

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

# Birch Barker

Weekend of June 19, 2010

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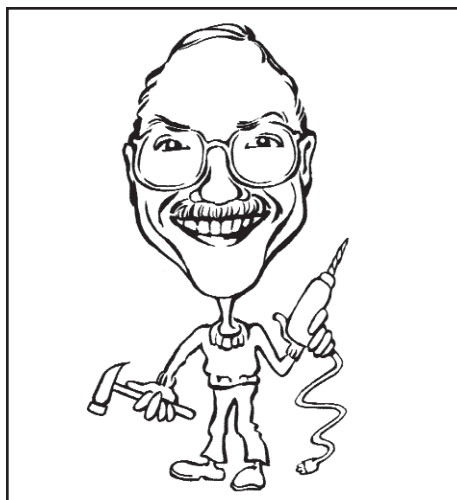


Thanks to Mr. Bob for the great sailing action photo series ...

## Take time to relax

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**A** fellow named Sydney J. Harris once said "The time to relax is when you don't have time for it." A lot of you Birch Lakers didn't do too much relaxin' last weekend in spite of the less than perfect weather. The hardy sailors braved the elements and a sharp cold wind on Sunday, but the committee boat crew seemed even braver as they refused to stop boating for hours until the sun finally peeked out. Saturday wasn't much of a prize either. Although once the sun appeared, people were skiing, people were tubing, people were cruising, having loads of fun. Just as the saying goes "it never rains on a golf course," there are no bad weekends at Birch Lake.



As I write this it is Tuesday afternoon. It must be about 3 pm, because I think I can hear General Hospital in the background. Sue really likes this after-

### 2010 BLYC Calendar

- June 26 .....Vice-Comm Cocktail Party
- July 10 .....Board meeting 9 am
- Homeowner's Annual Meeting
- 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
- Camp T Silent Auction
- August 28 .....Fall dinner
- September 11 .....Board meeting 9 am
- September 18 .....Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
- October 9 .....Chili cook-off

noon soap opera, so I have to be very quiet. The last couple of days have been a little overcast, but the sun usually shows up later in the day. Most of you must be

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto: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

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## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

at work or in another place, because I don't see much activity as I scan the lake from my deck. Maybe three or four fishermen fishing and a lone canoe cruising the south side are all that I can detect. I consider myself extremely lucky to be able to now enjoy living at the lake full-time (well almost full-time.) During the week it is so quiet and peaceful here — you can hear the birds singing and the insects chirping. You can even hear the "swoosh" sounds as the mallard ducks hit the water when landing. I think that a lot of you love this place too and would want to spend more time here if you could.

Last Saturday there was a little time conflict between the boat inspections and the Camp Tannadoonah meeting. Unfortunately I had to miss the meeting at camp in order to meet the boat inspectors. Phil Esarey of the Cass County Sheriff's Department was kind enough to assign Officers Kirk and Bobby to conduct boat inspections on the east side. The officers were personable, professional and their inspections were very thorough. We are very fortunate to have this convenient service right here at home. Thanks again to Sheryl Papandria and Dan Covey for allowing us to conduct the inspections again this year on their pier.

Although I missed the camp meeting, I did talk to a few Lakers that did attend and they said the meetings' information

mirrored Chas Gundy's report in the last Barker. I'm not an accountant, but net income of minus \$8,200 doesn't sound that great. I also heard that Campfire has a good, new management team in place that, hopefully, can turn things around. We already know that Amber and Chas Grundy are very good at what they do, but they can only do so much and they can use our help. Maybe you could donate your time, or maybe sponsor a camper who can't afford to come, or maybe you can pledge a donation to the camp. Camps like Tannadoonah all across the country, due to financial shortages, are being sold off to raise needed funds. That is not something that I want to happen here and I know you don't either.

I went to the yacht club on Saturday to return the Sheriff's refreshment cooler and leftovers (all non-alcoholic) and when I opened the door I was blinded by the shiny, white floor. Stan Pitakos, our Vice-Commodore, came through on his promise to strip, clean and wax the floor at the yacht club. Believe me, I have stared at that floor plenty while swinging a mop over the years and I have never seen it look so good. Stan and his "mystery" helpers must have spent a lot of time and effort to make it look so good. Then he tells me that he's also going to replace the missing and broken tiles. What a guy! The floor is done just in time for Stan's upcoming Vice-Commodore's Cocktail Party next Saturday, June 26th, at the yacht club. I think Stan has plans for a

great evening in store for us. This is the last cocktail party this year and if you haven't seen our "spiffy" looking yacht club in a while, please come out and check it out. Stan will also be collecting donations for the local food pantry and I was thinking "why do only the partygoers get to contribute and have all the fun?" So I'm inviting all of you to donate something for the pantry. If you need, I will come to you (here at the lake) and pick them up and make sure they get to someone that needs them.

I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian. Hee Hee! I hope the weather is good this weekend, although the long range calls for rain. I have given up trying to predict the weather. I defer to Mike, Rick and the Weather Channel. Take a good look at the BLYC Calendar in this issue. You have this weekend off and then it gets plenty busy after that. I won't have to look too hard to find material to fill this space soon. Thank goodness we have so many talented and capable neighbors to plan and administer all of our events so well. Thanks again to the Birch Barker staff and in closing I'll get a little sentimental with this quote from Mary Gardiner Brainard "A lake looks at the stars above and makes within itself a heaven of stars."

We do indeed live in a special place.

*Commodore Tearybob*  
sparkybob220@comcast.net

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Eberhart wins tennis title

Caroline Eberhart, the granddaughter of Gilbert and Barbara Eberhart (south side), won the IHSAA (Indiana) state championship in singles tennis on June 12.

Eberhart finished the season with 27wins and 1 loss, with eight wins in the tourney.

## Boat Inspection

On behalf of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, I wanted to thank you and the Sheriff's Department for again administering our annual boat inspection here at Birch Lake. Officers Kirk and Bobby were clean-cut and presentable, knowledgeable, polite and conducted themselves in a manner that is a credit to your department. We really appreciate your efforts to keep our lake safe and we look forward to your participation next year.

*Bob Waddle, Birch Lake Commodore*

## Line Dancing

There will be no Line Dance on June 22. See you again on June 29

## Thanks for the flowers

I would like to thank the following people for donating the plants for the facelift of the old oak tree at the landing: Carla Chester, Lee & Marty Ponsler, Judy Olson, Tom & Lynn Decocker, Doug & Judie Eichorst.

*Thanks, Linda Curtis*



Betty Cary (aka Big Nana) celebrated her 95th birthday last weekend at the home of her daughter and son in law, Vicky and Tom Rogers (Cove). Happy Birthday Nana!

## Ladies' Golf Outing

Date: July 23, Time: 9am

Place: Spruce Ridge Golf in Dowagiac, Dutch Settlement Road

Get your teams lined up for a day of FUN!!! You don't have to be a "pro" to come play. Just come to enjoy the day!! Watch next week's Barker for important information!!! *Patty Luecht, 476-2615*

## 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.

## July 31st Camp T Hog Roast

On the afternoon and evening of Saturday, July 31, Camp Tannadoonah will join nearly 50 other Camp Fire

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SEAWALLS - TRENCHING 0" TO 36"  
FOOTINGS - BACKFILLS - RETAINING WALLS**

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

-Tom DeCocker, East Shore

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

-PJ VandeWalle, East Side Hill

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

Tim Liddell, East Side Hill

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

Ryan Gableman, East Side Hill

# — Birch Lake Notes —

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 – call Marty at 574-234-4145.

## Art in the Park

The Sunday Art Market in the Park will be July 11, Aug. 8 and Sept. 12 from Noon to 3 pm at the Farmers Market in Sidmore 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.

## Forth of July Boat Parade

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 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



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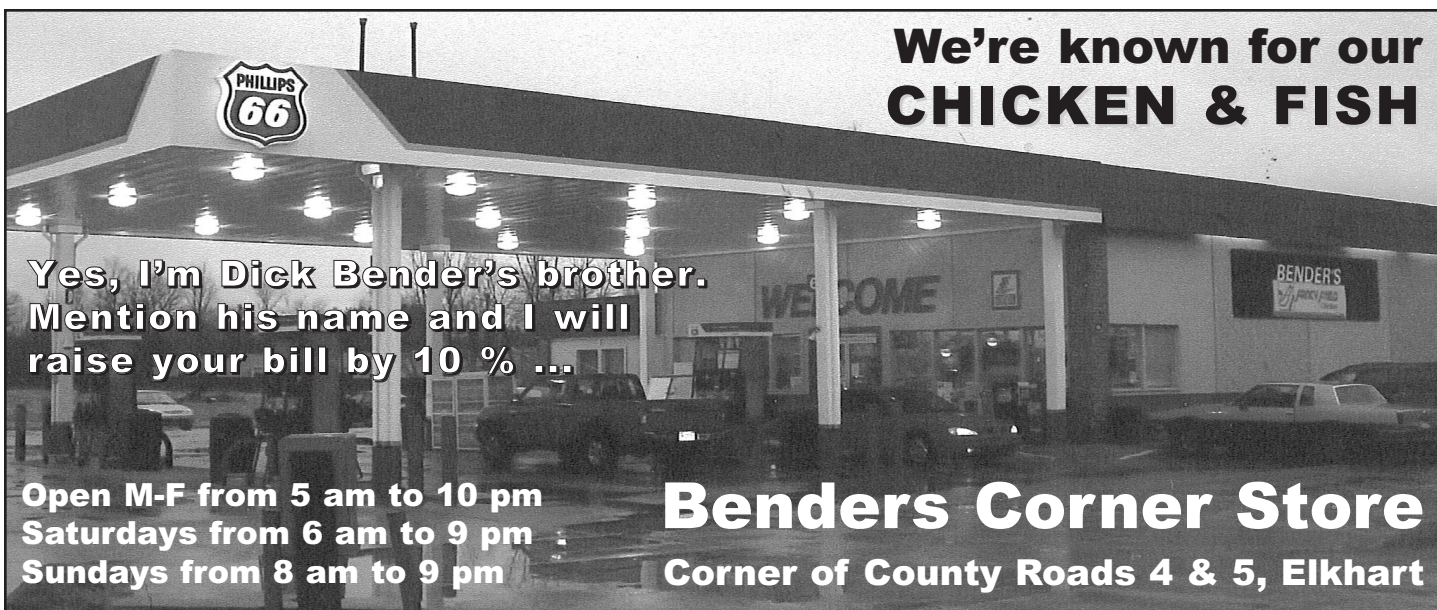
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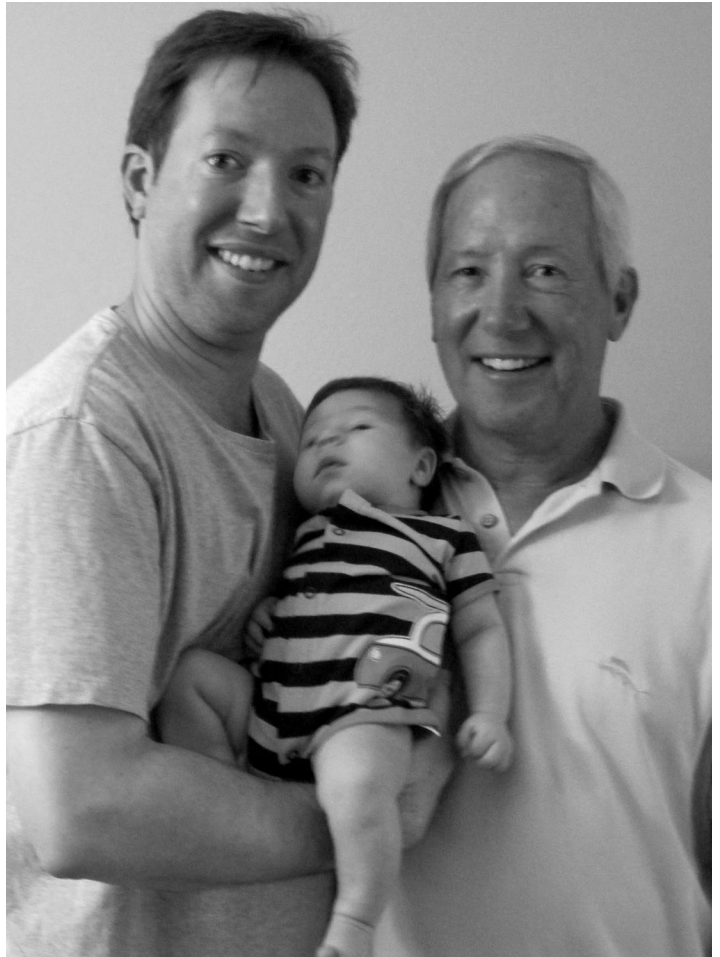
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# — Barker kids of the Week —



This is Anya Lynn Noneman, daughter of Demarée Dufour-Noneman and husband Brett Noneman, Granddaughter of Dave and Michele Dufour and GREAT-Granddaughter of Sue and Duffy Dufour, Cottage 120. Picture by Michele Dufour.




The Steffen family has grown. Elliot James Steffen joined his proud parents (Wes and Laura Steffen) on April 28, 2010. Elliot's even prouder grandparents (Tim & Irene Steffen) think he is the grandest thing. He makes Dad's Day all the more special and loves coming to Birch Lake!!!




Above ... as hard as it might be to believe, these are actually photos of John and Katie Luecht, the kids of Bill and "Bad Patty" Luecht (East Side) ... clean up pretty nice, don't they?




Sailing Committee Boat Crew: Amy, Katie, Blair, Good Patti (Bad Patty not shown had to walk the plank)! Katie Daugherty celebrated her 40+ birthday at BL-(BL guest of the weekend!!




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# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## Patriotic Parfaits

### Patriotic Parfaits

“Hooray for these red, white, and blue parfaits made with berry flavored gelatin, fresh strawberries, and whipped topping.”

Prep Time: 10 Min

Ready In: 4 Hrs 10 Min

### Ingredients

- 2 cups boiling water
- 1 (6 ounce) package JELL-O Berry Blue Flavor Gelatin
- 2 cups cold water
- 1 (8 ounce) tub COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, thawed, divided

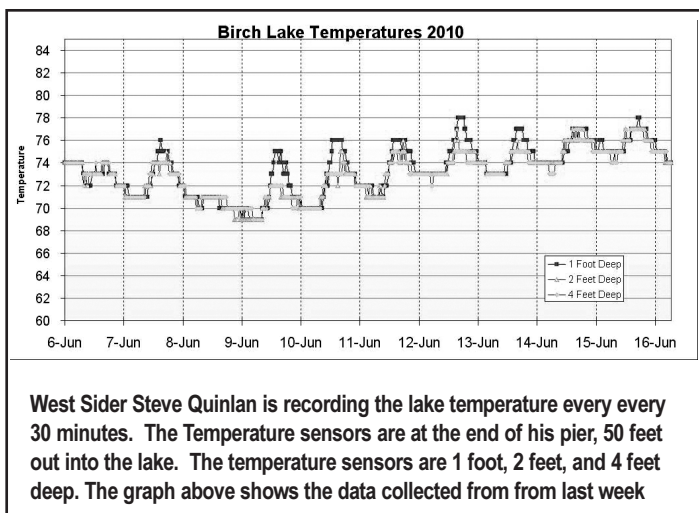
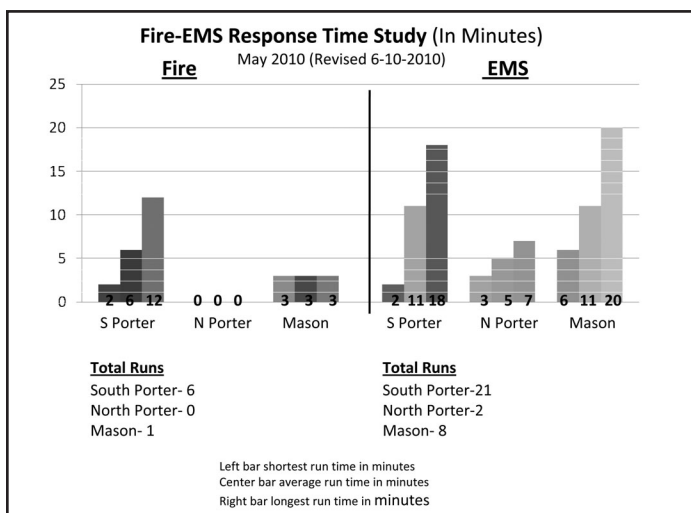
- 1 cup fresh strawberries, halved

### Directions

1. Add boiling water to gelatin mix in large bowl; stir 2 minutes until completely dissolved. Stir in cold water. Pour into 9 parfait or dessert glasses.
2. Refrigerate 4 hours or until firm.
3. Spoon 2 cups COOL WHIP over desserts; top with berries and remaining COOL WHIP.



-Good Patti



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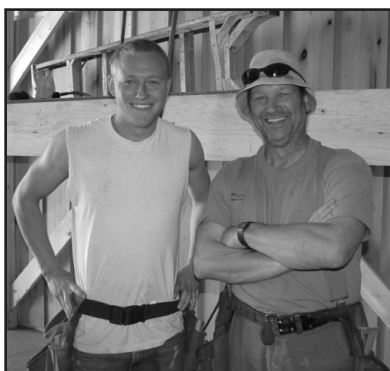
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# Fleet Captain's Corner



## When a man speaks in the forest ...

**W**hy is it that when I speak, women can't hear me? I started having this problem as a child having two sisters but no brothers.

It still happens today on occasion with my Lovely Bride (I suspect I'm not alone in this.) It also happened on Sunday when the committee boat asked me if we were going to have a third race and I said no since the winds were so light. Notice in the sailing results that we did three races.

The races were uneventful for the most part with the exception of the second race. A group of MC's were chasing down Harold leading at the leeward mark (the most downwind large yellow inflatable buoy for you landlubbers) right before our upwind beat to the finish line. We were four abreast, sorting out rights for room, when suddenly the mark began to move. Harold had snagged the mark's anchor line on his rudder and was now dragging the mark. We all rounded Harold and the mark, leaving him to untangle himself. That's a tough way to go from first to nearly last.

Thanks go to the committee boat

### 2010 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date.....	13-Jun.....	13-Jun.....	13-Jun.....	Total.....	Season
Race.....	3.....	4.....	5.....	Points.....	Average
MC					
Scott Troeger #1489.....	1.....	2.....	DNS.....	3121.....	1561
Bill Luecht #1579.....	4.....	3.....	5.....	7230.....	1446
Phil Vitale #500.....	6.....	1.....	4.....	4194.....	1398
Harold Cranmer #2412.....	7.....	8.....	1.....	6810.....	1362
Dave Olson #1979.....	3.....	6.....	3.....	6778.....	1356
Jim Bolinger #1735.....	2.....	9.....	2.....	4066.....	1355
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	5.....	5.....	7.....	6488.....	1298
Gib Eberhart #916.....	9.....	4.....	8.....	6451.....	1290
Don Harman #582.....	8.....	7.....	6.....	3470.....	1157
<b>Sunfish</b>					
Sandy Vitale (White).....	2.....	1.....	1.....	4721.....	1574
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	1.....	3.....	2.....	7765.....	1553
Stewart Spratt.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	3042.....	1521
Erica Vitale (White).....	DNS.....	2.....	3.....	2965.....	1483
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White).....	4.....	5.....	4.....	6922.....	1384
Chris Spratt (Red/White).....	3.....	4.....	5.....	6703.....	1341
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	2665.....	1333

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. 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



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members of Bad Patty Luecht, Good Patti Russwurm, Blair Garceau, Amy Lutz, and Katie D. Again, thanks go to the committee boat members of Patty Luecht, Good Patti Russwurm, Blair Garceau, Amy Lutz, and Katie D. Hello? Can you hear me?

Thanks for your time!

See you at the starting line...

*-Fleet Captain  
Jeff*

P.S. Here it the cur-

rent committee boat schedule. To take an open slot, you can call me at 476-9000.

### Committee Boat assignments

June 20.....	Stewart Spratt/Deb Taghon
June 27.....	Mike & Julie Sheffieck
July 3-5.....	Karen Brovold/Fry
July 11.....	Open
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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# Water Quality Committee Report

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

## Some Reminders

Watching the results of the heavy rains we have had recently, we are reminded of the adage that if it is around the lake it will get into the lake. Remember we live in a basin with relatively steep sides and lots of impervious asphalt, shingles, driveways, and patios, which just increase the volume and velocity of surface water flow into the lake. Additionally, since the flat land we build on is narrow, we have little in the way of yard space. As such our ability to create good buffers between the land and the lake, (i.e. something that slows water flow down and helps restrict stuff getting quickly into the lake) is limited. Thus, remember especially the following:

1. In a perfect world, lake water-quality-wise anyway, none of us would ever use any fertilizer. If yours is less than a perfect world, and you feel you must use fertilizer, please make sure it does not contain any phosphorous. Remember phosphorous is one of the key "limiting" nutrients whose presence directly bears on the amount of plant and algae growth. In the spring there is usually plenty of nitrogen in the lake,

and so the amount of phosphorous controls the growth opportunities for plants and algae. Thus it is key to keep it out of the lake. Phosphorous is so troublesome that fertilizers containing phosphorous are outlawed in Wisconsin and a number of other states. In addition to avoiding fertilizer with phosphorous, if you wash yourself or your dog in the lake (definitely not recommended), please make sure to use a non phosphorous soap.

2. Many folks will burn leaves and sticks to get rid of them rather than bag them up etc. Others burn for more leisure related reasons (like sitting around a campfire, an enjoyable summer evening activity). However, remember that by burning you have accelerated the rate in which leaves and wood become a rich fertilizer with minerals. These undesirables can easily run off into the lake with a good rain. If you do burn, especially on the street, but even if in fire pits, which can fill with ashes, once the fire has cooled, please shovel the ashes into a bag and throw it into the trash.

3. Take a look at the end of the yard as it transitions into the lake. Probably, like most of us, you have a slightly to steeply sloping lawn that then tumbles over a concrete seawall or some rocks directly into the lake. We desire each inch of our precious yard space due to this narrow strip of buildable land we

have around the lake. However, think about whether or not you could actually build a bit of a buffer to slow down water runoff. Remember this runoff in a big rain is carrying all the dirt, oils, lawn stuff, dog poop, etc. with it into the lake. So look to see if you can plant some things on the waters edge for a foot or maybe more into the yard that is more than grass and which might buffer the



interaction between land and water. Due to limited space, what is practical may be an issue, but please examine the following web sites for some ideas that you might be able to utilize: ([www.raingardens.org](http://www.raingardens.org) and [www.shoreline.msu.edu](http://www.shoreline.msu.edu)).

The latter is from the Michigan State University extension service, which frequently make presentations at Michigan Lakes and Streams Association events.

## Lake Aging

From the time of their inception, virtually all lakes are undergoing an aging process. Give our lake a few thousand years and it will eventually fill in with sediment due to continued growth of weeds and algae and become a wetland.

The lake is deep, but yes, this will really happen. While this march to death might be short lived in comparison to other geologic phenomenon, and take only 10,000 years or so, we are fortunate that this is not something that we or our great grandkids will see. What we want is for this process to be glacially slow and permit us the clean clear water we have now for as long as possible.

Next week we will provide some data from 10+ years ago and last year that will permit us to see if there has been any measurable change. This will be in the form of a dissolved oxygen profile in the deep basin of the lake from similar dates in 1989-1991 and 2009. These profiles effectively indicate the plant and algae productivity of the lake and can give us an idea as to the potential rate of sedimentation in the lake.

## JR's Home Improvement Property maintenance & management

**Remodeling**

**Roofing**

**Drywall**

**Decks**

**Floors**

**Kitchens**

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**Bathrooms**

**Winterization**

**Honey-Do Lists**

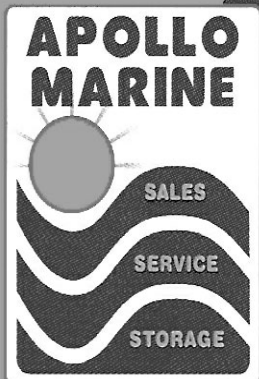
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# Stu's Star Stuff

## On to Venus — two stars in one

I was going to break the pattern but at least for this week I'll stick with it. Today's stop on our journey brings us back home to the planet we all know best, Earth. Earth is the only planet whose English name does not derive from Greek/Roman mythology. The name derives from Old English and Germanic. There are, of course, hundreds of other names for the planet in other languages. In Roman Mythology, the goddess of the Earth was Tellus - the fertile soil. The Greek name is Gaia, terra mater - Mother Earth.

It was not until the time of Copernicus (the sixteenth century) that it was understood that the Earth is just another planet. We are the third planet outward and our orbit takes us EXACTLY one astronomical unit (AU) from the sun. No coincidence as the definition of AU is the average distance of Earth from the sun. AUs are one of the ways space scientist's measure distances across the vastness of space. Light years are another. Measuring distances in miles in outer space would be as useful as having inch markers on the interstate between New York and Los Angeles. Still, we are just the right distance from the sun, about 93 million miles, to make things livable.

Earth, of course, can be studied without the aid of spacecraft. Nevertheless it was not

until the twentieth century that we had maps of the entire planet. Pictures of the planet taken from space are of considerable importance; for example, they are an enormous help in weather prediction and especially in tracking and predicting hurricanes. And they are extraordinarily beautiful.

Birch Lake is one of countless examples of an Earthly feature that appears nowhere else in the known universe - liquid water - covering 71 percent of the Earth's surface. Water gives us life, another unique feature of Earth. Sorry, but yes, Martians are a myth. I hope that in my lifetime we will learn that we are not alone. But I won't be holding my breath - another unique feature - a life sustaining atmosphere.

The presence of free oxygen is quite remarkable from a chemical point of view. Oxygen is a very reactive gas and under "normal" circumstances would quickly combine with other elements. The oxygen in Earth's atmosphere is produced and maintained by biological processes. Without life there would be no free oxygen.

I could go on and on with fun facts such as Earth's core is hotter than the surface of the sun, or boring stuff on plate tectonics or editorials about greenhouse gasses and light pollution. But for now, look for Earth most any

time of the day or night just below your feet. And, let's all enjoy, and be thankful for, our little piece of Earth here at Birch Lake.

Enjoy Earth and enjoy the show overhead. And, I'm as tired of this "free" stuff as anyone else. See Mr. Bob for tickets.  
-Stu Spratt



**The Moon for Jun 19, 2010**  
(At Midnight, US Central time)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.619  
1.1 days since first quarter

## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

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

Risks will not be profitable. Partnerships may be plentiful. Unforeseen changes in your location are apparent. Do not overspend on entertainment. You could find that children will be a handful. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

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

You'll find you're detail oriented this week. Travel or short trips will probably be your best outlet. You're on the right track and you can make money if you are willing to go out on a limb. Do not blow situations out of proportion. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### **GEMINI (May 22-June 21)**

Make some notes regarding the changes that you should make. You should want to feel good about yourself and your goals. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Get busy doing all those things at home that you have been putting off for so long. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

### **CANCER (June 22-July 22)**

This is a great day to mingle with people you would like to impress. You can make financial deals, but it may be best if you're not using your own cash. Close deals that have been up in the air and move on to new ones that appear to be profitable. Don't put all your cash in one place. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### **LEO (July 23-Aug 22)**

Take work home but be sure to spend some time with your mate. Money can be made if you use your ingenuity. Uncertain get rich quick schemes will not be as lucrative as you anticipate. Disputes may start because of a lack of honesty. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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

The only thing you'll accomplish is a bad reputation. Your unique approach to life will interest others. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. Your mate is going to want and need some attention. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

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

Your home environment may be volatile if precautions aren't taken. Pamper yourself; the self esteem it brings you will be most gratifying. Resist any idle chatter. Take your time before making personal decisions. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

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

You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. Those you work with may have little consideration for the underdog. Take care of your personal needs. Tell it like it is. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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

Do not get involved with individuals who

are already committed to others. Be careful not to reveal private information. Don't bend to the pressure. New projects may lead you into a dead end. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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

Some of the best opportunities will crop up if you keep an open mind. Loss is evident if you don't consider all the angles. If you can put some work into home improvements, you should. Accommodate others but not before you do your own thing. Do the proper safety checks before you go out. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

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

Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for those who attend. Be prepared to take care of the issues at hand. Ask a close friend for advice. Chronic health problems are likely to surface if you are keeping your problems locked up inside. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

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

Deep discussions may only lead to friction. Your suggestions for fund raising events will be well received. You may be thinking of starting your own business. You may feel that someone at work is holding you back. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

# SPOTLIGHT

## Debbie and Carmen Soldato

**P**art time Birch Lake west-siders, Debbie and Carmen Soldato are life-long residents of the Chicago westside suburbs. Now living in the small "burb" community of Darien, they actually both grew up in a community close to there, meeting in their teens, when Debbie was introduced to her best friend's brother, Carmen. After their schooling was finished, Debbie at our very own St. Mary's and Carmen at Rosary College, they married and settled down to have four sons. After the boys were born, Carmen decided to go back to school and study law at DePaul while continuing to work and did become an attorney. In addition, he got involved in local politics holding an office as City Councilman and then Mayor of Darien for 14 years. Debbie has the noble job of being a teacher for young children 3-5 yrs at a school for the gifted.

Debbie says that as parents of four active boys involved in soccer and hockey, they had no choice but to participate in sports and other outdoor activities. They began to camp throughout the Midwest, including a Wilderness Camping trip to the boundary waters between Minnesota and Canada. The boys loved to fish and swim, and that



caused the younger boys to encourage the search for a summer cottage. Though they had relatives that spent summers in upper Wisconsin, they opted to look in Michigan, several hours closer to home. As one of the boys was familiar with Corey Lake, they began their quest in this area. After two unsuccessful attempts to buy at Diamond Lake (their good luck that THOSE fell through), Nancy Walker showed them Birch Lake. It was exactly what they had been looking for. They bought here in 2002 and began to spend as much time as possible here in the summers with the boys and their two St. Bernards (the current two are named Quba and Zara).

Now the boys are all grown-up so they can't get here quite as often. Dan, 30, lives in Chicago with his wife Laura and two daughters. Dan is a Notre Dame grad (Laura, too) and was sports

manager of the 2002 Champion women's basketball team. Anthony, 27, attended Santa Clara University in California and Law School in San Francisco where he still lives with his brand0new wife (of two weeks) Kit. They will be attending the World Cup Soccer Championships in South Africa for their honeymoon. Matt, 25, attended Butler University, where he played Division I soccer. He lives in Chicago and is an auditor. Pete, 22, just graduated from Butler University and will be attending Law School at the University of Chicago.

What do Carmen and Debbie do now that the boys are on their own? They like to run, swim and bike. Debbie is a triathlete, competing in some of the grueling swim-run-bike events held in the Midwest. And Carmen, who's not so comfortable with the swimming part, is a doathlete — biking and running. I would also like to add that Debbie has gained some notoriety in the Birch Lake line-dance circles as being the undisputed queen of the Charleston. I choose to call her "Crazy-Legs"! We hope that we will be seeing Debbie and Carmen at some of the Birch Lake get-togethers this summer so we can all see Crazy-Legs Soldato in action.

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# Just a couple more ...



Just a couple more great photos from last weekend ... thanks to Mr. Bob for the heron and all of the great sailboat pics ... hope he gets his sail up and joins us soon ...

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# BIRCH LAKE WORD SEARCH

## BIRCH LAKE NEIGHBORS

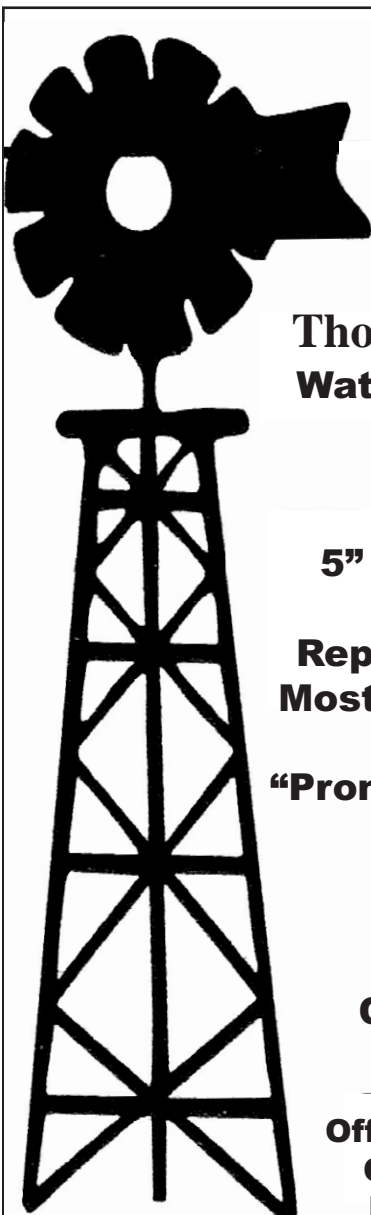
The Word Search puzzle at right contains the last names of several families at Birch Lake ...

See if you can find them all!

If you send us your completed word search puzzles, we'll keep track of who gets the most names and give the winner a big prize at the end of the season!

(see Page 1 for addresses)  
More next week!

I O T R L N L N U O Y E D R O B R I E I L H H V T O N I B I A D  
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# Camp Tannadoonah

## Staff week at Camp T

It's staff week at Camp and we're off and running! I think we're going to have a really great staff this summer. We have a total of 19 counselors (7 boys and 12 girls), as well as me, Miss Sue (the assistant director), Miss Peggy (the cook), 2 dishwashers, and a nurse each week. This year's staff is a little smaller than last year, when we had 22 counselors. This year we tried to cut expenses, and plan for a moderate sized week, then get extra people to help out during the really big weeks.

As a follow-up to the meeting we held at camp last weekend, I thought it might be interesting to break down where the funds from each camper go. This year it costs \$397 to send a camper to camp for a week. Our budget is based on a total of 500 campers at an average cost of about \$350-\$375. This average is lower than the basic cost because we

offer discounted rates (such as an early bird), and we also have day campers (\$275), mini week campers (\$275), and other lower weekly rates such as CITs.

So if we hit our goal of 500 campers, here's where that \$350-\$375 goes:

- \$96 Camp Staff
- \$80 Council Overhead (office, executive director, National dues, ACA dues, payroll taxes, office staff, office supplies)
- \$50 Food
- \$35 Council Debt
- \$30 Insurance
- \$20 Program supplies (t-shirts, craft supplies, archery supplies, candy, photos, etc)
- \$20 Utilities
- \$20 Maintenance
- \$10 Advertising, promotions, postage
- Total = \$361

As you can see, the Camp Staff is

our biggest expense each year. We're not paying our staff an exorbitant amount, by any means. The counselors work 6 days a week, 24 hours a day, with only short breaks, for nearly 2 months. If you break it down, the average counselor makes just over \$1 per hour! Because we want to ensure the safety and positive experience of each and every camper, staffing is one area where we really can't afford to cut expenses.

Shifting gears, we still have many more requests for campership funding than I am able to award, so if you are interested in sponsoring a camper, please contact me as soon as possible. We have lots of openings for the first week of camp which starts Sunday, as well as Jungle Week (June 27-July 3) and mini week (July 7-10).

Have a great weekend at the lake!

-Miss Amber

## Camp needs \$25k this year!

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting on Saturday to discuss Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah. To recap, we reviewed our financial history (we've got about \$96k in debt) and a \$25k deficit this year (we started 2010 about \$17k in the red, and an \$8k budget deficit). \$24k of our annual operating budget goes to repay that debt. If we can reduce our debt load, that frees us up to spend more on our programs and facilities.

As we discussed, Camp Fire has turned the corner and has developed a lot of positive momentum. However, we're still trying to get out of the hole we're in — which means we're looking to raise an additional \$40k to help overcome this year's deficit and reduce our debt. A number of attendees volunteered to help coordinate various fundraising activities. Please keep an eye on the Barker for more on those.

We sincerely appreciate the support we've gotten from the lake community, and we look forward to your help in overcoming this obstacle and moving ahead for many years to come. -Chas

### Camp Tannadoonah Silent Auction

Camp Tannadoonah is planning a fund-raising Silent Auction and Health Fest on Saturday, Aug. 14 at the Camp. And we need some help! We are seeking sponsors and donations of both money

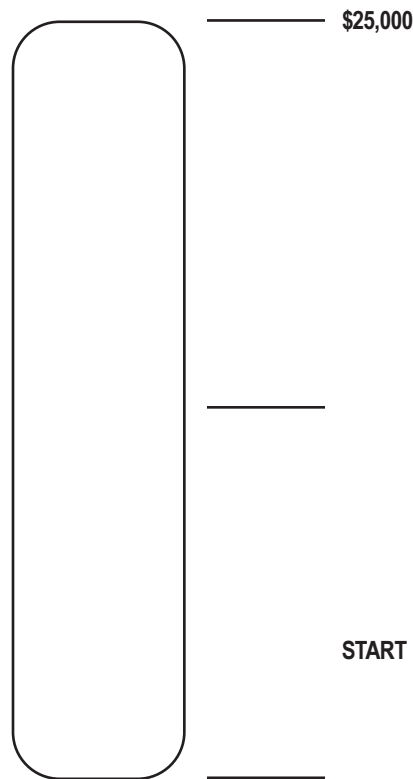
and items that we can auction at an all-new, friend-raising event designed to raise funds and increase awareness of the camp and its wonderful facilities.

Events planned for the Health Fest (which will be held on the same day as the Birch Lake-wide garage sale) include a competitive 5-mile run (around the lake), a kayak race, a tennis tournament and a bicycle tour through the countryside. Visitors will be able to look over the items in the auction and make "silent" bids for them at the Camp Dining hall. After the events are over the bids will be opened and the items will be "sold" for the amounts bid. All proceeds will go to Camp Tannadoonah.

Among the items already pledged for the auction are a football signed by Notre Dame Head Football Coach Brian Kelly, a basketball signed by ND coaches Mike Brey and Muffet McGraw, and a beautiful, framed display of Notre Dame season tickets. We hope you will join us in helping Camp Tannadoonah — anything you can do will be greatly appreciated.

Please help us. **To make a donation or contribution, or to become a sponsor**, please contact Phil Vitale at 269-476-1680 (email: sailorphil@philvitale.com or mail to Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095) or call Karen Brovold at 269-476-8862. Thank you!

### Camp Tannadoonah Needs \$25,000 ...



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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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## FOR SALE

**Truck cap,** silver/pewter. Fits GMC, Dodge or chevy crew cab pick up. Great condition. Also; **100 amp temporary electrical hook up** for new construction. Complete with pole, board, meter receptacle and outlets. Both offered at 25% of original cost. Call Major @ 476-2126

Thermador Stainless Steel **Double Convection Oven.** Cutout width: 28 1/2". Cutout height: 51-1/8". Model # SCD302TS. \$1395. (New: \$2985) No warranty. Thermador 48" Professional series **Stainless Steel gas cooktop** consisting of 4 burners, a griddle and an indoor grill. Matching Professional series stainless steel wall mount hood, blower and 12" back-guard. Model # PCS484G. \$2400. (New: \$4830) No warranty. Bosch stainless steel **dishwasher.** Model # SHU 5300. \$425. (New: \$875) No warranty. Amana Stainless Steel **refrigerator** with pull out bottom freezer. Refrigerator door is a single door. Touchmatic Electronic Controls. Model # B136CAR3. Approximately 80" tall. \$1500. (New: \$3200) No warranty. GE Profile Stainless Steel 1.8 Cu. Ft. **Countertop Microwave,** 1100 Watts. Model # JE-1860SB. \$100. (New: \$225) No warranty. Builder's never been used Jenn-Air stainless steel **side-by-side refrigerator.** Model # JS42SEBDA measures 82 1/2" tall, 41 1/2" wide and 25 1/4"

deep. \$2950. (New: \$5950) No warranty. **Call 260-710-0333. Deb Balyeat**

**Classic Sunfish** in good condition. \$400. Yellow **X-360 electric scooter.** Used very little. For photos/info see the website [www.x-tremescooters.com](http://www.x-tremescooters.com) Kathleen McNamee. 476-2627

**Entertainment Unit,** custom made solid oak unit, 71Hx24Dx87L. Upper cabinet accommodates a 32" TV w/hide-away doors, both ends have glass doors with shelving. Lower cabinet has center glide out for DVDs and lower shelf for storage, both lower ends doors are solid wood w/adjustable shelving. Golden oak finish. Includes 32" Sony TV - \$500. Call 476-2383

## 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)

**Looking for someone to play tennis with** at Camp Tannadoonah, preferably level 3.5 or above. Please contact at [Clboesler@aol.com](mailto:Clboesler@aol.com)

## 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? 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](mailto: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](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com)

# BLYC 50TH ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE) JULY 30, 2010 — \$70/man SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

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

\* **must have registrations by July 21st.**

**All par three's big prizes, including a hole in one for \$10,000**

## Additional Information

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

donations of door prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact 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](mailto:artie@toefco.com) or 63306 birch road 574-515-3179, 476-1692**

\*checks should be made out to BLYC

## Foursome Information

Team Captain:

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

Please Print Players names:

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