



The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 10, 2010

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Thanks to the PattiCam for the great 4th of July BLYC Boat Parade photos ... for winners and more photos, go to page 13

Pride & Admiration!

2010 BLYC Calendar

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

As I write this it is Sunday, July 4th, about 1 p.m. I have just returned from Camp Tannadoonah where I spent a couple of hours washing pots and pans and perspiring along with all of the unselfish volunteers at the Pancake Breakfast. I just opened a cold one (gotta replace those lost fluids), sat down out on the deck in the breeze and reflected on the events of the last few days. Right now I wish I could capture for you the great feeling of pride and admiration I have for all of the people that made this weekend so successful. It feels pretty special. That's why I needed to write it down right now. Now, more fluids and then a nap.

Fastforward to the present. It's Tuesday now and as I gaze out through the windows at the lake, it is amazing the difference one day can make. It is very calm and serene. All of the buzzing boats and watercraft of the last



few days are parked and I can hear nature's sounds again. You know, I like it both ways. Lots of noise here means lots of fun and that's what it's all about.

Since becoming Commodore, my life

July 10	Board meeting 9 am Homeowner's Annual Meeting
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

cycle has begun to revolve around Tuesdays when I must have my remarks to you completed. This Tuesday is going to be especially busy. Sue's hip operation is tomorrow and there are tons of things to do to prepare. We

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
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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

have to move around furniture and set up an elevated "throne" for her to sit in and make it easier for her to get up and down. Naturally, the "throne" chair is upstairs. Thank you, Duane Gundy, for generously building the base for us. Then later, when our preparations are completed, I have promised to take her to see "Eclipse", the latest of the "Twilight" films, of which she is an ardent fan. All of you guys out there can now understand what "supreme sacrifice" means. I'm joking — I really can't remember too many movies that were so bad I had to walk out. Anyway, after one night in Memorial Hospital, Sue will be back home and recuperating. She's a trooper — she will do well.

At the beginning of these comments, I sort of glossed over the events of the past holiday weekend. I was searching for a word to describe them and I settled on "WOW!" Starting with the boat parade on Saturday, then the fireworks that night and culminating with the pancake breakfast on Sunday, it was a stellar weekend. Don't forget to thank me when you see me for providing such good weather for everyone. I know it was a little warm, but hey, it is the Fourth of July after all. My job as Commodore is certainly made easier by having such devoted friends and neighbors to administer all of our summer weekend events. I'm your Birch Lake Cheerleader (don't dwell on that thought), so let's go.

First of all I want to thank all of YOU out there, the residents and visitors here at Birch Lake. I have been coming here close to 25 years and I have never seen so many people here before. Parking was at a premium everywhere and most houses were full to capacity. Tom Rogers told me at the Pancake Breakfast that he counted 52 cars leaving the lake after the fireworks up Lakeview Drive alone. I also

heard that traffic on Brownsville Road was backed up at M-62. But in spite of all the visitors and the frenzied activity out on the lake all weekend, we made it through again with no incidents or injuries. All of you Birch Lakers can take credit for this. Thanks to all of you.

I am running out of superlatives needed to describe last weekend's events. I have to say that the Boat Parade this year was probably one of the best ever. Fifteen boats and 18 families participated this year and they were all so good, they all received trophies. We had Vikings, Turtles, Blackhawks, hula girls, pirates and a host of other themes. Chairpersons Carla Chester and Ilene Golden, and their team of expert judges, all made this year's parade one of our most memorable. Dick Bender was again kind enough to allow the committee to use his pier to stage the event. And finally, many thanks to Grand Marshalls Lind and Don Harman for leading the parade.

If you remember, last week I told you that this year's fireworks display would be "just right." Based on all of the feedback that I got at the breakfast and subsequently, my prediction was right on. Everyone I spoke with thought the show's length was perfect and that it had enough "Oomph" to dazzle us all. Thank you to Jim Bolinger for once again for arranging the show and all the details. Thanks also to the "mystery person" who has cleaned up the launch site at the Camp, this year and for the last few years. And my heartfelt thanks go to all of you folks out there that so generously supported the fireworks financially.

Last, but not least, the Pancake Breakfast. Once again, Lind and Don Harman, and their army of family and friends managed to brave the heat and humidity and feed a record number of Birch Lakers pancakes, sausages and all the trimmings. I didn't see the final counts, but I feel confident that the numbers this year surpassed last year's. If you thought it was hot standing in line, imagine hovering over a hot

griddle for hours. We need to thank the Harmans and all their volunteers for doing such a splendid job. And please remember, all of the proceeds from the breakfast are donated to Camp Tannadoonah and Campfire.

Moving forward, our next BLYC event is the Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, July 17 at the BLYC. The northsiders will be pulling out all stops to make this, their last year at the helm, unforgettable. The menu is two kinds of spaghetti, salad, breads, drinks and those marvelous, homemade, succulent, mouthwatering desserts concocted right here at Birch Lake. You can eat in, or carry out. If you want wine — BYOB. Everyone needs a night off from cooking, so here is the perfect opportunity. Tickets are on sale in advance only, so they can determine how much stuff to buy. If you can't locate tickets, or are unable to get out, call me and I will deliver them to you. I hope to see you all there.

Don't forget the Board of Director's meeting today, Saturday July 10th at 9 a.m. at the BLYC. A meeting of the Homeowner's Association will follow the Board's meeting. Bruce Campbell, Drain Commissioner, will attend the Homeowner's meeting to discuss progress on the upcoming Williamsville Drain Project. Don't forget the Camp T hog roast, the BLYC Lake-wide Garage Sale and get your reservations in for both upcoming golf outings. Take a deep breath.

I guess it's time to move some furniture. Thanks again for listening. I guess it has sort of evolved in my comments that I close out my thoughts with a poem or thoughtful saying. I'm such a sensitive guy. Let's try this by Gladys Taber: "We need time to dream, time to remember and time to reach the infinite. Time to be."

Til next time.

-Commodore Happybob
sparkybob220@comcast.net

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Thanks from Don & Lind

First let me say what a great turnout & great crew. We could not do this without all the help. Thank you so much. We served 583 people in a little over 2-1/2 hours. There is no waiting between 8:30 and 9:30.

Again this year we would like to thank the Fallons for the donation of plates and Celia always makes the sausage festive with her flags.

Don and I would like to thank everyone that came to help and make it such a big success. I sure hope I haven't missed anyone.

Thanks again to: Jim and Deb Bolinger; Carla Chester; Bad Patty; Paul & Celia Fallon; Dave & Judy Olson; Dick & Peggy Cowen; Tom Rogers; Our son Rick; Our daughter Barb; Grandson Tyler; Mike & Katha Machalleck

Now a special thanks to the folks that came to help clean up: Phil & Sandy Vitale and their pseudo grands John & Brittany; JP & Marlow Hoyer; Bob and Sue Waddle; Bill Luecht; Bob Bender

-Don and Lind Harman

Thanks from VC Stan!

First of all let me be straight to the point, **THANK YOU!!!!** to all those people without whom I would not have been able to pull off the great vice-commodore party two weeks ago. Karen of course; Denise and Jeff Smitley for picking out



North Shore visitor Chuck Horn sent this great photo of daughter Sarah Elizabeth and friends Laura and Elaina peeking through Bob King's sail window.

and up the decorations and helping with the setup; Mike Sheffieck for set up and take down; Phil and Sandy Vitale for seeing to it that everyone got an ice cold beverage; and my co-worker Trish for help with the floor and securing the chemicals.

I would also like to thank everyone who came and shared an evening of GREAT conversation and wonderful munchies. I do believe Birch Lake has some of the best cooks in the world! It was nice to see a lot of new faces and many old timers as well. I would have liked to have visited with everyone, but

the evening just flew by. For those that I didn't get a chance to visit with, hopefully we can chat on July 17th at the Spaghetti dinner. I know the North Shore is looking forward to feeding a HUGE crowd, before they turn the Spaghetti fork over to East Shore.

Also many, many thanks to everyone who donated to the food party.

-Vice-Commodore Stan

Happy Anniversary!

Sue and Duffy Dufour are celebrating 60 years of marriage this weekend. To each other.

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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 —

Congratulations Sue and Duffy!

Point of clarification...

We all know that we drive our boats in a counterclockwise manner here at Birch Lake, and in fact, throughout Michigan. But does that mean that if I take my boat to visit folks 5 doors down that I need to drive three miles around the lake to get back home? Especially if I'm going SLOWLY? My apologies to whomever I offended this past weekend. In the future I'll go the extra mile.

-Name withheld upon request.

Proposing a Challenge

This weekend I saw the most amazing thing. Twice. Actually the second amazing thing I believe was invented by Rick Doolittle back in the 1960's — waterskiing on a bar stool.

But the greatest thing I saw was the person in the chaise lounge lawn chair going by. How fun is that?

So, I had an idea. How about a contest? Not unlike the boat parade really. Who can be towed (at speed, not slow) on the most ridiculous, wacky, creatively imaginative device. Prizes will be in terms of outstanding recognition in the Birch Barker. Date to be announced, most likely in mid- to late-August, based on interest.

Please contact me if you want to participate or be a judge. This contest is open to anyone with some daring and imagination.

-Stewart Spratt 476-2113.

Homeowner's Association Meeting

The Birch Lake Homeowners Association will host the annual meeting this Saturday, July 10, at the Yacht Club at approximately 10 am, following the Board of Director's Meeting.

Cass County Drain Commissioner Bruce Campbell will be the guest speaker, providing updates on the Brownsville Drain situation.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

Help us help others

The Pleasant View Church of Christ will host a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, July 10 from 7 to 11 am at the VFW Post 10704 at 131 S. Broadway in downtown Cassopolis to help defray costs for a youth mission trip.

The cost is \$6 for pancakes & sausage, coffee, milk, and orange juice.

-Becky Beers

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 – 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 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.

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.

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.

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Here is a picture of our daughter-in-law Silvia and 3 month old Gabriella Cowen, Brad's family as they get ready for their first swim in Birch Lake. Proud grandparents are Dick and Peggy Cowen (West Side).



"Pirate Avery" and Miss Julie (counselor at Camp T). Avery is the son of Chas and Amber Grundy (Hill).

Got a kid of the week at your cottage?

Just e-mail the photo to me at
sailorphil@philvitale.com, drop it in the red newspaper tube at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Side) or mail it to me at Neighbors, 102 S. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Here is a picture of 4 of the grandkids who were up to visit over the 4th. Standing in front of our 6ft high tomato plants! No knee high about it! Quinn, Carolyn, Mayah and Ethan. Children of our daughter Karen Sandock-Geist.

-Tom Decocker



The Witchie Family would like to welcome our friends from Michigan and Ohio. The Bonds(not pictured), Dubiel, Gunther and Roelant families have spent every 4th of July with us at Birch Lake for more than 20 years now - since before any of the children were born! We are thankful for this wonderful tradition!!

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

Foursome Information

Team Captain:

Please Print Players names:

Total Enclosed \$ _____

~Birch Lake Recipes~

Yummy Oriental Salad

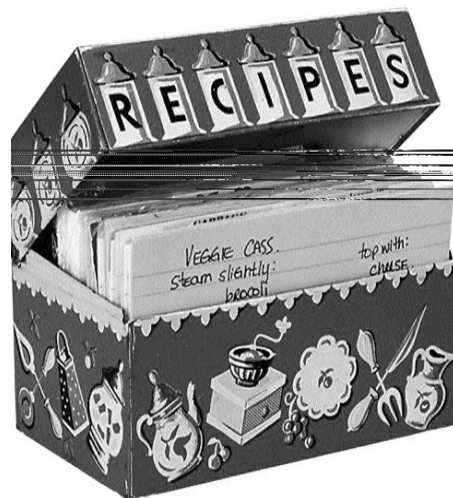
Thanks to Carin Zupancic for this yummy Oriental Salad recipe.

DRY

- ¼ cup sliced/slivered almonds
- 1 Tbs. sesame seeds
- ¼ cup sunflower seeds
- ½ package Icheban noodles or Top Roman noodles
- ¼ package chow mien noodles

FRESH

- ¼ head or ½ bag medium shredded cabbage
- ½ package bean sprouts
- 1 cup fresh mushrooms, sliced
- 1 chopped green onion



Toast almonds and sesame seeds. Combine them with rest of dry ingredients.

Combine all of the fresh ingredients. Mix dry and fresh just before serving and add dressing.

DRESSING

- ½ package seasoning from Icheban soup
- ¼ cup oil
- 1 ½ Tbs. vinegar (cider or wine) I prefer cider
- 1 Tbs. soy sauce
- ½ Tbs. sugar
- ¼ tsp. salt (optional)
- ¼ tsp. pepper

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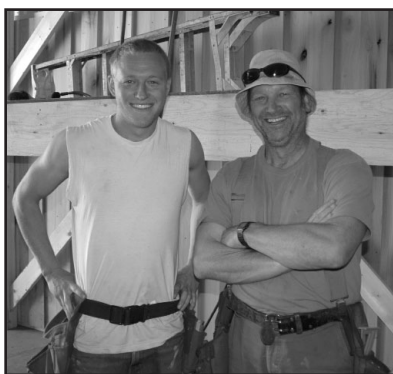
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Fleet Captain's Corner



Lather, Rinse Thoroughly and Repeat as needed ...

My sailing weather wish was finally granted. Actually, it was doubly granted as we had two beautiful sailing days with steady 10 MPH winds and no threat of rain. It allowed us to complete five races over two days. The winners of the Fourth of July Regatta are Bob King in the MC Class and Erica Vitale in the Sunfish. Congratulations to them both.

I must have a strange affliction. Every time I get into the lead of a race, I get an undeniable urge to rinse my sail. For the second time this season, I went over while in the lead. That sure puts a hurt on your season standings.

Speaking of standings, since the races count for Regatta scoring and Season scoring I've included both. For the Regatta scoring, lowest point total wins. For the Season scoring, highest average wins.

I want to thank Karen Brovold for running the committee on both sailing days. Fred Freihofer and Scott Troeger assisted on Saturday. Jim and Sally Beck, Good Patti, my Lovely Bride and her sister Laura helped on Monday. Thanks also to all of them.

See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

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

July 11.....Patty Luecht
 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

2010 BLYC Fourth of July Regatta

Date	3-Jul	3-Jul	3-Jul	5-Jul	5-Jul	Total
Race	1	2	3	4	5	Points
MC Scow						
Bob King #1199	8	3	4	1	4	20
Phil Vitale #500	4	2	5	5	6	22
Dave Olson #1979	6	5	1	8	3	23
Don Harman #582	3	9	2	2	7	23
Harold Cranmer #2412	2	4	3	6	9	24
Jeff Smitley #2002	5	6	9	4	2	26
Bill Luecht #1579	1	8	7	9	8	33
Tom Howard #1713	9	7	6	7	5	34
Gib Eberhart #916	7	1	8	10	10	36
Scott Troeger #500	*	*	*	3	1	37
Sunfish						
Erica Vitale (White)	2	2	1	1	2	8
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	6	1	2	2	1	12
Sandy Vitale (White)	1	4	3	4	5	17
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	3	3	5	*	6	26
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	5	6	6	5	4	26
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	4	5	4	*	*	31
Stewart Spratt	*	*	*	3	3	33
Rick Dwenger (Black)	*	*	*	6	7	40

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

2010 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date	3-Jul	3-Jul	3-Jul	5-Jul	5-Jul	Total	Season
Race	9	10	11	12	13	Points	Average
MC Scow							
Scott Troeger #1489/500	CB	CB	CB	3	1	14009	1557
Harold Cranmer #2412	2	4	3	6	9	16514	1376
Phil Vitale #500	4	2	5	5	6	14943	1358
Bob King #1199	8	3	4	1	4	10692	1337
Dave Olson #1979	6	5	1	8	3	17334	1333
Jeff Smitley #2002	5	6	9	4	2	16991	1307
Bill Luecht #1579	1	8	7	9	8	16674	1283
Don Harman #582	3	9	2	2	7	13606	1237
Jim Bolinger #1735	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	7412	1235
Gib Eberhart #916	7	1	8	10	10	15988	1230
Tom Howard #1713	9	7	6	7	5	5857	1171
Sunfish							
Erica Vitale (White)	2	2	1	1	2	13928	1548
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	6	1	2	2	1	15232	1523
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	DNS	3	3	8972	1495
Sandy Vitale (White)	1	4	3	4	5	14841	1484
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	3	3	5	DNS	6	10887	1361
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	4	5	4	DNS	DNS	13550	1355
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	5	6	6	5	4	15925	1327
Stan Pitakos	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	2450	1225
Rick Ringer (Black)	DNS	DNS	DNS	6	7	2381	1191

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. 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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Water Quality Committee Report

**Water Quality Program
Water Quality Committee Lake
Management Report**

**Paul Fallon, Chairman;
Terry Dugan, Rick Russwurm, Gordon
Seyfarth, Bruce Wagner**

Water Clarity

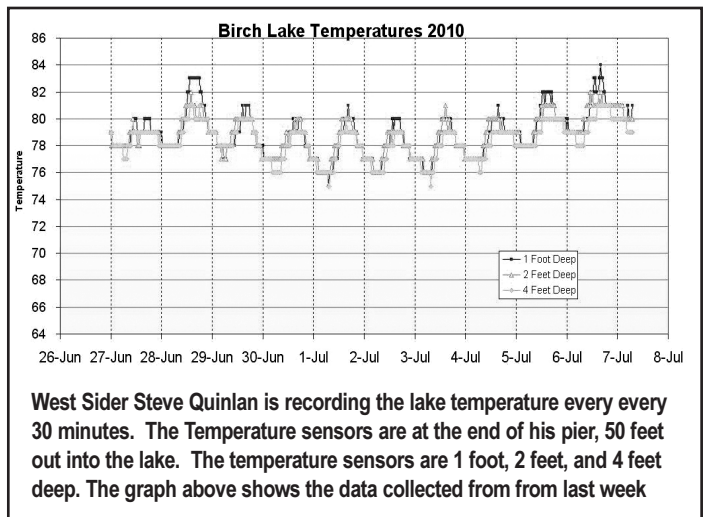
You have probably noticed a rather sharp drop in the clarity of the our lake's water, especially in the last week or so. Earlier in the spring the Secchi disk reading was around 30 feet and in fact less than two weeks ago it was 15 feet. However, just before the July 4th weekend it dropped to 8 feet. A couple of contributing factors have been the warm temperatures and the abundant sunlight. These could have led to an increase in the algae population which scatters light and thereby reduces clarity.

We sample for algae by taking chlorophyll "a" measurements monthly, then forward our data to the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association for processing and interpretation. When we get the results back from The ML&SA later this winter, we will see if this was true, that we have experienced an algae growth.

In his latest brochure, Dr. Wally Fusilier, Ph.D. Limnologist [one who scientifically studies bodies of freshwater], described an additional cause for these seasonal drops in water clarity. His theory could be very true for our lake since it is a relatively hard water lake, due to it being spring fed. Think of your well water and all

the minerals in it. The warming of the water with summer may cause these minerals to precipitate, or separate from the water solution, and thus decrease the transparency. Dr. Fusilier indicated that a way to ascertain this visually is to look at the color of the water. If it is pea green it is due to an algae bloom. If it is sea green it is due to the mineral precipitation.

Terry Dugan was in Wisconsin recently, by Lake Como which is about 2 miles from Lake Geneva. Lake Como is a shallow eutrophic [near to the end of its' life cycle, filling with algae and sediment] lake and it was truly pea green. In comparison, Terry reports that Birch is more grayish green or sea green, suggesting at least some of the loss of clarity results from the mineral precipitation. In summary: yes we have more algae, but that is only part of the story. The rest is probably chemistry.



Monuments

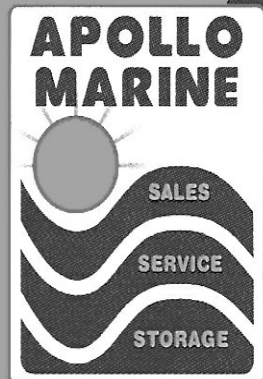
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Stu's Star Stuff

A short visit to Saturn

While it is entirely unlikely that one could get from Jupiter to Saturn in one week we will nonetheless visit Saturn anyway. Saturn has been known since prehistoric times. Galileo was the first to observe it with a telescope in 1610; he noted its odd appearance but was confused by it. Early observations of Saturn were complicated by the fact that the Earth passes through the plane of Saturn's rings every few years as Saturn moves in its orbit. This means that the rings are view "edge on," making them difficult to detect. It was not until 1659 that Christiaan Huygens correctly inferred the geometry of the rings. Saturn's rings remained unique in the known solar system until 1977 when very faint rings were discovered around Uranus, and as we learned last week, around Jupiter.

Since Saturn's claim to fame is its rings let's learn a little more about them. First, there are at least 7 of them, not counting the open spaces, or dividers, between. Saturn's rings are extraordinarily thin: though they're 175,000 miles or more in diameter they're less than a half mile thick. Despite their impressive appearance, there's really very little material in

the rings -- if the rings were compressed into a single body it would be no more than 60 miles across.

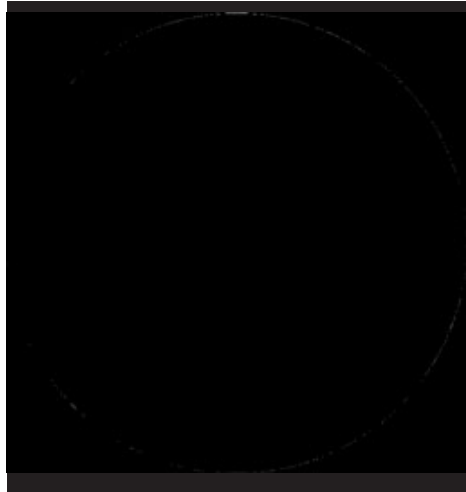
Though they look continuous from the Earth, the rings are actually composed of innumerable small particles each in an independent orbit. They range in size from a centimeter or so to several meters. A few kilometer-sized objects are also likely. The ring particles seem to be composed primarily of water ice, but they may also include rocky particles with icy coatings.

Like Jupiter, Saturn has more than 50 named moons. When it is in the nighttime sky, Saturn is easily visible to the unaided eye. Though it is not nearly as bright as Jupiter, it is easy to identify as a planet because it doesn't "twinkle" like the stars do. The rings and the larger satellites are visible with a small telescope.

Look for Saturn high in the southwest after sunset, in western Virgo, just a couple of degrees below Denebola, the second brightest star in the constellation Leo the Lion. To find Leo find the Big Dipper and imagine the bottom falling out - the water would spill on Leo's back. Saturn's rings are currently very nearly

edge on, therefore not too spectacular. That will improve in the next couple months. Look for other stuff too, like the Summer Triangle, Little Dipper and my favorite, the Tea Pot. Enjoy the show. After all, it's free.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon for July 10, 2010
At Midnight, US Central time
Illuminated Fraction: 0.004
0.5 days before new moon

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Make sure that you have all the pertinent facts before taking action. Travel and entertainment will be pleasurable. Take care that arrangements to spend quality time together are made in advance. Your unique approach to life will interest others. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Try not to jump to conclusions. You can make some favorable changes to your looks. Don't avoid situations that may deteriorate; try to mend them. A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

You can't help everyone. Don't make large purchases or investments. You may not be that popular at home but you should be able to shine at social gatherings. Implement your ideas into your projects at work. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Don't say things that could be damaging later on. Cut loose. Social functions will bring you in touch with new lovers. Your own small business on the side sounds pretty lucrative. Take on positions that offer on the job training or pay for courses related to the business. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Moneymaking opportunities will surface. Children could cost you more than you can afford. You may find that someone you live with is not too happy, but you can't really do anything about that right now. Don't vacillate about asking for assistance if you need it. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. If you haven't already, consider starting your own business. You can make money through your creative efforts. Conflicts over joint finances are likely. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You will be able to make financial gains. Be sure to pay attention to your bank account. Don't blow situations out of proportion. Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You will find your vitality is lowered. If they don't like the plan, suggest that they contribute a little. Your diplomatic nature will help you in straightening out unsavory situations. Someone may be trying to take advantage of you. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Be careful not to hurt the ones you love. Residential moves will be hectic and may

be unsatisfactory. You mustn't give too much to your children. Do not lend money to friends, or contribute more than necessary to groups unworthy of your cash. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Be inquisitive about unfamiliar circumstances. A second chance will result in good work. Take care of your personal needs. Be sure to cover all the necessary groundwork before signing binding contracts. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick. Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. You must not let others talk you into doing things that will probably limit you financially at a later date. Make any decisions you have to in order to avoid feeling unsettled. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You can pick up information that will give you an edge. Any financial limitations will probably have to be dealt with on your own. You can receive recognition for the work you've done. You may want to take another look at the investment you are about to make. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SPOTLIGHT

“We Luv It” — The Eichorsts

Doug and Judie Eichorst, owners of “We Luv It” on the south-side, have quite a long history to share about their lake home and its name. Doug’s great-grandfather Bradley built the original section of the cottage (which is still standing) in 1926 when there was only one other cottage in the whole area. There was no indoor plumbing, no electricity, and only a space heater to keep warm. And still they were the ones who named the cottage “We Luv It.” They were indeed visionary people! !

Their only daughter married Bill Eichorst and they inherited the cottage in the 1940’s.

The couple continued the name and the primitive living conditions. Even though they had a car, they didn’t drive; so they had others drive them to the lake. This grandpa Eichorst kept a tax receipt showing he had paid a property tax bill of a little over \$4.00. Imagine that!! Doug remembers many happy Bradley and Eichorst family reunions.

Doug’s father had met and fallen in love with a neighbor girl named Shirley Douglas who lived just two doors from them. (New places were slowly springing up around the lake.) They married and when asked how long he’s been here, Doug says it’s been 72 years and nine months. This is just one of many stories about people marrying friends/neighbors from the lake.

Doug’s father was one of three sons who fought in WWII and, incidentally, Doug and his two brothers were all in Viet Nam at the same time. Some fighting family!! When Doug’s father returned from the war, he began making extensive renovations to the cottage — adding 3 bedrooms, raising the roof (probably figuratively and literally), two family rooms, a new kitchen, and all the



The Eichorst cottage circa 1961

“modern conveniences.” Doug’s mother inherited her nearby family cottage (which was named “LaPalina” from her cigar-smoking father) and Doug’s father inherited the Eichorst cottage. So for a time they rented “LaPalina” — now a summer home to Michael and Paula Russell.

Doug and Judie met and dated in high school (South Bend Adams and Mishawaka) and continued dating as they attended Ball State University. They married in 1960 and will celebrate their 50th anniversary in August!! I’d place a bet that we Birch Lakers have more 40th and 50th wedding anniversaries (and higher) per capita than just about anywhere! The wholesome lake influence? So much fun in your life? Hmmm.

Doug and Judie spent 22 years in the Air Force and retired in Texas where they raised their three children

and Judie taught. They inherited the cottage in the 1990’s and retired in 1997 whereupon Judie could make the cottage their own, redecorating, gardening, and spending whole summers here. Winters are spent in Abilene, TX, where they can share their children and 9 grandchildren’s many activities. But in the summer, it is back to Birch Lake with relaxing, boating, book club, bridge, line dancing, cooking, and entertaining family and friends. Their place is a cozy refuge filled with warm memories.

Too bad in 1926 Doug’s great grandparents really got the jump on many of us who share the sentiments and would love that name “We Luv It.”

Are you thinking about your home’s name yet?? Isn’t it time it’s more than just “the cottage”?

—Peggy Cowen

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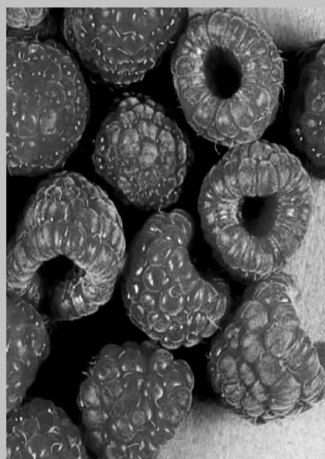
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BOAT PARADE RESULTS

2010 BLYC Boat Parade Report

This year's boat parade, without a doubt, was the best yet. The judges had a hard time figuring out the "Best in Show" and "Honorable Mention." It was a nail-biting decision for the judges, with the adjudicators agreeing that creativity was more than evident. Every boat was a winner and we congratulate all. The final results are:

Best in Show: Best all around - the Birch Norsemen by the Hill Family

Honorable Mention: Wildest West - Magros

Honorable Mention: Most Creative Turtle Raft - Chesters and Fallons

Honorable Mention: Most Creative Pirate Ship - Luechts

Sweetest - Groszeks

Most Tropical - Cowans

Tie on best hockey team - Soldatos and Odenwalds

Best Island Theme - Mullins

Best Flip Flopping - Van Huffels

Best Movie (Toy Story) Lutz's

Best Under the Sea - Russells and Carrolls

Best Soccer Fans - Kruggels

Most Patriotic - McNamees

Our thanks to the judges and to everyone who participated. With this year's tough competition, it's not too early to think about 2011's theme.



Special thanks to the PattiCam for the Boat Parade photos

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

BIRCH LAKE WORD SEARCH

BIRCH LAKE NEIGHBORS

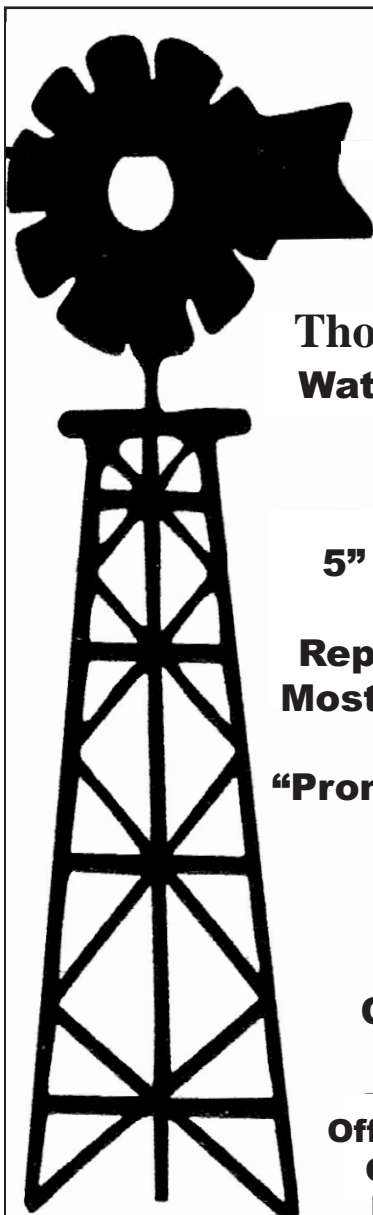
The Word Search puzzle at right contains the last names of several families at Birch Lake ...

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!

E Z E B U E U T R Y B M E E W A D L E N W E E A V D
 U I M D H T M N F S R N D L N A E R B S U N O T E E
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Camp Tannadoonah

Passing the 500-camper mark

Wow, what a great turnout for the Pancake Breakfast! Thank you all so much for your support of camp! It sounds like we had approximately 550 diners, and lots of people stopping by to purchase camp items. We have plenty more t-shirts, hoodies, and other camp store items, if you didn't get a chance to purchase what you wanted on Sunday! We will also be receiving an order of embroidered fleece blankets this week.

Some of you may have noticed some improvements in our shower house when you came up to the breakfast this weekend. We received an anonymous donation this past winter which enabled us to put on a new roof, fix the leaky skylights, put in a new ventilation system, replace the rusty and dented bathroom stalls, and put in new drywall and plastic panels behind the showers. While not all of the improvements are immediately visible, it makes a world of difference to have better ventilation and nice clean new stalls! So we want to send out a big THANK YOU to the donors who made this project possible this summer!

I hope that everyone had a wonderful holiday weekend on the lake. The weather was certainly beautiful! Chas and Avery and I enjoyed a relaxing weekend with lots of time on the lake,

and now we're ready to head back to camp for the final five camp sessions of the year.

This week was our Mini Week (July 7-10). It's kind of a sampler-camp for kids who want to try out camp. We cram a full week's worth of activities into just 3 days! We had a total of 53 kids for this session. About 25 of those campers will be staying through the weekend and will be here all of next week too — we call it "Super Week." Then on Sunday we kick off our biggest week EVER at Camp Tannadoonah!

We have 120 campers coming to Hawaiian Week, which is more than we have ever had in a single session of camp. We were previously licensed for just 104 campers, and we increased it to 125 this summer, just in time! Every bed in every cabin will be filled, and the children of some of my staff members will be staying in tents all week! It should be an amazing and fun-filled week of camp. Having more kids makes everything more fun!

Our total for the summer has now officially surpassed our total from last year and the year before. We are at 437 regular campers (compared to 433 last year), and 506 for total beds filled (compared to 490 last year)! This is the first time we have crossed the 500 mark in

since 1994, so that's really encouraging. We're still shooting for 500 regular campers, so we've got about 60 more spots to fill! There are openings for all remaining weeks after Hawaiian Week.

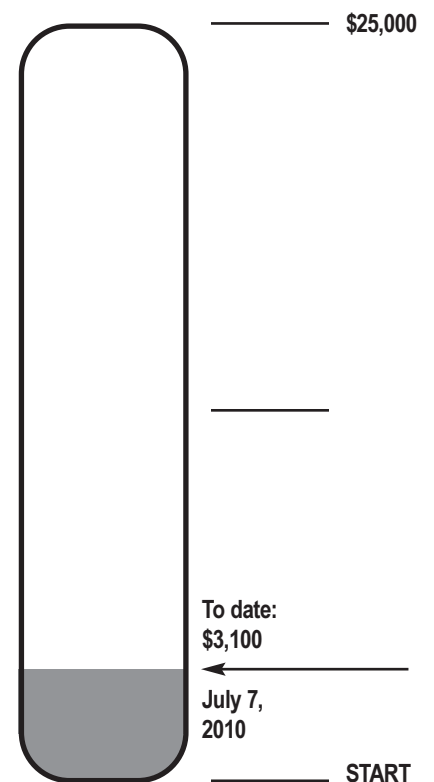
We've been asked to put together a wish list again this year, so below are some ideas of things we can use up at camp. Thank you again for all the support we receive for our campers and programs!

-Miss Amber

Wish list:

Refrigerator (for the camp store)
Ceramic Plates & Bowls
Pot Holders
Large Rubbermaid Tubs
Carpet or large rugs
Wooden Bunk Beds (materials ~\$100 per bed)
Picnic Tables (materials ~\$60 per table)
New Mattresses for cabins (~\$100 each)

Camp Tannadoonah Needs \$25,000 ...



Camp needs \$25k this year!

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. **Check out next week's Barker for sign-up sheets and a more complete list of items that will be included in the auction!**

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
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org/>

Cards for Camp

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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Saturday July 17th from 6 - 8 pm ~ 6th Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Menu: Spaghetti with Meat -or- Alfredo sauce, salad, bread, desserts, tea and lemonade (or BYO drink of choice).

\$7.00 – Adults
\$5.00 – Kids (3–10)
FREE – If under 3

Dine in - or Carry-out



By the North Shore and friends ...

Tickets must be purchased in advance (so the cooks can prepare enough for all diners). For tickets, contact Karen Brovold (476-8862) -or- purchase at the Pancake breakfast.

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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



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.

BLYC Fleet Captain

Jeff Smitley — 476-9000

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Home Owners Comm.

Jim Bolinger, Chairman—476-9737

Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Scott Troeger—476-9898

Paul Fallon—476-1467

BLYC Water Quality Comm.

Paul Fallon, Chairman — 476-1467

Rick Russwurm.—476-2407

Terry Dugan—476-2814

Gordon Seyfarth — n/a

Bruce Wagner — 476-2090



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

2010 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form

SUPPORT THE BLYC; SUPPORT THE BIRCH LAKE COMMUNITY!



- \$ _____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)
- \$ _____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ _____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ _____ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ _____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ _____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication Program
- \$ _____ - Riparian (\$8/yr, for magazine)
- \$ _____ - Safety Committee
- \$ _____ - Other non-party related expenses

Total contribution \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to BLYC

**Mail to BLYC
c/o Holly Troeger
1516 Ash Dr. East
Elkhart, IN 46514**

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR RENT

Cottage for rent. Three bedrooms, sleeps six on Birch Lake's beautiful north shore. Indoor plumbing. Contact Stewart Spratt at 574.514.0667.

2 Bedroom 2 Bath Condo — Newly renovated. Located on Tierra Verde Island just south of St. Pete Beach. Situated on the beautiful Boca Ciega Bay. The complex offers views of the Sunshine Skyway from the pool and hot tub. Clubhouse has Big Screen TV, Pool Table and Fitness Facility. 3 mins. from award winning Fort DeSoto. For rent by month or season. Weekly rentals negotiable. email: Barb Rondot at babsdot@verizon.net (ps Don't forget to collect those plastic caps for cancer!)

FOR SALE

DANBY 12,000 BTU Portable Air Conditioner. This is a perfect portable air conditioner that is brand new. I bought it for the grandkids who later became involved in summer sports. It has not been used except to know that it works beautifully. The original price was over \$500. I will sell for \$400. Comes with all attachments to exhaust the hot room air to the outside thru any type window, including sliders. Comes with instructional manual and remote control. There is one exactly like it on Ebay (Item # 350267999432) if you want to check it out first, or on the lake at 14886 Birch Lakeshore. 574-340-0345. Bruce Harlan

Sold cottage. Selling **Shore Station brand with 24 volt, solar charged, remote controlled lift system.** Rated 3,200# for V Hull Inboard & I/O Stern Drive. White top, cables & lift system two years old. Includes battery tray, spring loaded gunnel guides and bow stop. Excellent condition. Invested value \$7,800 selling for \$4,500. Phone (269) 535-0213

18 1/2 foot CARAVELLE 1977, 165 HP Mercury I.O., good condition, 1-Owner on Birch Lake, \$3,000 or best offer. Kevin 476-2166, 773-304-8042.

SHORE STATION Boat Lift & Canopy, on Birch Lake, \$1,000. Kevin 476-2166, 773-304-8042.

Used Aqua Cat 12' Catamaran. Trailer and lift included. On the lake, can sail it home. For information and video clip go to : <http://www.americansail.com/> \$250 OBO, call Dave or Terry Carroll @ 574-850-0359

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 **dish-washer.** 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 # JS42SEDBDA 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 Kathleen McNamee. 476-2627

WANTED

Wanted - **used Kayak.** Dana (Russwurm) 574-532-0198

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 Ciboesler@aol.com

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

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 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

"Your Birch Lake Neighbors"

Dick & Judy Lindzy

211 Dixie Way North
South Bend, IN 46637
574-272-7000

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Ice Cream

Groceries, Pop

Tom's Garage & Convenience Store
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