

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 26, 2010

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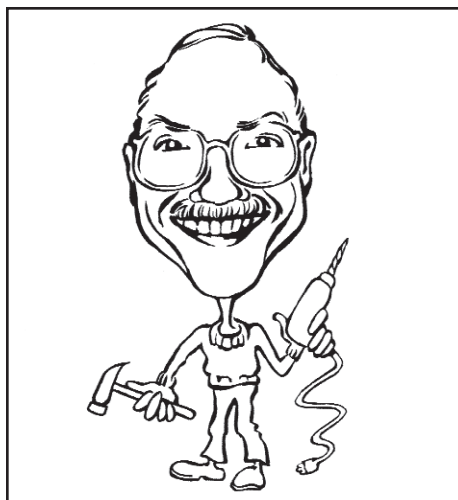


Thanks to Bad Patty for the pic of Flamingo Room wanna-visitor who wandered by early one evening last weekend ...

Community Spirit!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It's that time again and ready or not, here I am. The weeks of summer seem to roll past way too quickly for me and it seems I'm writing these comments sooner and sooner every week. I thought last weekend would be pretty uneventful, but that all changed at about 7 pm last Friday evening. After the BIG wind passed by, we were all out of power. Most of us went to bed thinking that like in most past outages, the lights would be back on when we awakened Saturday morning. I was up pretty early and almost everything was still dark. It was easy to see which of our neighbors are lucky (and smart) enough to have automatic back-up generators. I am always hesitant to go through the process of hooking up the portable generator because usually,



just as I finish, the power comes back on. But not this time, and it wasn't long before the sound of small gasoline engines filled the air around the lake. It was pretty neat

2010 BLYC Calendar

June 26	Vice-Com cocktail party 7 pm
July 3	Boat Parade, Fireworks
July 4	Pancake Breakfast
July 10	Board meeting 9 am Homeowner's Annual Meeting
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

— people were scurrying about getting gas, helping others get hooked up, storing food in working refrigerators, being very neighborly. There's nothing like a little adversity

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 (CONTINUED)

to bring out the best in Americans, especially Birch Lake Americans. The power came back on for most of us at around 7:30 pm on Saturday evening, but a lot of folks on the Southeast and South sides weren't re-connected until Sunday morning. I had heard it was getting a little ugly over there. John Muir summed up the Birch Lake spirit when he said "The sun shines not on us, but in us. The rivers flow not past, but through us, thrilling, tingling, vibrating every fiber and cell of the substance of our bodies, making them glide and sing."

Despite the storm and power outage, the weekend turned out pretty good weatherwise. There was enough wind for the sailors and plenty on sunshine to go around for everyone else. Next weekend looks to be hot and muggy with a chance of storms. Sound familiar?

Did you know that the butcher backed into the meat grinder and got a little behind in his orders? While I'm musing, maybe someone can tell me how having an exhaust above the water's surface enhances the boating experience? Just asking.

It has been very busy on the lake the last few weekends. Be sure and review the safe boating rules that are published in the Barker with your families and guests. There are lots of people in the water and we certainly don't want to run over someone.

I've given you all a couple of weeks off without crabbing about money, so here goes. I don't think we've quite reached 100

members for the Yacht Club yet this year. I'm hoping that the upcoming Pancake Breakfast next weekend will swell the list of members. I need at least 150 members minimum for my BLYC pension to be assured (if you believe this, I've got some bridges for sale). No, all of the YC officers and directors work for free — just for the joy of helping all of you. I do believe that even if you won't join the Yacht Club, you should still contribute something toward our fireworks and lake monitoring and testing. This year I'm deputizing a "Fireworks Enforcement Team" that will go around and make you go inside during the fireworks if you haven't contributed. Again I'm just kidding, but the idea has merit.

Stan Pitakos' Vice-Commodore's Cocktail Party is tonight, Saturday, June 26th at the Yacht Club at 7 p.m. Please come out and show Stan the kind of support he deserves. Stan has an article in this week's Barker describing all the details and what to bring. Please remember to bring something along for the local food pantry. They can use items like canned meats and fish, hearty stews and soups and even paper products. I still haven't heard from anyone who wants to donate, but can't attend the party. Please call me and I will come to you. Let's show everyone how much heart we Birch Lakers have.

In next week's Barker we'll be talking lots about the busy July 4th events so let us jump forward a little. The Birch Lake Garage Sale will be held on Saturday, August 14 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. We will be advertising the sale in the local newspapers, so there should be a good turnout. Have your own sale or bring your unwanted

items to the Yacht Club, and they will be sold for you with all the proceeds going to Birch Lake Water Quality. It's time to start cleaning out those closets and garages now.

Want to win \$10,000? Want to win a cruise for two to an exotic destination? All you have to do is hit a hole-in-one on one of the designated par 3's in the 50th Annual Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing. Even if you don't hit the big one, I know Artie and his crew have lots of other great prizes planned for the golfers. Please contact Artie if you want to be a sponsor or if you want to contribute toward prizes.

Although not on the same scale prize-wise, The Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing offers the ladies of the lake a chance to show off their golfing skills. Bad Patty Luecht has been toiling night and day to try to make this year's Ladies Outing the best ever. Patty could also use some help with sponsors and prizes. So men and women-- get your foursomes together and sign up for loads of fun.

Last week I was complaining that I wouldn't have much material to write about from an off-weekend, but boy was I wrong. When things get slow, even Mother Nature pitches in with news, although not the kind that we want to report. Now that this is done, I think I'll take a nap. GH is on soon and I have to be quiet anyway. I always nap on the couch — that way it looks accidental. Hope to see you all bearing sacks of groceries for the pantry.

-Commodore Beggin'bob
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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.

Vice Commodore Party Saturday

It's time for my 1st official function as Vice Commodore ... our cocktail party will start at 7 pm at Reflections, (Oh, sorry, flash back to the night spot of my youth in Cincinnati in the 70's). Didn't everyone have a night spot from their youth to listen to the latest music played by the local cover band or through the sound system? Our cocktail party will be held at the Yacht Club.

Let's travel back to the 1970s. I'll bring the music, you bring some munchies to share and we'll all travel back in time. Now what did I do with that recipe for those brownies!!!! So bring you favorite girl or guy or even your wife or husband. We'll share some brewskis. Look forward to you coming to join us in your leisure suit or bellbottoms. Anyone still have either of these? But really, come and enjoy the company of your fellow lakers, Also let's continue to support the local food banks by bringing a non perishable food item. Thanks



Kudos to Katie Luecht (East Side), who took advantage of a nice, windy afternoon to give brother John a sailing lesson on Birch Lake.

in advance for your support.

-VC Stan Pitakos

organize this event – call Marty at 574-234-4145.

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

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 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

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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 —

is among the local artists exhibiting.

Fourth of July Boat Parade

This year's 4th of July Boat Parade will be on Saturday, the 3rd of July, at 2 p.m.. Everyone is welcome to take part. Simply get your creative juices flowing and turn your water vessel into the dream of your choice. There is no theme this year so the canvas is clean for your creations!

Each family participating will receive a trophy! Yes, that means that if two or more families participate in decorating one boat, each family will be awarded a trophy. You can't lose, so get together with your neighbors and friends and come up with a sure to win idea. New last year was an award for "Best of Show". Last year's "Best of Show" winner was the Lindzy family with the boat entry entitled, "Tacos To Go" Congratulations once again to the Lindzy family.

The parade will begin at Dick Bender's pier on the south side of the lake and will proceed counter-clockwise around the lake. Each boat entry needs to come to Dick's pier beginning at 1:45

p.m. and register their boat. PLEASE, proceed to the pier slowly as you will need to register your boat, give the names of participants and receive a number and instructions. This will require a brief pause at the dock. After registration, you will line up behind the Grand Marshall's boat and at about 2:00 p.m. the parade will begin.

The 2010 Grand Marshall The Grand Marshalls are Don and Lind Harman. The 2010 parade judges will be listed in next week's Barker, so there will be plenty of time for bribes.

*-Boat Parade Comity
Carla Chester, Ilene Golden*

Kudos to Dawn Troyer

Dawn Troyer successfully coached the Penn High School debate team to the national finals that were held in Kansas City last week. One of her students placed 6th!

July 4th PANCAKE BREAKFAST NEW TIME 8:30 TO 11:00

The annual Pancake Breakfast will be Sunday July 4th 8:30 to 11:00 at Camp Tannadoonah

ADULTS \$5; CHILDREN 6-10 \$2;
CHILDREN UNDER 5 FREE

This is an all you can eat breakfast, so come enjoy, meet friends and neighbors.

All proceeds go to Camp Tannadoonah.

Underground Railroad Days

The Underground Railroad will be the subject of a special celebration at Milo Barnes Park in Vandalia (on M-60) on Saturday, July 17 from 10 am to 7 pm, and on Sunday, July 18 from Noon to 5 pm.

Tours will be led by the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County, and there will be Underground Railroad Presentations Sat. at 11 and 1, and Sunday at 2. Also on Saturday, there will be a Classic Car Show, and Music, Community Bake and Craft Sale (spots still available, call Beverly at 476-2344) and Local Food Vendors.

New time for Line Dance

Line Dance will be Tues. morning 9:00 June 29th. See you there.

-Lind

BL Ladies FUN Golf Outing!!

July 23 2010 — Tee Off at 9 AM Shot Gun Start
Spruce Ridge Golf Course — Dutch Settlement Rd, Dowagiac

Lunch : The Wounded Minnow, Dowagiac (salad bar, sandwiches, dessert, soft drinks, cash bar)

Cost: \$35 per golfer (includes: Golf Proxy Bundles Lunch)

Proxy Bundles include: Closet to the Pin, Closest to the Line, Longest Putt, Longest Drive (individual prizes awarded)

This year we are trying some new things to encourage more Birch Lake ladies to come out and enjoy a great day of **JUST FOR FUN GOLFING!!**

*Gift bags for all teams *Monetary prizes will be awarded equally to all teams *50/50 drawing
*Recognition will be given to top teams. *All teams are asked to donate a basket to be raffled

2010 Birch Lake Ladies "JUST FOR FUN" Golf Outing Participants

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

Checks should be made out to BLYC and can be dropped off to Patty Luecht 269-476-2615or

Blair Garceau 269-476-9862 (both East Side). Donated baskets and items can also be dropped off to Patty or Blair

Entries in By: JULY 14th QUESTIONS? call Patty 476-2615

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— Barker kids of the Week —



The grandchildren of Don and Lind Harman (East Side) posed for a kid-of-the-week photo recently. They are Alex, Abby, Tyler with Drew and Caroline.

Katie Luecht, daughter of Bill and “Bad Patty” Luecht (East Side owners of the notorious Flamingo Room), posed in the spiffy band costume she wore for the Indy 500 Parade.

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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Fruited Chicken Salad

Blair Garceau served this at Book Club and some people asked for the recipe. So why not just put it in the Barker so all of us can enjoy!

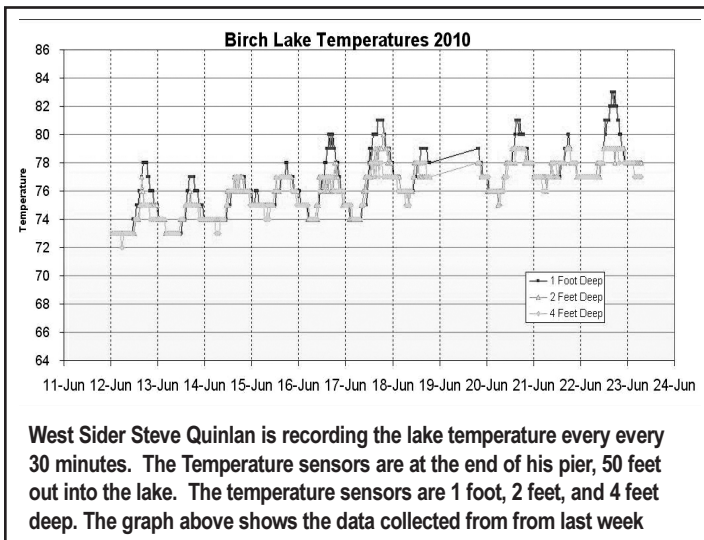
Can't wait to try it myself. Yummo

- 5 C. cooked chicken cut into chunks.
- 2 T oil
- 2 T orange juice
- 1 t salt
- 2 T vinegar
- 3 C cooked rice
- 1 1/2 C mayo
- 1 1/2 C green grapes
- 1 can (13 1/2 oz) pineapple tidbits, drained

- 1 can (11 oz) mandarin oranges, drained
- 1 1/2 C chopped celery
- 1 C toasted almonds (optional)

Marinate the chicken in a mixture of oil, orange juice, salt and vinegar overnight. Mix in the remaining ingredients to chicken mixture. Serve with mini croissants.

-Good Patti



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Fleet Captain's Corner



Wouldn't it be nice ...

Wouldn't it be nice for a change to get steady 10 MPH winds on a warm but not hot and muggy day? Last Sunday was definitely not that kind of day. It offered very light air and at times was a complete drifter. We even had ugly clouds that threatened from the south at the start of the second race. Luckily, the northwest winds kept it from reaching the lake.

On these light air days, reading the wind shifts and finding pressure are the secret to a good finish. Gib's finish at the end of the first race was a classic example of finding some private air. He was near the back of the pack when he found a puff of air with a lift. (For you landlubbers, that's a wind shift that helps you sail more directly on your current tack to your desired destination). He passed most of the fleet on the opposite tack and finished second at the pin end.

I think Stan enjoys the drifter quality of the day a little too much. He claims he's trying to race, but he seems rather relaxed, lounging back in his Sunfish. Stan, you're supposed to go faster, that way we might have time for a Sunfish third race like we did for the MC's.

Thanks to Stewart Spratt and his harem (Deb Taghon, Bad Patty, Blair Garceau, and Karen Brovold) for running the committee boat. As noted on the scoring sheet, they were on time and stayed to the end. This is good, since if they left, we wouldn't have a finish line.

If you'd like learn more about the rules, I have a two DVD disk set titled "Learn the Racing Rules 2009-2012" that I'll loan to anyone interested. It was produced and narrated by David

2010 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date.....	20-Jun.....	20-Jun.....	20-Jun.....	Total.....	Season
Race.....	6.....	7.....	8.....	Points.....	Average

MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489.....	3.....	1.....	DNS.....	6165.....	1541
Harold Cranmer #2412.....	1.....	2.....	DNS.....	9931.....	1419
Phil Vitale #500.....	5.....	6.....	2.....	8236.....	1373
Bill Luecht #1579.....	7.....	10.....	4.....	1071.....	1340
Dave Olson #1979.....	8.....	4.....	3.....	10680.....	1335
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	9.....	3.....	1.....	10556.....	1320
Gib Eberhart #916.....	2.....	9.....	6.....	10221.....	1278
Bob King #1199.....	4.....	7.....	5.....	3821.....	1274
Jim Bolinger #1735.....	10.....	5.....	8.....	7412.....	1235
Don Harman #582.....	6.....	8.....	7.....	6940.....	1157

Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	7765.....	1553
Sandy Vitale (White).....	2.....	2.....	DNS.....	7763.....	1553
Erica Vitale (White).....	1.....	1.....	DNS.....	6165.....	1541
Stewart Spratt.....	CB.....	CB.....	DNS.....	6084.....	1521
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue).....	3.....	4.....	DNS.....	5478.....	1370
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green).....	4.....	3.....	DNS.....	9516.....	1359
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White).....	5.....	5.....	DNS.....	9514.....	1359
Stan Pitakos.....	6.....	6.....	DNS.....	2450.....	1225

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

Dellenbaugh. Mr. Dellenbaugh was the chairman of the US Racing Rules Committee when they drafted the updated rules. For the novice, the rules are presented assuming you know nothing about racing. However, for the more experienced, it also covers the rule changes from prior years and situations that are frequently misunderstood.

If you're interested just contact me at 476-9000.

See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

Here it the current committee boat schedule. To take an open slot, you can call me at 476-9000.

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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Just a couple more ...



Thanks to Bad Patty Luecht and the intrepid crew of the BLYC Sailing Committee Boat Officials for the great sailboat race photos ... Pictured at right are Committee Boat Officials Blair Garceau, Karen Brovold, Stewart Spratt and Deb Taghon.

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Stu's Star Stuff

Named for the Roman god of war the planet Mars is cold and dry, with an atmosphere that's less than one percent as thick as Earth's -- a desert world that's not especially friendly for life. But that hasn't always been the case. Billions of years ago, it was much warmer and wetter. An ocean may have covered much of the planet, surrounded by a thick, warm atmosphere.

Much of the water may still be there -- frozen beneath the dusty surface or in the polar ice caps. But much more probably wafted off into space -- along with a good chunk of the Martian atmosphere.

In fact, wisps of Martian air are still escaping into space today. They're carried off by the solar wind -- a stream of charged particles from the Sun.

The solar wind erodes the Martian atmosphere all the time. But a recent study found that it carries off more of the atmosphere at some times than at others. The heaviest erosion occurs when fast streams of the solar wind overtake slow streams, creating pressure waves. As these waves break across Mars, they grab almost three times more of the atmosphere than average -- making the desert planet even less friendly for life.

Mars has been known since prehistoric times. Of course, it has been extensively studied with ground-based observatories. But even very large telescopes find Mars a difficult tar-

get, it's just too small. It is still a favorite of science fiction writers as the most favorable place in the Solar System (other than Earth!) for human habitation. But the famous "canals" "seen" by Lowell and others were, unfortunately, imaginary.

The first spacecraft to visit Mars was Mariner 4 in 1965. Several others followed including the Mars Expedition Rovers "Spirit" and "Opportunity" in 2004. They are still operating after many years on Mars. Three Mars orbiters are also currently in operation.

Mars' orbit is significantly elliptical. This has a major influence on Mars' climate. While the average temperature on Mars is about -67 F, Martian surface temperatures range widely from as little as -207 F at the winter pole to almost 80 F on the day side during summer.

Though Mars is much smaller than Earth, its surface area is about the same as the land surface area of Earth.

Mars has some of the most highly varied and interesting terrain of any of the terrestrial planets, some of it quite spectacular. In addition to extensive canyons and vast dessert plains in the southern hemisphere there is an impact crater more than 3.5 miles deep and more than 1200 miles across. Mars also boasts the largest mountain in the Solar System rising 78,000 ft. above the surrounding plain. Its base is more than 300 miles in diameter and is rimmed by a cliff 20,000 ft high. It would

shadow Everest by more than 9 miles. To date no one has reached the summit though many have tried.

Look for Mars high in the western sky at nightfall. It looks like a bright orange star. And it's especially easy to find tonight because it has an equally bright companion: Regulus, the brightest star of Leo, the lion. Regulus stands just a whisker below the Red Planet.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon for Jun 26, 2010

At Midnight, US Central time
Illuminated Fraction: 0.993
0.8 days after full moon

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Romance can surface if you get into some of those fitness programs you've been putting off. You'll find it difficult to control your emotions. You may be thinking of starting your own business. Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21)

Your partner will be emotionally unable to cope. Your lover may be annoyed if you have been flirtatious or not attentive to their needs. Your emotional state could leave you vulnerable and confused. Pleasure trips or friendly get-togethers will be satisfying and intellectually stimulating. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Travel is evident, but be cautious while in transit. Get involved in the activities of children. Be careful how you handle friends and relatives, they may take things the wrong way. Be sure to pay attention to your financial status. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Opportunities for travel and communication are evident. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. Let go of the past in order to progress. You can convince others to follow suit. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Help with your aspirations is likely, and

profits could follow. You are ready to blow up and your stress level has gone into over drive. It's time to reevaluate your motives. You should be promoting your ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

You are best not to say too much to colleagues. Now is the time for completing hobbies that you've been working on for a long time. Investments that deal with property will pay off but could cause conflict with some family members. You will need to do a lot of research if you wish to get to the bottom of things. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Someone left a real mess for you to sift through. You will have the stamina and the know how to raise your earning power. Travel for business purposes may bring the highest returns. Let others know what your intentions are and be honest in your approach. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You should get out and meet new people this week. You may be confused regarding your love life. Don't let your stubborn nature get the better of you. Don't offer to pay for others. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you. Inharmonious situations at home may be extremely upsetting for you this week.

Back off if you want to keep the relationship intact. Try to keep a low profile. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Put your plans into motion by presenting your intentions to those who should be able to give you financial support. Stress may cause minor health ailments. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. Discuss your problems and complaints if you wish to rectify them. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. Your need to obtain additional details will lead you into strange topics of conversation. Sudden changes concerning coworkers may surprise you. It's doubtful anyone will try to stand in your way or cut you off at the pass this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Don't overspend on entertainment, on children, or make poor investments. Double check your work and be sure that your boss is in a good mood before you do your presentation. Don't make a move; your confusion has caused this dilemma and you are best to back away and reassess the situation. You can make progress if you deal with the right individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SPOTLIGHT

The Last Resort

By Peggy Cowen

When recent articles talked about the names of their Birch Lake homes ("Suite Serendipity" and "Dunromin"), I thought it would be nice to learn in the Barker how other "named" homes came to be.

I'm after the origins of "We luv it," "Wee Wood," and "DunKampIn," and would appreciate letting me know about any other "named" homes you know about.

I'll start with our relatively new name, "The Last Resort."

The Cowens, Avanelle, Clifford, Dick, and Carolyn, built their cottage on the western edge of the cove in about 1946 and spent all summers relaxing and enjoying the many activities the lake offered. With Carolyn as my best friend, I was here often and grew to love the lake, and incidentally, to love Dick, too.

When Dick and I married in 1956, we returned from our honeymoon to find we were "shivered" (tossed into the back of a station wagon, driven around the lake with horns blaring, Dick thrown into the lake, cowbells had been hung to the bed's mattress, etc.) by our B.L. neighbors.

In 1968, now with 3 kids of our own, we decided we wanted our own place here to enjoy the summers and bought the Kruggel cottage (then next to Doolittle's). Those next 10 years have such special memories with grandparents close by and so many new friends.

In the 70's with the kids' many town activities keeping us from the lake, we sold the cottage and bought a home on the St. Joe River where water activities were at hand and we still could come to visit the folks and get our Birch Lake "fix" periodically.



It wasn't quite the same.

In the 80's the Cowens turned the cottage over to Dick and Carolyn, so we were back again!! Before long, our daughter and son-in-law, Stacia and Fred, decided to buy Carolyn's half since Carolyn was in New York and could seldom be here. New arrangement, but okay. Then when Rans house came up for sale, Dick and I decided it would make a great retirement home and we bought that and sold our half of the old cottage to Stacia and Fred. Now you are following all this, aren't you.

Unfortunately, it eventually became too difficult for the Andrianos to come 2 hours from Ft. Wayne, keep up the cottage, and still have time to enjoy the lake. SO we sold the house on the hill(Rans), bought the old cottage back from the Andrianos, tore the old place completely down, and built our new place.

Now we have plenty of room for Dick and I (low maintenance for our retirement lifestyle) and still can accommodate the Andriano's and other guests comfortably. And, for the future, Stacia will have first chance at the house.

Well, this is the long and short (ha) of how we arrived at our home name of "The Last Resort."

We feel like it has always been our favorite, relaxing "resort." And we honestly believe it will be the last time we move on the lake! We put the name in STONE this time, so it should be pretty permanent!!

We hope even more people will think about naming their Birch Lake homes with all their special meanings AND letting us know about it in the Barker.



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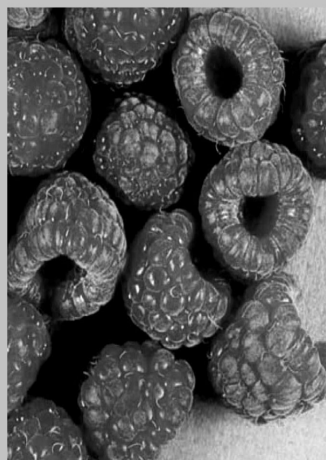
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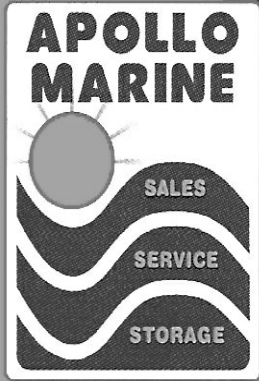
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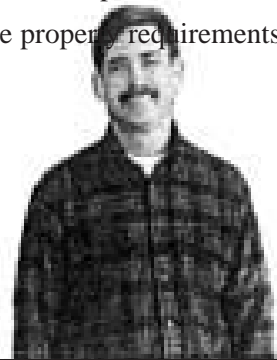
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BIRCH LAKE WORD SEARCH

BIRCH LAKE NEIGHBORS

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

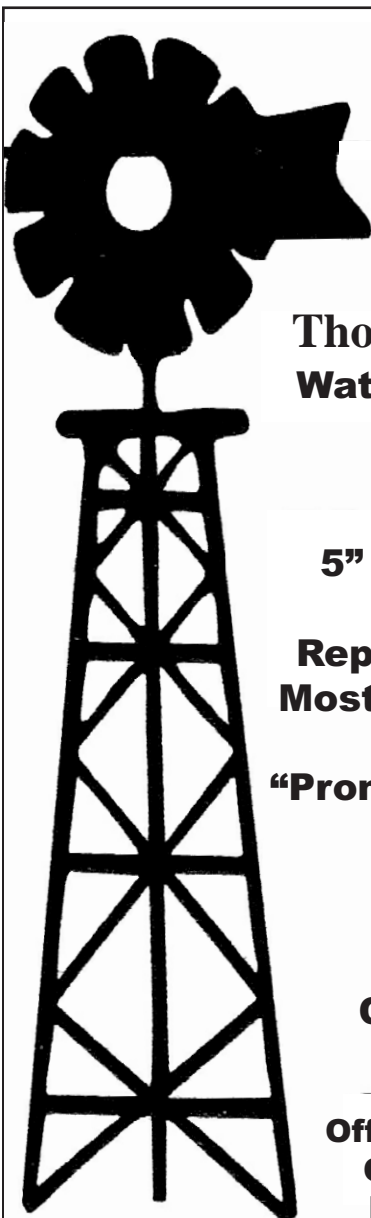
See if you can find them all!

(Yes Bill, there really are 24 ...)

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!

More next week!

Y E U N O R N O S L O F E S K S E O O R E S O O W E
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Camp Tannadoonah

It's Pirate Week at Camp T

Arrrr! It's Pirate Week at camp! We have 61 awesome campers here at camp this week, and everyone is having a great time so far. It's an almost equal split of boys and girls with 30 boys and 31 girls. It's been a hot week so far, with temperatures in the 80s every day. This kind of weather is perfect for the waterfront activities!

We're still doing great with registrations so far this year. In fact, we're nearly at the total number that we had all of last summer already. As of today we have 410 campers registered for camp; last year on this date we had 345 campers, and we didn't reach 410 until July 23!! Our goal is to surpass 500 for this year, so keep referring those new campers.

We made it through last weekend unscathed up here at camp. We were really lucky that there was no damage at all from the storms that blew through late Friday evening. Like the rest of the lake, we were without power for approximately 24 hours, but it didn't cause any major problems other than a few lost boxes of ice cream treats. We were very happy when the power was restored Saturday evening, and everything was back to rights when the campers arrived on Sunday afternoon.

Monday night at camp is cookout night, and we survived some very wet conditions. Some of the campsites didn't get their fires going until after 8:00, and so they weren't able to eat their foil dinners until quite a while later. But dinner tasted great after waiting so long, and the counselors found interesting ways to entertain the campers while they waited. One group made marshmallow taffy to occupy their time, while other groups played games and sang camp songs.

Avery has become the official camp mascot this week. He goes all over camp in his stroller, and has a ball watching the campers at their activities. He loves all the attention he gets from the campers and counselors, and he's quite the distract-

tion!

We have some great camp merchandise in the store this year. We have stuffed Raccoons, Frogs, and Turtles, as well as Backpacks and Nalgene Water Bottles. We also have zip up hooded sweatshirts in Navy Blue, and our 2010 camp t-shirt is black with fluorescent lettering on it. Plus there are sweatpants, shorts, future camper shirts for little ones, and embroidered fleece blankets! If you're interested in purchasing any items, we'll have them available at the pancake breakfast or you can call me for store times.

We're off to a great start, and I'm looking forward to the next 6 weeks up here at camp!

Camp T needs \$25k this year!

Camp Tannadoonah Silent Auction

Camp Tannadoonah is planning a fund-raising Silent Auction and Health Fest Saturday, Aug. 14 — and we need some help! We are seeking sponsors and donations of both money and items we can auction at a new, event designed to raise funds and increase awareness of the camp.

Events will include a 5-mile run, a kayak race, a tennis tournament and a bicycle tour through the countryside. After the events items will be auctioned and all proceeds go to Camp T.

Among the items 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.

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!

Money raised to date

\$25,000

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Did you know that many area businesses — including Hardings and Martins supermarkets — that use their own non-credit identification cards, will allow users to designate a school or non-profit organization to receive a percentage of every purchase they make — at no cost to the users?

We urge you to contact your favorite merchant and have them send a contribution to Camp Tannadoonah right here on beautiful Birch Lake!

You'll be glad you did!



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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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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

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@philvitale.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@philvitale.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 or 63306 birch road 574-515-3179, 476-1692**

*checks should be made out to BLYC

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