

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 5, 2010

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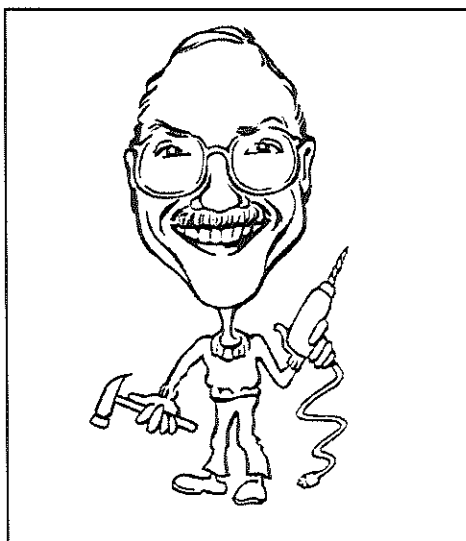


Thanks to Mr. Bob for the great heron-on-the-pontoon-boat photo ...

Raft becomes a condo...

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It's Wednesday morning, about seven or so, and my Barker deadline to Phil is 10 a.m. I got a little behind because I spent half of yesterday working on my turtle raft. Turtle rafts are largely a Birch Lake phenomenon, and we can thank our east-shore-neighbor Gordon Seyfarth for our greatly increased turtle awareness. My original raft design didn't allow the larger turtles to climb up over the edge and get onto the raft. The little guys could make it, but not the big ones. They would try and try to climb up, but could never quite make it. This made me feel bad, like I was torturing the turtles. So I added another layer to my now "turtle condo," but it's raining now so I won't find out if it worked until we have a



sunny day. I'll keep you in the loop. Anyway, that's why I'm racing to finish this and my typing is atrocious despite learning in both high school and the army.

2010 BLYC Calendar

- June 5Board meeting 9 am
Commodore's Cocktail Party
- June 26Vice-Comm Cocktail Party
- July 3Board meeting 9 am
Boat Parade
Fireworks
- July 4Pancake Breakfast
- July 17Spaghetti Dinner
- July 23Women's golf outing
- July 30Men's golf outing
- July 31Camp T Hog Roast
- August 1Board meeting 10 am
- August 7Corn and sausage roast
- August 14Garage sale
- August 28Fall dinner
- September 11Board meeting 9 am
- September 18Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
- October 9Chili cook-off

I hope you enjoyed the beautiful Memorial Day weekend I arranged for you. There was a little glitch with the rain on Monday, but by that time most of

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or if you must, put the items in the red newspaper box at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), or mail to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want the materials returned. To contact us by phone, call Phil at (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Bob Waddle at (269) 476-2293. -Phil Vitale, editor

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

us needed a little couch time anyway. I have commitments for great, but maybe a little cooler, weather for at least the next two weekends.

On a very serious note, I was extremely disheartened to learn that there was vandalism and mischief late Sunday night at three northshore residences and the camp. There is a separate article in this issue with further details. I sincerely hope that these acts were not perpetrated by some of our own. As one of the victims told me "it was very un-Birch-Lake-like." Unfortunately, pranks like these can sometimes escalate into very serious confrontations.

I would like all of you to join with me and send a very special birthday (June 2nd) wish to Becky Beers of Tom's Garage. Becky, who is married to Keith, has been serving Birch Lakers for pretty much her entire life. Tom's garage is a local treasure that we want to preserve. It certainly is convenient and they have a little of everything. So stop by and give Becky a big birthday greeting.

In more local news, I learned this week in the South Bend Tribune that National Fishing Week will be celebrated in Indiana and Michigan with a free fishing weekend on June 5th and 6th. I know there are lots of fish out there, so grab a

pole and drop a line.

OK, back to serious. I am very pleased to see that many of you have been sending your Yacht Club dues and donations. I hope to have some membership numbers soon. The Birch Lake Yacht Club is primarily a social organization with other special interests in maintaining safe and clean lake water for use by all of us. We have dinners, parties and other social gatherings. We have fund raisers for Camp Tannadoonah and for water quality programs. But I just wanted to assure all of you that your \$25 dues payment is used only for Yacht Club expenses such as insurance, maintenance and utilities. The spring and fall dinners and our cocktail parties are self funded. The people attending these events are paying their own way and Yacht Club funds are not being used for partying.

Speaking of Yacht Club dues, they're merely \$25 for the year. What else can you get for \$25? One or two bottles of wine? Five McDonald's "value meals" Maybe eight Starbuck's lattes? In other words, it's not a lot of money. So please join with your lake friends and neighbors and send in your dues and contributions for the various improvement funds. Then come out and participate.

I had better wrap this up. Ten o'clock is fast approaching. Let's talk about some of the Yacht Club's upcoming events. First there is my cocktail party

this Saturday, June 5, at 7 p.m. at the Yacht Club. There will be music, lively conversation and the libations of your choice. Please come out and fill us in about what's happening with you. So far the snack menu is stalled at pretzels and goldfish, so bring something to share.

We haven't had a group garage sale here at the lake in several years. We are going to try it again on August 14th. I wanted to remind you so that you can start thinking about it now. Everyone is invited to have their own sale. But if you don't want to bother, Staci Whiteman, who has volunteered to chair the sale, has generously offered to donate her time to price and sell any items that you take to her. These items will then be sold at the Yacht Club and the proceeds will go to the Water Quality fund. We will furnish more details in a later issue.

I had better get going to the keyboard. Before I forget, thanks to the Barker printing and distribution crew for making the first issue's distribution troublefree. It was great meeting many of you all last weekend when my wife, Sue, and I were distributing the new phone directories. If we missed anyone, call or e-mail me at sparkybob220@comcast.net and I will bring you one. Additional copies are \$5 each. I hope to see all of you at my party on Saturday and if not, I'll see you on the lake.

-Commodore Busybob

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— Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to Bad Patty for the cool sunset picture ...

Vandalism/thefts

Several acts of vandalism and theft took place over the Memorial Day week-

end at Birch Lake.

A north side resident reported that two kayaks (blue and white) were set

loose, a jet ski was tampered with (but not stolen) and several flower pots were thrown into the lake.

Additionally, a north side pier was damaged, light poles at a west side home were destroyed, some exterior lighting was torn down on a home in the Cove and several items at Camp T were tossed into the lake.

All of the acts have been reported to the Cass County Sheriff's Department and an investigation is underway. We encourage anyone who knows anything about these acts to contact the Sheriff's Department.

We also recommend that everyone on the lake be extra vigilant (especially on weekends) and contact the authorities immediately if they seen or hear any damage and/or theft taking place.

Sympathies

Shirley A. Stewart, 77, of Edwardsburg, died in her home at 9:30 p.m. Saturday (May 29, 2010) of natural causes. Arrangements are pending at Walley-Mills-Zimmerman Funeral Home and Crematory, Elkhart, Ind.

Mrs. Stewart was the mother of Sandy Baucus (North Shore).

Porter Residents- Clean-Up Day

Porter Township Clean-Up Day will be June 12, from 8 a.m. to Noon. The drop off point will be the American Waste Yard, 15621 Mason St., Union. Pick up service will be provided for handicapped

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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

— Birch Lake Notes —

and senior citizens. All items except yard waste, garbage, and construction materials may be dropped off. A fee will be charged for refrigerator type appliances and tires. If you have questions, call 641-2375.

July 31st Camp T Hog Roast

On the afternoon and evening of Saturday, July 31, Camp Tannadoonah will join nearly 50 other Camp Fire Councils around the country in a National Centennial Campfire Celebration of 100 years of serving our mission. Everyone is invited for the festivities, which will include a Hog Roast. Camp is also seeking volunteers to help organize this event – please call Marty at 574-234-4145.

Art in the Park

The Second Sunday Art Market in the Park will be June 13, July 11, Aug. 8 and Sep. 12 from Noon to 3 pm at the Farmers Market in Scidmore Park near downtown Three Rivers. Fine Art, including Fiber, Water Colors, Metal Sculpture, Metal Jewelry, Oils, Photography, fine art cards and prints, Polymer Jewelry, Pottery and more. Birch Lake resident Carol Dugan is among the local artists exhibiting.

Happy Birthday

Be sure to wish Becky a belated happy birthday ... On June 2 she celebrated a

birthday that ended with a "0" ...

-Keith

LINE DANCE

Line Dance will start on June 8 at the Yacht Club. Come and have some fun. See you at 9 am

-Lind Harman

Boat Inspection, classes

Philip Esarey of the Cass County's Sheriff's Department Marine Division has scheduled the annual Boat Inspection at Dan & Sheryl's pier (east side) on June 12 from 11 am to 3 pm.

He also provided the following list of 2010 Boating Safety Classes:

June 5, Donnell Lake Conservation Club

June 12, Marcellus Township Hall

June 19, Eagle Lake Marine

June 26, Diamond Lake Yacht Club

July 10, Cass County Conservation Club

July 17, Donnell Lake Conservation Club

July 24, Indian Lake Yacht Club

The boating safety certificate is only valid for students older than 12 years. Students should have their 12th birthday in 2010 to pre-register.

Students may pre-register by calling the Cass County Sheriff's Office at (269)445-1240 and register with the Administration front desk. Please have the student's legal name, address, phone number, and date of birth at the time of registration.

All classes start at 8 am and should

be done by 2 pm. Students are required to bring a #2 pencil, a sack lunch and something to drink.

Adults are recommended to take the class and anybody born after December 31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate to ride a personal watercraft.

Forth of July Boat Parade

Once again it is time to start planning for this year's 4th of July Boat Parade at Birch Lake. I know that many of you have been spending long hours through the winter planning and constructing your boat designs! There will be a trophy for each participating boat and new as of last year, a fist place trophy for the best of parade.

As tradition has it, the parade will start at Dick Bender's pier, on the south side of the lake, and proceed counter clockwise around the lake. For all you newbies, this means you only have to decorate the front and right side of your boat! (This is a tip for Paul, Ed and Tim who did not have that information last year.)

Check the Birch Barker for more information in the near future.

-Carla Chester

Ladies' Golf Outing

The correct date for the womens golf outing will be FRIDAY, July 23! (a mind is a terrible thing to waste!!)

-Bad Patty

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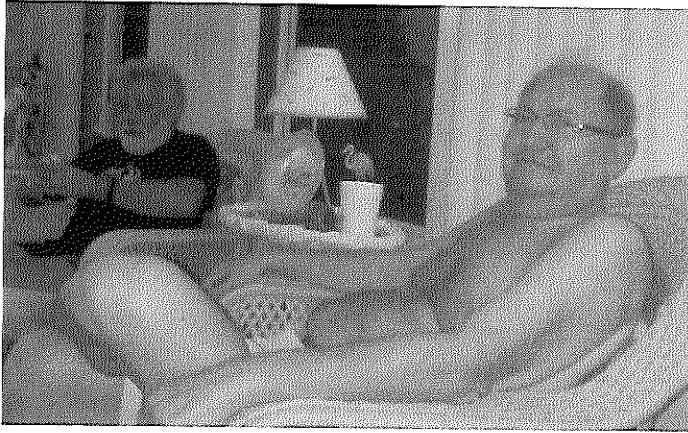
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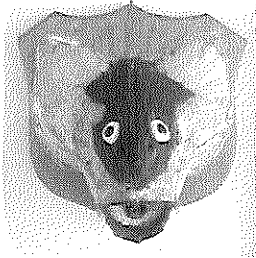
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— Barker kids of the Week —



WANTED FOR BREAKING AND ENTERING AND DEFACING FLAMINGOS!!! These two hooligans apparently let themselves (and other additional neighbors) into the infamous Flamingo Room and partied without the owners being present.

Photo by co-conspirator Julie Green.



The MoaB (mother of all bass) is stalking the shoreline every morning. I watched her chase along the sea-wall and realized she wasn't after minnows. She was trying to catch a teenager bass.

Photo by Mr. Bob

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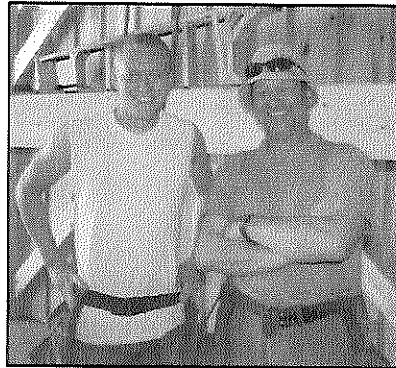
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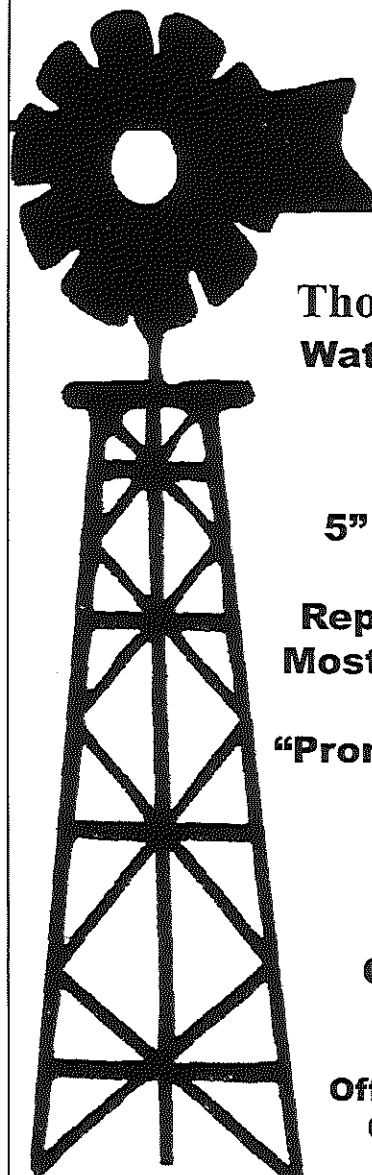
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

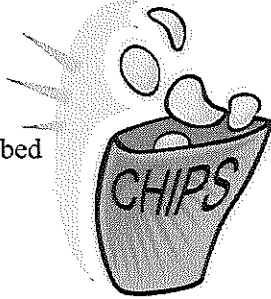
Salt-and-Vinegar Grilled Potato "Chips"

Anyone have any recipes you would like to share? Please send them to me at paramountmanage@aol.com

I Made these "chips" last weekend. What fun!

Salt-and-Vinegar Grilled Potato "Chips"

4 medium Yukon Gold potatoes, scrubbed
Canola oil
Salt and black pepper
Malt vinegar
Fine sea salt



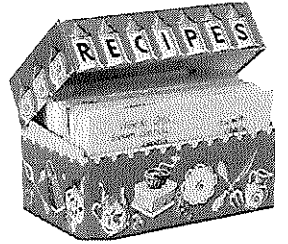
1. Heat grill to medium.

2. Place potatoes in a pot of water; add 1 Tbsp of salt. Cook until just tender, 15 minutes. Drain, cool, and slice into 1/8-inch-thick slices.

3. Brush potatoes with oil; season with salt and pepper. Grill until golden brown on both sides and cooked through, about 8 minutes.

4. Remove to a platter in an even layer; drizzle with vinegar. Season with sea salt to taste.

-Good Patti



Musings from the North Shore

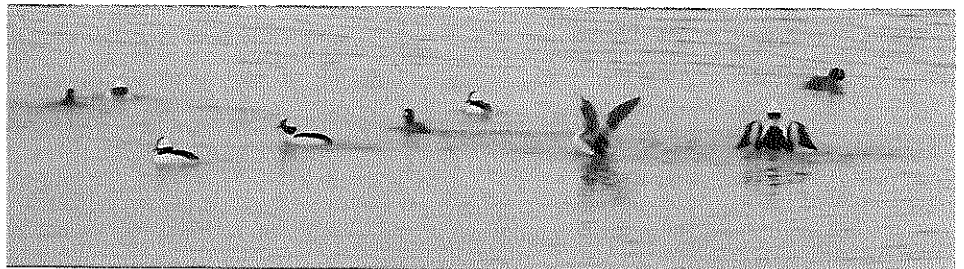
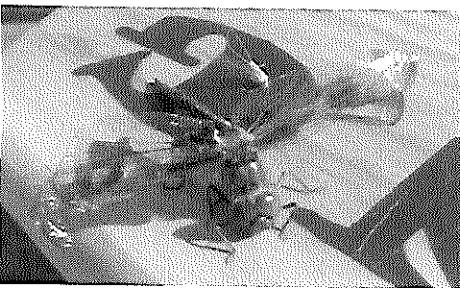
The eagle has landed (sorta)
Birch: big fish, bugs, and birds

Last weekend Star stuff Stu noted that the gar (fish) have come in to the shallows. The chat is they are feeding -or- doing the other nature thing. I'm betting the latter.

Those who rise before the sun can enjoy a nature-fest of sorts every morning. The gar are quite often planing on the surface outside the drop-off, cutting up bait fish for breakfast.

Did every one notice we have had mayflies in May? They seem early, often hatching in June. And, based on an unscientific sample, we are going to have a banner year for dragonflies.

Some of the earliest birds to take flight are swallows, the "fighter jet" of birds. I



have never been able to photograph these little speedsters (but have a vast collection of blurred images).

We must be in the migration traffic pattern. Between 6-7 am there is a daily overflight of honkers winging North. The flock on Sunday morning numbered over 70 birds and was especially boisterous.

The Great Blue Herons are a study in focus. Standing like statues they seem to have the highest fishing kill ratio of any bird on Birch. Or maybe they come in 2nd?

On Monday morning a big bird ... a really big bird soared over-head, did a purposeful gliding loop and rolled in on the surface. Though graceful, everything happened very quickly ...

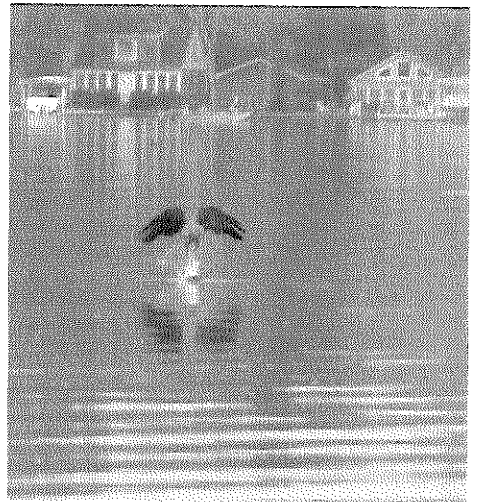
ducks scattered and dove underwater as the eagle flared his/her wings and

plucked a fish off the surface. He/she flew away effortlessly and rose over the North hill.

Maybe there is a nest somewhere above Tannadoonah?

See you in the morning ...

-Mr. Bob



Dick

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Fleet Captain's Corner



Welcome to the sailing season

What a great weekend to prepare and shake things out. Boats were launched, masts were stepped with the help of friends, new sails were tested, and mark ropes were broken with anchors being lost (I'm sorry Harold). We held a Start of the Season Sailors' Meeting on Saturday, May 29th and worked out the upcoming season's details. Meeting minutes are listed separately.

Not everyone was ready for a Memorial Day Regatta on Saturday, so at the Sailor's meeting we decided to postpone the races until Sunday and Monday. We had an impressive turnout this early in the season as 8 MC's and 4 Sunfish were able to race on Sunday. Conditions were light and variable, but the two races we completed were far better than those Mid-August drifter days. Monday was a washout with lightning and rain. Congratulations go to Scott Troeger and Rick Russwurm for winning their respective classes. The full fleet's scores are shown below. Also, I would like to thank Denise Smitley, Patty Russwurm, Leslie King, Karen and Claire Brovold for running the Committee boat. Without them, we don't have a race.

The season officially begins on Sunday, June 6th. All are welcome. See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

P.S. If you would like to start the races (or just hitch a ride on the committee boat), here is the current schedule. To take an open slot, you can call me at 476-9000. Denise and I would really appreciate the help!

Committee Boat

June 6	.....Karen Brovold/Deb Taghon
June 13	.....Patty Luecht
June 20	.....Stewart Spratt
June 27	.....OPEN
July 3-5	.....Karen Brovold/Fry
July 11	.....Marc & Lynn Caenepeel
July 18	.....Bob & Sue Waddle
July 25	.....Open
Aug. 1	.....Open
Aug. 8	.....Bob & Sue Waddle

Lake Temperatures

Birch Lake West Sider Steve Quinlan has begun collecting and recording the lake temperature every day.

The readings are being taken every 30 minutes. The Temperature sensors are at the end of his pier, 50 feet out into the lake. The temperature sensors are 1 foot, 2 feet, and 4 feet deep.

The graph at right shows the data collected from May 23 through, June 2

Steve has offered to share this data with the Birch Barker ... watch for updates weekly.

Aug. 15	.....Chas & Amber Grundy
Aug. 22	.....Open
Aug. 29	.....Open
Labor Day Regatta	.....Open

2010 Start of the Season Sailors' Meeting Minutes

We will keep the course the same. Layout will be as large as is practical for wind conditions. Starting line/gate will remain closed except for finishing. Start signal same at 5 minutes MC's, 10 Minutes Sunfish.

Start time will remain the same as last year: 11 am Eastern, Noon if no wind earlier.

Harold Cranmer will set out the marks, Fleet Captain Jeff will be his backup.

The Fleet Captain will contact everyone if we are not racing. 11 am will be the go/no go deadline to give Harold time to set out marks if we decide to have races at Noon. If you plan on sailing and you have not already updated my contact sheet, please let me know the best way to contact you.

Sustained winds of 20 MPH will be the upper limit for holding the races. Life preservers are strongly encouraged for all races, but are not mandatory. It is your decision to participate in any race or wear a floatation device.

The season will start on June 6. Memorial Day Regatta is preseason shakeout weekend. Kids regatta's or Couple Regattas are simply for fun and are unofficial events.

Scoring will change. From June 6 until Sept. 6 all official races including July 4th and Labor Day Regatta races will be included in the regular season scoring. 2/3 completion of all races will be necessary to qualify for the season.

DNF does not count as a completed race and will be scored one place less than the last placed boat. The square of 40 system will still be used.

Regattas will also be scored separately for recognition. The Low Point System as specified in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012, Appendix A. All races will be counted towards a boat's final score.

Committee boat service will be scored for all races that day as your season average rounded up. If your season average place is 4.8 as of the date of service, you will receive a 4th place finish for each race that day. All races that day will count towards the 2/3 completion of races for the season.

July 4th regatta will be scheduled for Sat. and Mon. with Sunday as the rain date. This is to accommodate the Pancake Breakfast at the camp.

Fouls are to be cleared with a 360 in the leg that they are committed when clear of other boats. Hitting the mark can be cleared on the following leg from that mark to the next. You do not need to reround the mark that was touched.

Memorial Day Regatta Results

MC Scows

Date	.....5/30	.....5/30	.....Final
Race No	.....1	.....2	.....Score

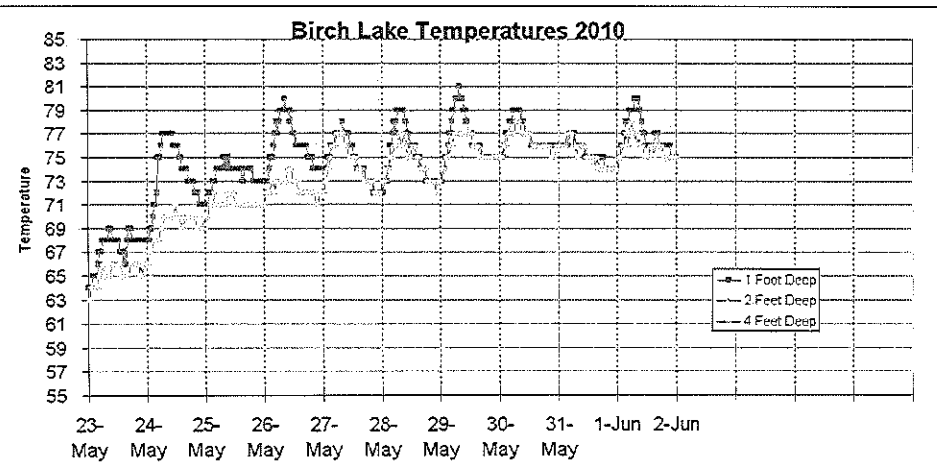
Scott Troeger #1489	.....1	.....1	.....2
Phil Vitale #500	.....2	.....3	.....5
Harold Cranmer #2412	.....4	.....2	.....6
Don Harman #582	.....3	.....5	.....8
Jeff Smitley #2002	.....5	.....4	.....9
Gib Eberhart #916	.....7	.....6	.....13
Bill Luecht #1579	.....6	.....8	.....14
Dave Olson #1799	.....*	.....7	.....16

Sunfish

Date	.....5/30	.....5/30	.....Final
Race No	.....1	.....2	.....Score

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	.....1	.....1	.....2
Chris Spratt (White)	.....2	.....2	.....4
Sandy Vitale (White)	.....3	.....3	.....6
Mike Lutz (White/Yellow)	.....4	.....4	.....8

Regatta Scoring: This regatta was scored using the Low Point System as specified in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012, Appendix A. For this Regatta all races are counted. For each race, a boat's finishing place is her race score. A boat which did not compete or did not finish in a race (marked * above) is given a score equal to the number of boats competing in the series plus one.



Beware the dreaded itch

Swimmer's itch, also known as duck itch, cercarial dermatitis, and Schistosome cercarial dermatitis, is a short-term, immune reaction occurring in the skin of humans that have been infected by water-borne trematode parasites. Symptoms, which include itchy, raised papules, commonly occur within hours of infection and do not generally last more than a week.

The trematodes that cause swimmer's itch are parasitic schistosomes that use both snails and vertebrates as hosts in their life cycles. Most cases are caused by parasites that use waterfowl

as the vertebrate host. These avian schistosomes cannot complete their life cycles in mammals, but can accidentally infect humans, giving rise to mildly itchy spots on the skin. Within hours, these spots become raised papules that are more intensely itchy. The papules are caused by localized inflammatory immune reactions, each corresponding to the penetration site of a single parasite, which dies in the skin immediately.

Since it was first described in Michigan in 1928, swimmer's itch has been reported from around the world. Some suggest incidence may be on the

rise, although this may also be attributed to better monitoring.



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Stu's Star Stuff

From the inside out ...

Let's begin our journey through the solar system from the inside. At an average of 36 million miles from the sun our innermost planet is Mercury.

Named after the winged-footed Roman god Mercury, messenger to the gods and himself the god of commerce and communications, the planet Mercury is indeed speedy, orbiting the sun in just 88 days. But in another regard it is very slow. Mercury's nearly perfectly vertical rotation gets completed only once in 58 Earth days.

Mercury has no moons and is only about a third of the diameter of Earth. With next to no atmosphere temperatures on the surface can reach 800 degrees. But on the night side, the side not facing the sun, nights can be as cold as 300 degrees below zero. In 1974 a NASA space probe was able to map about 45% of Mercury's surface, find-

ing the largest known impact crater of any planet. The crater was named Beethoven and is 643 kilometers in size.

Mercury is tricky to spot because of its close proximity to the sun. Generally you need clear skies and need to look during sunrise and/or sunset. It's difficult to see from down here in the hole at Birch Lake but look for it if you are up early in the morning.

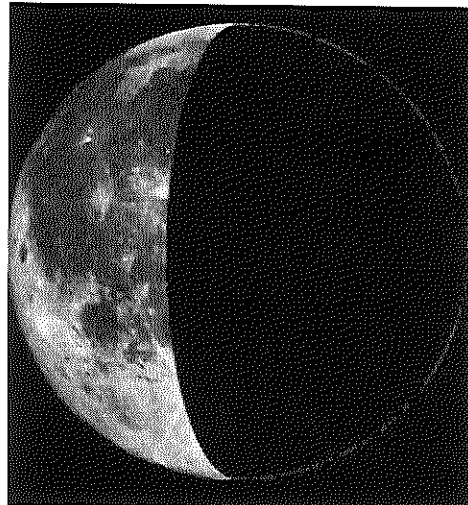
Venus is the next stop if one is to move from the sun, outward. But I'm not sure if we'll go there next or not. To find out, stay tuned, look up, enjoy the show and, as always, it's free.

-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:

(At Midnight, US Central time, June 5, as viewed

from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.366
1.4 days after last quarter



BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Don't blow situations out of proportion. You may be thinking of starting your own business. Wait and get all the information before consulting your boss. Changes in your residence will be favorable in the long haul.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Try to curb your bad habits. Equilibrium in your romantic life is likely if you treat your partner well. Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. Get involved in the activities of children. They will teach you far more than you expect.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Put your efforts into being creative. Don't push your luck with authority figures. Your partner could also use some time alone with you. You need to be active and spend time with friends you enjoy.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them. Beware of individuals who are not that reliable or well known to you. Don't confront the situation if you don't feel you can keep your cool. You may not be able to help, but your support will be favorable.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You're in the mood to spend time with

your lover. Set the ball in motion and be relentless until you complete the project. Your energetic nature and ability to initiate projects will add to your popularity. You must consider yourself for a change.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

This is not the best day to visit relatives who get on your nerves. Your pursuits may end up being fruit less. Be sure to pay attention to your bank account. You can make adjustments in your domestic scene this week.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You may find yourself changing plans for some form of entertainment. Ignore colleagues who appear to be going in circles. Try to visit a country that excites you. You can meet interesting new friends if you join worthwhile groups.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Try to keep to yourself; work diligently on domestic chores and responsibilities. Get involved in the activities of children. Take a close look at any contracts you've signed in order to be sure exactly where you stand. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

You need to take a long, hard look at

yourself and your personal situation. Involvement in groups will be favorable and lead to valuable information. Stick to your own projects and by the end of the day you'll shine. You may be somewhat emotional concerning a rather private matter.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Financial limitations will not be as adverse as they appear. You will meet new and exciting people if you attend social activities or sporting events. Your ability to do detailed work will dazzle those who are less creative. Your courage and willpower will enable you to get rid of destructive habits as well.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Try to stay calm and understand both sides of the situation. You might not be as reserved on an emotional level as you'd like. Go out with friends. Tell them to get out of the mess they are in and then you'll consider getting together with them.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Pleasure trips or friendly get-togethers will be satisfying and intellectually stimulating. Residential moves should be considered carefully. Don't jump too quickly regarding an investment that appears to be good.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SPOTLIGHT

JIM AND LINDA YOSHIZAWA

Living in what is known to Birch Lakers as the "DUNROMIN" house on the east side, are Jim and Linda Yoshizawa. Often mispronounced, their last name, Yoshizawa, is actually said just like it is written, YO(like the toy yoyo)-SHE(like the pronoun)-ZOW(like Batman and Robin expletives when hitting a bad guy) -AH (like at the doctor.)

As for the name of the house, DUNROMIN, it is not the name of a former resident, or a foreign word, it is the name that Linda's grandfather gave the old cottage in the 1930's when he was DONE-ROAMIN' and wanted to put down some roots at Birch Lake.

Yes, Linda has been coming to Birch Lake all her life. Maybe some of you remember the girl that used to visit every summer for a week or two. Being an only child, she kept to herself and read a lot but she would look out at all of the kids having fun on the lake and thought it

would have been nice to be out there too. The rest of the time Linda lived in Ohio, where she met and married Jim almost 24 years ago.

Through the years, they would come here as often as possible for vacations and on weekends, but it wasn't until thoughts of eventually coming here to live in their later years did they decide to tear down the old cottage and build the beautiful new DUNROMIN in 2001. Little did they know that circumstances would allow them to step up their timetable and move here full time much earlier than anticipated. A new job in South Bend, and Linda's ability to work from home (as a writer and editor) made it possible for them to move to Birch Lake, full time, five years ago.

Now they love living at the lake and Linda says she continues to get a thrill looking out at the sparkling water every morning. While still being a quiet girl who likes to read, she and Jim are now making friends

with some of the very kids she used to watch. In fact, they can often be found at east side get-togethers and Linda is doing secretary duties for the Birch Lake Book Club.

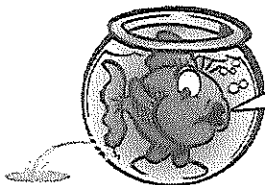
If there is any regret about moving away from Ohio, it's the fact that their first grandchild was born just three months ago in the Cleveland area. Now, on some weekends, they will be leaving the lake to drive to Ohio instead of the other way around - or going backwards, as Linda calls it. For some reason they think little Evan is worth the time away, but they can't wait for him to come here instead, so they can dip his little toes into the beautiful waters of Birch Lake.

So, when you are driving around the lake in your boat and you pass the blue and stone home known as DUNROMIN, look up to the balcony. You will probably see Linda or Jim sitting out enjoying the view. Be sure to wave.

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Water Quality Committee Report

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

EURASIAN MILFOIL

In 2007 Eurasian Milfoil was discovered at three locations in Birch Lake. An outside consultant, Progressive AE provided professional assistance at the time and continues to survey the lake on an annual basis. They did their most recent survey last Wednesday, May 26th. They surveyed for invasive aquatic plants and inspected the Eurasian Milfoil sites. We do not have their official report yet but it looks like they will treat the same two sites that we treated last year. The good news is the treatment areas are considerably smaller this year, and no new sites were found with Milfoil or any other invasive species. A licensed applicator, Professional Lake Management, will treat as soon as next week. Weather is the determining factor for their scheduling.

Eurasian Milfoil is an aggressive, tall growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. It is capable of growing to the surface in 10 to 15 feet of water. At the surface it forms a dense canopy of vegetation over other plants. Many native plants may be reduced in abundance by the Eurasian Milfoil



canopy. It also conflicts with many recreational activities. In dense conditions it is a serious localized and lake wide problem. It is not a significant food crop for waterfowl, other birds or aquatic mammals. It readily regenerates from

detached fragments and spreads rapidly. Consequently, this plant can form dense colonies covering much of the lake's littoral zone. Being an exotic, it has few natural biological control agents.



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Camp Tannadoonah

Just three more weeks ...

Just three more weeks until campers arrive at Camp Tannadoonah! We are now up to 336 campers, which is nearly 50 ahead of last year's 290 on this same date. It's great to be ahead of the pace, but we're really hoping to smash our goal of 550 campers this year, so we need to get those numbers up!

We have some great themes for camp this year:

- Pirate Week (June 20-26)
- Jungle Safari Week (June 27-July 3)
- Under the Sea Mini Week (July 7-10)
- Hawaiian Week (July 11-17)
- All Star Sports Week (July 18-24)
- Christmas in July (July 25-31)
- Survivor Week (August 1-7)

Hawaiian Week is already SOLD OUT for the summer! The other weeks are still wide open, though, so get those kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews, and neighbors signed up soon!

This weekend our big rental group kicks off the summer. The People of Praise will be arriving on Saturday afternoon to set up, and they have over 200 people who will be at Camp Tannadoonah for the next week. I'm sure that you'll hear them singing and see them out on the lake throughout the

week! They've been renting out camp for a week each summer for the past 20+ years!

The following weekend we will be having a special informational session over at the Yacht Club on Saturday morning (June 12th, 10:00am). We really hope that a lot of lake residents will come to this meeting. We want to share the current financial situation of Camp and our Camp Fire council, and discuss our vision for where we hope to see Tannadoonah going in the next few years. Next week's Barker will contain more information and details.

Sunday, June 13th my staff arrives for the summer. We have a full week of staff training before the first group of kids arrives. I can hardly wait for everyone to get here and get started. I think we're going to have a really awesome group of counselors this year.

If you missed the announcement last week, we're going to make the tennis courts at camp available whenever we don't have lessons going. To join the Tannadoonah Tennis Club, you just have to have made a donation this year to Camp or Camp Fire of at least \$25. We'll also need a signed release form, and then you're all set! We have lessons

on weekdays from 9-11am and 3-5pm. The rest of the time the courts are open! Call or email me for info.

Thank you again to all the residents of the lake who help us out at camp. We love being a part of Birch Lake!

-Miss Amber

Camp T update:

Hello, Friends of Tannadoonah. We are up to 329 campers, still ahead of last year but about 200 short of our 2010 goal.

Our newest Marketing ventures have included participation and promotion at the inaugural Bike the Bend last Saturday and pending "non-profit showcase" exposure at the June 5 Silverhawks game. And we have received many calls and some registrations from those brash yellow yard signs.

Please help us keep the momentum going by continuing to spread the word, we have a long way to go! Remember to talk up the fun and enrichment which await at Tannadoonah during your weekend bbq's.

Thanks as always for your help, and have a great weekend.

*-Marty McKiernan, Executive Director
Camp Fire USA River Bend Council*



CAMP TANNADOONAH
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org/>

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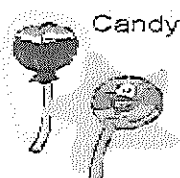
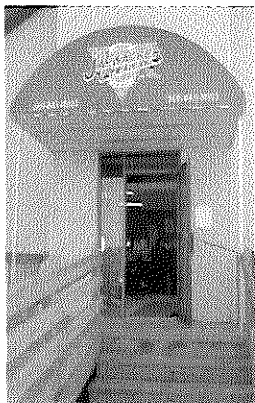
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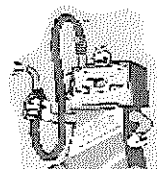


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2010 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors



BLYC Officers and Board of Directors, from left: front row: Scott Troeger; Sandy Vitale, Secretary; Stanley Pitakos, Vice Commodore; Karen Brovold; Paul Fallon; Sue Williams; Jim Bolinger; Bob Baucus; Phil Vitale; back row: Holly Troeger, Treasurer; Bob Waddle, Commodore; Terry Dugan; Mike Sheffieck; Lind Harman; Rick Russwurm; Fred Freihofer; Steve Quindlan; and Jeff Smitley.

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Fleet Capt. — Bill Luecht—476-2615

Treas. — Holly Troeger—476-9898

Secretary —Sandy Vitale—476-1680

Past Comm.—Paul Fallon—476-1467

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Fred Freihofer—476-9823

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Jim Bolinger—476-9737

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Rick Russwurm.—476-2407

Terry Dugan—476-2814

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LOST

Lost on May 20th: my **Grandfather's favorite rod and reel**. It jumped over the boat from the large waves and all the wind on the South shore near Mr.

and Mrs. Williams house. It's a black 7 foot St. Croix rod with a Quantum spinning reel. I would really like to surprise Grandpa and give it back to him for his birthday in July. If found please contact Claire Brovold, West shore 476-8862.

When the Temples (North Side) were putting in their pier this spring they noticed that **one of their pier sections** was missing ... If you have any info, please contact them at 476-2773

FOUND

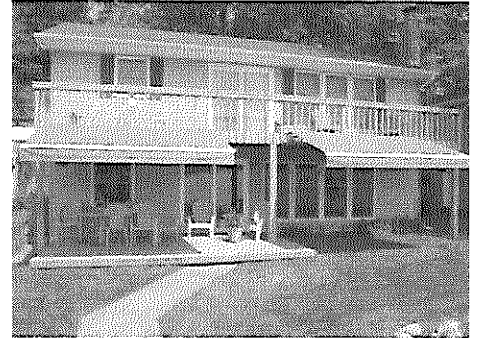
A **turtle raft** has floated up to the shore on the northeast corner of the lake. If you're missing one, stop by and pick it up!

VACATIONS

I'm considering organizing and leading a guys-only and/or a girls-only **sailing trip to the Virgin Islands** in late-January or early-February. No experience necessary, but healthy sense of adventure is mandatory. Interested in coming along? If I get sufficient interest I will host a meeting (free beer) to explain and discuss the options. Contact me (Phil) at

sailorphil@philvitale.com or call me at 476-1680 or 445-9200.

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CLASSIFIED ADS

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- * team prizes and contests
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- * prizes awarded during dinner.
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* **Send entries to artie@toefco.com or 63306 birch road 574-515-3179, 476-1692**
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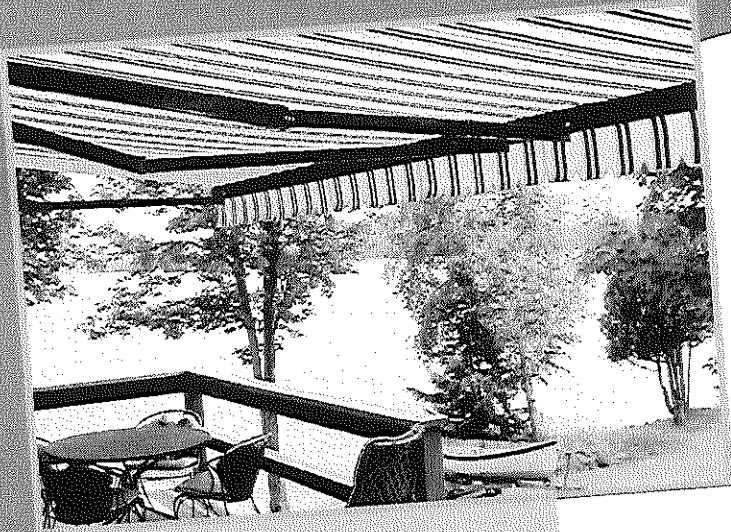
Player

Player

Player

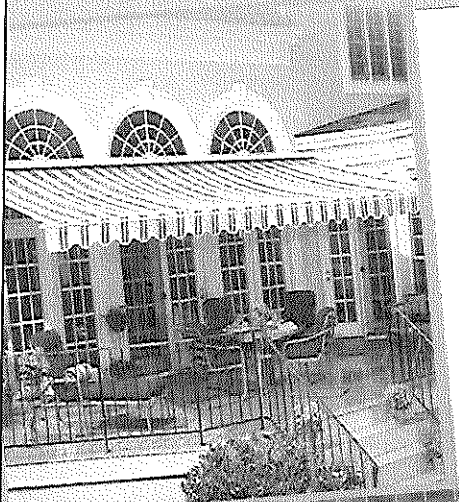
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