

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 23, 2011

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Team Eastside served spaghetti to nearly 170 of our neighbors last weekend at the annual Spaghetti Dinner at the Yacht Club.



Is this the Dog Days of Summer?

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I don't know about you, but this is exactly what I have been waiting for since January, hot, Hot, HOT, HOT days and nights. I absolutely love this weather, where the lake is like bath water, a haze of humidity hangs over the water in the morning, and the sun just bakes and bakes you. Which means a person gets to wear less clothes, put off those projects like mowing and painting because it is just too hot and you can skinny dip without freezing off vital body parts. The only reason I turn on the air conditioner is so others in the house won't whine that the sheets get sweaty at night. Oh yeah, my type of

weather!

If you missed the Spagh'ti Fest Saturday night, you missed a wonderful dinner produced by Team Eastside. They did an outstanding job of recreating an Italian Bistro at our Yacht Club. I had a hard time deciding which pasta I liked best, the meat sauce or the aglio et olio. (Yes I went back twice). I'm glad that I get another two years to decide. It certainly was a nice touch to have someone butter my bread. I could really get used to that. It's a great sign that food and camaraderie are being enjoyed when a crowd is still at the Yacht Club long after the event has ended. Hats off to Team Eastside!!

Last Call, Last Call to get your 4-man Birch Lake Scramble reservations

2011 BLYC Calendar

Fri, July 22Women's Golf & Luncheon
Fri, July 29Men's Golf Outing
Sat, Aug. 6Board Meeting 9 am
Sat, Aug. 6Corn and Sausage Roast
Sat, Aug. 27Fall Dinner
Sat, Sept. 10Board Meeting 9 am
Sat, Sept. 10Sailing Awards
Sat, Sept. 17-24Game / Card Party
Sat, October 8Annual Chili Cook Off
Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change.
Watch the Barker for updates!

into Bob "S" Baucus on the North shore or drop a check to Phil Vitale on the East shore. You don't want to miss out

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 —

on the chance of winning the hole-in-one or the great prime rib dinner back at the Yacht Club, so get your team reservation in today.

The Corn and Sausage Roast is just around the corner on August 6th. Mark your calendar for another great dining experience at the Yacht Club. I heard Bernie has been scouring the countryside for the sweetest corn. I also understand that Blair and Bernie Garceau are going to mentor Julie and Mike Sheffieck on the fine art of roasting the corn and grilling the brats, dogs, and chicken on the new fire pit. Make sure to come and enjoy the evening.

Can you believe that we are talking about the Fall Dinner already? Tickets will be going on sale soon for the August 27th Polish Dinner held at Camp Tannadoonah hosted by Vice-Commodore Pam Mullin. You won't want to miss learning first hand, who the new Vice-Commodore will be or bidding on Camp T's open silent auction items.

It's easy to be the deck patrol and point out boating infractions on the lake — such as wave runners doing circles too close to shore, boats racing into and out of the cove creating a wake in a no wake zone, or speed boats going clockwise on the lake. When we see something like that we comment it must be a "drop-in" and shake our heads, but sometimes it is us. Please remember the boating rules apply to us, too, and we

BLYC Fall Dinner

Saturday, August 27, 2011

Dining Hall at Camp Tannadoonah

Cocktail Hour at 6 pm

Dinner Served at 7 pm

The Polish Feast catered by The Skillet

Broasted Chicken

Polish Sausage

Kluski Noodles

Mashed Potatoes and Country Gravy

Sweet & Sour Cabbage

Seasoned Green beans

Biscuits & Honey Butter

Tickets will be going on sale soon. If you are a newcomer to Birch Lake, this is a great opportunity to meet new friends and neighbors. If you've been here awhile, come out and renew old acquaintances.

More information to come.

need to go counter-clockwise, even if we are going just three doors down the shore.

Have a GREAT HOT weekend!
Drink lots and lots of cool beverages and stay safe!

*Your skinny-dipping
Commodore, Stan*

Hat returned

Thank-you Blair and Bernie for finding and returning my favorite UK ball cap. My head was getting cold without it.

Where was Waldo ... er, Bill?

Did anyone miss Bill Luecht Saturday night from the Flamingo Room? He was spotted hanging out with the Owls on the West shore.

Cow Pie Wars

Have you ever been hit in the face with a custard pie? How about a COW pie? Well, when my uncle and I were kids, one of the chores assigned to us was to get the cows out of the pasture and trail them up to the barn for early morning milking. On the way we would

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— Birch Lake Notes —

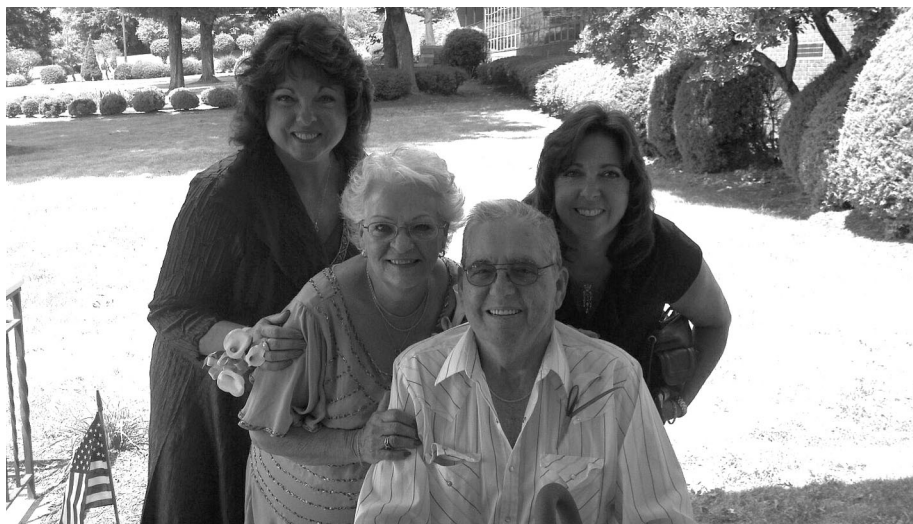
pick up cow “chips” and sail them at each other. My uncle, who was a month and a day younger than me, couldn't resist throwing them at me and, of course, I returned them. Sometimes the cow chips weren't completely dry, but still could be picked up and thrown. I remember one I threw at him which hit him in the face (on purpose, of course). He came up with some newly placed freckles! Luckily he could wash them off at the nearby river. As a normal kid, he had to retaliate, so it became a cow pie war.

-Duffy Dufor

Lightening almost strikes twice

Jack Hornbeck, a healthy and vigorous WWII Army veteran age 88 and a Northeast Shore (Lazy Lodge cottages) summer resident since 1971, father of Carol McCoy and Jackie Frew, continued his long history of enjoying good fortune recently as storms rolled through the Birch Lake area. Driving up to Birch Lake from the Chicago area for the 4th of July with daughter Carol, Jack was pumping gas on Route 12 east of Niles when lightning struck on the gas station premises, giving him and another customer pumping gas nearby quite a surprise, but fortunately hurting no one.

Arriving at the good old Birch Lake cottage, Dad and Carol were visiting with Jackie in the kitchen, when lightning struck again, this time very near the cottage, sending a bolt of electricity in one open window of the adjacent bedroom and out the other! Again fortunately there were no injuries and no



Patti Russwurm's Dad turned 75 this year and danced (wheelchair and all — waiting for contract from Dancing with the Stars) at his grandsons wedding. Pictured above are Dick & Jo Morelock, sister Pam and Patti (North Side).

damage--but plenty to talk and laugh about at dinner, celebrating Dad's amazing good fortune, which rubs off on everyone around him.

-Steve Frew

Corn & Sausage

Mark Your Calendar! The Corn and Sausage Roast will be held on Saturday, August 6th serving food from 5:30 pm 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!

Waterskiing Contraption Challenge

Seems the trash talking has started. While the West Shore may have an undefeated record that's no reason for them to be so confident. After all, their winning streak is only one year.

So far there are only two entries — the defending champion and an undisclosed secret competitor. All are welcome to participate and there is no entry fee. Just come up with whatever crazy concoction of materials that you can make towable behind a boat and you're in. We need some judges too. T

o enter or judge please contact Keith Kinzler at 815.693.2975 or Stu Spratt at 269.476.2113. Contest date is 2 pm on August 20. If it rains we'll do it the next

SLOW DOWN

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NARROW ROADS,
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,
CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON
OUR ROADS
AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

**SPEED LIMIT
15_{MPH}**



— Birch Lake Notes —

day because you will get all wet if you try to waterski in the rain.

SG'GETTI FEST 2011

First and foremost, thanks all the great Birch Lakers who attended our first SPAGFEST. With your support and empty tummies we were able to raise nearly \$1,100 for a new door at the Yacht Club.

As captain of an outstanding team I want to take a moment to thank all the team members for a job well done.

Lets give a big hand to the inside crew.

Lynn and Tom Decocker: without their input we wouldn't have had enough sauce to feed the fishes in the lake. They helped with the secret formula for both sauces, cooked the sauces, and did the shopping trip to gather most of the supplies.

Holly Troeger ran to Paper Depot to gather the red and white table covers that the captain just had to have, as well as those pretty balloons we used as table decorations. She also helped with any job that needed done in the dining area.

Next were Marlo and JP Hoyer. They had to go on a hunt for the perfect bread to butter with that great garlic butter. What a treat to have it buttered and ready to eat.

Oh my goodness Deb Bolinger and Carla Chester out-performed us all with the great Ice Cream Sundae Bar and all

the fixings and cookies to give out to the To-Go crowd.

Next a big round of thanks to the salad ladies, Celia Fallon and Patty Luecht, who were always on top of filling the bowls with your favorite salad, grape tomatoes and croutons. I really liked the Basil tomato salad dressing, too.

We could not have kept the tables cleaned and ready for the next crowd without Linda Curtis and Linda Yoshazawa — they made a great crew and have some ideas for gluing down the table cloths next year.

Also Celia and Deb came up with the grape arbor over the bar — it reminded me of the time I spent in Italy this year.

Well what would we have done without the tremendous drink station attendants help Tory Troeger and Katie Luecht. Give them a hand, someday they will move up to sauce makers.

The ladies toiling over the spag and sauce worked their fingers to the bone and broke two serving utensils in the process. A big thanks to Ilene Golden. Karen Miller flower arranger, Irene Steffen, the great red sauce recipe developer, and Lynn Decocker, were troopers to stand there and deliver the first-ever Team East side spag and sauce.

And on a final note the award of Kitchen Elf and all-around take out specialist goes to Eric Miller, who did the impossible jobs I needed help with and

who never complained once when I yelled for him to help me out.

I also can't forget to thank Terry Curtis for the help he gave in being the first to taste the red sauce and pronounce it edible with the help of some more spice on cooking night as well as being around to assist with To Go orders.

One more couple did their job and I want to thank Judy and Dave Olson for taking the time to round up our ticket sales force of Karen Brovold, Vickie Roger, Bill and Le King, Sue Waddle, Katha Machalleck, and Sue Williams, as well as keeping us informed of the number of lakers attending the dinner.

All right then we had the most motley crew of Spag cookers you would ever want to see. Top kudos go to Ed Chester, Scott Troeger, and Paul Fallon for standing over those spag cookers during the 90 degree heat, Tim Steffen, Vic Jones, Jim Yoshazawa, Bill Luecht, and Jim Bolinger for transporting the spag, cleaning the pots, and general clean up of the empty beer cans. A special thanks goes to Phil for making sure all the supplies were there and helping me with this event. All did their part by staying out of my sight, and I am grateful for the never-ending supply of spag.

We can't forget the great crew running the parking area and watching the old goats so they too can cook spaghetti some day. Neil Troeger, Alex, the visit-

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INTERIOR DESIGN - Kim Crose

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- Color Choices
- Furniture Staging
- Fabric Choices
- Fixture Choices
- Art/Decorating Ideas
- Ideas on how to remodel/construct
- In Home Consultation available

— Birch Lake Notes —

ing friend from France and Ian Whiteman.

I also must Thank the cleanup crew Dan Waxman and family, and the Vitale family for giving me five minutes to eat my dinner.

I also have one last thank you for all the Lakers who contributed pots, turkey fryers, tents, roasters, coolers, ice cream donations and assorted good advice to help the East Side Team make this event possible. What would we do without all our friends.

Finally I give a warm Thank you to

Fred Frieffer for soliciting and bringing the 8- 5 gallon bottles of water donated by Keck's in South Bend.

I hope I haven't forgotten anyone (if so, sorry, I'll make it up to you!).

I hope you all know I am most grateful for all the support and assistance in making this 2011 SPAGFEST a success, and I hope we see all of our friends from the lake next year for a fabulous SPAGFEST 2012.

-Sandy Vitale

Camp Tannadoonah to host Third Annual Hog Roast

Camp Tannadoonah and Camp Fire USA invite you to the 3rd Annual Hog Roast to celebrate another wonderful year and thank our supporters this Saturday, July 23, at 4 pm.

The event is Free (please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Pulled pork sandwiches and drinks will be provided). No RSVP is needed.

51st Annual Birch Lake Men's Open Golf Outing

UPDATE:

- 18 teams in place and ready to go!
- Shot gun start at high noon.
- Team check-in by 11:00am if possible.
- Lunch is available at the club, but not included in entry fee (brats, burgers, dogs).
- 6:30pm dinner at the yacht club.
- Door prizes, teams prizes, and cash prizes
- Hole-in-one prizes too! That's a fact, Jack!
- The only thing guaranteed is a good time!
- See you next Friday!

-Bob & Stu



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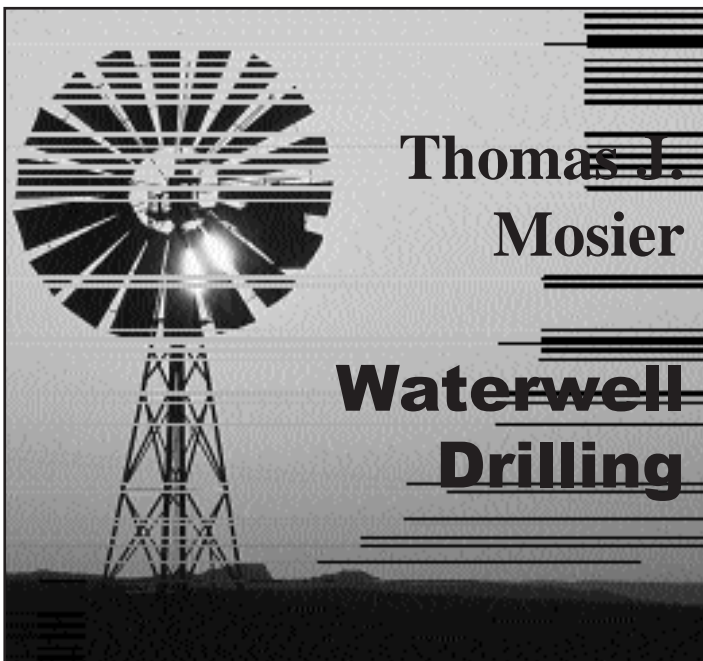
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— Barker kids of the Week —



Morgan Talos is the granddaughter of Alan and Pamela Van Huffel (Great-Granddaughter to Steve and Irene Horvath), and this spring she won second place in the Joe Donnelly 2011 Congressional Art Competition with her picture taken of Birch Lake. Her photograph was selected 2nd place out of 136

entries from area high school students. The picture is of a ladder going into the water on the pier at the Van Huffel cottage. Morgan titled it, The Drenching Climb. Morgan is going to be a sophomore at Marian High School, and admires Carol Dugan for her artistic photography. Congratulations to Morgan,

and congrats to Birch Lake for being recognized as the winner of a lake that it is!!

Above right is the picture, and here is a link to the competition. <http://donnelly.house.gov/2011/04/donnelly-congratulates-2011-congressional-art-competition-winners.shtml>

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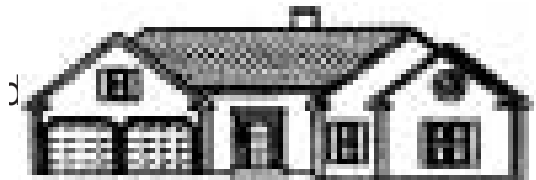
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— Barker kids of the Week —



July 13 proved to be a lucky day for one unlucky turtle that got its ten inch length stuck in the Magro's (north shore) boat lift. Magro grand-kids (L-R) Peter, Kate and Sarah rescued the turtle and released him (her?) to the wild. How do you tell the gender of a turtle? Fortunately turtles can figure it out by themselves. Bill Magro

send your kid-of-the-week photos to sailorphil@philvital.com



Hayleigh Shay-Kovach (3rd from left) celebrating her 9th birthday at the Lake. She is the Great-Great Niece of John & Lois Groszek (South Side) and Great-Granddaughter of former Birch Lakers – Dick and Becky Shay.

send your kid-of-the-week photos to sailorphil@philvital.com

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Fleet Captain's Corner



Lack of wind ...

The races were cancelled last week. There was not enough wind to set a course for either an 11 or 12 starting time. The winds didn't arrive until later in the day. I think I heard a collective sigh of relief from all of the sailors to not have to sail in excruciatingly light winds and 95 degree temperatures. A "bob and bake" is never very fun. When things are dead, the boat traffics' wakes can give you a murderous pounding.

Hopefully this weekend will give a steady 10 MPH with lower temperatures and humidity. I doubt we will get that, but one can always hope.

It's hard to believe it but we are now halfway through the sailing season. As a reminder, completion of 2/3 of all races is necessary to qualify for the season standings. I've included the percent of races completed for each sailor in the table below. Note that both being a crew member or committee boat member counts toward races completed.

Although we didn't race, I still want to thank Bad Patty Luecht, and Bob and Sue Waddle for volunteering to run the committee boat. Again, without volunteers, we wouldn't be able to have a race.

Committee Boat Schedule

July 24	Patty Luecht
July 31	Plaia/Brovold
August 7	Karen Brovold
August 14	Amber & Chas Grundy
August 21	Open
August 28	Karen Brovold
Sept. 3 (Regatta)	Karen Brovold
Sept. 4 (Regatta)	Karen Brovold
Sept. 5 (Rain Date)	Karen Brovold

See you at the starting line...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

Season sailing results

Date.....Total.....Season.....Races.....%
Race.....Points.....Average.....Finished.....Finished

MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489	16678	1516	11	84.6%
Jeff Smitley #2002	19335	1487	13	100.0%
Bob King #1199	13182	1465	9	69.2%
Bill Luecht #1579	18117	1394	13	100.0%
Dave Olson #1979	13207	1321	10	76.9%
Phil Vitale #500	16811	1293	13	100.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	16752	1289	13	100.0%
Gib Eberhart #916	12527	1253	9	69.2%
Tom Howard #1713	11517	1152	12	92.3%

Sunfish			13	
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	20563	1582	13	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	9207	1535	6	46.2%
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	11712	1464	8	61.5%
Chris of the Scofields	5853	1463	4	30.8%
Sandy Vitale (White)	2817	1409	2	15.4%
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue)	2738	1369	2	15.4%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	16379	1365	12	92.3%
Erica Vitale (White)	2665	1333	2	15.4%
Peter Soldoto	10404	1301	6	46.2%
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	6482	1296	5	38.5%

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

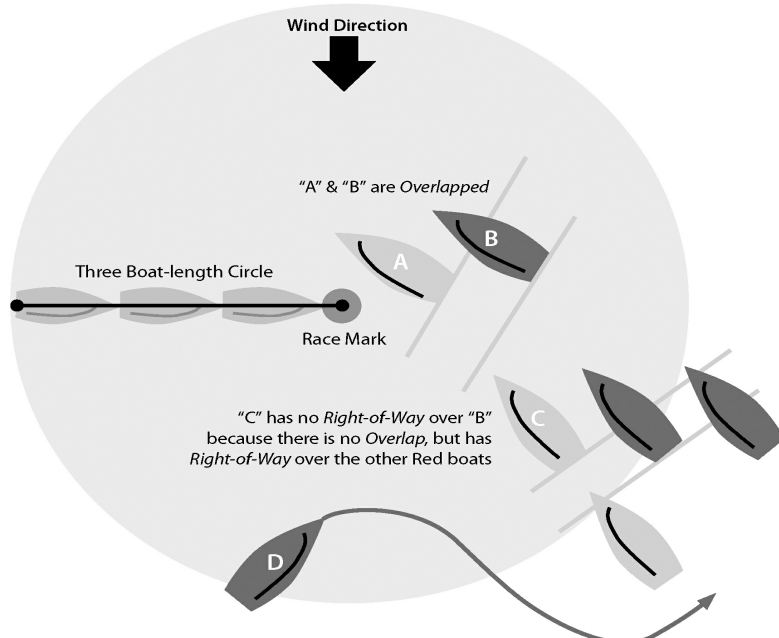
Crew - Counted toward completed races. Points go to skipper of boat.

Boats Converging at Mark

An Inside and Overlapped boat (Green A) within three boat-lengths of the mark has the *Right-of-Way*. In general, any Overlapped outside boat (Red B) must *Keep Clear* and give room to any boat between them and the mark.

A boat coming into the mark on *Port Tack* (Red D) must be able to complete its tack without obstructing the progress of an incoming *Starboard Tack* boat. If a *Starboard Tack* boat has to adjust course, you fouled them.

Basic rules of sailboat racing



Water Quality Committee Report

**Water Quality Program
Water Quality Committee Lake
Management Report**
Terry Dugan, Rick Russwurm,
Gordon Seyfarth, Bruce Wagner,
Paul Fallon, Chairman

Transparency as an index of Birch Lake Water Quality

Clarity or transparency of a body of water has generally been correlated to the overall quality of that body of water. Like most water quality data, transparency as a single measurement is not of much value, but over the course of a season and multiply this by many years, one can gauge the health or rate of aging of a lake.

This is not precisely clear cut, but since a key component to transparency is the growth and abundance of algae in the water column, transparency is one index of the level of productivity of a lake. Productivity is the rate at which biomass consumable as food by other organisms is made.

Productivity is a two edged sword. Low productivity provides for a clear body of water where we can ooh and ah about the clarity and visualize the drop offs. On the other hand if you are taking your children out fishing, and go to such a low productivity lake, the food chain which starts with the algae will not be abundant. This will lead to a lot of hours spent and only a few fish caught. In other words, a curse can be a blessing and blessing can be a curse. What we would like is a nice balance and very very slow change in the overall natural aging process.

Transparency is measured by using a Secchi Disk. This is a weighted disk with alternating black and white areas, which is lowered on the non-sun side of the boat, preferably between 10 am and 4 pm, in the deepest spot of the lake. The disk is lowered until it just disappears and the depth recorded to the closest foot. These measurements are taken weekly, and this has been done on Birch Lake since about 1980 with a 9 year hiatus during the 90s.

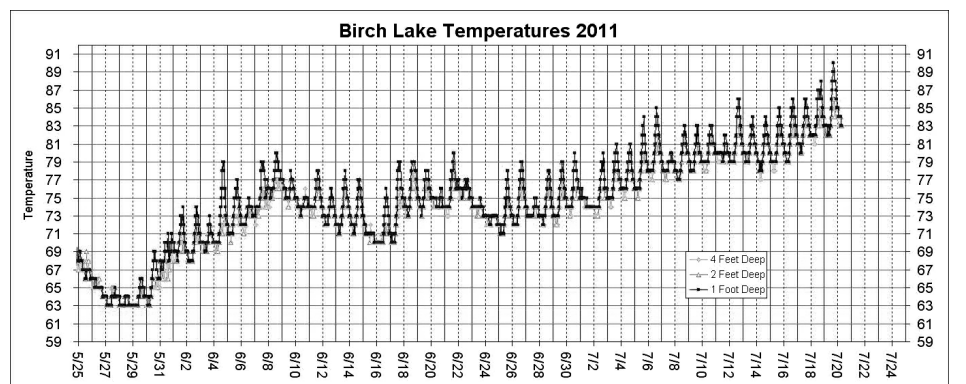
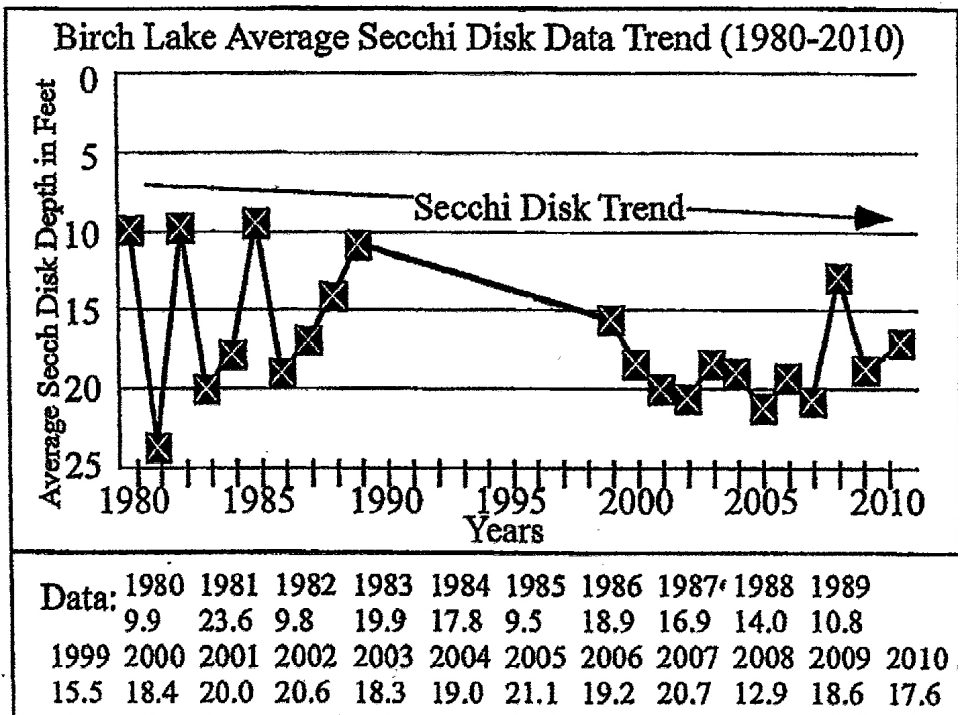
Although algal growth with warming weather is a primary reason for change in water clarity and thus decreasing Secchi disk readings, Birch Lake is also a spring-fed marl lake. Slightly acidic water leaching through limestone and becoming the springs that feed the lake also carry calcium carbonates that the acid has dissolved from the limestone. These calcium carbonates can then precipitate in the lake and slowly descend and accumulate on the bottom forming marl. In the meantime they help cloud the lake. Thus, when we look at our lake in the summer, we do not see a classic pea green algal build up, but a grayish green complex of both algae and calcium carbonates.

From the graph below you can see the changes in average Secchi disk measured transparency from 1980 through 2010. This graph was compiled by Dr. Wallace Fuslier using the data submitted primarily by the Temples for



the CLMP reports. It is difficult to explain the extreme variability from year to year in the 80s, but we like to think that the overall improvement and stability seen since 1999 was a result of the complete change in septic tanks and dry wells that took place over the previous decade. (Again with large credit due to the Temples.) 2008 was an outlier (a markedly different statistical observation) year, but there has been improvement since then. The next 5 years will be instructive as we will then have a real record of post sewer data. Of interest is that we have looked at mid sum-

mer readings for the period of 1985 until the present. The reading taken last week was 17 feet on July 13. It has been since 2001 that a reading that deep was taken at a similar time during the summer. This could change rapidly with the heat and bright sunlight we are having right now, but is of interest. Nonetheless, over the past 40 years despite variability, the lake has not had a downward trend in water clarity. This has probably greatly due to the septic replacement. Only additional years will tell if we can ascribe a similar result to the sewer placement.



Lake temperatures are provided by Steve Quinlan (West Side)

Stu's Star Stuff

Orion, the hunter

As sands through the hour glass, so are the myths of our heavens. Maybe I didn't get that quite right but boy-oh-boy these stories could certainly fill a couple hours on daytime TV. Never in time has there been a more randy, lascivious bunch than the folks on Olympus.

Today we'll look in on Orion, the hunter. Yeah I know that you can't see him in our sky just now but in about eight weeks he'll start to peak over the eastern shore at dawn and then throughout the winter you can see him all night long in the southern sky.

So, what do we have?

There are two different versions of the Orion myth, depending on the identity of his parents. The first of these identifies the sea-god Neptune as Orion's father and the the great huntress Queen Euryale of the Amazons as his mother. Orion inherited her talent, and became the greatest hunter in the world. Unfortunately for him, with his immense strength came an immense ego, and he boasted that he could best any animal on earth. In response to his vanity, a single small scorpion stung him and killed him. (Remember? — we talked about that.)

Another version of the Orion myth states that he had no mother but was a gift to a pious peasant from Jupiter, Neptune, and Mercury.

Orion supposedly was able to walk on water and had greater strength and stature than any other mortal. A skilled blacksmith, he fabricated a subterranean palace for Vulcan. He also walled in the coasts of Sicily against the encroaching sea, built a bunch of mailboxes on the north shore and constructed a temple to the gods there. Orion fell in love with Merope, daughter of Oenopion and princess of Chios. Her father the king, however, would not consent to give Orion his daughter's hand in marriage — even after the hunter rid their island of wild beasts.

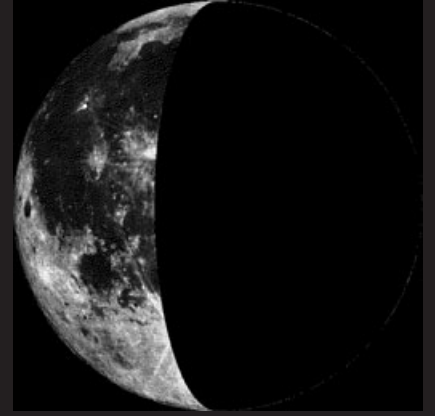
In anger, Orion attempted to gain possession of the maiden by violence. Her father, incensed at this conduct, having made Orion drunk, (this just keeps getting better doesn't it?) deprived him of his sight and cast him out on the seashore. The blinded hero followed the sound of a Cyclops' hammer till he reached Lemnos, and came to the forge of Vulcan, who, taking pity on him, gave him Kedalion, one of his men, to be his guide to the abode of the sun. Placing Kedalion on his shoulders, Orion proceeded to the east, and there meeting the sun-god, was restored to sight by his wand of light.

After this he dwelt as a hunter with Diana, with whom he was a favourite, and it is even said she was about to marry him. Her brother (Apollo) was highly displeased and chided her (she was, after all, a virgin huntress), but to no purpose.

One day, observing Orion wading through the ocean with his head just above the water, Apollo pointed it out to his sister and maintained that she could not hit that black thing on the sea. The archer-goddess discharged her shaft with fatal aim. The waves rolled the body of Orion to the land, and

The Moon for July 23, 2011

Illuminated Fraction: 0.392
1.1 days after last quarter



bewailing her fatal error with many tears, Diana placed him among the stars.

It is also stated in some versions that Apollo, worried for Diana's chastity, sent a scorpion to kill Orion. But we covered that before.

Orion is one of the most well-known constellations, visible in the southern sky during fall and winter. He is generally shown as a hunter attacking a bull with an upraised club, and is easily recognizable by his bright belt of three stars. In addition, his shoulder is marked by the red supergiant Betelgeuse (literally "ampit of the central one" in Arabic), and his left leg is marked by the blue-white supergiant Rigel. According to the versions of the myth which have him killed by Scorpius, the two were placed on the opposite sides of the sky from each other so that they are never visible at the same time. We covered that too. But it never hurts to be reminded.

Just like being reminded that the stories never stop here at Birch Lake, the stories are always true and the show's always free. Coming soon — The Restaurant at the End of the Universe.

-Stu Spratt



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BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) — Don't let your emotions interfere with completing your chores. Go out with friends. The talk you have may be eye-opening with regard to your present situation. You are best to keep your money tied up in a safe and secure place. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21) — Do not ruffle feathers if possible. You may be emotional and quick to judge others. There's a good chance that they won't come back. Avoid confrontations with coworkers who aren't pulling their weight. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) — You will be able to enlist the help of colleagues who believe in your ideas. Take time to make physical improvements that will enhance your appearance. Get rich quick schemes will not be successful. Start sending out those resumes. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) — Invite friends over rather than spending money on lavish entertainment. You may find that your emotional partner will not be too eager to accommodate you. Your emotional attitude with respect to your status and direction in society may be unrealistic. You need to concentrate on the areas where you can make a difference. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) — Disappointments regarding partners will be subject to the way you react to their personal comments. You can meet new and exciting friends who will provide mental stimulation. Social events held in your home will be successful and entertaining for all. Take whatever time you can to get to know each other all over again. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments. Balance is required if you want stability. Don't be too hard on your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — You should make sure that your personal papers are in order. If they want help that's great, but if they try to take credit for your work, you will have to set them straight. Your time, not your cash, will do a lot more for your relationship. Stomach problems could prevail if you haven't been watching your diet. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) — Someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes, and if you're gullible, it may cost you. Start sending out those resumes. You may have a tendency to put on weight. You would be wise to socialize with as many people as possible. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) — Your mate will be pushing you to do things that you really don't want to do. You can make life easier for an older member of your family. You will have a blowup this week if your partner does things that you feel are not aboveboard. You might have a problem hanging on to your money this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22- Jan. 20) — Insurance pay outs, tax rebates, or just plain luck. Put your emotional energy into passion not anxiety. You will find the excitement gratifying. Opportunities to upgrade your living standards will come through your lover or through joint financial investments. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) — You may be more emotional than usual. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. Someone is trying to pull the wool over your eyes, and if you're gullible, it may cost you. Don't make large purchases unless you have discussed your choices with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Pay attention to small but important details. Changes at home might come fast and furious. Don't overdo it. Your involvement with children will be most rewarding. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Beer Margaritas

This could be the reason some of us were late for work
Monday, Bad Patty

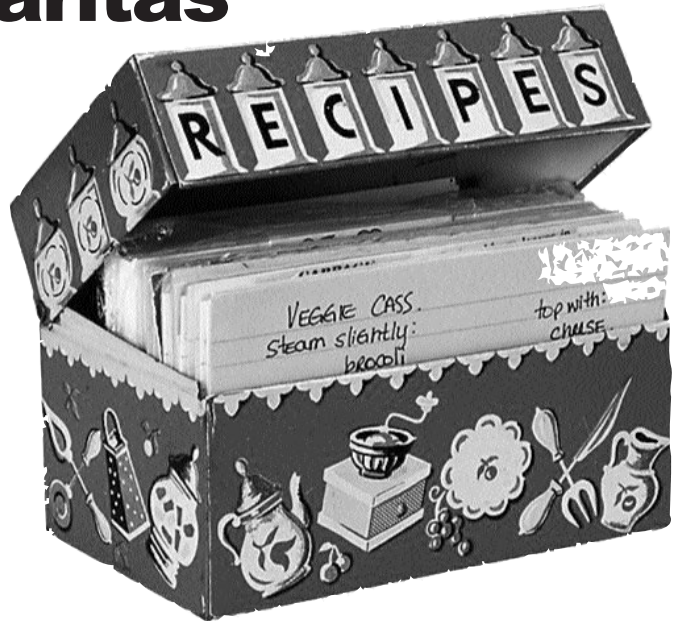
Original Recipe Yield 6 (1 cup) servings

Ingredients

- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can frozen limeade concentrate
- 12 fluid ounces tequila
- 12 fluid ounces water
- 12 fluid ounces beer
- ice
- 1 lime, cut into wedges

Directions

1. Pour limeade, tequila, water, and beer into a large pitcher. Stir until well-blended, and limeade has melted. Add plenty of ice, and garnish with lime wedges. Adjust with additional water, if needed.



— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

HOT SUMMER — COLD BEER

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

Last week's answers

bad weather words

TORNADO
INCLEMENT
THUNDERHEAD
CYCLONE
SHOWER
TWISTER
TORRENT
TSUNAMI
ELNINO

SLEET
DEPRESSION
LIGHTENING
INVERSION
WHITECAPS
HURRICANE
WINDCHILL
BLOW
CLOUDS

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THUNDER
RAIN
HAIL
FLOOD
BREEZE
STORM
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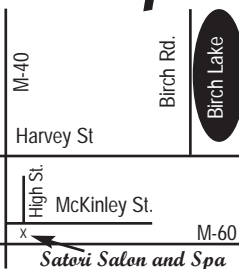
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Camp Tannadoonah

Surviving the heat at Camp T

Whew! It's been a hot week at camp this week! But the theme was Survivor Week, so I guess the weather was quite appropriate. It's our second week in a row with over 100 campers, and next week will be over 100 as well. We had 113 campers this week!

On Sunday night we divided the campers into 6 tribes: red, yellow, orange, blue, green, and purple. Once they had their tribes, we had a rowdy series of relay races to earn points for their tribes.

Monday night was cookout night, and the campers prepared a Mountain Man breakfast over the fire for dinner. The meal consisted of eggs, sausage, hashbrowns, and toast. Afterwards each cabin planned their own evening activity.

On Tuesday night we played Capture the Flag, giving the tribes another opportunity to earn points. After Capture the Flag the entire camp headed down to the lake for a free swim to cool off.

Wednesday night we played a game called Dice Game. The tribes had to roll a pair of dice, and then find

a flag in their tribe color with that number on it, hidden somewhere in camp. Once they found the flag, they brought it to the dining hall and completed a stunt or task that corresponded to the number they had rolled. Tasks included singing a silly song, figuring out a puzzle or riddle, knowing a piece of camp trivia, hopping on one foot while singing a camp song, or finding something like 3 different kinds of sassafras leaves in camp. The teams once again earned points for their tribes based on their speed.

As I'm writing this article, our Thursday evening activity is still up in the air. We have a really awesome idea, but we don't know yet if it will pan out!

We've had to work hard this week to keep everyone up here cool and hydrated in this heat. We have required all-camp swim times at least once a day, frequent water breaks at activities, sprinklers running all day so kids can cool off between activities, and the kids all have to drink at least one glass of water at every meal before they can have juice or milk.

While it's been hot and uncomfortable

up here, I know it's been worse in town! And we'd much rather have a hot summer at camp than a cool one!

Next week's theme is Gameshow Mania Week and we're expecting 102 campers - a little bit of a break from the 120 and 114 these last two weeks! What's been interesting is the proportions of boys and girls have been dramatically different for each of these three weeks, which has meant we've had to move counselors around to different cabins to make space.

For Harry Potter Week, we had 46 boys and 74 girls. But for Survivor Week we have 55 boys and 58 girls (almost even!). Then for next week it's really lopsided, with just 26 boys and a whopping 76 girls. Eek!

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Hog Roast on Saturday! Come on out and see the unveiling of the Legend Tree and enjoy some great food and drink with us!

-Miss Amber
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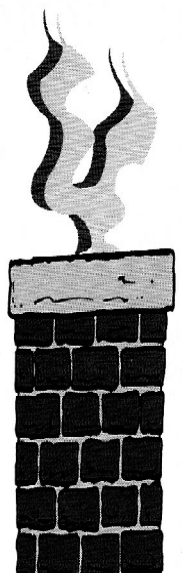
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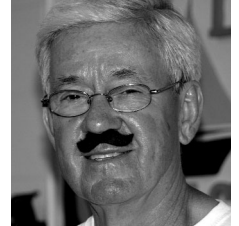
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Full set of ladies golf clubs, includes cart, shoes. Asking \$300. 476-2298.

Birch Laker Carol Dugan has for sale, **artistic photography**. Cards, matted work, and giclee canvas work is created. Custom orders are welcome. Carol is a member of the Three Rivers Artists Guild, has been juried into numerous shows, and has work included in the permanent collection at the new facilities of Michiana Hematology and Oncology. Carol can be reached at 476-2814 or online at CDugan5310@aol.com.

Toro CCR 3650 snowblower, electric start, 6.5 HP, red, hasn't been used in a few years (no snow in FL), \$350.00 (was \$741 new in 12/03) Sparkybob 476-2293

FOR RENT

Spacious Birch Lake home for rent. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, screened in patio for bug free beautiful evenings. Non-smokers only. Minimum 2 week rental - monthly rates available. Contact Doreen 630-816-3374.

Three bedroom cottage on Birch Lake's beautiful north shore. New well with wonderful drinking water and indoor plumbing included. No mosquitos. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667.

HOMES FOR SALE

BirchLakeHomeSale.com
BirchLakeHomeForSale.com

FOR SALE CHICAGO/LAKEVIEW AREA TOWN-HOME — 3 BR, 2 BA, fireplace, hardwood floors, marble baths, Granite/maple/stainless eat-in kitchen, attached garage and tandem parking spot. Short walk to Lake Michigan and Wrigley Field! Questions and price info. please call Dan Soldato 574-514-5175.

FOR SALE — 40' frontage + .88 acres on North end of Birch Lake. House is 640 sq ft, year-round, but needs work. Will entertain all serious offers starting at \$175,000. If interested call 269-476-9846 or 269-244-8907.

FOUND

FOUND MONDAY: One white pontoon bumper washed up after storm, Lacy's #98 (south side)

Found: **a pair of reading glasses** in the road behind 63486 Birch Road. Call Olson, 476-2125.

LOST

Lost: A Delta ski, with blue, orange, and possibly another color. Lost at the end of last summer. An ad was posted previously in the Barker, from the person who had found it. If you still are holding on to it, please give me a call. Lindsey Price 574-612-4867

Lost: **UK white ball cap** in front of Kinzler's house. Fits Commodore's head. Please call if located.

WANTED

Donated items (and services) we can sell at the upcoming silent auction which will be held during the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Fall Dinner (to benefit Camp Tannadoonah). Contact Commodore Stan or Amber Grundy

Wanted to buy: Pre-owned 120 inch boat lift with canopy. Contact Stewart at 269.476.2113 (land) or 574.514.0667 (cell).

Looking for a ride. Attention sunfish owners — If anyone has a boat that needs to be exercised on Sunday mornings I would be happy to accept the mount. Naturally if I come in the money I would expect to receive a small percentage of the purse. Contact Stewart at 476.2113.

Sponsors Wanted — The Sausage-Fest Waterskiing Challenge of 2011 needs contestants and, in 2010 second place finisher Team Spraggon's case, sponsors. There are no entry fees and no restrictions on rules other than how fast you are towed. Contact Stu Spratt for entry/sponsorships at 476.2113 or Keith Kinzler for entries.

Wanted — Looking for a resident of Birch Lake, with a pleasant personality, hard working, well organized, must be able to delegate, easy to work with and willing to pay back to the Birch Lake Yacht Club for all the great events and times experienced. Position — Vice Commodore 2012. Contact Vice Commodore Pam Mullin if interested and qualified!

-Your 2012 Commodore-Elect

Want a classified ad in the Birch Barker? It's easy!

E-mail sailorphil@philvitale ... mail to Birch Barker

**c/o Phil Vitale
63174 Birch Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095**

or type up the ad, put it in a plastic bag and deposit it into one of the two newspaper tubes of my cool new stone mailbox (thanks Duane!) at the above address on the east side of Birch Lake ...

<http://birchlakeblog.wordpress.com/>



Birch Blog

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