your parents can sign you up for are tennis and horse back riding. Even though I

haven't ever done them I think they look like a lot of fun! The activities that are provided for all campers are arts and crafts, archery, drama, canoeing, swimming, nature and sports n' games.

It's a lot of fun no matter what. You have the choice to sleep over or not to, but it's a lot more fun to sleep over! And no mat-

ter what cabin you are in you'll always have at least one friend. Don't worry about who you get as a counselor because you'll get used to their rules!

Have a great summer! Got to go.

-Irina Lyles
(#200-1 Sanders)

editor's note: Irina is 11 1/2 yrs. old & lives in a Boston suburb & spent FOUR weeks at the lake this year & got up on skis for the 1st time.

Natalie, Audrey, Lily, Martha, Scott, Eric, Brian, Bubba, Mary, Zack, Josh, Jake, Louise, Rich and Cisco. Whew!

The Great Labor Day Sandbar Stand

Commodore-in-waiting John Erhardt has declared Saturday, Sept. 4 as the date for the first annual Birch Lake Sandbar Stand.

Erhardt said, "It ain't no big deal, just bring your boat and a cooler to the sandbar in front of my place on the South Side. We're going to walk in the water from boat to boat and socialize. Pretty informal."

Erhardt said the event will start somewhere around Noon (Indiana time, as always).

MC Nationals

Aug 19 - 22 / 34th MC Nationals / Maxinkuckee YC, Culver, IN; 79 boats pre-registered!
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Happy birthday

Carmen Parkinson

Carmen Parkinson is 5! Tuesday, the 17th, was the big day, and Carmen's grandparents came over to help break the pinata and eat cake and ice cream. If that weren't enough, to further assist Carmen in celebrating her fifth birthday, the Baker Family will gather at Birch Lake this weekend. Welcome to the always fun, but often dangerous, John, Helen, Johnny, Sabrina, Doug,

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Birch Lake Notes

Troeger get-together

Connie and Earl Troeger hosted the family get-together at their cottage recently on the south side. Shown at right with their grandchildren, Chris and Matt, sons of Jeff & Sue from Steamboat CO., Chad, Brett, Wade, and Aubrey, from Fishers IN., and Carly & Lauren, from Granger.

A great time was had by all.



Kruggel family get-together, too ...

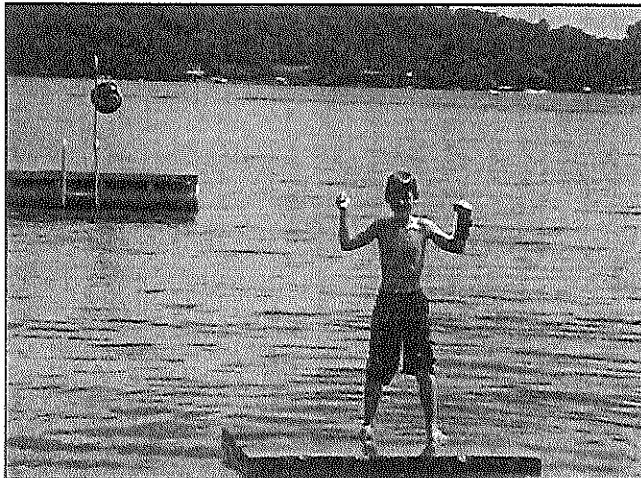
Last week Ted and Shelley Durham (Shelley Kruggel) vacationed at Birch Lake at Bev and Herm Kruggel's home. Their children enjoyed various water activities.

Each year the Durhams spend part of their vacation time helping their children accomplish new things.

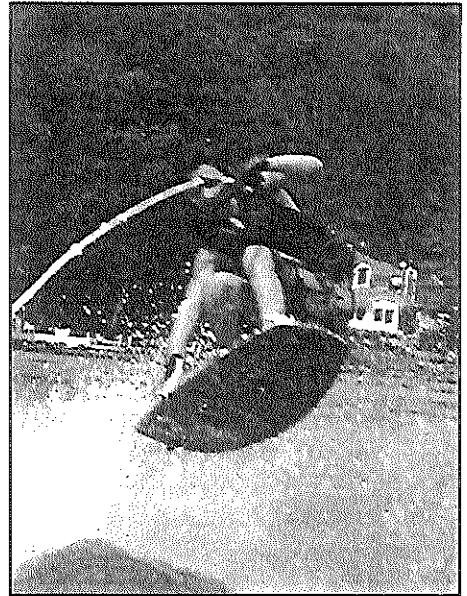
The family all agrees that the baby of the family, three year old Evan, wins the award for the greatest accomplishment. Evan made several trips around the lake on the "flexiboard" during the week (photo on Page 1).

The other kids worked on their skills as well. The oldest son, thirteen year old Parker, worked on perfecting different wakeboarding jumps and grabs. Ten year old daughter Ryan reached her goal of crossing in and out of the wake on her wakeboard. The

Durham's middle son, nine year old Mitchell, was content to be able to swim and play in the lake as he just got a cast removed from his arm. Up until the vacation he couldn't even swim this summer. He enjoyed tubing, also. As usual, everyone had a wonderful time at Grandpa and Grandma Kruggel's beautiful lake home.



Mitchell, Ryan and Parker Durham (as well as Evan) all accomplished new things this summer at Birch Lake.



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Birch Lake Notes

News from the Cove

by your ever-loving Sunny Waters

I'm sure you readers have been miserable without my column so I'll try to make it up to you.

B.S. (for those of you who don't understand, B.S. means beloved spouse) and I enjoyed the corn and sausage roast at the yacht club with dear

friends. Birch Lakers are special people.

If you've never met Lindsay Weesner you've missed much. He speaks fluently several languages. Line up, girls, he's a gem!

Kudos to Bernie Garceau and the crew for a job well done. B.S. says the steak was delicious.

August 16th was Loretta Drolet's birthday. This loving lady is the

queen of the cove. Also, her sister Rosie is coming for a visit. She is a dear person and we look forward to seeing her.

O.K., Love to you all ...
Fini,
-Sunny

Birch Lake merchandise is still 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.

Thanks to the Barker Team

Once more, a special thanks to the Birch Barker team: **Deliverers:** 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; **Couriers:** Becky Wiseman, Bob King; **Advertising:** Dick Bender

A note on Jet Skis

Michigan law says PWCs (jet skis) must be off the water one hour prior to sunset. Here are the (Indiana0 times PWCs must be off the lake for the next week:

Aug 21	6:35
Aug 22	6:34
Aug 23	6:32
Aug 24	6:31
Aug 25	6:29
Aug 26	6:28
Aug 27	6:26
Aug 28	6:24

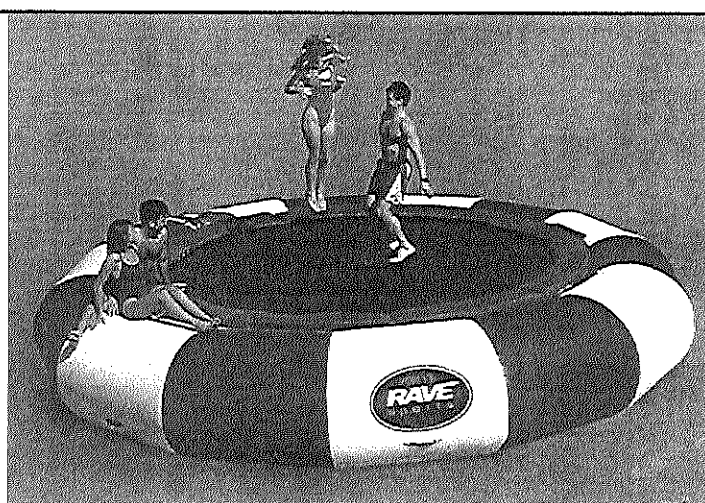
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Birch Lake News

The History Of a Dream Come True

By Biz Andriano

A hundred years ago, there was only one cabin on Birch Lake. A wealthy Chicago businessman built it on the North Shore in 1902 and the cottage was named Silver Springs because it was Birch Lake's fresh water springs that made it the head lake for other lakes such as Shavehead and Baldwin lakes.

Eventually, the businessman went bankrupt and sold the cottage to a man named Mr. Thayer from Miles, MI for \$500 in 1918. (That would be a steal now, but back then it was expensive with wages under \$15 a week.) Every time Mr. Thayer would come to the lake, it would take him 12 hours in a horse and buggy to get here.

When Mr. Thayer passed away, his son, another Mr. Thayer, inherited the cottage. This Mr. Thayer had a son named Jim. Growing up, Jim liked to hunt and fish with his father when he visited the lake. When he was a boy, there were four cottages on the lake, all on the North Shore because much of the area surrounding the lake was swampy or had no roads leading to it.

When he was young, Jim developed a fascination with the Potawatomi Indians that camped between Birch and Shavehead Lake. They were peaceful Indians that grew their own food and lived in harmony with their environment. They were even accom-

modating to the white men who started to settle in their area. After a while of being friendly, the white men tried to take the Indian's land. They eventually succeeded, but not before the Indians went on the warpath and tried to defend their home.

As Jim grew older and learned more about the Indians, he appreciated them and wanted something to show his appreciation for the Indians and their way of life. He wanted a totem pole.

For years he wanted one. He thought about what kind of wood he would use, what kind of carvings it would have, and how tall it would be. It wasn't until the mid 1990's that he got his chance to have a totem pole of his own. He met a carver, Douglas Christie, who agreed to carve a totem pole for Jim if he could find the right log.

Jim had two kinds of wood in mind: Sycamore and Tulip Poplar. Both of them grew straight, had hard wood that wouldn't crack easily, and had very long trunks. However, it proved harder than you'd think to find the right tree. It took Jim three years to find the right tree. It was a Sycamore that grew straight and didn't have a branch for 38 feet.

Once it was cut down and sent to Doug's workshop, he stripped the bark and set it aside to dry. A year and a half later, it was dry and ready to be carved, and the wood had hardly cracked at all. Sadly, right before Jim's pole was to

be carved, Doug, the carver, had an accident that broke both of his legs.

After nearly a year of healing, Doug was once again ready to carve Jim's pole, but because his accident was carving and height related, the 38-foot log had to be cut in half to be carved.

Doug carved a pole that started with an Indian at the top. This Indian was Shavehead, the chief of the Potawatomi, whose shaved head and bear claw necklace indicate that he is on the warpath.

Under Shavehead was carved an eagle holding a fish in its talons that has a seven-foot wingspan. Under the eagle were a sun, a beaver, a bear, and fire. The Potawatomi worshiped the sun and fire, and they hunted the abundant beaver and bears that once lived there.

From the back of the totem pole, a wolf howling at the moon was carved. The Indians also worshiped the moon and they coexisted with the wolves and other animals in the woods very well. On the right side, a picture of corn was carved and on the left, a design of leaves because the Potawatomi grew their own crops and respected every aspect of their environment.

It took Doug a year and a half to carve the wood. Next he coated the pole with four coats of a special oil to keep it from getting too dry and cracking. Then Doug painted his beautiful creation with several coats of special paint.

Once the oil was soaked in and the paint dry, it was time for the final step. The pole was coated with four layers of polyurethane to keep water from getting in and rotting the wood.

The pole was then brought to Jim's house and was erected on five square feet of cement, four metal rods, and an iron grate underneath to keep it in place. At last the two pieces of wood were joined together and tied with a rope to keep it in place. And the totem pole was finally done!

The totem pole now stood 20 feet high with a 38-inch base weighing in at 6,000 pounds. It had two numbers carved into each of its sides: 1821 and 2002. 1821 was the approximate time that the Potawatomi lived in this area and 2002 was the year that the pole was put in Jim Thayer's front yard. That front yard happens to be the same front yard of the same cottage that his grandfather bought all those years ago.

If you'd like to see the totem pole first hand, it is on the North Shore on the path that is walked to go all the way around the lake (you can't miss it) and Jim probably wouldn't mind a few compliments on his life's dream come true.

editors note: Biz Andriano, the author of this article is 15 years old. She is the granddaughter of Dick and Peggy Cowen (west side).



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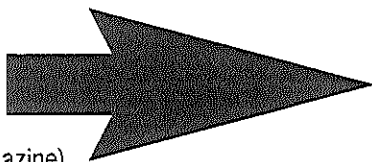
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HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

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 members and prospective members.

Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

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- \$ ____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
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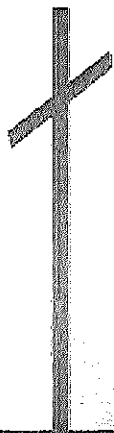
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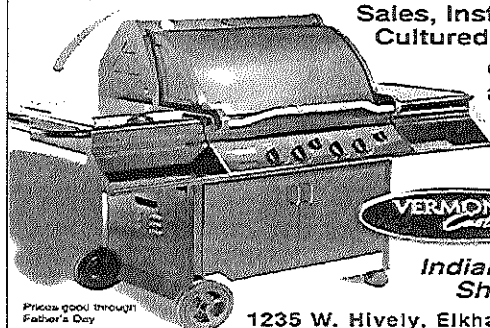
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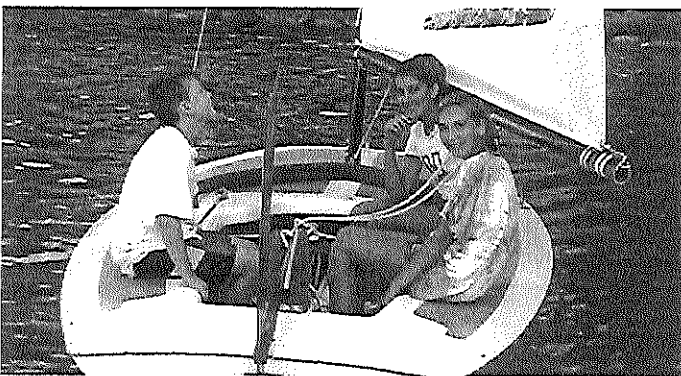
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Birch Lake Sailing News



Kids Regatta: Fun even without the wind



Sailors,

Well, the sun and the fun were plentiful but the wind was a little elusive for the Kids Regatta on Saturday.

We started the afternoon in the Harmans' yard with some great pizza from Marcello's in Cassopolis where the own-

ers were kind enough to deliver it to us personally! Thanks Fred and Anna!

The kids divided into boats and succeeded in completing two races.

-Jim Bolinger

Fleet Captain 2004

Here's the teams and their finishes:

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Megan Russell

Chad Plaia - Co-Captain (MC)2nd.....1st

Harold Cranmer - 1st Mate

Patrick Russell

Connor Russell

Jim Bolinger - Captain (MC)3rd2nd

Amanda Lacy

Carrie Curtis

Bob King - Captain (c-scow)4th.....3rd

Scott Troeger - Tactician

David Olson - 1st Mate

Garth Reynolds

Tuc Osborn

Calvin King

Neil Troeger

Don Harman - Captain (MC)5th.....5th

Abby Rondot

Amy Swygart

Conner Stigner

Phil Vitale - Captain (MC)6th.....8th

Randy Osborn

Michael Curtis

Shawn Martin

Bill Luecht - Captain (MC)7th.....4th

Katie Luecht

Amy Troeger - Captain (Sunfish)8th.....7th

Alice Corey

BLYC Sailing News

Sailors

Sunday's regular season sailing found us with no wind in the morning so a 1 p.m. start was called. The later time

brought us occasional puffs of wind allowing us to finish one race.

Joining us for the first time this season was David Troeger in the "Whale

Boat" MC. Welcome David! Please try to sail with us again when there is more wind to play in.

-Jim Bolinger, Fleet Captain 2004

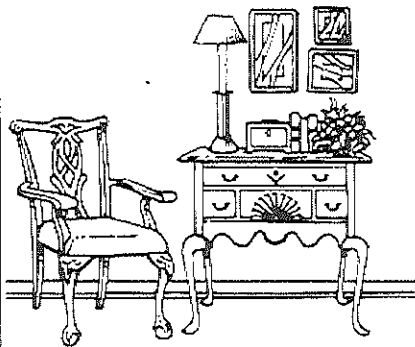
Results from last week's sailboat races

Sailor	# Races	class	1st race	2nd race	3rd race	day's total	cumulative	average	place
Scott Troeger	19	MC	1st			1600	29586	1557	1st
Harold Cranmer	22	MC	2nd			1521	32122	1460	2nd
Don Harman	22	MC	DNS			0	31881	1449	3rd
Rick Harman	15	MC	DNS			0	21560	1437	4th
Phil Vitale	22	MC	4th			1369	29863	1358	5th
Jim Bolinger	23	MC	6th			1225	30880	1343	6th
Bill Luecht	17	MC	5th			1296	20857	1227	7th
Greg Peyer	1	MC	DNS			0	1235	1235	*
Bruce Harlan	2	MC	DNS			0	2470	1235	*
David Troeger	1	MC	3rd			1454	1454	1454	*
Tom Howard	16	Sun A	1st			1600	30155	1587	1st
Dave Olson	20	Sun A	2nd			1521	30717	1536	2nd
Rick Russwurm	11	Sun A	3rd			1454	17768	1481	3rd
Erica Vitale	15	Sun A	4th			1379	21598	1440	4th
Bob King	2	Sun A	DNS			0	3220	1610	*
Sandy Vitale	18	Sun B	1st			1600	28164	1565	1st
Caleb Walker	21	Sun B	1st			1521	32808	1562	2nd
Steve Richards	15	Sun B	3rd			1454	21741	1449	3rd
Chad Plaia	3	Sun B	DNS			0	4187	1367	*
Marty Asire	3	Sun B	DNS			0	4595	1532	*
Amy Troeger	8	Sun B	DNS			0	10338	1496	*

* Has not yet sailed in the required percentage of races

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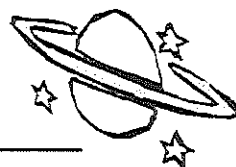


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Stu's Star Stuff



Scorpions and Indians ...

A handful of bright stars highlights the evening sky this weekend. Yellow-orange Arcturus stands high in the sky (Remember, Arc to Arcturus?)...reddish Antares is low in the south...and the Summer Triangle is rising in the east.

These and other bright stars seem to form patterns in the sky. Antares, for example, is part of Scorpius, a hook-shaped pattern that resembles a scorpion. But most of the stars look like they're sprinkled across the sky at random. And according to one American Indian story, they really are.

The story comes from the Navajo, who live in the Four

Corners region of the southwest. There are several versions, but the basic outline is the same.

It begins with First Woman carefully placing the stars in the sky, creating beautiful patterns. But then Coyote, the trickster, comes along and offers to help. First Woman doesn't trust him, so she refuses. But Coyote persists, and finally convinces her to let him give it a try -- IF he promises to be patient.

Coyote behaves himself at first. He picks up the stars from a blanket and places them in the sky one at a time. But after a while, he can't resist the temptation. He picks up the blanket and shakes it vigorously, scattering stars across the entire sky. And so the night sky appears today -- a few bright

stars forming patterns, and all the others sprinkled across the firmament at random, creating a beautiful but slightly chaotic blanket of stars.

Look for the different patterns. Check out the familiar - Big Dipper, Teapot, Scorpius. Also try for less familiar - Cygnus the Swan in the Summer Triangle, the Great Square of Pegasus and Bootes the Hunter. More on those later. Bundle up and enjoy the show. It's free you know.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for August 21, 2004 (at Midnight): Illuminated Fraction: 0.369; 1.1 days before first quarter

note: this column was intentionally printed in large print so old people like Bob King can read it ... editor

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Off the page

by *Marian* (the librarian)

The American Library Association sets aside a week in September to bring awareness about censorship. Banned Books Week is celebrated in libraries across America. While I think everyone censors or "selects" their own reading, listening and watching, as well as of their children concerns arise about an anonymous person censoring all of us. Below are just a few of the books that have been censored over time. I have included the reason of censorship as well as a brief summary of the book. The upside to censorship is that kids want to read these books to see what all of the fuss is about.

Ø Fahrenheit 451 (Bradbury) "Fahrenheit 451 is the temperature at which book paper catches fire and burns. After learning that books are a vital part of a culture he never knew, a book-burning official in a future fascist state clandestinely pursues reading until he is betrayed. This book "created too much individualism and independent thinking".

Ø Diary of a Young Girl (Frank) A thirteen-year-old Dutch-Jewish girl, Anne Frank, records her impressions

of the two years she and seven others spent hiding from the Nazis before they were discovered and taken to concentration camps. Censors found this book "sexually offensive" and "a real downer".

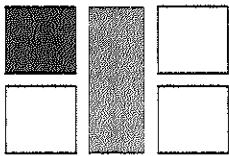
Ø Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee (Brown) The documented account of the systematic plunder of the American Indians during the second half of the nineteenth century. Banned because it was "slanted".

Ø Of Mice and Men (Steinbeck) Sustained by the hope of someday owning a farm of their own, two migrant laborers arrive to work on a ranch in central California. Profanity was the reason this book was challenged.

Ø I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (Angelou) An autobiography covering the childhood of a woman who has been a professional dancer, actress, poet, journalist, and television producer. This book was censored because it was deemed "anti-white".

Find out a complete list of "Challenged Books" at the American Library Associations website. The internet address is www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bbwlinks/100frequently.htm

Next week: Local Authors



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-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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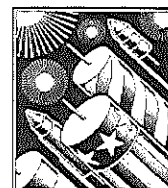
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Birch Lake Biographies

by Jules Vernon

DICK BENDER #39

Dick graduated from Elkhart High School, and earned an apprenticeship in tool and die making through CTS Corp. He has been self-employed for 30 years with Bender Mold and Bender Plastics.

In 1994, Dick started Bender Industrial Park in

Mishawaka across from the Hummer plant. He has 4 children named Jeff, Bruce, Amy and Jason. Bruce and Amy are twins. Dick has 11 grandchildren.

Dick got familiar with Birch Lake through his brother, Jim Bender, who was a resident here for many years. Dick bought Welch's house in July of

1988 on the south shore. The house burned in 1997, so Dick moved next door into his rental house where he presently resides.

Dick has many memories of Birch Lake, and he couldn't single out any one favorite to mention. We all know Dick as a very colorful person who is liked by all, and is always there with a helping hand to others.

years at BSU playing tackle for the Cardinals.

The U.S. Army drafted Bill in 1951 where he served his country for 2 years, and also played football and track. He married Le and they have two children, Suzy and Bob. Bob and Leslie have Calvin, Bill and Le's only grandchild.

In 1956, Bill and Le were looking for lake property when they happened upon Birch Lake by an article in the South Bend Tribune. In 1978, the Kings took up permanent residency at Birch Lake, and have been loving it ever since all year round. Bill has a great sense of humor!

BILL KING #N263

Bill graduated high school from Elkhart, and received a B.S. in Industrial Arts and Physical Education from Ball State University. He also minored in math, but his claim to fame is his 4

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After printing the request for birthdays in last week's Barker, I heard about several.

Belated Happy Birthday to Jim Bolinger, Don Harman

and Loretta Drolet.

Happy Birthday to Louise Reith (on October 31st) ... and let's not forget to wish a happy 51st birthday to Bob King...

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Jill Dull	Lucy Hoffman	Donna Hartsell	
Charlie Retherford	Trisha Hunt	Laurie Regner	Stan Przybysz

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a tiny August rumble

~ i ~

bellow... bellow... bellow

We hear the woods beating,
and wait for you.

you arrive at my shore and remain
... submerged.

Just who are you... life from the past - aching
to reach today?

to warn --- or comfort us?

~ ii ~

Oh, you silly yellows and whites

broadcasting through my robe of black
chiffon mountains -

that move with such perfect rhythm.

What are you looking for?

-Anon

Signed up for Online Barker?

Ok, I'll do it again ... The Online Barker, that is ...

If you've never seen it, you don't know what you're missing! The Online Barker is a monthly e-mail newsletter that I send out to lakers, visitors and friends who want to keep up with the off-season activities of Birch Lake.

The Online Barker is sent during the months that the printed Birch Barker is not being printed ... starting in October and running through the first week of May. You

can get a sneak preview (or is that a rear-view?) and check out the last one from the spring by visiting the web site

www.philvitale.com/barker.

I always keep the most current month there in case there's a problem with the e-mail system.

If you haven't signed up, you can subscribe at the web site (you can also unsubscribe anytime you want), or just e-mail me at sailor-phil@philvitale.com.



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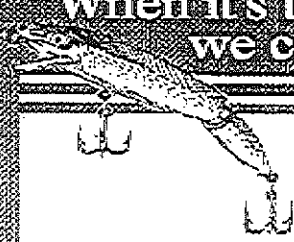
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Opinion Forum

We received these two letters this week regarding the sewer project. While officers and board of directors of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, and the editor of the Barker WILL NOT

ENDORSE ANY opinion on the issue, the Baker will publish opinion letters that meet the following stipulations:
 ■ All letters must be signed and the writers must allow their names to be pub-

lished with the article.
 ■ Letters must be submitted by deadline.
 ■ All letters must be submitted via e-mail, or on computer disk in a text format.
 ■ All letters must be no more than 500

words; if letters are over 500 words, they will only be published on an available time/space basis, and providing the author agrees to cover all additional costs incurred because of the letter.

Notice to all Birch Lake Property Owners:

Before a Discharge and Treatment Plant can be built for the proposed sewer system in Porter Township, a permit must be issued by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). Regardless of what side of this issue you are on, I'm sure we are all concerned about the environmental concerns surrounding this giant undertaking. Consider that the aquifer will need to be lowered, affecting wells and indigenous animal and plant life, heavy construction equipment will be digging 20 feet down, construction runoff, etc. This is our opportunity to request a public hearing of our concerns before a permit is issued. It does not matter if you live here year-round or are a registered voter. If you are a property owner with environmental concerns about the sewer issue it is very important that you put those concerns on paper in the form of a letter and mail it before September 2, 2004 to:
 Mr. Sean Syts
 MDEQ
 PO Box 30273
 Lansing, MI 48909
 Request that he schedule a public hearing on the proposed Discharge and Treatment Plant to be built for the sewer system

in Porter Township, Cass County. Mr. Syts wants to hear from us on environmental concerns. Unfortunately, he is not interested in the monetary issues, so please avoid those in your letter to him. This may be your only chance to be heard. I encourage you to take action. If you need help composing a letter, please contact me.

-Lois Groszek
 15105 Birch Lakeshore Drive; 476-9698

Madness

We are divided. The two sides are more polarized than ever. Both camps feel they are right and the other side is under-informed (or worse). By November it will be over. No, not the presidential election (silly), something more important ... the sewer project!

Many will have noticed "Stop the Madness (in Porter Township)" signs. To be fair, as was pointed out by a lake resident, what amounts to madness is in the eye of beholder. Still, we would be wise to cease argument on immaterial topics.

Whether Birch needs a sewer system is no longer the issue. The County is both empowered and required to adopt water quality plans

including development of sewers. Thankfully, the active water quality effort of the past kept Birch pristine and we should continue to care for our puddle as time passes.

There is no longer a legal or political issue. Those thinking they can extract consideration from prior Board members would be well served to read the Michigan Governmental Immunity Act. The Township is under new management. Let's hope once the sewer dilemma is behind us the new Board is diligent in more mundane governmental tasks.

All that remains is a financial issue. When the bonds were sold earlier this year, the covenants pledged the full faith and credit of both the Township and County.

IF the sewer plan were stopped by the County, ALL property owners in the Township would have to repay the millions spent to date and ongoing costs to retire the non-callable bonds.

So, it comes down to this. Each property owner (whether in the sewer district or not) can share in paying millions to get nothing -or- those actually in the sewer district can pay their respective share and get something.

Whatever your preference in this divisive matter, be good to your friends and neighbors. It's OK to have different opinions (because that's all they are), but, at the end of the day, we need to come together again.

-Bob King

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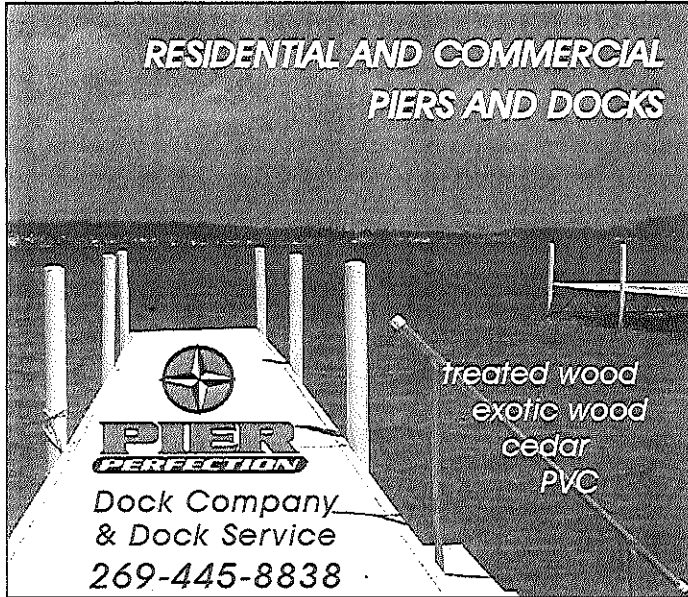
Lost — Pair of glasses in blue case. Lost Memorial Day weekend on East side. Please call 476-2461.

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.

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