

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 15, 2013

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Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the duck family photo ...

The Wild Rumpus

Commodore's Comments

"And now," cried Max, "let the wild rumpus start!"

Several of our friends here at Birch Lake have graduated from high school or college this year. Even though they're not our own children, it's difficult not to be proud of them. We've watched them grow up over the years and to see them today, well, it's hard not to feel kind of old. I suppose that won't get better. In any case, congratulations to all of our graduates.

Be sure to join us **Saturday June 15 at 7 pm for the Commodore and Vice Commodore Cocktail Party** at the Yacht Club. There's a "tailgate" theme, so dress to represent your favorite team. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share. All are welcome! Starts at 7pm. Call me if you're interested in

hosting a tailgate table, otherwise you get to listen to the Notre Dame Victory March every 15 minutes.

So Bill and Sherry Holleman (my in-laws) are staying at our home again this summer. They escape the 115-degree Arizona heat ("But it's a dry heat!" Grand Canyon State residents note, as if that somehow makes it tolerable) by retreating back to Birch Lake while my family moves over to Camp Tannadoonah.

Many may know Bill and Sherry from when they lived in the Cove about 25 years ago. Well, when Amber was about 7 years old she got an inflatable sailboat as a gift from her grandfather. So she and her dad entered the kids' regatta in this inflatable contraption. Unfortunately, they never made it out of the cove. They jumped out and swam the boat home. Sadly, this is far better than my own sailing skills. I'll stick to the committee boat for now.

~ Commodore Chas

2013 BLYC Calendar

June 15 ..Commodore/V.Comm Party — 7pm
June 22Sewer Plant Open House
June 22Spaghetti Dinner
July 6.....Fireworks and Boat Parade
July 7.....Fireworks rain date
July 7.....Pancake Breakfast
July 19Ladies Golf Outing
July 20.....Poker run
July 26.....Men's Golf Outing
July 26.....Ladies on the Lake
July 27.....Camp T Hog Roast
August 3.....Corn and Sausage Roast
August 17Fall Dinner
September 7.....Sailing Awards
September 14.....Card and Game Party
October 12.....Chili Cookoff

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 Chas Grundy, 269-476-7062. --Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

2013 Boat Parade

Disney is the theme for the 4th of July boat parade for 2013

The time has come again to start thinking about the 4th of July boat parade on Birch Lake

The Birch Lake Disney parade is scheduled to take place on Saturday, July 6th at 2 pm.

The activities will commence from Dick Bender's pier on the south side.

So get your creative juices going and let's have the best boat parade right here on beautiful Birch Lake.

Stay tuned for further details in upcoming issues of the Birch Barker

~ **Linda Curtis & Sue Waddle**

Sympathies

Our sympathies to the family of Francis Michael Plaia, 88, who died May 22. Frank was the father of Steve (Julie) Plaia of Mishawaka. Steve is the son-in-law of Harold and Donna Cranmer (west side).

Zimmyville Garage Sale

The Zimmyville & Beyond All-Area Garage Sale will take place this weekend, June 21 & 22 from 8 a.m. to 3 pm at Mills Grocery parking lot.

Answer to last week's question:

Question: Why was the dam built across the outlet creek which flows between the Wozny/Rzeszewski proper-



Duffy's Artwork — Thanks to Duffy Dufor (east side) for the cool paintings

ties on the southwest corner of the lake?

Answer: Many people think the dam was built to control the lake water level. This thought is incorrect. The dam was built to keep fish from escaping downstream to other lakes.

No Line Dance this week

There will be no line dance the week of June 18; it will resume June 25

at 9 am.

~Lind

Yipes!

Here's a very brief video (0:15) - bet you can't watch it just once! Well, I couldn't ~ Bob

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Sewer Plant Open House

Ever wonder how an effluent sewer plant works? The Porter Township Sewer Plant will have an open house June 22 from 10 am thru 2 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Your Help is Needed!

The Sewer Department & Porter Township need your help! Please do not flush any type of wipes, diapers or feminine hygiene products into the sewer system. These items get tangled in the grinder pumps and in lift stations causing maintenance problems that could be avoided. Problems like this may cause replacing pumps or other mechanical parts which may necessitate increasing the maintenance rate. If problem causing items are not flushed into the system the cost of maintenance and thus the sewer maintenance rate may be maintained.

Advertising in the Barker

We are still (and always) accepting both display and classified advertising for the Birch Barker (see page 17 of today's Barker).

Classified ads are free to members of the BLYC (non-member rate is \$5 per ad). Email your classified ads to the Barker at sailorphil@philvitale.com.

Display ads are charged at the low, one-time rate of \$65 for a 1/8 page ad; \$130 for a 1/4 page ad; \$260 for a 1/2

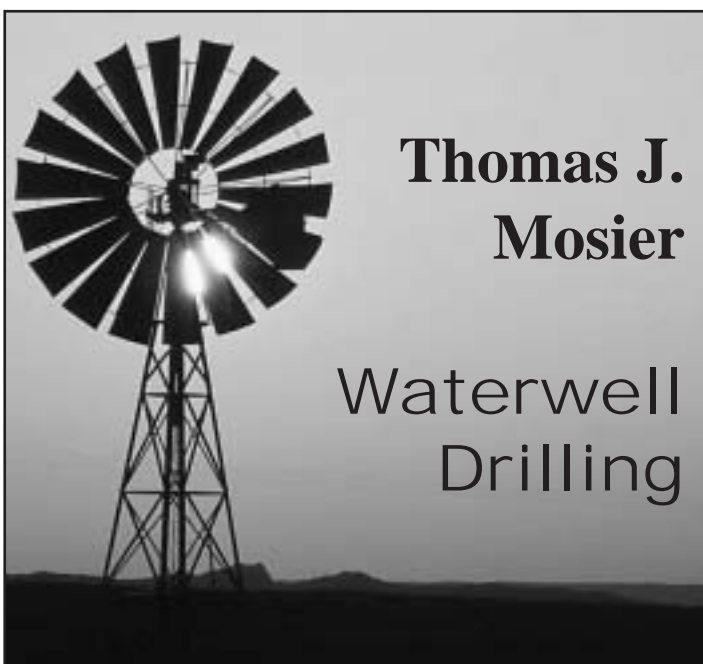


Thanks (again) to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the cool reflection pic of his Sunfish ... someone better check that knot, though ...



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— Birch Lake Notes —

page ad; and \$520 for a full page ad.

For information and help building your ad, contact Phil at 476-1680, 445-9200 or sailorphil@philvitale.com.

All ads are subject to the approval of the editor and/or Commodore, officers and board of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Barker Deadlines

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting information for any particular edition is always the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the June 1 issue is Tuesday, May 28) ... thanks.

Online content

The printed Birch Barker is online this season, ... go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.

The Michigan Lakes & Streams May Newsletter is also available at on the Printed Barker page.

Apologies for last week's lateness

Our apologies to all delivery people for the lateness of last weekend's Barker ... apparently the addition of the Homeowners Association brochure threw the printer into a tizzy ...

Thanks for the bird photo

Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north shore) for the cool bird photo at right. Not sure what species he (or she) might be but it sure is a dandy ...



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— Birch Lake Notes —



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— Barker kids of the Week —



These are the kids who attended the wedding of Sanya and Dave Phillips at the Birch Lake Yacht Club Sanya is the daughter of Barker Editor Phil and his bride Sandy Vitale (east side) ... some of these kids are our grandchildren; most are not ...



Kid of the Week Policy

The Birch Barker will try to print (and usually will) all photos of kids (of any age), pets and even the occasional bug, swan, duck or other lake critter as long as the photos meet our rigid decency standards. Please email photos to sailorphil@philvitale and accompany them with the names and any other identifying or pertinent info ... thanks!

Lost Toof

That's my grandson Dominic at right showing off the space in his mouth where he lost his "toof" ...



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— Barker kids of the Week —



Kid-of-the-Week honors to Dezi Ward, 11 month old granddaughter of Julie and Tom Lacy (south side), loved her first boat ride of the summer. She is a 5th generation Birch Laker.

SLOW DOWN

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TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!

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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



Bathtub Test



During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in a long-term care home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

ARE YOU GOING TO PASS THIS ON ... OR DO YOU WANT THE BED NEXT TO MINE?



"You can't find happiness at the bottom of a beer."

Well no kidding... who is happy when their beer runs out?



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Fleet Captain's Corner



Finally, SAILING!!!

With the grace of the temperature and the winds, our fleet of Birch Lake sailors were finally able to sail the waters of Birch Lake.

In our first week out, saw many wind and lead changes along with a major drift of the committee boat. Fortunately our great CB crew of Bad Patty, Amy(my wife), Eric & Karen Miller, Bob Waddle, Neil Troeger and his friend Sara, got the boat back on track for the last race. Thanks to all.

We could use volunteers to help with the committee boat in the upcoming weeks! Please sign up it is a lot of fun!!!

Thanks again,
~Fleet Captain "Mike"

COMMITTEE BOAT:
June Races
16 — Bad Patty
23 — OPEN

30 — Bad Patty

4th of July Regatta
(these dates may change due to the Pancake Breakfast. Please watch for updates.)

July 6 — OPEN
July 7 — OPEN

July Races
14 — Bad Patty
21 — OPEN
28 — OPEN
August Races

4 — Bad Patty
11 — OPEN
18 — Amber and Chas
25 — OPEN

Labor Day Regatta
August 31 — OPEN
Sept. 1 — Bad Patty
Sept. 2 — OPEN



We need volunteers to help with the Committee boat!

To sign up to do (or help with) the Committee Boat for Sunday sailing, contact Mike Lutz via email at: mmtlconcrete@aol.com or call him at 476-2843.

2013 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date	9-Jun	9-Jun	9-Jun	Total	Season
Race #	1	2	3	Points	Average

MC Scow

Jeff Smitley #2002	5	1	1	4496	1499
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	1	5	3	4340	1447
Phil Vitale #500	3	4	2	4334	1445
Gib Eberhart #916	2	3	DNS	2965	1483
Bill Luecht #1579	4	2	4	4259	1420

Sunfish

Sandy Vitale (White)	2	1	2	4642	1547
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	3	3	3	4332	1444
Stewart Spratt	1	4	1	4569	1523
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	5	2	5	4113	1371
Peter Soldoto	4	5	4	4034	1345
Bill Butler	6	6	6	3675	1225

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.

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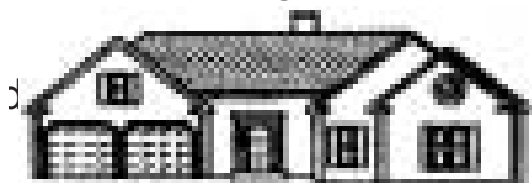
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~Health Tip~

Safe tick removal

Spring is here and the ticks will soon be showing their heads. Here is a good way to get them off you, your children, or your pets. Give it a try.

A School Nurse has written the info below — good enough to share — and it really works!

“I had a pediatrician tell me what she believes is the best way to remove a tick. This is great because it works in those places where it’s sometimes difficult to get to with tweezers: between toes, in the middle of a head full of dark hair, etc.”

“Apply a glob of liquid soap to a cotton ball. Cover the tick



with the soap-soaked cotton ball and swab it for a few seconds (15-20); the tick will come out on its own and be stuck to the cotton ball when you lift it away.

This technique has worked every time I’ve used it (and that was frequently), and it’s much less traumatic for the patient and easier for me..”

Also, if you just pull a tick off, their heads sometimes break off and are left under the skin so this is much safer. Be aware also that a tick with a white speck on its back is a Deer Tick, these can cause Tick Fever so check yourself and your family good if you see any of these!

“Unless someone is allergic to soap, I can’t see that this would be damaging in any way.

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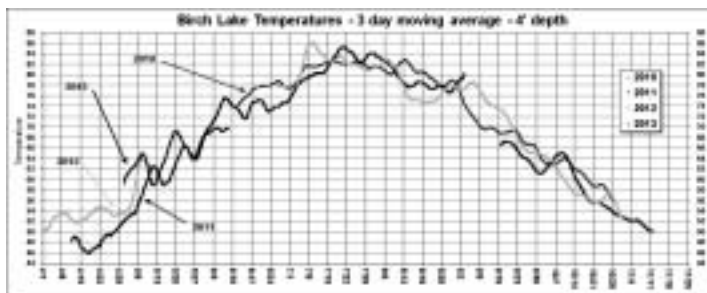
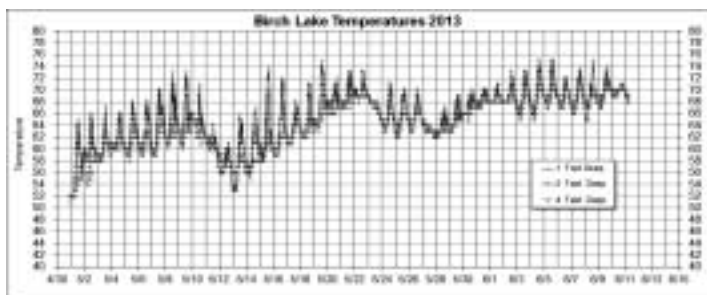
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~Health Tip 2~

It's duck itch season

Swimmer's itch, also known as lake itch, duck itch, cercarial dermatitis, and Schistosome cercarial dermatitis, is a short-term, immune reaction occurring in the skin of humans that have been infected by water-borne schistosomatidae. Symptoms, which include itchy, raised papules, commonly occur within hours of infection and do not generally last more than a week.

A number of different flatworm parasites in the family Schistosomatidae are what cause swimmer's itch. These parasites use both freshwater snails and vertebrates as hosts in their parasitic life cycles. Mostly waterfowl are used as the vertebrate host. During one of their life stages, the larvae of the parasite, cercaria, leave the water snails and swim freely in the freshwater, attempting to encounter water birds. These larvae can accidentally come into contact with the skin of a swimmer. The cercaria penetrates the skin and dies in the skin immediately. The cercaria larvae cannot infect humans, but they cause an inflammatory immune reaction. This reaction causes initially mildly itchy spots on the skin. Within hours, these spots become raised papules which are intensely itchy. Each papule corresponds to the penetration site of a single para-

site.

The schistosomatidae that give rise to swimmer's itch should not to be confused with those of the genus *Schistosoma*, which infect humans and cause the serious human disease schistosomiasis, or with larval stages of thimble jellyfish (*Linuche unguiculata*), which give rise to seabather's eruption. Seabather's eruption mostly occurs in salt water, on skin covered by clothing or hair, whereas swimmer's itch mostly occurs in freshwater, on uncovered skin.

Since it was first described in Michigan in 1928, swimmer's itch has been reported from around the world. Some suggest incidence may be on the rise, although this may also be attributed to better monitoring.

Children may become infected more frequently and more intensely than adults but this probably reflects their tendency to swim for longer periods inshore, where cercariae also concentrate.

To prevent it, don't stand around in shallow, warm lake water. Staying out in somewhat deeper water and/or keeping moving such as when swimming, will usually prevent the parasites from getting you. When you or the kids get out of the water, towel off immediately




with a strong rubbing motion and then shower with soap and hot water.

Swimmer's itch typically clears up on its own within a few days, though in some cases the rash can last up to a week. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter antihistamines or anti-itch creams, such as those that contain calamine lotion. If the itching is severe, your doctor may recommend a prescription medication.

Orally administered hydroxyzine, an antihistamine, is sometimes prescribed to treat swimmer's itch and similar dermal allergic reactions.

Stu's Star Stuff



Due to technical difficulties beyond our control, Stu's Star Stuff did not arrive at the Editor's email by deadline. Stu swears he emailed the column on Tuesday night, but because life gets in the way when you have to work real hours, at the last minute on Wednesday morning (minutes before the editor had to send the paper to the printer), he was unable to re-send it for publication.

So, in order to assuage the curiosity of Birch Lakers all over the lake who are anxious to learn what is going on with the stars this weekend, we decided to offer one sage piece of advice ... **LOOK UP!**

The Moon for June 15
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.451
0.4 days before first quarter



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21-April 20) — You can expect to have problems with your mate if you've been spending too much time away from home. You may want to try your hand at a little creative writing. Don't let your boss get the better of you. In-laws or relatives may oppose your personal intentions. Don't hold yourself back because you think you're too old. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS - (Apr. 21-May 21) — Uncertainty regarding your mate may emerge; reevaluate what you see in each other. This week is not the day to try to come people by giving them ultimatums. You can get ahead if you play your cards right. You may be confused regarding your love life. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — Make sure that you take time to remember those you love. You can make extra cash if you act on a hunch. Go out with friends who are positive and supportive. It might be best to keep your ideas to yourself this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — Try to spend some time on your own. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been well. Don't hold back; go with the flow and take a bit of a chance. You might be overly emotional when dealing with your partner. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — Relationships will be emotional this week. However, you may not attract the kind of interest you had in mind. Sudden changes will occur through communications with friends or in-laws. Do things with your children and avoid situations that make you feel as if you've neglected the ones you love. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO — (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) — Expect problems with settlements that you are trying to resolve. Don't push your luck with your boss. Relationships will become stronger. Your childlike quality may get you into big trouble this week if you neglect your responsibilities. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA — (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. Problems with your partner are apparent. Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt. Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SCORPIO — (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Join a club to work off that excess energy; but consider ways of doing that without spending the money. Do something together and you'll be surprised how sweet a deal you can make. You may be upset if someone has borrowed something that belongs to you. Talk to an older, established individual about your present situation. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Don't overload your plate. Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Make changes regarding your status in society. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec 22.-Jan. 20) — Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Hide your cards and learn to say no. Romance will develop if you get involved in social events that deal with children. You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — You're not your usual self this week. You will be emotional when dealing with coworkers or employers. Unexpected visitors will be a welcome surprise. Don't let others saddle you with guilt that isn't warranted. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Secret intrigues could get you into trouble. You have worked hard and the payback is now. Overindulgence may be a problem. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.



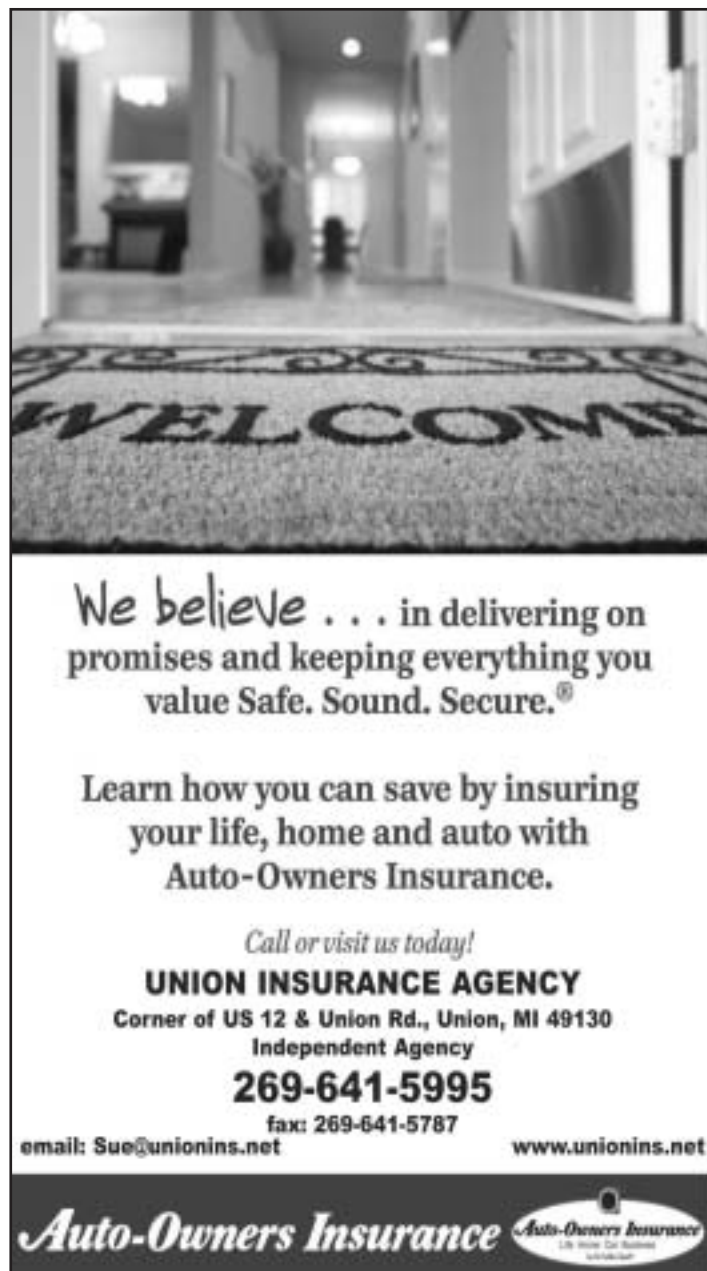
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Melt in Your Mouth Chicken Breast

INGREDIENTS

- 4 boneless chicken breast halves
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1/2 cup freshly grated parmesan cheese
- 1-1/2 teaspoons seasoning salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

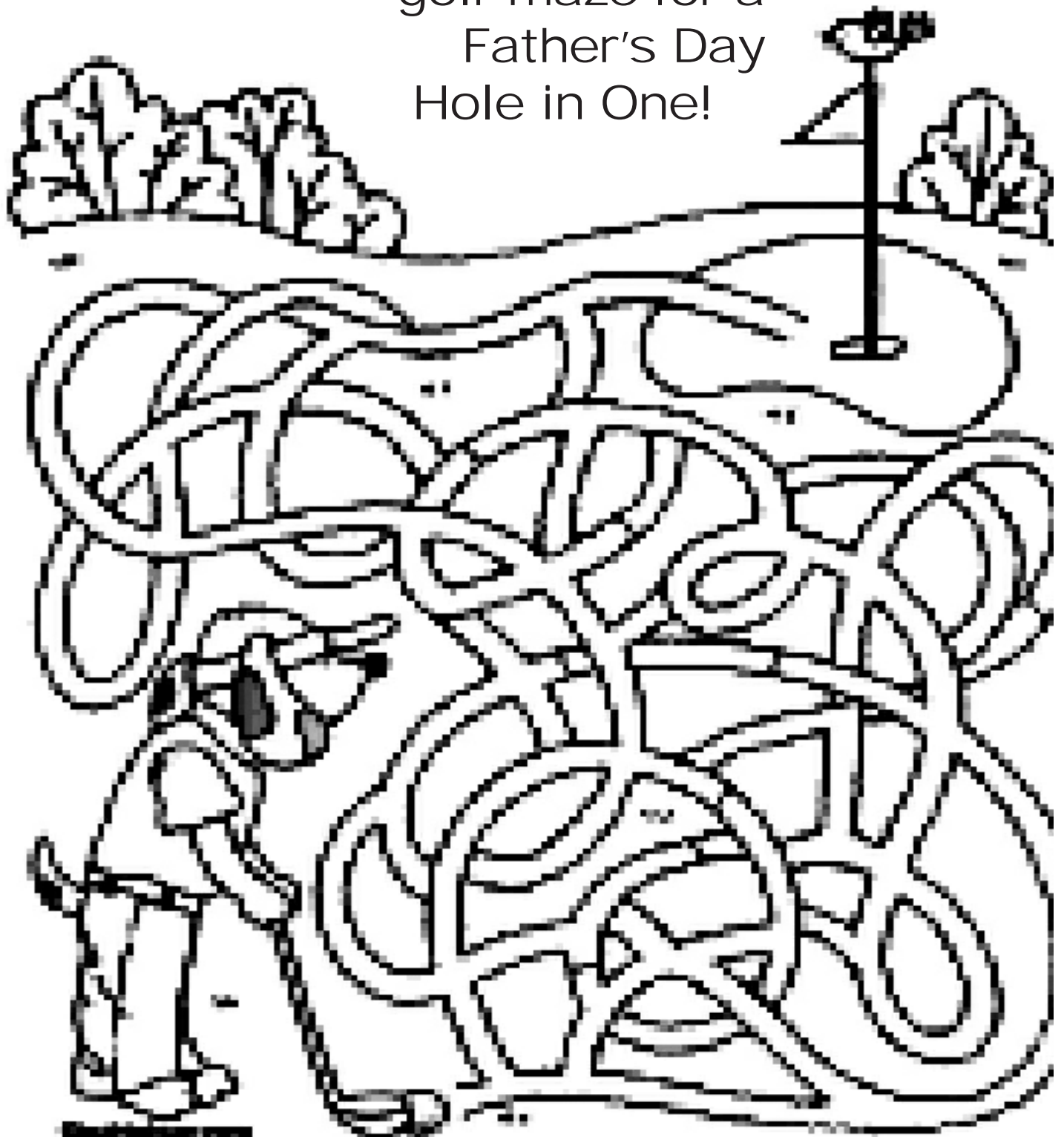
DIRECTIONS:

1. Mix mayonnaise, cheese and seasonings.
2. Spread mixture over chicken breast and place in baking dish.
3. Bake at 375°F for 45 minutes.



—BIRCH LAKE FATHER'S DAY GOLF MAZE—

Help Dad through the
golf maze for a
Father's Day
Hole in One!



Camp Tannadoonah

Campers here this weekend

Camp is nearly here! Our first group of campers arrive at camp on Sunday afternoon. This first week of camp is All Star Sports Week, and we have 74 campers registered for the session. We plan to have lots of different sports activities for the campers to try. Our current total number of campers (as of Tuesday) is exactly 500! That puts us a little bit behind last year at this time, but we are starting to see an uptick in sign ups this week, so I am confident we will keep pace pretty well.

This past week we have been training our staff and preparing camp for the first group of campers. I think that this year's staff is going to be one of our best ever! We've had a great week filled with lots of learning, and tons of fun.

I tried to mix it up with staff training this year, and we turned the entire week into The Amazing Race, Camp Tannadoonah style. On Sunday afternoon when the staff arrived, we divided them into teams and started off with a race around camp. They had to solve puzzles, create a team name and cheer, follow clues to various locations throughout camp, take photos, and learn a camp song and chant that we perform each week.

On Monday, we taught them the rules, procedures, and policies in the staff manual by playing Staff Manual Jeopardy! In the afternoon they worked on setting up activities in camp, and making plans and goals for their activities. Monday night the entire staff got certified in first aid and CPR.

On Tuesday we had another race around camp, during which they got to experience a variety of daily activities at camp, including crafts, low ropes, nature, Gaga Ball, drama, and dance. At each location, they had to perform a task similar to something that campers might do at that activity during camp. Tuesday afternoon we practiced waterfront emergency procedures. After dinner we played lots of games that we typically do during our evening activities, such as Capture the Flag, Ball Wars, Big Base, Ride that Pony, Honey I Love You, and Pterodactyl.

On Wednesday we worked on various projects around camp in the morning, and had another race in the afternoon. They got to experience sports and games, geocaching, archery, and campcraft. That evening we cooked out for dinner, and sang camp songs around the fire afterwards.

Thursday was exciting because the counselors got to move into their cabins and get to know their co-counselors better. This group is particularly neat because of how well they all seem to be getting along so far. Thursday night we had another Amazing Race event, this time at the waterfront. We got to test out the new Stand Up Paddleboards (SUPs), and had SUP races, blindfolded canoe races, swimming relays, and a kayak obstacle course.

And on Friday we finished cleaning up and setting up camp, and had the finale of our Amazing Race. At the finish line, each team had to build a fire and make it big enough to burn through a string. The staff seemed to respond really well to the competitive aspect of the games and events, and had a lot of fun while learning all the things they need to know when campers arrive!

One side note: In the camp fire newsletter that went out at the end of May, I accidentally put the wrong date for the pancake breakfast! The correct date is Sunday, July 7th.

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

SPAGHETTI-FEST JUNE 22, 6 - 8 pm

Come see the new Yacht Club door purchased with the proceeds from last year's dinner!

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Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee
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