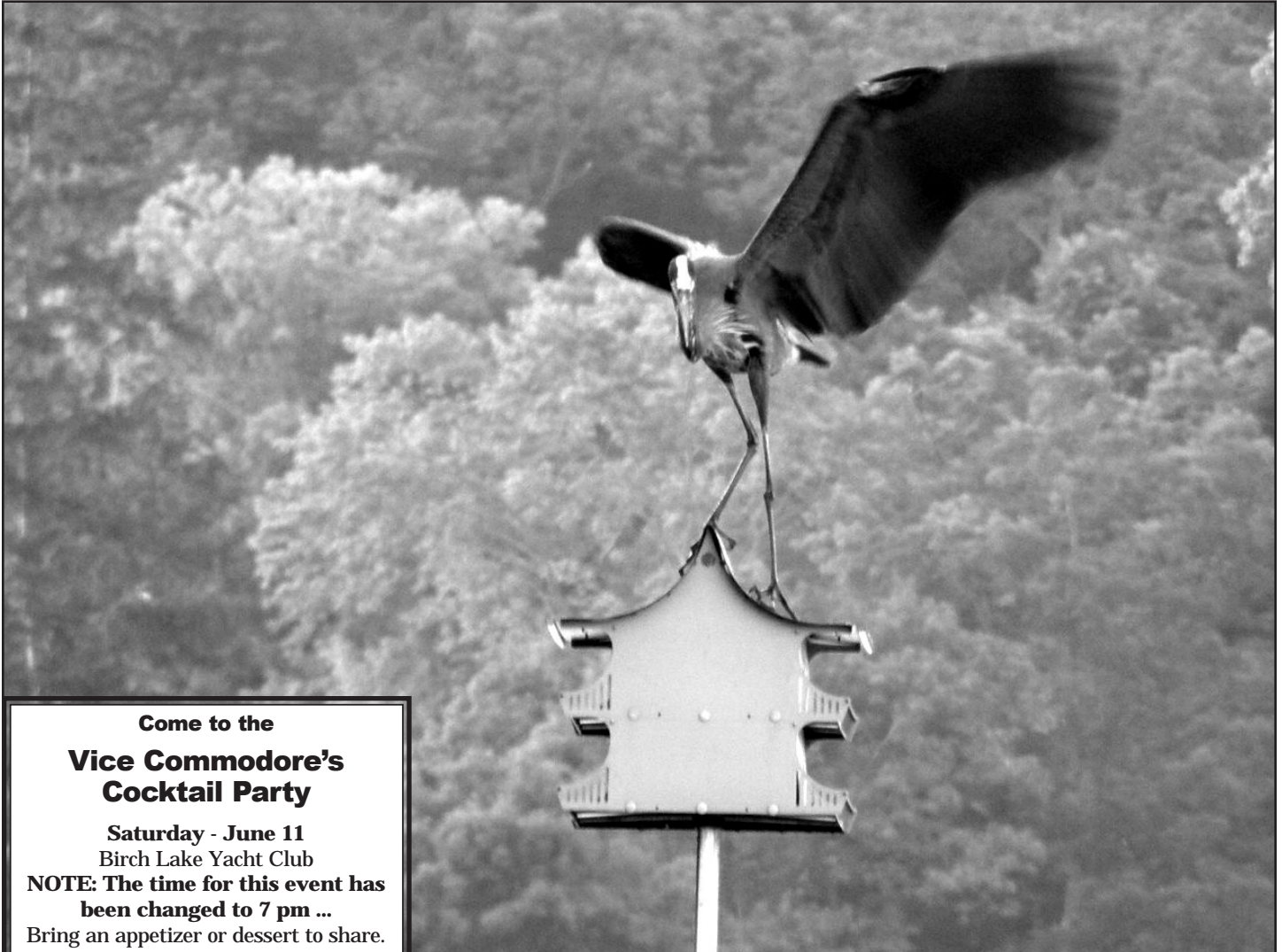


The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 11, 2011

© Copyright 2011, The Birch Lake Yacht Club



thanks to Mr. Bob for the cool Heron pic

Come to the **Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party**

Saturday - June 11
Birch Lake Yacht Club

**NOTE: The time for this event has
been changed to 7 pm ...**
Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.
More importantly, bring a neighbor!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Greetings from the Sunshine State. No, I'm not writing from Florida. Karen has been on my back to get this article written before we left on the 4th. She made subtle comments, left notes, and then just got right down and threaten me to an inch of my life. Do you know how hard it is to write about something that hasn't happened yet? I guess I need to take lessons from Star Gazing Stu.

As you probably have guessed Karen has our vacation all planned out, from what time we eat, when, where, what attractions we are going to, how long we get to stay and the order the we will be seeing them, to when we get to go to bed. She has been like a drill Sergeant on a mission. I truly needed to slip her some Valium to calm her down.

Claire is wondering why we are bothering to leave paradise in the first place. The weather is finally getting

HOT and her last day of school was the 3rd. She is on VACATION and wants to tube, ski, and swim from sun up until sun down. Then repeat her routine the next day with a little turtle netting thrown in. With our new dockaminium turtle raft, she can net all shapes, sizes and styles of turtles and see how they strut their stuff. She is looking for the perfect ringer to enter in the 4th of July Turtle Race. Make sure to place your bet on her turtle, she is a past champion.

Don't forget tonight, Saturday June 11th is the Vice-Commodore party at the Yacht Club beginning at 7 pm and ending ??? Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and your vice will have your favorite beverage (beer, wine, pop and some hard liquor) to quench your thirst from all the socializing.

The Commodore's party is Saturday June 25 again starting at 7 pm. If you are interested in making it a theme party give me your ideas, otherwise it will be another socializing event. (I just can't get enough air time., but Karen

BLYC Calendar

2011 Calendar of Events

- Sat, June 11....Vice Commodore's Party 7pm
- Sat, June 25.....Commodore's Party
- Sat, July 2.....Boat Parade
- Sat, July 2.....Fireworks
- Sun, July 3.....Pancake Breakfast
- Sun, July 3.....Fireworks Rain Date
- Sat, July 9.....Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat, July 9.....Homeowners Meeting 10 am
- Sat, July 9.....House-walk
- Sat, July 16.....Spaghetti Dinner
- Fri, July 22.....Women's Golf & Luncheon
- Fri, July 29.....Men's Golf Outing
- Sat, Aug. 6.....Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat, Aug. 6.....Corn and Sausage Roast
- Sat, Aug. 27.....Fall Dinner
- Sat, Sept. 10.....Board Meeting 9 am
- Sat, Sept. 10.....Sailing Awards
- Sat, Sept. 17-24.....Game / Card Party
- Sat, October 8.....Annual Chili Cook Off

Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change.
Watch the Barker for updates!

Birch Lake House Walk Saturday July 9th - see page 3

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, 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 Stan Pitakos at (269) 476-8862. -Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

would like to do a Western theme with a mechanical bull.)

This weekend, June 11 - 12, is Michigan's free fishing weekend, so take a minute or two and wet a line. You can't beat a calm evening on the pier, casting a pink rubber worm into the lake and coming up with a whopper.

Hope you get a chance to try it.

***Kick back and relaxing
Commodore, Stan***

Birch Williamsville Drain Project

We have been notified that the contractor for the Birch Williamsville Drain Project has ordered pipe. Williamsville St. will be closed from June 20-27. For

more info contact Bruce Campbell, Cass County Water Resources Commissioner, 120 N Broadway, Suite 124, Cassopolis, MI 49031. Phone him at 445.4428 or 269.506.5178 or email brucec@cassco.org

4th of July Boat Parade

This year's Boat Parade will be Saturday, July 2, commencing at 2 pm. The parade will once again begin at the pier of our esteemed neighbor, friend and perennial parade director Dick Bender. Parade chairpersons, Eileen Golden and Carla Chester (the latter in abstentia due to her daughter's nuptials that same day), are working hard to organize the fine details of this well-

loved annual event.

All who wish to participate are most welcome. Multiple families are welcome to collaborate in decorating a single vessel. Each family will receive a highly collectible Birch Lake trophy. So get your creative juices flowing, in harmony with whatever theme your team desires. The best boat in the parade will receive the coveted Best of Parade special trophy.

Finally, the Grand Marshall(s) for 2011 will be announced in the final Birch Barker edition to be published just before the 4th of July holiday weekend. Stay tuned for breaking news on the honorees for this year's parade.

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BLYC House Walk/Art Fair 2011

It's only four weeks until our Birch Lake House Walk/ Art Fair on Saturday, July 9th!! The Birch Lake House Walk has really turned into a charming, much anticipated event, with the generous loan by Ben and Vanessa Wozniak of their barn and the hard work of our dedicated group of boat captains and crew.

We are very excited that six families have agreed to make their unique and wonderful homes available to view on the tour. The combination of these elements has really made this a wonderful social event enjoyed by the entire lake and has made this special place even more unique.

The day's festivities will begin with several local artists and vendors displaying their work at the Wozniak barn starting at 11 am. We will have free refreshments and several drawings going on throughout the day. The house walk will begin at 12 noon and, due to favorable response from the previous house walk, all participants will once again be ferried from house to house by pontoon boat. All participants must check in at the barn to pick up their brochures and begin their tour.

The participants will end the tour at the barn where the artists will be displaying their work until 4 pm. The last home tour will begin by 2 pm at the latest in order to finish by 3 pm so please plan accordingly. A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn so please walk or carpool if possible.

Each week, in the Barker, we will feature one of the homes on the tour.

Tickets are on sale for \$15 in advance and \$20 on the day of the tour. All proceeds are going to Camp Tannadoonah for camperships (underprivileged children). We will be selling tickets at the Pancake Breakfast and door to door. Tickets can also be purchased from Linda Curtis and Sue Waddle on the East shore, Bev Kruggel on the West shore, Denny Weesner and Diana Fredlake on the South shore, and Vickie Rogers in the cove.

Don't miss out on this fun filled day! Mark your calendars for July 9th. A limited amount of ad space is available on the brochure. All ads must be submitted



Photo by Carol Dugan

by July 11th. Please call Michelle Seyfarth at 476-1319 for further information or any questions concerning the event.

One of the homes on the tour is the Kuhn/Temple home at 63105 Walnut Rd. (west shore).

Tom Kuhn and Jan Temple

Jan Temple grew up on Birch Lake. Her parents, Bob and Gertie Temple, rented a cottage on the east shore for summer vacations in the 1950s and 60s. Then, in 1971, Jan's parents bought their property and built the home in which they still reside on the north shore. When Tom Kuhn and Jan started dating in 1995 and he was introduced to Birch Lake, it was "love at first sight" for Tom!

Tom and Jan lived in Chicago and visited her parents often. They decided that of all the places in the world they could live when they retire, Birch Lake is where they wanted to be! They bought their land on the west shore in June 2006. The day they closed on the property it was pouring rain. That did not stop the festivities. They were so excited that they celebrated with a bottle

of wine and some cheese while sitting under umbrellas in their new Adirondack chairs.

They built the "boat house," which sits close to the water, in 2007 and spent the spring, summer, and fall there in 2008 and 2009 ... it is adorable!! They started building their home on the hill in the fall of 2008. The architect they chose was Town & Country Cedar Homes, which came highly recommended by Nancy Walker and Bob Wozny (the designer for both of their homes); their contractor was Nick Miller, who built Fran and Randy Welch's home. They moved in at the end of 2009. Why a log cabin you may ask? ... The Temple/Kuhns love the outdoors and a casual lifestyle, and wanted their home to blend with the natural beauty of the woods, the hill and the lake.

Tom and Jan's 3 children — Scott (29), Brett (26), and Anna (21) — have grown up on Birch Lake, and come up for weekends and vacations whenever possible. Friends and extended family members also visit often. And so, this log home is not only perfect for entertaining ... it is truly their dream come true.

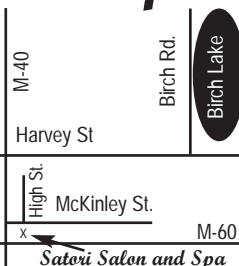
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Rachael & Ryan McDaniel
Owners & Birch Lake Residents

— Barker kids of the Week —



Anya Lynn Noneman, daughter of Demarée Dufour-Noneman, granddaughter of Dave and Michele Dufour, and great-granddaughter of Sue and Duffy Dufour, is back for her second season at Birch Lake. She is just over one year old.

E-mail your kid-of-the-month photos to sailorphil@philvitale.com ... or put them in a plastic bag and drop them at my home, 63174 Birch Rd.

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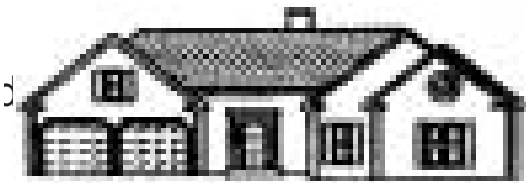
— Barker kids of the Week —



Ronan Scheuer is the son of Matt and Sarah Scheuer and the grandson of Rich & Pam Mullin (north shore).

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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Steak on a stick!

Yet another reason to fire up that grill

What to Drink?

A fine Cabernet Sauvignon
Or your house-favorite beer
Yield 20 appetizer servings

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup soy sauce
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 tablespoons molasses
- 2 teaspoons mustard powder

- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
- 2 pounds flank steak, cut into thin strips
- 32 wooden skewers (8 inch long) soaked in water

Directions

1. In a large resealable bag, combine the soy sauce, olive oil, water, molasses, mustard powder, ginger, garlic powder and onion powder. Seal and shake the bag to mix together. Add steak strips to the bag and seal. Refrigerate for at least

8 hours to marinate.

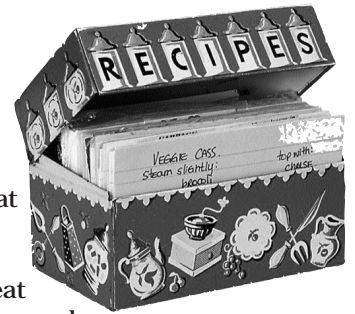
2. Preheat the oven's broiler.

Thread meat onto skewers and place on a broiling rack.

3. Broil the steak for 3 to 4 minutes on each side. Arrange on a platter to serve.

FOOTNOTE

■ This recipe can also be made on the grill with the same amount of cooking time.



— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

THE TREES OF BIRCH LAKE ... HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

S Y C A M O R E P A O F I R B U C K E M
 E W C L O C U S T T N T O C A T A L P A
 I E E F B U C K E Y E T P T D W L U A U
 R L B E C H C O T T O N W O O D H R W K
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 A T C H E R R Y W M T G E D O G W O O D
 O H S T M A P L E U A T C E R R S U E G
 A M O P C U A R B M N M L O D U U R A F

Last week's answers

(the bugs of Birch Lake)

MILLIPEDE
MOSQUITO
YELLOWJACKETS
LADYBUG
DRAGONFLY
FLY
LIGHTENINGBUG
CENTIPEDE
MOTH
ANT

CRICKET
TICKS
SILVERFISH
WALKINGSTICK
LOCUST
GRASSHOPPER
BEETLE
BUMBLEBEE
EARWIG
WASP

GNAT
CICADA
HORNET
POTATOBUG
SPIDER
NOSEEUM
FIREFLY
BUTTERFLY



Fleet Captain's Corner



No wind; no racing ...

No wind; no racing. There's not much more to be said. The winds were beautiful on Saturday but nothing on Sunday morning. At least some of us were able to have a shakeout sail on Saturday. It's good to have some time remembering the feel of the boat or trying out new gear.

I know a few sailors splurged and purchased brand new sails over the winter. Hopefully, they can figure out how to sail with them. When I purchased mine after my first season, I spent the better part of the second one trying to get back to being comfortable in all wind conditions.

My Lovely Bride was slightly frustrated with me when after a race I

would be unhappy with my performance.

"You spent how much on that sail and you like your old one better??!! Really??"

My suggestion to you all is regardless of where you place; tell your spouse you LOVE your new sail.

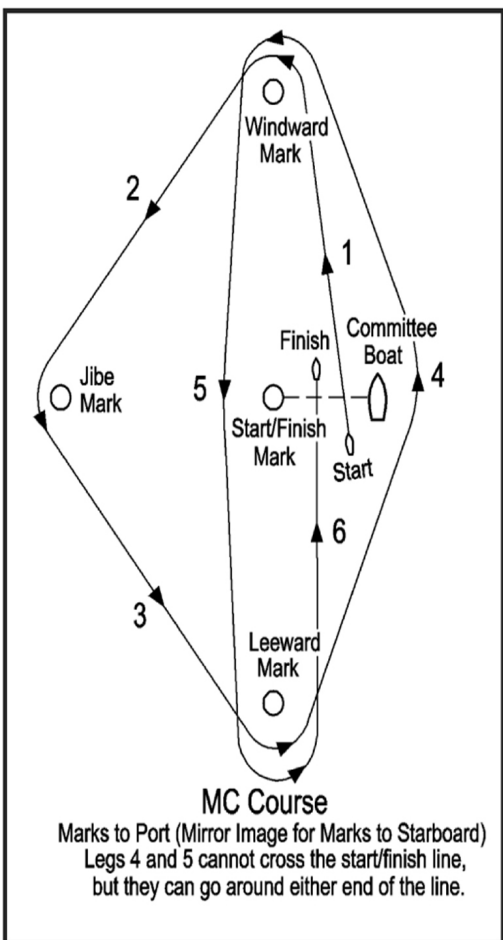
Even though we didn't race, I'd like to thank Patty Luecht and her whole gang who volunteered for the committee boat. If you would like to sign up for an open date, please let me know. You can call me at 476-9000 or email me at jsmitley@ameritech.net

See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

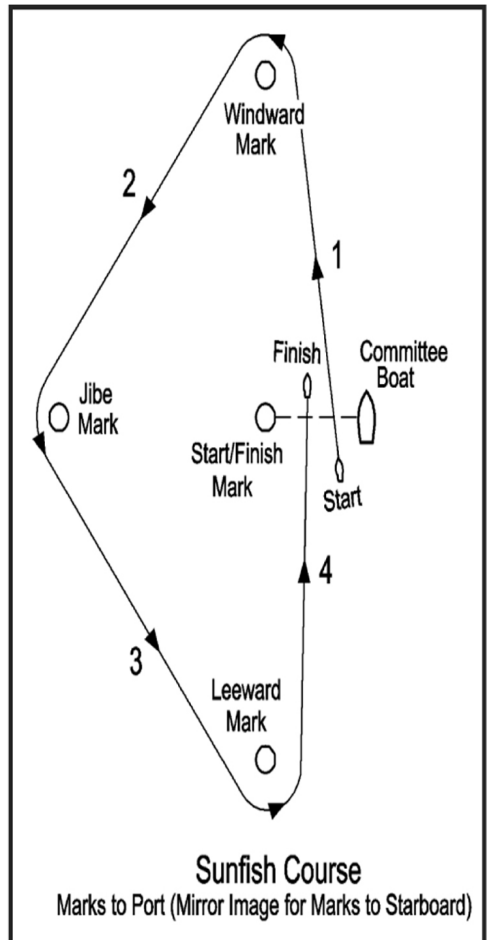
Committee Boat Schedule

June 12	Patty Luecht
June 19	Open
June 26	Bob & Sue Waddle
July 2 (Regatta)	Karen Brovold
July 3 (Rain Date)	Karen Brovold
July 4 (Regatta)	Karen Brovold
July 10	Patty Luecht
July 17	Bob & Sue Waddle
July 24	Open
July 31	Patty Luecht
August 7	Karen Brovold
August 14	Amber & Chase Grundy
August 21	Open
August 28	Karen Brovold
Sept. 3 (Regatta)	Karen Brovold
Sept. 4 (Regatta)	Karen Brovold
Sept. 5 (Rain Date)	Karen Brovold



Wind direction

**BLYC
sailing
courses
for MC
and Sunfish**



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DETAILS TO FOLLOW - WATCH THIS SPACE - Team Eastside

Stu's Star Stuff

~ Stargazing 101 ~

The clear skies on warm summer nights here at Birch Lake are what inspired me to write this column many years ago. Looking up and seeing so many stars, some bright, some not so bright, seeing planets and sometimes even satellites can be breathtaking. It can also be overwhelming, especially to the beginning stargazer. In town, city lights drown out all but the brightest objects in the sky. But here there is so much more to see. Our sky here at the lake is filled with twinkling lights. But what's what up there? Today we'll learn to pick out a couple of objects here in Stargazing 101.

A long time ago, before Wii, sliced bread or even chamber pots, folks had to entertain themselves by using their imagination. One game they played was Connect-the-Dots using the stars. Patterns were defined and named and stories were invented for them. In short, this gave birth to the constellations we know today. Let's find a few.

To start off, we need a landmark. One that almost everyone can find is the Big Dipper. Aply named because it looks just like a dipper. The Big Dipper is really an asterism, which is just a recognizable part of a constellation, in this case, Ursa Major, the Big Bear. It rides high in the northern sky. Three stars form a handle and four make up the bowl.

The two stars opposite where the handle connects can be used as pointer stars. If you draw an imaginary line from the star at the bottom of the bowl through the star at the top and follow the line north you will roughly arrive at Polaris, the North Star. Now the North Star is not particularly bright but it is important. It marks, again roughly, true north from anywhere in North America. It is also the end point on the handle of the Little Dipper, part of Ursa Minor, the Little Bear. It's tricky to see in town but much easier here at the lake. If you continue to follow your imaginary line beyond Polaris you will come to a group of five stars that looks like a lazy W, or M. This is Cassiopeia, the Queen, one of my favorites and an interesting story.

Back to the Big Dipper. Imagine the bottom of the bowl of the dipper falling out. The water would have to go somewhere, right? It falls right on the back of Leo, the Lion, another favorite of mine. Leo really does look like a lion I think. You can imagine his outstretched front paws, his hind quarters and especially his head and mane, which is marked by a backward question mark, at the bottom of which you'll find blood red Regulus.

Once more back to the dipper. Starting where the handle connects to the bowl follow the arc of the handle through the sky to the first

bright star, Arcturus, the brightest star in the constellation Bootes, the Herdsman. From Arcturus a line dropping straight down to the horizon will take you to Spica, a part of Virgo. To clarify this last bit remember this..."Arc to Arcturus and drive a spike down to Spica".

Now, not only do you have enough to get started enjoying the night sky but you also now know everything I know. Well, I may have held back a little. Get out there and enjoy the show. You know it's free.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon for June 11, 2011

Illuminated Fraction: 0.837

3.2 days since first quarter



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ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) - You can come up with future trends in creative fields. Problems with female members of your family may play on your emotions. Rewards for past good deeds will highlight your day. You may have to explain your actions to your family. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21) - You can help sort out problems that friends are facing. Inharmonious situations at home may be extremely upsetting for you this week. You will be prone to carelessness that could result in accidents. Believe in yourself and so will those who count. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) - Don't expect anything for nothing and you won't be disappointed. You may experience financial loss if you don't use good judgment. Make any necessary changes to your insurance policy. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) - You can get good solid advice from relatives or close friends you trust. Don't trust coworkers with important or personal information. You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) - You've been hurt before and could be again if you don't play

hard to get. Confusion is apparent and you'll need some sound advice if you want to do the right thing. Be prepared to encounter new friendships that will provide you with valuable information. Don't let domestic problems interfere with your objectives. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) - Your mate may not be too sure about your intentions. You will profit from home improvement projects and real estate deals. You may want to have a heart-to-heart talk with a close and trusted friend. Positive connections can be made if you get involved in environmental organizations. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) - Your knowledge and good sense will help more than you think. Confusion is apparent and you'll need some sound advice if you want to do the right thing. You must follow your desires and dreams. Look into projects that you feel would contribute something to your appearance. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) - Try to stay calm and understand both sides of the situation. You will be highly entertaining when in contact with your lover. You can make favorable changes in your home environment. You are best to move quickly and to get in good with the boss. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) - You will be able to work with fine detail this week. You can persuade even the toughest opponents to think your way. Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. Try to be a bit more understanding or you may end up spending the evening alone. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) - Look into joining groups that can give you hands-on advice about business. In-laws or older individuals may give you a bit of a hard time this week. Your lover will cost you dearly if you let them. You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) - Club memberships or donations could be expensive and prove unnecessary. Be careful when dealing with superiors. You may want to pull out some of those unfinished project you've got tucked away. Be sure to sidestep those who are eccentric or unpredictable. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) - You could be cornered, so be prepared to tell the truth. Be careful not to sign your time or your cash away. Stay mellow. Don't let someone talk you into parting with your cash unless you can truly see the benefits of doing so. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

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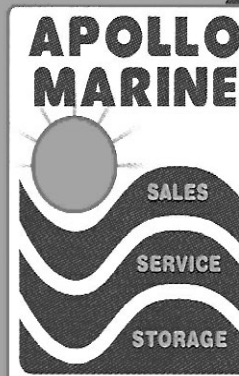


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Camp Tannadoonah

How we market Camp T

One of the questions I get a lot is how we go about marketing our camp program to potential campers and families. Here's what we've done the past few years:

In 2006, we had a tri-fold brochure that included our registration card right in the brochure. These were mailed to all of the previous year's campers. We also used some newspaper ads, but other than that we had very little in the way of advertising for our program. We didn't launch our registration for the season until the beginning of April.

In 2007, we built a new website and introduced online registration, but also continued to use the tri-fold brochure with a paper registration card included. We also offered an early bird discount for signing up by the end of April. We placed a few newspaper ads again.

In 2008, we had a combined brochure for Camp Tannadoonah and Camp Tawanchi, which no longer contained the registration cards. Parents could sign up online, or request a paper registration from the office. We had an early bird discount again, and this year pushed that back to March 1st.

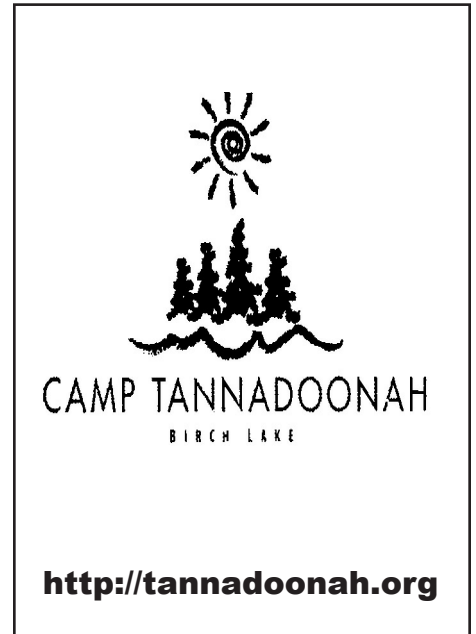
In 2009, we produced a Tannadoonah-specific post card. We printed 20,000 of these post cards and

distributed them to schools all over the Michiana area. We also started making use of monthly newsletters and emails to parents, and offered a referral bonus to campers who recruited a new camper to come with them to camp. We also offered a new early bird special with a bigger incentive (Feb 15 deadline).

In 2010 we introduced the yellow Camp Tannadoonah signs that you have probably seen around the community. We also started a "Friends of Tannadoonah" word of mouth group. This group consists of approximately 50 camper parents who are passionate supporters of camp. We send monthly emails to the group, with ideas on how they can help us spread the word about camp. We had our post cards, the early bird discount (Feb 1 deadline), yellow signs, referral bonuses, and used Google Ad Words to advertise online.

This year we added 5 billboards in the South Bend, Granger, and Mishawaka areas to help build awareness about camp, in addition to the post cards, referral bonuses, yellow signs, early bird discount (Feb 1 deadline), and Friends of Tannadoonah group. Plus we sent single-page fliers to parents in the Friends of Tannadoonah group that they could share with their friends and families. Finally, we built a Tannadoonah FaceBook page to share news and information about Camp.

So what have we learned? Word of mouth is by far the best way to get new campers. Parents are much more likely to send their kids to a camp that they've heard about from friends. Newspaper ads and online ads weren't really getting us any campers. The yellow signs and post cards generate a few



campers each year - enough to justify the cost of making them. The billboards may have led to greater awareness about camp, but they didn't really lead to any camper sign ups. The early bird discounts get people thinking about camp earlier, and give a "jump start" on registrations early in the year. It also allows us to know which weeks are likely to be lower in camper numbers.

So knowing that word of mouth is the best way to get campers, I have a challenge for all of our lake residents: Recruit a camper to attend camp this year! Tell your friends about camp, talk about what we offer, and see if you can identify a child who would like to attend. Our camper numbers are looking great (450 campers registered already!), but we'd love to see that number go even higher. If every family up here convinced a camper to come to camp, we'd be completely full for the summer! So start thinking about your friends, family members, neighbors, and acquaintances who have children between the ages of 6 and 16 and spread the word for us this summer!

-Miss Amber
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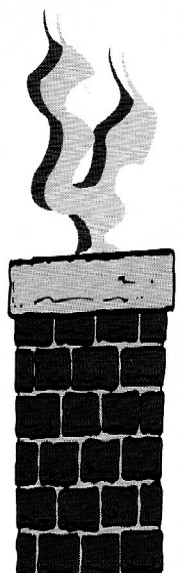
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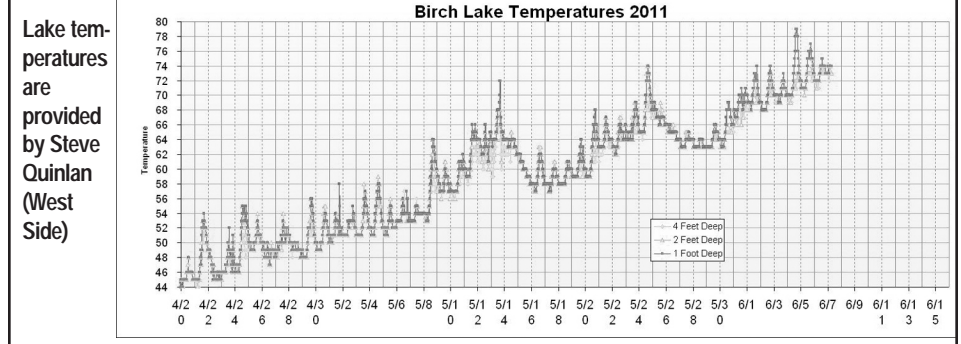
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