

The June 28 weekend Of 2014

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Chris Karceski (North Shore) and Fletcher paddleboarding on the lake ... thanks to Mary Karceski for the pic!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I am starting to run out of superlatives to describe the weekends! I had another extraordinary Saturday and Sunday! Weekends at the lake never get old! Many slow laps around the lake were enjoyed with friends and family on Saturday afternoon.

A trip to our own BLYC Italian Bistro gave me a night away from the kitchen, and a very satisfied tummy. The South Side chefs did such an incredible job and what a delicious meal! Thanks to all of you for organizing the Spaghetti Dinner. The first one is always the hardest, next year it will be a piece of cake — or maybe cannoli!

Sunday morning on the committee boat started my day out right, although the sailors had to struggled to find enough wind to get in one race. Next week there will be more wind. I promise! If I don't deliver, you can impeach me!

Don't forget this Saturday, 6/28, is The Don Harman's People's Regatta. Meet us at 11 am on the North Shore at Mike and Amy Lutz's house. They are next to Camp T. Refreshments will be served after sailing. Plan on participat-

ing! It could be the event that changes you forever and gives you a new-found sense of peace in your life ... or it could be just FUN!!

BOAT PARADE!! It is approaching fast! Get the balloons and crepe paper out and change those boats into works of art! Let's show those Rose Parade people they have nothing on us!!

FIREWORKS! BOOM! BOOM! Oohs and aahs! Always a fantastic way to celebrate the birthday of the greatest country on this earth!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST!!! I will be there to serve fruit cups and greet you. However, if I look a bit blurry-eyed, just talk very softly!!! There are so many things to do this summer! Hope you can take time to enjoy some of these activities!

Ladies check out this Barker for the entry form and information for the golf outing. Time to get your teams together and dust off the clubs. Also any one wanting to sponsor a hole, please let me know. It will be greatly appreciated.

Have fun, stay safe on the lake, watch for the pink lights and always remember ...

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

~Bad Patty, Commodore 2014

2014 Birch Lake Calendar

- June 28.....Don Harman's People's Regatta
- July 4, 5, 6.....BL 4th of July Regatta 11am
- July 5.....BL Boat Parade 2pm
- July 5.....Fireworks - Birch Lake
- July 6.....Fireworks Rain Date
- July 6.....Pancake Breakfast 8:30-11am Camp
- July 18.....BL 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 16.....Camp T Hog Roast
- Aug 23.....BLYC Fall Dinner - TBA
- Oct 18.....Chili Cook Off
- May 2, 2015.....BLYC Spring Dinner

Dates subject to change.
Watch the Barker for updates!

SpaghettiFest 2014 Wrapup

First and foremost, thanks to all the great Birch Lakers who attended the Spaghetti dinner! From the positive comments, I think a good time was had by all.

I want to take a moment to thank all the team members for a job well done. A big hand to the crew who made this event possible. Becky Wiseman and Di Wozney helped me make 15 gallons of red sauce — my house still smells like

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvital.com, or put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-168, or contact BLYC Commodore Patty Luecht (269) 476-2615. --Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to Mr. Bob King for the cool photo of action behind the Baucus boys.

garlic! Becky Wiseman and Katha Machalleck served over 160 plates of pasta and sauce with a smile. Next, a big round of thanks to the salad servers, Sue and Pat Williams for filling the bowls with your favorite salad, grape tomatoes and croûtons. Staci Whiteman manned the dessert table they liked. Judie Eichorst, Patti Russwurm and crew turned the Yacht Club into an Italian Trattoria. Claudia and Dennis Phipps took tickets and welcomed every-

one as they arrived. The outside crew manned the pasta pots and seemed to be enjoying themselves way too much!

A big thanks to Gus Eshleman, Ryan Bowers, Mike Machalleck, Doug Eichorst, Craig Fredlake, Ron Whiteman, Ray Gaik and John Peddycord our pasta cooks. The wonderful assortment of desserts were donated by Staci Whiteman, Linda Witchie, Linda Yoshizawa, John Peddycord, Becky Wiseman, Katha

Machalleck, Deb Spratt, Steve and Kim Fillenwarth and Sue Williams.

A special thanks to Ron Whiteman and Ray (Luigi) Gaik who made sure everything ran smoothly. We couldn't have pulled this off without you! Ray, I think you've missed your calling as an actor.

None of this could have happened without our ticket sellers, Claudia and Dennis Phipps, Mike and Katha Machalleck, Pam and Alan Van Huffel, Craig Fredlake and Di Wozny, Becky Wiseman and Sue and Pat Williams.

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

SPAGHETTIFEST 2015!

~Ronni Eshleman

Congrats Herm and Bev

From the South Bend Tribune:

Herman K. Kruggel and Beverly J. Watson were married on June 25, 1949, in South Bend, IN. They were born in South Bend and lived there until 1993 when they moved to a year-round home on Birch Lake, Vandalia, MI. Herm and Bev were John Adams High School sweethearts, meeting there in 1945. Herman is the founder of Kruggel, Lawton & Company CPAs with offices in South Bend and Elkhart, IN, from which he retired in 1995. The Kruggels

Be the first

Later this year Lutz Concrete will be installing a beautiful compass rose made of stamped and stained concrete (see photo at right) in a new concrete garage-style apron at the entrance of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

This design is an example of the services and products available for our our friends and neighbors at Birch Lake!

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— Birch Lake Notes —

were blessed with five children, Paula (Richard) Fisette, Kevin (Susan) Kruggel, Leslie (James) Roytek, Kurt (Kristy) Kruggel and Shelley (Ted) Durham. They have 13 wonderful grandchildren. Herm and Bev will receive a 65th Anniversary blessing at the New Apostolic Church on Sunday, July 6, followed by a fellowship at the church and a family dinner at their Birch Lake home.

Fourth of July 2014 Boat Parade

The theme of this year's Birch Lake Boat Parade is Use Your Imagination.

Birch Lake will celebrate the holiday on Saturday, July 5. The boat parade will begin at 2 pm from Dick Bender's pier on the south side of the lake. Boats will line up one behind the other for registration and instructions at that time.

The parade will be led by this year's Grand Marshals who will be named in the Birch Barker on July 4.

After the parade lap the boats will return one at a time to the registration dock to receive their trophies.

Each family will receive a trophy for their participation in the parade.

See you there!

~Linda Curtis & Sue Waddle

Pancake Breakfast

Come join us on Sunday, July 6 for



Moonrise from the north shore, Birch Lake, 2014.

~Photo by Mary Karceski

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.

New Barker rule (redux)

I know I've been harping about sending high-res photos, but a couple people sent dozens of photos at high res, all in one email ... which crashed my email server and shut me down for hours. So, new rule ... Never send me an email 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






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— Birch Lake Notes —

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!

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 visit from the helicopter.

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

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)



A trio of paddleboarders trying out the lake's newest trend ...

~Photo by Mr. Bob

... thanks.

And a rudder thing ...

In case you haven't heard, the Neighbors office I've been using for several years will officially close in mid-July (lease expired and the landlord wants to do something else with the building).

So please don't send things to the Cassopolis address in old Barkers, and don't try to call me on the 445 telephone number ... To get stuff to me, drop them off or mail to Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095, call me at 476-1680, or send me an email at sailorphil@philvitale.com.

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Spaghetti, south(side) style!

photos provided by the SparkyCam, Jacob Haight, Ronda Eshleman



— Barker kids of the Week —



The Petty boys (north side) enjoyed a visit from Cousin Kelly from San Antonio! She quickly turned them into Sprus fans just in time to watch them win the Championship!



Jacob Brown 7 months and Bad Patty. Jacob, who is from Indianapolis, is the son of Colleen and Duran Brown. This was his first trip to Birch Lake



I did not make them ride back there ...

~Amy Lutz

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Cullen Cover (east side) enjoying a windy boat ride with fellow dog rider Lilly.



Congrats to Scott and Sara Sortal who were married on April 12 in Chicago. Scott is the son of Jan Temple and Tom Kuhn (west shore) and grandson of Bob and Gertie Temple (north shore). The celebration continues at Birch Lake this weekend with friends and family from around the country.

Send me your kid-of-the-week photos!

One picture is worth a thousand words!
Send it to me (with the details) via email at
sailorphil@philvitale.com

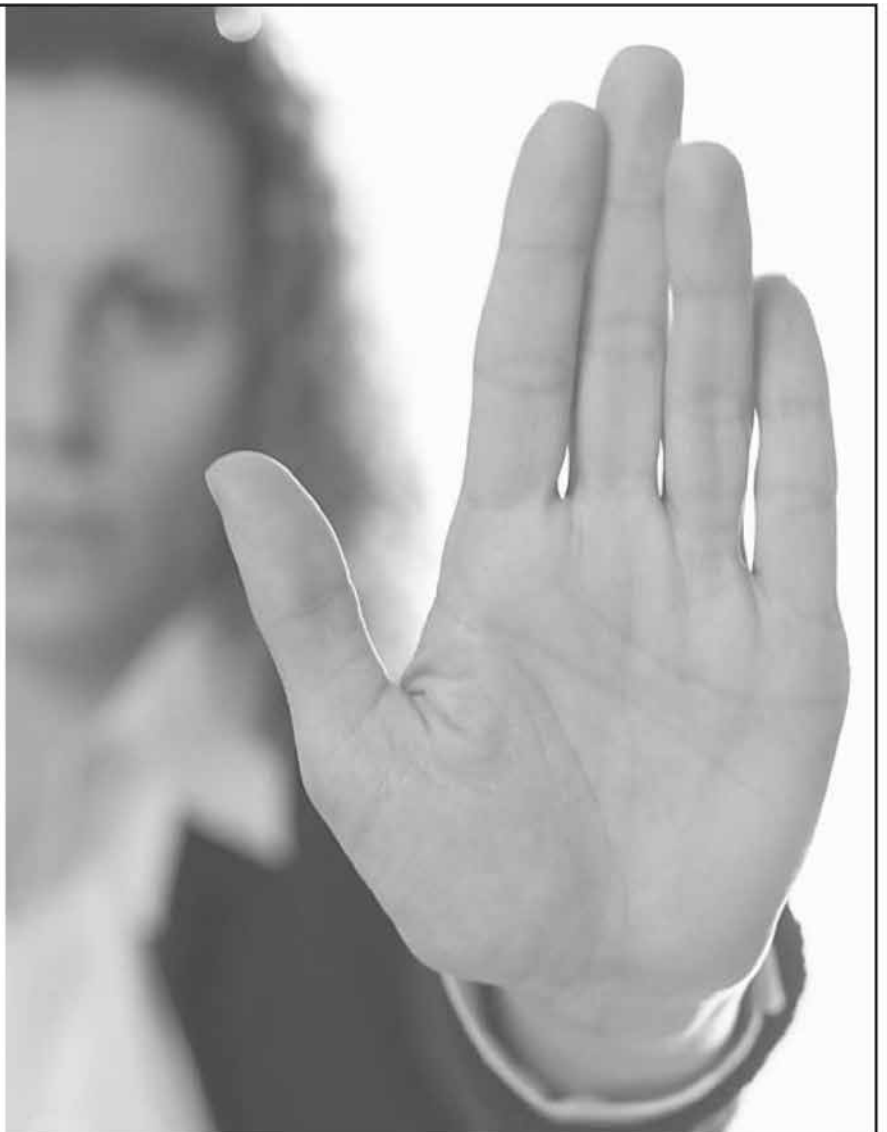
SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS
NARROW ROADS,
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,
A TON OF CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

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

SPEED LIMIT

15_{MPH}



And don't forget that ALL boat traffic must travel COUNTER-CLOCKWISE at all times!

Message sponsored by the HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION of Birch Lake



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Yummy Honey Chicken Kabobs

“Honey chicken kabobs with veggies. You can marinate overnight and make these kabobs for an outdoor barbecue as a tasty alternative to the usual barbecue fare! Fresh mushrooms and cherry tomatoes can also be used. (This can also be done in the broiler.)”

Ingredients

Original recipe makes 12 servings

1/4 cup vegetable oil

1/3 cup honey

1/3 cup soy sauce

1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper

8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
cut into 1 inch cubes

2 cloves garlic

5 small onions, cut into 2 inch pieces

2 red bell peppers, cut into 2 inch pieces

skewers

Directions

In a large bowl, whisk together oil, honey, soy sauce, and pepper. Before adding chicken, reserve a small amount of marinade to brush onto kabobs while cooking. Place the chicken, garlic, onions and peppers in the bowl, and marinate in the refrigerator at least 2 hours (the longer the better).

Preheat the grill for high heat.

Drain marinade from the chicken and vegetables, and discard marinade. Thread chicken and vegetables alternately onto the skewers.

Lightly oil the grill grate. Place the skewers on the grill. Cook for 12 to 15 minutes, until chicken juices run clear. Turn and brush with reserved

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Short sail!

Well, if you watched the sailing races last Sunday, you know what the heading means! At the beginning of last Sunday's races we had winds about 4 to 6 mph by the middle of the first race we were looking for any wind at all ... and after some very brief discussions we decided to only complete one race.

It makes it for a long and miserable day if we don't have winds of at least 5 to 8 mph. Just a reminder our Sunfish fleet could use a few more *regular* sailors. Our racing weeks have consisted 2,2,9 and 3 boats for the last four weeks, and in fact we need a minimum of three boats for each class!

Sailors, potential sailors or thrill seekers, if you are not busy this Saturday at 11 am please come to our first annual "Don Harman" Birch Lake People's Regatta. We will have sailboat rides for anyone interested in learning to sail or just want to have a great time!

The event will start at 11 at our house on the North shore, next to Camp Tannadoonah! Please come out bring

your sense of adventure and your appetite since finger food and beverages will be served after. Hope to see you this Saturday.

In closing, as always I need to thank Harold and Steve for setting the marks. Also thanks to our lovely committee boat participants "Bad" Patty, "Questionable" Patti, Sandy Vitale, Beth Niepokuj (Amy's sister) and my lovely wife Amy for there die-hard efforts in starting the races and keeping track as we cross the finish line.

I have to also thank Jeff Smitley for his brilliance in posting the race results and season totals. Thanks to everyone!!

Until next week,

~"Fleet Captain" Mike

Committee Boat Assignments for the upcoming Races

June 28 — Bad Patty
June 29 — YOU!

4th of July Regatta

(these dates may change due to the Pancake Breakfast. Please watch for



updates.)

July 4 — *Committee boat needed*

July 5 — *Committee boat needed*

July 6 — *Committee boat needed*

July Races

13 — *Committee boat needed*

20 — *Committee boat needed*

27 — *Committee boat needed*

2014 BLYC Sailing Season Results

2014 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Race	10.....	Total	Point
22-Jun.....	Points.....	Average.....	
MC SCOW/SAILOR			
Scott Troeger #1489.....	1.....	15763.....	1576
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	5.....	14991.....	1499
Phil Vitale #500.....	2.....	10035.....	1434
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412.....	6.....	13710.....	1371
Bob King #1199.....	4.....	9591.....	1370
Bill Luecht #1579.....	3.....	13041.....	1304
Gib Eberhart #916.....	7.....	4693.....	1173
SUNFISH/SAILOR			
Stewart Spratt.....	1.....	6169.....	1542
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....		4565.....	1522
Brad Davis.....		4486.....	1495
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow).....	2.....	5630.....	1408
Peter Soldoto.....		3890.....	1297
Bill Butler.....	3.....	5121.....	1280
Nick Anderson.....		3537.....	1179
Camille Butler.....		3267.....	1089

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.



NEW SAILORS REGATTA JUNE 28

All new sailors age 10- 99
will receive one of these cool shirts!
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Sailing on Birch Lake



*Special thanks to Amy Lutz for the sailing photos
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BY NOT BEING ON THE COMMITTEE BOAT!*

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ATTENTION!!!

“SUPER-WOMEN-OF-BIRCH LAKE”

Time to play some FUN!! GOLF!

July 18, 2014

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis

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 63168 Birch Rd — between Phil Vitale and “A-Frame)

Please

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 11th

Please include a contact phone number for your team

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

**Please indicate your lunch selection for each
team member from the following list:**

- ___ Grilled Chicken Sandwich (Deluxe)
- ___ Grouper Sandwich (Hand Breaded)
- ___ Italian Panini
- ___ Vegetarian Panini
- ___ BLT
- ___ Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad

(If you have dietary concerns, let Patty know ASAP!)

Sandwiches served with your choice of Fries or Homemade
Kettle Chips. Soft drinks, iced tea, coffee also included.

Cash bar for mixed drinks and beer.



STU'S STAR STUFF



String theory ... or not

Changed my mind about String theory. It is too much to grasp for me and all but a few of you. So, let's elaborate on last week's topic.

The earliest sunrise of the year occurred on June 14th for us at the lake, latitude 42 degrees north. The longest day, the first day of summer, was Saturday. And the latest sunset for us here at the lake will be tomorrow. Contrary to intuition, the earliest sunrise, latest sunset, and longest day of the year do not coincide. The reason for this seeming inconsistency is not straightforward to visualize. It stems from the fact that the Earth's orbit is oval rather than circular and our planet's rotational axis is tilted relative to its orbit instead of perpendicular.

If you don't recall previous discussion regarding the offset of earliest sunrise and latest sunset from the solstice date, you may be surprised to learn that the latest sunset occurs tomorrow. Most people find that puzzling. Several places on the web provide a thorough explanation, including www.analemma.com. But let me save you the trouble. If you were able to take a picture of the sun at the same time, say noon, each day from the same place and superimpose all the images together you would see the position of the sun shift throughout the year in a pattern that looks like a stretched out figure-8. This figure-8 is called an analemma. You've probably seen it on a globe and wondered what it was. And what is it doing out there in the Pacific Ocean? That part's easy. It's a good place because there's nothing else on the globe to get in the way.

But why an eight? Because the Earth's axis is tilted, in late June the sun is 23.5 degrees north of the equator and in late December 23.5 degrees south of it. This annual north-south oscillation of the sun's angle above the horizon is responsible for the lengthwise extension of this figure-8 pattern.

Because the sun's path is tilted to the equator, it's motion relative to the stars is due east only in late June and late December. Hence the sun's eastward advance per day is greatest at those times, and least in March and September when

the ecliptic crosses the equator slantingly. This means that when the sun is photographed at noon on different dates of the year, it generally is some minutes ahead of or behind clock time. The effect of this is to give an east-west spread to the pattern of solar images, not a straight line.

So why is it stretched out? If Earth's orbit was circular, it wouldn't be. But actually, the earth's orbit is somewhat elliptical, and the effect is to distort the figure-8 such that the bottom part is longer than the top.

So now you know what that figure-8 thing is on the globe.

Look for Venus in the east at first light. It's the brightest object out there except for the moon. Saturn and Mars are low in the south all night long. Jupiter is visible from dusk to early evening in the west, but maybe not so much from down here in the hole. Summer is the best time to be outside to see the show. And it's always free.

~Stu Spratt

Celebrating 50 Years at Birch Lake

The Moon for June 28
(At Midnight, US Central time,
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.037
2.0 days since new moon



Sunrise: 6:11 am
Sunset: 9:23 pm
Moonrise: 7:36 am
Moonset: 10:06 pm
Day length: 15 h 12 m

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) Since December, life has been challenging. It's been a time of conflict with friends, spouses and partners. Some of you have been at each other's throats. This week will trigger a final round of tension. Keep the hope. (Hope is the feeling you have that feeling you have isn't permanent.)

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Difficulties with work, especially with coworkers or broken equipment, will not go on forever. (Although it feels like it will because it's been frustrating you since last December.) Hopefully, this week will be the last crunchy moment of conflict with others on the job. Naturally, this won't stop overnight; but it will start to fade as early as next week; and these problems will be greatly reduced by August.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) The opposition of Mars and Uranus, which occurs this week for the third time (first in December, then in April) signals many changes and influences for you. This means you have lots of spontaneous fun - unplanned parties and vacations. And some have even had surprise news about babies! This unpredictable element could trigger love affairs because it amps your sex drive.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) The chaotic influence of Mars has created family conflicts in your home and family life. It has also introduced enough increased activity and insanity, it makes you want to pull your hair out. All this has been beyond your control. No one can really be faulted per se. It's just what it is. The main thing to know is that in a few weeks, things will calm down and by August/September, your life will return to normal - whatever that means.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) The Mars/Uranus opposition makes you argumentative, impulsive, ener-

getic, aggressive and ready to explode at a moment's notice. It can also be accident-prone; and it can introduce weird, unexpected happenings into your daily world. Stay well because you have so much to look forward to when Jupiter enters your sign mid July.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The last opposition of Mars and Uranus that will take place this week. What this has done and continues to do is shake up your earnings, cash flow and financial picture. It has made you spend erratically, as well as work in spurts to earn money. Although it has given you energy in financial matters, it is more of a pain than a gain. Too unpredictable! Once again, guard your possessions against loss or theft. Look for ways to find money and not lose it!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) In December, April and again this week, the opposition of Mars to Uranus, is just a bit too much. In other words, you can't keep your shirt on if you need to get something off your chest. This means you had too much to handle from the point of view of others, especially partners, spouses and close friends. (No doubt they will say read that part out loud again.) This crazy energy will be over in a month. Use it as best you can.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Although your love life shows promise, and chances to travel and explore, along with opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education look great - you have gone through a rough patch since last December. It's as if hidden forces behind the scenes are conspiring against you. They certainly created interruptions and glitches to your job, and perhaps even your health. But you're coping! This week another glitch will emerge but you will persevere because this insanity is winding down now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Your focus on shared property, taxes, debt, inheritances and dealing with the values and wealth of others continues. This week some kind of conflict with a friend or member of a group will explode. It can even be an accident-prone time for your kids so be aware of this and be vigilant. But it will mean a shift in your goals simply because you have no choice.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Remember to get more rest because you need this right now. And remember to observe partnerships and relationships. Be patient at work because silly errors and goofy mistakes in communications are unavoidable. (Since you are a perfectionist, this will irk you.) Avoid conflict with authority figures because they will be explosive. This includes authority figures in your family as well. By August, life starts to look better!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You're working hard to get as organized as possible. You need this right now to feel on top of your game. Vacations, parties, romantic adventures, sports events and playful times with children continue to be sources of fun. Get ready because bizarre happenings once again will occur this week - but after that, things will start to wind down. (For at least 18 months.) Even insanity has to take a rest.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) Your focus on pleasure, playful activities with children, sports events, romantic adventures, the arts and vacations will continue to bless you this year. This is a fabulous time for fun and romance. It's also a great time to redecorate at home and entertain. There is one major speed bump this week that concerns cash flow, earnings, finances and anything related to inheritances, insurance matters and shared property. Once you're through this - you will have survived.

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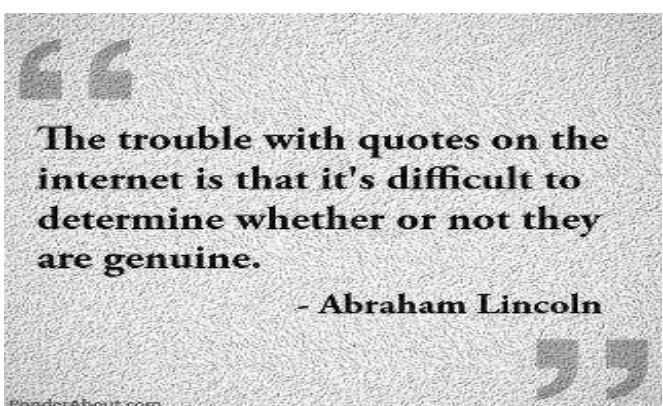
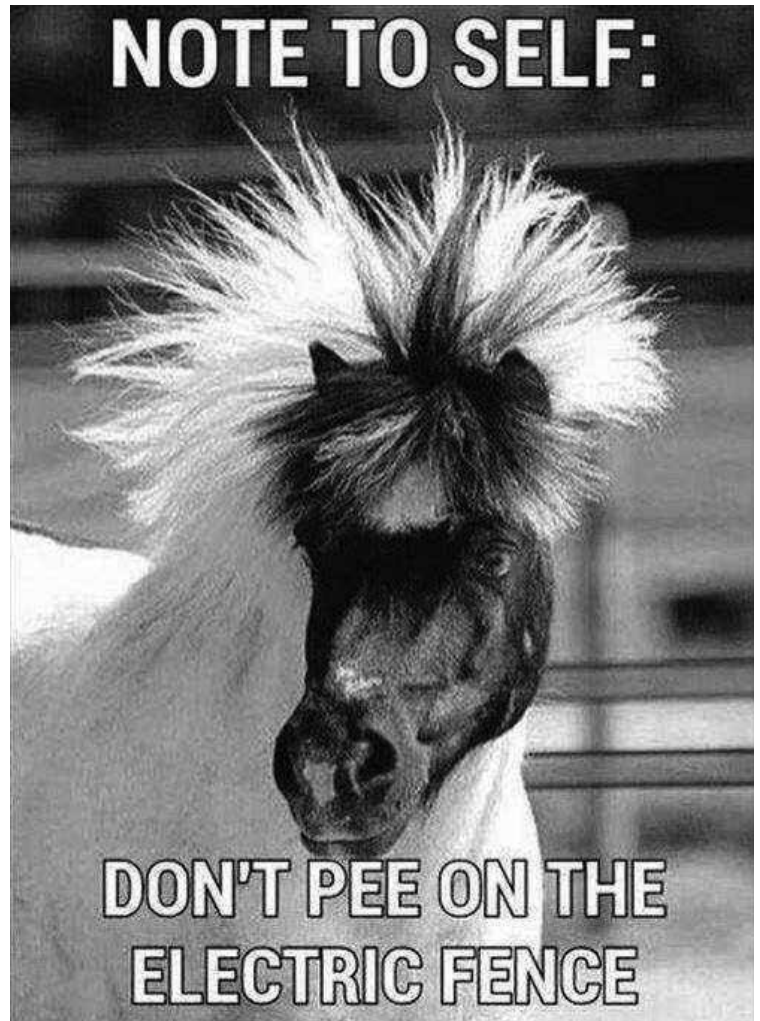
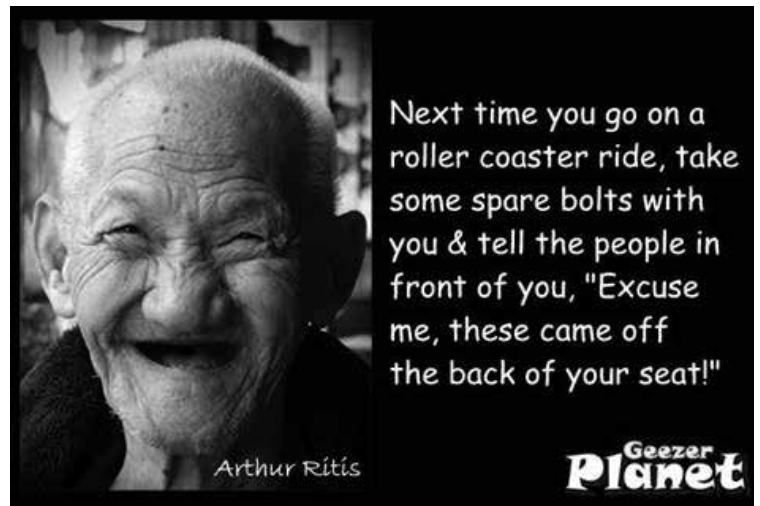
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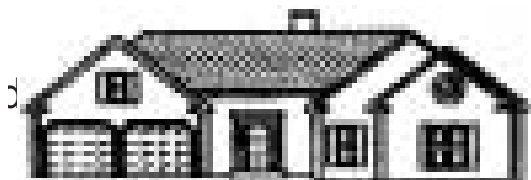
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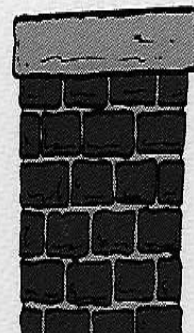
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— Health at the Lake —

Bug bites and bee stings

by **Dana Soldato**, PharmD

An article in last week's Barker confirmed what I had been thinking — the bugs are bad this year. Being inspired by that article, I'm going to write about bug bites and bee stings.

Mosquito bites: When a female mosquito bites (males don't bite!), it injects its saliva into your skin. The saliva contains proteins that cause inflammation and itching at the site. You can treat these symptoms using hydrocortisone cream or calamine lotion. Mosquitoes breed in standing water, so empty outdoor containers that may be holding standing rain water to minimize their numbers.

Unique ways to prevent mosquito bites: My inspiration for this part comes out of pure desperation — I get attacked by mosquitoes in the summer! I blast myself from head to toe with insect repellent (not recommended) and they still make a meal out of me. I haven't tried any of these methods and I really don't know if any of them work, but they all seem safe enough to try. Here are some of the quirky things I've found: wipe Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets on your skin; avoid eating salty foods or foods high in potassium such as bananas; take a vitamin B1 — 100 mg supplement per day; apply Vick's VapoRub to your skin; wear light-colored clothing; don't exercise at dusk (when you exercise you release more carbon dioxide which attracts mosquitoes); eat more garlic; and put a cup of dish soap out. Let me know if any of these actually work (I have a feeling they're all bogus).

Spider bites: The two spiders in the United States that are capable of biting humans and causing harm are the black widow spider and the brown recluse spider. Both of these spiders live in dark, dry places. Brown recluse bites result in a fluid-filled blister at the site that later becomes ulcerous. Black widow bites become stiff and painful and can lead to nausea and abdominal discomfort. If you are bit by one of these spiders clean the wound with soap and water, apply cool compresses to minimize the spread of the venom, and go see a doctor! Luckily, these spiders are not common in Michigan so chances of being

bit are very low (PHEW!).


Ticks bites: Ticks attach to the skin and feed on our blood. Bites are usually painless and easily go unnoticed. Check your skin for tick bites after being in tall grasses or wooded areas. Ticks can also attach to clothing and pets so you may want to check your pets before bringing them indoors.

Removing a tick: If you find a tick on your skin, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) recommends to carefully remove the tick with a pair of tweezers. The following information is brought to you directly from the CDC website: Use fine-tipped tweezers to grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Pull upward with steady, even pressure. Don't twist or jerk the tick; this can cause the mouth-parts to break off and remain in the skin. If this happens, remove the mouth-parts with tweezers. If you are unable to remove the mouth easily with clean tweezers, leave it alone and let the skin heal. After removing the tick, thoroughly clean the bite area and your hands with rubbing alcohol, an iodine scrub, or soap and water. Dispose of a live tick by submersing it in alcohol, placing it in a sealed bag/container, wrapping it tightly in tape, or flushing it down the toilet. Never crush a tick with your fingers. Avoid folklore remedies such as "painting" the tick with nail polish or petroleum jelly, or using heat to make the tick detach from the skin. Your goal is to remove the tick as quickly as possible — not waiting for it to detach. If you develop a rash or fever within several weeks of removing a tick, see your doctor. Be sure to tell the doctor about your recent tick bite, when the bite occurred, and where you most likely acquired the tick.

Bee/wasp stings: Wasps, yellow jackets, and hornets have stingers that retract upon stinging so they can sting you multiple times, but bees have stingers that remain in your skin with the venomous sack attached. A few minutes after a bee sting, all the venom has been released from the sack. The quicker you can remove the sack the less venom that will be released. To remove the stinger, use something hard, such as a credit card. Don't pinch the site because that can result in more venom to be released. Apply cold compresses and take Benadryl®. If you are having difficulty breathing, call 911. Some people may have a prescription for an EpiPen®. To use an EpiPen®, remove the blue cap and inject firmly into the outer thigh. Leave the injection in place for at least 5-10 seconds to confirm all the medication is injected. EpiPens are designed to pierce through clothing so do not waste any time removing clothing. Always call 911 if you use an EpiPen®!

Insect Repellent: Insect repellents work to trick the insects into thinking we do not have a surface for them to bite. It masks the human scent and mimics scents they do not usually bite. The chemicals used in insect repellents include DEET and Picaridin, or natural oils such as lemon eucalyptus, citronella oil, lemongrass and geranium. The higher the concentration of DEET, the more effective the repellent. A 2014 review by the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) on DEET safety concluded that DEET poses no risks of concern to human health, non-target species or the environment. There are currently no age restrictions for the use of DEET so it can be used on young children, but the American Academy of Pediatrics suggests avoiding use in children less than 2 months of age. Keep in mind, insect repellent should not be sprayed directly onto the face, or to cuts and irritated skin.

My skin is officially crawling. Have a great weekend!



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Camp Tannadoonah

Week 2 and a new record!

They're here! The second group of campers arrived at camp on Sunday afternoon for Session Two at Camp T. There are 103 campers here this week, and believe it or not, this is one of our smaller sessions! Our total officially registered camper count is up to 743 – which blows away our previous record, and is way past our original goal for the summer, too. And we still have time to pick up some more!

Over the past few weeks we have accomplished a lot of projects up here at camp. The shower house project is nearly complete (just some screen doors to be installed and a few coats of paint). All four of the “adventure” cabins have new interior pine walls, and they also have electricity and ceiling fans for the first time ever!

We are so grateful for all of the help we have received at camp from many wonderful volunteers this spring. We could



never have gotten everything done that we did without the help of Bill Holleman, Tom Rogers, Mike Lutz, Tony Laskowski, Aaron Johnson, Tom Mosier, Patti Russwurm, Sue & Pat Williams, Ron Whiteman, Maureen & Matt Koscielski, Simon Koscielski, Diane & Tony Coiro, Ellen & Tony Herron, Judson & Marie McKinley, Artie McElwee, Fred Freihofer, and Fry's friend Cliff. Many, many of our volunteers are our wonderful neighbors here at Birch Lake, and we really appreciate all that you guys do to help!

Last week at camp we launched our newest program: Wake Boarding. On Monday afternoon our very first group of wake boarders took to the lake. I was so impressed that they were all able to get up on their first day! You can check out videos of two of the boys on our camp photo page (<http://flickr.com/photos/tannadoonah>). Plus you can check out all the great photos that our camp photographer, Miss Kayla, posts every day (about 100 a day!).

Friday night was our first council fire of the season, and Princess Tannadoonah came into camp by canoe to light the first fire. It was a great night for council fire! This week has been much wetter so far, but it hasn't dampened the kids' spirits a bit! We have done a lot of playing in the mud up here at camp so far this week.

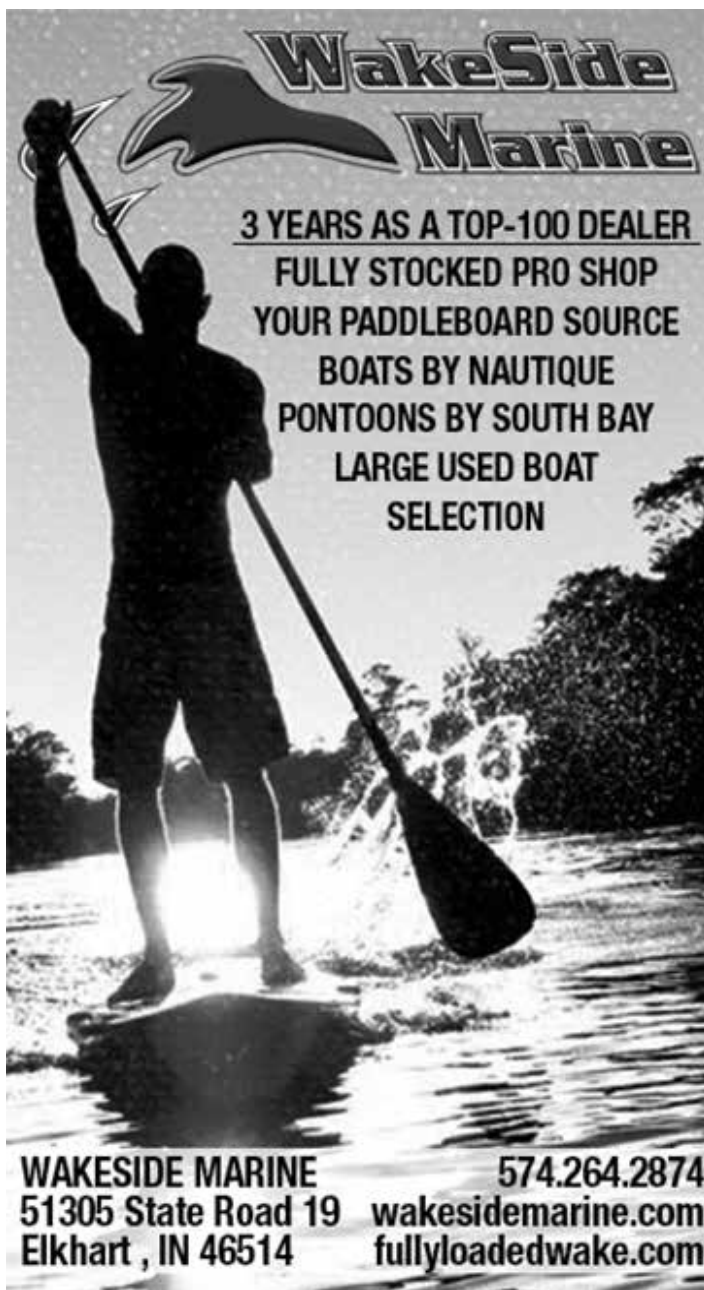
This week at camp we have a special Theater program, being run by Mr. Ian and Miss Meghan, both of whom have done numerous musicals and plays. We also have a new program called Knight Camp this week! Miss Katie Luecht and Mr. Sage are leading this class. On Monday the campers designed and created their own coats of arms. Tuesday they are playing medieval field games, Wednesday Miss Katie is teaching them fencing, Thursday we have a special guest coming to teach them how to make chain mail, and Friday they will learn to juggle and do other “court jester” activities!

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the Pancake Breakfast to be held on Sunday, July 6 from 8:30-11am!

Have a great weekend at the lake.

~Miss Amber

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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.

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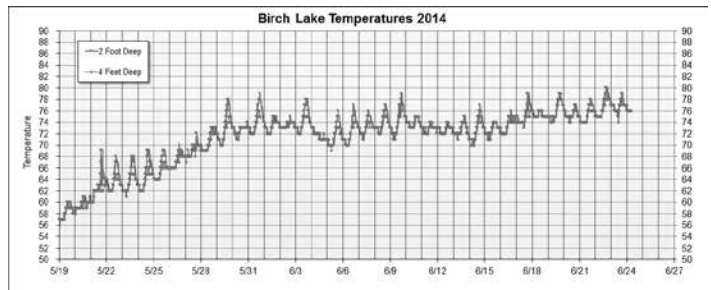
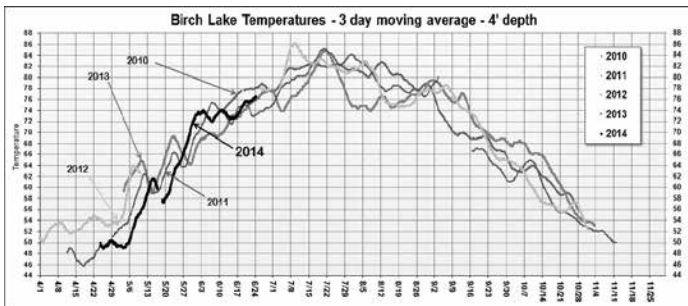
MISC.

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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@philvital** (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.



Temps provided by Steve Quinland



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