

The official publication of the  
**BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB**

# Birch Barker

Weekend of Aug. 29, 2009

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Just in case you missed the awesome clouds over the west shore before last weekend's deluge ...

## Permission to come aboard

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**A** hoy mates! Permission to come aboard? Commodore Bob Waddle reporting for duty.

If you're wondering "who the hell is Bob Waddle?" I have included a recent picture of myself to accompany these comments. I live in a red house on the east (best) side of the lake, and I'm usually tooling around in my cool, but illegal, golf cart. I'm always ready and willing to stop and say "Hi," talk for a while, take suggestions, give advice and even listen to your gripes.

I am here to serve. When I agreed to take this position again (I was Commodore in 1994) I was under the influence of an unknown potion that I think someone gave me at a Yacht Club function. When I was revived the next morning by taking massive doses of aspirin and coffee, the grim reality of what I had done began to sink in.

"You want me to do what?"

I'm just joking.

I agreed to be Commodore again because I love this place called Birch Lake,

and I love all the friends and neighbors I have here, or my "family," as Paul Fallon noted.

Then, on top of everything else, they told me that I had a DEADLINE to get my comments to the Birch Barker. Is there anything else they haven't told me? Deadline? I haven't had deadlines since I retired.

Usually I don't know what day it is. I'll try to do my best.



### 2009 BLYC Calendar

September 12 — Board meeting 9 am  
September 19 — Game night at BLYC  
October 10 — Chili Cookoff, BLYC

For more info on any BLYC event, contact the Commodore at 476-2293 or 269-365-7696.

### 2010 BLYC CALENDAR

Please note: the 2010 BLYC Calendar is being compiled and is expected to be completed soon. Watch the Barker (and/or the Online Barker) for complete details.

As you have probably figured out by now the Commodore's job is to act as chief cheerleader for all the BLYC functions, and I am happy to assume that role. There are lots of things that happen around here that deserve lots of cheers, and on that note I am going to get serious.

Right now the two people that deserve the biggest cheers are Ex-Commodore Paul Fallon and his lovely wife, Celia. They did a marvelous job the entire season and I hope you all agree it was a smashing success.

I'm also sure that they, in their unselfish manner, would want me to thank

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail your items to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto: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 Bob Waddle at 476-2293. -Phil Vitale, editor

all of the volunteers that helped make all of our events successful, so Thanks to all!

In closing let me remind you that we still have two events planned for the remainder of the year. On September 19th a game night is on the calendar at the BLYC, and on October 10th, our famous Chili Cook-off is set at the Yacht Club. We need lots of entries and lots of tasters, who will ultimately choose Birch Lake's Chili Champion for 2009. And the desserts are to die for.

I still haven't come up with a catchy phrase to close my comments, so I'll just say goodbye for now and God Bless.

**FALL DINNER UPDATE**

The margarita machine was steadily

humming along all evening Saturday at the BLYC, trying to slake the thirsts of the many attendees at our annual fall dinner. Birch Lake's Carrie Roger's "Chic Eats" catering served a sumptuous Mexican feast and a great time was had by all. Paul Fallon presented momentos to the many

Birch Lakers who served him well during his tenure as Commodore for 2009. In turn, both Paul and Celia received small gifts from the appreciative Birch Lake Yacht Club for doing such a swell job all year.

Each year, a Birch Laker receives the Commodore's Trophy for their years of selfless and tireless dedication to the Yacht Club. This year, Paul awarded the trophy to **Fred and Carol Freihofer** from the north

side. In our annual meeting all the attendees of the dinner unanimously approved new terms for Board of Directors members Vickie Rogers, Harold Cranmer, Fred Freihofer and Phil Vitale, and Jeff Smitley was welcomed as the 2010 BLYC Fleet Captain.

Lastly, new Commodore Bob Waddle announced the greatly anticipated choice for Vice-Commodore. Ladies and Gentlemen! meet your new Vice Commodore, Mr. **Stan Pitakos**. Stan is already trying to get into shape for the arduous apprenticeship he faces for a full year under our new Commodore. Wish him the best of luck when you see him.

*-Bob Waddle, 2010 Commodore*

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# — Birch Lake Notes —



## Baby Scrabble

Ha Campers guess what? We have extended the scrabble game for one more week. Again, since the August 30th baby shower is an open house we will not be able to play any baby shower games. Soooo why not play one through the Barker? Yea, everyone can play! See how many baby-related words you can make from this phase: **“Amber and Chas are anxious to hold their new little camper”**

You have an extra week to submit your words via e-mail to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) The winner will have their name in bold print and will be awarded the title of the **“Smartest person we know.”**

## Grundy's Baby Shower Open House info:

Birch Lake Yacht Club  
Sunday, August 30, 2009  
Open House 2-5 pm  
Women, men, children all welcomed.  
Come join us for appetizers,  
drinks,(non alcohol and alcohol drinks)

and a chance to chat with the happy expecting couple.

## Free Gift Wrap Items

If you are in need of the following baby shower gift wrap items; Gift Bags, Roll Wrap Paper, or Tissue for Amber and Chas's baby shower gift.

Call me, these items are free, while supplies last.

-Vickie — 476-2383

## Game Night

Incoming commodore Waddle has scheduled a Game Night at the Yacht Club for Saturday, Sept. 19 at the Yacht Club. Last year there were some wild 6-handed euchre, cribbage, and “Left, Right, Center” games going on — the place got a bit rowdy. Mark your calendar and more info will follow in future Barkers.

## Visors for sale

Amy Trudell Lutz reports she still has a few 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](http://www.amy-lutz.net)

## Chili cookoff planned for Oct. 10th

Break out the Tabasco and Franks Red Hot and get the crock pots boiling cause the BLYC will once again host the annual Chili Cookoff on October 10 (tentatively) at the club. Prizes and bragging rights will be awarded to the chefs

who make the best chili.

Watch the Barker for more info.

## 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 Sept. 4 and 5, from 8 am until 5 pm. On Sept. 5 there will be homemade corn dogs, music and lots and lots of well priced items... Prices will be EXCELLENT!

On Sept. 12 the church will also host a spaghetti dinner at the church.

## 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](mailto:sankev+1@comcast.net).

## Skunk story

There were six of the cutest little kits you ever saw. Black and white, no bigger than your hand. How did I get this job? I volunteered. At that time it was legal. I volunteered to de-scent six 5 week-old skunks. They are most charming. The clients who found them must have felt the same, for they wanted them for pets. I tried to dissuade

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

them, but they insisted.

I prepared myself for the surgery – anesthetic (injectable), rubber gloves, surgery pack, and a complete disrobing was necessary. I donned some clothes I could discard – including a covering for my hair. I was ready!!

I took them in a box to the middle of a field adjacent to my hospital. Each of them was administered a short-acting anesthetic. One by one I did the surgery, carefully dissecting the two glands under the tail. They are small, very muscular glands. When compressed they will squirt a very long way. During the surgery the odor was overwhelming, but I got used to it and it did not interfere with my ability to do the surgery.

After the surgery, they were returned to the client OUTSIDE the hospital. All clothing was removed at the back door. I quickly jumped into the hospital, leaving all the instruments soaking in an odor-killing bath. Unfortunately, I could not escape ALL of the odor. In spite of all precautions, the smell remained in the hospital for about two weeks. As for the kits, they were kept as pets, but as they grew, their urine retained a slight odor. Skunks are no longer de-scented and are protected by law. Returned to the wild, de-scented skunks have no



From the Hobie Nationals in Italy ... thanks to Mr. Bob for sending it along.

defense from predators.

*-Duffy Dufour*

### A happy disturbance in the force

You may have noticed a tremor in The Force on Thursday around 4 p.m. Calvin King turned sixteen. Per the local news, several ladies at the BMV ran shrieking from the office in hysteria. We understand some auto insurance companies mysteriously discontin-

ued coverage in the Michiana area.

Drivers: be afraid.

A belated celebration will be held at the King home on Saturday with friends from South Bend in attendance. Lakers wanting to participate in the mass spanking should expect long lines. Parking will be at a premium, so please walk, car pool or come by floating conveyance.

BYOP (bring your own paddle) and

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

... the line forms at the rear.

Cal was born on the anniversary of Phil and Sandy Vitale jumping the broom. Congratulations on another year of wedded bliss you two

-*The King Family*

## Flotsam v2

The wind looked weird, with half the lake calm / half blowing 8-12. I put a paddle in the cockpit just before leaving for the course should I need to paddle in or out (the N shore was dead calm). Sailed a crappy race — kept making errors and moving back down from 3rd to 5th, up again, then 2nd to 4th, etc. Decided to consolidate the loss and finish. About 100 feet from the finish line I tacked and realized not only was the tiller extension in my hand, but the entire assembly was loose, dragging astern. It's maybe \$750-900 of kit ... and I have no idea whether the wooden tiller floats the (mainly metal) assembly.

By the time I had the rudder blade, bracket, tiller and extension onboard, the boat decided to go into a wicked gybe, pirouetting on the dual daggerboards (both deployed for the finish in case I had to tack to make the line). This didn't happen once — it happened a couple times, and the nasty circling gybes fed on themselves to the point I began to get dizzy.

Aha — the paddle thinks I. Dug in and fought the spin until I was able to come head to wind, and then thought to sail across the line (now maybe 150' away) using the paddle as a sideboard steering device. This worked for about 10 seconds before the uncontrolled gybing/circling started all over again—rinse and repeat.

A few friends came alongside, but I urged them to stand off, not knowing how to control my boat. One thing I did know was it was impossible to stand on the foredeck to drop the sail. I headed off on a semi-controlled reach steering canoe style on one swing then paddling like mad as the boat swung the other direction, trying to keep headed towards the leeward shore.

My boat must know where to beach as with some difficulty I was able to make on the open space near Harmans' ... roughly where I'd put in on the (now) infamous swamping day. The last couple hundred feet turned into a struggle directly into the wind, but I eventually made it ashore. I jumped in the water, quite happy to be out of the boat.

Don Harman came over laughing, wondering what was wrong this time? I asked if he had a paper clip, thinking I'd just lost the ring-ding which keeps the rudder pintle pins secure in the transom gudgeon bracket. Nope ... the

pintle pins had both sheered off and were gone, in 70' of water. I took down the sail and got towed home.

As always, many thanks to the kind souls who offer aid.

Adding the paddle at the last moment was prophetic. It's the same paddle I lost overboard on swamping day. Friend Phil found it in my flotsam. This was the first time I had it back onboard since that day. Musta been my density -or- destiny, or sumpin!

Besides repairing / engineering a work-around bracket (a new one is 2.45 boat units — \$245

plus shipping) ... think I'll test to see if the assembly floats!

Got pintles?

-*Bob King*



## Sandhill Crane Trail Run

Saturday, Oct. 10, 9 am at Dr. T. K. Lawless Park (5 minutes from Birch Lake) there will be a 10K and half marathon, all trail, non-repeat. Awards to the top three finishers in 15 age groups, colorful long sleeve t-shirts to all finishers. Walkers also welcome. \$20 postmarked by Oct. 2; \$25 afterwards. Registration form available from: [www.cairnstoneadventure-tours.com/Sandhill\\_Crane\\_Half.html](http://www.cairnstoneadventure-tours.com/Sandhill_Crane_Half.html)

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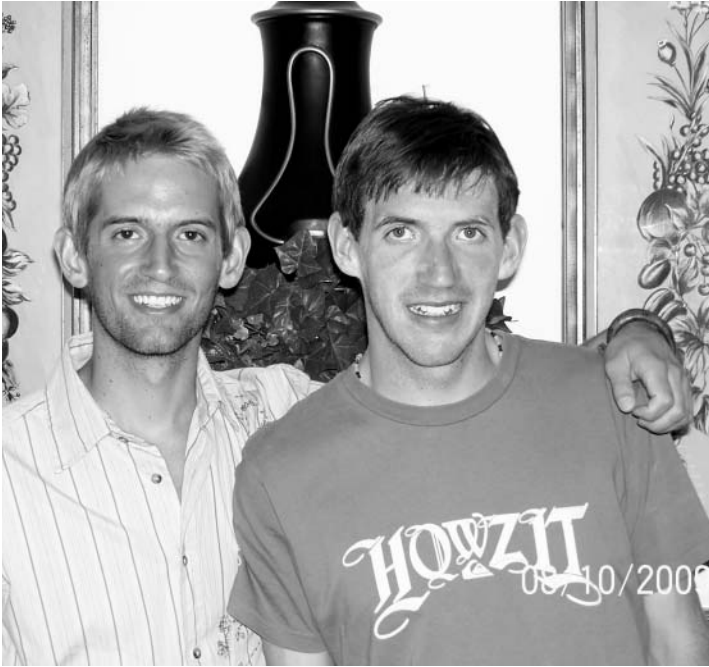
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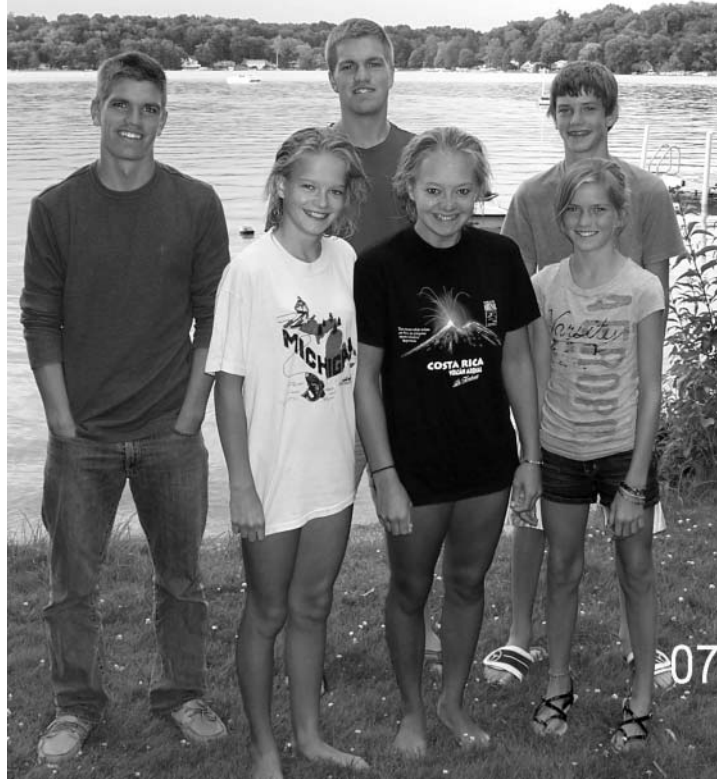
***Now, let's go play some golf!***

# — Barker kids of the Week —



## Want your kid to be a Birch Barker 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 ... I'm even worse at proofreading the stuff I had to type. -Editor



All of Connie and Earl Troegers' (south side) grandchildren have made it to the Lake this summer. They all enjoy their time at the Lake. At top left are are Chris and Matt from Steamboat Springs CO, Above are Brett, Chad, Wade, and Aubrey from Fishers, IN. Center front; Lauren and Carly from Evergreen CO



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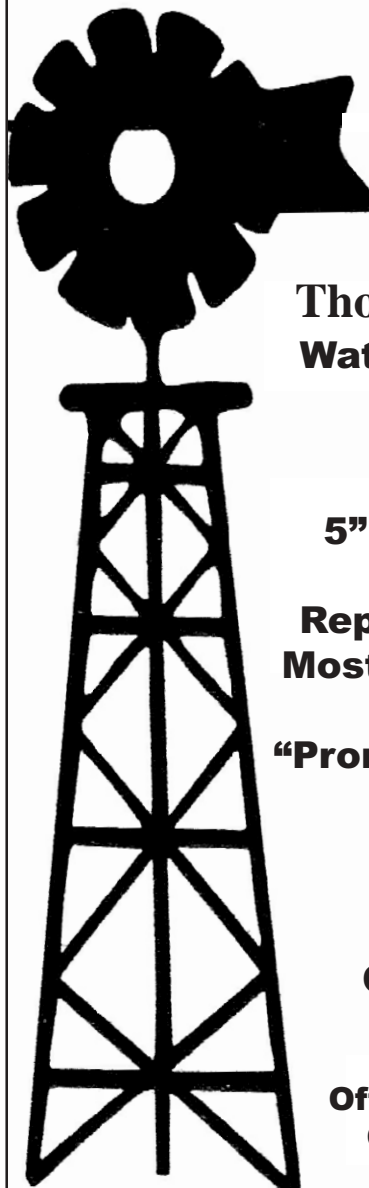
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# Fleet Captain's Corner



## New 2010 Fleet Captain named

There's major news on the sailing front at Birch Lake! As was announced last Saturday at the Fall Dinner, we have a new Fleet Captain for the 2010 sailing season. **Jeff Smitley** has agreed to take the helm of the Birch Lake fleet. In the last few years, Jeff has proved that he is an excellent sailor, and I'm sure he will be equally capable in his new position. All hail the new Captain!

Don't worry, Jeff, it's not that bad. You get to be third-in-line at the Yacht Club, have a seat on the board, get a really cool flag to fly from your boat, and have your own byline in the Barker. What else could you possibly want? (In fact, my lovely wife Patty is unhappy that I didn't keep the position for another year. She said that having a Fleet Captain around lends a certain air of respectability to the place.)

The winds were medium to slow to slower to none-at-all Sunday. Oddly enough, the none-at-all winds were right in the vicinity of my boat. It must be my karma — the calming influence that I have on the world around me. (Or maybe it was just the inner peace I was feeling, knowing that I only have to come up with a couple more of these wonderful sailing articles, and then it's Smitley's problem.)

Some of the other sailors, including everyone's favorite Barker Editor, seemed to be able to find the wind. Phil, who likes to use the e-mail moniker "Sailorphil," showed us that he deserves that name — he was so far ahead in the second race that he finished six minutes ahead of the second boat. I think he must have thought they were giving out free drinks at the finish line.

Speaking of the finish line, thanks to Stanley Pitakos, Stewart Spratt, and Jim and Sally Beck for running the committee boat. How's that for a well-qualified crew? Two Past Commodores and

2008 BLYC SAILING SEASON RESULTS			
Date	Total	Season	
Race	18	19	Points
Sailor	Average		
<b>MC Scow</b>			
Scott Troeger #1489	DNS	DNS	13938
Rick Harman #379	DNS	DNS	7469
Bob King #1199	DNF	DNS	18540
Jim Bolinger #1735	DNS	DNS	4259
Don Harman #582	DNS	DNS	14028
Harold Cranmer #618	1	2	18047
Jeff Smitley #2002	3	3	16358
Phil Vitale #500	2	1	23102
Tom Howard #1713	5	5	18558
Dave Olson #1979	6	4	22106
Gib Eberhart #916	4	7	21931
Bill Luecht #1579	7	6	20390
<b>Sunfish</b>			
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	DNS	DNS	15921
Erica Vitale (White)	2	2	15447
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	3	3	7451
Sandy Vitale (White)	1	1	17800
Eric Odenwald (Blue/Yellow)	DNS	DNS	10262
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue)	4	4	20798
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	5	5	13410

**DNS (Did Not Sail)** does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.

**DNF (Did Not Finish)** scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place); DNF not counted toward minimum number of races needed.

**DQ (Disqualified)** 0 points.

**STT (Stopped to Teach)** scored as first place.

**CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat** receives a 1st place finish for that day - counted toward season total.

**Season Points** are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)

**Season Place** = total season points/number of races attempted

one brand-new Vice Commodore.

This week will be our last regular season race. See you all out on the water! Don't forget: next weekend is the Labor Day regatta — races 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, with Monday as the rain date.

*-Bill Luecht, Fleet Captain 2009*

### COMMITTEE BOAT SIGN UPS

- 8-30 .....Available 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~

## Ragu No Boiling Lasagna

Yikes! Nieces and nephews on their way. Weather crappy. Cancel the grill. What to do?

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb ground beef or sausage
- 2 (15 ounce) containers ricotta cheese
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 eggs
- 2 (26 ounce) jars Ragu Old World Style Pasta Sauce
- 10 uncooked lasagna noodles

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Combine ricotta, 1 cup mozzarella, 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese and eggs



- in bowl.
2. Add meat to the Ragu pasta sauce.
3. Spread 1 cup pasta sauce in 13 x 9-inch baking dish. Layer 5 uncooked noodles, then 1 cup sauce and 1/2 of the ricotta mixture; repeat. Top with remaining 5 uncooked noodles and 2 cups Sauce. Reserve remaining sauce.

Cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake 1 hour.

4. Remove foil and sprinkle with remaining cheeses. Bake uncovered an additional 10 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes before serving. Serve with remaining sauce, heated.

By using uncooked noodles, they absorb the flavor as they cook.

I did have to call and ask them to stop at Martins and pick up some Texas Garlic Toast.

Served with a salad.

Go ahead and rain if you must Mother nature, I've got it covered.

-Good Patti

## Birch Lake Directory update

### Birch Lake Yacht Club Directory Updated Update:

The corrected entries are flowing in and there's still time for more.

It's been great hearing from everybody.

See you at the Fall dinner.

-Celia Fallon

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.

### 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

## The dog days of summer?

**T**hose who believe in global warming may have a tricky time trying to defend the theory, given the cool summer that we've had here at the lake.

We've really not been much burdened with the hot and sticky weather that we've come to know and love this time of year — often called the Dog Days of Summer.

If you look quite low in the east-south-east during twilight the next few mornings, you may just make out the brightest star in the night sky: Sirius.

Its first appearance in the dawn sky is known as its heliacal rising — a word that means “with the Sun.” In other words, it's rising around the same time as the Sun does.

In ancient times, this first appearance held great significance. In ancient Egypt, where the star represented the goddess Isis, it marked the beginning of a new year. The Nile began its annual floods around that time, bringing water and fertile soil for Egyptian fields.

And in ancient Greece, Sirius ushered in the “Dog Days” — the hottest, stickiest time of the year. The name comes from Sirius's constellation — Canis Major, the big dog.

At the time, Sirius made its first dawn

appearance a little earlier in the year than it does now. It's moved later because of an effect known as precession.

We usually speak of the North Star, or Polaris, as marking the exact position of north. In actuality, it is slightly off true north, the point astronomers designate as the North Celestial Pole. The fact that Polaris is even close to the pole is an accident of time. Earth's rotation axis slowly wobbles, sweeping out a circle in the sky in 26,000 years. Polaris is currently within three-quarters a degree of the axis, a distance that will shrink to half a degree around the year 2100. As the wobble continues, the distance increases, reaching almost 50 degrees 13,000 years from now.

At the same time, over the millennia the Sun appears against different stars at any given date. And that, in turn, means that stars rise at different times in relation to the Sun.

But even though Sirius climbs into view later in the year than it did long ago, the hot, sticky days of summer are still named in its honor — the Dog Days.

Look for Sirius in the east during the dawn twilight. To find Polaris follow a line from the outer-most two stars of the bowl of

the Big Dipper. Polaris is the end of the handle of the Little Dipper and it is not particularly bright.

Enjoy the show everybody. This one's on me.

*-Stu Spratt*



**The Moon tonight:**  
The Moon for Aug 29, 2009  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.752  
2.8 days since first quarter

## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

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

You may find that your plans will cost a little more than you had expected. You will be in the mood for entertainment. Check your personal papers and make sure everything is in order. You may want to take a look at courses offered at a local institute. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

Don't be alarmed. Take time to deal with the concerns of children. Don't put limitations on yourself. Be sure to think twice before you say something that might hurt your partner's feelings. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You might find that the extra cash will come in handy when an opportunity to invest comes along. Strong willpower will come to your rescue. You could have a tendency to spend too much on your home or entertainment. Spend time with your lover this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

New relationships will surface through work related events. You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. You will probably have to defend your mate. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

### LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts this week. Changes in your home may be disruptive and upsetting. Control your temper by getting immersed in your work. Do your own thing without drawing attention to it. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

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

You may find yourself changing plans for some form of entertainment. Draw up contracts regarding your personal situation. Don't volunteer private information about yourself unless you're prepared to be talked about behind your back. Changes in your residence may be financially favorable. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

Don't make large purchases or investments. Sign up for seminars that will expand your business awareness. You won't have much time for your mate this week. Don't be alarmed. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

Don't let criticism upset you. Hassles will delay your plans. This is not the day to be extravagant. Tie up your personal papers or push to have legal settlements completed. Real estate ventures will be to your advantage. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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

Your position may be in question if you

haven't been pulling your weight. Hidden matters are likely to surface. Opportunities to expand your circle of friends will result in possible new romantic encounters. You will have a tendency to exaggerate, which will lead to major confrontations with loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

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

Be cautious while traveling to foreign countries. Control your emotions and everything will fall into place. Include the whole family or those you love. Do your job and then spend some time with family; you'll be glad you did. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

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

Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this week. Get them to pitch in, if you need help. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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

Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Children may pose a problem if they don't like suggestions. You will not be able to contain your emotions this week. Your mate will appreciate your honesty. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.





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*"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

# Water Quality Committee Report

## Testing & water temperature results

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

### Testing Continues

As we have repeatedly stated, if we test for something it will be reported in the Barker as soon as possible.

Last week we reported on E coli testing a few days before the heavy rains and the day of the heavy rains. It was clear that whatever was in the wetlands was being scoured out and sent into the lake. We believe this to be from a wildlife source, and in the wetlands E coli can stay alive replicate in the muck and detritus. Thus the clearer water normally coming from the stream does not have sufficient E coli to show up as it is rapidly diluted.

However, on the day of the rain, the counts in the stream went from the hundreds to the thousands, and E coli was observed in rather high numbers by adjacent piers.

To see what a few days means after the rain, we again tested in the inlet area, but also expanded the sites to give a little more general look at the lake.

Testing was done this time in about 6 inches to a foot of water, and in all cases duplicate samples were taken. Testing was conducted on the 19th of August with reading of the plates on the 20th.

It should be noted that we have continuous sources of E coli entering the lake. We now have about 300 gulls that have taken up residence, the geese still around some during the week, there are two groups of ducks that circle the lake, raccoons that prowl the shoreline in search of food, and the ubiquitous dogs whose business may not always be picked up before some rain etc. that might help some of it into the lake. I still wonder what folks who recreate at the lake do (non residents) when they have their boats out on the lake all day during a weekend.

Nonetheless, here are some results:

Site.....	test(1).....	Site.....	test(2)
Park west of the boat landing .....	20	.....	60
In front of Weesners (pump station) .....	ND	.....	ND
Welchs .....	ND	.....	20
In front of swing (Curtis).....	ND	.....	ND
By Carl K's pier toward stream.....	ND	.....	20
Stream.....	420	.....	460
By Wozniak's pier.....	ND	.....	ND
By Camp.....	ND	.....	40



Just looking at the stream and adjacent areas, it is clear that after the dumping following the rain, this quickly changed to the pattern we have seen the rest of the year.

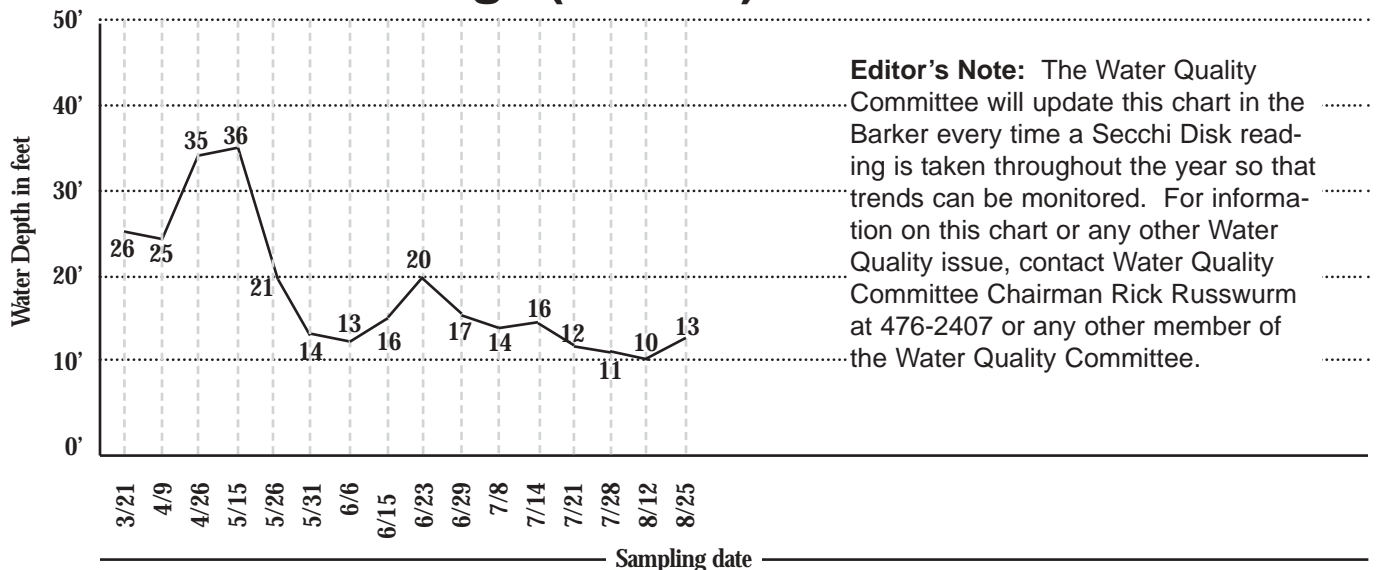
### Water Temperature

Someone asked the other day if we have a record of the water temperatures this season. We are not taking it weekly, but have data from the days we conducted temperature and dissolved oxygen from top to bottom. Thus, the surface temperatures from a location at the deep basin of the lake were as follows:

- 19 May.....58 F
- 31 May.....65 F
- 15 June.....69 F
- 14 July.....72 F
- 12 Aug.....74 F

It should be noted that the temperature was fairly stable for the first 10-15 feet of depth. These temperatures also are a far cry from the bottom which has stayed at about 41 F

## 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.



# REFLECTIONS

## Grandma's off her rocker ...

I was talking with some friends recently discussing how we were spending our time now that we are retired. The conclusion was that they were not sure what they do all day but each one seems to be completely filled! One friend stated, "I don't know how I ever had time to work!" I find that my days also fill with little effort. All the things that I intended to do once I was no longer working are still waiting to be done! My closets are all waiting to be de-cluttered, walls are waiting to be painted and landscaping that should have been completed long ago is still in the planning stage.

I know that my children were anxious for me to retire so that I would be available for frequent babysitting but are now finding that they need to call for an "appointment" in advance if they want my services. I try to pencil them in when I have a free afternoon! I really feel

badly about this because I know that my children were frequent visitors to their grandparents and expected I would be equally accommodating, but "times, they are a changin'!"

Grandparents these days are off cruising and camping, out golfing and playing tennis, taking classes, riding bikes around Europe, a million things that would have been virtually unheard of fifty years ago. All I can say is, "GOOD FOR US!" Living active is what keeps you living longer!

Of course, grandchildren are the best thing about getting older. Being around them is a gift, but that doesn't mean we put our lives on hold to watch them - that's what neighborhood teens are for, or better yet, maybe we can just pack them up and take them with us golfing, riding bikes, playing tennis, etc.!

I found a cute poem (author unknown) about modern grandmothering that says it all.

### Grandma's Off Her Rocker!

In the dim and distant past,  
When life's tempo wasn't fast,  
Grandma used to rock and knit,  
Crochet, tat and baby sit.  
When we were in a jam,  
We could always count on gram.  
In the age of gracious living,  
Grandma's life was one of giving.

### BUT TODAY.

Now grandma's at the gym,  
Exercising to keep slim,  
She's off touring with the bunch,  
Or taking all her friends to lunch.  
Driving north to fish or hike,  
Taking time to ride her bike.  
Nothing seems to block or stop her,  
Now that grandma's off her rocker.

-Antique on the East Side

## The Online Birch Barker will start soon ... signup now !

Starting late in September or in early October, the BLYC will once again publish the ONLINE Birch Barker and will send it via email, free, to anyone who wants it.

If you received the ONLINE Barker last year, you won't have to do a thing (unless you have changed your email address) ... but if you are new to the lake or have never received the ONLINE Barker, you can sign up now and make sure you don't

miss a thing.

Just send an email to [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com) and let me know that you want to subscribe (you can drop out at any time if you want by clicking on the "Unsubscribe" link on the email.

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## TRESPASS!

by: Clifford H. Bloom  
Law, Weathers & Richardson, P.C.  
Bridgewater Place  
333 Bridge Street, N.W., Suite 800  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504-5360  
E-Mail: CliffBloom@lwr.com  
Excerpted from **The Michigan Riparian**, FEBRUARY 2000

"Trespass" is the venturing onto the lands of another without permission. As many riparians well know, trespass is a common problem around lakes. Unfortunately, many police agencies and prosecuting officials are reluctant to prosecute trespassers — it is simply not a high priority in most jurisdictions.

Around Lakes, the issue often arises as to whether it is trespassing on a riparian's bottomlands when someone else places a dock, shore station or raft anchor on the riparian's bottomlands or walks on the riparian's bottomlands without permission. Under Michigan law, most riparian property owners own the bottomlands adjacent to their properties toward the center of the lake in a pie-shaped fashion.

While both riparians and members of the public have the right to freely float on the water over another's bottom-

lands and even to temporarily anchor there pursuant to navigation, people do not have the right to place docks, shore stations or raft anchors on the bottomlands of another without permission, or to moor boats other than temporarily on such bottomlands.

Furthermore, one cannot normally walk on the bottomlands of another without permission. Unfortunately, law enforcement agencies will almost never prosecute bottomlands trespass cases due to their lack of knowledge of riparian law and the difficulty of ascertaining bottomlands boundaries. Only a county circuit court in a full-blown civil lawsuit can determine true bottomlands boundaries, which is an expensive and complicated process. Accordingly, the ultimate relief for the owner of bottomlands who experiences bottomlands trespassing is a private civil lawsuit.

The various trespass laws differ regarding whether or not a property must be posted before a trespasser can be pursued. The RTA requires signage at every visible point, or, alternately fencing. Some local ordinances do not require any signage or fencing while others do. To be

safe, it is best to post your property, utilize fencing or use both methods if you are concerned about trespassing. If you are dealing with a relatively small lot, a confined area or lake bottomlands where fencing or posting is not practical, either you or your attorney should send a warning letter to whomever has been a trespasser in the past warning that person not to trespass or you will take appropriate legal action.

Here are two additional tips regarding trespass:

Once you have had a survey done (which can be quite

expensive), you may desire to dig a small hole around each corner iron (without disturbing it) and pour a little red-mix cement into the hole. This will ensure that corners do not get moved, lost, bent, etc., so that your property lines will remain established.

If someone trespasses on your property and damages, cuts or takes your trees, crops, wood or other natural resources without permission, they are potentially liable for triple damages under MCLA 600.2919.

submitted by **Dave Bouwkamp**



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**For Sale — Radio Shack High Range Antenna**; excellent condition - \$25.00. Call Tom @ 476-2383

**8x10' Aqua Patio swim raft with anchor and ladder**. 2 yr. old carpet. \$200 or best offer. Call Helen at 476-2719 or 269-683-2051.

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**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@philvitale.com**

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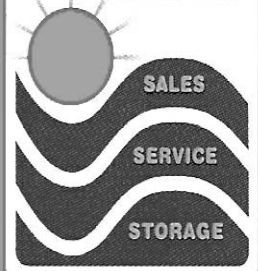
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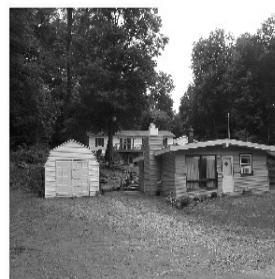
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## Birch Lake



**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.**

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