



## I digress, but what's in a number anyway?

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I've never been exactly told what I'm supposed to write about in this column. There was no formal training and certainly no rulebook provided. Comments I've heard about columns prepared by my predecessors or myself didn't provide much direction either.

I think I'm supposed to share with you my opinion or insights on what's going on at the lake. Presumably I have the view or perspective of being someone in the know, someone who can speak (write) to you all, armed with a current knowledge of facts that are perhaps not readily available to the rest of you.

Previous columns have already addressed most of the lake related issues I feel strongest about:

1. The wonder and beauty of this place.
2. The wonder and warmth of all those who help make this place and keep it so.
3. The disappointment and embarrassment I feel for anyone here not paying their way.

This leads to a discussion of one new

item — the blue 2009 Birch Lake Yacht Club membership stickers recently placed on the mailboxes of 49 or so of us whose receipt of dues has been formally acknowledged by our treasurer.

We hope you don't mind the sticker on your mailbox (the local postmaster didn't object), and in fact are pleased that it's there, showing your support for your Yacht Club and all of your volunteer neighbors.

As Holly confirms the receipt of more dues payments, we'll be putting out more stickers, hopefully one on your mailbox, if it's not already there.

I'm sorry I'm unable to come up with more lake-related comments at this time. It's almost like I'm preoccupied. After all, what could be more important that the preparation of this article?

Certainly there is no inner angst, turmoil, or worry within me. Well, maybe just a little. After all, like many of you no doubt, I spent the vast majority of my life defining myself by numbers, and in almost every case, bigger is, or has been, better. Growing up I couldn't wait to be older, bigger, in a higher grade, etc.

Even as a young(er) adult, I almost looked forward to putting more years under my belt, anticipating then enjoying the wisdom, experiences, accomplish-

### 2009 BLYC Calendar

- June 20—Vice-Commodore's Party 7 pm
- June 27—Board meeting 9 am
- July 4—Boat Parade, Fireworks
- July 5—Pancake Breakfast
- July 18—Spaghetti Dinner
- July 25—House Walk
- July 31—Men's Golf Outing
- August 1—Board meeting 9 am
- August 1—Camp T. Hog Roast, tba
- August 7—Women's Golf Outing
- August 8—Corn & Sausage Roast
- August 22—Fall Dinner
- Sept. 5—Board meeting 9 am

There are numerous other good ideas for worthwhile activities (such as an Ice Cream Social and a Garage Sale) floating around and open dates available. If you are willing or interested to take on an event (there is usually plenty of help available), contact the Commodore at 476-1467 or 574-274-9580.

ments, and satisfactions along the way.

For many of us, perhaps the lucky or just the self-deceiving, as we grow older we learn that our earlier dependence on, and impatience with too slow moving, numbers was perhaps overdone. We realize we are not going to have the most victories, or highest income, or biggest \_\_\_\_\_ (house, car, office, etc. fill in the blank). Maybe in a small way we begin to acknowledge there are some drawbacks associated with a preoccupation with numbers, especially relative to the constant addition of years to our age.

If smart, we realize it was wasteful and useless to pine for numbers other than our own at any given time. While working to improve our status, and

change our numbers, we should first learn to fully enjoy whatever status we happen to be at any given time.

This is particularly true in my case as the most recent, and therefore, oldest (and potentially most numerically disturbing) years of my life have brought me levels of joy, peace, and contentment that I heretofore had only imagined. (Yes, I'm sure being at God's favorite lake with all of His favorite people might have something to do with it.) This is true even though I must now fully and freely admit I'll never be the most or best at anything.

Yes, it's true, numbers don't mean anything. It's how we live life, what we do with, or in spite of, those numbers that is important! I am cured!

So why is it that whenever my mind wanders as of late, all I seem to think about is my impending 60th birthday, which fortunately will have passed by the time this Barker reaches you?

We are only a few short weeks from the highlight weekend of Birch Lake living, that of July 4th. Please, plan on participating

in the boat parade on Saturday afternoon, watching our own fireworks show on Saturday night, and topping it off with Sunday morning's Pancake Breakfast for all Birch lakers and their families and guests to enjoy at Camp Tannadoonah.

Spend the remainder of today clearing your throats and practicing your pitches. I'm looking forward to seeing and hearing all of you at tonight's (Saturday, June 20th) Karaoke event at the Yacht Club.

In the meantime let us together continue to enjoy and protect the miraculous healing waters of Birch Lake.

*-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore*

## VICE COMMODORE'S COMMENTS, TOO

It's finally here! The first of many parties to come in my two-year re-enlistment as Commodore-in-waiting. I know you've all been practicing your singing and making song lists in preparation for the big Karaoke Party at the BLYC. Doors open at 7 p.m. and you're welcome to bring a snack or munchie if you like. The food at the Commodore's party was scrumptious.

Another quick note: Celia Fallon has graciously volunteered to publish an updated Birch Lake telephone directory. Please help us by completing an update form at the party, or if you're a real type "A," bring one with you. *-Bob Waddle, 2009 Vice Commodore*



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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## **Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah July 5th**

The annual Pancake Breakfast will be up at the camp from 8 to 11 am. Adults \$5. Children 6 to 10 \$2, and Children under 5 free.

It's a great way to meet and greet your neighbor's. Look forward to seeing you there.

## **Congratulations Herm & Bev**

Congratulations are in order for Herm and Bev Kruggel who will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 25.

Herm and Bev, who were high school sweethearts at Adams High School in South Bend, have lived at Birch Lake full-time since 1993. They have five children and 13 wonderful grandchildren.

Herm and Bev will receive a blessing at the New Apostolic Church in South Bend this Sunday, followed by a family dinner at their home.

## **Harvey St. open**

As of Monday, Lake Harvey has been tamed and Harvey Street is open to the public. The road is gravel (and a bit soft — so go SLOWLY), but at least it is passable.

## **Produce available**

Fresh Produce: the farmhouse on Birch Road that has had the signs

for "fresh strawberries" also has other produce and will throughout the summer. The owner also says that the young goats in the pasture beside the road love to be petted!

## **Fish Bites Dog**

What?? A fish bit a dog?? We all have heard of "Dog Bites Man", and maybe "Man Bites Dog", but how does a fish get the courage to bite a dog, especially in Indiana or Michigan. Seeing strange happenstances daily or almost daily in my veterinary practice, I thought "How could this be?"

A shaggy dog (this is not a shaggy dog story) was presented to me with blood dripping from his back and a rather large fish clinging to his neck. On closer inspection, sure enough, there was a puncture wound, not large, but deep enough to cause the owner and the dog some concern.

The owner of the dog said "I think this fish bit my dog. Yes, my dog was at the pond site, and yes there are fish in the pond. Do something Doc."

Parting the shaggy dog's hair and cleaning the wound, I noted that the fish was quite dead. The wound was a puncture all right, so I cleaned all the hair around the neck, extracted the fish, and cleaned the wound.

What had happened was that the

dog found the dead catfish and rolled in the remains. He punctured himself on the dorsal spine of this large catfish. The dog got the catfish entangled in his hair and brought it home. The dog was pleased to be relieved of his burden, and the vet, (me) had another story to tell.

*-Duffy Dufour*

## **2009 Boat Parade**

The Birch Lake Boat Parade is just three weeks away. It's time to get your creative juices flowing. The theme for this year is "**CELEBRATE SUMMER AT BIRCH LAKE!**" So get your family and friends together and let your imaginations go wild! This highly anticipated event takes place on Saturday, July 4 at 4 p.m. More info will follow — Watch The Barker!

## **Mind your trash**

Reminder: Raccoon + plastic garbage bags = BIG MESS! Please secure your trash in critter-proof containers.

## **Line Dance every week**

We will have LINE DANCING again this year on Tuesday mornings at 9 am at the Yacht Club. Look forward to seeing everyone.

*-Lind Harman*

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## **Golf Outings need donations**

The Mens' and Ladies' Golf Outing organizers are looking for donations of money and door prizes for both events. If you have "logo" merchandise or any items to donate, or if you would like to sponsor a hole for either or both events, please contact Fred Freihofer, 14921 North Shore Drive at 476-9823.

## **Open House at Porter**

The Porter Township Fire Station will host an Open House on Saturday, June 20 from Noon to 3.

All are welcome.

## **A pair of BLYC fundraisers**

The BLYC is having a fundraiser this summer by selling "The Olde Cranberry Barn Candles." These highly scented, 16 oz candles have two wicks and will have a special Birch Lake label. The candles are available for just \$17 each.

The candles are available in 6 scents. Orders will be taken until July 5th, and candles can be picked up July 18th at the Spaghetti dinner.

If you have any questions please

contact Sandy Baucus at 641-5644 (during the week) 476-2863 (on week ends) or by email at [Sabaucus@AOL.com](mailto:Sabaucus@AOL.com)

The Yacht Club is also sponsoring a fundraiser selling Birch Lake coaster sets. The four-coaster sets feature a topographic map of Birch Lake. Impress your guests all summer — and have a memory of your favorite summer spot when you go home in the fall.

Coaster are just \$25 per set. To order contact Phil Vitale at 476-1680 or email [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com)



**Dick**

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Birch Lake Yacht Club Commodore Paul Fallon celebrated his 60th birthday last week with a cake and brat fry at Birch. Happy Birthday Paul!



Katie Luecht was nominated to be considered for the Hendricks Community Hospital Guild Award called "Treat People Better" for her work in Autism Awareness. Although she didn't win, we are so proud of her. Katie will be a sophomore this year at Danville Community H.S.



### Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week?

Hey, we all love kid pics, don't we?

And we especially love them if they're pics of OUR kids or grandkids!

You can see your favorite kids' pics in the Barker if you send them to me (preferably via the email address sailorphil@philvitale.com) along with their name(s) and pertinent info like their par-

ents' or grandparents' names, or who they were visiting, or what they were doing in the photo.

If you don't email, please make sure the info is legible and not too long because if I can't cut-and-paste, I have to retype all that stuff from scratch (and I'm not a very good typist ... and I'm even worse at proofreading my own stuff). -Editor



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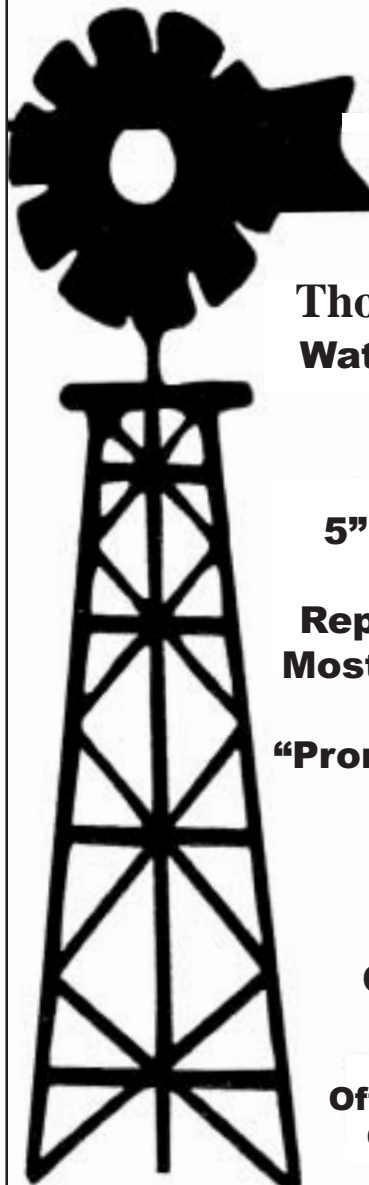
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# Fleet Captains' Corner



## Sailing with the good doctor

What a beautiful day we had for sailing last Sunday! Well, OK, maybe there wasn't a lot of wind, but it certainly was better than the dreary day we had Saturday. We managed to get in two races before the wind died down. Twelve sailors ventured out to join the fun. Now, if we could only get twelve more sailors out there, we'd have something.

Speaking of which, here's a personal message to Bob King: Hey, Bob, it's summer! Time to put your boat in the water! (If

any of you loyal readers see Bob, you might point this out to him. Thanks.)

The good time had by the sailors on Sunday was no match for the good time had on the Committee Boat by my lovely wife of 18 years, Patty, the newlyweds Amy and Mike Lutz, and Dr. McGillicuddy. The good doctor joined the crew and made sure that all aboard were in good health. Fortunately, my daughter Katie was also on board to score the races. Thanks, Katie.

As always, we are looking for volun-

teers to start the races. Lots of weekends still available. Please see the list below, and call Patty at 476-2615 to sign up.

For those of you who (like me) are forced to spend time away from the lake, the internet is full of interesting sailing stuff. I googled "mark room" and found a series of videos of Dave Perry and others speaking at a symposium sponsored by U.S. Sailing. These are worth checking out at [www.sail-groove.org](http://www.sail-groove.org).

**-Fleet Captain Bill Luecht**

### 2008 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date	14-Jun	14-Jun	Total	Season
Race number	3	4	Points	Average
<b>Sunfish</b>				
Rick Russwurm	DNS	DNS	0	n/a
Katie Luecht	DNS	DNS	0	n/a
Erica Vitale	2	1	3121	1561
Sandy Vitale	1	2	3121	1561
Eric Odenwald	3	3	2888	1444
Bernie Garceau	DNF	4	2393	1197

### MC Scow

Scott Troeger	DNS	DNS	0	n/a
Rick Harman	DNS	DNS	0	n/a
Bob King	DNS	DNS	0	n/a
Jim Bolinger	DNS	DNS	0	n/a
Tom Howard	1	DNS	4800	1600
Harold Cranmer	3	2	6007	1502
Jeff Smitley	DNS	1	4340	1447
Gib Eberhart	2	5	5630	1408
Phil Vitale	4	3	5478	1370
Don Harman	5	4	2665	1333
Bill Luecht	6	7	2381	1191
Dave Olson	7	6	2381	1191

### Committee Boat Sign Ups (Tentative)

Date	Name
6-21	Patty Luecht
6-28	Stewart Spratt
7-3 (Regatta)	Karen & Stan
7-4 (Regatta)	Karen & Stan
7-12	Available for You!
7-19	Bob & Sue Waddle
7-26	Available for You!
8-2	Jim & Sally Beck
8-9	Available for You!
8-16	Bob & Sue Waddle
8-23	Stan & Karen
8-30	Available for You!
9-5 (Regatta)	Available for You!
9-6 (Regatta)	Available for You!
9-7 (Regatta)	Available for You!

Call Patty at 476-2615 if you are interested in signing up for any of these dates.

\*Must provide own boat \*Must provide own crew

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# Tannadoonah Tidbits

Summer is here, and the Camp Tannadoonah staff have arrived at camp! This week is our week of staff training, and they've all been working really hard. We have 23 really awesome counselors this year, and as great as last year was, this year might even be better! We have 9 counselors returning from last year, and two of them were on the 2007 staff, which is more than we've had the past three years. I think it will really make this summer go smoothly.

As of today, we are 3 campers ahead of last year's registration numbers, with a total of 346 campers registered for the summer. Two years ago we ended the summer with just 351 campers, so I know we'll pass that number! Last year we ended up with 457 total, so I'm hoping the numbers keep going up just like they did last summer.

The very first week of camp this year is themed "Holidaze." Each day we will be celebrating a different holiday, and on Thursday we plan to have Halloween. So we've decided to take the campers out to Trick-or-Treat around the cove/west side and north side/corner of the east side. There will be about 45 campers in each group (one going to the cove/west side and the other going along the north/east



sides), and we plan to have them sing camp songs in addition to Trick-or-Treating. We'll be heading out around 7:30pm, so if you're home and would like to be serenaded in return for some treats, come on out when you hear us coming!

This past week we finished the tennis court project that was started several years ago. We had a company come out and finish the surfacing on the courts, and it looks fantastic! The courts are blue with white lines, and green around the outside. Plus we're going to have two courts rather than just one. It's very exciting to put the finishing touches on this project!

We're getting excited about the hog roast we have planned for August 1st. We're planning to get started around 3 pm or 4 pm. It should be a really fun opportunity for people from the lake to get together with people from camp and Camp Fire.

We also just heard from the North

Side that the proceeds from the Spaghetti Dinner are going to be donated to the campership fund this year. We're really excited to be able to add that to the fund, because we have had so many requests this year. I hate to turn away any child who wants to attend camp!

Thanks again to everyone for all the generous donations of items as well as time and energy to help get camp up and running again this year. I think it's going to be an amazing summer up here!

On a non-camp note, Chas and I would like to apologize to anyone who was awakened last Thursday at 1:30am by our boat horn going off! It appears to have shorted out, but the problem should be fixed, so hopefully we won't be disrupting anyone's sleep again!

-Miss Amber

## Camp Wish List

- Electric Water Heater(s)
- Lifejackets (the orange kind)
- New mattresses for camp bunks (\$100 each)
- Campership Funds (\$350 per camper)
- Old Nylons / Stockings
- Yarn
- Baby Dolls & Barbies
- Doll Clothes

## ~Birch Lake Recipes~



### Great Salad ...

OMG! For anyone that had the pleasure of the salad served at the Lutz wedding you will love this one.

Here it is!

Have a great day!

### Mike and Amy's Spectacular Wedding Day Salad

- Spring Mix
- Red onion
- feta cheeze
- pineapple chunks
- cantalope chunks
- honeydew chunks

- strawberries
- sliced almonds
- chopped pecans

### Poppy seed dressing

- 3/4 c sugar
- 1 tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp onion powder
- 1 1/2 tsp poppy seeds
- 1/4 c vinegar
- 1 c oil

Enjoy!

Happy snacking!

-Good Patti

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# Stu's Star Stuff

## Difference of solstice and equinox

**W**hat is the difference between a solstice and an equinox? Four days during our calendar year — two solstices and two equinoxes — mark the beginnings of the four seasons. At the extremes are the winter and summer solstices, with the vernal and autumnal equinoxes occupying the midpoints. The solstices and equinoxes also mark four important points in Earth's orbit around the Sun. It's Earth's position in its orbit — and the orientation of its tilted axis at these points in its orbit — that defines the seasons.

The solstices are six months apart and mark the days when the northern and southern hemispheres receive either maximum (summer) or minimum (winter) sunshine. In the north, the summer solstice, tomorrow, is the longest day of the year; the winter solstice, six months later, is the shortest day of the year. The two equinoxes occur roughly midway between the solstices: the autumnal equinox in September and spring equinox in March. At these times, day and night are roughly of equal length.

The times of the solstices and equinoxes were important to ancient agrarian (meaning agricultural or farming) cultures, since these observations warned

of changing weather conditions. For instance, the spring equinox signals the beginning of warmer weather.

The full Moon that we saw two weeks ago is known as the Flower Moon, Rose Moon, or Strawberry Moon. But another good name might be the Short Moon, because it's on display for less time than any other full Moon of the year — only about eight or nine hours from most of the Lower 48 states.

Keep in mind that the full Moon does just the opposite of what the Sun does in our sky.

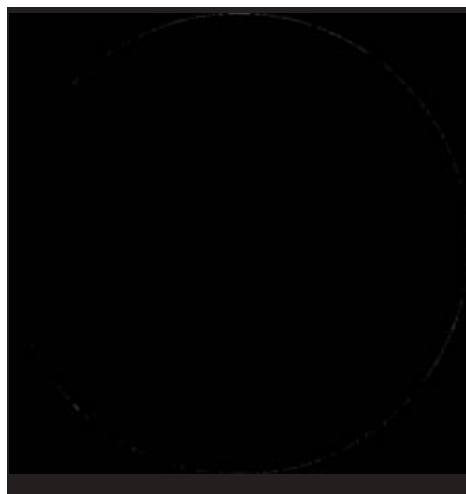
As we've mentioned, the summer solstice marks the longest days of the year, so the Sun remains above the horizon for a long time — 14 or 15 hours for most of the country. It also appears farthest north for the year, so it sails highest across the sky.

But the Moon does just the opposite. Since the days are long, the nights are short. As a result, the full Moon is in view for only a few hours. And since the Sun climbs high in the sky, the Moon remains fairly low. It's still well above the horizon, but not as high as during the winter months, when it sails overhead.

Those at more southerly latitudes will see the most moonlight — around nine

hours. But those in Montana, Minnesota, or other northerly states will see the Moon for less than eight hours. And from Anchorage, Alaska, the Moon will barely hang around long enough for a cup of coffee — it'll set less than three hours after it rises. Get your dollar out and come enjoy the show. I'll be around to collect. It isn't free anymore.

*-Stu Spratt*



### The Moon tonight:

The moon for June 20 (at Midnight)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.035  
1.5 days before new moon

## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

### ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20)

Don't confide in any relatives whom you know have a tendency to meddle in other people's affairs. You may find yourself caught in a triangle. Get domestic chores out of the way early. Investments may be misrepresented this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

### TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)

You may want to take extra special care of your luggage if you are traveling this week. Make changes that will enhance your appearance. This week will be hectic. Resist the temptation to gamble. Risks will not be profitable. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Make residential changes that will lift your spirits. Don't hold yourself back because you think you're too old. Your unique contribution to the organization will enhance your reputation. Older family members will make demands on your time. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You will expand your circle of friends if you join groups. Avoid any hassles. Don't hesitate to go ahead with any plans for entertainment. If you can, try to work out of your home this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

### LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

New romantic ties can be made; however, you must make sure that your motives are not selfish before you make your move. Do something constructive outside. Hassles with your boss are sure to erupt if you speak your mind. The great outdoors will allow you to teach youngsters some of the things you learned when growing up. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

You should be looking at ways to spoil yourself. You will be appreciated for the competence you exhibit and for taking on responsibilities. Delays are evident. Your bankbook will suffer and your restrictions will put a damper on your relationship. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

### LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Don't let the erratic behavior of someone you live with interfere with your professional performance. Keep busy and let them fume while you're not around. Deception in your home is evident. Don't beat around the bush. Make plans to meet again in the near future. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)

Don't let others bait you into arguments. Don't consume more than necessary. Problems with fire, gas, or oil may cause disruptions and annoyances. You can make money through your creative efforts. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Empty promises and a lack of cash may put a damper on your plans. Don't turn down offers that include sports activities or children. Put in some extra hours and finish those careful jobs before you move on to some fun and games. Make sure to arrange in advance to spend quality time together. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan. 20)

Accept the inevitable, and opportunities for advancement will follow. Put your efforts into being creative. Don't be afraid to push your beliefs and attitudes. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19)

Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation. Stretch the truth, and you may get blamed for something you didn't do. Do what's best for the people you love most. Try to be fair in your dealings with acquaintances. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

### PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Be sure to organize events that will keep the children busy. You will find your vitality is lowered. Your irritability may drive your loved ones crazy. Romantic opportunities may not be as they appear. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



# Water Quality Committee Report

**Water Quality Program  
Water Quality Committee Lake  
Management Report**  
**Rick Russwurm, Chairman,  
Terry Dugan, Gordon Seyfarth,  
Bruce Wagner**

Gordon and Terry spent the morning of June 15th on the lake with Ralph Bednarz from the DEQ, doing a variety of side by side tests. The purpose of the side-by-sides is to validate the accuracy of the testing by us lake volunteers so that the accumulated data from all the tests at all the lakes can have real meaning.

For this session, we did Secchi Disk readings, chlorophyll measurements, and dissolved oxygen and temperature measurements from the top of the lake to the bottom in the 95 foot area.

Ralph did the same sampling and thus a basis for comparison with what Gordon and Terry obtained.

In addition Ralph took samples for total phosphorous and nitrogen, i.e. a measurement of the available nutrients. We should have the laboratory values back in about a

month or so regarding chlorophyll and the nutrients.

In another article we will detail the dissolved oxygen and temperature measurements, put in graphs, and try to explain what they might be telling us. Ralph believes this data is a great indicator of the developing productivity and thus aging of a lake. But it needs to be captured over a period of years and weather cycles so we can look at patterns.

Although a chart (secchi disk readings) is probably not necessary for those of you who have been here weekly since early spring, both by actual measurement and visualization, the lake has become less transparent over the past few weeks. Recently it was down to 13 feet, but today it seems to be recovering a bit and was measured at a bit more than 16 feet.

It will be very interesting to see the chlorophyll data from today to see if increased concentrations of algae are the reason for the turbidity. That is probably part of the reason since with increased water temperatures and more sunlight, you would expect to get some algae bloom, but limited

due to nutrient levels.

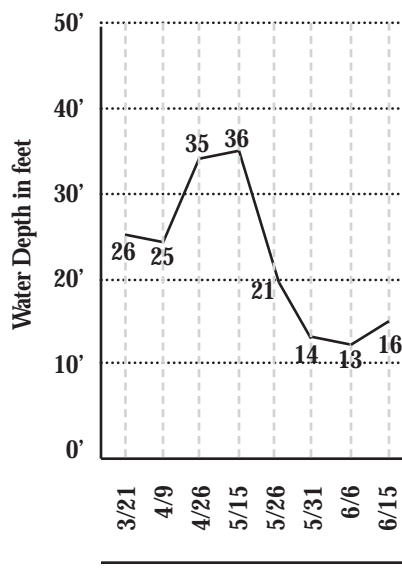
We asked Ralph about this today and he indicated that some of the drop in transparency might be due to marl precipitation in the water with an increased temperature. Our lake is in part a marl lake, in which calcite precipitates from the water coming in from springs that contains dissolved limestone. With the loss of acid from the incoming water and the temperature change, you can get microscopic particulate material that eventually sinks to the bottom, but can make the water more cloudy than expected based on algae levels.

Additionally, with an early spring algae bloom (phytoplankton), you can then have an increase in the little bitty animals that eat the algae, i.e. zooplankton, further decreasing the transparency at least for awhile.

When we receive the nutrient and chlorophyll levels later this summer, we will provide that data with some interpretation regarding transparency changes.

**Secchi Disk update: the June 15 secchi disk reading was 16 feet — please see the chart below.**

## Secchi Disk readings (to date) on Birch Lake in 2009



**Editor's Note:** The Water Quality Committee will update this chart in the Barker every time a Secchi Disk reading is taken throughout the year so that trends can be monitored. For information on this chart or any other Water Quality issue, contact Water Quality Committee Chairman Rick Russwurm at 476-2407 or any other member of the Water Quality Committee.

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# Lake Living and Safety

## Unlawful and dangerous

Lake Living and Safety is a new Barker feature being provided by the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Homeowner's Association and Safety Committee.

Each week we will feature one or more informational pieces dealing with boating, lake living and safety for our Birch Lake neighbors.

This week we are looking at additional safety issues regarding operating a personal watercraft (jet skis). Please make sure you help keep your family, friends, neighbors and visitors safe on our waters.

### On the water:

**Unlawful and Dangerous Operation**  
Michigan law designates these dangerous operating practices as illegal:

- Reckless Operation of a vessel or reckless manipulation of water skis, a surfboard, or similar device is defined as operation which disregards the safety or rights of others or endangers the person or property of others. Some examples are:
- Weaving your vessel through congested waterway traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
- Jumping the wake of another vessel unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel



is restricted

- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife with your vessel
- Causing damage from the wake of your vessel
- Failure to Regulate Speed is operating a vessel at speeds that may cause danger to life or property of any other

person or at speeds that will not permit you to bring your vessel to a safe stop. It is illegal to operate a vessel:

- In excess of 55 mph
- At greater than "slow, no wake speed" when a person is in the bow of a

**continued on next page**

# NICHOLS

## TREE SERVICE & SMALL EXCAVATING

**Justin Nichols, owner — 269-683-6656 — 2115 Spansail Dr., Niles**

### TREE SERVICE

**TRIMMING - PLANTING - REMOVAL  
LOGGING - FERTILIZING - CABLING  
BRUSH HOGGING - STUMP GRINDING  
GUTTER CLEANING - HEDGE TRIMMING**

### EXCAVATING

**HAULING - GRADING - RETAINING WALLS  
POST HOLES 9" TO 32" - DRIVEWAYS  
SEAWALLS - TRENCHING 0" TO 36"  
FOOTINGS - BACKFILLS - RETAINING WALLS**

**LEAF REMOVAL, SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, LOT CLEARING**

*"Justin Nichols recently put in a seawall at my home on Birch Lake ... and he did an amazing job in a very short time. Thanks Justin!"*

-Tom DeCocker, East Shore

*"Nichols brought in topsoil, graded my yard, buried the gutter drains and put in a short 25-foot wall ... now I'm ready to enjoy summer at Birch Lake thanks to Nichols Tree Service & Excavating."*

Tim Liddell, East Side Hill

*"I needed a retaining wall at my new home on the hill (Kinzie St.) while it was under construction. I called Justin Nichols, and he came up and put it in for me. He does very good work!"*

-PJ VandeWalle, East Side Hill

*"Justin Nichols was working next door when I met him. I needed several trees removed and the stumps ground ... Justin can do it all!"*

Ryan Gableman, East Side Hill

# Lake Living and Safety

vessel without proper seating

- Faster than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions (weather, vessel traffic, etc.)

**Improper Distance** is operating at greater than "slow, no wake speed" (except in channels that are not posted) and or operating such that the vessel or persons being towed are within 100 feet of:

- A shoreline (if operating in water less than 3 feet deep)
- Any moored or anchored vessel
- A dock or raft
- Any marked swimming area or per-

son(s) in the water

## "Slow, No Wake Speed"

The slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and which does not create a wake

- Improper Distance for PWCs means that, if operating at greater than "slow-no wake speed," PWCs also must:

- Stay at least 200 feet from any Great Lakes shoreline.
- Not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel other than another Pwc.
- Improper Direction is defined as the failure to operate in a counter-clockwise

direction except in areas marked by well-defined channels or rivers.

- Boating in Restricted Areas is defined as operating within a restricted area clearly marked by buoys, beacons, diver-down flags, etc.

- Riding on the Bow is illegal if the vessel is not equipped with bow seating and the vessel is operating at greater than "slow, no wake speed." Persons also are not allowed to ride on the gunwale. While underway, persons on a vessel may not sit, stand, or walk on any portion of a vessel not designed for that purpose.



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And that means the freshest produce straight from the fields. To celebrate, Sue is offering FREE FRESH STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKES!

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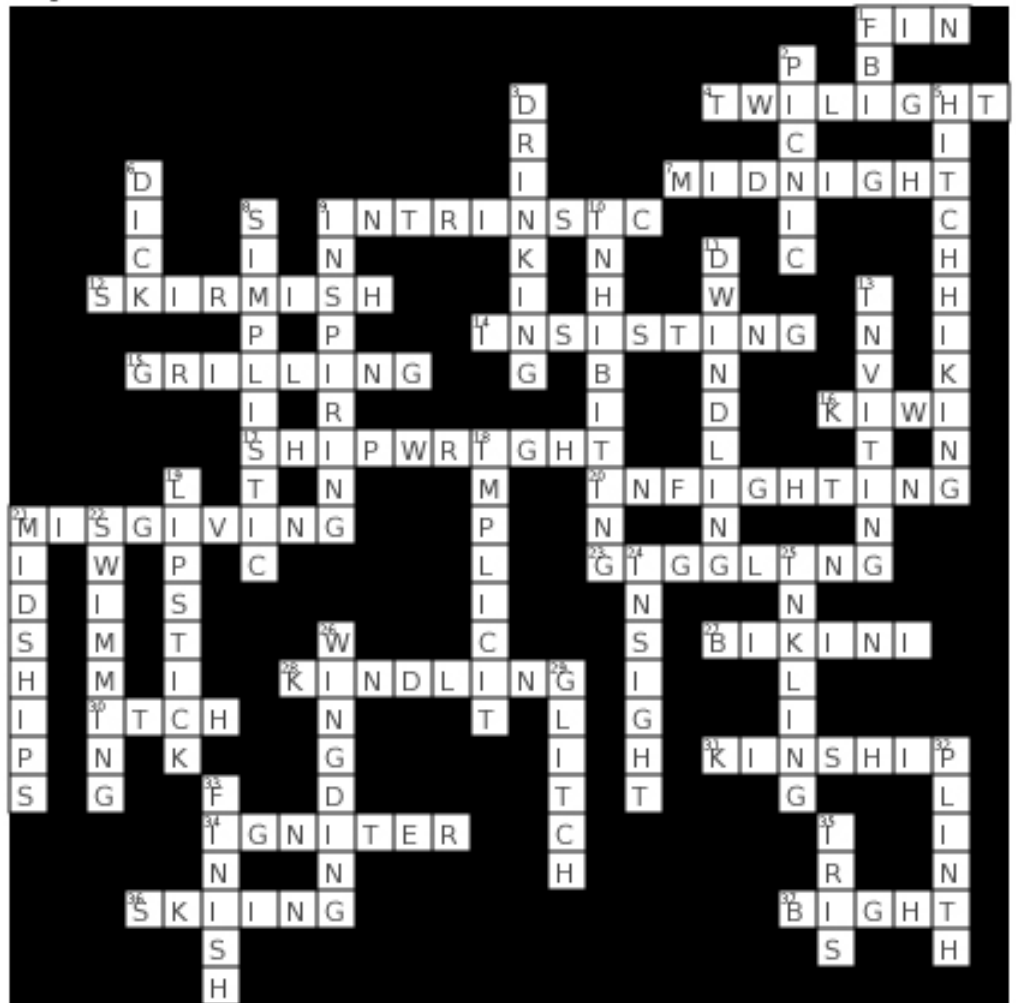
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Cell: (269) 625-0818

# Barker Crossword

I is the only vowel in the answer

- Across
- 1 dorsal
  - 4 day turns dusk
  - 7 none o'clock
  - 9 essential nature
  - 12 minor battle
  - 14 demanding
  - 15 bbq
  - 16 New Zealander
  - 17 boat builder
  - 20 squabble within
  - 21 2nd thoughts
  - 23 kids laughing
  - 27 itsy bitsy suit
  - 28 fire-starter
  - 30 poison ivy
  - 31 friendly bond
  - 34 grill lighter
  - 36 towed on boards
  - 37 loop of line

- Down
- 1 The Bureau
  - 2 meal to go
  - 3 imbibing
  - 5 thumb transport
  - 6 Bender
  - 8 not complex
  - 9 exalting
  - 10 made uncomfortable
  - 11 running low
  - 13 welcoming
  - 18 unsaid understood
  - 19 colored kiss
  - 21 boat center
  - 22 water play
  - 24 situational vision
  - 25 vague notion
  - 26 festive party
  - 29 error
  - 32 square base
  - 33 not DNF
  - 35 eye color



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# Barker Word Search

Find these words that are "things your guests bring to the lake"

FLIP FLOPS  
PEANUTS  
BEACH BALL  
POP  
THEIR KIDS  
FRISBEE  
STRAWBERRIES  
TSHIRT  
LIQUOR

SWIMSUIT  
TOWELS  
CHICKEN  
BUG SPRAY  
ALOEVERA  
POTATO SALAD  
MAGAZINE  
CELLPHONE  
COLESLAW

BODY OIL  
TANK TOP  
BAKED BEANS  
TOY BOAT  
COOLER  
TACKLE BOX  
BEER  
SHORTS  
NOODLES

ICE  
MARGARITAS  
WORMS  
FISH POLES  
DOG  
MIXERS

F A E F L I P F L O P S T B O D Y O I B  
R B P F M C T Y M A R G A R I T A S T E  
I A H E I A O O T B E A C H B A R U H H  
S S P L A S G L W T A N K T O P W W E A  
B D C I O N H A E E S S L I Q U O T I I  
E O L Q P S U P Z S L U E S K B R E R R  
L G B U E F S T O I L S B I H I T I K S  
T N O O D L E S S L N F O L H O N P I N  
B O C R H B E E R T E E X S B O R O D R  
O O Y S W I M S U I T S T E L T D T S A  
D I K B E S T R A W B E R R I E S A S N  
Y G E A O M I X E R S W I M S I F T T M  
O R L D L A F B E A C H B A L L R O S O  
I P O P A A T M B U G S P R A Y I S H T  
L C O L E S L A W P B C O T N O S A I R  
O S C W O R M S T O Y B O A H L B L R A  
B I A E C E L L P H O N E O I S E A A A  
L I C B A K E D B E A N S L L E E D Y W  
F I L Z E C H I C K E N A L O E V E R A  
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# Birch Lake House Walk

## Home #2 — Rich & Pam Mullin

Only six weeks until our Birch Lake House Walk on July 25th!

Our second stop on the tour is the home of Rich and Pam Mullin at 14859 Birch Northshore Dr.

Back in 1989, Rich and Pam were considering buying a boat on Lake Michigan or a cottage on an inland lake. A good friend encouraged them to buy a cottage as it would be a much more wholesome experience for their kids. They took his advice, and the rest as they say is history!

Once they decided to make Birch Lake their year round home, they tore down the old cottage and completed their new home in September 2004. They came up with the initial design, after pouring thru many home design books.

Rich and Pam's goal was to design the main level to accommodate all their needs and to have the walkout level be a place where their kids and future grandkids could have a place of their own. It's like having two separate homes in one!

Wait until you see the view of the water from the main level!

Don't miss out on this fun filled day! Mark your calendars for July 25th. Co chairs: Michelle Seyfarth, Vickie Rogers, and Vanessa Wozniak.



photo by Carol Dugan

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## Earlier this year ...



Bad Patty (of the notorious "Flamingo Room" fame) cleaned off her camera and came up with a few photos to share from earlier parties at Birch Lake ... some of which go back to before Christmas of last year. Thanks Patty!



# ***Birch Lake Yacht Club to host 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Spaghetti Dinner***

---

**Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 p.m.**

---

***\$7.00 – Adults***

***\$5.00 – Children (3–10)***

***FREE – If under 3***

***Meals to take-away will be available – B.Y.O.B.***

**Please purchase your tickets in advance at the  
Pancake Breakfast -or- call Karen Brovold at 476-8862.**

***Proceeds go to Tannadoonah Camperships***

# 2009 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

**Commodore** — Paul Fallon —476-1467  
cell phone: 574-274-9580

**Vice Comm.**—Bob Waddle—476-2293

**Fleet Capt.** — Bill Luecht—476-2615

**Treas.** — Holly Troeger—476-9898

**Secretary** —Sandy Vitale—476-1680

**BLYC Directors:**

**North** — Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Fred Freihofer—476-9823

Mike Lutz — 476-2843

(cell) 269-207-1153

Bob Baucus — 476 2863

Cell: 574-535-4946 Home: 269-641-5644

**East** — Scott Troeger—476-9898

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Lind Harman — 476-2039

**Hill** — Ryan Gableman—215-0366

**South** — Terry Dugan—476-2814

Sue Williams —476-8886

**West** — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Nancy Walker — 476-2515

cell: 586-530-8581

Karen Brovold — 476-8862

Steve Quinlan — 476-8802

**Cove** — Vicki Rogers—476-2383

**BLYC Water Quality Comm.**

Rick Russwurm, Chair.—476-2407

Terry Dugan—476-2814

Gordon Seyfarth — n/a

Bruce Wagner — 476-2090

**Home Owners Comm.**

Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Scott Troeger—476-9898

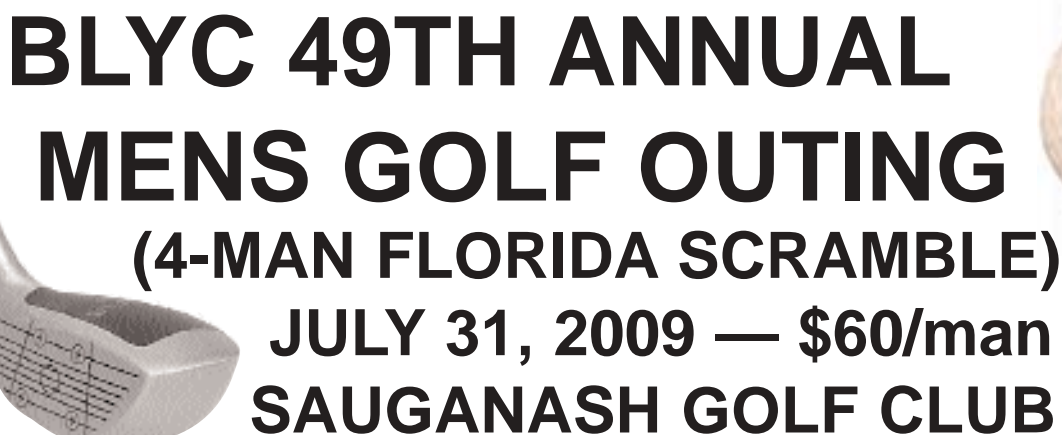
Paul Fallon—476-1467

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

**BLYC Fleet Captain**

Bill Luecht — 476-2615



## BLYC 49TH ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE) JULY 31, 2009 — \$60/man SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

61270 Lutz Rd., Three Rivers, MI — Shotgun start at NOON; dinner at BLYC at 6 pm

\* must have registrations by July 22nd.

**Additional Information**

- \* team prizes and contests
- \* dinner only, \$25 per person
- \* dinner includes 10oz. grilled sirloin, side salads, corn on the cob and dessert.
- \* lunch not included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service availability.
- \* prizes awarded during dinner.
- \* the mens' and ladies' outing is looking for

donations of door prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact Fred Freihofer @ cdfreihofer@aol.com. We have need for 80 players in the mens' and 40 players in the womens' event.

\* **Send entries to Fred Freihofer, 14921 Birch North Shore Dr., Vandalia, MI 49095.**

\*checks should be made out to BLYC

**Foursome Information**

Team Captain:

Player

Player

Player

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## Official BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB 2009 Dues, Contributions & Donations Form



- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$8/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Safety Committee
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Other (non-party related expenses)

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to:** Holly Troeger, Treasurer

1516 Ash Drive East

Elkhart, IN 46514

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

Make checks payable to **Birch Lake Yacht Club**



# BLYC CLASSIFIED ADS

## FOR SALE

**Sea Doo inflatable Splash Island** - Excellent condition, used only 2 summers. \$75 - Call Ann, 317-753-6853

**Hobie Cat**, 16 foot, with sails, on trailer. \$850. Call Artie at 476-1692 or 574-514-3179.

**4' X 7' expanded metal utility trailer with ramps.** New tires. Perfect for hauling riding mower, etc. \$200. call Sparkybob Waddle 476-2293

Four **Notre Dame football season tickets** for the 2009 season in section 24, row 3, seats 16,17,18,19. \$5500.00 for the package. 269 476-9528.

**Sleep Innovations Queen size memory foam;** 60x80x2. 5 years old, like new. \$30. Call Julie, 574-215-5902, see at cottage 98.

## WANTED

Wanted to buy: **Bass clarinet** in good condition. Contact Bill Luecht 476-2615

Wanted: **tennis partner** to play with aspiring young phenom. Call Katie Luecht 476-2615

Wanted: **winning lottery ticket** so I don't have to be a trunk slammer. Call Bad Patty 476-2615

## FOR RENT

**Lovely 3 bedroom cottage** on the beautiful north shore. Sleeps 6, plus a pull out couch. Indoor plumbing and no mosquitoes.

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**Lake Cottage:** Are you having family or friends up and ran out of room? You can use my place. Willing to rent weekly, monthly, or just for a weekend, Family room, large kitchen with all new appliances, recently remodeled, washer/dryer, central air, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, loft with sleeper, new deck, gas grill, lake access. \$1200/week. Contact Vickie or Sam Tomaino @ 630-775-9336 or [mytoria@aol.com](mailto:mytoria@aol.com) for more information and pictures.

**The Villages - Florida rental.** Conveniently located just an hour from Disney World, and an hour from either coast. Located just off highway 75, it avoids much of the traffic the coasts are known for. It is an active community with 2 downtowns, every kind of eating place, 34 golf courses on site, its own hospital, a Sams, 2 Walmarts, many tennis courts, swimming pools, bocce courts, and even polo fields. Everything is accessible by golf cart. The Villages is described as the Disney World for adults. We have a lovely, extra large stand-alone Courtyard villa (which gives complete walled privacy) in the center of it all. It is completely furnished and equipped. It has 2 bedrooms (one a king bedroom and the other twin beds), 2 full baths, an open layout, 3 tvs, cable, local phone service, newspaper, centralized radio/music system, washer/dryer, outdoor furnishings and grill, and many extras. All you need is your suitcase and toothbrush and a willingness to have fun. It is one of the most active villas in that they include

any renters in all villa activities: weekly men/women golfing, monthly dinners, night golf, monthly game nights, block parties, sports activities, etc. It is available this year from Oct. through January. For more information and pictures, call 476-2786.

**Luxury Condo** for \$975/Week (rates contingent on availability and dates). Over 2100 square feet with panoramic balconies that are over 400 square feet, overlooking the ocean, speedway and downtown Daytona. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths with walk-in showers. Fully furnished with washer, dryer, dishes and brand NEW appliances. King bed in master suite, 2 queen beds in guest bedroom and 2 twin beds in third bedroom. Large private swimming pool on complex. Hot tub, tennis courts, par 3 golf course, billiards room/game room, ping pong. Cleaning fees separate but optional. PLEASE CALL 561 603 5522. Ask for Angela or email [berganfsu@aol.com](mailto:berganfsu@aol.com)

**Single-Family Home in Naples Park** \$750/week. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Open floor plan. Screened in tile patio overlooking big back yard. Florida fruit trees. Home located 0.7 miles from public beach; great shopping areas nearby & lots to do and see in Naples, Florida. Home includes all linens and dishes, washer and dryer. Please call Angela 561 603 5522 if you are interested or email [berganfsu@aol.com](mailto:berganfsu@aol.com)

Barker Advertising: **The Birch Barker will publish classified ads free for members of the BLYC ... non-members will be charged \$5/ad. Send ads to sailorphil@philvital.com**

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## Birch Lake



**3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 2 garages, renovated kitchen, extra garage has an open upstairs for possibly a rec. room or extra living space. The 22x93 lake front lot with a shed and a pier to park your water toys are included. \$275,000.**

**Seller says "Bring them all OFFERS"**



**Rent out the cottage below for extra income. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, dining area, and fireplace. This property also has an extra lot next to it. Lake access. \$115,000**



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