The official summer publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club



The 2014 version of the Supremes made an appearance at the Commodore/Vice Commodore's party last Saturday night at the yacht club and performed several sets of Motown classics ... the show was ... ahem ... quite different.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

nother terrific weekend at Birch Lake!!! This must be our reward for enduring the brutal winter. Whatever it is ... I'LL TAKE IT!!!

Thanks to everyone for coming out and making the Vice Commodore/ Commodore Party so fun!!! The snacks were absolutely wonderful, and very plentiful!

Many special thanks to Phil Vitale for keeping us hydrated, Carol Freihofer and Deb Spratt for selling raffle tickets, my stage-hand Amy Lutz, Katie Luecht, our beautiful MC, Nadine and Steve (Camp T counselors) for helping me set up, Chas Grundy for working the music, Vice Commodore Fry for getting all the bar supplies, and last but not least, Joan Waite (my BFF) and Jared Emery (Camp T counselor and such a great sport!) for being such exceptional Supremes! Oh! And thanks to my hubby Bill for putting up with me for at least 3/4ths of the time!!!

Lots of events coming up to put on your bucket list for the rest of the summer! Spaghetti dinner Saturday night starting at 5:30. You must have purchased your tickets in advance. There will be no sales at the door.

Saturday, June 28, 11 am-? the very first (but hopefully, not the last!) *Don Harman Birch Lake People's Regatta*! Open to anyone interested in sailing! Any experienced sailors willing to take future sailors on their boat, please contact Amy Lutz or me. Let's make this a fun day with lots of participants!

July 4, 5, 6 activities — boat parade, fireworks, and pancake breakfast for Camp T.

Birch Lake Ladies' FUN! Golf Outing will be July 18. This year's outing will be at Diamond Lake Golf Course in Cassopolis, starting at 9 am. Lunch will be at Lunker's again in Edwardsburg following the golf outing. Prices are yet to be determined, but start organizing your teams and watch next week's Barker for the registration form and detailed information.

Mens Golf July $25 \ \mathrm{sign}$ -up form is in the Barker now.

Let me take just a few sentences to review a few more serious things we need to think about while we are enjoying Birch Lake. *All watercraft should travel counter-clockwise*. This applies to all operating on the lake. If you are entertaining guests, please remind them

2014 Birch Lake Calendar

June 21 Spaghetti Dinner, BLYC, 5:30-8		
June 28Don Harman's People's Regatta		
July 4, 5, 6BL 4th of July Regatta 11am		
July 5BL Boat Parade 2pm		
July 5Fireworks - Birch Lake		
July 6Fireworks Rain Date		
July 6Pancake Breakfast 8:30-11am Camp		
July 18BL Ladies' Golf 9 am - TBA		
July 19 Newberg Twp Fire/EMS		
Open House, 11 am-3 pm		
July 25 BL Men's Golf - need organizer		
Aug 2 Corn and Sausage BLYC - time TBA		
Aug 16Camp T Hog Roast		
Aug 23BLYC Fall Dinner - TBA		
Oct 18 Chili Cook Off		
May 2, 2015BLYC Spring Dinner		
Dates subject to change.		
Watch the Barker for updates!		

of this rule. Also, *keep a distance of* 100 feet from anchored boats, rafts, and especially our kids playing in the water. Life jackets — enough for everyone! Be aware of other boats!

DONATIONS! Thanks to all that have already contributed. However, we need more! It's a tradition that we enjoy and have come to expect each 4th of July weekend. Please be generous.

Thanks to you all for making Birch

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 or drop items at Neighbors, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or contact BLYC Commodore Patty Luecht (269) 476-2615. —Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —



Ronni Eschelman and Becky Wiseman were busy selling tickets to the Spaghetti Dinner at last weekend's Commodore/Vice Commodore Party ... the dinner is this Saturday (June 21), 5:30 - 8 pm at the yacht club.

photo by the SparkyCam

Lake the best place EVER!!!

Watch for the pink lights, and remember ...

PINK ... it's not just a color, it's an attitude!!!

~Bad Patty, Commodore 2014

New Barker rule

In the past two weeks a couple of well-meaning neighbors have sent me photos for the Barker ... I know I've been harping about sending high-res photos, but these two people sent dozens of photos at high res, all in one email ... which crashed my email server and shut me down for several hours.

So, new rule ... Never send me an email that is over 10 megabytes in size ... depending on how your camera or phone stores photos, there is usually a way to check the size (in bytes) ... and if you aren't sure how big the file might be, send the photos one at a time in separate emails, or if you are trying to send

a large number of photos, bring me your camera card, or put them on a disc or a zip drive and bring it to me ... Thanks!

~nı

Pancake Breakfast

Come join us on Sunday, July 6 for the annual Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. From 8:30 am to 11 am, we'll be dishing up all-you-can-eat pancakes (a limited supply of gluten-free pancakes will be available), sausages, fruit, coffee and juice!

Cost for breakfast is \$5 for adults, kids age 6-10 are \$2 (kids age 5 and under are free).

All proceeds from the breakfast will go to Camp Tannadoonah.

3rd annual Newberg Twp Fire/EMS Open House

Looking for a day of family fun? Come out and support the Newberg Twp Fire and EMS and join in some fun games and great food. The open house will be Saturday, July 19 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Newberg Twp Fire Department (corner of M-60 and M-40 in Jones).

The menu will be a rib meal for \$8, chicken on a stick for \$6 or a hot dog meal for \$4 (meals includes 2 sides and a drink), and for dessert ice cream, sno cones and cotton candy for \$1.

Games and fun include an obstacle course, smoke house, waterball and a



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— Birch Lake Notes —

visit from the helicopter.

Meat and sides supplied by Jim Collins Drive Thru Q; drinks provided by the Jones Shell station.

Just Your Imagination

"Just Your Imagination" is the theme for the 4th of July Boat Parade on Birch Lake ... that will take place (weather permitting) on Saturday, July 5 beginning at 2 pm. The activities will commence from Dick Bender's pier on the south side.

So get your thinking caps on and lets have the best boat parade right here on Birch Lake!

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

~Linda Curtis & Sue Waddle

Barker Deadlines

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting information for any particular edition is **6 pm on the Tuesday** of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the May 31 issue was 6 pm on Tuesday, May 27) ... thanks.

Boating Safety Classes

Cass County Sheriff's Office operates a Marine Patrol Division. The Marine Patrol uses a combination of boats and jet skis to patrol the lakes of Cass County. Marine Patrol Deputies



The air boat was on the lake last week when technicians "treated" the Eurasian Milfoil in different spots (see last week's Barker for more details on the treatment).

enforce all marine laws.

The Marine Division also offers a variety of boater safety classes. Students may per-register by calling the Cass County Sheriff's Office at 445-1240. Please have the student's legal name, address, phone number, and date of birth at the time of registration.

All classes start at 8 am and should

be done by 1 pm. Students are required to bring a #2 pencil. Adults are recommended to take the class.

Anyone born after December 31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate to operate a personal water craft. Anyone born after July 1, 1996 must attend a Boater Safety Class to operate any vessel.



Birch Lake Ladies' FUN! Golf Outing July 18

Starting organizing your teams and watch next week's Barker for the registration form and detailed information.





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— Birch Lake Notes -



Most of the counselors from Camp Tannadoonah joined the fun at last weekend's Commodore/Vice Commodore Party ...

Upcoming classes include: June 21, Eagle Lake Marine July 12, Diamond Lake Yacht Club July 19, Indian Lake Yacht Club

For more information contact the Cass County Sheriff's Marine Division at 445-1225, or the Sheriff's Department at 445-2481.

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 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.

County Park presentation

Scott Wyman, Director of Parks for Cass County, will give a special presentation at the at the COA's Lowe Center in Cassopolis and Front Street Crossing in Dowagiac. The program will highlight the history of our county parks and provide information on their hiking and biking trails and paths. The talk will take place Thursday, June 19 from 10:30 to 11:30 am at the Lowe Center and from 1 to 2 pm at Front Street Crossing.

The Cass County COA Lowe Center is located at 60525 Decatur Rd. and Hwy. 60 in Cassopolis.

Bug population is up

If it feels as though you can't go out in the yard without getting covered in bug bites, you're not alone.

Experts say Michigan is in for a brutal season for blood-sucking ticks and mosquitoes, which raises the risk of certain illnesses. Other bugs, such as bees, wasps, mayflies and spiders have returned as well.

This past winter's extreme cold will have little effect on most bug populations in the state this summer, said Howard Russell, a Michigan State University entomologist known as "The Bug Man."

The heavy snowfall, on the other hand, was beneficial to some creepy crawlers. It served as an insulating blanket for bugs, such as ticks, that live in the leaf litter and at the base of trees. "The snow provided a great barrier against the cold," he said.

It also left behind lots of water in low-lying areas, which is ideal for mosquitoes to breed, Russell added.



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— Birch Lake Notes -

Michigan has 20 species of ticks, and they're usually found in grassy shorelines, wooded areas and fields near woods. The most common ticks in the state are the deer tick, or Black-legged tick, the American dog tick and the Lone Star tick.

Angela Minicuci, a Michigan Department of Community Health spokeswoman, said deer ticks have been steadily increasing in the state. "We are seeing there are more ticks in parts of the state than we've seen before," she said

The tick population was first found in the western Upper Peninsula. But over the past decade, the bug has spread to places along Lake Michigan's shoreline in the western part of the Lower Peninsula.

If the ticks don't get you, mosquitoes likely will. They're expected to be bad this summer, too.

"They started showing up around Memorial Day weekend and they have just been awful since then," Russell said. "We're going to see a lot of them through June and after that, it'll depend on the summer rains."

Mosquito repellent is a must when going out to the backyard or the garage, he said.

Expert say using DEET or other EPA-approved repellents when outdoors

will help keep mosquito bites to a minimum. Wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants can also help.

The arrival of mosquitoes always raises concerns among health officials about the West Nile virus, which causes inflammation of the brain, or encephalitis

Adults who are 50 and older have the highest risk of illness from the virus. Last year, the West Nile virus was responsible for 36 illnesses and two fatalities in the state, according to state officials

Fighting off bugs

Here are some tips from the Department of Community Health on how to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes and ticks:

- Use insect repellent when outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn. Look for products with DEET, Picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus to keep mosquitoes and ticks away. Don't forget to reapply as needed.
- Use nets or fans around outdoor eating areas to keep mosquitoes away.
- Make sure window and door screens are in good condition to keep mosquitoes outside.
- Cover or eliminate any containers of standing water where mosquitoes can lay eggs.
- Avoid tick-infested areas, especially in

May, June and July. If you can't, walk in the center of trails to avoid contact with overgrown grass, brush, and leaf litter

- Treat clothes especially pants and socks as well as shoes with permethrin, an insecticide that kills ticks on contact or buy pre-treated clothes.
- After coming indoors, bathe or shower as soon as possible to wash off or find ticks.
- After being outdoors, wash and dry clothes at a high temperature to kill any ticks that may have gotten a ride indoors on clothing.
- To remove an attached tick, grasp it firmly and as closely to your skin as possible with a pair of tweezers. Pull the tick away from the skin with a steady motion. Do not be alarmed if the tick's mouth parts remain in the skin. Cleanse the area with an antiseptic. Usually, ticks must be attached for at least a day before they can transmit the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Source: Michigan Department of Community Health

Online content

The printed Birch Barker will be online this season, as well as additional content ... go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.

SLOW DOWN

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- Barker critters of the Week –

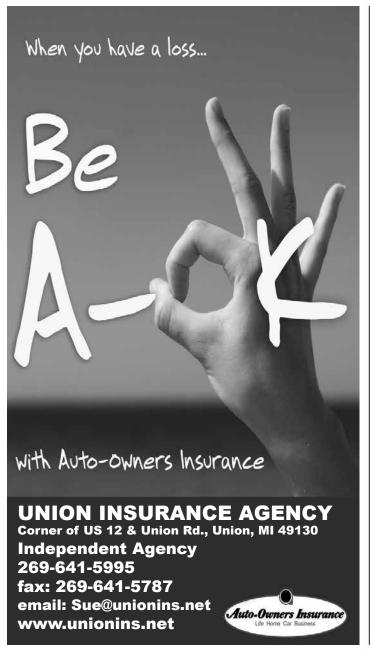


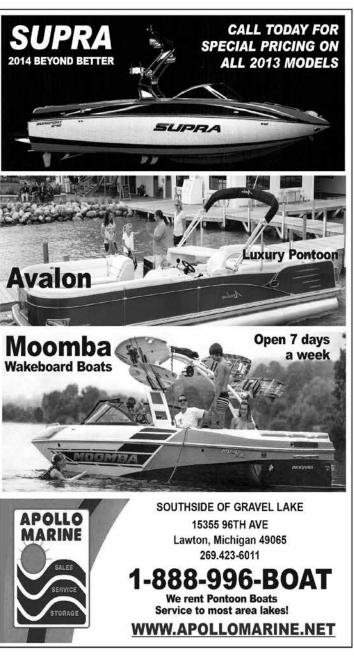
Thanks to Holly Troeger (East side) for the photo of Joe Cool Heron balancing on a pier-end flowerpot while fishing ... yeah, but can he sail?

Send me your kid-of-the-week photos!
Got a great kid hanging fishing off your pier,
swimming in front of your house or eating your
M&Ms? One picture is worth a thousand words!
Then send it to me (with the details) via email at
sailorphil@philvitale.com



Thanks to Bob King for the "in your face" up-close and personal closeup of the Eastern Box Turtle that wandered by the north shore last Sunday.







— Health at the Lake —

Dealing with the pains of Poison Ivy

by **Dana Soldato**, PharmD

POISON IVY!!! Just hearing it makes me shudder. And this time of year it's out in full force. The famous rash that we all hate is caused when the oil that is on the poison ivy plant comes into contact with our skin. You have approximately 30 minutes to wash that oil off your skin using soap and water, or the rash will attack.

What to do if you are exposed to poison ivy

WASH EVERYTHING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Wash your skin with warm soapy water, and wash your clothes. Make sure the oil is not on your shoe laces, and make sure you wash underneath your finger nails. Wash your pets, and wash anything you were using when you were exposed. Basically, use soap and water to wash anything that may have come into contact with a poison ivy plant. If you don't remove the oil from all surfaces, you will continue to infect yourself.

Is the rash itself contagious?

No — as long as you have removed all surface oils from the poison ivy plant. Once the oil is removed from your skin



through washing, the rash will not spread to other people or to other areas of your body. However, if the oil is not removed immediately, then you will spread it around. The oil can spread through the air if burned, so please don't put any poison ivy plants in your Birch Lake bonfires this summer!

How to treat poison Ivy

Buy hydrocortisone cream and calamine lotion. The hydrocortisone cream will help with the itching and the calamine lotion will help dry up skin which has been exposed to poison ivy oils. You

can also take an antihistamine pill like Claritin[®], Zyrtec[®], Allegra[®] or Benadryl[®] to help with the itching and allergic reaction. Don't apply Benadryl cream to your rash because this can potentially make the skin even more sensitive (and hydrocortisone cream will kick Benadryl's butt every day). Keep in mind that none of these products are going to be a complete cure all to poison ivy. You will still experience itching and the rash will still ooze and will need to run its normal course over the next few weeks.

How to prevent poison ivy

If there is a risk that you might be exposed to poison ivy, wear long clothing or apply a barrier product like IvyBlock[®]. You can also just forget the chore altogether and take your boat and beer out to the middle of Birch Lake where I can promise you there is no risk of poison ivy contamination. However, if for some sad reason you have to weed your yard or enter the woods, just be careful, don't have too many areas of exposed skin, and WASH THE OIL OFF OF YOUR BODY AND CLOTHES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

Have a nice weekend Birch Lakers!!



Saving grace

Planting milkweed in your backyard could make a difference to monarch butterflies

By James M. O'Neill

Plant some milkweed in your yard this year — and you can help save the monarch butterfly.

Monarch butterflies, well-known for their unique migration across the United States to Mexico each fall, have been in decline for years and are at the lowest numbers scientists have seen in the several decades they have been tracking them.

The easily identifiable orangeand-black monarchs have been thit hard by a number of factors, but perhaps most devastating is the loss of the one species of plant the monarch lays its eggs on — milkweed.

but perhaps most devastanting is the loss of the one species of plant the monarch lays its eggs on — milkweed.

As a result, the Audubon Society is asking residents to plant milkweed in their gardens and for highway road crews and parks groundskeepers to avoid cutting milkweed that grows wild along roads and in open spaces. Audubon is also donating milkweed plants to schools and community gardens.

"We're trying to do what we can to help," said Don Torino, Bergen, N.J., Audubon's president. "Some environmental issues seem so big and overwhelming, and people feel powerless. But here's something simple they can do to help."

Milkweed is essential to monarchs because it is the only plant that the butterfly species lays eggs on — and which the monarch caterpillar can eat.

"To a butterfly, the typical suburban yard with rhododendrons, non-native Norway spruce and lawns with non-native grasses might as well be a movie set — there's no reality to it for them," said Jeffrey Glassberg, president of the North American Butterfly Association.

Monarchs migrate south each

of the North American Butterfly
Association.

Monarchs migrate south each
fall to fir forests in the mountains
of central Mexico, where they
spend the winter. In the spring,
they migrate north and spread
throughout the United States.



Common milkweed (Asclepias syriaca) is the plant that migrating monarch butterflies usually lay their eggs on. Nurseries also carry two more attractive types of milkweed for home gardeners.

on. Nurseries aiso carry two more a
The generation that spends the
winter in Mexico can make it
back north as far as Texas and lay
its eggs on milkweed plants.
Within four days, the eggs hatch
into yellow-white-and-blackstriped caterpillars, which eat the
host plant's leaves. After two
weeks, the caterpillar attaches to
the underside of a branch or leaf
and becomes a chrysalis. Ten days
later, after metamorphosis, the
full-grown monarch emerges and
continues the migration north.
Monarchs will go through four
generations of butterflies during

the spring and summer migration

the spring and summer migration process.

But several factors have disrupted the traditional migration and reduced the monarch numbers, Glassberg said.

There has long been illegal logging in the monarch wintering grounds, and some extreme weather — droughts in Texas, extreme cold elsewhere — have also hit hard in recent years.

But perhaps the most significant factor has been the loss of milkweed plants as large-scale commercial farms have used

herbicide around fields. The herbicide kills weeds around the farmland — including wildflow-ers and milkweed. Without milkweed, the mon-archs have no place to lay eggs and their caterpillars have no food source.

and their caterpilars have no food source.

In addition, during the migration season, monarchs rely on milkweed and other wildflowers for the nectar they turn into sugars to help fuel their journey. Herbicides have also knocked out swaths of wildflowers, cutting the monarchs' nectar supply, Glassb-

Get growing

The North American Butterfly Association website (naba.org) includes guides to butterfly gardening by region and lists plants gardeners can grow in their yards that various butterfly species use as sources of nectar and to lay their eggs.

erg said.

The common milkweed,
which grows in empty lots and
along roads and fields, "is not
very attractive — it grows to
three feet and looks very weedy
and has big leaves. It tends to get
cut down," said Janice Mahr,
who grows perennials for Metropolitan Plant and Flower Exchange in Fort Lee and Paramus,
N.J.
Most nurseries carry two types

N.J.

Most nurseries carry two types of milkweed that have been cultivated to look better in gardens, she said. The cultivated versions are Asclepias tuberose, or butterfly weed, which has round masses of tiny bright orange flowers, and Asclepias incarnata, or swamp milkweed, which comes with white or pink flowers.

nata, or swamp milkweed, which comes with white or pink flowers.

Mahr has seen increasing interest among customers who want to plant milkweed in residential gardens. Her nurseries are starting to stock these varieties now, and more will be coming later since they were slowed by the cold early growing season.

Glassberg said monarchs are not the only butterfly to rely on a single plant species to lay eggs and provide food for their caterpillars. For instance, wild blue indigo, or false indigo, a perennial, is a caterpillar food for the orange sulphur, clouded sulphur, frosted elfin, hoary edge skipper, wild indigo duskywing and eastern tailed-blue butterfly species. The New England aster, another perennial, is caterpillar food for the pearl crescent. Some shrubs and trees also serve as caterpilla food.



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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Lots of Sunfish! Great sailing!

hat a wonderful day we had sailing last Sunday. The winds were brisk at around 8 mph to 10 mph with an occasional gust or two! These gusts forced three sailors from the Sunfish class to "turtle" their boats, luckily no one was hurt and all is well!

I want to thank all the Sunfish sailor that came out, we had nine total, which is the most I have seen out since I began sailing four or five years ago! It was also different seeing more sunfish than MCs, which added some more color to our Sunday races!

As always, I need to thank our committee boat participants for keeping the races following! Thanks to "question-

able" Patti, my wife Amy and to our gracious vice-commodore, Fred Freihofer and to Harold and Steve for setting and retrieving the race marks.

In closing, I have one correction to make from last week, I stated that Karen Brovold was on the committee boat, but in fact it was Karen Miller.

Until next week,

~"Fleet Captain" Mike

Committee Boat Assignments for the remaining June Races

22 — Bad Patty

28 — Bad Patty

29 — YOU!



2014 BLYC Sailing Season Results

2014 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date	15-Jun	15-Jun	15-Jun	Total	Season
Race	7	8	9	Points	Average
MC SCOW/SAILOR					
Scott Troeger #1489	2	1	1	14163	1574
Scott Troeger #1489 Jeff Smitley #2002	1	2	2	13695	1522
Phil Vitale #500	4	3	3	8514	1419
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412					
Bob King #1199					
Bill Luecht #1579					
Gib Eberhart #916					
SUNFISH/SAILOR					
Stewart Spratt	1	4	1	4569	1523
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	1	2	4565	1522
Brad Davis	2	2	3	4486	1495
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	4	3	5	4109	1370
Peter Soldoto	6	5	4	3890	1297
Bill Butler					
Nick Anderson					
Camille Butler					

Legend:

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** are 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.



How fast does the wind have to blow to create white caps on the water?

Flat water changes into waves as air blows across its' surface; friction between the air and the water below leads to the change in shape and motion. The tops of waves will begin to scatter once winds reach between 13 to 18 mph, leading to white caps. A few white caps are possible at wind speeds of 8 to 12 mph, but they're uncommon.







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Photos by Amy Lutz and Bob King



STU'S STAR STUFF



Sunrise / Sunset

Did you know that the longest day isn't the same day as the earliest sunrise and the latest sunset? Are you lost when someone asks when the summer solstice is, or when the equinoxes occur? Of course you're not. I've been holding your hand on this for more than a dozen years.

The exact date of earliest sunrise varies with latitude. At 40 degrees north latitude, roughly where we are here at Birch Lake, the earliest sunrise of the year happened on June 14. The latest sunset of the year will fall on or near June 27. This is in spite of the fact that the longest day of the year (in terms of daylight) comes on the June summer solstice, today, June 21st.

For most of the modern world, (modern world, meaning those who have cast aside ridiculous notions of such things as IST) the summer solstice is just another day on the calendar. Although it's the longest day of the year, we generally don't plan anything special to commemorate it.

That wasn't the case in centuries past, though. In many cultures, the summer solstice was one of the most important days of the year, a time to come together in celebration. These cultures often set up Sun-watching stations to let them know when the solstice was at hand. A site in Egypt, for example, dates to before the time of the pharaohs. And one in northern New Mexico required the Sun-watcher to climb to a small niche in a mountaintop.

Another Sun-watching site may have been discovered in England. It's not far from the city of Manchester, and it's part of a complex known as Gardom's Edge.

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The site was inhabited as early as 4,000 years ago. It consists of cultivated fields, a few houses, and an enclosure where clans may have come together. It also includes a seven-foot triangular rock pillar that may have been aligned to the solstice.

The pillar appears to have been carefully prepared and aligned. It's angled so that the northern side receives full sunlight only around the solstice. Researchers say that may indicate the marker was erected to give the gathering place extra significance, a symbol of the long, prosperous days of summer.



And the summer of 2014 began today, at 6:51 a.m. Eastern Time, just another day on the modern calendar.

Get out there and check out some cool stuff. Mercury, which is nearly impossible to see from down here in the hole, is now too close to the sun to be seen from most anywhere. Venus is low in the eastern sky, rising just before the sun. Mars is now fading rapidly in brightness as it moves towards the far side of the sun. Look south as darkness falls. Look for Jupiter in the western sky at sunset, but it's about to become lost behind the sun at the end of the month. Saturn, in Libra, is well placed in the southern sky for most of the night. Plus there's always tons of stars out there. We'll talk about some of them soon. But next week, quantum mechanics and string theory 101. Enjoy the show. It's free.

~Stu Spratt Celebrating 50 Years at Birch Lake



YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) It's been a year since you had such a strong focus home, family and your domestic life. This personal shift will manifest in several ways. Being the artisan of the zodiac, you will dream up fun projects to build or create something at home. One certainty is that all Aries natives will have moments of contemplation and memories of their youth - their green and salad days.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Get ready for a busy month! Your schedule will be jam-packed with short trips, errands and conversations with everyone. Many of you will read, write and study more than usual as well. Expect increased involvement with siblings and relatives. Some of you will tie up loose ends regarding property and possessions with siblings. This is a good week to buy my wardrobe goodies.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) You'll notice the coming month will emphasize money, cash flow, earnings and your job. Not only will you think more about your assets, you'll be pondering your self-worth. You might also wonder if what you are doing is meaningful or worthwhile. This is the time to take stock. It's a curious that in our culture, what costs little is valued

Cancer (June 21-July 22) This week the Sun returns to your sign for the first time in a year, to recharge your batteries for months to come. This is a wonderful opportunity for you! It will also attract people and favorable circumstances to you. Quite literally, this is your hour! Naturally, you want to make the most of this. Think big and expect a miracle. The next few weeks are a great time to schmooze with friends, especially artistic, creative people. This will give you a nice relief from the pandemonium, tension and chaos at home, (which won't last forever because nothing does). Courage.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) It behooves you to work alone or behind the scenes and keep a low profile. Yoga, meditation and quiet activities will appeal because you are also more introspective and given to self scrutiny. ("Is that broccoli in my teeth?" "Does this room make me look fat?") Nevertheless, your communications with others will be strong (as they have been for some time).

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Plan on spending time with friends and groups. Accept all invitations and make overtures to get together with people because your interactions with others will actually benefit you. These benefits could be direct or perhaps indirect. Plus travel for pleasure will appeal Although you're working hard to earn money, you're blowing it iust as fast.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs will think highly of you. In fact, you might be approached to take on increased responsibilities because of this. Just accept because you will please everyone, without doing anything special. (Plus, interaction with authority figures, especially parents, are likely in the month ahead. This is the perfect time to examine your life to see if you're going in the direction you want. This is a strong month for you!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Travel appeals to you in the coming month because you want a change of scenery! You also want to be stimulated by learning something new, which means this will be a great time to sign up for a course or get further education. You will also be enthused to talk to people from other countries and different cultures. The main thing is -- do something different! Vary your routine. Instead of dinner at home - have a picnic by the beach. This is a good time to get a better understanding of relationships, especially the needs of your partner.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) For the next month, you will see increases your passion about life. (Yes, it also increases your sex drive.) This ampèd verve for life will make you want to be a better person, which is why you will work out and jog, row, cycle or whatever to buff your bod. You will also focus on your psychological health and want to experience life not just learn about it. Plus your competitive spirit makes you want to win in sports contests with others.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You will need more sleep to learn more about how you handle your closest relationships. ("Must I?") You will see more clearly what wants and needs of others are, and also how they fill (or do not) your wants and needs. Nevertheless, 7you must be as good for your partner as he or she is for a successful relationship. Romance will flourish!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) In the next four weeks, you will roll up your sleeves and get busy because you want to be efficient, productive and effective! You want your actions to count. And to do this, you need to have an organized home and an organized work place as the bottom line before you begin to refine your techniques. Decorating projects at home will appeal, yet you have a strong desire to travel and see new places and talk to new faces.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You're making out like a bandit! Sports and playful times with children will appeal. Just be yourself without fear or apology. Enjoy this carefree freedom. Venus sweetens your tongue promoting relations with everyone and helping those who sell, write, edit, market, teach or act. Yes, there's money in your words! One area of possible conflict concerns your need to defend your interests with inheritances, shared property and such.

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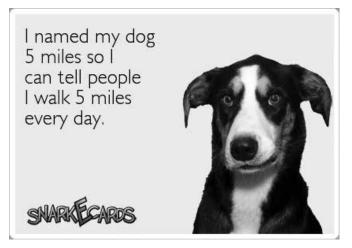


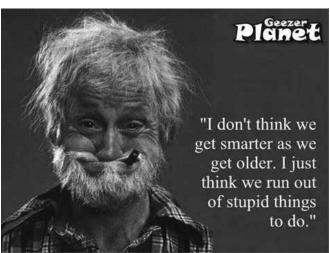
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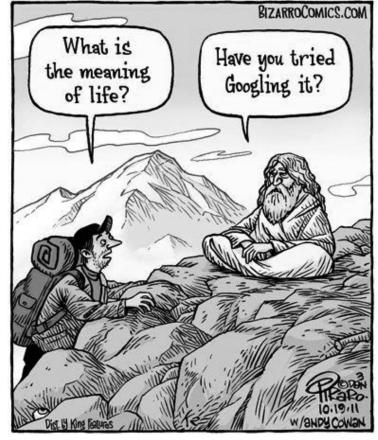
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES











The length of a minute depends on which side of the bathroom door you're on.







BLYC 54th ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING

(4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE)

JULY 25[™] 2014 - \$70 PER MAN SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

61270 Lutz Rd, Three Rivers, MI - Shotgun start at Noon; Dinner at BLYC at 6 pm

MUST HAVE REGISTRATIONS BY JULY 11, 2014

Additional Information

- * team prizes and contests
- * dinner only, \$28 per person
- * dinner includes 10oz. prime rib, side salads, corn on the cob.
- * lunch **not** included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service available.
- * prizes awarded during dinner.
- * Looking for donations of door prizes -- the more the merrier. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated, please contact Pete Soldato at pistolpetesoldato@hushmail.com
- *Also looking for hole sponsors. If you or your company want to sponsor a hole, please contact Pete Soldato at **pistolpetesoldato@hushmail.com**
- * Need for around 70 players
 - * **Send entries to** Pete Soldato 63266 Kinsey Street, Vandalia, MI, 49095 -- hill or Phil Vitale 63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, Michigan 49095

2014 BLYC Men's Goit	Foursome Information
Team Captain:	Please Print Players names:
Total Enclosed \$	
*chacks should be	made out to BLVC

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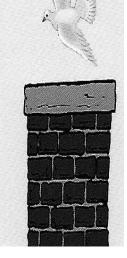
Bob Bienz 269-759-4010 63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI email: diamondconstr@yahoo.com

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Easy Cheese Ball

Original recipe makes 6 to 8 servings

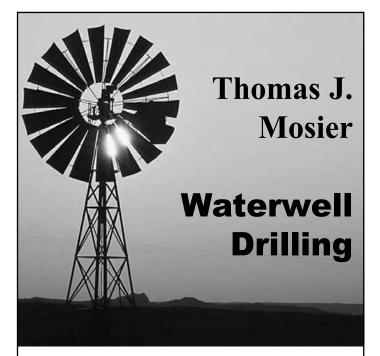
Ingredients

- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 (1 ounce) package ranch dressing mix
- 2 1/2 cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1 1/2 cups chopped pecans

Directions

In a medium size bowl, mash cream cheese. Mix dressing mix and Cheddar cheese into the cream cheese. Shape the mixture into a ball. Roll the ball in the chopped nuts. Refrigerate covered until ready to serve. Yum!





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PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, July 6 8:30 - 11 am

AYCE PANCAKES +sausage, fruit, coffee, juice \$5 adults / \$2 kids (6-10) free for kids 5 and under All proceeds go to Camp Tannadoonah



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Birch Barker Special!

Mention Birch Lake when you visit
and you will receive a discount!

Community Tidbits

eggy (and Dick) Cowen hosted the Birch Lake Book club on Tuesday, June 17, evening. The selected book is titled "Sunday Dinners" by Diane Cowen, (daughterin-law of Peggy and Dick.) Diane is the Food Editor of the Houston Chronicle.

The book group chatted with the author via Skype, who shared her experiences while writing and publishing the book. Diane made all of the recipes in the book, which details Sunday dinner traditions of thirteen pastors and their families. George Foreman is one of the featured pastors along with a Holy Cross priest from Notre Dame.

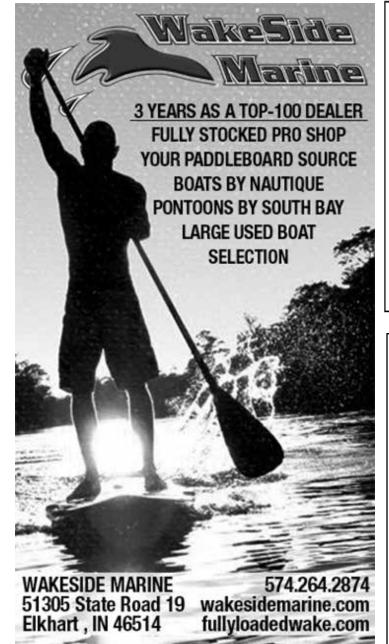
Thanks to Hostess Peggy for a terrific summer gathering.

C. Fallon



Cowens host book club, discuss daughter-in-law's book









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BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Saturday
June 21

5:30-8 PM



Ages 11-Adult \$8

Ages 4-10 \$5

Children 3 and under free

Enjoy a great dinner with friends and support the yacht club too! This year's dinner is sponsored by the south side and promises to be a great event.

Dinner includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad, dessert and ice tea or lemonade.

Take outs are also available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Becky Wiseman at 574-386-8609 or Ronni Eshleman at 317-418-9557

2013 BLYC Directors

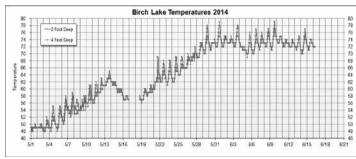
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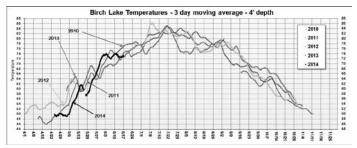
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	sailorphil@philvitale.com
Sue Williams (S)	476-8886
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NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:

Upcoming Board MeetingsJuly 12, August 9, September 6
all board meetings begin at 9 am





Temps provided by Steve Quinland



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For Sale: **X-Treme Electric Scooter**. Bright Yellow. \$100. Call Bob Waddle, 476-2293

For Sale: **Continental DOUBLE Jet Ski trailer** with storage compartment. \$1,100. Call Becky at 574-386-8609 or Ron at 269-816-1018

Rod Iron black day bed with mattress set with covers. Purchased new in 2007. Rarely used. \$200. Call Marc at 260.710.3995.

COTTAGE FOR RENT

2 bedroom cottage on west side of Birch Lake for rent. \$650/week, call 476-2744

3 BR lakeside cottage for rent. \$850/ week. Contact llene at 574-360-8766

LOST & FOUND

LOST — We realized on Sunday that our **pad-dle boat** was not on the shore in front of our cottage. We were told it was missing after the Tuesday storm. It has a cream top side and aqua green bottom. It is all plastic and will seat 5. Please call if found. Lu Kelly in the cove. 312-287-9274

WANTED TO RENT

Cottage wanted to rent for the weekend of June 27-29. Please call Jan Temple at 847-846-8600

- BLYC Roof Fund

- Misc.

DIDCILL

Wanted: A cottage to rent for the week of July 13 -20 or July 20 -27, or both. We have rented for 6 yrs on Birch Lake, but these cottages are no longer available. We are good renters. We have paid \$1000 plus deposit in the past. We love Birch Lake and our children and grandchildren love Birch Lake! We have great references: Van Huffels and Machallecks. We want to continue the tradition that began 6 yrs ago. We love swimming, fishing, boating, and being together. Birch Lake is perfect for our young grandchildren and we want to come back. Please contact us at 574-339-9851.

We are considering having a family reunion, but our place can only accommodate 12 or so people at a time. Anyone else on the lake might be willing to rent their cottage? Contact Mike Code at mcode@lowis-gellen.com

WANTED

Wanted - lakefront cottage to BUY! Thinking of selling? Please let me know moorjen@hotmail.com

My family and I are renting on Birch the last two weeks of July and **would love to sail someone's MC** in the race(s) while I'm there if you know of anyone that might like to have their boat out there. I will take good care of their boat and hopefully be competitive. Contact Pat McGann at (574) 232-1411, (574) 532-5377 Pat@McGannHay.com

ATTE VACIUM OF TID

1516 Ash Dr. East

Elkhart, IN 46514

MISC.

Looking for a day of family fun? Come out to the Newberg Twp Fire and EMS Open House and join in some fun games and great food. The open house will be Saturday, July 19 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Newberg Twp Fire Department (corner of M-60 and M-40 in Jones). The menu will be a rib meal for \$8, chicken on a stick for \$6 or a hot dog meal for \$4 (meals includes 2 sides and a drink), and for dessert ice cream, sno cones and cotton candy for \$1.Games and fun include an obstacle course, smoke house, waterball and a visit from the helicopter. Meat and sides supplied by Jim Collins Drive Thru Q; drinks provided by the Jones Shell station.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified advertising in the Birch Barker is free to members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club (subject to the approval of the editor and the BLYC Board of directors), and \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance). To submit an ad, email it to Sailorphil@philvitale (non-members will have to mail or drop off payment) or, if you must, put it in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. on the east side of Birch Lake.

BIRCH LAKE	
2014 Dues, Contribut support the BLYC, support	
\$ BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)	Total contribution:
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(\$10 / year)	\$
\$ Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)	
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\$ Building Improvement Fund	
\$ Fireworks Fund	Address
\$ Water Quality Program	
\$ Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication	
\$ Safety Committee	Make checks payable to
\$ Other non-party related expenses	BLYC
	c/o Holly Troeger

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