

Birch Barker

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Weekend of September 1, 2007



photo courtesy of Bob King

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Where has the summer gone??? I can't believe that this is the last barker for this year to go to print. It seems like just a couple of weeks ago I was installing my dock and putting the boats in the water. It's amazing how fast our days, weeks and years go by. For myself the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day goes way too quickly.

I know many of you will getting started on your first chores for the upcoming winter hibernation but, don't forget we still have several events scheduled for this Fall yet. The card party will be towards the middle of September, and the great chili cook-off will be in October.

Both dates should be announced in the next week or so in the online barker.

What a perfect week weather-wise. Looks like the rain is out of here and some mild temperatures are forecast for this holiday weekend. On this note please be extremely cautious this holiday weekend. The lake will have a lot of extra people trying to enjoy it's beauty and cool waves. Last Sunday, at one time we had at least 20 non-resident boats at the access. Doesn't take long to overcrowd the lake with that many more boats. Please have a safe and enjoyable Labor day weekend.

Finally I would like to thank all the people that either called or sent me a card this past week. It's an awesome feeling to know that so many people care and are willing to help in a time of crisis. To keep

Tentative BLYC Calendar

- Sept. 1BLYC Board Meeting 9 am
- Sept. 3BLYC Sailing Awards
- Sept 15.....Book Group, 10 am, Weesner's
- TBACard Party
- TBA.....The Great Chili Cook-off

everyone up to date, my surgery is Friday and I should be back at the lake either Friday evening or Saturday morning. Everything is looking very positive. Hope to see you on the H20.

-Mike Lutz, Commodore 2008

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. 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). You can also mail your items to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

— Birch Lake Notes —

Thanks from Phil

Once again I'd like to thank all of the folks who helped make the Birch Barker a success this year.

Thanks to my friend Dick for handling ads (even though you were down south when we started and when you came back you were movin' sloooow).

Special thanks to the regular weekly columnists and contributors— we all appreciate your work and the time you spent to entertain and educate us.

Thanks to Big Ben Wozniak who's Nimbus 2 gajillion mega-pixel camera provided so many of this year's Barker cover photos.

Thanks to Miss Amber and the kids at Camp Tannadoonah who provided all the cool photos and camp info.

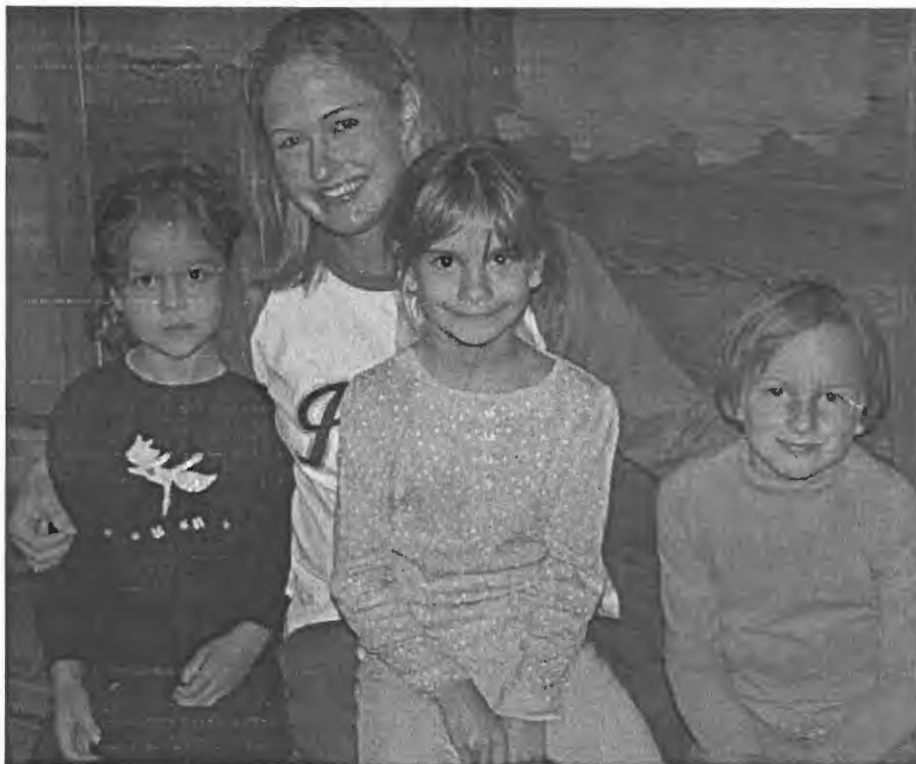
Thanks to the carriers who delivered the paper to all corners of the lake every week ... your dedication is appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who sent in a news item or a kid of the week picture ... your neighbors around Birch Lake enjoy your participation.

And finally, thanks to all of the Birch Barker readers for all the wonderful comments this year ... you have all made this season truly a labor of love.

-Phil Vitale
Barker Editor 2000-2007

Birch Lake Kids of the Week



Miss Amber submitted this great photo of Birch "camper buddies," Morgann Applegate, Claire Brovold and Amanda Butler from the Fall Dinner

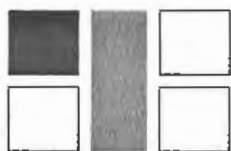
Audition Notice

The Repertory Company players, or "The Company" is holding auditions for their annual holiday review, Singin and Dancin into the Holidays. Three paid

positions available. Auditions will be held on September 10th at 7-9 at Battell Center theatre, 904 North Main, Mishawaka. Pianist will be provided, and come prepared to sing a music selection of your

choice.

The Como family and "The Company" will present their annual performance at The "newly Remodeled" Battell Center Theatre on November 2-3,



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

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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BENDER

supports the Birch Barker



He may be moldy but he ain't plastic!

**And he probably won't remember your name
until you've know him for years ... but, hey
He wants everyone here to...**

'Have A Safe and Fun Summer!'

— Birch Lake Notes —

9-10,16-17. The theatre is at 904 North Main Street, Mishawaka, IN 46637. Curtain time is 8 p.m.

Since the beautiful remodel has taken place, seating at Battell Center Theatre has dropped from 650 to 350, so seating for all performances is limited. Get your tickets early!! Ticket prices are \$9 for seniors, and \$10 for adults. We, at "The Company," are sorry about the hike in ticket prices, however, we have 300 fewer seats, but we hope it will be much more comfortable. So we hope it is worth the rise in ticket prices! For reserve tickets or for information about tickets please call 574-258-1667 or 574-243-7704 www.thecompanyplayers.com

Line Dancing

Thanks to the gals that came to Line Dance. We've had fun and will keep going till sometime in October. Lots of laughs and great improvement!

-Lind

Pirate Bob?

The Birch Barker has learned that Bob King apparently has been watching too many Pirates of the Caribbean movies, with their tales of ghost ships and invisible crews and neglecting his knot-tying skills — which resulted in the sighing of at least one ghost MC flying along the North Shore without any apparent pilot.

Be sure to ask former Boy Scout Bob how to tie a bowline ...

Birch Lake Kid of the Week



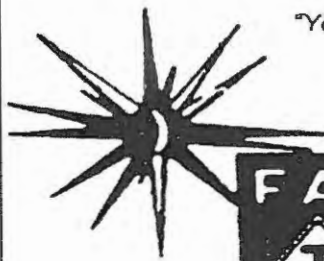
Katie Luecht gets Kid of the Week honors for celebrating her 14th birthday recently ... especially if she'll share the moolah with the Barker guy.

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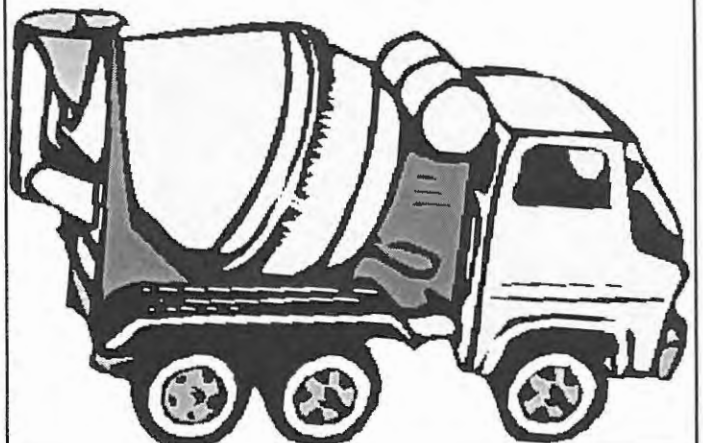
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— Birch Lake Notes —

Birch Lake Kids of the Week



New Vice Commodore Paul Fallon and his wife, Celia, get kid of the week honors just because I had this funny pic (and because they're really good eggs, too).

This week's Questions*:

44. Sharks killed 15 people in tropical locations last year, but what far more deadly menace killed 150?
45. In 1974 it was in January; in 1975 it was in February; every year since it's been in April. What is it?
46. This was the first magazine to sell a billion copies in a single year.
47. What common household device debuted in 1942 with the first mode called 'The Space Commander'?
48. Other than a joke or laugh, what is a 'ha-ha'?

Answers to last week's Questions

39. A man's 12 week old son has 300 of these, but the man himself has just 206. What? **Bones!**
40. What important invention was envisioned by a 14 year old named Philo Farnsworth while he plowed his father's potato field? **Television! He saw that an electron beam could scan an image in the same back and forth way we read a book...or plow a field!**
41. In France in 1991, moviegoers flocked to see the hit Life, Love, Cows. In most other countries the film was called something else. What? **City Slickers!**
42. If you're walking down the street and "fillipping": what are you doing? **Snapping your fingers!**
43. Katherine Hepburn and Hugh Hefner had the same major in college. What was it? **Psychology! Hepburn's degree is from Bryn Mawr and Hef's from the University of Illinois!**

*Answers will appear in the Online Barker ... watch your email or sign up at: www.philvitale.com/barker

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July - Aug. 1944
THE BIRCH BARKER

Volume 1.

Devoted to the News of Birch Lake, Mich.

Number 2

Romance.

Miss Ruth Kesler spent a few days in Alabama and returned with an engagement ring from Troy Yoder. The ring has one center diamond with 2 smaller diamonds on each side. Troy was the Conservation Officer before he left. Well, here's the story: He took an Air Corps test to see how well he would average. The test brought forth such a high score that they requested him to join, so he is now stationed at Alabama as a cadet in the Army Air Corps.



The Wagner cottage is finally finished and Thursday of last week they spent their first night in the new cottage.

We feel it should be known that there is a talented artist in our midst. Mrs. John Scannell has been doing a series of beautiful paintings of the south side of the lake.

The attendance at the Polkirest Boy's Club has been so heavy during the season so far that Mr. Polk has not as yet been able to break away long enough to start his season's fishing.

Mr. & Mrs. Chas. Kimmeler were guests of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Sakra. Pvt. & Mrs. Wm. Wade and daughter, Judy, were also guests for a few days.

Miss Judy Poppin of Indianapolis visited at the Carpenter's cottage as the guest of Lieut. Edgar Carpenter who is home on a ten day leave.

Mr. & Mrs. Rufus W. Smith of South Bend spent Sunday with G. B. and family. Mr. Smith reports the fishing very good on an army cot under a big shade tree.

Mr. & Mrs. Ray Basse and son, Bobby, from New Market, Ind., visited Mr. and Mrs. DeBank at Birch Lake.

Mrs. Jess Priem of Elkhart spent several days visiting the Perkin's and Gentshorn's in the Stair cottage.

Bud Robinson, son of Robert Robinson, of Jones cottage, is spending a few days at Birch Lake while on a liberty until August 1st. He is in the Naval Air Corps.

Barbara Bonick and Dave Hance are spending a few days in Miles.

If you have any comments or suggestions as to the improvement of the Birch Barker write us a note and hand it to the reporters when they visit your cottage.

The Editors.

CAN YOU IMAGINE.

Mr. Kesler taking a vacation and not working.

Mr. Zesinger taking a vacation and working.

Mrs. Hanson baking unostentatious rolls. Tubby (owner of Tubby's General Store) refusing aid to anyone at anytime.

Baby Griffin playing soft ball with the kids.

Mrs. F. W. Modelum going chub fishing and not getting chiggers.

Ruth Kesler two-fishing Troy Yoder. Judy and Linda Ebeling staying off the pier.

Mr. & Mrs. Lester Meyers and daughter, Jean, and Howie Anderson are spending a week at Torch Lake in Northern Michigan.

Fred Mulrine and his twin brother from Spokane entertained a party of Studebaker men at a card party at Mil-Haven.

Clarence Garwood of South Bend was a caller on Fred Mulrine.

Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Frank from Detroit were week end guests of Dr. Read and family.

Mr. Bushots caught a 3-3/4 lb. Bass from Birch Lake.

Patria Harvey has returned home from Calumet City. She was the guest of Delores Budd and family.

Mr. & Mrs. Al Tracy and Mr. & Mrs. Don Sorberg of South Bend were guests at Mil-Haven.

A Weiner Road was held at the Parker's July 18th. Thirty attended. Lots of fun was had by all.

Mrs. Zesinger and Mrs. Cox were shoppers in Three Rivers last week.

Dr. Miller aided in removing a fish hook from the mouth of a chow dog. The dog belongs to Jack Howley, age 67, from South Bend, Indiana, who is spending a week at Hill Top.

Mr. & Mrs. Earl Bridge of Elkhart occupied the L. E. Polk cottage week before last.

Dr. & Mrs. Milby of Maywood, Illinois, and George and Ruth Miller along with Miss Bertrude Benton, of Chicago, are spending a few weeks at Okidell.

Irene de Graaff and Curt Gustafson, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Addington and Daughter, Patty, were guests of the Elmer Johnson's, of Keweenaw.

Margo Jean Pillsbury and Bobby Winterstein are returning to South Bend after an enjoyable vacation of swimming and washing dishes (mostly swimming) at the Kesler's.

Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Albert, of Nishnawbe, occupied the Shaw cottage last week.

The Hanson house has been opened by Harry Dimsen, Jr. and family. Mrs. William Pollett and children were guests and Mr. & Mrs. P. D. Hanson-house of Sonardale, New York, will arrive August 5th.

Mr. & Mrs. Estus Kesler entertained Mr. & Mrs. E. Christiansen and Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Johnson to a lovely dinner. After dinner they all played Pinochle. (The ladies won.)

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Sundberg, Katie and John, were guests of Mr. & Mrs. G. E. Cox and family.

Watch for the next issue of the "Birch Barker"

Ten Gar Pike were taken in 11 sets in Birch Lake 18 two largest one measured 32-1/2" was long.

Red Griffin has reported some nice blue gill catches in the last week.



Mr. Fred Ebeling, of Blue Heaven, II caught an eighteen inch German Brown Trout in front of his cottage.

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Sea Fever

by John Masefield

I must go down to the sea again,
to the lonely sea and the sky,
And all I ask is a tall ship
and a star to steer her by;
And the wheel's kick and the wind's
song
and the white sail's shaking,
And a grey mist on the sea's face,
and a grey dawn breaking.

I must go down to the seas again,
for the call of the running tide
Is a wild call and a clear call
that may not be denied;
All I ask is a windy day
with the white clouds flying,
And the flung spray and the blown
spume,
and the seagulls crying.

I must go down to the seas again,
to the vagrant gypsy life,
To the gull's way and the whale's way,
where the wind's like a whetted knife;
And all I ask is a merry yarn f
rom a laughing fellow-rover,
And a quiet sleep and a sweet dream
when the long trip's over.

I first saw this poem nearly five years ago on Phil's wall when Erica and I first started dating and I thought it nice, but unremarkable. I

didn't "get it" yet.

The poem was just a little piece of art on the wall of a lake house, nothing more. To me, the sea was just a nightmare of interminable deployments, holidays missed and many other heart wrenching disappointments.

But this wasn't really the "Sea." This wasn't the love of every Sailor; it was just an image of a time in my past that I wished to bury without ceremony. But the Sea had other plans in mind for me.

In the fall of 2003, I went over to the King's house on a brisk Saturday morning after Bob had called asking for crew for his E-Scow, the Ego. I had done many things so far in my life, but never actual sailing, so I said I would give it a try. I had been watching the races all summer and thought that it might be a little fun.

After an endless time in the cold water, playing with rigging and lines and I still don't know what else, we were ready to go. I started to think this might be okay.

But when I climbed on board and first felt the push and pitch of sail versus wind, I felt the burn inside, the true excitement of sailing and I knew that this was really it. I became a Sailor that day and caught the "fever."

I did everything that I could to find a boat and started sailing on my

own in the spring of 2004. Three years, two terms as Fleet Captain and one last place boat later and I am still having the time of my life.

"Sea Fever" really does describe the feeling; a feverish call to the freedom of the open water, a thirst for a spray of water and a blast of wind, reminding you that You Are Alive!

I read the poem above so much differently now, more of a prayer of hope, a confession of a not-so-secret obsession and even a definition of who I have become. I read it now in my own voice, not the words written by another. I know that many of our regular sailors have seen it; I know one that would admit that it describes him as well. It isn't until now, as I finish my second term as Fleet Captain, that I really can place myself in the author's ship, and see his horizons.

For some of us, the fever for the Sea is real, it is Living; a thing as necessary as our next breath. To take a Sailor from the Sea is to take the spirit of a man away and coldly watch his eyes as they fade; To take a Sailor from the Sea is to take a child from its mother, heartless to their collective cries. It cannot be done. It should not be done.

As my own horizons now change and my course with them, I will be grateful for each moment that I have had the chance to be part of this com-





munity and to serve it in whatever capacity that I could. Thank you to one and all of you who have been of so much help during the past two years. It is now my time for a "quiet sleep and a sweet dream."

Now I look forward to just a little bit of sailing with Erica in the Couple's Regatta next weekend and maybe even a little sail with Dominic as the year winds down to a close.

Oh, we also have the Labor Day Regatta this Saturday and Sunday, at 1 PM both days. Please one and all come out and sail! Everyone is welcome!

All are also welcome to the Sailing Awards at 11 AM on Labor Day at the BLYC.

Sorry, but it's time to go, I do have a bit of a "fever" after all ... maybe a little breeze and some fresh air would help ...



Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Steve Richards
2006-2007 BLYC Fleet Captain

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2007 BLYC 7/8/07 Results, Final Standings (Season)

Races Races Completion Place Season Season Final
 Race 14 Att'd Comp Percentage Avg Total Points Point Avg Place

MC Scow

Harold Cranmer	1	13	12	85.71	2.000	19568	1505.231	1st
Bob King	4	14	14	100.00	3.214	20009	1429.214	2nd
Phil Vitale	3	14	14	100.00	4.000	19652	1403.714	3rd
Jeff Smitley	2	11	11	78.57	3.818	15239	1385.364	4th
Bill Luecht	5	14	14	100.00	5.083	18701	1335.786	5th
Scott Troeger**	DNS	9	9	64.29	1.857	13932	1548.000	6th
Don Harman**	DNS	8	8	57.14	2.750	11718	1464.750	7th
Jim Bolinger**	DNS	3	3	21.43	4.000	4113	1371.000	8th

Sunfish A Fleet

Tom Howard	1	13	13	100.00	1.857	19870	1528.46	1st
Dave Olson	DNS	11	11	84.62	2.455	16364	1487.64	2nd
Sandy Vitale	DNS	13	13	100.00	3.909	18352	1411.69	3rd
Erica Vitale	DNS	11	11	84.62	3.700	15527	1411.55	4th
Rick Russwurm**	DNS	6	6	46.15	1.833	9211	1535.17	5th
Ashley Marquez**	DNS	5	5	38.46	4.000	6861	1372.20	6th
Steve Richards**	CB	4	4	30.77	6.000	4902	1225.50	7th
Nancy Walker**	DNS	0	0	0	0.000	3200	0.00	8th

Junior Fleet

Katie Luecht	1	14	14	100.00	1.100	22321	1594.357	1st
Neil Troeger**	DNS	1	1	7.14	1	1600	1600	2nd

Regular Season Scoring* All Season point averages are now including points / races for Committee Boat and/or Safety Boat Service

** Sailor below qualifying percentage for Season

***Regatta races will count toward total races required to qualify in class for season

SB- Safety Boat will be scored at End-of-Season as Committee Boat Service

DNS - (Did Not Sail) does not count for or against any sailor; however a minimum of 2/3 of total season races must be completed to qualify in class
 CB - Any sailor who volunteers to operate the Race Committee Boat and/or act as Starter will receive the point equivalent of a First Place finish for that day and will be counted in final season totals

DNF - (Did not Finish) will equal Last Place of Class minus 1 place (i.e. 5 boats race in class, DNF equals 6th place)

DQF - (Disqualified Foul/CB Ruling/Other) will equal Last Place of Class minus 1 place (i.e. 5 boats race in class, DNF equals 6th place)

GCDQ - (Gross Misconduct Disqualified) will count as zero points for that race or day (CB ruling)

Season points are determined using the Square 40 Scoring System (1st place equals 40 squared, 2nd place equals 39 squared, etc.)

Season place is determined by totalling season points and dividing by races completed. DNF does not count toward required season race minimum

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Tannadoonah Tidbits



Labor Day is here, signaling the unofficial end of the summer. This year has flown by for me, and we're already starting to plan for the 2008 camp season. It's been a great year, and hopefully next year will be even better. Our final count for campers this summer was 370, well short of our goal of 450. But next year we'll be aiming even higher, with new and exciting themes, as well as some special events.

Next year (2008) is a Patteran Year. The Patteran is a tradition that takes place every 5 years. The last week of camp is always Gypsy Week in Patteran Years, and we have special songs, events, and activities that take place during this week. It all culminates in a hunt for the Patteran, which is a Time Capsule that has been buried somewhere on the camp property after the last Patteran. When we find the Patteran, we will open it to read the scrolls inside. It's very exciting to read about camp from 5 years ago, and even more exciting to see what campers wrote 50 or more years ago. My sister and I even found our Grandmother's signature from when she attended Camp Tannadoonah as a child! Plus it's the last week of camp, so campers who come to Gypsy Week get to participate in the candlelight serenade on the last night.

Camp Tannadoonah Tentative schedule for next summer:

June 22 - June 28.....	Survivor Week
June 29 - July 2.....	Mini week - theme TBA
June 22 - July 2.....	Super Week
July 6 - July 12.....	Dr. Seuss Week
July 13 - July 19.....	Outer Space Week
July 20 - July 26.....	International Week
July 13 - July 26.....	CIT 2
July 27 - August 2.....	Olympic Week
July 20 - August 2.....	CIT 1
August 3 - August 9	Gypsy Week

Also, don't forget that even though the summer has ended, we still have fun things going on up at camp:

September 7-9 is Fall Camp for kids. Sign up today at www.tannadoonah.org! September 29-30 will be our Women's Retreat. October 5-7 is family camp. And October 12 is the Tannadoonah Fundraiser Dinner. Work days will be held throughout the fall, and we would love to have extra hands! If you want more information on any of these events, please contact

me (Amber@tannadoonah.org).

I hope that everyone at the lake has enjoyed this summer as much as I have. Chas and I are so excited to be officially a part of the lake community now, and we look forward to seeing all of you soon. Thanks for a great year at Birch Lake!

-Miss Amber, aka

Amber Holleman Grundy, Ph.D.

Director, Camp Tannadoonah

amber@tannadoonah.org

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This is the last printed Birch Barker of the season — Don't miss your chance to buy these great Birch Lake apparel items!

Dear Birch Lakers:

Please join me in a big "thank you" to **Coy Jankowski** for donating his time and extensive talents for the benefit of our Birch Lake family and friends.

If you should you have any questions concerning the apparel available for order, feel free to give me a call. If you are interested in pursuing additional artwork from Coy, you may contact him directly via his email address: www.coyjankowski@aol.com.

Depending upon the number and size of orders received, delivery time is estimated to be two weeks from the date the initial order is placed. I will warehouse the apparel items in my home and will dispense them from

here until November 19th (Thanksgiving week). Orders will need to be prepaid by check made payable to BLYC where funds will be kept in a designated account.

The Board and I would like to consider adding additional items with Coy's designs at the Spring Dinner, 2008. We are considering: plastic drink glasses, beach towels, waffle-weave bathrobes, long-sleeved cotton t-shirts, walking shorts and/or a ladies' walking shirt/pants set as well.

Please keep in mind when ordering that Christmas is only four months away! Thank you for your consideration and support of the Birch Lake Yacht Club!

Fran Welch
476-2370

New designs by Coy Jankowski — Exclusively for the Birch Lake Yacht Club



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB 2007 ORDER FORM

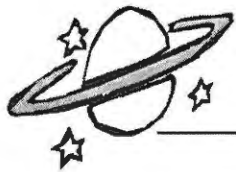
CIRCLE CHOICES

APPAREL ITEMS	DESIGN	APPAREL COLOR	SIZE				Qty	COST*
Sweatshirt (50/50 cotton)	Bird	Bikini	Black or White	Youth	S M L			\$20
	Boat	Turtle		Women	S M L	XL		
				Men	S M L	XL	XXL	
Sweatpants (50/50 cotton) <small>Women's-draw string/no pockets or elastic leg w/pockets, Birch Lake written down one side</small>	Bird	Bikini	Black or White	Youth	S M L			\$20
	Boat	Turtle		Women	S M L	XL		
				Men	S M L	XL	XXL	
T-Shirts (100% preshrunk)	Bird	Bikini	Black or White	Youth	S M L			Kid's \$10 Adults' \$15
	Boat	Turtle		Women	S M L	XL		
				Men	S M L	XL	XXL	
Baseball cap	Birch Lake Michigan w/frog	Black or White	Youth Adult	One Size fits all	embroidered w/green frog - adjustable - no youth or smlxlxxl			\$16

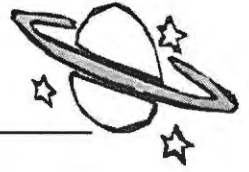
NOTE: Designs will be printed in multi-color on black or white apparel. *Orders will be placed only when quantity requirements have been met. Costs do not include Michigan Sales Tax ... Orders should be given to Fran Welch; they will also be available in the Online Barker Current prices are based on 100 lot quantities per item. We are only at a total of 58 pcs ordered, plus 7 baseball caps. Unless we get a significant amount of orders with in the next few weeks, I will have to resubmit the proposal for lesser quantities or table the entire fund raiser until further interest is generated.

Name:
Address:
Telephone:

Total X \$1.06 = **One order per form**
(6% sales tax **\$ _____**
calculated)



Stu's Star Stuff



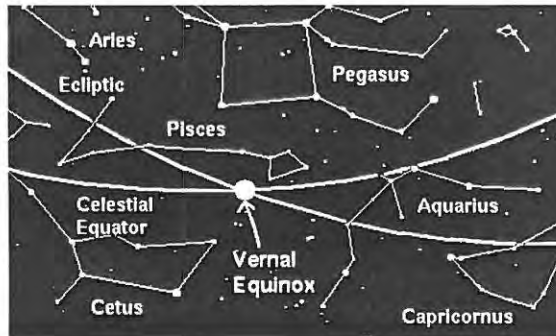
Age of Aquarius

As you've been told, time and time again, Earth's rotational axis is not fixed in space. Like a spinning toy top, the direction of the rotation axis executes a slow precession with a period of around 26,000 years.

What this means then is that Polaris will not always be the Pole Star or North Star. The Earth's rotation axis happens to be pointing almost exactly at Polaris now, but in 13,000 years the precession of the rotation axis will mean that the bright star Vega, part of the Summer Triangle, in the constellation Lyra will be approximately at the North Celestial Pole, while in 26,000 more years Polaris will once again be the Pole Star.

It also means that our seasons will be reversed. Summer occurs when the rotation axis is tilted toward the sun. In winter it's leaning away. The less direct sunlight shining on Earth causes lower temperatures. As the tilt of the axis shifts, one day soon, in 15008, it will be leaning toward the sun in December, away in June.

Since the rotation axis is precessing in space, the orientation of the Celestial Equator also precesses with the same period. This means that the position of the equinoxes is changing slowly with respect to the



background stars.

Because of the precession of the equinoxes, the vernal equinox - which marks the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere - moves through all the constellations of the Zodiac over the 26,000 year period. Presently the vernal equinox is in the constellation Pisces and is slowly approaching Aquarius.

This is the origin of the "Age of Aquarius" celebrated in the musical Hair: a period when according to astrological mysticism and related hokum there will be unusual harmony, understanding, sympathy and abounding trust in the world. We could certainly use a dose of harmony and understanding in this old world; unfortunately, it is

unlikely to come because of something as irrelevant as the position of the vernal equinox with respect to the constellations of the Zodiac. But what the heck. Get out there and enjoy the show anyway. It'll be free all winter.

-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:
The moon for Sept 1 (at Midnight)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.698
1.8 days before last quarter



Your Horoscope

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

You must avoid gossip and focus on what you have to do. Listen to the complaints of others. A trip to visit relatives should be rewarding. Recognition can be yours if you present your ideas and stand behind your beliefs. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Social activity should be on your agenda this week. Your lack of attention may have been a factor. You can buy or sell if you're so inclined. Try not to let your emotions interfere with the completion of your work. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. You need to make your environment a better place, with more comforts and a better entertainment center. Your position may be in question if you haven't been pulling your weight. Be careful what you consume this week. Your lucky day this week will be every day.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Short trips will be educational. Don't be too quick to judge partners or those you work with. Be careful; you may upset someone you live with if you don't consult with them. Update and review your personal investments. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You should check out prestigious clubs or groups that have a cause you believe in. You'll look guilty if you don't lay your cards on the table. This may not be your day if you are overly melodramatic and unnerving everyone around you. Secret affairs could cause upset. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes, and if you're gullible, it may cost you. You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex. Take care of chores that have been hanging over your head. Secret love affairs may be enticing; however, you must be prepared for the restraints that will follow. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You may have difficulties with foreigners. Try not to allow your partner to lead you astray or upset your routine. You can make changes to your domestic scene that will benefit all who reside there. You'll find it easy to meet new people. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

This will not be the best day to try to push your ideas or concerns. You may cause a fuss if you come on too strongly in public. Self improvement projects should be your key concern. Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. Your lucky day this

week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Your ability to take hold of a situation will surely bring you popularity and leadership. Over spending or unexpected bills could set you back. Try to be there for someone if they need assistance. Keep tabs on your spending.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Keep calm. Someone around you is bouncing off the walls. Secret enemies may be holding a grudge that you're not even aware of. Don't say things that could be damaging later on. Cut loose. You need some help this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

You will have a tendency to put on pounds. If everyone wants to do their own thing, let them. Get the red tape and the unwanted paperwork out of the way. You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time to get them to help or to back your ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Today.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Don't be shy; show your abilities! Do not get upset about situations you cannot change. You can enjoy short trips. You can make money, but try not to let it slip through your fingers. Your lucky day this week will be Yesterday.

FOR THE HEALTH OF IT!

By Ima Foodnudge

Summer is about to end and my eating habits haven't changed a bit. I think part of the problem is that we get together with family and friends and we "break bread" so to speak. So for the fall and bon fire times, let's just not even think about it and have some fun.

They say the key is moderation so maybe I'll start moderating in the winter.

Meanwhile, here are some good fall, over-the-fire recipes:



■ 1 (1.5 ounce) bar chocolate candy
DIRECTIONS

1. Heat the marshmallow over an open flame until it begins to brown and melt.
2. Break the graham cracker in half. Sandwich the chocolate between the cracker and the hot marshmallow. Allow the marshmallow to cool a moment before eating

Campfire Banana Splits

A very easy recipe for all ages that needs little adult or sober supervision.

Original recipe yield:

S'mores

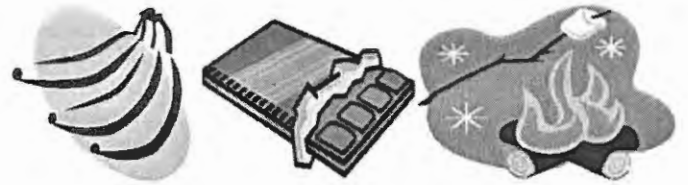


"Graham crackers with melted marshmallows and chocolate. Prepared over an open flame, this bon fire favorite is great. Not recommended for the stove top."

1 serving

INGREDIENTS

- 1 large marshmallow
- 1 graham cracker



6 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 6 large bananas, unpeeled, stems removed
- 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 (10.5 ounce) package miniature marshmallows

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat the grill for high heat.
2. Spray 4 sheets of aluminum foil, large enough to wrap bananas, with cooking spray.
3. Slice the peel of the banana from stem to bottom, while slicing the banana inside lengthwise. The bananas can be cut into slices instead if you like, (while still in the peel) for easier handling later.
4. Carefully open the banana just wide enough to place the chocolate chips and marshmallows inside the peel with the banana. Stuff with as much of the chocolate chips and marshmallows as desired.
5. Wrap the bananas with the aluminum foil and place on the grill or directly in the coals of a fire. Leave in long enough to melt the chips and the marshmallows, about 5 minutes. Unwrap bananas, open the peels wide, and eat with a spoon.

Take care,

Ima Foodnudge (did you guess who I am?)

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Birch Lake Water Quality Committee Management Program
August 26, 2007 Report to Residents

Purple Loosestrife Management Program

Once again we have had a successful year controlling the spread of Purple loosestrife. During the months of July 07 and August 07 plants were removed from three properties on the lake.

We have seen considerable improvement since the Purple loosestrife Program was started in 2000 when we had ten sites on all shores of Birch Lake some of which were very dense. Now, they are limited to a specific area on the west shore made up of manageable clusters.

The success of this program is because of the many caring residents on the lake who have helped keeping an eye out and reporting any sightings. Thank you all.

A special thanks to Bruce Wagner who inspects the shores of our lake and was responsible for direction and proper removal (without chemicals) of any plants that were found.

Rick Russwurm, BLYC Water Quality Committee

Purple loosestrife is not blooming at Birch Lake this month – and blooming – and blooming.

A special thanks to Sue Wagner

Sue volunteered to assist our Water Quality Committee with the program.

1) Purple loosestrife identification. 2) Bagging to prevent seeds from dropping to the water and/or ground before digging the plant out by the roots. 3) Burning blossoms and roots in the bag.

In the summer of 2000, at the home of Bruce and Sue, she and I were talking about caring for the lake when we realized that “Oh my gosh,” we shared the same experience of hearing a gentleman speak about water quality – Sue in 2000 was inspired as I in 2000 was inspired.

Coincidentally, in the summer of 2000, at a speaking engagement, Sue heard Don Winne speak about the Purple loosestrife threat to lakes and wetlands. I heard him speak in the spring of 2000 when attending a Conference of the Michigan Lake & Stream Associations (ML&SA) at which time he recommended that the Water Quality Committee establish a Purple loosestrife Project at Birch Lake. Don is Executive Director of ML&SA. - Editor of Michigan Riparian.

It was obvious to both Sue and I that the Water Quality Program needed to add Purple loosestrife to its lake management. Beautiful and loving, Sue was a loyal assistant to the Water Quality Committee. Sue was serious about keeping Birch Lake free of Purple loosestrife.

Sue was also “full of fun” I remember the morning I woke up to clusters of Purple loosestrife in my flower garden. When I realized they were artificial, I knew my friend was thinking of me.

Geri Temple, BLYC Water Quality Committee

Purple loosestrife is blooming across the nation this month – and blooming – and blooming. As destructive as it is attractive, the shoulder high weed with the distinctive vivid flower has frustrated wildlife workers for years. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has dubbed Purple loosestrife Public Enemy #1 on federal lands.

Purple loosestrife can sprout about a centimeter a day. It sends up spikes of pinkish-purple flowers from June to September on stems up to eight feet high. It grows in such thick tangles that native plants get choked out. The roots survive the winter and send up new shoots each spring.

Scientists have estimated that mature plants can produce between 100,000 to 2 million seeds every year. The seeds are believed to have made it to the United States in the 1800's via ships ballasts dumped in New York harbor and in imported wool. (*Excerpts from Michigan Riparian*)

Purple loosestrife is a native of Europe and Asia.

An exotic species, it has no natural enemies.

It is referred to as the “purple plague.”

It is a serious problem.

(*Excerpts from Sea Grant, Michigan State University*)

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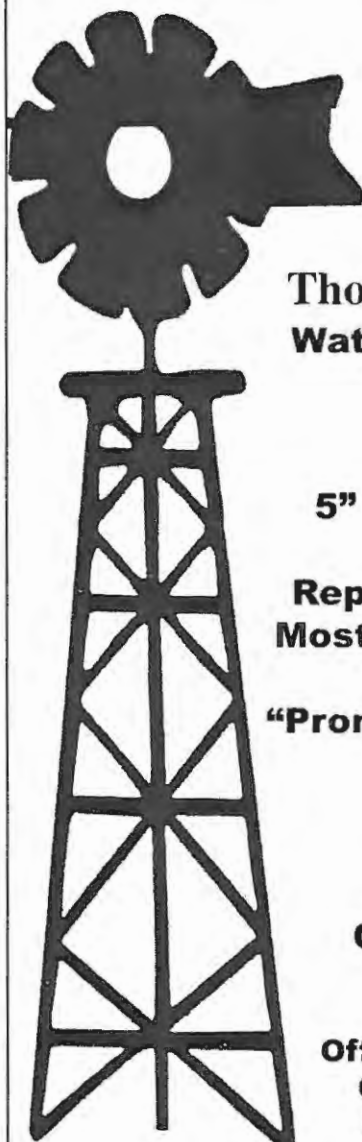
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CLASSIFIED ADS

Birch Lake classifieds ads are free for members of Birch Lake Yacht Club; non-members must pay \$5. Put your ad in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Road, fax me at 269-445-9200, or send e-mail to me at: sailorphil@philvital.com

FOR RENT:

Updated **Cabin** overlooks North Shore by day, week month or season Sleeps 4-6. \$500 weekly — 476-2086. Call 574-825-9355-ext 241.

Florida rentals: We have a house in Naples and a condo in Daytona Beach for rent, if interested please call the Bergans, 476-9359.

LOST

Lost in last week's in the storm. **A float with Indianapolis Colts on it.** If found, please call Denny Weesner, 476-2569.

FOUND:

Yellow, 2-seat Float Tube (kid dragger). Call Bill at 476-2280, 14890 Birch Lake Rd.

FOR SALE

Window air-conditioner. Call Olson, 476-2125.

La-Z-Boy Recliner, originally purchased from River Park Furniture, light beige in color, wooden base. \$75.00 delivered to your door on the lake. Call 476-2383.

For Sale '94 Toyota Camry wagon, 4 cyl, 91,000 miles, runs good but needs a new muffler, \$3,400. Dave Olson 476-2125

Fishing boat for sale — \$500. 19?? 12' Aluminum fishing boat with 9.9 Evenrude motor. Old Gator trailer. Wide bottom boat very steady in the water, great to take the kids fishing in. Tom DeCocker 476-9821.

For Sale: Large Compost Tumbler in very good condition \$ 180. Also: **Holder 14 MK made by Hobie Cat** also in good condition \$1500. Will consider other offer. Claude Petit W. 847 675 6241 or cell 847 274 9932

For sale: 2002 Mercury 6 hp outboard engine. Runs great. Also comes with 1940-1960 Alumacraft 14 ft. row boat in good shape for age. \$750 obo. Call 476-9852

For Sale: Trailer - Shore Lander, 15 ft. Call 1-574-231-0890 or 1-269-476-9688. Price \$400.

Lake Safe Fertilizer - Only a few bags left. This fertilizer is offered by the Water Quality Committee and is approved for greening your lawn without harming the lake. Don't feed the weeds, use lake safe fertilizer. It is only \$12 a bag and pick up or delivery can be arranged by calling the Bouwkamps at 476-1001.

Storage Facility for Sale or Lease - Zoned Commercial,

Storage Facility and Property located around the corner in Williamsville and is available for lease or sale. Building is 7,600 sq. ft. or you can lease 4,000 sq. ft. with high bay doors for tractor trailer access. You can review the property at <http://home.comcast.net/~millracestorage> Inquiries may call 476-1001.

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BLYC MERCHANDISE:

■ Birch Lake Posters, we were very fortunate to receive additional posters from Camp Fire. These Birch Lake posters were given to the camp. Therefore, all money received on these sales will be returned to camp. Ready to frame and signed by the artist, selling at \$20.

■ 2007 Birch Lake Calendars, a few remain at a discounted price.

Call **Vickie Rogers** 476-2383

PETS:

4 kittens born on July 17th will be needing new homes soon. 2 female brown tiger stripe and 2 males - one is brown tiger stripe and one black. Also the loving mother cat needs a home. She is a brown tiger stripe also, approximately a year old and loves attention. Call Rita or Dennis at 476-2744 in the evenings.



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- \$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ _____ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ _____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ _____ - Eurasian Milfoil Eradication
- \$ _____ - Riparian (\$8/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ _____ - Safety Committee
- \$ _____ - Other (non-party related expenses)

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

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or drop off at: 63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

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