



The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of Aug. 15, 2009

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Josh Blake, Eric Herrman, Ryan Donohue, (the nephew of Denise Smitley, west side) and Chris Koepsel who are going off to college this fall. They had their last fling of summer at Birch Lake. They had a ball double tubing. Thanks to wonderful neighbors Dave and Terry Carroll, for lending the group a tube. thanks to Denise Smitley for the cool photo

Everything is Bratiful ...

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Isn't that how the song goes? I know it might seem corny, but brats and corn were the primary ingredients to another Birch Lake Feast beyond compare. Like the old time politicians, those of us that can keep up have indeed been riding the banquet circuit, and its all been right here at the lake.

I'm almost grateful we get a week off before next weekend's Fall Dinner, a chance to catch our collective breathes and for Paul to consider letting his belt out another notch.

Bernie and Blair, your team has done it again. I can't remember ever having brats that tasted so good. The corn and all the side dishes were delightful as well. Volunteer staffers that I noticed included: Bergans, Rogers, Luechts, Vitales, Pitakos/Brovold, Taghon/Spratt, Olsons, Ed

Chester, Ben Garceau, Claire Brovold, Katie Luecht and the hardest working man there, personally stripping every husk of steaming corn, your next Commodore, Sparky Bob Waddle. After that trial by fire, we need not worry about the future of the Yacht Club, need we?

For those that don't recall Bob will be inaugurated, and name his new Vice Commodore next weekend, August 22nd at the Fall Dinner. Don't miss it!

Grand Champion Essay Published!

I don't know if you remember back that far but the winter of 08-09 had almost all Birch Lakers, and others, getting writing cramps, composing, working and reworking their submittals for the best essay on "Why I Love Birch Lake" or "What I Love Most about Birch Lake." After being inundated with entries, the judging committee (consisting of professional authors Jim Blue and

2009 BLYC Calendar

August 22 — Fall Dinner
Sept. 12 — Board meeting 9 am

For more info on any BLYC event, contact the Commodore at 476-1467 or 574-274-9580.

Phil Vitale and the antithesis thereof, yours truly) broke all of the entries down into the six common literary categories and awarded first place recognition to the best in each class.

Over the last five weeks we've shared with you the winners in 5 of the 6 categories. (Feel free to peruse your earlier Barkers for more of this important information on the other categories and winners.)

Two weeks ago, the category winner we shared with you was "Best Utilization of the Four Seasons," by Deb Bolinger. It also happened to be, among all the other first place winners —one from each category, the Second Place Grand Prize Winner.

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail your items to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red newspaper box at my home, 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. PLEASE NOTE, if you do not receive a Barker, call BLYC Commodore Paul Fallon at 476-1467. -Phil Vitale, editor

The entry that garnered first place in this week's category, "Impending Doom" was also selected as the Overall Grand Champion Essay.

Summer Storms

As much as sunny days are the soul of summer, I love summer storms. Their approach out of a sweltering summer afternoon is exhilarating as everyone rushes to batten down the hatches - and cozy as we settle down to watch the show.

They evolve out of the hottest and most humid of summer days: a blue sky full of fluffy white cumulus, the only hint of foreboding in the dark haze on the horizon. The air is absolutely still. By afternoon the clouds have swollen in the stagnant heat.

Sometimes it's a distant rumble which breaks the quiet, sometimes it's a tear of

white light across the sky to the west, and sometimes it's merely the darkening sky - but it's enough; we leap into action. A cool breeze materializes as out come the boat covers and in go the sails, lawn chairs, and potted plants. The sky transforms to complete darkness and the lake reflects a vivid, eerie green. Scattered raindrops assault us as we rush to cover the armada and wrestle to fold the flag, now flapping in what has now become a strong wind. We hunch our shoulders and glance back at the heavy clouds, watching for lightning and hurrying to secure what can be secured before the storm makes it impossible.

Always just in time, we rush to the safety of our windows and porches just as the approaching downpour cascades across the lake, masking the opposite shore in a

blur of dancing white.
Thank you for reading!

-Amy Troeger

I hope you agree with me that Amy's piece was worthy of the award and worth the wait. Ironically, the Grand Prize Winner, a 2009 Washington University graduate, has recently left the area, traveling to Japan, where she has accepted an assignment to teach English. She represents another generation of successful contributors to the betterment of the lake community culture with the last name of Troeger. And the beat goes on....still.

Until we communicate again, let us together continue to enjoy and protect the miraculous healing waters of Birch (God's favorite) Lake.

-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore

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— Birch Lake Notes —

2009 FALL DINNER

Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting!

One last reminder that our annual fall dinner will take place next Saturday evening, August 22nd, at the Yacht Club. We have arranged for the lake's resident caterer, Carrie Rogers, to serve us a sumptuous Mexican feast. A cocktail hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now for \$20.00 each and can be obtained from any Yacht Club board member or officer. Judy Olson on the East side also has tickets. The deadline for ticket sales is Wednesday, August 19th. Please call Bob Waddle at 476-2293 if you have difficulty getting tickets and we will deliver them to you if necessary. If you're a newcomer to Birch Lake this is a great opportunity to meet your new friends and neighbors. If you've been here a while, come out and renew old acquaintances.

Corn & Sausage thanks

Saturday's Corn and Sausage Roast was another successful night; it looked like everyone had a great time. Our numbers were down a little bit but over 130 were fed, many commented that they might burst. This successful Roast was made possible because of all of the help we had. Our wonderful

cooks were Tom Rogers, Stanley Pitakos, Phil Vitale, Ed Chester, Bill Luecht, Stuart Spratt, Jim Bergan, and Ben Garceau. Added help was offered by Commodore Paul Fallon and Vice-Commodore Bob Waddle.

Inside operations ran so smoothly because of the kitchen crew: Sandy Vitale, Patty Luecht, Vickie Rogers, Linda Bergan, Karen Brovold, and Deb Taghon.

Champion cornshucker was Bob Waddle, a man of many talents. Judy and Dave Olson were our greeters and money handlers.

Additional thanks go to Katie Luecht and Claire Brovold for offering their help. It was heartwarming to have everyone show up unexpectedly early and pitch in to get things ready to go. Great help, great friends! Thanks you guys.

There were many people who helped set up the tables after the women's golf outing and helped clean up after the event. There were so many helping hands it made the tasks go quickly.

A huge thank you to everyone for all of their help. And thanks to everyone who attended, it wouldn't be successful if we didn't have you come and join in the fun.

-Bernie and Blair Garceau

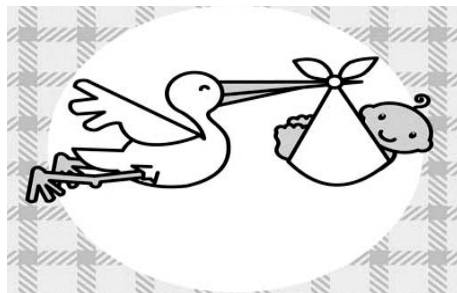
Labor of Love

The First Church of God
Cassopolis located at 21083 Spencer

Road (behind Family Dollar) will host a "Labor of Love" garage sale on September 5, 2009 from 8 am until 5 pm. There will be homemade corn dogs, music and lots and lots of well priced items... Prices will be EXCELLENT!

This event is a fundraiser to assist the pastor and his family in the purchase of a home closer to the Cassopolis area.

Shower/Open House for Amber and Chas



Sunday, August 30th — 2 to 5 pm at Birch Lake Yacht Club — ALL are welcome! Join us for appetizers, drinks, cake and a visit with the parents to be. If you are interested in being part of a group gift please call: Cove: Vickie Rogers 476-2383; Northside: Amy Lutz 476-2843; Eastside: Blair Garceau 476-9862; Southside: Katha Machalleck 476-2642; Westside: Karen Brovold 476-8862 Chas and Amber are registered at Babies R Us and Target.

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Nelson's Port-a-Pit

On Saturday, Sept. 12, a BBQ chicken fundraiser will be held for Elkhart YMCA Gymnastics Team. If you buy tickets in advance (chicken half is \$5.50), Mackenzie and Sandy will pick up and deliver it to your home on Birch Lake. Please call or email Sandy at 574-274-5819 or email sankev+1@comcast.net.

CORRECTION

Last week's photo of BLYC Commodore Paul Fallon presenting a check to Camp Tannadoonah was mistakenly identified as having been a photo taken by the PattiCam. The photo was taken by BadPatty. Sorry.

Team Steffen Wins "Best Team Uniform" In This Year's Event

Sixty-eight golfers made up 17 teams for the 49th Birch Lake Open on Friday, July 31st. The course was changed to Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers, MI after four good years at Four Lakes Country Club.

The weather was perfect in every way for our activities which kicked off with a noon start and finished with dinner the Yacht Club at 6:00 PM.

Door prizes donated by the golfers were given out to all participants during dinner along with awarding the top three teams and contest winners. Volunteers had things cleaned up at the

Happy birthday Vicky Rogers

Three cheers for Vickie Rogers (Cove), this week's Birch Barker Birthday Girl!

Although no one will tell us her age (she allegedly has threatened those closest to her with something vile and particularly painful), she does admit to be at least a youthful 47 (again). Pictured with Vicky are Patti Russwurm (north shore) and Katie Daugherty doing young girl acrobatic things on a beach somewhere in the Caribbean.

Hip hip hoo-rah, hip hip (careful ladies, you could break a hip!)



Yacht Club by 9:30 pm — and it's on the 50th annual event in 2010.

Before we get to the results, thanks must be given to all for the donation of door prizes. The variety ranged from sports logo merchandise to golf equipment to house décor to artwork. Thank-you's also go out to our dinner helpers Sandy Baucus, Karen Brovold, Carol Freihofer, Amy Lutz and Deb Taghon. our picture takers Patti Russwurm, Pam Gambill and Erikka Gambill and hole sponsors and contributors Dick Bender, Paul Fallon, Mike and Amy

Lutz, Mike and Brian Machalleck, Rick Russwurm, Tim Steffen and Phil Vitale.

Our winners sporting a team score of 59 was Team Zesinger lead by Bud Zesinger, Terry Wiseman, Spencer Reinhardt and Kyle Demeter. Second place went to Team Garceau lead by Bernie Garceau, Bill Luecht, Jim Hettmansperger and Jim Beck (Welcome Back, Jim). Rounding out the top 3 was Team McElwee lead by Art McElwee, Artie McElwee, Gus Eshleman and Jack Gale.

Lastly before we sign off, we must

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— Birch Lake Notes —

recognize Team Steffen which consisted of Tim Steffen, Paul Fallon, Ed Chester, and Jim Yoshizawa for the "Best Team Uniform" with neon colored shirts, embroidered names AND pockets. Now that's class! They also get the "Turtle Award" for slowest play but most importantly they get the "Most Fun Award" for in our opinion, having the most clean fun!

Mark your calendars for next year's 50th anniversary event on July 30, 2010. Just remember the last Friday in July!



Visors for sale

Amy Trudell Lutz reports she still has five Birch Lake visors for sale at \$10 each. To purchase



one contact Amy at (269) 744-7746 or via email at www.amy-lutz.net

Here Piggy!

I have dealt with a lot of pigs in my life, in an intimate way. If you don't believe that when you're shoulder deep in a mother pig's uterus, trying to deliver that last squirming piglet, you don't know intimate! So I know pigs!!

Because I know pigs, I never knew an unhappy pig. They always seem to

— Barker kids of the Week —

We have a bunch of Barker Kids of the Week this week; first are (top right) Amy Trudell Lutz's niece Kelly Mae Niepokuj, Olivia, a friend visiting from Indian Lake & niece Zoe Blough. Above are Kelly Mae, Zoe, Clare Brovold & Amanda Butler (west shore) & Mackinsey Dobosiewicz (from the hill). At right is Crazy Kelly Mae mugging with a PBJ sandwich.



have a smile on their faces. You ever notice that? I recall seeing them as a group in zero weather nestled in a straw shed. There were about thirty shoats (half grown pigs) lying close to keep each other warm. They were snorting and snoring, wiggling their tails in complete happiness, once in a while shifting their bodies in the straw to get that special comfort zone, and smiling with contentment.

Even when they are being vaccinat-

ed, screaming in your ears in their high pitched squeal that makes you dizzy, they are still smiling. One year a small dead pig washed up on our shore at Birch Lake. When we dragged him out to bury him, what was he doing? He was still smiling! There must be some secret feeling of happiness about pigs that I don't understand.

The next time you see a pig, look at his face!!

-Duffy Dufour

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— Barker kids of the Week —



The newest addition to the Keirn family and one of the newest Birch Lakers! Isabella Grace Keirn was born July 20, 2009. She was 6 lbs. 14 oz and 19 1/2 inches long. Isabella is the daughter of Colby and Brandi Keirn and the sister of Eli Keirn of Fort Wayne, she is also the granddaughter of Terry and Pat Keirn.

The newest addition to the Boecher family and another one of the newest Birch Lakers! Clara Elizabeth Boecher was born to Dan and Lori Boecher (Rick and Patti Russwurm's kids) Aug 7th at 7:46 am. She weighed in at a whopping 7lbs 7oz and was 20.5 in. long! Clara is at home in Elkhart now with here sisters Greta and Lyla.



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“Enjoying an afternoon on a floating turtle at the lake are Maggie and Edwin Williams, the grandchildren of Sue and Pat Williams (south side). Maggie and Edwin were visiting from



their home in Indianapolis with their parents, Joe and Kristen Williams.”

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Now, let's go play some golf!

— Barker kids of the Week —



This is our granddaughter, Ciara on the right and her friend Fiona Hughes on the left enjoying the water on a hot day.
-Dick and Peggy Cowen



Camp Tannadoonah serenaders on the east side — thanks campers!

Want your kid to be a Baker Kid of the Week?

Your kid can be in the Barker if you send pix to me (via email) along with their name(s) and pertinent info. If you don't email, make sure the info is legible and not too long because I have to retype all that stuff from scratch (and I'm not a very good typist ... and I'm even worse at proofreading stuff I type). -Editor



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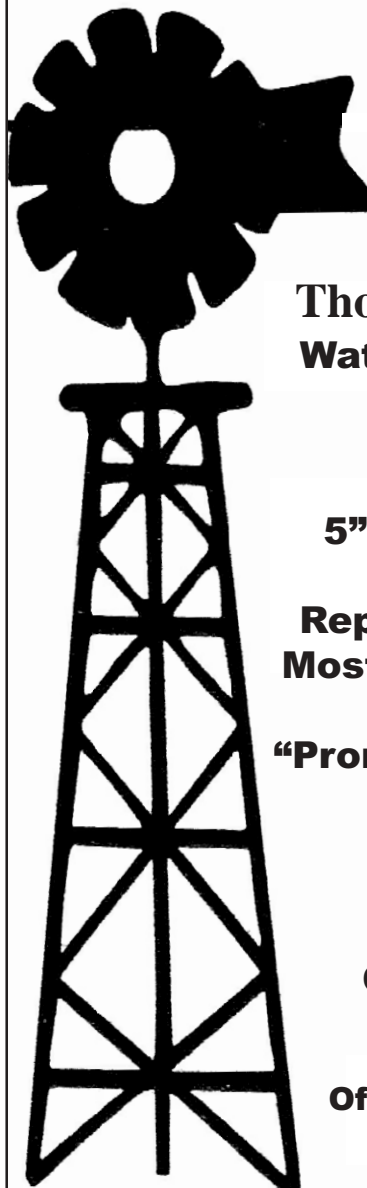
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Fleet Captain's Corner



The joys of being Fleet Captain

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being Fleet Captain is that you get to write these really interesting articles about sailing, even when there isn't actually any sailing to write about. Not that it's that easy to write something about nothing, but when they give you a soapbox, you have to get up on it. And the other thing is, since I'm a regular contributor to the Barker, Editor Phil has promised me 50 percent of his editor's salary. (I think he promised the same to Commodore Paul and all the other writers. This Barker thing must really be a gold mine!) So I have to keep on dishing this stuff out. Good thing I've got such loyal readers...

About the only sailing excitement we got last week was watching Phil go out on his pier with his wind-speed-measuring thingy, and listening to him call out the speeds of the gusts. I know some of you dedicated sailors wanted to race last week, but the wind was just too strong. Nobody wanted to spend the day hauling sailors and boats out of the water. Also there were a few sailors who were still under the weather from working (or celebrating) the Corn and Sausage roast.

Thanks to Dave Olson, who volunteered to run the committee boat. Thanks to Stewart Spratt and Deb

2008 BLYC SAILING SEASON RESULTS

Date.....TotalSeason.....SeasonRegatta.....Completed/
PointsAverage.....Races.....Races.....Possible
(Remember, we are counting completed regatta races toward the total number of races needed to qualify for the regular season.)

MC Scow	Total Points	Season Average	Season Races	Regatta Races	Completed/Possible
Scott Troeger #1489	10817	1545	7	5	12/14
Rick Harman #379	7469	1494	5	0	5/14
Harold Cranmer #618	11653	1457	8	5	13/14
Bob King #1199	13107	1456	8	5	13/14
Jim Bolinger #1735	4259	1420	2	0	2/14
Tom Howard #1713	15066	1370	9	5	14/14
Jeff Smitley #2002	9505	1358	6	5	11/14
Phil Vitale #500	16020	1335	12	5	17/14
Don Harman #582	9307	1330	7	0	7/14
Dave Olson #1979	15618	1302	12	4	16/14
Gib Eberhart #916	16068	1236	11	1	12/14
Bill Luecht #1579	14608	1217	11	4	15/14

Sunfish	Total Points	Season Average	Season Races	Regatta Races	Completed/Possible
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	11200	1600	7	5	12/11
Erica Vitale (White)	12405	1551	8	2	10/11
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	4563	1521	3	4	7/11
Sandy Vitale (White)	10266	1467	7	4	11/11
Eric Odenwald (Blue/Yellow)	10262	1466	7	2	9/11
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue)	13651	1365	9	5	14/11
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	6480	1296	5	0	5/11
Brad Davis (Yellow/Teal)	0	0	0	2	2/11

Taghon who volunteered to run the committee boat so that Dave could sail..

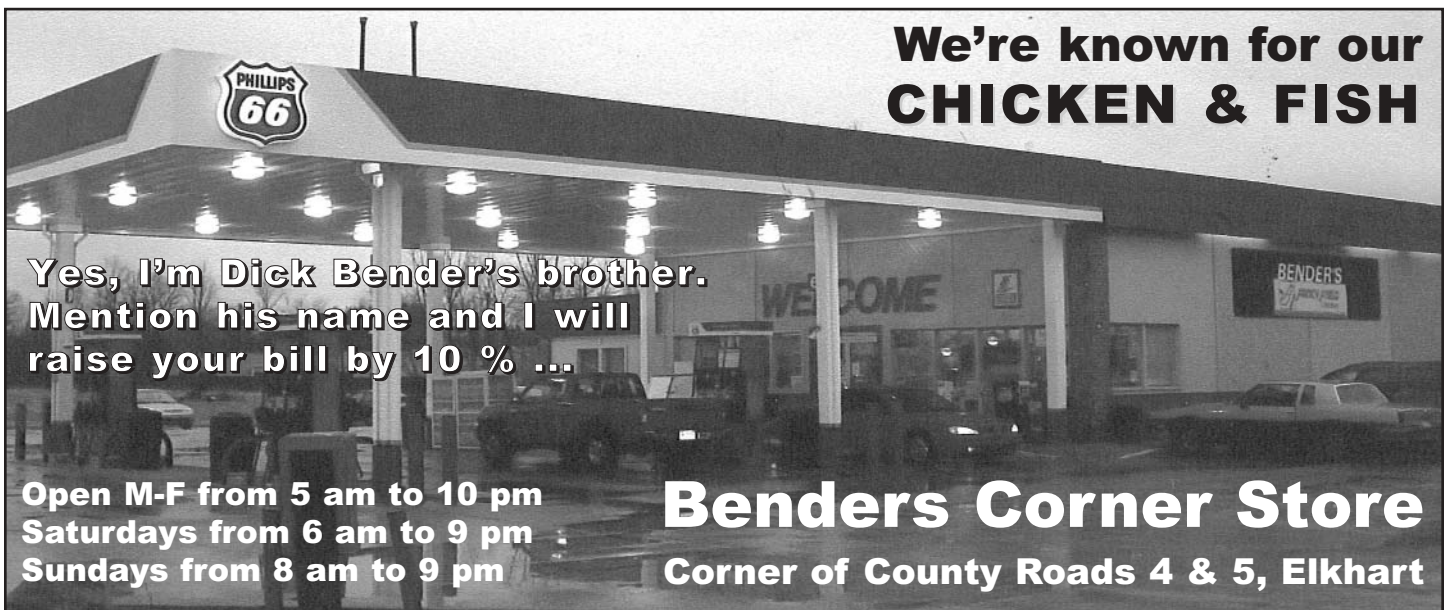
Thanks to Phil Vitale who volunteered to run the committee boat so that he wouldn't have to sail.

See you all out on the water Sunday!

-Bill Luecht, Fleet Captain 2009

COMMITTEE BOAT SIGN UPS

- 8-16Bob & Sue Waddle
- 8-23Stan & Karen
- 8-30Available for You!
- 9-5 (Regatta)Bad Patty
- 9-6 (Regatta)Available for You!
- 9-7 (Regatta)Available for You!



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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Impress your guests ...

This appetizer recipe is easy and sooooo good. Just slice 'em, top 'em and bake 'em. You can impress your adult guests by serving these with a fine Pinot Noir.

Blue Cheese Crescent Spirals

INGREDIENTS

Spirals

1 can (8 oz) Pillsbury® refrigerated crescent dinner rolls or 1 can (8 oz) Pillsbury® Crescent Recipe Creations™ refrigerated flaky dough sheet

2 tablespoons butter, melted

1/4 cup crumbled blue cheese (1 oz)

1/4 cup chopped pecans

Sauce

1/4 cup red plum jam



1/4 teaspoon ground red pepper (cayenne)

Garnish

Additional crumbled blue cheese

DIRECTIONS

1. Heat oven to 375°F. Spray cookie sheet with cooking spray.
2. Remove dough from can; do not unroll. Cut rolled dough into 12 (1/2-inch) slices. Place on cookie sheet. Brush top of each slice with butter. Sprinkle each with 1 teaspoon blue cheese and 1 teaspoon pecans.
3. Bake 12 to 15 minutes or until golden brown.
4. Meanwhile, in small bowl, mix sauce ingredients.
5. Arrange spirals on serving platter. Top each with about 1 teaspoon sauce. Garnish with additional blue cheese.

Happy snacking!

-Good Patti

Birch Lake Directory update

We would like to publish an updated Birch Lake directory. Some updates have been received and duly noted, but there are new cottage/homeowners appearing that may not be noted. Could everyone who reads this please extend a neighborly welcome to new families and share this plea for accurate data? Perhaps you know of a property that has changed hands (i.e. your adult children bought the cottage next door or down the street — wishful thinking!) I'll be willing to list ages of children, but that information needs to be COMMUNICATED. (College-age will be listed as "college age") Here's how the information can be transmitted without too much nagging:

■ call 269-476-1467, if there is no answer, I'll call you back

■ stop by 63600 Birch Road, by water or land

■ complete an update form, conveniently included in this week's Barker, and mail it to Celia Fallon, 63600 Birch Road, Vandalia 49095

■ complete an update form, conveniently included in this week's Barker, and place it the Fallon's mailbox

■ deadline for this information is August 22, 2009

■ if we do not receive an updated form, what is in the current directory will be printed again

Thanks to previous Yacht Club administrators, computer software and copious record keeping, this task is minimal and may bring delight to the many new members, young and old, of our Beautiful Birch Lake community. Perhaps there are some future analysts among us. Thank you.

-Celia Fallon

INFORMATION SHEET FOR UPDATE OF BLYC DIRECTORY

Name(s) _____

Birch Lake address _____

Cottage number (if known) _____

Home address: _____

Other address: _____

Lake phone _____ Home Phone _____

Cell Phones: _____

Email addresses _____

Children : Please state ages as of September 1, 2009

Other information (optional) _____

Stu's Star Stuff

Interesting facts about Neptune

Neptune is brightest for the year and remains in the sky all night. But the fourth-largest planet is so far away you need a telescope to see it.

After the discovery of Uranus in 1781, astronomers had a difficult time accurately describing the planet's orbit. Uranus seemed to be pulled by the gravity of an unseen planet. Working independently, two mathematicians calculated the position of such a planet and passed it on to astronomers. When German astronomer Johan Galle aimed his telescope at that position in 1846, he quickly detected the new world.

Galle had discovered the solar system's fourth-largest planet. It is a soothing blue-green orb that looks like a giant marble spinning through space. Its color is the result of methane in its upper atmosphere, which absorbs red light, allowing us to see only the blue end of the spectrum.

Neptune probably has a rocky core wrapped in a layer of frozen water and other ices. The core is fairly large, so Neptune is actually the third most massive planet in the solar system. Traces of other elements form clouds at the top of its thick atmosphere. Neptune's rotation stretches the clouds into bands that completely encircle the planet.

We can't see a lot of features in Neptune's atmosphere, but the features that astronomers can detect appear to come and

go in a hurry. When the Voyager 2 spacecraft flew past Neptune in August 1989, for example, it discovered the Great Dark Spot -- a dark, oval-shaped storm system as big as Earth. But when Hubble Space Telescope looked at Neptune five years later, the Great Dark Spot had disappeared.

Voyager also found that Neptune produces more heat than it receives from the Sun. One theory says that a "rain" of liquid hydrogen falls onto the planet's core, releasing heat as it falls.

Several rings of rocky material that is darker than chimney soot encircle Neptune. The rings may have formed when a comet slammed into a small moon, destroying both the comet and the moon. The debris then spread out to form rings. Today, this material is merging to form larger clumps. Within about 10,000 years, the ring material may coalesce to form a moon -- a moon reborn from the ashes of its own demise.

Some other interesting facts include - Distance from Sun - 2.8 billion miles, diameter - 30,776 miles, length of day - 16 hours 7 minutes, length of year - 164.8 Earth years, known moons - 13.

Look for Neptune (with your telescope) to the lower left of Jupiter this evening. Jupiter rises in the east not long after night fall and is the brightest object in that part of the sky. Saturn is currently fading in the

western evening twilight but next week the Moon, Mercury, and Saturn line up left to right very low in the west about 30 minutes after sunset. You may need binoculars to see the planets. Until next week, enjoy the show. It's free, and one of the many reasons I love Birch Lake.

-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:



The Moon for Aug 15, 2009
Illuminated Fraction: 0.225
2.5 days after last quarter

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

You will be full of energy and you need to find something constructive to do. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. You will want to take off and have some recreation. Your generous nature could be taken advantage of. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Your energetic personality will make you the center of attention at social gatherings. You may not be too pleased with the actions of those you live with. Your ideas are good and career moves can be realized. Your ability to deal with others will help you accomplish your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Try to stay calm and do the best you can. Make sure all of your travel and driver's documents are in proper order. You will learn valuable information if you travel this week. Be careful; you may upset someone you live with if you don't consult with them. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You will be able to communicate well this week. Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation. Difficulties at an emotional level may be likely. Passion is inevitable and commitments can be made during the heat of the night. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You may be upset if someone has borrowed something that belongs to you. You will accomplish the most in the work environment this week. Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. If you want to make your mark, try to get involved in projects that will bring you some glory. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

It will be important that you have your priorities straight. Resist the temptation to gamble. Risks will not be profitable. You can mix business with pleasure to get favorable results. Things will be hectic and family members will be erratic. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Do not let the reactions of others get you going. Just be yourself. Try not to overspend on luxury items. Investments may be misrepresented this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Things will be emotional with your mate. You need to make your lover feel wanted, not like a piece of the furniture. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. You will enjoy travel and getting together with peers. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Be careful when dealing with superiors. Your sensitive nature will allow others to read you well. Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Get involved in competitive sports. Friends will appreciate your attention and playful nature. Pleasure trips will ease the tension between you and your mate. Don't hesitate to visit someone who hasn't been well. Ideas may sound good, but be careful if people are just looking for handouts. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Take care of any pressing health problems. Make love, not war, and all will be fine. Look into events that you might find interesting, and compromise by doing a few things that you both like to do. Sudden changes regarding colleagues may surprise you. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Don't let others know about your private affairs. You can have a great time if you go out with the one you love. Your personal life will be disrupted if you have been too busy with business. Minor health problems could result through exhaustion. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



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Tannadoonah Tidbits

Camp 2009 has come to a close. We had a great last week of camp, and concluded the summer just 25 campers short of the final 2008 numbers.

The last week of camp was full of fun activities for the campers and staff. On Tuesday night we played "One Way Street." The idea of the game is that we play a bunch of different group games, such as "Red Light, Green Light" or "Spud" or "Giants, Wizards, and Elves." While the campers are playing these games, two

counselors go around being the police officers. They issue tickets to campers for a variety of funny behaviors, such as "wearing pig tails when you are clearly not a pig."

At the conclusion of the games, all of the campers and staff who received tickets are gathered up and given silly punishments, such as having to feed each other pudding while blindfolded, or shaving a water balloon held over their head. All of the punishments result in the person being either very wet or very messy!

Wednesday night we had a talent show. Each cabin put together a skit or performance, and then small groups of campers or staff did additional performances. We had lots of very impressive singing and dancing, as well as some great comedians. The highlight of the night, however, was Mr. Steven and Mr. Andrew (who was attired in a dress) singing "A Whole New World" from Aladdin to one another.

Thursday night we split into two groups and serenaded the residents along the north, east, cove, and west sides of the lake. It was great to see so many people come out to hear us, and we even learned a new song from a family on the north shore who sang to us when we came to their house! The counselors liked this new song so much that they taught it to the campers at sing the next day!

Friday was our final council fire. We had 5 campers who completed all of the requirements for the Order of the Birch award this summer. This award is the highest

honor that a camper can receive at Camp Tannadoonah. The winners of the award were honored with a special torch ceremony.

Afterwards, we all proceeded to the waterfront for our candlelight serenade. We were very lucky that the rainy weather held out for us just long enough to have the council fire and candlelight ceremony! Thanks to everyone who came out in their boats to hear us sing Friday night!

Saturday was a day of packing, cleaning, and closing up camp for the season. The staff worked really hard until about 5pm, and then we had our staff banquet. Chas made homemade pizzas for the staff dinner, which was a huge hit with the staff! We closed out the summer with a staff party that lasted well into the night, and everyone headed home or back to school in the morning. It was so hard to say goodbye to everyone!

Hope that everyone enjoys these last few weekends of summer!

-Miss Amber



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

"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

"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

"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

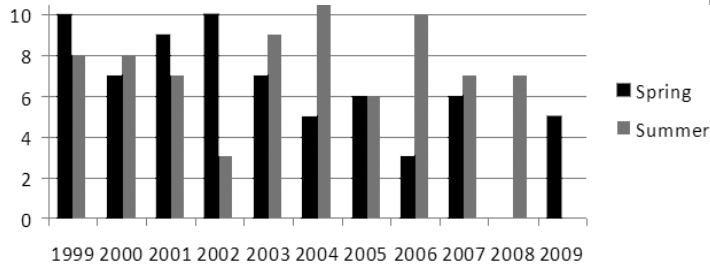
"Justin Nichols was working next door when I met him. I needed several trees removed and the stumps ground ... Justin can do it all!"

Ryan Gableman, East Side Hill

Water Quality Committee Report

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

Phosphorous



Phosphorous Data

As has been discussed over the years, phosphorous is the primary growth limiting nutrient in the lake that can lead to additional algae growth, plant growth, and consequent aging of the lake.

What would be desired is a phosphorous level below 10 (I will not get into the units), but you definitely do not want above 30. The bar graph on this page shows the data as available over the past 10 years. There are two bars for each year and these reflect the samples taken in the spring and late summer. The spring sample is collected after the lake turnover and mixing, thus, if you would sample anywhere in the lake and at any depth, the data should be the same. The

summer sample is taken following true stratification leading to a non-mixing between the warmer surface water and the colder deeper water. Thus, differences between spring and summer are not unexpected.

What is interesting is that in looking at this graph, the early data show a higher spring than summer level of phosphorous, while in the later years of this data collection, the reverse was true. In 2008, there was no spring sample taken. The data in 2009 shows only the spring sample. The summer sample will be taken in a couple of weeks. However, in doing a side by side for other things with Ralph Bednarz from the DEQ, he sampled for phos-

phorous. This was in June and the level then was 9.

Whether the shift in spring summer has meaning is unclear now and will be an item of discussion with folks who might be able to tell us more as we collect further data in future years.

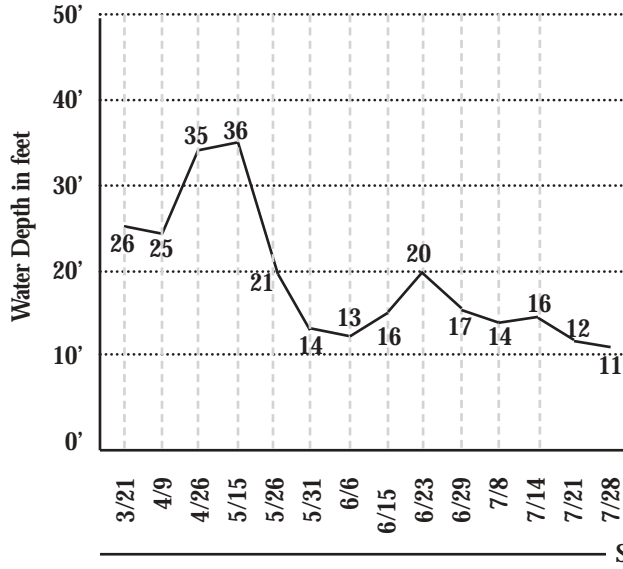
Full Moon

It is August, dog days are here, the moon has been full, thus that must mean we will see some stuff on the lake in various places after warm calm nights. Usually this is in the northeast section where prevailing winds may gather stuff, additional phosphorous from the stream may make conditions for algae growth a bit more robust, and this can increase anxiety lev-

els of those who see this.

Today, Tuesday August, 11, we sampled multiple locations around piers in the area. The stuff was an algae bloom of some sort. The initial samples will be tested for E coli, but we want to identify the stuff. An individual at a company called Phycotech in St. Joseph is one of the best in the area for analyses of this type. She is out this week, thus a sample today would not be as well preserved as one taken the same day it would be taken in. Thus, we have asked some folks in the area to alert us starting next week if the same conditions arise, so we can obtain a suitable sample for analysis. If we do not see this again, well, is that a problem.

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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REFLECTIONS

Good things about aging?

Last week I said that this week would be the list for the GOOD things about getting older but I forgot what they were ... Hmmm ... I'm sure it will come to me any minute ... OK! I think I've got it. Sometimes it takes a while! I'm sure you understand. Thanks for your patience.

Most of the good things that I can think of are pretty obvious. I'm sure that you know of many others and I would like to hear them, so, write in to the Barker if you want them printed in a future issue.

1.) There's the fact that once you hit that magic mark of retirement, you don't have to get up and go to work. That means that you are not rudely awakened by that pesky alarm clock while it is still dark out! On the flip side of that, half the time you are awake already, because the internal clock of many seniors is set on EARLY.

2.) Also, after arriving at retirement, the government begins to give you money every month. Flip side: It's your money. They've been using it without interest for the last forty some years and are really quite stingy about giving it back!

3.) You can go south and get out of the freezing cold and stay as long as you want. Flip side: Try as I might, I can't find anything bad

about this plan. I'm in. I like this one.

4.) You get caught up on many issues of popular magazines while waiting endlessly in doctors' offices. Flip side: I'm not sure if the flip side on this one is suppose to be bad or good so I'll go with both; Bad - The doctor make's you change your diet to reduce cholesterol or sugar, etc. , taking away anything that makes food fun. Good - Sometimes he gives you a prescription that reminds you of the psychedelic years of the 60's.

5.) You men grow additional hair that helps keep your nostrils and ear canals warm when you go outside in the cold. Flip side: You can figure that out yourselves!

6.) You get free coffee or discounts at many restaurants and places of entertainment. Flip side: Actually, this one is pretty good, but tell me, what is worse. Is it, a) having to ask for the discount, announcing to anyone in earshot that you are over the required age, or b) if they just give it to you, without you asking, after one quick glance?

7.) Ladies - you don't have to turn thermostat up so high in the winter because the hot flashes keep warming you up. Flip side: They are hard to predict and those around don't seem to feel the benefit.

8.) If you don't feel like cleaning the house, removing your glasses makes everything look much cleaner. Flip side: People without glasses or those that insist on wearing them, can still see the dust and streaks.

9.) You can turn your hearing aids off and honestly say you didn't hear the request of your spouse, or the phone ringing. Flip side: Falling or taking an impromptu leap into the lake with them on is expensive. One particular eastsider, who shall remain nameless, can verify.

10.) I am ending with my particular favorite, GRANDCHILDREN! There is no flipside and no negatives with this one! No matter how terrible they are for their parents and their teachers, even if they are not what others would call adorable or their grades are not honor roll or scholarship material, to a grandparent, they are a wonder of beauty and cleverness unparalleled. No matter if they call you Gumpu and Goomoo, Nanna and PooPoo or Uummy and PopPop, when they look up at you and smile, your heart melts, your pains go away, and for as long as you are with them, all is right with the world.

-Antique on the East Side



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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

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

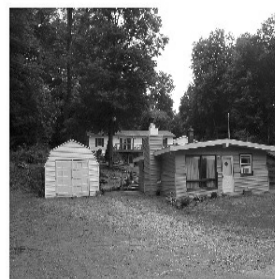
Barker Advertising: **The Birch Barker will publish classified ads free for members of the BLYC ... non-members will be charged \$5/ad. Send ads to sailorphil@philvitale.com**

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

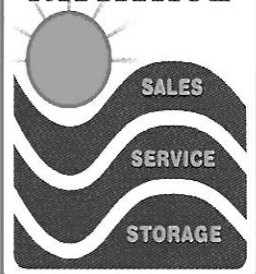


Mark VanDusen
68827 M62
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
Cell: 574-215-6549
Office: 269-663-8585 ext 13



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