

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 25 2005



According to Mr. Bob, herons run like ostrich on the grass.
photo by Bob King

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It was another beautiful weekend. They can be like this all summer long. It is nice to see everyone enjoying the lake. We had friends come for a visit on Sunday. Jean Weaver, as we all know her, and her family came down so the children could swim. It was nice to see them. And we all know the kids love the lake. Kiana, their 7 year old, is going to be a true Birch Laker. She loves the water, and finding the pretty shells kept her busy for a couple of hours.

Don't forget this weekend is the Vice-Commodore's Party at the Yacht Club.

Ryan and Shanna are sure to throw a great party. Remember to bring munchies to share with all our friends. And if you know someone that has not found their way, be sure to lead the way for them. The theme is Caribbean, so wear your finest Hawaiian clothes.

Saturday Benjamin (our middle boy) and I had a game in Sturgis. Off we went only to find that the Sturgis coach cancelled the game and forgot to tell ALL his players and our team totally. So we had a "practice," just a fun game with all the boys from their team and our team. It was a great time. Nyla went to a bridal shower for Deanna Jones (my niece that is renting Dick Benders house on the hill). She had a good time and is wondering why we don't have showers for us that have been married for a while. Deanna got some really nice things. Oh well that's a girl thing.

There will be a Directors meeting on Saturday July 9th at 9 am. Everyone is welcome. If you have any cares or concerns bring them and lets get them figures out. Maybe I can even get Nyla to get some donuts or danish for us along with hot coffee. I will try.

We have noticed A LOT of grass clippings and tree trimmings being blown into the lake. How you ask can we tell it is grass and tree trimmings? Nyla and I raked 2 wheel borrows out Sunday afternoon while Jean and her family were here. Something needs to be done about this.

We had an error in an article last week — the Boat Parade is going to be Saturday, July 2, not July 3 as reported. Thank goodness I am not the only one with the wrong date once in a while.

I want to say a BIG thank you to all of you that have come forward to volunteer to help deliver the Barker. It seems to be working great getting them out on Friday nights. It is great how we can ask for help and people answer. Thank you ALL!

This is a reminder for those who have not paid your dues yet. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!!! We are going to print a list of those who have paid to remind everyone next week!

Keep the speed down; I have to ask myself what has to be done to slow people down. Maybe speed bumps like they have at South Bend Airport — now you will slow down if we do that or you will loose the bottom of your car. The kids and walkers want to be able to be on the roads

BLYC Calendar

June 25.....	Vice Commodore's Party
July 3.....	Boat Parade & Fireworks
July 3.....	Pancake Breakfast & fireworks rain date
July 4.....	Fireworks Clean-up
July 9.....	BLYC Board Meeting, 9 am
July 29.....	Men's Golf Outing
July 30.....	Garage Sale & Great Tube Float
Aug. 5.....	Ladies Golf Outing
Aug 6.....	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 20.....	Fall Dinner

too, so lets all slow down and share the road.

Our neighbors The Parkinsons will be back to the lake after taking a 10-month world trip. They took all 4 of their wonderful children to see the world and see how everyone lives. The girls were home-schooled while they were away. They are planning on being back to the lake on the 29th to enjoy the 4th of July and all the festivities. Stop by. I am sure they would love to share a story or two.

While you are down this way stop in and hear what is new with Terry and Sue Montague's daughter Terilyn and son-in-law Brad.

I will close for now and let you go enjoy the lake. Be safe. We will see all of you at the Vice-Commodore's party.

Don't forget your munchies for all our neighbors/friends.

Splish Splashin' Away.

-John Erhardt, Commodore 2005

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

Birch Lake Notes

Pancake Breakfast

The Annual 4th of July Pancake Breakfast will be July 3rd at Camp Tannadoonah. Breakfast will be served from 8 - 11 am (Indiana time). Adults \$5.00....Children 6 to 10 \$2.00... Children under 5 free.

Racing marker lost

The smallest of the red-orange buoys used for the weekly sailboat races disappeared last Sunday. If you have seen it please contact Phil Vitale at 476-1680 or Don Harman at 476-2039.

Tom's has the Trib

Tom's Garage has reported that they now have South Bend Tribunes available for purchase.

Ladies' coffee a hit

Birch Lake ladies had a great time at the "Welcome Back" coffee at the Yacht Club. It was fun catching up on all the "happenings" of last winter and talking about things to come this summer. A lot of the ladies are joining Lind Harman for Line Dancing on Monday mornings at 10:30 (Ind. Time) at the Yacht Club. It's a fun way to exercise. Also a group of gals walk every morning around 7:30 am. Please feel free to join in. We just pick people up along the way. The Ladies Luncheon is

coming up in August. Watch the Barker for details on another great afternoon of food and good company.

Oops, boat parade

Last weeks article listing the date of the Boat Parade was wrong — it is (as on the calendar) on Saturday, July 3 at 3 pm (Indiana). All participants should register (and bribe the judges) around 2:30 (Indiana) at Dick Bender's pier.

Birch Lake stuff for sale

Sun Visors, foam with coil back in royal blue - \$4; Canvas Totes, navy blue in color imprinted in white - \$12

Bib Aprons, great for the kitchen or outdoor grilling - \$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 - \$30

To buy or order any item, call any of the committee people: Denny Weesner 476-2569; Maryann O'Neil 476-2831; Judy Olson 476-2125; Linda Bergan 476-9359; Vickie Rogers 476-2383.

More Birch Lake stuff for sale

There are a limited number of Egyptian Cotton Bath Sheets and Hand Towels available. Charlene Sheetz and Denise Smitley will be selling the remaining towels at the Vice Commodore's Party on Saturday. You

can also order by calling Denise at 476-9000 or Charlene at 476-2604.

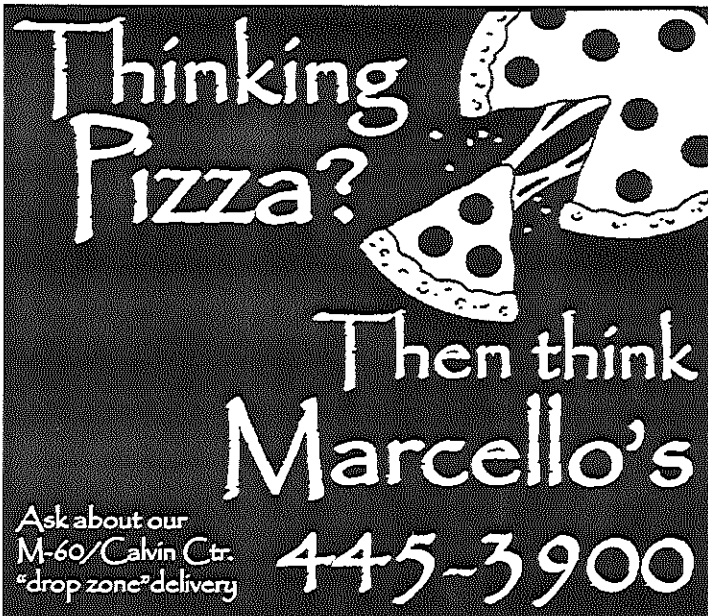
The bath sheets are large enough to be used as beach towels are available in Yellow or Blue-Green. The hand towels are available in Yellow, blue-green, periwinkle and white. The towels are available with or without the embroidered Birch Lake Yacht Club Logo. The Bath Sheets are \$30 with logo and \$25 without. The hand towels are \$14 with and \$12 without. All proceeds benefit the Yacht Club.

Porter Twp Sewer Board

The Porter Township Sewer Board would like residents to know they are available to help. If you have questions or concerns, call a member or attend one of two monthly meetings (Monday nights at 7 pm (MI) at the town hall. Members of the committee are Steve Holtz (chairman), of Long Lake, 641-7008; Carl Klappauf (vice chairman), Birch Lake, 476-2663; Herm Kruggel, Birch Lake, 476-2169; Pam Bryant, Shavehead Lake, 641-2001; and Vicki Hall, Union, 641-2375.

BLYC membership/dues

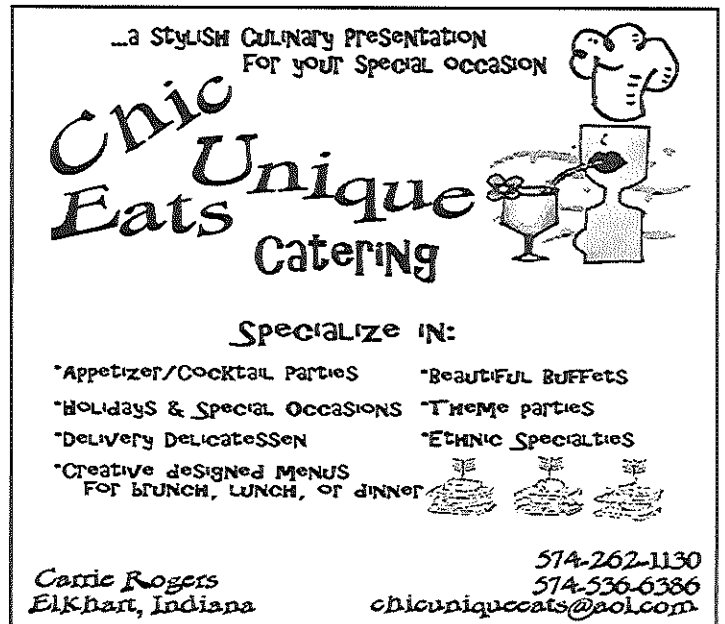
The BLYC Board of Directors would like to remind everyone to please pay their dues for the year. See the form on page 6 for more information.



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Boater Safety Courses

The Safety Committee recently provided information about the boater safety courses in Cass County, but apparently we neglected to mention that you have to pre-register for the courses.

Currently there are 2 courses with vacancies. Interested parties need to pre-register by calling (269) 445-1211 Cheryl or Liz.

On July 23 at Diamond Lake Yacht Club the course is from 8 am-2 pm (Michigan time). That course currently has 50 spots left.

The course on August 6 at Eagle Lake from is from 8 am-2pm. That course still has 70 spots left.

This weekend's course at Midway Marina and the 07/16 course at Indian Lake are completely filled.

If you are attending the courses they ask you to bring your own lunch and a pencil.

Vice Commodore Party

Everyone is invited! Be sure to attend the vice commodore party at the Yacht Club this Saturday night starting at 6 (Indiana).

All "regulars" who attend these Yacht Club parties are encouraged to bring along an "irregular" who has never attended a Yacht Club party or who doesn't come often.

Our theme is Caribbean, so wear a flowered shirt and sandals and you'll fit right in. It would be appreciated if everyone could please bring a dish to share with your neighbors.

-Ryan & Shanna Gableman

Ladies Luncheon?

A Ladies Luncheon is being discussed for the end of July, early August. The glorious luncheons of the past few years cannot be surpassed so to make things really easy and simple the idea was to meet at a local restaurant and let them do all of the work. If you are interested in this please let Blair Garceau know Saturday at the vice commodor's party or anytime in the next couple of weeks.

In case you didn't know...

Princess Tannadoonah arrives Friday night at the camp!

A note from Marian the Librarian

A weekly column has proven to be to be too much and it cut into my leisurely reading...BUT...I would love to coordinate a "Book of the Week" item. If you have a book you have read and would recommend or just tell us what's on your pile of summer reads pass the information on to Phil Vitale (email is listed somewhere in this paper) or let Carol Freihofer, Debbie

Bolinger, Blair Garceau or Nyla Erhardt know. They'll send the info to me, Marian. Birch Lake Kids we want your recommendations too!!

To start us off: The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith. I have already read the first four in the series and I am planning a few days on the pier in July with the fifth. It is about Mma Precous Ramotswa and her small adventures with her life, her work (the detective agency) and her beloved homeland of Botswana. It's not a page turner thriller but just a lovely story.

See that wasn't too hard to do, so send your ideas in today. You can take credit for your recommendation or send it in anonymously. It would be great to have each area of the lake have a voice for reading. Last year we had the Cove, the Northside and the Eastside tell us their recommendations. This year let's get all the sides to enlighten us.

HP devotees...22 days!!

-Marian

Be safe! Slow down!

We need to yell at the kids on the powerboats who are acting dangerously, jumping off when they're going 40 miles per hour, speeding through the night, trespassing on Tannadoonah. Ask where their parents are and remind them their voices carry over the water.

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Birch Lake Notes

Don't forget the line dancing

Every Monday at 10:30 a group of Birch Lakers are gathering at the yacht club for line dancing and line dance training from instructor Lind Harman. All are welcome.

Diamond sailers extend invite

The Diamond Lake Yacht Club and the MC Fleet #28 will host the 21st annual Michigan MC Championship Regatta on July 29, 30 & 31.

The \$55 boat registration includes two breakfasts, two lunches, refreshments, trophies and a favor. Saturday dinner alone is \$15; additional breakfasts are \$5; additional lunches are \$6.

Five races are currently scheduled (a minimum of one race constitutes a regatta). The Racing Rules of Sailing will govern.

You can register online at the website: www.mcscow.org/fleet28/2005, or contact George Friend at the DLYC clubhouse by calling 445-3201, via e-mail at: gfriend@apom.com, or by calling his work phone, 574-232-8211.

BLYC Men's Open Golf

The Birch Lake Yacht Club's annual Men's Open Golf Tournament will be July 29th at Park Shore Golf Course.

The Florida Scramble will cost \$60 (with a cart — first 60 people with reser-



Bob and Gert Temple enjoying a beautiful fathers day.

photo courtesy of the PattiCam

ervations that include payment will get carts); \$50 for non-riders.

The event will begin at Noon with a shotgun start. Refreshments will be provided at the course. A prime rib dinner will follow (beginning at 6 pm) at the yacht club. Cash prizes will be awarded at the tournament for low gross, closest to the pin and straightest drive.

Reservations should be made to Fred Freihofer, 50631 Deer Ridge Dr., Granger, IN 46350 (please include your entry fee for your team with your reservations ... make checks payable to BLYC).

For information call Fred at 476-9823, 574-272-3683, 574-286-0009 (mobile) or e-mail him at ffreihofer@aol.com.

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BLYC MEN'S OPEN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday, July 29

Park Shore Golf Course
Florida Scramble / Shotgun Start
at Noon

\$60/golfer (with cart ... first 60 reservations
with payment will get carts)

\$50/non-riding golfer

Prime rib dinner follows at 6 pm

RESERVATION FORM

Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____
Name: _____

Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

No. of Carts reserved: _____

Mail reservations to: Fred Freihofer, 50631 Deer Ridge Dr., Granger, IN 46350 (please include your entry fee for your team with your reservations ... make checks payable to BLYC).

BLYC Sailing News



Just another typical weekend of difficult Birch Lake winds...



For the second week in a row we had challenging conditions. I don't recall ever having a race like the first one last Sunday, where I had to sail close hauled for at least part of all 3 legs of a triangular course. The wind was from any and all compass points at some time during the race. In fact, the judges on the com-

mittee boat set the start line for the second race the same as the finish line for the first race; and no sailor could disagree with that conclusion.

Thank you Deb Bolinger, Jay Bolinger, Patti Russwurm and Art McElwee for being the race committee.

-Dave Olson, Fleet Captain

Standings after week 3:

Name 1st Race 2nd Race Average

MC Class

1. Scott Troeger	1	1	1630
2. Don Harman	3	2	1559
3. Harold Cranmer	2	DNS	1542
4. Rick Harman	DNS	DNS	1523
5. Jim Bolinger	4	4	1441
6. Phil Vitale	5	3	1367
7. Caleb Walker	DNS	DNS	1328
8. Bill Luecht	6	6	1317
9. Rick Russwurm	7	5	1214

Sunfish "A"

1. Tom Howard	2	1	1638
2. Dave Olson	1	2	1636
3. Sandy Vitale	3	4	1525
4. Erica Vitale	4	3	1426

Sunfish "B"

1. Steve Richards	1	1	1634
2. Cal King & Neil Troeger	DNF	DNS	1610
3. Nancy Walker	DNS	DNS	1580

Sailing buoys missing

We have lost 2 sailing buoys this summer while they were on the lake.

One was found but its mooring line had been cut. Each time a buoy line is cut, the anchor line falls to the bottom of the lake so that we lose the line as well as the anchor.

Please leave the buoys where they are.

And please don't see how close you can drive your boat or wave runner to the buoy, you might cut the anchor line.

The BLYC sailors thank you for your consideration.

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For Rent: Cottage on beautiful north side. Three bedrooms, sleeps 6. Indoor plumbing. \$750 per week. Discounts available. Contact Stewart Spratt at 269.476.2113 or 574.291.3227.

For Sale — Cedar pier sections; approximately 48 foot with approximately 10x10 platform — plus hardware and a ladder. \$500. 476-9658

or (219) 464-4268.

For Sale — Jr. Golf Clubs (putter, 3 irons, driver) with backpack-style carrying case. Ideal for 9-12 yr old. Excellent condition. 262-796-0189.

For Sale — 1992 Yamaha Waverunner - Good condition - includes 2 place trailer \$ 1,000 Ball # 104, 476-9775

Sale boat for sail: 14' day sailer with trailer. yellow and white. has competed successfully in the kids regatta. self baling; does NOT sink if tipped. good learning boat. \$300 OBO contact Lu

476-2652

WANTED:

Kids' sandbox (ground level or stand-up box), toddler bike or trike (or age appropriate riding toys for a 2-year old), croquet set.

Please contact Beth Olson at jeffandbeth1@sbcglobal.net or 317.259.7540.

WANTED TO RENT

Want to rent lake place with 3 bedrooms or more for the week of July 24 (or days around weekend of July 30th). Call Diana Henderson-Wozny at dwozny@crowechizek.com or 574-272-7896

LOST & FOUND

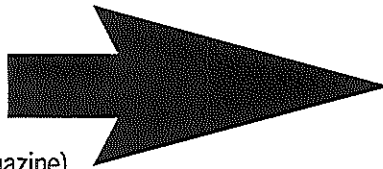
Lost: Wheel mounted to a short axle used on a shore station. Floated away this spring. Cottage 00, east lot next to the creek. Call Paul Rzeszewski 574-288-7936 or cell 574-340-3542

GOT A CLASSIFIED?

Birch Barker classified ads are free for members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members must pay \$5 per listing. To submit an ad, put it in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Road (east side), or e-mail it to the Barker at: sailorphil@philvitale.com

Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

- \$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
- \$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ___ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ ___ - Water Quality Program
- \$ ___ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other (non-party related expenses)



Mail to:
Holly Troeger, Treasurer
1516 Ash Drive East
Elkhart, IN 46514

Drop off at:
63696 Birch Road (call 591-1627)

Make checks payable to:
Birch Lake Yacht Club

Total \$ _____

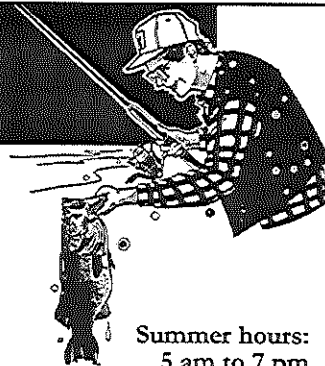
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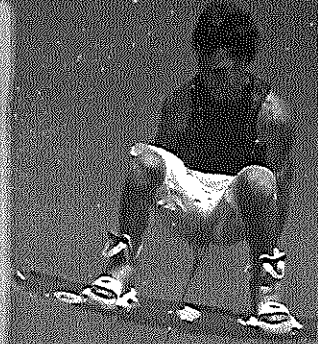
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WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman.....476-8877
 Terry Dugan.....476-2814

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2005 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, Bill King and Rick Russwurm. There are quite a few 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.



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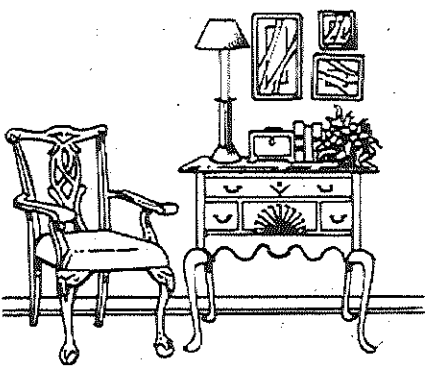
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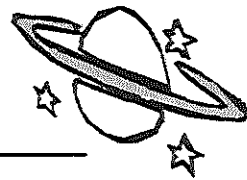
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Stu's Star Stuff



Planets get close together

If you paid attention throughout the week you noticed that the three evening planets, Venus, Saturn and Mercury, have been pulling closer and closer together. The relative positions of the planets are now changing significantly.

You may need a play by play to keep track. Saturn has dropped 1.3 degrees to the lower left of Venus. Mercury inches closer to Venus, tonight sitting half a degree to the latter's lower right.

Tonight we are rewarded when the threesome forms its most compact arrangement yet. Venus is clearly the brightest of the three.

Can you determine which is brighter between Mercury and Saturn? Look in the west northwest about 45 minutes to an hour after sunset.

The planets fit within 1.5 degrees. That's small enough to fit easily within most binoculars' fields of view. By tomorrow evening Mercury and Venus will have slid ovetop Saturn. The Ringed Planet will be 1.6 degrees below them then. The separation between the tight knit duo will be more than halved in 24 hours. Venus and Mercury will be only 0.2 degrees apart.

But wait. The show gets even better Monday night. Try to locate the stars Pollux and Castor, 8 degrees to Venus' right.

Finally, on Tuesday Venus and Mercury appear so close that their apparent separation depends on whether you view them from the East Coast or the West Coast. From New York the two

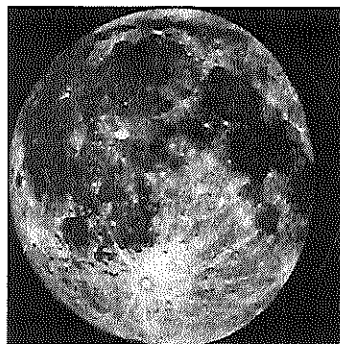
are 7 arcminutes apart (6 arcminutes is one-tenth degree). On the sunny coast of California the separation is 9 arcminutes, (but you won't be able to see them if it's sunny) and in Hawaii it's 10 arcminutes.

You will be witnessing the closest two-planet grouping (astronomers call it an appulse) of the year. So get out there and enjoy the show. Don't miss this fine exhibition of planetary motion.

And this is too good to be free so I'm going to start charging. I'll be around to collect.

Next week we'll go for a dizzying ride.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon tonight:

The moon for June 25, 2005 (at Midnight):

2.5 days before last quarter

Illuminated Fraction: 0.763

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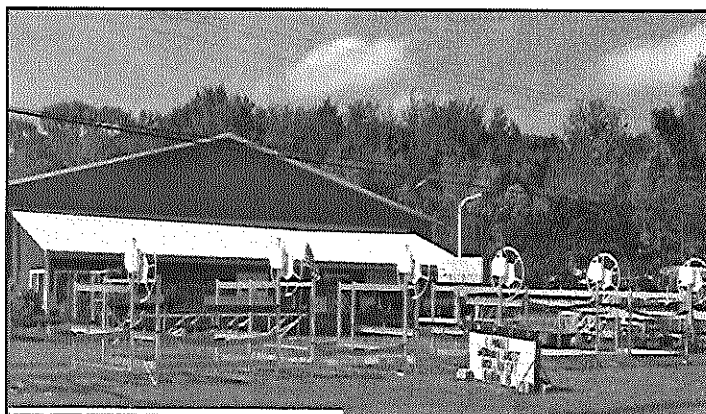


FOUR WINNS

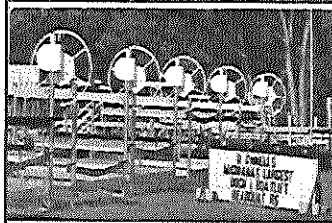
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Nautiques

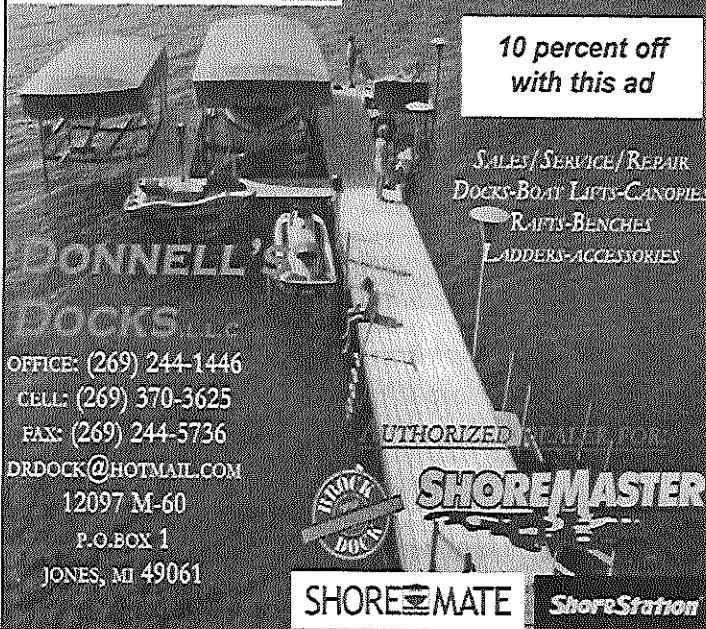
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Sponsor a kid at Camp T

Hello Campers! It's summer time at Birch Lake. Yea! Ah, the memories of summers past. Doesn't it make you think of those wonderful days spent at camp?

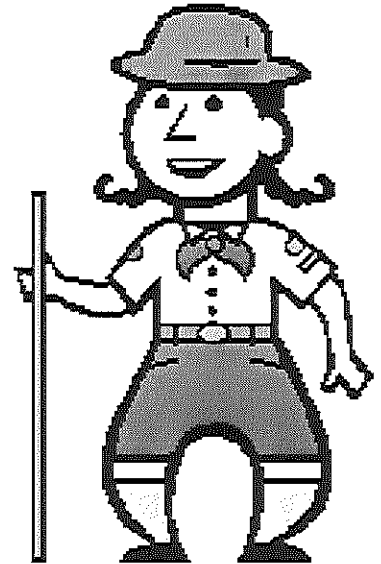
Or maybe you didn't go but your kids or grandkids were fortunate enough to go to camp and they have shared the memories of their exciting and fun camp experiences.

I can't wait to hear the stories from my granddaughter when she is old enough to go to camp. (She'll be born sometime in late July so I guess I'll need to get sto-

ries from other kids for a time). I'll have to be patient.

Ok, I'll stop rambling and get to the point. Camp Tannadoonah has given us a great opportunity to share a gift of camping. You can be a sponsor for a child in our community who doesn't have the financial means to participate. It's just this simple; all you have to do is send your tax-deductible contributions to:

Camp Fire
2828 E Jefferson
South Bend In 46615



and be sure to write "CAMPER-SHIP" in the memo line.

A \$245 contribution will create a whole week of fun and exciting memories.

A \$165 contribution creates a day camp opportunity for fun and exciting memories.

Or a \$150 contribution gives some youngster an opportunity to attend a

mini week of fun and exciting memories.

Send in your contribution and then putz by the camp and listen to the laughter you've helped create.

-Patti Russwurm

Rumor central and Camp T

There has apparently been a rumor around the lake recently that the camp has been sold or is for sale. According to Camp Tannadoonah's director, Mr. Dug, neither rumor has any basis in fact — the rumors are FALSE. The camp has not been sold nor is it for sale.

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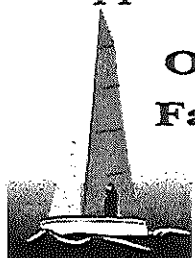
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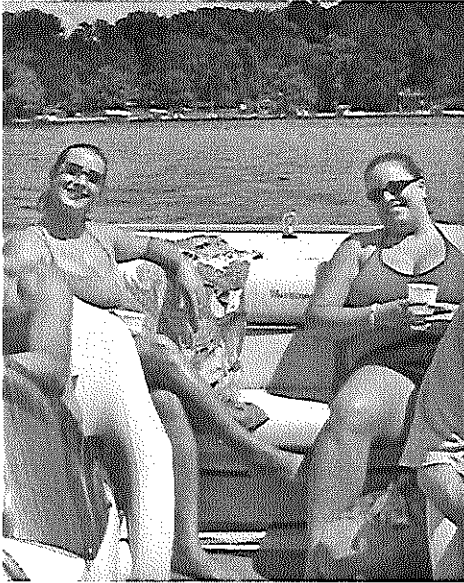
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Birch Lake Images



Niece Dana Hughes and make up artist friend Gabby came to do an ambush makeover on Aunt Patti however, they themselves were ambushed by 'sip and strips.'

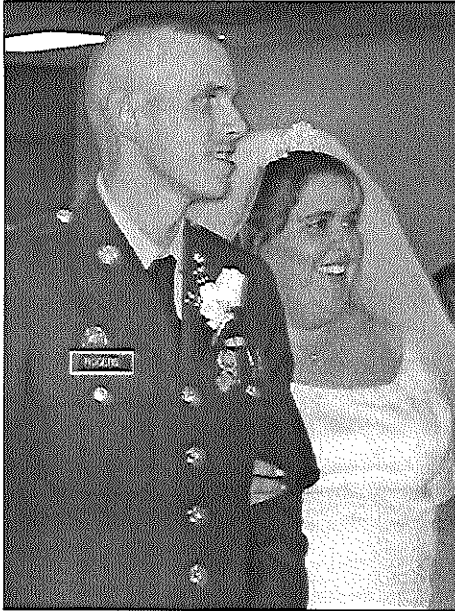


Nephew Peyton and his favorite Grandma and Great Grandma cutting a rug at Randy & Jennifer's wedding reception



Dog gone beautiful day to be out on a boat hanging out with your humans"

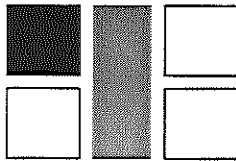
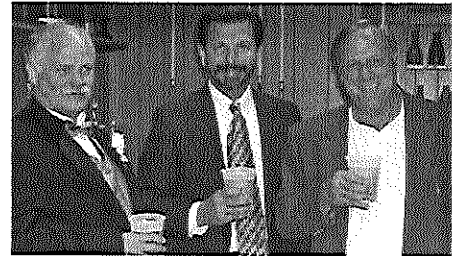
photos courtesy of the PattiCam



Barker Kids of the week Randy & Jennifer Rogers

Congratulations to Randy and Jennifer Rogers who were married last Saturday, June 18 in South Bend.

Randy is the son of Tom (below) and Vickie (left) Rogers who live in the Cove.



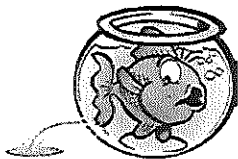
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We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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