



Birch Barker

Weekend of August 28, 2010

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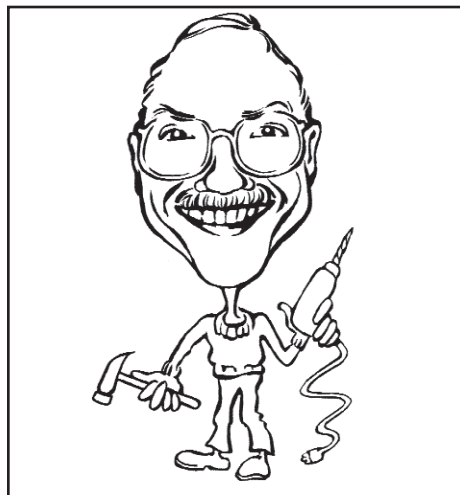


Thanks (and a big “V”) to Bob Waddle for a great year as our Commodore!

Soon-to-be ex-com’s comments

COMMODORE’S COMMENTS

I have finally run out of little things I can do around here to avoid beginning my comments for this week. Let’s see, I’ve cleaned the dirty light switch in the kitchen, I took the recyclables to the garage, checked for new e-mails, cleaned off my desk; I even considered shaving, but I have to draw the line there and get started writing. If you haven’t already guessed, it’s Tuesday and my final Barker deadline is fast approaching. This means a lot to me, because in my past life I toiled for many years as a project manager and estimator in the



electrical construction industry. And being an estimator, my life was filled

2010 BLYC Calendar

August 28	Fall dinner Camp T Fun Fest
	Bike tour begins at 7 am; all other events at 8 am Camp T Silent Auction — all day
September 11	Board meeting 9 am
September 18	Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
October 9	Chili cook-off
July 9, 2011	House Walk
July 22, 2011	Ladies Golf Outing

with deadlines. Bids were always due at a set time and there was usually no getting around that (now maybe “sparkybob220” is starting to make more sense to you.) I think I’ll retire

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or if you must, put the items in the red newspaper box at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), or mail to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want the materials returned. To contact us by phone, call Phil at (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Bob Waddle at (269) 476-2293. -Phil Vitale, editor
The PRINTED BARKER is online every week at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/pvBirchBarkerNew.htm>

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

again.

I have made a big deal about getting this column finished every week, but it really hasn't been so bad. It's sort of like having a painting project to do. It's hard to get started, but once you do, it isn't so bad after all. Plus, when you finish, you can take a step back and admire your handiwork.

So, it is with feelings of gladness that my term as Commodore is ending. But I also have feelings of sadness, because I will lose my ability to talk to all of you out there, except when I see you out and about. Yes, I know you're all out there reading this and probably saying "When is that Stan guy supposed to start?"

I dug out the Birch Barker from late August last year in which my first "comments" appeared. In it, I promised to be chief cheerleader for a year at Birch Lake. Actually it's a pretty easy job.

When I first visited Birch Lake back in the late 1980's, what impressed me most were the expressions of community and togetherness exhibited by everyone I met. That hasn't changed a bit. Sometimes people here disagree, but whatever their position, everyone's ultimate goal seems to be the protection and preservation of the quality and integrity of our great lake.

Generations come and generations go, but the stewardship of Birch Lake passes from one to the next.

Back to being a cheerleader. It's simple when you're surrounded by dedicated and talented friends and neighbors as we are. Please, everyone out there join with me and give a big hearty "Thank you" to everyone who pitched in and made this summer season such a huge success. Among them are your BLYC officers and directors, all of the leaders and volunteers that make our full slate of events so successful, everyone involved in the publication and distribution of the Birch Barker and new phone directory and last, but not least, all of you out there who have supported the BLYC, both financially and by participating. If there is anyone I missed — "Thank you" to you, too.

I guess in the future I will have to be careful not to have so much "joy juice" that I volunteer to do this again. It's time to pass the torch. Infuse some new ideas. See some fresh faces. The future is so bright I have to wear shades. I feel better than James Brown. Maybe I should be a cheerleader.

I am really looking forward to our Vice's Annual Fall Dinner this weekend at Camp T. The menu sounds fantastic and I know Stan and his faithful followers have a marvelous evening planned for us. The long-awaited announcement of the new

Vice-Commodore selection will be made that night. And as one my last official acts, I will have the pleasure of naming my selection to receive the coveted Commodore's Trophy, which is awarded for exemplary service to our lake community. If you don't attend the dinner, I guess you'll have to wait to learn the results.

Our new Commodore, Stan Pitakos, will be filling this space next week. We've had a little sampling of his writing style in a few Barkers this summer. Who knows, this chance might spark a new career in journalism. Next stop — the Pulitzer Prize. Anyway, good luck Stan!

As they say, all good things must come to an end. I don't know if it was good for you, but I really had fun writing for all of you this year. Thanks for listening and thank you to all of you that gave me the positive feedback I needed.

I think living in this beautiful place brings out the best in all of us. So I will say farewell with one last thought by Rachel Carson from my little lake book. It really seems to describe our Birch Lake community, "Those who dwell ... among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life."

So long.

-Commodore Retirin'bob
sparkybob220@comcast.net

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Birch Daredevils



While thousands lined the piers of Birch Lake, two (count 'em) daredevils risked all to entertain the shore lined throng. Fearless Stu Spratt came past the judges stand first with an outstanding and daring reenactment of the Saturday night bath, complete with tub, shower and scrub brush. The shower, however, needed a little work. The judges assumed that this was a bonafide entry, and not just Stu's normal Saturday night bath. The next and final entry was considered by the judges to be hot doggin' and consisted of a hot dog stand on a rope, a ski rope, that is, complete with vendor. This entry by the Kinzlers depicted an aquatic hot dog vendor standing behind his hot dog stand, complete with umbrella, waving a large hot dog while being towed before the enthralled crowd. Almost looked like a crass commercial for Sausage Fest

2010. After several hours of deliberation, the astute judges, Denny Weesner, Blair Garceau, and Bruce Harlan came to a very difficult decision and awarded the trophy to the Kinzler entry. In his usual humble manner Spratt conceded to the Kinzlers. Stu is hopeful that next year will bring out more swashbuckling daredevils to entertain and wow the crowd. Text and pictures/Bruce Harlan



Waterskiing Challenge 2010

After a short weather related postponement the 2010 Birch Lake Waterskiing Challenge was held last



The Birch Lake Ladies Book Club met to discuss the book of the month, "The Help" by Kathryn Stockett. The August meeting was held at Denny weesner's, and in keeping with the theme of the book, all the ladies wore aprons.

Saturday. Judges Denny Weesner, Blair Garceau and Bruce Harlan were thrilled, amazed and amused by the many imaginative and creative entries - all two of them.

Stu Spratt took first runner-up with his Rub-a-dub-dub bathtub entry. Technical issues prevented a more death defying display but his entry was fun nonetheless. Top honors, and bragging rights, went to the Sausage Fest guys, headed by Keith Kinzler. Their version of the Sidewalk Hot Dog Cart met all the qualifications in the true spirit of the challenge.

It was fun, wacky, creative and best of all, it worked! Congratulations to Keith and all his helpers. Also thanks to Team Stu and his helpers — pit crew Deb Taghon and boat driver Chris

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FOOTINGS - BACKFILLS - RETAINING WALLS

LEAF REMOVAL, SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, LOT CLEARING

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

-Tom DeCocker, East Shore

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

Tim Liddell, East Side Hill

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

-PJ VandeWalle, East Side Hill

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

Ryan Gableman, East Side Hill

— Birch Lake Notes —

Spratt.

Should we do this again next year? Why not? See you then.

Fall Dinner tonight!

Tonight, Saturday August 28 at Camp Tannadoonah, I will reveal the name of the new Vice-Commodore at the annual Birch Lake Yacht Club Fall dinner.

Cocktails start at 6 pm; dinner follows at 7 pm.

But first I would like to say a very BIG THANK-YOU to everyone who helped with the preparation; the sales staff, decorators, cooks and servers. I do believe we will have a record turnout tonight of 140 Birch Lakers. Wow what a number!!

This should make the Silent Auction very exciting. We will have until the end of the evening to make our final bid on all the wonderful items that was so generously donated to Camp T.

I look forward to seeing everyone at Camp and personally thanking you for all of your help to make this evening such a success.

Gratefully yours!!

Soon to Be Ex-Vice, *Stan Pitakos*

Birch Lake Calendars

The new Birch Lake 2011 pictorial calendars are now available for purchase

TRIVIA NIGHT @ BIRCH LAKE

Who was buried in Grant's tomb? What was the color of Washington's white horse? If you "guessed" Grant and white in that order, then come to Trivia Night at Birch Lake.

What? - Trivia Night at Birch Lake

When? - Saturday night - September 18, 2010

Where? - Birch Lake Yacht Club

Why? - Why not!

How? - Get a team of 4 to 6. Register in advance (see form below).

How much? - \$5 per person for prizes

How come? - 1st, 2nd and 3rd place splits the pot - 60%, 30% and 10%!!!!

Tell me more ... There will be 10 rounds of 10 questions each, including such trivial subjects as...

- Sports Teams,
- Are You Smarter Than a 1st Grader?
- Do You Know Birch Lake???

BRING YOUR OWN SNACKS AND BEVERAGES.

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM, TRIVIA STARTS @ 6:45PM.

Team Members (4-6 people)

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ |

Spaces are limited so please return to Pam or Rich Mullin on or before September 11 with your entry fee.

at strategic locations around the lake. The calendar's photos were all taken by our talented group of resident photogra-

phers. At merely \$15.00 each they would be great Christmas or birthday presents. Just having them around all



Tomatoes by the pound or by the bushel

Fall raspberries, U-pick or already picked.

Peaches, colored sweet bell peppers, hot peppers, eggplant, herb plants. Mid-Sept — apples by the pound or bushel

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year reminds us of the marvelous place we all share. You can pick them up at these locations: Karen Brovold (west), Vicki Rogers (cove), Linda Curtis (north/east), Judy Olson (east), Carla Chester (east) and Sue Williams (south). All profits from calendar sales will go to the Camp T campership fund.

A Merry Como Christmas

Before the first Jingle Bells, "The

Company" gets you into the Holiday spirit with their annual "Singin and Dancin into the holidays," this year named " A Merry Como Christmas."

Tickets are \$10 for seniors, and \$11 for adults and children. Production dates are Nov. 5, 6, 12, 13, and 19, 20. Curtain time is 8 pm, and there will be a 7:30 warm-up time.

Shows are held at the Battell Center Theatre, 904 North Main Street,

Mishawaka, IN. For information or to reserve tickets please call 574-258-1667 or check our website for more information: WWW.thecompanyplayers.com

Tickets will be available to purchase at Battell Center during office hours 9-5, and we are taking reservations for parties of 15 or more. Those tickets must be paid for two days before show.

— Barker kids of the Week —



At left is our granddaughter, Morgann Applegate on her first day of school (Fourth Grade). .. at right is me (with the beer can) and my fishing buddies with the fish we caught in one afternoon in Wisconsin.

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—SPOTLIGHT—

KAREN CURTIS-MILLER AND ERIC MILLER

"To there and back again" is Karen Curtis-Miller's story. Growing up, Karen was a Birch Lake girl, the daughter of Terry (and step-daughter of Linda) Curtis on the east side. Karen lived here until graduating from high school at eighteen. Now she and husband Eric are recent arrivals on the east side, just this summer buying the former Dennert cottage just steps away from her childhood home.

Karen moved away from Birch Lake to Kalamazoo to attend Davenport College after she graduated from Constantine High School and then, after a short return home, settled in town with a job at Bayer where she has worked for the last 26 years. She holds the position of Manager of Order Services.

Eric grew up in the Jimtown area graduating from Jimtown High School before attending the Kendall School of Design in Grand Rapids to study graphic design. He also worked at Bayer as a graphic designer until recently. He was there, she was there, the rest is history. They have been an item for 10 years and married for the last seven of them.

Eric has two children from a previous marriage. Daughter McKenzie is a senior at Indiana University, Bloomington, and Chase is 17 and a stu-



dent at Penn High School in Granger where Karen and Eric live when they are not here at the lake. Karen has two cats named Boomer and Ali.

When Karen is not working, she likes to relax by reading and now, coming to the lake. Karen said that she is not exactly sure what Eric likes to do but he's ALWAYS busy with something! He has been using all his free time since taking possession of the cottage, making awesome changes like the bright blue metal roof, great new sliding doors and a huge new deck with a soon to be pergola. Karen confided that Eric is ready for the

updates to be done and the relaxing to begin!

For relaxation in the wintertime, they travel to Jamaica and rent a place - often accompanied by family members. Karen says it is a real bonus to already know so many neighbors that are still here from her youth and is fortunate to have family just down the street.

Next time you drive by in your boat, look at all the changes at the little white house with the blue roof, and give a little welcome to two of our newest (sort of) neighbors.



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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Corn, corn, corn, corn, corn

Something more to do with this abundance of fresh corn we are so blessed with.

Fresh Corn Salad

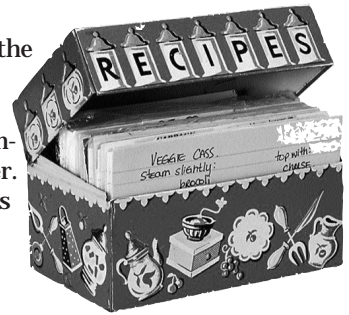
Original Recipe Yield 8 servings

Ingredients

- 8 ears fresh corn cooked
- 1 tomato, chopped
- 1 zucchini, chopped
- 1 cucumber, peeled and chopped
- 1 red onion, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, chopped
- 1/2 cup Italian-style salad dressing

Directions

1. Husk the corn and slice the kernels from the cob. In a large bowl, mix together the corn, tomato, zucchini, cucumber, onion and red bell pepper. Pour dressing over vegetables and toss to coat. Refrigerate until chilled, at least 1 hour. Refreshingly good!



WORDSEARCH — BIRCH LAKE CRITTERS

DOG
MOLE
WASP
GROUNDHOG
WORMS
CAT
TURTLE
MINK
SQUIRREL
COYOTE
SWAN

DUCK
MUSKRAT
MERGANSER
RACCOON
COW
RABBIT
SKUNK
DEER FLY
BUFFLEDUCK
BEE
TOAD

FOX
OPOSSUM
BUZZARD
MOSQUITO
EAGLE
RED TAIL
WOODPECKER
CARDINAL
HERON
HUMMINGBIRD
SNAKE

SANDHILL
FISH
GOOSE
HORNET
FERRET
LOON
HORSEFLY
PIG
DEER
CHIPMUNK
FROG

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Fleet Captain's Corner



Missing out on a 'Goldilocks' day

Yet again last Sunday was another beautiful sailing day. Not too light and not too strong. Not only did I have to miss a "Goldilocks" of sailing days, but so did Phil. He called me right before race day to join the committee boat. He had planned on sailing, but hurt his hand late in the morning and had to be placed on injured reserve with me.

Over the past few weeks I lost count of how many people have asked how my back is doing. I very much appreciate everyone's concerns and want to let you know I'm feeling much better. Absent a relapse, I should be able to sail this weekend. Hopefully, Phil will heal up as well.

So far this year, we have had 30 MC and 29 Sunfish races. This week, I've trimmed the standings to only show those sailors that have completed 10 or more races. Finishing two-thirds of the races is necessary to qualify for the season final standings. As a reminder, just like the 4th of July Regatta, the Labor Day Regatta will be scored two ways and will be included in the season standings.

The end of the season Sailors' meeting and awards ceremony will be held on Labor Day at 10:00 AM unless we race that day. If so, it will be at 2:30 in the afternoon as I'll need a few minutes to crunch the scores and prepare the award certificates.

Thanks to Phil and Sandy Vitale, Karen Brovold, my Lovely Bride and Wrigley for helping me run the committee boat. If you haven't had a chance to enjoy a day on the water starting the races, there are only a few more days available this year. (Although we will accept reservations for next year's dates.)

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.

Aug. 29.....Chas & Amber Grundy
 Sept. 4 LDay Regatta.....Patty Luecht
 Sept. 5 LDay Regatta.....Open
 Sept. 6 Regatta Rain DateOpen

2010 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date.....	8-Aug.....	8-Aug.....	8-Aug.....	Total	Season	Races	Percentage
Race.....	22.....	23.....	24.....	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow							
Scott Troeger #1489/500.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	34493.....	1568.....	22.....	73.3%.....
Bob King #1199.....	2.....	3.....	2.....	35347.....	1414.....	25.....	83.3%.....
Harold Cranmer #2412.....	1.....	1.....	4.....	39857.....	1374.....	29.....	96.7%.....
Don Harman #582.....	3.....	2.....	1.....	33061.....	1322.....	25.....	83.3%.....
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	CB.....	CB.....	CB.....	35666.....	1321.....	27.....	90.0%.....
Phil Vitale #500.....	CB.....	CB.....	CB.....	32987.....	1319.....	25.....	83.3%.....
Dave Olson #1979.....	4.....	4.....	5.....	33469.....	1287.....	26.....	86.7%.....
Bill Luecht #1579.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	33994.....	1259.....	27.....	90.0%.....
Gib Eberhart #916.....	5.....	5.....	3.....	37224.....	1241.....	29.....	96.7%.....
Sunfish							
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	2.....	2.....	1.....	35560.....	1546.....	23.....	79.3%.....
Erica Vitale (White).....	1.....	3.....	3.....	34774.....	1512.....	23.....	79.3%.....
Stewart Spratt.....	4.....	1.....	2.....	26849.....	1492.....	18.....	62.1%.....
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	31192.....	1418.....	21.....	72.4%.....
Sandy Vitale (White).....	CB.....	CB.....	CB.....	33692.....	1404.....	22.....	75.9%.....
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	25672.....	1351.....	19.....	65.5%.....
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow).....	3.....	4.....	4.....	34531.....	1328.....	26.....	89.7%.....

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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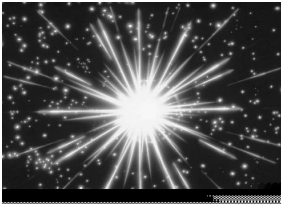


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Stu's Star Stuff

Pesky objects in the night

Back in the 1960s, after a weak-sister team managed to beat his Longhorns, Texas coach Darrell Royal compared the other team to a cockroach. The problem isn't what the cockroach carries away, Royal said, but what it falls into and messes up.

It's not just the pending football season that brings the comment to mind -- it's a pesky object in the night sky: the bright Moon. Its glare fills the sky with light. It's not nearly as much light as the Sun, but it's enough to mess up the view of faint stars, galaxies, and other objects.

When there's a bright Moon in the sky, astronomers turn their telescopes toward relatively bright targets that shine through the glare. They have to wait until the Moon sets to go after fainter targets.

Telescopes in space don't have that problem. Most of them don't look directly at the Moon, but with no atmosphere to scatter the moonlight, they can look just about anywhere else. In fact, they don't have to worry about the Sun, either -- as long as they don't look right at it, they can continue their observations of the universe all day -- and all night.

This week the bright gibbous Moon (gib-

bous means approaching full) is near the "spout" of the teapot (one of my favorites) formed by the brightest stars of Sagittarius. It's surrounded by the Milky Way. But the Milky Way is so faint that it's tough to make out. Like many other faint wonders of the night sky, it's "messed up" by the glare of the bright Moon.

What else is out there? The planets Venus and Mars are low in the southwest at nightfall. Venus is the brighter of the two; it's the brilliant "evening star," so you just can't miss it. You can't miss Mars right now, either, because the Red Planet stands almost directly above Venus.

Mars looks less than one percent as bright as Venus does. That's because Mars is smaller and much farther away than Venus is, and because its surface reflects much less sunlight. Venus is one of the most reflective objects in the solar system -- its clouds bounce two-thirds of the sunlight that strikes them back into space. By contrast, Mars reflects less than one-sixth of the sunlight that strikes its surface.

Despite the contrast, though -- or perhaps because of it -- Venus and Mars form a beautiful duo, shining in the western sky at nightfall

and through much of the evening. Look for the teapot in the south, Scorpius the scorpion with its red heart, Antares, also in the south and the planets in the west. And enjoy the rest of the show. It's free.

-Stu Spratt

The Moon for Aug 28, 2010

At Midnight, US Central time)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.815

3.4 days before last quarter

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES Mar 20-April 20 — The Mercury retrograde could wreak havoc at your work as it tends to signify glitches in communications, transit and commerce. There often seem to be more problems with computers and cars during this phase. If you do have any health concerns during this period, it would be wise to get a second opinion and to use stress-reduction strategies and natural therapies to facilitate healing.

TAURUS April 21-May 21 — You seem to come in touch with the power of your creative energy and expression. Friends may even be encouraging you to explore the depths of your creativity now. You are trying to find the balance between peace and passion, especially in your work situation. The biggest challenge for you in your work right now seems to be that there is a conflict with your fundamental beliefs and the responsibilities or restrictions of the job. It may be that you feel you are carrying more than your share of the load.

GEMINI May 22-June 21 — Your planetary ruler, Mercury, is now retrograde and you are most likely to experience communications glitches, computer malfunctions and other minor complications around the home or with family members. People and memories from the past can also come back to haunt you now until late next month. This is a time for you to slow down and take the time to review past experiences in order to learn from them, and also, if possible, to go back and redo or resolve things that haven't worked out in the past. Sometimes there are second chances.

CANCER June 21-July 23 — While you may be thinking deeply about a great many things now, including your relationship with a partner, as Mercury is retrograde it is not a good time to make any important decisions. You could learn some information now that has been buried or secret, but you will know even more by the time Mercury has turned direct next month. It is an excellent time to do research, gather information, review and reassess your options.

LEO July 23-Aug 23 — The emphasis right now

seems to be on your money, possessions, material security and values. As Mercury now retrogrades in Virgo, it is an excellent time for you to review and reassess your financial situation and re-evaluate your choices and decisions in that area. However, this is not the time to make any important decisions, finalize any financial deals or sign any important documents. Do your research now, but put off any major decisions until after the middle of next month when you can make more well-informed decisions.

VIRGO Aug 23-Sept 23 — This can be a trying time for you as you deal with the usual delays, glitches, misunderstandings and mix-ups. You will feel it even more on a personal level than usual, especially as the Sun is in your sign as the Full Moon in Pisces opposes it. Your relationship with a partner could actually become deeper and more profound as the Sun and Moon both aspect Pluto in Capricorn at the Full Moon. It seems to be a good time to review your financial situation now, too, and see how well the books are balanced.

LIBRA Sept 23-Oct 23 — You may be balancing your tendency to be too passive with a little more assertiveness now. Your sign sometimes has a tendency to give up what you want or need in order to please others. If you do that too much you end up with resentments that can come out in passive-aggressive behavior. It is far healthier to state your own needs and desires, and to work with others to establish a win-win situation. You really only want what is fair and equitable, after all. You will be very aware if you are carrying more than your share of the load.

SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 22 — You can accomplish an incredible amount, but it will require immense effort and you will need to work with the changes that are occurring, not against them. First, you will need to accept that change is happening and that there are forces beyond your control that are creating those changes. The more you try to assert control and push your own personal agenda the more difficult things are likely to be. You would be best to use this time to rethink and

reassess.

SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 22 — It would be a very good time to reassess your general life direction and to rethink and revise your ideas about your career path and what you hope to achieve. Do your research and soul-searching now but don't make any decisions until Mercury has turned direct. You may feel a little like you are stuck between a rock and a hard place, but resistance is futile, so surrender to the changes that are happening.

CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19 — You are at a major crossroads in your life but seem to be resisting the necessary changes and transformations that are now in process. You are going through a metamorphosis of sorts and, just as the caterpillar has no choice but to become a butterfly, your attempts to be in control of the process are also futile, so you might as well surrender to it. You can benefit greatly by questioning your beliefs. Just because you believe something doesn't make it true.

AQUARIUS Jan 19-Feb 19 — You have some rigidly held beliefs that are interfering with the freedom you would like to embrace. This would be an excellent time to take a deep look within. You might even find it helpful to see a counselor, therapist or astrologer to help you to get a new perspective on any subconscious patterns of self-sabotage or self-defeat. There is the potential for deep healing and spiritual awakening.

PISCES Feb 19-Mar 20 — There is the potential for some upheavals, disruption, shake-ups and awakenings. This is not a good time for you to make any major decisions or to finalize any deals. It is an excellent time to ask lots of questions, rethink, review and reassess, especially when it comes to partnerships or relationships with others. If you are consulting anyone for any reason, be sure to get a second opinion and do your own research as well before drawing any conclusions.

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Water Quality Committee Report

Ask Dr. Terry

Dear Dr. Terry,
The recent Gulf of Mexico oil spill was certainly a monumental and tragic event. Could you provide us with some insight regarding the volume of Birch Lake and how it might relate to the Gulf and the spill?

Thank you,
-JPH

Dear JP,
The oil spill was indeed tragic. But, you did not need me to tell you that. For you, I simply want to provide some perspective. The question really is how much oil would we have to add to Birch Lake to equal the leak in the gulf. Birch Lake has a volume of about 3.2 billion gallons. The gulf has a volume of about 643 quadrillion gallons. The spill has

been estimated to be about 4.9 million barrels or in the neighborhood of 206 million gallons. Although the oil in the gulf was not equally dispersed due to currents, winds, etc., the equivalent amount of oil that you would have to put into Birch Lake to equal the 4.9 million barrels in the gulf would be about one (1) gallon.

Since the leak occurred over about



100 days, this would be the equivalent of adding about 1 ¼ ounces of oil per day in the lake. We are not interested in testing the effects of such an addition to the lake, so please be careful when you put gas or oil into your boats. Unfortunately, we may already have more than a few ounces of gas getting into the lake each weekend.

You are welcome,

Dr. Terry is not only a good guy and great volunteer, and he holds a PhD. in Biology. Who else might be familiar with the meaning of "quadrillion"?

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Camp Tannadoonah

Answers to FAQs

Over the course of this year, I've talked with many lake residents who have a number of questions and concerns about the camp's situation. To help everyone understand things better, I wanted to present the questions I received most often.

Why is this year so rough?

Actually, this year is much better than previous years — we just didn't show all the cracks before. The crisis actually started in the early 1990s, and the council fell back on safety nets such as selling assets, cashing out investments, and incurring debt. This spring, we forecasted a budget deficit we couldn't overcome without outside help. And we believed that we could make up the difference without putting us deeper in a hole. So we laid it all out on the table and asked for help.

Is Camp in danger of closing this year?

Not really. If we fall short, we will be forced to rely on some of the familiar safety nets such as not paying bills, cutting staff hours, or spending against next year's income. None of these are sustainable, but they can get us through another year. Our goal is to get out of this cycle and return our attention to the mission of our organization. But if we

can't, we won't last much longer.

Why can't you split off from Camp Fire?

The River Bend Council is chartered with the Camp Fire USA national organization and that charter and our bylaws require us to remain a Camp Fire USA council. If River Bend Council were to close or if we cease to operate as a Camp Fire USA council, its assets (i.e. the camp) would be turned over to the national organization. That said, Camp Fire USA used to be a very strong brand with a deep alumni base. Our relationship is one of a franchise - we pay about \$11,000/year and we benefit from the name and history.

How can I guarantee that a donation will go to Camp?

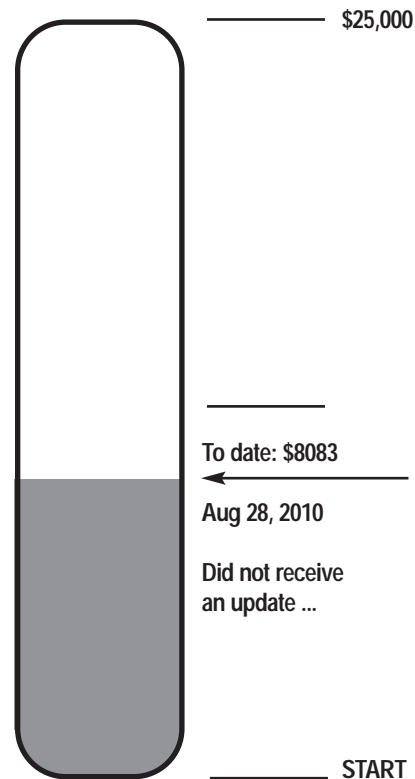
Donors can restrict the purposes for which their gift can be used, and we will not spend a restricted gift for any other purpose. As you might imagine, too many gift restrictions at this time might work counter to our fund raising goals but we will accept any gifts presented to us. If you're looking for suggestions on how to help right now with a restricted gift, about half of our debt load is due to the sewer project. Retiring the rest of our debt is one of the key steps to achieving financial stability.



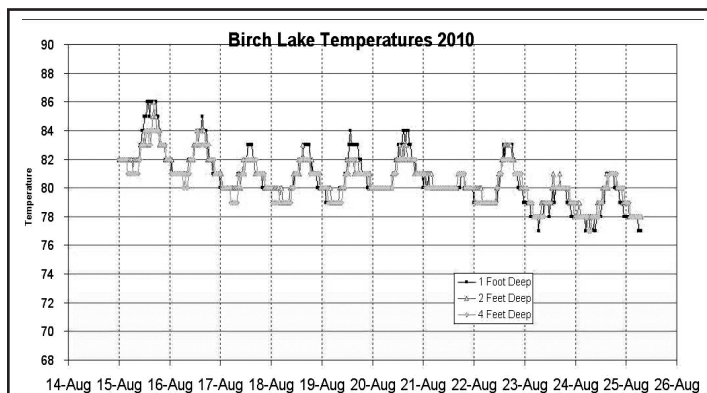
I hope these notes have helped. I'd be happy to talk through any of these in more detail or share more information (including our financials) with anyone who's interested. Feel free to call me at 574.315.0217 or email me at chas@grundyhome.com.

Chas Grundy
President, River Bend Council

Camp Tannadoonah Needs \$25,000 ...



Don't forget to attend the Camp-T FUNFEST and SILENT AUCTION Saturday, August 28!



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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Camp T Silent Auction items

We are accepting bids for the following items in the the Camp T silent auction:

- * One week at a Florida condo at Holiday Island C33, 1515 Pinellas Bayway, Tierra Verde, FL; \$500 Minimum bid. (See Photos) — **ITEM 1001**
- * **5X8 Pace utility trailer** (valued at \$700) **ITEM 1002**
- * a beautiful, **hand-made birch wood table** from Ben Wozniak **ITEM 1003**
- * a **football to be autographed by Brian Kelly** (winner submits it and gets a personalized autograph) **ITEM 1004**
- * a **stained glass piece** by Marty McKiernan **ITEM 1005** (see photo)
- * a **dinner party for 8** at Camp Tannadoonah **ITEM 1006**
- * **2-Bears vs Redskins tickets** for October 24 at noon **ITEM 1007**
- * **2 more Bears vs Redskins tickets** **ITEM 1008**
- * **2-Tickets to Colts vs Bengals** preseason game Sept. 2 **ITEM 1009**
- * **2 more tickets to Colts vs Bengals** preseason game Sept. 2 **ITEM 1010**
- * **A new upright vacuum cleaner** **ITEM 1011**
- * **Three 10-lb. Ameritex commercial fire extinguishers** **ITEM 1012** (top 3 bids win 1 each)
- * **Packets of photo prints** by Carol Dugan **ITEM 1015**
- * **Beautiful necklace and pin** (\$88 value) (See Photos Below) **ITEM 1016**
- * **2 rounds of golf at Sauganash Golf Club** (with cart) **ITEM 1017**
- * **A 20 x28" color photograph** of the Dome and Basilica from across the lake looking south with a fog foreground – beautiful **ITEM 1018**
- * **5 – 16 x 18" Notre Dame related football color photographs** (very unusual), 1 is a full length of new head coach Brian Kelly, others include unusual montages (all photos are mounted on foamcore with 2" matte borders. They would make outstanding den or office décor. (See Photos) **ITEMS 1019-1023**
- * **Callaway Warbird X Golf Stand Bag** - retail value \$ 130.00. Donated by Steve Plaia — **Item 1024**
- * **3 - 20gal LP gas grill fill ups**, picked up and returned - retail value of \$51.00. Donated by Bill Butler — **Item 1025**

Florida Condo

1 Week Stay on Holiday Island, Unit C33, 1515 Pinellas BayWay, Tierra Verde, Florida

2 Bedrooms 2 Baths 900 sq. ft. Situated on the Boca Siega Bay Side of the Island. Pool/Hot tub with great view of bay and Sunshine Skyway. Unit is on 1st Floor of 2 story complex. Clubhouse with fitness room, big screen tv, pool table. 3 min. from Fort DeSoto, 10 min. from St. Pete Beach, 20 min. from John's Pass shopping

Minimum Bid \$500
Available: Sept. 1 thru Dec. 1, 2010
And May 1 thru Aug 31, 2011



Bid —
ITEM 1001

Stained glass piece by Marty McKiernan 24.5" x 18", Value \$450 **ITEM 1005**



* **Necklace and pin** (\$88 value)

ITEM 1016



* **2 Roadmaster Mt. Fury 15-speed bicycles**

Items 1030, 1031



- * \$50 Gift Certificate from Budget Blinds in Granger — Item 1026
- * Authentic Birch Lake Blue Gill Dinner For 6 — succulent Blue Gill fillets, complete dinner, desert and beverages served in the home of Tom & Lynn DeCocker (East Side) — Item 1027
- * A 20 x 16 acrylic original on canvas "Sailor Boy" - retail value \$180 - Donated by D.A. Anderson — Item 1028
- * Deb Bolinger will do an original painting on your mail box at Birch Lake — Item 1029
- * 2 Roadmaster Mt. Fury 15 speed bikes — (See Photos Below) Items 1030, 1031
- * \$100 in Marina Bucks from Apollo Marine Bid Item 1032
- * Framed South Shore Duneland Poster (donated by Ron Niezgodski) Bid Item 1033
- * Handcrafted white turquoise necklace with smoky quartz and swarovski crystal on a gun metal brass chain — \$125 value (donated by Vanessa Wozniak) Bid Item 1034
- * 2 Cubs tickets for next year (donated by the Kintzlers) Bid Item 1035
- * 4 tickets to Como's Christmas (donated by the Como family) Bid Item 1036
- * 3-\$25 Martin's gift Certificates Bid items 1037-1039
- * Necklace, bracelet, earrings, turquoise & white glass beads, valued at \$37 Bid Item 1040
- * Brand new ac/delco 2 ton hydraulic jack - MSRP is \$30 Bid Item 1041
- * Large Original Oil painting by Coy Jankowski — valued at \$1,100 — Bid Item 1042

Camp-T Silent Auction Bid Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Item _____

Bid _____

Please Bring this Form to Camp Tannadoonah anytime Saturday to enter your bid — and to check out all of the merchandise in the acution.

Notre Dame photos contributed by Bruce Harlan

Helmet (right) — ITEM 1019

Tunnel (below) 1020

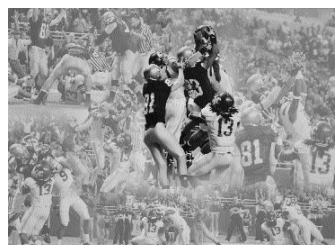
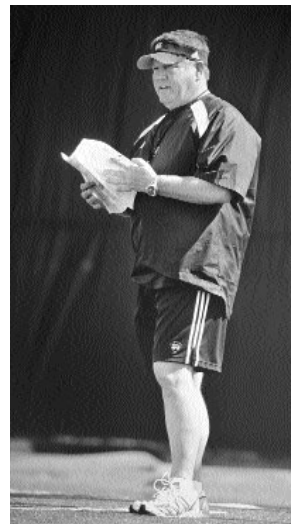


Golden Dome — ITEM 1018

Glory — ITEM 1021

Celebrate — ITEM 1022

Coach — ITEM 1023



Hand-made Birch-leg wood table — ITEM 1003

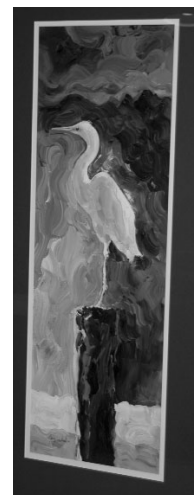


3-Ameritex Commerical Fire Extinguishers ITEM 1012 (top 3 bids win one each)

Large original, framed oil painting by Coy Jankowski — ITEM 1042



Tickets to Colts, Bears and Cubs games ... see list at left for ITEM numbers to bid





Camp Tannadoonah Fun Fest Saturday August 28



Event Entry Form

Thank you for your interest in the Camp Tannadoonah Fun Fest events. Please mark the event(s) you intend to participate in, and sign the disclaimer at the bottom of the page.

Bike Tour begins at 7 am; all other events begin at 8 am

Event:Entryor Pledges

_____ Tennis Tournament	\$25.....	_____
_____ Bike Tour	\$25.....	_____ /mile
_____ 5-K run	\$25.....	_____ /kilo
_____ Kayak	\$25.....	_____

Entry fee:

The fee to participate in any of the events is \$25/person — and may be paid in cash, by check or credit card by the participant directly or received in the form of pledges to Camp Tannadoonah. Participants are encouraged to solicit pledges from friends, family and co-workers to help raise funds for the camp. Pledges may be for a fixed amount or for an amount-per-mile or kilometer.

Please indicate the total amount you have enclosed in entry fees and/or pledges that have been made:

\$ _____

Please bring this form to Camp Tannadoonah prior to the start of your event

Disclaimer/waiver:

I have read the information provided to me regarding the events of the Camp Tannadoonah Health Fest. I agree to follow all of the rules as laid out by Camp Tannadoonah and Camp Fire USA River Bend Council.

I understand that reasonable measures will be taken to ensure my safety. I hereby release, acquit, and forever discharge Camp Fire USA River Bend Council, Camp Tannadoonah, and its employees, agents, volunteers and representatives from any and all liability for damages, losses, or injuries to persons, property, or both, including, but not limited to any claims, demands, actions, causes of action, damages, costs, expenses, and/or attorney fees, which arise out of or occur during my participation in any of these events.

Date _____

Signature _____

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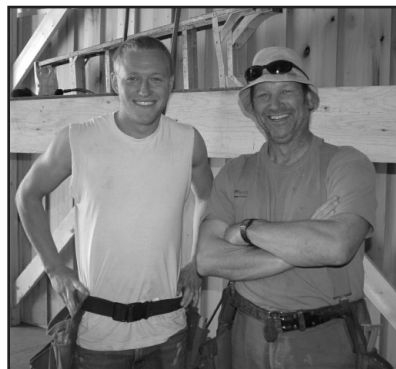
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BLYC Officers and Board of Directors, from left: front row: Scott Troeger; Sandy Vitale, Secretary; Stanley Pitakos, Vice Commodore; Karen Brovold; Paul Fallon; Sue Williams; Jim Bolinger; Bob Baucus; Phil Vitale; back row: Holly Troeger, Treasurer; Bob Waddle, Commodore; Terry Dugan; Mike Sheffieck; Lind Harman; Rick Russwurm; Fred Freihofer; Steve Quinlan; and Jeff Smitley.

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Treas. — Holly Troeger—476-9898

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Bruce Wagner — 476-2090

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Scott Troeger—476-9898

Paul Fallon—476-1467

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- \$ _____ - Other non-party related expenses

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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

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



FOR SALE: Melges MC Sailboat #581, original owner, yellow deck and trim with varnished wood spray rail and tiller. Two sails, full cover, 1000# aluminum Shore Station lift. Custom MC trailer. Beautiful condition. \$3K complete. Rigged and

ready to sail. Bruce Harlan 574-340-0345

For Sale - **MC Sailboat No. 618** - a proven winner - fast and ready to race (2 Sails) - \$1500 Ph 476-2170 or (574)-264-6817

"Old Towne" Canoe for sale. New condition. Blue Color. Fiberglass. Includes new paddles. All for \$450. Call Bud at 476-2526

For Sale: **18 foot aluminum canoe and 2 paddles**, great for lake cruises and fishing. Can be seen on the road side of Wee-Wood Cottage, 62839 Lakeview Dr., West Shore. Asking \$150. Make check payable to Marc Caenepeel and drop off to Stan Pitakos, two houses down the street.

For Sale: Hunting, fishing, building site on Curtis Lake. 17+ acres + 500+ feet frontage on lakefront. Land contract possible. Call Dave at 476-9846.

For Sale: Lakefront lots and up to 600+ ft. frontage + 20+ acres on Paradise Lake. Land contract possible. Call Dave at 476-9846

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 **dishwasher**. Model # SHU 5300. \$425. (New: \$875) No warranty. Amana Stainless Steel **refrigerator** with pull out bottom freezer. Refrigerator door is a single door. Touchmatic Electronic Controls. Model # B136CAR3. Approximately 80" tall. \$1500. (New: \$3200) No warranty. GE Profile Stainless Steel 1.8 Cu. Ft. **Countertop Microwave**, 1100 Watts. Model # JE-1860SB. \$100. (New: \$225) No warranty. Builder's never been used Jenn-Air stainless steel **side-by-side refrigerator**. Model # 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.

FOUND

Delta Pro Series 222 ski, white with black, blue and orange trim. If it's yours, call 476.8807

Found on the lake bottom at the end of the pier: a **Men's Medium Gray Tee**, front: Brookfield Authentic Original Soccer, Back: Brookfield Indoor Soccer Complex EST 2001. Call Weavers, 476-2869

Found: At BL Golf Open) ... **Golf club head cover, black, number 3.** Call Stewart at 476.2113.

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

Wanted: **Centerboard and rudder** for a newer style Sunfish. The kids want to sail; **riding mower** in need of a good home for the summer? Willing to cut your grass. A **small trailer** to haul the mower around in. At least 4ft by 6 ft. Please contact me if you have any of these items. Bill at 574-340-5559

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

Send classified ads to sailorphil@philvitale.com

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