

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 12, 2010

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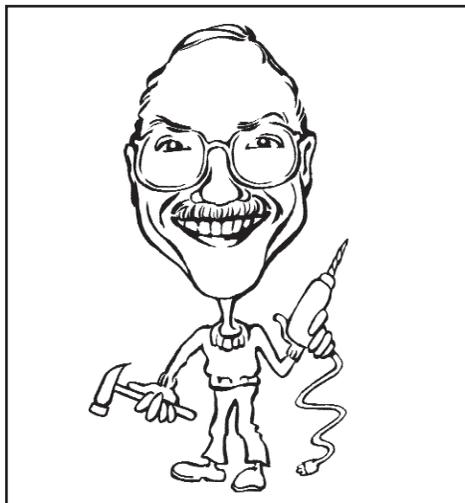
Thanks to Mr. Bob for the great heavy-air-cool-day sailing action photo ...

'Smokin' hot weather

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It's 5:45 a.m. Wednesday morning and despite my intentions of starting on my comments sooner, I'm sitting here at the counter in the kitchen and just beginning. I guess I could start before the weekend, but there wouldn't be much material. It's still dark outside and it has been raining through the night, but the forecast is for clearing skies and good weather all the way into the weekend. Saturday and Sunday are supposed to be "smokin" hot, so there should be plenty of lakers in and on the water. Let us all watch out for each other.

In case you missed it, my cocktail party at the yacht club last Saturday night was a great success. The lively art of con-



versation is alive and well at Birch Lake. Nearly 60 guests filled the festively decorated yacht club and devoured appetizers, snacks and desserts to die for that filled

2010 BLYC Calendar

June 12	Porter Twp. Cleanup Day Boat Inspection
June 26	Vice-Comm Cocktail Party
July 3	Board meeting 9 am Boat Parade, Fireworks
July 4	Pancake Breakfast
July 17	Spaghetti Dinner
July 23	Women's golf outing
July 30	Men's golf outing
July 31	Camp T Hog Roast
August 1	Board meeting 10 am
August 7	Corn and sausage roast
August 14	Garage sale
August 28	Fall dinner
September 11	Board meeting 9 am
September 18	Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
October 9	Chili cook-off

two long tables. Thank you to all who brought something to share, and special thanks to Sandy and Phil Vitale for keeping the busy bar running smoothly all

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

The PRINTED BARKER is online every week at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/pvBirchBarkerNew.htm>

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

evening. The party ended a little past 11 p.m. and everyone made it home safely in time to witness the spectacular lightning show staged later by Mother Nature.

Partygoers also brought enough food donations for the local food bank to fill the back of our station wagon. Linda Curtis generously volunteered to drop off the donations at the Our Lady of the Lake Church in Edwardsburg. This church is part of a food bank administered by three local churches and is non-denominational. Linda told me that the pantry's shelves were empty and our donations were gratefully received. The plan is to again ask for additional food donations at Stan Pitakos' Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party which will be on Saturday, June 26th.

I would also like to thank Don Harman and Jim Bolinger, who both did a great job cleaning and sealing the yacht club deck before the party.

I still don't have a result to report concerning my turtle raft modifications. I guess the weather's been too cool and not enough sun. And yet I see other rafts covered with turtles. I think I'm developing turtle envy.

Anyway, on to more important things. The next time you come down the hill on Birch Road at the landing, take a good look around the base of the massive oak tree that splits the road there. Linda Curtis and her good friend and frequent

lake visitor, Jodie Okoniewski, spent nearly the entire day on Tuesday pulling weeds and planting flowers around the tree. It already looks great and it is a perfect way to showcase our beautiful lake to visitors. I also hear the ladies have another surprise in store for us soon. So keep your eyes peeled. Many thanks to Linda and Jodie.

Did you know the roundest thing at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi. Did you also know no matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery. Credit for these goes to my friend, Bad Patty.

I have to get serious again for a moment. After much discussion, the BLYC Board of Directors has decided that the use of the tables at the yacht club by members outside the yacht club will no longer be permitted. The decision was made to protect the interests and property of the yacht club. It has been a long time since the BLYC has tried to raise funds by selling items such as coffee mugs, travel mugs, can and bottle coolies, coolers, etc. and I would like to try again this year and I need your feedback and opinion about what items to sell. I generously offered to allow the use of my caricature to decorate these items, but the Board of Directors didn't seem interested. In fact there was some laughter. If you have ideas or potential sources for these items you can contact me by phone, e-mail or in person.

Now let's all take a good look at the BLYC calendar in this issue. First, the

annual Sheriff's boat inspection at Dan and Sheryl's pier on the east side isn't shown. It runs from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. this Saturday June 12. Take a spin over there and have the experts check out your boat — free of charge.

Back to the calendar — it's going to get very busy soon. I've already plugged Stan's party. The Board of Director's meeting has been moved to July 10 at 9 a.m. And then it's the July 4th weekend, which is the highlight of the summer here. Let's make this year's boat parade the best ever. The fireworks are going to be more spectacular than ever. And we can count on Lind and Don Harman and their devoted crew to serve up mouth watering pancakes and all the trimmings at the Camp mess hall on Sunday morning. YUM! It's not too soon to make your reservations for both the ladies and men's golf outings. Both Bad Patty and Artie have been busy making no small plans for both golf outings. I know that Artie has some special treats in store this year because it is the 50th anniversary of the BLYC men's golf outing. This one should be very special, so hurry and sign up.

I had better get going. I know I mentioned my prowess at computer keyboards and 10 a.m. is fast approaching. Have a great time on the lake this weekend, be safe and to quote a lady named Anne Dillard "Spend the afternoon, you can't take it with you."

*-Commodore Partybob
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— Birch Lake Notes —

Caps for cancer treatment

Our daughter is a nurse practitioner with a pediatrician in Ft. Wayne. Their office is collecting plastic bottle caps (these can be any plastic caps from bottles and cartons including laundry products). For every 1,000 caps collected and sent to Riley Children's Hospital someone receives a free cancer treatment. Caps may be dropped off at Don & Lind Harmans on the east side.

Line Dancing

Line Dancing will continue on Tuesday mornings at 9 am at the Yacht Club.

Porter Township Clean-Up Day

Porter Township Clean-Up Day will be Saturday, 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 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.

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.

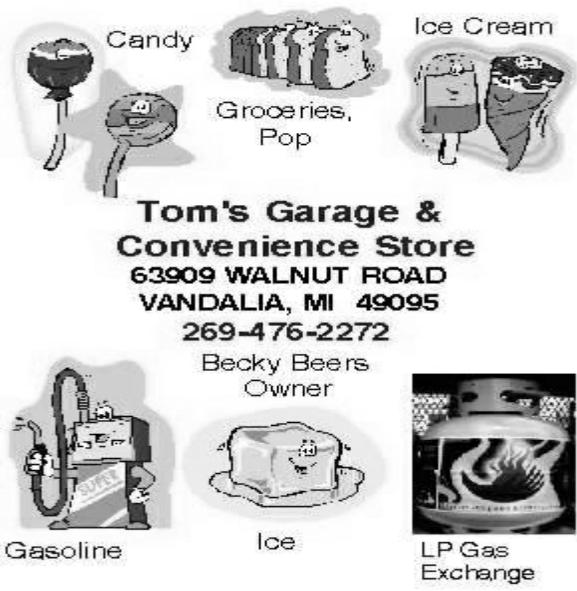
He also provid-

ed 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



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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

"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

— Birch Lake Notes —

(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 first 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.)

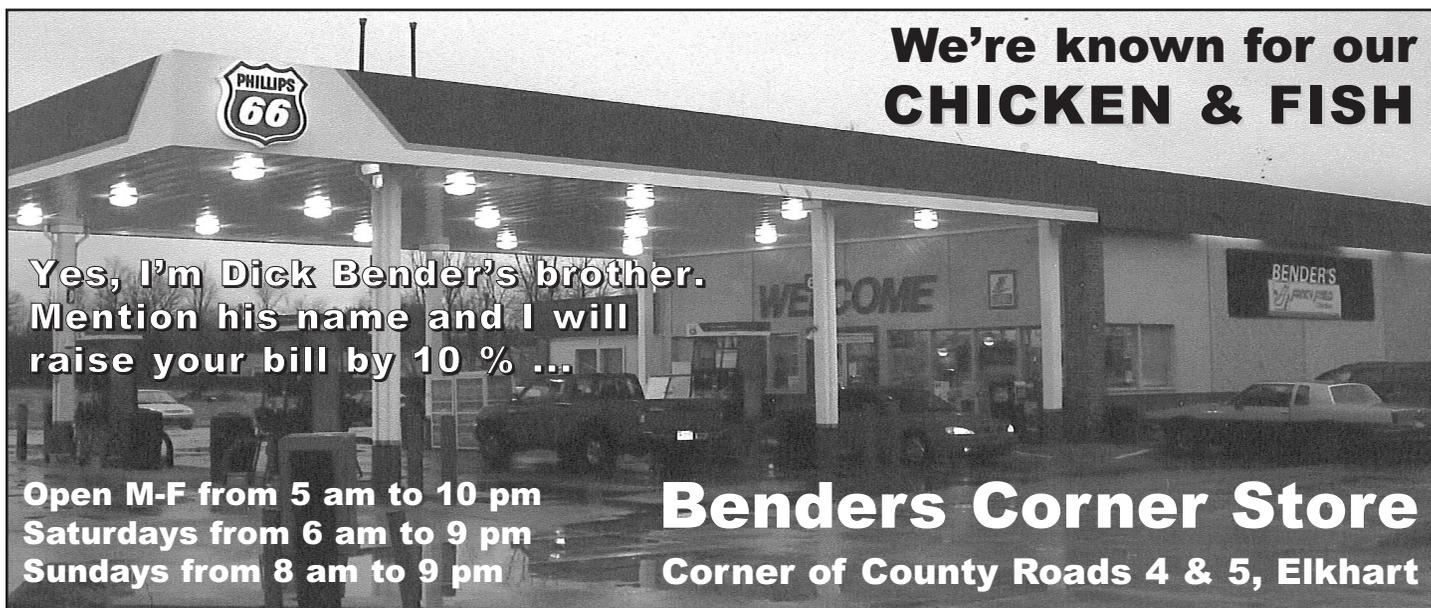
Check the Birch Barker for more information in the near future.

-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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Rental/Usage Policy for the Birch Lake Yacht Club building approved at June 5, 2010 Board Meeting of the Birch Lake Yacht Club:

1. The BLYC building will not be rented (or used) by NON-members of the BLYC.
2. The BLYC building will be rented (or used) by Members only when a signed contract and appropriate deposit has been received
3. Every rental (or use) of the BLYC building must be approved by the officers of the BLYC in advance
4. The BLYC building will be rented (or used) by members for social and family-oriented purposes
5. The BLYC building will NOT be rented (or used) for any commercial venture unless the club's board officers have formally sanctioned the venture and all profits are being donated to the BLYC

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Jimmy Bergan caught this carp, (though on Birch Lake) recently and his grandparents, Jim & Linda Bergan (Cove) sent it in for Kid-Of-The-Week honors ... Nice fish Jimbo!



Claire Brovold, daughter of Karen (West Side), posed for a pier photo recently after a dip in the cool waters of Birch Lake.



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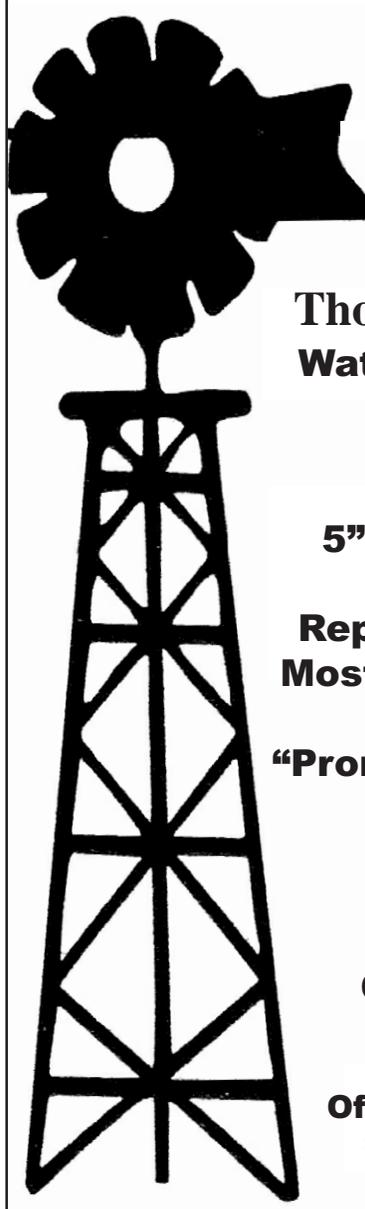
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Low-carb, easy, easy, easy salmon

Whiskey-Soused Salmon

- 2 (6oz ounce) salmon steaks
- 2 cups water
- Pinch salt
- ¼ cup reduced fat mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon whiskey
- Course black pepper
- Chopped water chestnuts



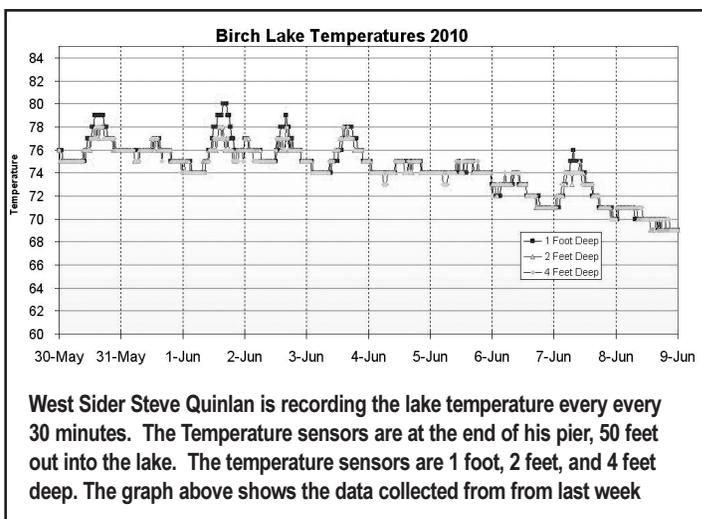
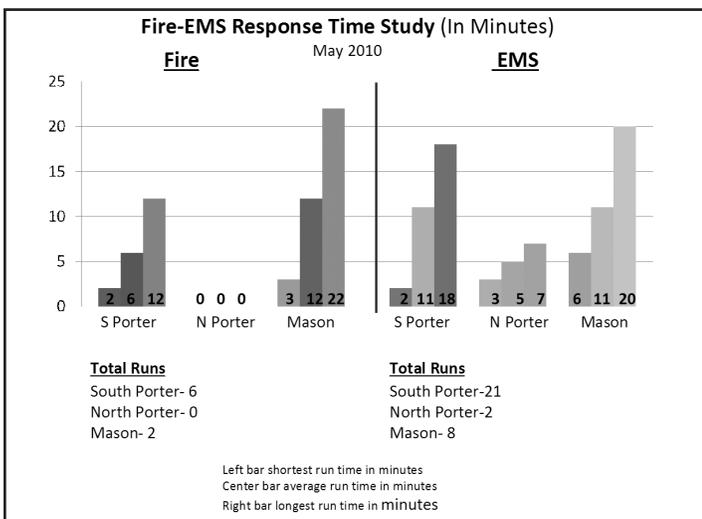
Bring to a simmer and gently cook 5 to 8 minutes.

Salmon will be opaque. Remove to 2 plates. Whisk mayonnaise, lemon juice, whiskey and pepper together in a small bowl and

spoon over salmon. Place water chestnuts on side.

Quick, easy and healthy. Can't ask for more!

-Good Patti



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Fleet Captain's Corner



Windy with a side of Chilly

The first official race day of the season gave me pause. The clouds looked as if they could start storming at any minute, the winds were forecast to be 15 to 20 MPH and it was chilly. Although it was a bit on the heavy air side, we did race. See the sailing results below for how everyone placed in the two races that were held.

It was a good day to have a crew, so Gib recruited Tom Howard aboard his MC. That turned out to be the right move as they won the second race. Without the unbearable weight of office, Fleet Captain Emeritus Bill was able to focus on sailing and had a very nice day with a first and a second. Both Dave Olson and I blew a jibe at the leeward mark and gave our sails a rinsing.

In the Sunfish Class, Rick Russwurm continued on his winning ways from the Memorial Day Regatta and posted two firsts. Chris Spratt lost a sail or rather had it tear into shreds. As he was being towed back to shore, the committee boat generously provided a beverage to renew his spirits.

Thanks go to the committee boat members of Deb Taghon, Karen Brovold,

2010 BLYC Sailing Season Results				
Date	6-Jun	6-Jun	Total	Season
Race	1	2	Points	Average
Sailor				
MC Scow				
Bill Luecht #1579	1	2	3121	1561
Gib Eberhart #916	4	1	2969	1485
Harold Cranmer #2412	2	3	2965	1483
Jeff Smitley #2002	3	5	2740	1370
Dave Olson #1979	5	4	2665	1333
Sunfish				
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	3200	1600
Stewart Spratt	2	2	3042	1521
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	3	3	2888	1444
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	5	4	2665	1333
Chris Spratt (Red/White)	4	DNF	2594	1297

DNF (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. CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - 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.

Denise Smitley, Good Patti Russwurm, her sister Jennifer and Bad Patty Luecht. We do appreciate their coming out on a cloudy and blustery day.

Hopefully the weather will improve for next week's races. 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 assignments

June 13	Patty Luecht
June 20	Stewart Spratt/Deb Taghon
June 27	OPEN
July 3-5	Karen Brovold/Fry
July 11	Marc & Lynn Caenepeel
July 18	Bob & Sue Waddle
July 25	Patty Luecht
Aug. 1	Deb Taghon
Aug. 8	Bob & Sue Waddle
Aug. 15	Chas & Amber Grundy
Aug. 22	Open
Aug. 29	Open
Labor Day Regatta	Open

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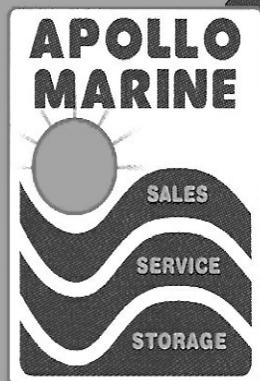
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Birch Lake references available

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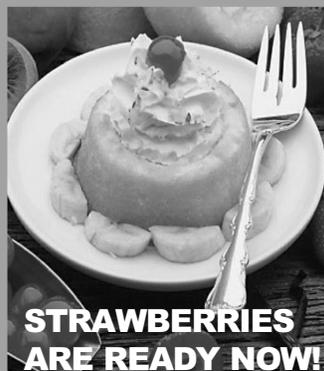
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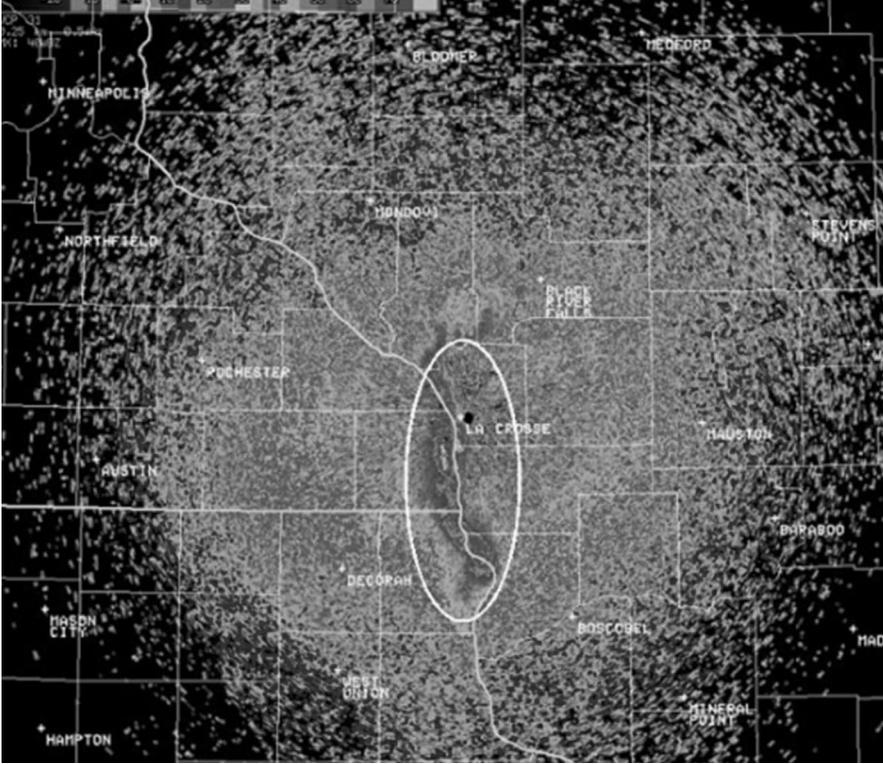


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Lakers' musings...



Mayflies

WI mayfly hatch is so large the swarm is visible on NOAA radar! (see photo at right and check out the website:

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=arx&storyid=53064&source=0

Thanks for a good time

Many thanks to the CoBL (Commodore of Birch Lake) FLoBL, VCoBL and SLoBL for hosting such a nice cocktail party at the Yacht Club last weekend. Kudos re the overflowing canned food donations. One small suggestion would be ... if the CoBL plans fireworks for after the party he might do well to let us all know instead of keeping it as a thunderous surprise. Kidding of course. When the weather is good, credit the Commodore ... when the it rains, blame the gardeners! ~ Anon

-Mr. Bob

Heart Attacks

Bayer is making crystal aspirin to dissolve under the tongue. They work much faster than the tablets — and you should keep some by your bedside.

There are other symptoms of an heart attack besides the pain on the left arm. One must also be aware of an intense pain on the chin, as well as nausea and lots of sweating, however these

symptoms may also occur less frequently. Note: There may be NO pain in the chest during a heart attack.. The majority of people (about 60%) who had a heart attack during their sleep, did not wake up. However, if it occurs, the chest pain may wake you up from your deep sleep. If that happens, immediately dissolve two aspirins in your mouth and swallow them with a bit of water.

Afterwards: CALL 911

- say "heart attack!"
- say that you have taken 2 aspirins..
- phone a neighbor or a family member who lives very close by
- take a seat on a chair or sofa near the front door, and wait for their arrival and...

~ DO NOT lie down ~

-Tom DeCocker

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Stu's Star Stuff

On to Venus — two stars in one

Our next stop on our journey outward from the sun brings us to the second brightest natural object in the night sky — Venus. Only the Moon shines brighter. Named for Deb, the Roman goddess of love and beauty, it is the second planet from the Sun, orbiting it every 225 Earth days. Because Venus is inside of Earth's orbit, it never appears to venture far from the Sun. And also for that reason, viewed through a telescope, phases can be detected, much like our own moon. Venus reaches its maximum brightness shortly before sunrise or shortly after sunset, for which reason it is often called the Morning Star or the Evening Star. It's two stars in one. (Sorry, couldn't resist bringing that one back.)

Classified as a terrestrial planet, it is sometimes called Earth's "sister planet" because they are similar in size, gravity, and bulk composition. Venus is covered with an opaque layer of highly reflective clouds of sulfuric acid, preventing its surface from being seen from space in visible light. It has the densest atmosphere of all the terrestrial planets, consisting mostly of carbon dioxide. The atmospheric pressure at the planet's surface is 92 times that of the Earth, making it a most inhospitable place. A younger Venus is

believed to have possessed Earth-like oceans, but these totally evaporated as the temperature rose, leaving a dusty dry desertscape with many slab-like rocks.

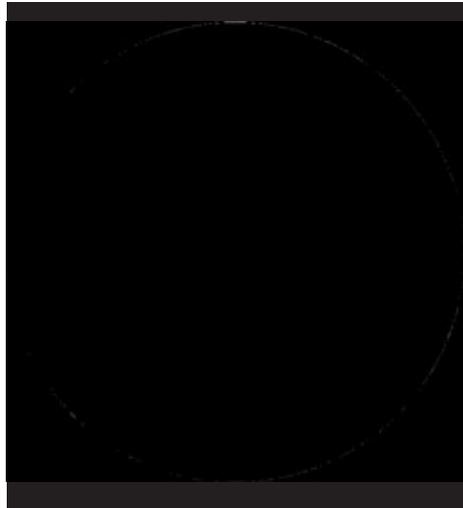
Venus's surface was a subject of speculation until some of its secrets were revealed by planetary science in the twentieth century. It was finally mapped in detail by Project Magellan in 1990-91. The ground shows evidence of extensive volcanism, and the sulfur in the atmosphere may indicate that there have been some recent eruptions. However, the absence of evidence of lava flow accompanying any of the visible caldera remains an enigma.

Venus actually rotates from east to west, as opposed to west to east which is the common rotating direction of most other planets in space.

Venus is in view to the naked eye from Earth for a period of 2-3 hours before sunrise and 2-3 hours after sunset. Venus is the only other non terrestrial body, besides the moon, that can be seen from Earth during both day and night time hours. Look for Venus just after sunset this weekend. It is approaching the sun but should still be visible here at the lake for another week or two. Where to next? We'll

just have to see. Enjoy the show up there. It's always there and it's always free.

-*Stu Spratt*



The Moon for Jun 12, 2010

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.009 (almost none)
0.8 days since new moon

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

You can accomplish a lot if you direct your thoughts toward starting your own small business on the side. You will learn valuable information if you travel this week. Sign up for courses or join fitness clubs. this week will be rather hectic on the domestic scene. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

You should sit down with someone you trust and work out a budget that will enable you to save a little extra. Try to concentrate on research and acquiring information that will be of value in your chosen field. Try not to get backed into corners. You may have been too nice to a friend who just wanted to take advantage of you. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Travel will entice you; however, a tendency to overspend is quite possible. A new relationship can be yours if you get out with friends. Travel will enhance romance and adventure. You will want to take off and have some recreation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Your talents might just be discovered. Children may be less than honest with you. Passion is about the best way for you to relieve tension. Ask family members for help and you will be able to complete the projects more quickly. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Opportunities to travel will be favorable in terms of moneymaking connections. You can win points if you present your ideas this week. Your emotional stability may influence the changes taking place in your personal life. You are better off visiting friends or relatives than entertaining at home. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Travel will result in new romantic attractions. Be aware that a female you work with may be trying to hold you back. Be prudent and don't be led down the garden path. You can make excellent investments if you are in the right place at the right time. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Consider a trial separation if you and your mate just can't come to terms. Look into any educational activities involving the whole family. Be careful not to divulge secret information this week. Problems with your mate will develop if you don't let them have their way. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You may overspend if you travel this week; however, the trip will be one to remember. New friendships will develop through group events. You may exaggerate your emotional situation. Try to slow down, and take another look. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Get domestic chores out of the way early. Spend time with youngsters this week. Equilibrium in your romantic life is likely if you treat your partner well. Make sure that new mates live up to your high standards. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Stress coupled with diet will add to stomach problems. You need to take some time out to decide what you want to do. Authority figures may be less than accommodating if you have done something deceitful. Take the time to sort out your personal papers and double-check your financial investments. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Social activity should be on your agenda this week. Don't believe everything you hear. You can expect to have some problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't taken proper care of them. Travel for business or pleasure will be enlightening. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Socialize with friends, but don't overspend on lavish entertainment. Put your efforts into job advancement. Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. Pleasure trips will ease the tension between you and your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SPOTLIGHT

Gordon and Michelle Seyfarth

On the corner of Birch Road and Kiloqua Woods Lane you will find a wildlife preserve that is the home of Gordon and Michelle Seyfarth. While not exactly new to Birch Lake (they have been here for the last 8 years or so), they have managed to change the way we look at the wild things with which we share our surroundings.

Gordon has always loved the outdoors and the creatures therein, a trait, it is said, he inherited from his grandfather, but it was his first hedgehog and then a rattlesnake, that got him hooked. That fascination with nature eventually brought he and Michelle to Birch Lake. But first, let's go back to their beginnings. They are a really interesting couple!

Gordon always enjoyed traveling, at first with his parents (during a frequent trip to Germany, his parents home country, he found the aforementioned hedgehog) and, as soon as they would let him, he traveled alone. His love of the outdoors brought him to the Michigan lakes, (where he saw a very large softshell turtle), as well as many other areas of the country. His interest in reptiles led him to work with sea turtles and

other species all over the world.

While in California, the beaches began an obsession with beach volleyball that lasted 25 years. To stay in top shape, he would frequent the gym where he eventually met Michelle. Interestingly enough, Michelle had spent most of her early years in Germany. After a seriously long relationship, they married. Nine years ago, they were able to retire and spend time in the tropics and travelling. Almost everywhere they went, their dog Niko would go, too.

On a visit to the area, Gordon wanted to show Michelle that big softshell turtle and only knew that it was on some small lake in, or near, Berrien County. They bought maps of the local lakes and began driving. This eventually brought them to Birch Lake. Though not the small lake he remembered, Birch had many of the things they were looking for in a summer home. They purchased their first Birch Lake home eight years ago. Their current home is their second on the lake, selling the first a few years back and moving almost across the street.

In the first, they enjoyed doing remodeling and, now, in their second they are busy redoing many of the rooms

upstairs and down. While simultaneously working inside the house, Gordon and Michelle have also managed to create a real wildlife habitat for land and water creatures outside, with a beautiful, living pond, incubation areas, lovely vegetation for the butterflies and protected spots for the young turtles and frogs. Turtles all over the lake have Gordon to thank for the turtle raft idea that has resulted in many homes putting out rafts on which our turtles can warm up in the sun.

When they are not working on the yard or the house, they have taken up ping-pong and have a weight station in their lower level to keep fit, and Michelle can be found out running most mornings. What do they do in the winter, you ask? While they still keep property in California, the last couple of years they have spent their time in Indonesia and the Philippines, scuba diving. The pictures are gorgeous!

Next time you come down the hill from Harvey Street, look for the yard with the pond. And be careful! Something might be crawling or hopping nearby. Remember to protect our wildlife by being watchful and stopping to let them pass by.

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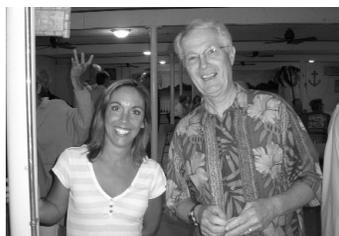
Commodore's Cocktail Party



Commodore's Cocktail Party

Commodore Party Bob Waddle and his lovely wife Sue hosted the BLYC's annual Commodore's Cocktail Party last weekend at the club — attracting nearly 60 lakers who came to wet their whistles prior to the big storm. Bob is pictured (above, right) with his Commodore of Vice, Stan Pitakos early in the evening (before everyone's whistles were too wet.

-photos by the PattiCam



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BIRCH LAKE WORD SEARCH

BIRCH LAKE NEIGHBORS

The Word Search puzzle at right contains the last names of 24 families at Birch Lake ...

See if you can find them all!

more next week!

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Camp Tannadoonah

Camp meeting Saturday at 10

Don't forget to come to the **Camp Tannadoonah meeting this week! The meeting is at 10 am AT CAMP.** In last week's column I mistakenly said that the meeting would be at the Yacht Club, when it is actually AT CAMP! See Chas's notes for more details.

If you've been up at the lake this past week, you've probably noticed that we had our first group of campers at camp this week! This week the People of Praise rented camp for a week-long camp program. This is the 21st year that they have rented Camp Tannadoonah for their camp, and they had a record number of campers attending. There were over 200 people in camp for the week! They had 112 campers, and more than 90 volunteer staff!

It always seems that the People of Praise week is a rough week at camp, and this year was no exception! We had water heaters going out, refrigerator and freezer units not getting cold properly, a leaky dishwasher, broken toilets, leaky roofs, and more. It's the first week that

we really use everything in camp, so we find all the problems in a hurry!

I want to extend a HUGE thanks to Rick Russwurm and Stan Pitakos for coming up on short notice to install a new water heater in the dining hall, and Patti Russwurm for helping me get a lot of other things taken care of. Also, a big thanks to Shawn O'Donnell for sending out someone to make some last-minute adjustments to the pier very early last Saturday morning! And finally, our wonderful and patient volunteer, Chuck White, who made 6 trips up to camp in 4 days to work on the cooler, freezer, water heaters, and leaky plumbing.

My staff will be arriving at camp on Sunday afternoon, and I can hardly wait to kick off the staff training week. It looks like we're going to have a fabulous staff this summer. We have almost half of last year's staff returning, so there will be a lot of experienced counselors, as well as some fresh new ideas!

The numbers for this summer are still looking good. We're at 352 campers currently, and on this date last year we

had 313. The previous year we hadn't even hit 300 at this point. So we're still ahead of last year's pace, although I'd like to see the numbers growing at a faster rate! We're still hoping to hit a total of 550 campers by the end of the summer!

So far this year, I have received 47 campership requests, for a total of over \$15,000 in requests for financial aid. We have collected around \$10,000 in pledges or actual funds, so we're well short of the amount needed to help all of these campers get to camp. If you're interested in sponsoring, or helping to sponsor, a camper this summer, please contact me. The cost for each camper is \$397. It's really important to me to be able to share the camp experience with as many children as we can each year!

Don't forget to mark your calendars and join us for the Hog Roast up at camp on July 31st! It should be a fun party and a great chance to meet some of the camp staff and Camp Fire Board Members.

-Miss Amber

Camp Fire financial picture shared

Camp Fire USA River Bend Council invites you to attend a public meeting at Camp Tannadoonah on Saturday June 12 at 10 am. We will present our financial picture and plans for the coming years. For those who cannot attend, or those who wish to start thinking about the topic, I'd like to share a bit now.

As you may know, Camp Tannadoonah is owned and operated by our local Camp Fire USA council (formerly Camp Fire Girls, though we've been co-ed since 1976). We also operate a day camp in Mishawaka and our Club Program serves youth throughout the year.

What you may not realize is that we have consistently lost money for nearly 20 years. Since 1993, our average net income has been —\$12,000. In order to survive, the council took drastic measures and sold land, cashed out investments, and borrowed money. Because of

this historically poor adaptability and a few strategic missteps, we continue to carry debt and face deficits.

The two camps represents over 75% of our income. With declining funding, we have focused on increasing campers in order to stabilize our financial position. This means raising prices and working to improve the facilities and programs. The path to sustainability is found with more campers.

The current board of directors is entirely new in the last three years. We have taken major steps to make our council sustainable and we continue to see growth. We're not done yet, but I am confident we have built a solid base upon which our council can thrive.

We'll dive into numbers in more detail during the meeting, and I'll share some of our plans for the next few years. I hope you'll join us Saturday and bring your questions, ideas, and support.

River Bend Council Projected Cash Budget, 2010

Income	Total
Program Revenues	
Tannadoonah.....	\$175,000
Tawanchi.....	\$30,500
Club.....	\$100
Camperships.....	\$16,000
Fundraising Other.....	\$40,000
Other.....	\$7,500
Total Income.....	\$269,100
Expenses	
Salaries and Wages.....	\$125,000
Occupancy and Overhead.....	\$44,000
Supplies and Food.....	\$43,800
Marketing.....	\$6,500
Insurance.....	\$16,500
Dues.....	\$21,000
Camp Facilities.....	\$20,500
Total Expenses.....	\$277,300
Net Income.....	\$(8,200)

-Chas Grundy



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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 Quinlan; and Jeff Smitley.

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cell: 269-365-7696

Vice Comm.—Stan Pitakos—476-8862

Fleet Capt. — Bill Luecht—476-2615

Treas. — Holly Troeger—476-9898

Secretary —Sandy Vitale—476-1680

Past Comm.—Paul Fallon—476-1467

BLYC Directors:

North — Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Fred Freihofer—476-9823

Mike Lutz — 476-2843; (cell) 269-207-1153

Bob Baucus — 476 2863

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

East — Scott Troeger—476-9898

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Lind Harman — 476-2039

Hill — PJ VandeWalle —574-292-5966

South — Terry Dugan—476-2814

Sue Williams —476-8886

West — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Karen Brovold — 476-8862

Steve Quinlan — 476-8802

Mike Sheffieck — 773-660-1673 X211

Greg Bolin — 574-876-3416

Cove — Vicki Rogers—476-2383

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Paul Fallon, Chairman — 476-1467

Rick Russwurm.—476-2407

Terry Dugan—476-2814

Gordon Seyfarth — n/a

Bruce Wagner — 476-2090

Home Owners Comm.

Jim Bolinger, Chairman—476-9737

Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Scott Troeger—476-9898

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Nice parachute—never opened. Used once. Stock up and save. Limit: one. Call Mr. Bob.

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!

A **yellow, smiley-face volleyball** and a

large, blue pier float floated up to Wiseman's on the south side. If you'd like to claim them, call 476-9560

WANTED

Our son Jack (entering 6th grade) needs **trumpet lessons.** Right now we've hired someone in Mishawaka – but that takes time away from the lake. Call Bob at 574.534.3067 (office) or 571.332.3308 (mobile)

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

CLASSIFIED ADS

The Birch Barker will publish classified ads free of charge for paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club ... non-members will be charged \$5/ad. Send classified ads to sailorphil@philvital.com

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- * dinner only, \$25 per person
- * dinner includes 10oz. grilled ribeye, side salads, corn on the cob.
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- * prizes awarded during dinner.
- * the mens' and ladies' outing is looking for

donations of door prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact Artie McElwee at 574-514-3179. We have need for 80 players in the mens' and 40 players in the womens' event.

* **Send entries to artie@toefco.com or 63306 birch road 574-515-3179, 476-1692**

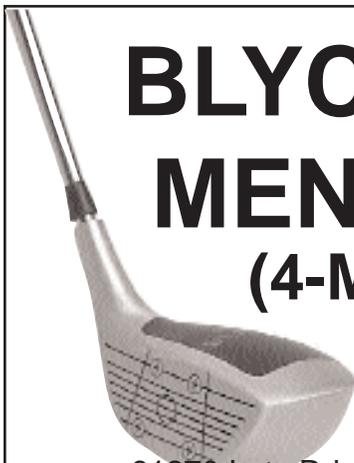
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