



The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 14, 2012

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Thanks to the PattiCam for the great pic of 'Bill of Arabia' in his sunbustin' hat during last weekend's Fourth of July Regatta.

Commodore's Comments

Hello Fellow Birch Lakers:

Summer has started ... I finally took my first dip in the lake on Saturday. Rich and I floated for about an hour before we headed into town to do some errands and attend a friend's 60th birthday party. It was hot here but if you can believe it, it was hotter in town. On Sunday, we headed down to Warsaw to have dinner with our son-in-law Matt's parents. A little cooler on Sunday than what it was on Saturday.

Thank you to your Board of Directors for a quick and efficient meeting on Saturday. Our next and final Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 4 at 9 am at the BLYC. The Homeowners Meeting will follow at 10 am. Look for more details to come from the Homeowner's Committee in future Barkers.

Chas Gundy's Vice-Commodore's Cocktail Party is tonight, Saturday, July 14 at the BLYC at 7 pm. Plan on coming

out and showing Chas the kind of support he deserves. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. I am sure Chas has an article in the Barker with details.

Don't forget to sign up for the Ladies Golf Outing scheduled for Friday, July 20. Patty Luecht could use some help with sponsors and prizes. Ladies, get your foursomes together, and if you don't have a foursome, call Patty, I am sure she can help you out. Look for details inside the Barker.

I am looking forward to the 1st Annual BLYC Poker Run and the Camp Tannadoonah Hog Roast. Rich Mullin and Stan Pitakos have been busy filling the 52 players for this fun event. Look for further details inside. The Hog Roast is free, just bring a side dish or dessert to pass. Again, look for details inside.

The Mens Golf Outing follows on the next Friday, on July 27th. Please contact Bob Baucus, Rich Mullin or Stu Spratt if you would like to be a sponsor. Men, get your foursomes together and if you don't have a foursome, call one of the guys as I am sure they can help you out.

Here's to smooth sailing.

~Commodore Pam

2012 BLYC Calendar

July 14.....	Vice Commodore's Party
July 20.....	Women's Golf Outing
July 21.....	Poker Run/Camp T Hog Roast
July 27.....	Men's Golf Outing
July 28.....	Birch Lake Garage Sale
Aug. 4.....	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 25.....	Fall Dinner
Sept. 8.....	Sailing Awards
Sept. 15 or 25.....	Game Night/Card Party
Oct. 6.....	Annual Chili Cook-Off

Board Meetings - 9 am (Saturdays)

July 7, Aug. 4 (Homeowners Meeting to follow board meeting), Sept. 8

Sailing Regattas

4th of July Regatta — this weekend!
Labor Day weekend

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

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 stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), 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 photos or any other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Pam Mullin, (269) 476-1080. --Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

Birch Lake Garage Sale

We are planning lake wide garage sales for July 28 from 8 to noon. Please email Staci Whiteman at srbw69@yahoo.com or call 269-816-5755 if you are planning to have a sale or have any other ideas as to time changes etc. Need all input, will take donations if you only have a few things, and Staci will be holding a sale back at the yacht club on that day — all proceeds will go to the yacht club from that sale. Also anyone that has leftovers after the sale day can call Staci and she will take all donations and have a free giveaway to help the community.

Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party

Come enjoy the fine company of our friends and neighbors at the Birch Lake Yacht Club, where the weather never exceeds 100 degrees! Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Party starts at 7 pm and runs as late as we can keep you entertained.

Thanks Jim

A special thanks to Jim Bolinger for all of his help arranging the Birch Lake Fireworks Displays for the past several years — your efforts have been appreciated and the results have been WOW!

UPDATE:

The County Road Commission has been notified by Canadian National

Railroad that the M-60 railroad project has been postponed until August 6. This project is expected to continue for three weeks and the plan is to move right over to the M-62 crossing for repairs which should take a week to complete. Both projects should be complete before September 4 so they don't interfere with the new school year.

Safety note:

We have received a request from a Birch Laker to ask motorboat cruisers to stay outside the float line along the shore. It read: "We had a swimmer in the water just a few minutes before a pontoon came through our area. We are fortunate the swimmer was out of the water. When we yelled to the people to stay outside the raft they ignored us and said they were just looking and kept going inside the next couple of rafts. Maybe next time we won't be so lucky."

Line Dancing on Tuesdays

Lind Harman is teaching/hosting line dancing at the Yacht Club on Tuesday mornings until further notice.

Newberg open house

Newberg Township Fire and EMS (corner of M40 and M60), in conjunction with Satori Salon will host an open house on Saturday, July 14 from 11 am to 5 pm. There will be a med-flight, smoke house, dunk tank, kids waterball

and a bounce house. Port-A-Pit Chicken & Ribs will be available (\$7 for chicken; \$8 for rib tips ... comes with two sides and a drink). All are welcome!

Cass County Conservation Club

The Cass County Conservation Club will host a garage sale on Aug 12 to 14 in the club parking lot on the weekend of the large US-12 garage sale. For details contact Connie Sue Hulse at 641-2590.

The following events are scheduled at the Cass County Conservation Club on US 12 at Birch Rd.:

July 14 & 15 — U-Pick'em Bingo

Aug. 25 — Corn and Sausage Roast

Sept. 15 & 16 — U-Pick'em Bingo

Nov. 3 & 4 — Bingo Proceeds to

Weekly events include Line Dance class w/ Fran every Monday @ 6pm; Zumba every Wednesday @ 5:30 pm; Yoga every Tuesday @ 6 pm; Euchre every Thursday @ 6:30 pm.

DiRutigliano

Joyce DiRutigliano, 80, South Side, was declared dead by the Cook County medical examiner's office Sunday evening at St. James Hospital and Health Centers in Chicago Heights, where she was brought after the accident at Exchange and Burville roads. Her husband, Dominic, 85, suffered from fractured neck vertebrae and was hospitalized. According to authorities, Dominic lost control of his auto on slip-

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— Birch Lake Notes —

perly roads. The car flipped sideways into the eastbound lane and was struck in the passenger-side door by the St. John man's 2008 Toyota 4Runner, Hoffmeyer said.

Eldora Cleland

Eldora Cleland, the mother of Peggy Cowen (West side), died recently in Florida. At nearly 94 years old, she visited the Cowen cottages since the 1950's and loved its peace and beauty. Oh, if we each could live such a long, happy, and fulfilled life! Many will remember her at various Birch Lake functions.



Dorothy Palm

Dorothy I. Palm, 93, died July 6. Surviving are sons, William A. (Judith) Palm Jr. & Robert D. (Carolyn) Palm (South Side), 6 grandchildren, 6 great-grandchildren, and a sister, Harriet Barkley. To send condolences please visit Kaniewski.com. Published in South Bend Tribune on July 9, 2012

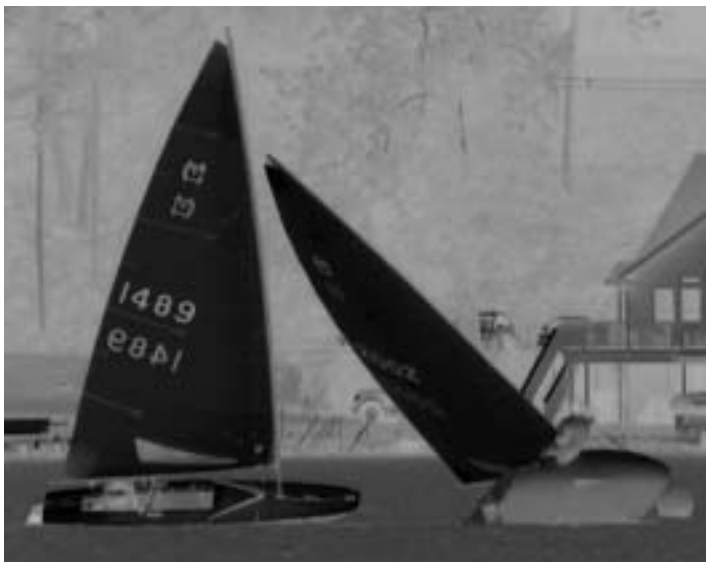
Got Pix?

We are looking for photos of Birch Lake for a 2013 calendar. We're particularly interested in covering all the seasons, so if you have a few (no more than 5 per person), send them to us ... email your submissions to sailorphil@philvitale.com or get them to Commodore Pam, Vice Commodore Chas.

There is also a cool ONLINE form to submit photos ... find a link to the form at <http://www.philvitale.com> (follow the link to "The Birch Barker.")

50 Shades of MC sailboats

Thanks to Mr. Bob (North Side) for the negative/positive images of MC Sailboats on Birch Lake.



Other real estate agents talk about their listings ...

Let me tell you about my **RESULTS!**

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Annmarie Lindzy, granddaughter of Dick and Judy Lindzy and daughter of Rich and Jennifer Lindzy graduated from St. Joseph High school on May 27th. She was a member of the National Honor Society. She will attend Notre Dame in the fall to study medicine in hopes of becoming a surgeon. She loves Birch Lake and held her graduation party at the lake on July 1st.



Historical Kid of the Week ... 1941 photo of Gladys Adams Cramer, mother of Melanie Como (South Side). The family rented Lazy Lodge one or two weeks a year and enjoyed Birch Lake.

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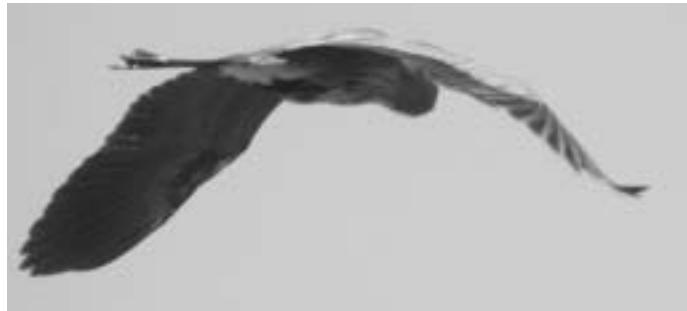
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



The family of Camille Athanas (West Side) had great fun at Birch Lake enjoying the water, the sun, and the family reunion. Members of the family achieved some 'firsts' for waterskiing in the family. Above left, Amelia (6) learned to ski. Above center, Alexander (4) gave it a good try, and at right, Amanda (12) learned to slalom. They are all very proud parents/aunts/uncles/grandparents.



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the cool Big Bird photo ...

The Closest Marina to Birch Lake!

8 MILES FROM THE LAKE, IN "ZIMMYVILLE" JUST SOUTH OF US 12

Pontoon Boat Specials!

2012 MANITOU PONTOONS

Aurora 18' Black w/Mercury 25 hp \$15265.71

Aurora 20' Burgundy w/Mercury 40 hp Bigfoot \$17617.18

Aurora 22' Blue w/Mercury 60 hp \$19402.55

Oasis 23' SE VP Black — Rear Lounge Hi-Performance V-Toon w/Mercury 150 hp Optimax

In-floor storage; 40 mph with four passengers! \$32495.00

2012 XCURSION PONTOONS by Forest River

X-21C Black w/40 hp Mercury Bigfoot \$18995

Dock Store Specials!

4 x 10 foot Pier sections

Treated Wood	\$169
Treated Wood and Aluminum	\$269
Aluminum	\$409
Anodized Aluminum	\$509
Sheerline White Vinyl.....	\$549

4-foot Aluminum Post Assembly

Includes 1 crossarm, 2 posts, 2 crossarm clamps,
2 stringer brackets, and 2 augers or 8" bottom plates.

Post Height	...3'4'5'6'7'8'10'
\$/assembly...	\$109	..\$117	..\$122	..\$128\$135\$140\$155

Other Styles and Sizes available

Otter Island Rafts 8 x 10' (Yellow or Tan).....	\$1349
1400# PWC Lift	\$895



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— Water Quality —

Slicks, Scums, Bacteria and Blue -Green Algae

At the recent Yacht Club board meeting, there was some discussion / concern as to what all the warm rainless weather might mean regarding the lake. In the past, these conditions have resulted in some instances of perhaps unsightly and worrisome, but generally harmless, floating substances. So we thought we might talk a bit about the matter that is in the lake and how it may manifest itself with all the sun, heat, and lack of rain.

First, as we know from past years we will see material on the lake, especially on those early quiet summer mornings. Most of this consists of carcasses from insect hatches, tree pollens and other items that have blown onto the lake from the surrounding trees and fields, and bubbles that have been captured by plant oils and organics from decaying vegetation on the bottom that gets stirred up with boat traffic.

Monday morning (7-9-12) was a good example of that with a string of little bubble mats with all the aforementioned components included. With sun and a little wave action this breaks up and either finds its way to shore or sinks in the depths.

However, in random shoreline locations, and only on very spotty occasions we may find little localized blooms of blue green algae. Blue green algae are ubiquitous in the environment, i.e. fresh water, marine, terrestrial, etc. and serve an enormous role in providing oxygen to

the atmosphere and converting gaseous nitrogen into forms that plants can use. In reality, they are not algae at all but bacteria that have pigments that can capture sunlight and do photosynthesis, thereby producing oxygen and using carbon dioxide. Although found everywhere, stagnant nutrient laden waters (farm ponds) and waters that receive lots of nutrient laden runoff, can provide an environment for massive reproduction and the creation of a bloom which is usually seen as a true surface scum (not the little slick or bubble mats we see commonly and described above), with a color that is usually tinted bluish green or may be reddish depending on the pigments in the cells. If they occur on our lake, this is an uncommon event but should be noticeable and quite different from the summer morning material on the lake. The ones we have seen are commonly restricted to a small area, visible only in the early morning, seem to follow a previous day's wind and wave action onto that shore line, and disperse quickly with sun and wave action in the lake.

Is there a safety issue with blue green algae blooms? Possibly, and in order to be safe, do not let your pets drink from a bloom or children swim in a bloom. Blooms are not normally an issue at Birch Lake, as we are a low nutrient lake, and have only been seen randomly and usually in late summer.

With the unexpected heat, lack of



rain, and abundant sunshine, will this summer be different? Time will tell. Additionally, there is some evidence that the presence of zebra mussels has been associated with increased abundance of blue green algae, perhaps because they absorb other competing algae. We have zebra mussels, but they do not seem to be in the numbers as in years past.

So, with all that should we have concerns? Probably not, as these are rare random events at Birch Lake. However, should you see a real scum near your shoreline (not bubble mats, insect carcass mats, or foam), follow precautions until it is dispersed.

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**White Crewneck Sweatshirts
(Adult S-XXL),
White Beach Towels
Blue Tie-Dyed Beach Towels
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Buy 4, get 5th one free

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**Buy them at upcoming
BLYC events
such as the
Vice Commodore's
cocktail party**

**or Contact
Chas Grundy
574-315-0217
chas@grundyhome.com**



— Birch Lake Notes —

NEW EVENT — BLYC POKER RUN & Camp Tannadoonah Hog Roast

Saturday - July 21, 2012

Join the fun - first 52 players get to play! \$15 entry fee.

You will receive a playing Card at each home. Players must visit all 5 homes on Birch Lake to pick up cards to be eligible to win!. At the last (5th) home, poker hands will be presented to the official Dealers (Stan & Rich). Refreshments provided at each home.

Best Poker hand wins \$250; second best hand - \$100, third best \$50.

Event starts at 3pm - meet at Stu Spratt's and get the first card.

Other stops include:

West shore - Sheffieck's

East shore - Fallon's & Chester's

South shore - TBD

North shore - Mullin's

Pontoon transportation will be provided between stop! Finish at Mullin's. Attend the Camp Tannadoonah Annual Hog Roast afterwards - including Live Music and of course - the hog!!!!

Drop entry form off to any of the hosts - Mullin, Spratt, Sheffieck, Fallon, Chester. Limited to the first 52 players!!!!

USE THIS ENTRY FORM

Player name: _____

Player name: _____



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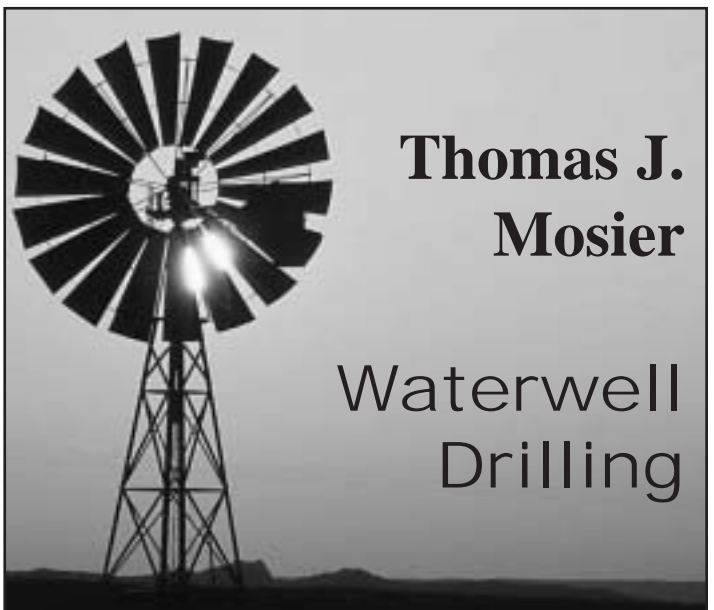
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— Sailing on Birch Lake —

MC Scows follow 400 year old Dutch tradition

Birch has a long and proud sailing tradition dating to the populating of the lake for recreational purposes. Our two sailing fleets are the Sunfish and MC Scow.

Scow comes from "schouw" ... flat bottomed boats that have sailed in Dutch waters for over 400 years. The schouw was popular due to shallow draft (depth required) with adjustable depth dual "leeboards" (daggerboards). This characteristic allowed the schouw to navigate the winding shallow waterways of Holland.

In the late 1890s a shallow-draft racing boat was introduced to England called the Half-Rater. Interest in racing small dinghies also began in the US and before long the two groups began racing



to test their boat building and sailing skills. The Massachusetts Bay Yacht Racing Association established classes ranging from 15 to 21 feet. The scow also

found strong supporters in the inland lakes area of Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The Johnson Boat Works at White Bear Lake (MN) was one of the first to build scows, among others. The many builders were eventually eclipsed by Melges Boat Works, which remains the class builder today. The Inland Lake Yachting Association (ILYA), circa 1897, is the guiding force of modern development of the scow class.

This copy is paraphrased / "borrowed" from the MC class site at www.mcscow.org

Try sailing – we get unlimited miles per gallon!

~Submitted by Mr. Bob

BLYC 52nd ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE) JULY 27, 2012 - \$70/man SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

61270 Lutz Road, Three Rivers, MI — Shotgun start at NOON; dinner at BLYC at 6 pm
*must have registrations by July 9th.

Please state shirt sizes for every golfer!

Additional Information

- team prizes and contests
- lunch not included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service availability
- the mens' and ladies' outing is looking for donations of door prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact Bob or Stu at ReBauc@aol.com or slsvb1@comcast.net.
- We have need for 80 players in the mens' and 40 players in the womens' event.
- Send entries to Bob Baucus (19470 Starbrick Road, Edwardsburg, MI 49112) or drop checks to Phil Vitale (63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI - east side)

Foursome Information

Team Captain:

1. _____
Name & Shirt Size

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Checks should be made out to BLYC

Please Print Players Names & Shirt Sizes

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



Fleet Captain's Corner



The Most Famous Sailor of All

*I'm Popeye the Sailor Man,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.
I'm strong to the finish
Cause I eats me spinach.
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.*

*I'm one tough Gazookus
Which hates all Palookas
Wot ain't on the up and square.
I biffs 'em and buffs 'em
And always out roughs 'em
And none of 'em gets nowhere.*

*If anyone dares to risk my "Fisk",
It's "Boff" an' it's "Wham" un'erstan'?
So keep "Good Be-hav-or"
That's your one life saver
With Popeye the Sailor Man.*

*I'm Popeye the Sailor Man,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.
I'm strong to the finish
Cause I eats me spinach.
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man*



mostly constant, including purposeful contradictions in Popeye's capabilities.

Though at times he seems bereft of manners or uneducated, Popeye is often depicted as capable of coming up with solutions to problems that (to the police, or, most importantly, the scientific community) seem insurmountable. Popeye has for example, alternatively, displayed Sherlock Holmes-like investigative prowess (determining for instance that his beloved Olive was abducted by estimating the depth of the villains' footprints in the sand), as well as scientific ingenuity (as his construction, within a few hours, of a "spinach-drive" spaceship).

Popeye's pipe also proves to be highly versatile. Among other things, it has served as a cutting torch, jet engine, propeller, periscope, and, of course, a whistle with which he produces his trademark toot. Popeye also on occasion eats spinach through his pipe, sometimes sucking in the can itself along with the contents. He seldom appears to use it to smoke tobacco or illegal substances.

Popeye's vastly versatile exploits are deemed even more amusing by a few standard plot elements. One is the love triangle between Popeye, Olive and Bluto (sometimes Brutus, or "Brutisk" as Popeye would say), and the latter's endless machinations to claim Olive at Popeye's expense. Another is his (near-saintly) perseverance to overcome any

obstacle to please Olive who, quite often, renounces Popeye for Bluto's dime-store advances. Finally, in terms of the endless array of villain plots, Popeye mostly comes to the truth by "accidentally" sneaking up on the villains, the moment they are bragging about their schemes' ingenuity, thus revealing everything to an enraged Popeye, who uses his "fisks" in the name of justice.

Thanks to Patty, Patty, Amy, Denise, Amber, Chas and Bill for being our race officials. We need you and we want you and we love you. Thanks a million. Because some sailors were intently involved in the Camp T pancake breakfast, sailing for that day was moved to Wednesday, July 4th. The July 4th Regatta was last Saturday and Sunday. Results count toward season standings as well as the regatta. Sunfish had 3 races that counted while MCs had five. Sailing results are published below.

As always, anyone with a sailboat is welcome to come out and race. We'll fit you in even if it's not a Sunfish or an MC. Just come out.

Finally, as a cultural aside, my mom didn't like Popeye. She always told me that violence isn't usually the answer. And after hearing some of the altercations out there I'm thinking she might have had a point. Or not.

See you out there. That is all.

~Stu Spratt

I couldn't resist. And it will get worse. But let's have fun with this.

Popeye the Sailor is a cartoon fictional character created by Elzie Crisler Segar and who has appeared in comic strips and animated cartoons in the cinema as well as on television. He first appeared in the daily King Features comic strip Thimble Theatre on January 17, 1929. Popeye also became the strip's title in later years.

Differences in Popeye's story and characterization show up depending upon which medium he is presented in. While Swee'Pea is definitively the ward of Popeye in the comic strips, he is often depicted as belonging to Olive Oyl in cartoons. The cartoons also occasionally feature family members of Popeye that have never appeared in the strip, notably his look-alike nephews Peepeye, Pupeye, Pipeye and Poopeye.

Even though there is no absolute sense of continuity in the stories, certain plot and presentation elements remain

Sailing results for July 4 and Holiday Regatta

MCs	4-Jul.....4-Jul.....4-Jul.....7-Jul.....7-Jul.....7-Jul.....8-Jul.....8-Jul.....								No. Races	Total.....Season		
	Score	Average	Regatta	Finish								
Scott Troeger #1489	2	3	1				1	1	13	20249	1558	
Jeff Smitley #2002				4	2	1	4	5	14	21006	1500	2
Bob King #1199	3	2	2	1	3	3	2	3	11	16504	1500	1
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	4	5	2	2	1	4	3	7	16	22163	1385	3
Phil Vitale #500	5	4	5	3	5	2	6	2	14	19263	1376	4
Dave Olson #1979	6	1	6	6	4	5	5	6	11	14138	1285	5
Bill Luecht #1579	7	6	4	5	6	6	7	4	14	17880	1277	6
Gib Eberhart #916	1	0					8	8	13	16271	1252	
Sunfish												
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	1	1	1	1			15	23686	1579	1
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)									3	4486	1495	
Sandy Vitale (White)	4	5	2	3	2	4			9	13083	1454	2
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	2	3	3	2	5	5			14	20080	1434	4
Stewart Spratt	5	4	5	4	3	2			14	20015	1430	2
Peter Soldoto	3	2	4						4	5630	1408	
Brad Davis				4	3				2	2813	1407	
Bill Butler									1	1156	1156	

ARE YOU READY FOR A GREAT DAY OF FUN???

IT'S TIME FOR "THE GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN" GOLF OUTING!!!

July 20 — 9 AM

GARVER LAKE GOLF COURSE (EDWARDSBURG)

Prizes for best ball, closest to the pin, best putt, and soooo much more! 50/50 cash Raffle, and many surprises!

Lunch will follow at Lunkers in Edwardsburg.

\$35 per person includes 9 holes of golf with cart, lunch and more fun than legally allowed!!!

Checks should be made out to BLYC and dropped off to Patty Luecht (East side)

Questions call 476-2615

BE THERE!! GET YOUR TEAM!!!

Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to be raffled

Team Members and Entries by July 13th

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

ATTENTION !!

BREAKING NEWS!!!
IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!!
PLEASE READ !!!!!

If you are attending the "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun" Golf Outing, it is essential that I get your team information asap. I need to reserve carts by MONDAY JULY 16 to guarantee we have a cart for every team. If you intend to participate please let me know no later than SATURDAY, JULY 14.

***Also, I have just received a fabulous prize!!!!
If you make a HOLE IN ONE, you will be awarded a
VINTAGE-1996 RED CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE!!!!
WOW! OH WOW!!***

And just one more thing ... LUNCH!!

We will be selecting from the following menu items:
Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad
Taco Salad with either Seasoned Chicken or Beef
Grilled Teriyaki Chicken Breast Sandwich w/FF
Vegetarian Panini (choice of FF, cole slaw or cottage cheese)
Grouper Sandwich w/FF
Turkey Club w/FF

It would be very helpful if you advise me of your lunch choice when you turn in your team information this week.
476-2615 I have a machine if I'm not available.
FYI: You may want to bring bug spray!!!
That's All Folks!

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SusieTucker.com
Waterfront Specialist!
(269)641-5775 (574)320-6697



Featured Listings:



Great home on Birch Lake with access to sandy swimming area and pier for a GREAT price! This 3-bedroom walkout has fabulous lake views from every room in the house and lakeside deck. There is a see-thru fireplace between the newly updated kitchen and dining area. New windows and exterior doors. Make this your year-round home or getaway. Enjoy the summer today!
NEW PRICE: \$84,900

Very nice, all-brick home with 100 FT of very sandy beach on All-Sports Long Lake — with access into Coverdale Lake and canoeing and kayaking into the St Joe River. This



home is very spacious and has fabulous views from all of the large windows throughout. Gourmet kitchen with new flooring and eating area, Two fireplaces (living and family rooms), and rec area in lower level. New carpet in living room and master bedroom has built-ins and cedar closet. Beautiful terraced landscaping and patio with fire pit. Great home for entertaining!

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Stu's Star Stuff

Mars, Saturn and Spica

This month is all about triplets. In the evening sky it's Mars, Saturn, and Spica, which are roughly the same brightness this month. They are in the southwest at nightfall and drop from view around midnight. The grouping is tightest at the end of the month. And in the morning sky it's Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest objects in the night sky after the Moon and Aldebaran, the brightest star of Taurus. They are bunched most tightly in the first half of the month, and are in the east at first light.

As twilight drains from the eastern sky this evening, a pyramid of bright stars fades into view: the Summer Triangle. The apex of the pyramid is Vega, the leading light of Lyra, the harp, about halfway up the eastern sky. Deneb is to its lower left, with Altair farther to its lower right. (I remember this by using the phrase "Altair is out there")

What else? Cepheus, the king, climbs into view in the northeast as darkness falls. The constellation looks like a child's drawing of a house, with

a square of stars topped by a triangle. None of its stars is all that bright, so you need fairly dark skies to find it. But here at the lake we have that.

Lyra, the harp, stands halfway up the eastern sky as night falls summer evenings and climbs directly overhead around midnight. The little constellation contains one of the brightest stars visible from most of the northern hemisphere, Vega, at the northwest corner of the constellation.

Altair is the brightest star of Aquila, the eagle. In fact, the name means the flying eagle. The star is in the east at nightfall, at the lower right corner of the bright, widespread Summer Triangle.

The planet Venus is at its brightest for its current morning star appearance. It is well up in the east at first light, with the slightly fainter planet Jupiter directly above it.

At first light tomorrow, the Moon is well up in the east, with the small Pleiades star cluster a little to its upper left. The brilliant planets Venus and Jupiter stand below the Moon.

No songs or stories this week.

The Moon for July 14

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.138
4.2 days after last quarter



Sunday, July 15th:
Sunrise: 6:22am
Sunset: 9:18pm
Moonrise: 3:19am
Moonset: 6:34pm
Day length: 14h 56m

Just get out there and enjoy the show. It's always free.

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20) You can make wonderful contributions to any organization that you join. You can find out interesting information if you get a chance to talk to people you respect. Think twice before eating spicy foods; you may have problems with your stomach. Your talents might just be discovered. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21) You are best to listen for the time being. Socializing will be more than just entertaining. Get involved in a competitive sport that will bring the challenges you thrive on. Your ability to deal with others will help you in getting the support you need. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21) Get down to business and do the work yourself. You'll have problems with authority figures if you don't play by the rules. Those you care about may oppose your ideas. Involve yourself in group endeavors. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22) Romantic encounters will develop through group activity. You are best to stick to yourself this week. You should be making plans to spend some time with the ones you love. You will need to finalize important deals this week. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22) Unpredictable events will disrupt your routine. Visit friends who

have not been well. You will have a productive day if you organize yourself well at work. Situations in your personal life are moving a little fast lately. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) Plan a nice evening for two. You will have a great deal of insight when dealing with others. Don't upset elders in your family who don't understand your present situation. Don't forget that your budget is limited right now. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) You may find that your family responsibilities are piling up. Your lack of attention may have been a factor. Don't get involved in expensive entertainment that involves gambling. Your emotional partner may make you angry this week. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) You may find out that someone is trying to undermine you. Try not to lend or borrow money or belongings this week. You should include children in your activities. Expect temper tantrums on the home front if you haven't been letting someone have their way. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) Minor accidents may occur if you don't concentrate on what you're doing. Resist any idle chatter. Focus on your own domestic problems. Don't let

others know about your private affairs. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) Enlist the aid of family members and consider the feelings of your mate. Your talents are likely to be discovered. Overstatement will be your downfall. Don't let situations get out of control. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them. Arguments may flare up in your home. Be cautious while traveling; minor accidents are evident. Unreliable people will be negative about your ideas. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) You will learn a great deal about yourself if you go somewhere secluded. You always seem to spend more than you make. Don't let any small misunderstandings get in the way. Career changes may not be your choice right now, but in the long run they will be to your advantage. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

If your birthday is this week — Don't eat at any restaurant named "Mom's" this week. Don't play poker with anyone named "Doc." Don't draw a gun on the Lone Ranger, sword fight with Zorro, fist fight with Superman or spit into the wind. And above all, no matter what you think, don't play pool with LeRoy Brown.



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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Who can pass on deviled eggs?

Bacon Cheddar Deviled Eggs

Ingredients

- 12 eggs
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- 4 slices bacon
- 2 tablespoons finely shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 tablespoon mustard

Directions

1. Place eggs in a saucepan, and cover with cold water. Bring water to a boil and immediately remove from heat. Cover, and let eggs stand in hot water for 10 to 12 minutes. Remove from hot water, and cool. To cool more quickly, rinse eggs

under cold running water.

2. Meanwhile, place bacon in a large, deep skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown.

Alternatively, wrap bacon in paper towels and cook in the microwave for about 1 minute per slice. Crumble and set aside.

3. Peel the hard-cooked eggs, and cut in half lengthwise. Remove yolks to a small bowl. Mash egg yolks with mayonnaise, crumbled bacon and cheese. Stir in mustard. Fill egg white halves with the yolk mixture and refrigerate until serving.



— BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH —

Complete the maze and then find the words. The words can only be found along your maze path.

EBTDJKJBFYVSVTODNFRUVEGHNYMUIBXEXAFTXFCYVWATERMELONHXPOAYEVTXWMTRSJKMUGGYHOBLYTGXM

M J D A J P F T

D G H J K S U Q

N DJVF T BSQJUXL W M Y JMFK C XTDNORAINY GTKVYLH M H V RYBUGWATER L

R R Y U O J Y V Q W J C S G O Q M

K H E Q Q D G X T D A I K E U R W G

W AOMYGMT L G PYTE S R B C T C U F OBUVOVHROASTLNLCL BCLAMMY N V G P D

R M E Y Y I A G H F I W O K B P V P

H J Q P K L U P I L H E P I G C J

UHDTPCLKLIE Y QBPI MQFJ L L I R K NGKMUUJ T LRQF PMTT QOHKXXW B H V

K X S J C G V S H L U D C E O J

M P W U O H V T C K S V B R B R

U HCLFQJJPQJJ X U L D UOPKNJXHEATPY ETGF JYAYYMGAAE XDGD H PGQE CBCQ G B

O Q D D Y T J H U O G S

END O M B I E I M M Y N U K

L EOJN HUKWHBCIBB ERAY S OKKJ J OYIWRHE T P UIIE EGCVDLC JDNOQKMDDIYXR

T K I E X I M I P X H Y Q N E

G O C R I I M I H S O Q B A G

U M SRGE IXQOAHJJEE J K O SVTTNJW HYQEFJK O UOUWKCR V ROYOGRXTFPPMS N

J G T Y H Q F Y L P C K Y

O W E A P R U I U C W J Q

E TFIX A W J OKKOICWJESOXFYJABDM SMTD E C BLNA BQCMQNB X ULEN W WVBO

Y P H K Y U B D R Q N V X W

K R M P S B F Q F R J L V

TYAC PFAUDKDXHXBXR R P AJSB M SBPPEGH T DKTM RFWOGEPKAUUHVEHNBIL PIAD S

Q O S K Y D S N J I R A U F K R V

X Y J N D K H E L E J H W B X R H

U JEBR D KCJR P A P T AKKO T U GORT HCBG Q DIPX A B OCQR XDIN F

T T O D P L A E F J C N J O R N

H A T M I V L T T L F Y E W T Y

NJVADQM JDXB D SHTEBOTVKBNKG I T HXEH A U F GTWDUFQ CKFF A OGPE BWOH U

O G R K U S H R X T E X H V N U

Q O M O T U K L Y J Y N R I L K Y

S K SORY B JWAV SIGF J G RUXJXLNKVD F JKFBRRV T BIPRGENMGR T MCYT X

S W G V E B V V B F N Y

V Y M K K U S U U X G U D S

T RIBAAMMLHLCRT XRDDSSM NLSWLCURNQWLSBWYLDODGTPJOTQKSBYPRC L F FTUYDVP M E

W J N K L N N J K V S U

F U A F H S S K I N U H

M W GHTQ R PGRY GJIUNGM DFUVSKJ INHWOEK EFOR Q NJKEQGKDKDKQU DELRHKW S

C N F J L N H S L G R J X L J

I J A Q D G W R J T C P G C K

UTWABOR G P T CFWF LGMNKFH I E E K PDAB UYDD S JWER L YCBD KMWPGDT K

B K X F B T G Q G V L Q I T X

T U X E C Q N H I I S H D U X

P FLGOUDMQDY JKDAJBUBMMBSP TLAFL YIEKIPXXIW Y M HJHB C X ICIV Y HIRB P

L G W E S V B Y V C Y E U U A V V I

P P T Y E M N R X O O G H V K J H S

S F O X R YDUADNK D V B SUEW UVTY H P V R TILC GARB T XPHORWJ H

Q F B B D Y Q Q W W T

U J R P O S V D A A H

PSETYQDJOQWEALYGIIOJBEBPYEEUBUUCHSWHNRMXANDNERCPTVOJEVWSNAOSNLDOBGRRJCPBNDGDYUFWU

START

Find and circle these words:

HEAT	NORAIN	ROAST
WATER	THIRSTY	CLAMMY
WET	MUGGY	COLDBEER
ICETEA	RAY	GRILL
WATERMELON		

— BIRCH LAKE DIRECTORY UPDATE —

Thanks to all the residents that have submitted their directory updates. The Publications and Communications Committee has arrived at a deadline for the corrections: JULY 31, 2012. That being said, the directories may/should/probably will be ready in August. Wouldn't that be perfect for these dog days of summer?

Birch Lake Directory Update News

It's time to update our beloved Directory and the sooner we get your information, the sooner your household can have a brand new, crisp, accurate and informative directory.



On the next page of this issue of the Birch Barker is an Update form. You may:

1. drop it off to Fallon's at 63600 Birch Road (brown house, green roof)
2. mail it to 63600 Birch Road, Vandalia MI 49095
3. complete it, scan it and send the pdf to Celia.Fallon@gmail.com
4. or ignore it and allow the editors to decide your directory entry.

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2. mail it to 63600 Birch Road, Vandalia MI 49095
3. fax it to 269-476-1467
4. complete it, scan it and send the pdf to Celia.Fallon@gmail.com
6. or ignore it and allow the editors to decide your directory entry.

INFORMATION SHEET FOR UPDATE OF BLYC DIRECTORY

Name(s): _____

Birch Lake address: _____

Cottage number (if known): _____

Off-lake address: _____

Other address: _____

Lake phone: _____ Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone(s): _____

Email addresses: _____

Children : (Please state ages as of August 31, 2012) _____

Other information (optional): _____



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Camp Tannadoonah

Surviving 100-degree heat!

HAY for the cooler weather! We survived the 100+ degree weather up here at camp last week by doing lots of stuff in the lake, having water stations at all the sunny activities in camp, and encouraging everyone to drink a lot of water and Gatorade. We made it through the week without any campers having heat-related problems, and boy were we glad when that cooler breeze came in on Saturday evening!

This week at camp is International Week and we're pretty close to completely full, with 104 campers (capacity is 111). This week is also part of Super Week. We had 64 campers who attended our 3-day mini camp last week during the holiday week, and 36 of those campers stayed through the weekend and are here for International Week as well. So they get 10 straight days of camp, rather than just a regular week!

Our total numbers for the year are up to 565, which is 24 ahead of last year on this date. We're still shooting for 625, so we need to pick up another 60 kids between now and the end of summer!

Help us recruit any kids you might know!

This week for International Week, each cabin chose a country to represent on Sunday night. Most cabins chose real countries, but some came up with their own fictional nation. Then they all got to create a flag for their cabin to display in the dining hall all week. My personal favorite fictional country this week is Birchlandia, whose flag depicts a sailboat on the lake! That cabin is represented by none other than Miss Katie Luecht.

On Sunday evening the campers played Capture the Flag, and on Tuesday night we held an international fair, with booths from each of the cabins countries. Wednesday night was a camp "war" - the campers were divided into three teams, and played different games at each station: Water Balloon Battleship, Ball Wars, and Tug of War.

Thursday night every week we have something called Camper Council. Each cabin elects a representative, and they go to a meeting to determine a list of potential evening activities. Then they

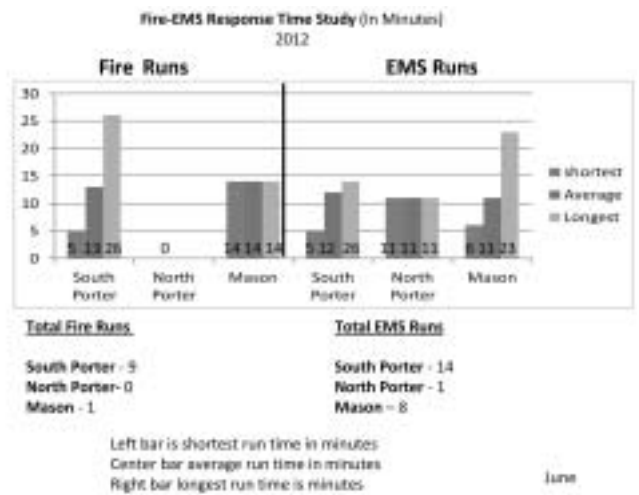
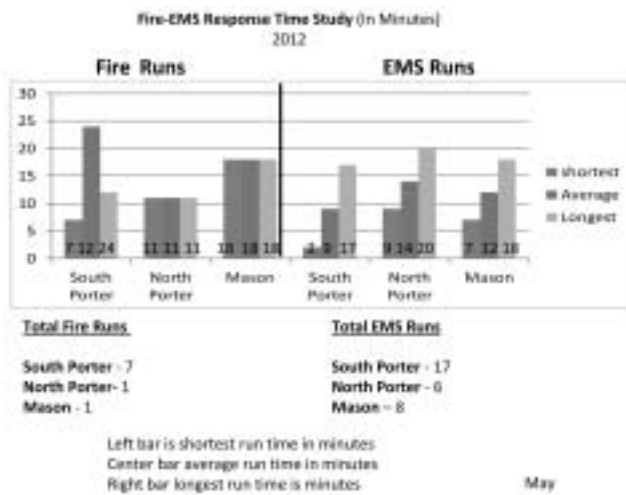
go back to their cabin and take a vote. The next day the Camper Council meets again to collect the votes and decide what the all-camp activity will be. Then the Council helps set up and carry out that activity. It's nice to give the kids a voice and see what they come up with for activities!

This year at camp we put in a garden behind the dining hall, and yesterday we picked our first fresh veggies of the year! We picked two very large zucchinis, and a cucumber. There are a bunch more zucchinis and cucumbers that will be ready soon, as well as tomatoes, beans, peppers, lettuce, onions, garlic, and lots of herbs! We're very excited to soon be supplying our salad bar with fresh foods!

Don't forget that Saturday, July 21st is our annual Hog Roast up here at camp, following the Poker Run on the lake. Everyone is invited to attend, and it's always a lot of fun!

-Miss Amber
 amber@tannadoonah.org
 574-217-4731

Fire, Ambulance runs for May and June



Thanks to Pete Fournier for the data

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smwillia@comcast.net

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debo36@comcast.net
Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E)
.....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com
Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293
sparkybob220@comcast.net

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\$ _____

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Name _____

\$ _____ - Building Improvement Fund

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Address _____

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For Sale: Antique Story and Clark pump organ. In good working condition. Best offer. Call

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Razor electric scooter. Good condition. \$75. Kevin 476-2166 or 773-304-8042.



WANTED

Oars anyone??? Looking for some weathered oars for a DIY window treatment! Please call Amy @ 476-2843.

Photographs Wanted — We are collecting photos for the 2013 Birch Lake calendar. All are welcome to submit entries! Visit grundyhomes.com/bly-cphotos. Entries are due by July 15, 2012

Almost ready to sail. All I need is a **rudder for a Sunfish.** Please contact Bill Carpenter Cottage 12. 574-340-5559

Tim and I and our Standard Poodle Charlie **want to rent a place on Birch through half of August,** were flexible! Our contact number is 1-850-554-0769, or 850-934-3688. Email, tim.burchell@aopsales.com, lizbur@bellsouth.net

Tannadoonah camper parents looking for a **place on the lake to rent the week of July 29 through August 4.** Contact Miss Amber at 574-217-4731

Work Wanted — Looking for odd jobs! A friend of ours is going to be staying with us for a few weeks and he is out of work. Looking for any odd jobs such as spring cleanup, mowing, raking, planting, trimming, general carpentry or any other job you don't have time for or don't want to do. Has lake references. Reasonable Rates. Call Matt Hudson at 616-818-6633 or Staci Whiteman at 269-816-5755

FOUND

Pink teddy bear at the Yacht Club found after the spaghetti dinner. Call Jim Bolinger at 476-9737 for the rescue.

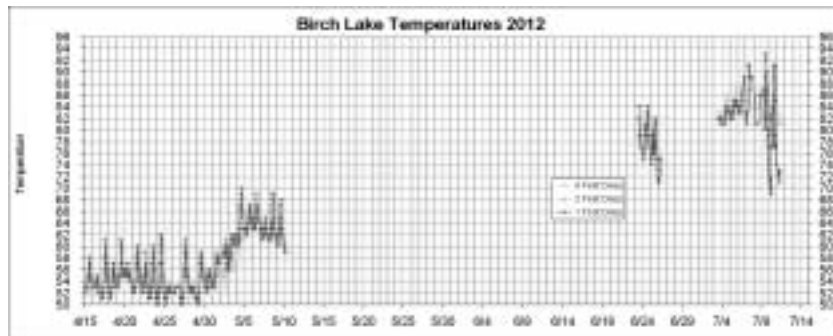
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Steve Quinlan (West Side) is busy trying to recreate the temperature graph data ... watch future Barkers for info!

Thanks to Steve Quinlan (West Side) for the Temp Graph

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