

# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 24, 2010

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## 2010 Spaghetti Dinner a huge success

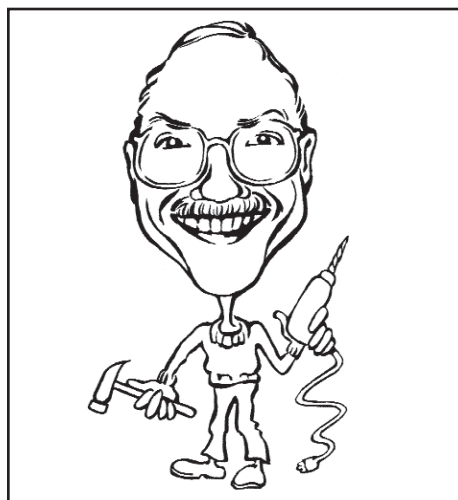


## How sweeeeeeeet it ... was

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**D**olce far niente! (How sweet is it to do nothing) is an Italian saying that caught my eye in a book I was leafing through today. I thought that the sentiment fits my life pretty well since Sue and I retired. By the way, she's alive and well after her hip replacement — getting stronger every day. I just sharpened up two "Black Warrior" #2's in the garage and I'm sitting at the counter in the kitchen, looking out on a gray and deserted Birch Lake. Writing these words is my project for Tuesday and I can have the rest of the day off when I'm finished.

I won't talk about last weekend's weather, because it's over and most of you were here. It's sort of like Rick, the South Bend Tribune weatherman, rehashing the weather back in July, 1998. Does anyone really care? Anyway, I will talk about the Spaghetti



Dinner last Saturday evening. It was "magnifique!" — good fellowship, great food and a substantial donation for Camp Tannadoonah. On behalf of all of you Lakers reading this, I'll say thanks for all of us. THANK YOU, to everyone who contributed and made the event such a success.

### 2010 BLYC Calendar

- July 30 .....Men's golf outing
- July 31 .....Camp T Hog Roast  
Board meeting 10 am
- August 7.....Corn and sausage roast
- August 14.....Garage sale
- August 28.....Fall dinner  
Camp T Silent Auction
- September 11.....Board meeting 9 am
- September 18 .....Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
- October 9 .....Chili cook-off

Here's one last comment about last Sunday. I had the pleasure of participating on the Committee Boat for the three sailboat races. Thanks to help on the boat from Bad Patty, Amy and Denise, I didn't mess things up too badly. The wind was so stiff I was kept busy all day pulling up and dropping the boat anchor because the finish line (us) kept drifting to shore. I want to repeat

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



## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

what I said in an earlier Barker about how exhilarating it is to be right there in the center of the race action. There are still three Committee Boat openings for late August that still are not filled. Give it a try, you'll love it and we'll help you out if need be.

Sometimes we see things that are hard to believe. I have to tell you about this. While watching TV recently, I saw a commercial that fit that description. In it, the guy that makes vacuum cleaners that look like "transformers" was hawking a new product. It's called the Dyson Air Multiplier (believe it or not, I guess this is what we call a fan in this new millennium). I never knew that old fashioned fans "chop the air, causing buffeting." I always thought it felt pretty good. The device is pretty cool looking, maybe worth a try, and then I saw one at Meijer the other day for \$300. I think I will continue to be buffeted.

Let me again remind all of you to "be careful out there." While usually this applies to lake activity, I saw something very disturbing on Birch Road behind my house. A young lady drove past in a small SUV and it sure looked like she was writing a text message as she was driving. I know we all want to stay connected all of the time, but there's a time and a place. There are way too many kids, pets, walkers and old people like me out there on our narrow, winding roads around the lake for this to be acceptable. A campaign for

child safety called "Kids Dart, Drive Smart" is presently being conducted in the Michiana area. What a good slogan that would remind us to be more aware while driving. If anyone out there has access to their signs, please let me know. I'd like to post them on all the roads around the lake. In the meantime, put down your phone, slow down and enjoy your beautiful surroundings. There, I got that off my chest.

Looking ahead, we still have lots of fun stuff scheduled for you'all. Our new Birch Lake 2011 Calendar project is progressing nicely. Some of our resident photographers have already submitted their photos and they are in a word, spectacular. As I said last week I have appointed a panel of judges to review all the entries and choose the final thirteen photos we will use in the calendar. The five judges are Carla Chester (chairwoman), Sue Williams, Peggy Cowen, Vicki Rogers and Pam Mullin. I don't envy them. Their task will be extremely difficult choosing from so many great photos.

If you haven't gotten your new spacious, cerulean blue tote bags from Bad Patty Luecht, you had better hurry, because they're going fast. The classy Birch Lake logo sets these bags apart from the run-of-the-mill bags from Walmart, Meijer, Martins, ( maybe Publix and Winn-Dixie). This way you can avoid the embarrassment of using another store's bags when shopping at a different store. Buy some for here, some for the Florida condo, some for the ski chalet, at merely \$5 each ( 3 for \$25)

they are a steal and all profits go to the BLYC. They're made from 100% recycled materials and they aren't available in stores, plus there's no shipping and handling.

I'm going to have to shut this down for today. I'm almost on overtime pay. Only three weeks left until the Birch Lake Garage Sale on August 14th. I still haven't received any items from anyone to sell at the BLYC. I've driven past most of your garages and I know there is a bounty out there. Go through your "stuff," as George Carlin called it, and if you haven't used it in a year or two, donate it. I'll come get it if you want. Remember, the sale proceeds all go to our Water Quality Program.

Lastly, I just heard from Vice-Commodore Stan that he has booked Camp Tannadoonah as the venue for our annual Fall Dinner on August 28th. The event will be catered and will feature those delicious, mouth-watering pork chops and a complete family style dinner. Tickets are on sale now at the BLYC box office (kidding — call Stan or Karen for tix). Plus, we're all on the edges of our seats awaiting Stan's selection as Vice-Commodore for next year.

I know that summer is winding down quickly. The "dog days" are upon us. Days are getting shorter and autumn is around the corner, but remember Celia Lighton Thaxter's words, "There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart."

Be grateful.

-Commodore Gratefulbob  
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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Corn & Sausage

Mark Your Calendar! The Corn and Sausage Roast will be held on Saturday, August 7, serving food from 5:30 until 7:30 pm. Once again we will be serving grilled chicken breasts on a limited basis, so come early if brats aren't your thing. Our combo meals include your meat choice, corn, four sides, cookies and beverages. Prices are: \$5 for a hot dog meal, \$6 for a bratwurst meal, and \$7 for a chicken breast meal.

Be there and come hungry!

## Spaghetti Dinner Wrap-Up

The North Shore contingency completed its three year stint as hosts and hostesses of the Annual Birch Lake Yacht Club Spaghetti Dinner. Over 250 dinners were served including carry outs and the net proceeds from the event amounted to \$1,181. An anonymous donor has contributed \$819 to bring the total up to \$2,000. All proceeds are being donated to Camp Tanadoonah.

Vice Commodore Stan and I want to thank everyone who helped make the evening a success including:

Patti and Rick Russwurm  
Ronnie and Gus Eshleman  
Sandy, Ashley and Bob Baucus  
Le and Bill King  
Amy and Mike Lutz  
Leslie, Bob and Cal King  
Carol and Fry Freihofer  
Pam Mullin  
Karen Brovold

Sarah and Matt Scheuer  
Deb Taghon and Stuart Spratt  
Barb and Chris Kolber  
Sandy and Phil Vitale  
Sue Williams, Vickie Rogers, Barb Harmon and Judy Olsen

All the dessert contributors and anyone else that I may have missed! A special thank you to everyone that attended the event a success.

We are also pleased report that the East Shore has agreed to carry on the annual tradition next year.

Your Humble Co-chairs,

-Stan and Rich

P.S. — big shout out to my co-chair Stan and the first lady in waiting Karen Brovold for picking up the tab for the Camp Counselors.



## Thanks again

It truly warms our hearts to once again witness how willing Birch Lakers

are to lend a helping hand.

Thanks to all who slaved in their hot, hot kitchens to make and donate a dessert to top off the spaghetti dinner. What a sweet success.

Thanks to: Vickie Rogers, Linda Bergan, Deb Bolinger, Marlow Hoyer, Linda Yoshizawa, Jeff Smitley, Barb Zesinger, Celia Fallon, Bad Patty Luecht, Lind Harman, Lucene Daley, Cheryl Magro and Julie Sheffieck.

You're the best!

-Sandy Baucus and Patti Russwurm

## Save the Date

What: Fall Dinner

When: August 28th

Where: A quiet little spot overlooking the lake. Also known as Camp T.

Why: Great meal, lots of good conversation and laughter with about 100 or so of your closest lake friends.

Plan on attending. Get your tickets on sale at your selected retailers around the lake. Details to be announced in the following weeks. Contact Stan Pitakos for further information.

## Waterskiing Challenge

Thanks to the Hills for the great skiing photos. It looked like they had a lot of fun. So let's all get in on this.

Let's make the date August 21st for the waterskiing challenge. Time to be announced, rain date August 28th. The only rule is: there are no rules. Simply come up with some kind of wacky, cre-

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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 —

ative device that can be towed around the lake and get towed (successfully) around the lake. Rick Doolittle has volunteered to be one of the judges. We need more judges and, more importantly, some contestants. I have a couple ideas for towable contraptions. Please contact me, Stewart, at 476.2113 to enter. No entry fee, just show up.

## Michigan's Recreation Passport

Beginning October 1, the \$10 Recreation Passport replaces the state park sticker to get you into all state parks, recreation areas and boat launches. To get your Recreation Passport, just check "YES" on your license plate renewal form. Your \$10 also helps preserve forest campgrounds and trails, historic and cultural sites in state parks, and parks in your own community.

Get your Recreation Passport and tell your friends and family to do the same. It's only \$10...a good deal for you means a GREAT deal to future generations.

Visit [www.michigan.gov/recreation-passport](http://www.michigan.gov/recreation-passport) for more information.

## Art in the Park

The Sunday Art Market in the Park will be 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.

## July 31st Camp T Hog Roast

The Camp Fire USA River Bend Council will mark the 100th year of its national organization with a Centennial Hog Roast on July 31st, 4 p.m. to 10 p.m., at Camp Tannadoonah on Birch Lake. Other festivities are planned that evening, including the honoring of local Camp Fire supporters at 7 p.m., and the lighting of a campfire at 7:30 p.m., simultaneously with 50 other Camp Fire Councils across the USA. The event is free to all Camp Fire supporters, including past counselors and program participants. RSVP at [www.campislife.com](http://www.campislife.com). (Diners are asked to bring a side dish.)

## 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.

## Bottom Dollar

In 1941, Jack and Buddy Asire, newlyweds of three years, came to see that Jack's job with Trans World Airlines would eventually take them all over the world. Wanting to have a place that would always be 'home' to the family they hoped to have, they bought a lot on the west side of Birch, just down the road from Dunkampin, the cottage that Buddy's parents had built a few years earlier. Wanting to make sure it would stand the test of time, they told Mr. Haines, the builder, not to cut any corners. That meant hand hewn knotty pine walls, hardwood floors, both hot and cold running water - plus a washing machine!

By the time the house was finished, they had an appropriate name for it - Bottom Dollar. Lest anyone question the name, their bottom dollar is embedded in the fireplace mantle - heads up.

Today their daughter Marty summers in Bottom Dollar while Christopher and Brynn, her son and daughter-in-law, live in Dunkampin. The folks knew what they were doing when they chose Birch Lake to be a permanent place in their lives!

**SWEET CORN!**



**Diamond**  
Acres Farm



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| <b>Drywall</b>    | <b>Winterization</b>     |
| <b>Decks</b>      | <b>Honey-Do Lists</b>    |
| <b>Floors</b>     | <b>Pier Service</b>      |
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**Birch Lake references available**

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# — Barker kids of the Week —



Lane and Ellis Nickols from Westfield, IN are enjoying their annual trip to Birch Lake. They are the great nephews of Tom and Lynn DeCocker.

Don Habich's granddaughters Jordan (left, 8 years old) and Sydney Habich (right, 5 years old) had fun last weekend. Jordan was able to wake-board on her father's wake-board, and Sydney has been using her flexboard since age 3.

Joe Magro reading to nephew Dominic (left) and Tommy (right) with Safety Turtle box in the background.

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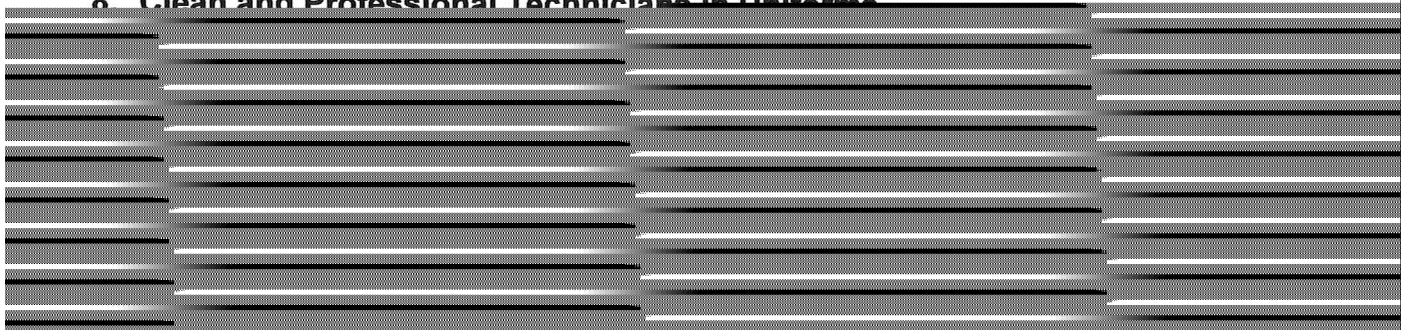


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8. Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms



# — Barker kids of the Week —

Chloe, 6, and sister Caroline (7) Cotton, daughter of Wendy Wagner Cotton and granddaughter of Bruce Wagner (Cove) had fun on grandpa's boat on the Fourth of July this year!

Caroline, Rochelle, and Julia Santerre were week-end guests of the Lacy's (south side) with their parents from Noblesville, IN.

French exchange student, Alexandre Nguyen, visiting Scott & Holly Troeger (and family) us at Birch Lake for three weeks this summer. As you can see, he is very happy to be at Birch Lake!

### Got a kid of the week

To get it printed in the Barker, e-mail it to me at [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.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.

## LAST CHANCE FOR GOLF!

# 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 IMMEDIATELY!**

**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:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Players names:

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



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## Easy way to stay cool Creamy layered peach squares — Yummy!



Makes 20 servings

### What You Need

2 cups HONEY MAID Graham Cracker Crumbs  
1/2 cup Sugar, divided  
1/2 cup Butter or margarine, melted  
1-1/2 pkg. (8 oz. each) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened

### Make It

MIX crumbs, 1/4 cup sugar and butter in 13x9-inch pan; press onto bottom of pan.

BEAT cream cheese and remaining sugar in medium bowl until well blended.

Whisk in 1-1/2 cups COOL WHIP; spread over crust. Top with peaches.

1 tub (8 oz.) COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, thawed, divided  
3 large fresh peaches (about 1-1/4 lb.), peeled, sliced  
1-1/2 cups boiling water  
1 pkg. (6 oz.) JELL-O Raspberry Flavor Gelatin  
2 cups Ice cubes



Refrigerate until ready to use.

ADD boiling water to gelatin mix in large bowl; stir 2 min. until completely dissolved. Stir in ice cubes until melted.

Refrigerate 5 min. or until thickened. Whisk in remaining COOL WHIP; spread over peach layer.

Refrigerate 4 hours or until firm.

*Contributed by Good Patti*

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## Now, let's go play some golf!



# Fleet Captain's Corner



## Is sailing contagious?

I think I may need to see the doctor. I'm not sure, but my sail washing affliction may be contagious. Bob King appears to be coming down with a mild case of it. He tried on three separate occasions to wash his sail on Sunday (two of which when I was right behind him). He would have succeeded were it not for his cat-like reflexes. All he was able to get clean was the last two feet at the end of the boom. When I queried about his new "seaman-like" mark roundings, he said he was pulling a "Smitley."

Bob's troubles are surprising since the weather was quite nice with a fairly steady 10 MPH wind out of the south. The races were fast so we were able to get three races completed. See the results for the current season standings. I want to thank Bob Waddle, Bad Patty, Amy Lutz, and my Lovely Bride for running the committee boat. I also want to thank those who come out to watch the races and who lend a hand if one of the sailors gets into trouble that they can't handle by themselves. (Note in the Racing Rules, there is a prohibition from receiving outside assistance and still continuing a race.) Whether it's chasing down a sailboat separated from its skipper or assisting in righting a turtled boat, I want to say thanks for your help.

For you landlubbers, turtling is when the sailboat is upside down and the bottom of the boat resembles the back of a turtle's shell. It's much more difficult to recover from than when you simply going over on your side. Now that's an affliction that I definitely don't want to catch!

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 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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### 2010 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date.....	18-Jul .....	18-Jul .....	18-Jan .....	Total .....	Season
Race .....	16 .....	17 .....	18 .....	Points .....	Average

#### MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489/500.....	1 .....	1 .....	DNS.....	20409.....	1570
Bob King #1199 .....	5 .....	3 .....	1 .....	17778.....	1368
Harold Cranmer #2412.....	2 .....	5 .....	6 .....	23014.....	1354
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	6 .....	2 .....	4 .....	23846.....	1325
Dave Olson #1979.....	4 .....	7 .....	2 .....	22404.....	1318
Phil Vitale #500 .....	8 .....	8 .....	7 .....	20877.....	1305
Bill Luecht #1579 .....	7 .....	4 .....	5 .....	22947.....	1275
Don Harman #582.....	3 .....	9 .....	3 .....	19976.....	1249
Jim Bolinger #1735.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	7412.....	1235
Gib Eberhart #916 .....	9 .....	6 .....	8 .....	22072.....	1226
Tom Howard #1713.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	5857.....	1171

#### Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	1 .....	1 .....	DNS.....	21553.....	1540
Erica Vitale (White).....	3 .....	2 .....	1 .....	21231.....	1517
Stewart Spratt .....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	8972.....	1495
Sandy Vitale (White).....	7 .....	5 .....	6 .....	21207.....	1414
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue).....	4 .....	3 .....	2 .....	18038.....	1388
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green).....	2 .....	4 .....	3 .....	20772.....	1385
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White).....	6 .....	6 .....	4 .....	22194.....	1306
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue).....	5 .....	7 .....	5 .....	6200.....	1240
Stan Pitakos.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	2450.....	1225
Rick Ringer (Black).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	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), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place). DNF, DSQ 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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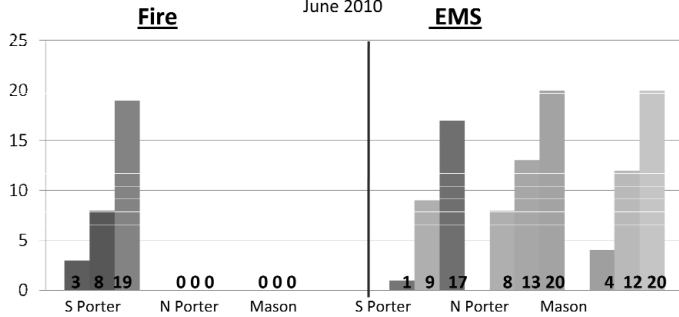
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**Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes)**

June 2010



**Total Runs**

South Porter- 12  
North Porter- 0  
Mason- 0

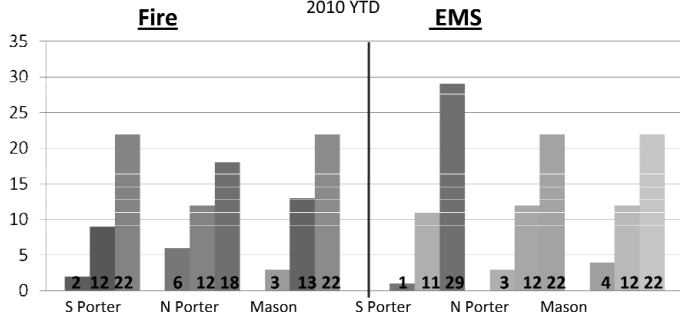
**Total Runs**

South Porter- 16  
North Porter- 6  
Mason- 11

Left bar shortest run time in minutes  
Center bar average run time in minutes  
Right bar longest run time in minutes

**Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes)**

2010 YTD



**Total Runs**

South Porter- 34  
North Porter- 4  
Mason- 11

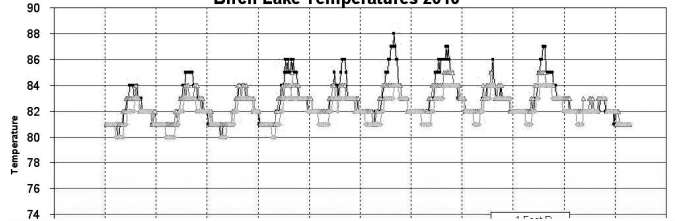
**Total Runs**

South Porter- 87  
North Porter- 22  
Mason- 59

Left bar shortest run time in minutes  
Center bar average run time in minutes  
Right bar longest run time in minutes

June

**Birch Lake Temperatures 2010**



West Sider Steve Quinlan is recording the lake temperature every every 30 minutes. The Temperature sensors are at the end of his pier, 50 feet out into the lake. The temperature sensors are 1 foot, 2 feet, and 4 feet deep. The graph above shows the data collected from from last week

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# Stu's Star Stuff

## Speeding out to Neptune

**O**ur next stop as we speed outward from the sun takes us to Neptune. Named for the Roman god of the sea (Greek would be Poseidon) Neptune is the eight planet from the sun. At a distance of about 2.8 billion miles it is 30 times farther out than Earth.

Neptune is a gas giant, but it is the smallest of the four gas giant planets. It is about 31,000 miles in diameter, making it about four times larger than Earth and three times smaller than Jupiter.

Its bluish hue may give one the impression of water, but in fact it is just Neptune's thick atmosphere. In order to see Neptune, you have to use binoculars or a telescope and you need to know just where to look. It should appear like a tiny circle, instead of pointlike, as stars do. You may even notice the blue color.

Neptune travels very slowly around the Sun - one Neptune year equals 165 Earth years. However, Neptune spins more quickly than Earth, with its day lasting just over 16 hours.

Neptune was discovered in 1846, by Johann Gottfried Galle. Doing the math one can see that it has completed only one orbit around the sun since its discovery and is therefore nearly at the same place in which it was

first observed. Additionally, it is unusual in that its existence was known before it was discovered. Mathematicians realized after Uranus's discovery that another large planet must exist beyond it because of the way its orbit was affected.

The moon Triton was discovered with Neptune. It is Neptune's largest moon and the only large moon in the solar system to orbit opposite its planet's rotation. It has a south polar cap and geysers of dark nitrogen. It may have been a dwarf planet like Pluto before being captured.

Neptune's other large moon, Nereid, was discovered in 1949. It may have been an asteroid or other captured object because its orbit is the most highly eccentric orbit of any planet or satellite in the solar system. There are 11 other named moons as well.

Most of what we know about Neptune comes from Voyager 2. It found that the planet has at least thirteen moons and a thin ring. The ring is made up of four dusty rings and brighter ring clumps. The Great Dark Spot is a hurricane-like storm on the planet that has been raging at least 400 years. Voyager 2 discovered a smaller bright cloud that raced around the atmosphere. It was named Scooter. Neptune has the fastest measured winds in the solar sys-

tem at more than 1200 miles an hour.

Try for Neptune in the constellation Aquarius, the Water Carrier. But you'll have to wait for fall or even winter to do so. It is to the east of The Great Square of Pegasus in the late night sky. OK, that's it. We're done. Or are we? We'll see next week. Enjoy the show. It's free.

-Stu Spratt

### The Moon for Jul 24, 2010

(At Midnight, US Central time)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.994

0.8 days until full moon



## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

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

Throw yourself into your profession. You need to do more research before you make your final decision. You may find that purchases or entertainment could be expensive. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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

Although it does look promising, be careful not to overextend yourself or you will lose in the long run. Talk to your emotional partner about your intentions. You'll be pleased with the results if you take the time to decorate your home. Don't trust coworkers with important or personal information. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

This will not be the day to start new business ventures or make drastic changes in your career. Be firm when dealing with matters pertaining to your environment. An older member of your family may have left you with a pressing situation. Opportunities will unfold; however, you must be willing to pay the price. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Visit friends or relatives you rarely see. Go over your finances and figure out a solid budget. You may find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. Try to address the real issues in order to turn things around. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You have been stagnating for some time now and you need a change of pace. Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate. Sudden changes at home will affect family members more than you anticipated. Overindulgence may cause conflicts. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

You may have the energy to clear up that mound of paperwork facing you. You will find your vitality is lowered. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence. Praise will be yours if you have been pursuing your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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

You may be somewhat emotional concerning a rather private matter. You will meet new romantic partners if you get involved in seminars or travel. You could meet potential new mates if you go out with friends or take pleasure trips. Be careful not to divulge secret information this week. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

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

Money can be made if you are willing to take a chance. Empty promises are evident; therefore, get it in writing, to be safe. Trips will be more than adventurous. If you haven't planned a vacation, then at least try to get away for the weekend. Your

lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

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

Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Get involved in groups and organizations that are of a distinguished nature. Your input into their activities will help bring you closer together. Unreliable people will be negative about your ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

Overindulgence will mean poor health. You have to believe in yourself and your talents. Be careful if a friend asks you for advice. Someone important may be watching you from afar. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

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

Your ability to do detailed work will dazzle those who are less creative. Opportunities to travel will be favorable in terms of moneymaking connections. Try not to hesitate; act on your initial instincts. Things will be emotional with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

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

Travel could turn out to be more exciting than you imagined. Moves or the possibility of having someone different living with you may be difficult at first. Payoff all your debts before you go out and celebrate. The stamina you possess will be apparent in your approach to your hobbies and creative projects. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



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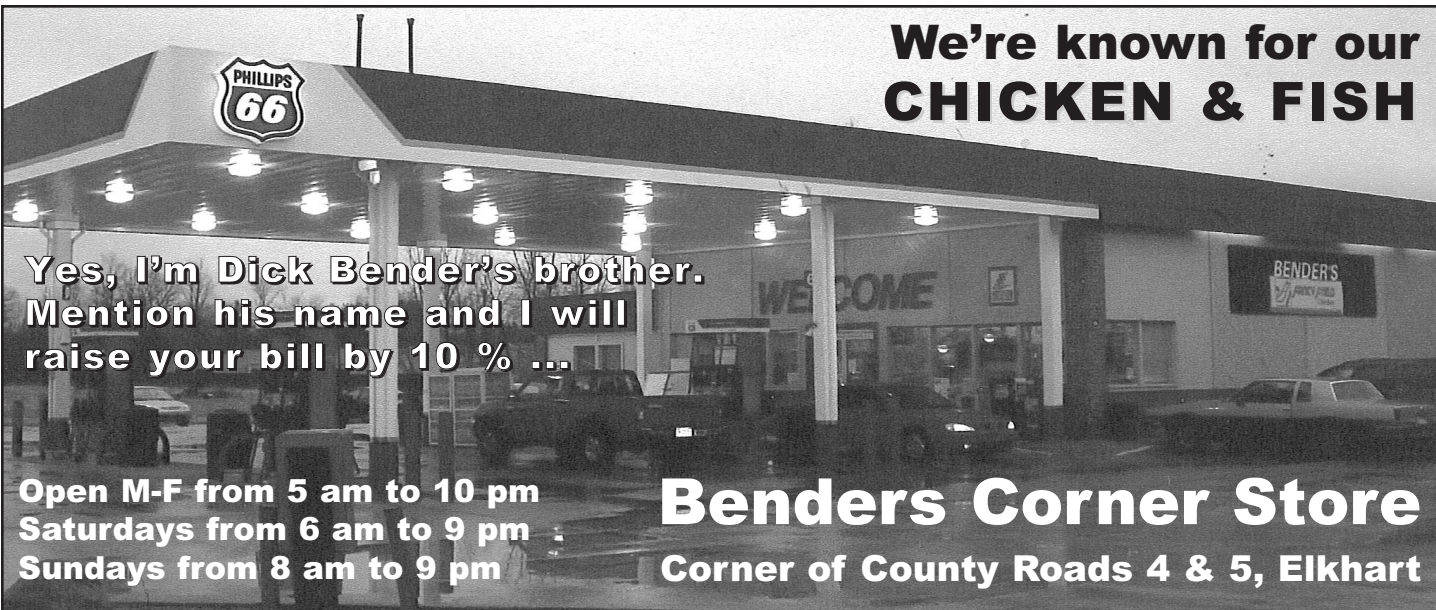
-Ryan & Rachael McDaniel, Owners

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# BIRCH LAKE WORD SEARCH

## BIRCH LAKE NEIGHBORS

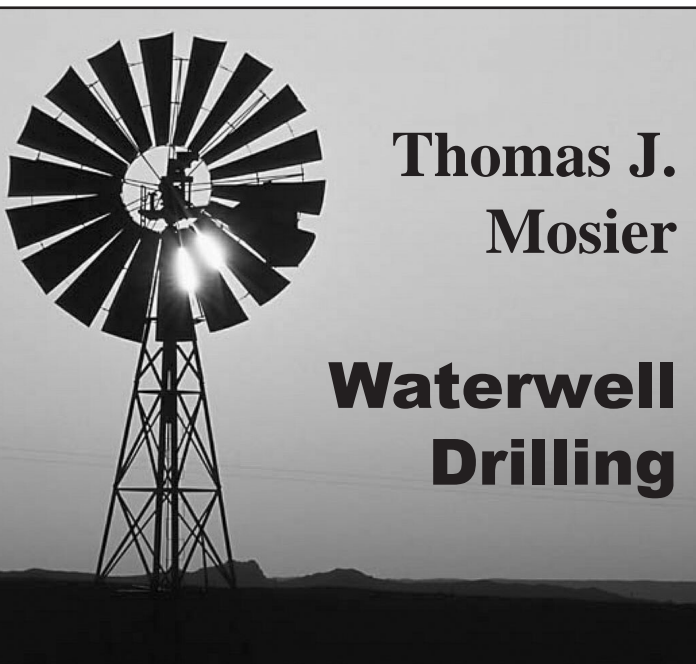
The Word Search puzzle at right contains the last names of several families at Birch Lake ...

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!

L I D U T E O P E L D U C S N M N A R C E S R L N C  
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# Camp Tannadoonah

## Touchdown! Goal! Score!

**P**ick a sport, any sport! This week has been All Star Sports Week up at camp, and we're trying out lots of different sports. We've had a basketball program all week, we played the 3rd annual Tannadoonah Cup Soccer tournament, and we had a World Series of Kickball, too! Throw in a little Football, some Ultimate Frisbee, Wiffle Ball, and even a Running Club in the mornings.

This week we have 89 total campers, and 44 of them are boys. So we're nearly 50/50 boys and girls this week. We even had to switch the cabins all around to make room for so many boys. The last week of camp (August 1-7) we're exactly even with 40 boys and 40 girls. For the season, we're at 60% girls, 40% boys, which is as close to even as I think we've ever been.

Next week (July 25-31) will be Christmas in July. We'll be celebrating the holiday season all week, and on

Thursday night (July 29th) we'll be going Christmas Caroling around the lake! We'll divide into two groups and sing camp songs to residents on the North and North-East shores, and the Cove and South-West shore. We plan to leave camp around 7:30pm, and we'll have about 40 campers and 10 staff in each group!

We're up to 464 regular campers for the season (compared to 433 last year and 457 the previous year). And we've got 539 total beds filled (compared to 490 last year and 491 the previous year)! We're so excited to be nearing our goal of 550 total beds filled this year!

This week was our second week of the Counselor in Training (CIT) program. Each group of CITs comes to camp for two weeks. Last week and this week the returning CITs were here, and this week and next week the new CITs are here. So this week they overlapped,

and we had a total of 10 CITs here for the week. The CIT program is a great way for older campers to learn about what it takes to be a counselor at camp. They get to shadow the counselors, help at activities, help in the cabins, and coordinate the week's evening activities.

Don't forget to come out for the Hog Roast event next weekend (Saturday, July 31st). We want to thank you all for your support of our Camp Fire programs by throwing a really great party!

### Wish List:

- 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)

## A message from the president

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered, donated, or offered their assistance with the camp and Camp Fire this year. As I presented at our finance meeting last month, the council was projecting a deficit of \$20k-25k this year. At the mid-point of our camp season, we are working on new projections which I hope to share soon.

In response, a number of lake residents have stepped up to the plate to take on the challenge of raising an additional \$25,000 from lake residents. Phil has been kind enough to share the progress of this effort. I'd like to share updates on some of our other efforts.

### Hog Roast and Centennial Celebration - July 31

All alumni, donors, volunteers, and friends of Camp Fire are invited to our annual Hog Roast on July 31 from 4 to 10 pm. This is a free event to thank all of our supporters and to celebrate the Camp Fire USA Centennial. Learn more

or RSVP at [campfire.com](http://campfire.com).

### Silent Auction and Health Fest

A number of people are working hard to coordinate the auction and health fest. I'd like to thank everyone who has helped with this. It sounds like there are some really great items for the auction.

### Do you shop at Harding's?

All you need to do is call the 800# on your Harding's card and say you want to designate Camp Fire USA River Bend Council or mention group id 500024527. Then show the card whenever you shop at Harding's and a portion of the proceeds will go to Camp Fire. If you don't have a card yet, we'll have some available at the Hog Roast.

### Local Banks

One of our recent efforts to raise money has been to appeal to local banks for donations. Most branches have a

fund for donations to local organizations and causes. Working with Karen Brovold, we have focused on Cass County and St. Joseph County banks. If you know local branch managers and can appeal to them, we'd appreciate the connections.

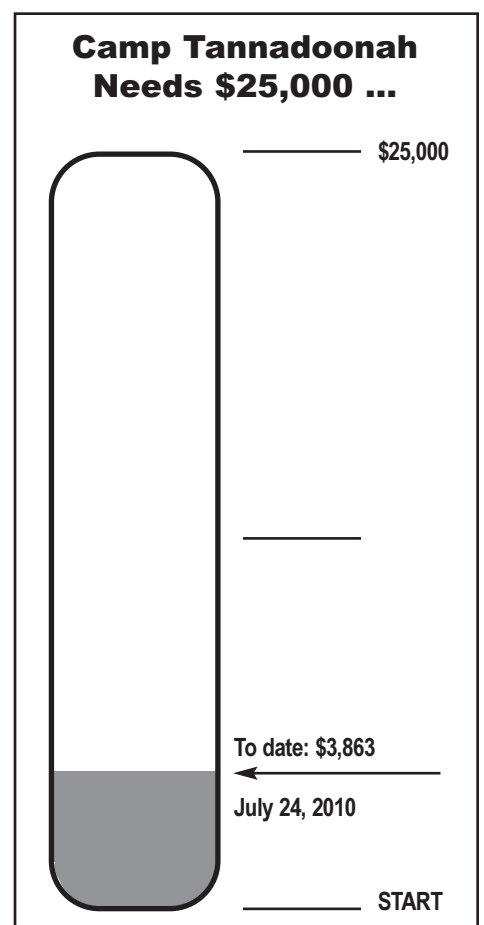
Finally, special thanks to all those involved with the Spaghetti Dinner this year and for their willingness to donate the proceeds to Tannadoonah. The funds will go directly to camperships and facility repairs for this summer. As usual, they put on a delicious and fun event.

*-Chas Grundy*  
President, Camp Fire USA  
River Bend Council



CAMP TANNADOONAH  
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org/>



# Why should you pay your dues?

Every year the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Birch Barker sends out gentle reminders to property owners around the lake asking for a voluntary \$25/household donation in the form of annual "dues." And every year, only about half of us pay our dues.

Those who don't pay have a variety of excuses that range from "We don't go to the parties" to "The Yacht Club doesn't do anything for me ..."

Well ... HORSE HOCKEY!

The BLYC and it's committees are responsible for activities that are part of all of our lives, whether we know it or not. Just a few of the *regular* functions of these

groups include:

- Monthly lake water-quality testing
- The ongoing fight against invasive species like purple loosestrife, zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil
- The annual road clean-up
- *The Birch Barker*\* (both the summer and online, winter edition)
- Summer activities for kids and the annual KidGatta
- Fourth of July activities including fireworks, the boat parade and the pancake breakfast
- The annual lake-wide garage sale
- The ladies tea/coffee

- The mens' and womens' golf tournaments
- The corn & sausage roast
- The spring and fall dinners
- The safety booklet (produced and distributed to all rental properties)
- Road and landing speed-limit and safety signs
- Maintenance of the Yacht Club building and grounds

**ALL OF THESE COMMITTEES, FUNCTIONS AND ENTITIES EXIST BECAUSE OF THE BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB — AND ARE FULLY FUNDED BY THE BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB.**

## 2010 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

**Commodore**—Bob Waddle—476-2293;  
cell: 269-365-7696

**Vice Comm.**—Stan Pitakos—476-8862

**Fleet Capt.** — Jeff Smitley — 476-9000

**Treas.** — Holly Troeger—476-9898

**Secretary** —Sandy Vitale—476-1680

**Past Comm.**—Paul Fallon—476-1467

### BLYC Directors:

**North** — Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Fred Freihofer—476-9823

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

Bob Baucus — 476 2863

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

**East** — Scott Troeger—476-9898

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Lind Harman — 476-2039

**Hill** — PJ VandeWalle —574-292-5966

**South** — Terry Dugan—476-2814

Sue Williams —476-8886

**West** — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Karen Brovold — 476-8862

Steve Quinlan — 476-8802

Mike Sheffieck — 773-660-1673 X211

Greg Bolin — 574-876-3416

**Cove** — Vicki Rogers—476-2383



**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  
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# 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](mailto:babsdot@verizon.net) (ps Don't forget to collect those plastic caps for cancer!)

## FOR SALE



**THEY ARE HERE!!! Birch Lake Tote Bags!!!** Eco-Friendly and large sized! Only \$5.00 while supplies last!!! Not available in stores! Show your Birch Lake Pride!!! Contact Bad Patty 476-2615; Delivery Available



**Moving Sale** — 63206 Birch Rd (east side). Saturday, July 31. Bed, dressers, table & hutch, picnic table, grill, tool's, sporting goods and much more. ONE

DAY ONLY, 8 am - 4 pm

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

**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

## LOST

Please have the north side of the lake — east of Camp T. watch in the shallows for a lost **handle to a wind surfer kite**. It looks very similar to a ski handle and has line attached. We would appreciate a call if found — Ed Levy — 574-286-0436 or 269-476-9575.

Lost last Saturday at the Spaghetti Dinner. **\$20 bill**. Green, with Andrew Jackson on the front, White House on the back. Last seen leaving Phil Vitale's wallet. Sentimental value! All leads will be kept confidential. Contact Bad Patty 476-2615.

## FOUND

Anyone missing their **personal sunning float**? A bright yellow Sun Seeker raft floated to the west side of Birch Lake. It's currently resting on the bench attached to the end of our pier. Please come and retrieve it. Betsy Custard

## WANTED

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

**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

Attention: All of you who have expressed an interest in the **sailing trip to the Virgin Islands** in late-January or early-February ... **I will host a meeting on Sunday, August 1 at 3 pm on my deck (free beer)** to give details, explain, plan, discuss options and judge real interest. Questions or concerns? 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)

"Your Birch Lake Neighbors"

Dick & Judy Lindzy

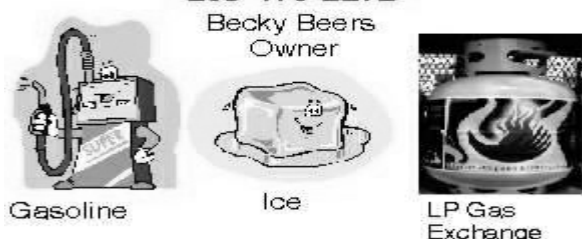


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