



The weekend of July 5 2014

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club



Photo by Mr. Bob

Happy Fourth of July Birch Lake! Have fun but please be safe!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Monday night certainly was stormy and even scary here in our little cottage. Trying to be your brave commodore, I fought the urge at 1 am to go to the neighbor's house and hide out. It really was quite a spectacular light display, but I'm glad it's over. I hope none of you had major damage.

The 1st Don Harman Birch Lake People's Regatta proved to be a hit for those willing to dodge a few rain drops and try some sailing. Many thanks to Mike and Amy Lutz for providing their yard to launch and lunch! The bright orange shirts that Amy ordered certainly made it easy to pick out the participants! The sailors "glowed" as they maneuvered their boats on the water. There are shirts still available if you'd like to have one. Contact Amy at 476-2843 and she will fix you right up! The cost is \$20. Thanks to so many that helped the regatta be such a success! Bob King for providing the mooring, and so much more! Harold Cramner and Jeff Smitley for setting out the marks. On the committee boat helping me were Denise Smitley, Andy Kaceski, and Amy Lutz. The biggest thank you goes to the sailors

and their 1st mates!!! Phil Vitale had Ben Petty on the Pickle, Harold Cramner teamed up with Mary and Rachel Karceski, Peter Soldato and Chris Karceski were sailing together, Bill Luecht had Sarah and Cooper Petty on his boat, and Jeff Smitley's 1st mate was Cam Petty. Herb and Artie Cleveland as well as Amanda Butler sailed their own boats. Another big, BIG thanks to the friends' of Don Harman for providing the great visors with "hair"! How fun and everyone loved them!! It was truly a fun event! Watch out for next year!

Got your parade boat ready? Time is running out! You have 'til Saturday July 6 to get the finishing touches on your design. I heard rumors of some very unique and creative entries! I guess I better get busy!

Fireworks Saturday evening, unless we have to rain delay them until Sunday. (I will do the NO RAIN dance all week to try to prevent that from happening!) Not too late to make a donation for our fireworks fund. You can get a check to Holly Troeger or any board member. Also, donations will be taken at the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning at Camp T. No need to cook for your gang, bring them to Camp T from 8:30-11 for a hearty breakfast. My pancake flipping

2014 Birch Lake Calendar

July 4, 5, 6	BL 4th of July Regatta 11am
July 5	BL Boat Parade 2 pm
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 Outing
Aug 2	Corn and Sausage BLYC
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!

husband Bill might even make you one 3/4 inch thick, if you ask!

This weekend we will see a lot of activity on the lake. There may be some very inexperienced, and even some very irresponsible people operating water-crafts. As the Commodore, I feel it is my responsibility to advise you to be extremely cautious and aware of what is going on around the lake. We have a right, as the Birch Lake Community, to expect that everyone on this lake behave respectfully to us, our family, (especially

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.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 —



Sue Waddle, Linda Curtis, Claudia Phipps, and Carla Chester our having their own morning dog parade!

our children), our friends, and our lake. Safety is our No. 1 priority! We need to be diligent to make sure all boating rules are observed and obeyed. If you should have a problem, you should immediately get the number of the watercraft, and call the Cass County Sheriff at 269-445-2481 or call 911. Also, take a few minutes to look in this Barker and review the boating regulations. It could make a huge difference.

Ladies and men golfers get your teams signed up! Those events are just a few short weeks away.

I hope you all have a fantastic July

4th Weekend! Enjoy this time with your family and friends and take a moment to reflect on how lucky we are to live at Birch Lake, but we are especially blessed because we live in the USA!

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

PINK...it's not just a color, it's an ATTITUDE

~Bad Patty, Commodore 2014

Fourth of July 2014 Boat Parade Grand Marshals announced

Following a well established Birch Lake tradition the 2014 Fourth of July

Boat Parade Committee has unanimously selected Eastsiders Bud and Barb Zesinger to serve as Grand Marshals of the parade. The recipients of this honor are well known Birch Lake residents who have given much to our beloved lake community.

The theme for this year's parade is "Use Your Imagination."

This year's judges will be Carla and Ed Chester, Denise and Jeff Smitley. They (and the SparkyCam) will be at Bender's pier. Dick Bender is Master of Ceremonies, and will make the registration effortless.

Let's have fun and be safe.

~Linda Curtis & Sue Waddle
Boat Parade Co-Chairpersons

Bud & Barb Zesinger

Back in early 1941 Birch Lake was a place of unheated summer cottages, dirt roads, ice boxes (instead of refrigerators), indoor water pumps (instead of faucets), some outhouses, large fish, and lots of kids without shoes. A terrific place to spend summer break from school.

Clarke and Eunice Zesinger bought a cottage on the south shore (now Becky Wiseman's place). Their daughter June (Now Carol), age 10, and son Bud, age 3, grew to love the lake. The family spent 14 summers here before selling in the fall of 1954.

By then Carol was married and Bud

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 —

continued his schooling throughout the 1950s.

Bud and Barbara married in 1960 and children began arriving; Buddy (1961), Cindy (1963) and Brad (1968). After renting for a few summers they purchased a cottage on the north shore (now the Kolber place next to the Freihofer's). Wonderful summers with the children followed.

In the fall of 1985 Bud and Barb had the opportunity to trade places with former lake resident Chuck Fortino. In the spring of 1986 they moved into their new lake home on the East shore.

After having the house completely renovated and modernized they moved permanently to their new home in the spring of 1989.

They thank the Birch Lake community for these many years of friendship.

Visitors coming

Long ago the Barker included notices of who was visiting the lake. In keeping with tradition, the King family welcomes back our dear friends to beautiful Birch Lake this holiday weekend including: Rick and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie) / Chuck, Karen and Sarah Elizabeth Horn (Carmel). Please stop by and visit our guests.

WX report

Well, we won't hazard a guess (having to submit articles for the Barker by

Tuesday at latest). Commodore Patty has done a yeoman's job thus far but ... it's all on the line this weekend ... every Commodore worries it will rain on their firework show. Fingers and toes crossed, hey? A rumor circulating the East shore that concern over weather on the Holiday weekend has driven Her Majesty to drink is probably over-stated (or not).

~Les C. DeDopler

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.

Safety Tip: Water Skiing, Tubing

Boat operators towing someone on



A couple of old friends at the feeder ...

~Photo by Mr. Bob

water skis or a tube have additional laws they must follow.

Every skier, tuber or rafter must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, or III PFD. Inflatable PFDs may not be used.

Every boat towing someone on water skis, tubes, wakeboard, or a similar device must have a person on board, (in addition to the vessel operator) observing the towed person(s) at all times.

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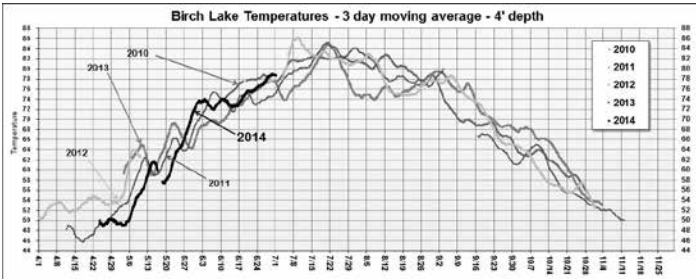
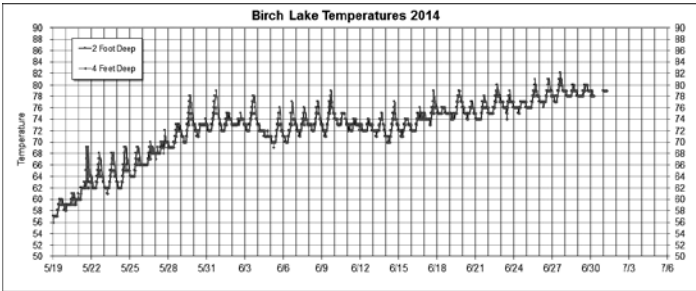
— Birch Lake Notes —

It is illegal to tow persons on skis, tubes, rafts, wakeboards, or any device of this type between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, or from at least 100 feet away from shore, from any moored or anchored boat, from all docks and rafts, from the marked swimming area at Camp Tannadoonah, and from any person(s) in the water.

We recognize that on holiday weekends the increased traffic makes this difficult, but it also makes it more dangerous — be aware of everyone and everything around you on the lake and SLOW DOWN!

Sunfish Kudos

Well done Sunfish sailors! Birch has had a competitive Sunfish fleet since the 1960s, and when asked a couple weekends ago the Sunfish rallied (outnumbering the MCs). Let's do it again this weekend!



Temps provided by Steve Quinland



Thanks to our good friend and neighbor Duffy Dufour for the Independence Day illustration!

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— Barker kids of the Week —



That's our granddaughter Morgann Applegate being bored while leaning on a big railroad-looking thing on a recent vacation in Kentucky.



Gee, don't think we've ever had someone send in a photo of the "Weed of the Week" before ...

~Photo by (you guessed it) Mr. Bob

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— Barker kids of the Week —



tubing with Claire Brovold, Amanda Butler, Taylor and Max Marquez, Kailey and Kyle Kinzler, and Taylor and Courtney Sharpe.

Use caution with fireworks, campfires!

The Michigan DNR reminds residents and travelers that special care and vigilance are necessary while enjoying campfires and fireworks over the Fourth of July holiday weekend.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in a typical year more fires are reported on Independence Day than any other day, and fireworks account for two out of five of those fires. NFPA also reported that campfires are the third biggest source of human-caused wildfire.

Make sure your campfire is out cold before turning in!

"Times like those spent with family and friends during the Fourth of July are what make Michigan summers so enjoyable," said Ada Takacs, DNR fire prevention specialist. "In order to

keep these times fun, it's important to take a few extra steps that will ensure safety for all."

When preparing to use fireworks, the DNR suggests the following safety tips:

- Only use fireworks in parking lots, driveways and gravel or dirt areas.
- Keep them away from fields, grassy areas and buildings.
- Follow instructions carefully, with close adult supervision.
- Let fireworks cool, and then soak them in water before disposing of debris.
- Keep a bucket of water, wet towel and a garden hose nearby.
- While enjoying campfires, some important safety

tips to keep in mind:

Never leave your fire unattended, even for a minute. Keep campfires small. Be sure to have water nearby. When putting a campfire out, drown it with water then stir until it is cold to the touch.

"Keeping your family and property safe is vital to making Independence Day fun for everyone," Takacs said. "Smokey Bear turns 70 this year. Let's give him an early birthday gift by practicing his safety tips while having fun with fireworks and campfires this holiday. Always remember Smokey's words of wisdom: 'Only YOU can prevent wildfires!'"

More fire prevention and safety tips can be found on the DNR website at www.michigan.gov/preventwildfires.

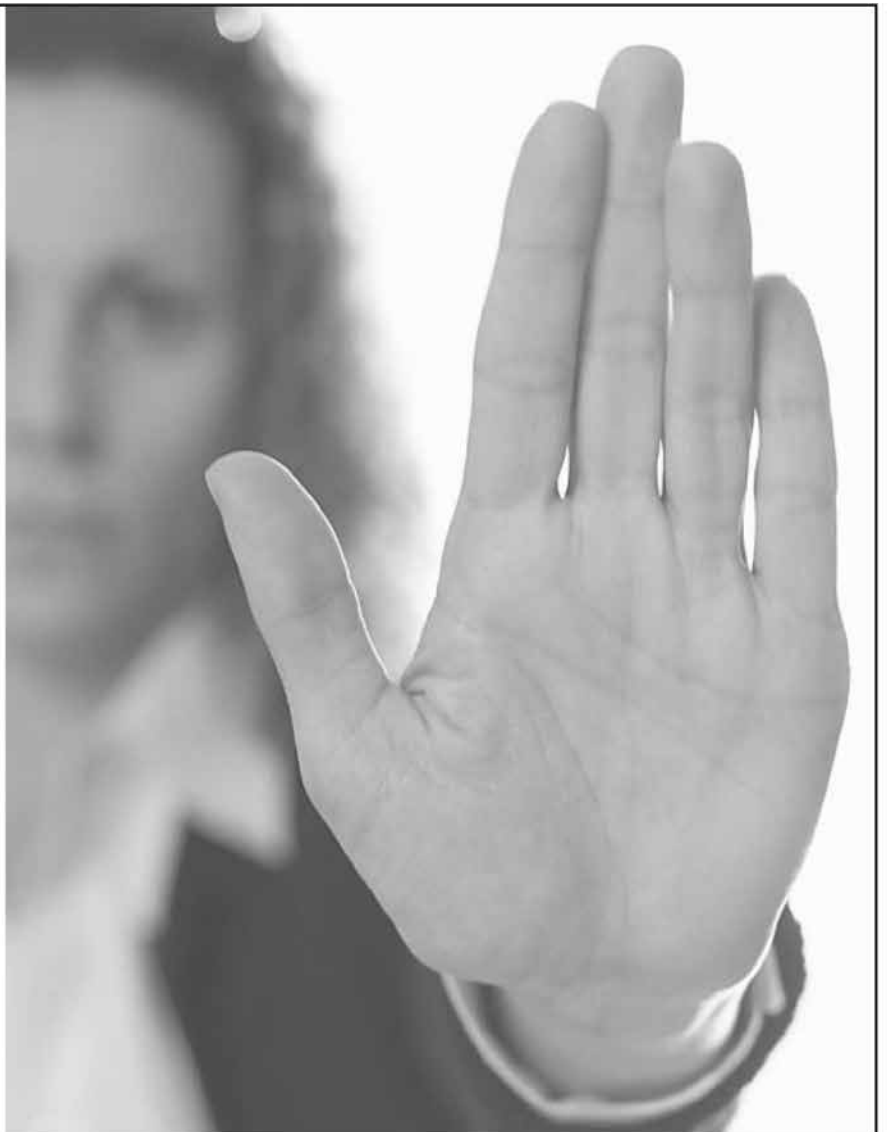
SLOW DOWN

**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



Sailing at Birch Lake

photos by [Amy Lutz](#)





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Regatta Success!



out their sunfish and joined the fun, then Herb sailed in the regular races on Sunday! There are plenty of opportunities for YOU to join the fleet and experience the joys of sailing. Just give Mike or I a call 476-2843!

~"First Mate" Amy

Committee Boat Assignments for the upcoming Races

- 4th of July Regatta**
 (These dates may change due to the weather and the Pancake Breakfast.)
 July 4 — *Bad Patty*
 July 5 — *Committee boat needed*
 July 6 — *Committee boat needed*

- July Races**
 13 — *Committee boat needed*
 20 — *Committee boat needed*
 27 — *Committee boat needed*

- August Races**
 3 — *Bad Patty*
 10 —
 17 —
 24 —

- Labor Day Regatta**
 August 30 —
 August 31 —
 Sept. 1 —

Please refrain
The annual 4th of July Regatta is this weekend – please refrain from cutting through the fleet(s) while racing is underway. Thanks in advance!



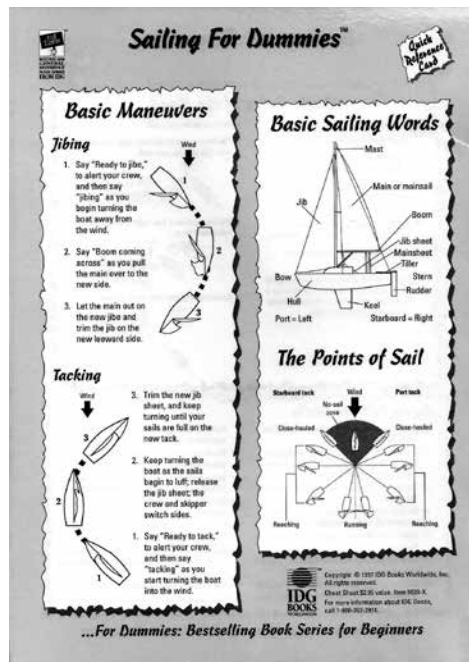
We need more people for the committee boat! If you are available, please call!

Well the power was out at Mike's this week he couldn't get a regular column done in time for the Barker ... so his First Mate provided the following ...

Regatta Success!

A special thank you to all the sailors & helpers attending the 1st annual "Don Harmon's People's Regatta" Saturday! This event offered a great opportunity for would-be sailors to learn the trade from our talented fleet.

The event rekindled interest with the Cleavelands (West Side) who dug



2014 BLYC Sailing Season Results

Date	29-Jun	29-Jun	29-Jun	Total	Season
Race	11	12	13	Points	Average

MC Scow/Sailor	1	2	3	Points	Average
Scott Troeger #1489	1	DNS	DNS	17363	1578
Jeff Smitley #2002	DNS	DNS	DNS	14991	1499
Bob King #1199	2	1	DNS	12712	1412
Phil Vitale #500	6	DNS	DNS	11260	1408
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	3	4	DNS	16523	1377
Bill Luecht #1579	5	2	DNS	15858	1322
Gib Eberhart #916	4	3	DNS	7506	1251

Sunfish/Sailor	1	2	3	Points	Average
Stewart Spratt	2	1	1	10890	1556
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	DNS	DNS	DNS	4565	1522
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	DNS	4486	1495
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	1	2	3	10195	1456
Herb Cleveland	4	3	2	4334	1445
Peter Soldoto	3	4	4	8072	1345
Bill Butler	5	5	6	8938	1277
Nick Anderson	DNS	DNS	DNS	3537	1179
Camille Butler	6	6	5	7013	1169

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.

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.

— Health at the Lake —

Handling Holiday Heartburn

by **Dana Soldato**, PharmD

It's the 4th of July!!!!!! It's a holiday spent with family gathered around a grill, and eating lots of delicious, yet generally unhealthy, foods. With all these holiday treats, surely somebody is going to have heartburn this weekend. Plus, the famous purple pill, Nexium[®], just moved from prescription to "OTC" (over the counter) on May 27th so there have been lots of questions surrounding this topic lately.

Why does heartburn occur?

When you eat, the food you ingest travels from your mouth, through your esophagus, and into your stomach. Once the food hits the stomach, it splashes into an extremely acidic environment which helps with food breakdown. Since the stomach is so acidic, we all have an apparatus between the stomach and the esophagus called the lower esophageal sphincter (LES) which more or less functions as a gatekeeper. In normal digestion, this gate remains securely closed after food has passed into the stomach, so that no contents of the stomach can return back into the esophagus. However, certain conditions, foods, or lifestyles can cause the gate, or sphincter, to become weak, allowing the stomach contents to sneak their way back up into the esophagus. When the stomach contents are able to reenter the esophagus, it damages the esophagus and causes the painful burning sensation that we know as heartburn.

What causes the LES to become weak?

The LES can become weak during pregnancy, obesity, hiatal hernias, and in smokers. Certain foods can contribute to

heartburn such as spicy foods, peppermint, chocolate, coffee and alcohol. Eating right before bedtime and eating large meals are other contributors.

How to treat heartburn

Heartburn can be controlled with therapy that aims to neutralize or reduce the acid in the stomach. Tums[®] work to neutralize the acid that is already present in the stomach. When you make the acid less acidic, it doesn't burn as badly. The other medications aim to reduce the amount of acid that gets released into the stomach. Zantac[®] and Pepcid[®] are called H2 blockers, and they work to reduce the amount of acid that is present in the stomach by about 50 percent. Prilosec[®], Nexium[®], and Prevacid[®] are called Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) and they work to block the pump that releases acid into the stomach. By blocking the pump, proton pump inhibitors can inhibit nearly 100 percent of acid production in the stomach.


How do I know what medication to choose?

Medication choice depends mostly on how often you experience heartburn. If you experience heartburn greater than 2 days per week, then you should try a 14 day course of PPIs (Prilosec[®], Nexium[®], or Prevacid[®]) — like I said above, these are the workhorses of acid reduction, and can eliminate up to 100 percent of acid production. If you experience heartburn frequently, but it only occurs 1 or 2 days per week, then you should try Zantac[®] or Prevacid[®]. Although it would seem like you should use the stronger PPIs, it is not necessarily advised to use PPIs if not totally necessary — having too little acid in the stomach can cause problems over the long run as well. Plus, PPIs take 3 days before they start working. For this reason, use H2 blockers if your heartburn is not constant. If you are somebody who rarely has heartburn, but for whatever reason you ate too many spicy foods, Tums[®] will probably do the trick. Although Tums[®] doesn't reduce acid production, it makes the acid already in your stomach less acidic — perfect for those who only suffer from minor, temporary heartburn.

How fast do the medications work? The proton pump inhibitors like Prilosec[®], Nexium[®], and Prevacid[®] take about 3 days before they start to work, so you might have to use Zantac[®] or Pepcid[®] for the first couple of days. Proton pump inhibitors are taken once daily on an empty stomach, typical 30-60 minutes before breakfast. Zantac[®] and Pepcid[®] work within 30-60 min, and are taken twice daily before meals. Tums[®] work almost immediately and can be chewed whenever they are needed.

Lifestyle modifications to treat heartburn: Elevating the head of the bed by six inches, avoid eating before bedtime, avoid eating spicy foods or other foods and drinks that contribute to heartburn, weight loss, and reduce smoking.

I hope everybody has a nice 4th of July!! My advice: drink the beer, eat the salsa, and worry about the heartburn later.



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Please be SAFE!

Know and Obey the Boating Safety Laws!

In Michigan, “reckless operation” of a boat, personal watercraft (JetSki), water skis, tubes, etc. which disregards the safety or rights of others or endangers people or property are illegal.

Some examples are:

- Weaving through traffic or swerving at the last possible moment in order to avoid collision
- Jumping the wake of another vessel
- Chasing, harassing, or disturbing wildlife
- Causing damage from the wake of your vessel

Failure To Regulate Speed is operating a boat at speeds that may cause danger to life or property of any other person or at speeds that will not permit you to bring your vessel to a safe stop.

It is illegal to operate a boat:

- Over 55 mph
- At greater than “*slow, no wake speed*” when a person is in on the foredeck of a boat
- Faster than is reasonable and prudent under the conditions (weather, traffic, etc.)

Improper Distance is not maintaining a proper distance while operating a boat or towing a person. To maintain a proper distance when you are operating at greater than “*slow, no wake speed*” the boat or persons being towed **must not be within 100 feet of:**

- A shoreline
 - Any moored or anchored vessel
 - A dock or raft
 - Any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water
- “*Slow, No Wake Speed*” means the slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering, and which does not

create a wake.

Improper Direction is defined as the failure to operate in a COUNTERCLOCKWISE direction.

Riding on the Bow is illegal if the vessel is not equipped with bow seating and the vessel is operating at greater than “*slow, no wake speed*.” Persons also are not allowed to ride on the gunwale. While underway, persons on a vessel may not sit, stand, or walk on any portion of a vessel not designed for that purpose.

Insufficient equipment is operating a vessel that is not carrying, storing, maintaining, and using marine safety equipment on board the vessel as required by the Department of Natural Resources.

RESTRICTED AREA Camp Tannadoonah



Under Michigan law, Boating in Restricted Areas is defined as operating within a restricted area clearly marked by buoys, beacons, diver-down flags, etc.

On Birch Lake the area marked by the buoys in front of Camp Tannadoonah on the north shore is a legally designated swim area that **BOATS MAY NOT ENTER.**

Staying afloat: Life jackets, vests and floats

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

All boats must carry with a personal flotation device for each person on board or being towed. Michigan law requires all children under 6 years old to wear a USCG–approved Type I or II PFD when riding on the open deck of any boat while underway. All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.

Boats less than 16 feet long (including a canoe or kayak) must have either a Type I, II, or III or a throwable PFD for each person on board.

In addition to the above requirements, one USCG–approved Type IV PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer and be readily accessible.

Each person riding on a PWC or being towed behind a PWC or boat (all skiers, tubers, etc.) must wear a USCG–approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device. Inflatable PFDs are not allowed.

Type I: Offshore Life Jackets



These vests are geared for rough waters where rescue may take a while. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious

persons face up in the water.

Type II: Near-Shore Vests

These vests are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. A Type II may not turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water.



Type III: Flotation Aids

These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. They are not



recommended for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up.

Type IV: Throwable Devices



These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble.

Since a Type IV is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.

TYPE V: Special-Use Devices

These vests, deck suits, hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing. To be acceptable, Type V PFDs must be used in accordance with their label.



Special laws apply to personal watercraft (PWC's, JetSkis, etc.)

Safety Requirements

- Anyone riding or being towed by a PWC must wear a Type I, II, or III PFD. Inflatable PFDs may not be used.
- Children under 7 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.
- The lanyard of a PWC's ignition safety switch must be attached to the operator.
- PWCs must be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner at all times.

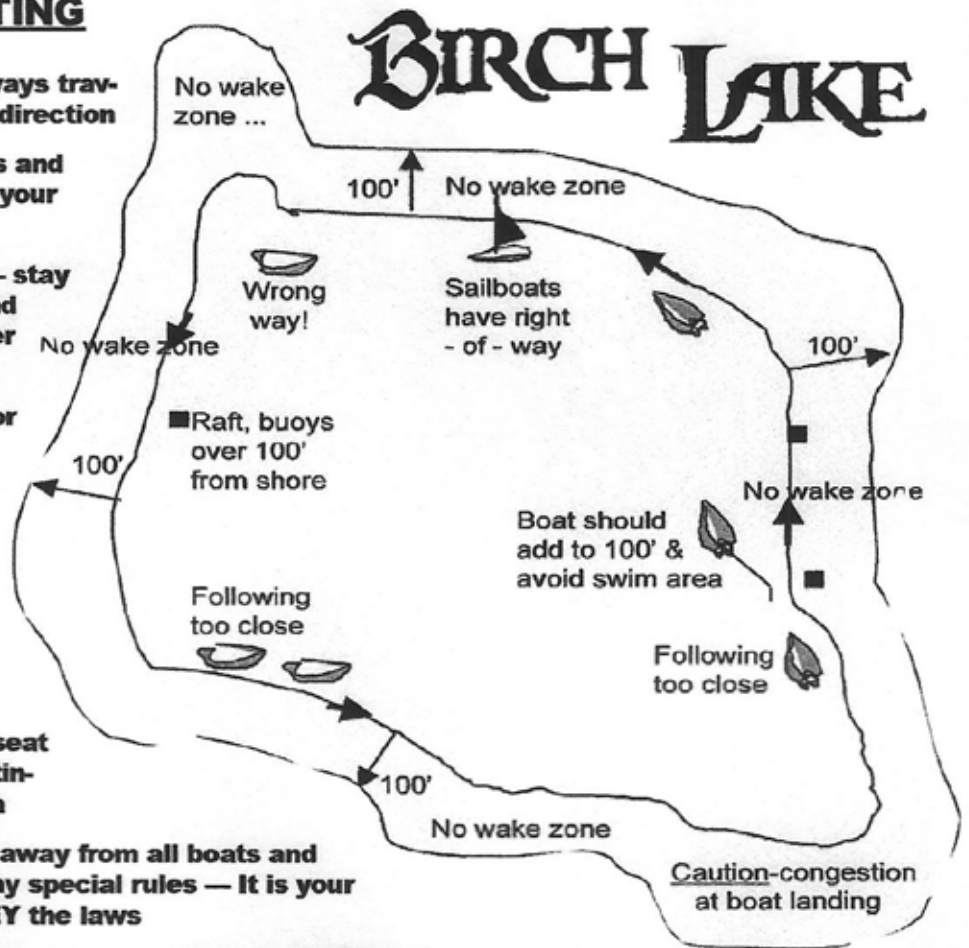
IT IS ILLEGAL TO:

- To operate a PWC from sunset until 8 am.
- Jump the wake of another boat close to the other boat.
- Weave through congested traffic.
- Swerve at the last possible moment to avoid collision.
- A PWC must be operated at “*slow, no wake speed*” if crossing within 150 feet behind another vessel.
- You may not operate a PWC in waters less than two feet deep unless you are operating at “*slow, no wake speed*” or docking or launching.
- It is illegal to harass wildlife or disturb aquatic vegetation with a PWC.

Please be SAFE!

COMMON SENSE BOATING

- * No matter what your speed, always travel in a **COUNTER CLOCK-WISE** direction
- * Go **SLOW** near other boats, rafts and shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- * Take your time and give room — stay **100'** from shore, other boats and rafts when you are travelling over wake speed
- * When pulling someone on skis or a tube, you **MUST** have an observer. Watch out for other boats and be sure to add the length of your tow line to the 100' clearance rule
- * There must be one **USCG-approved LIFE JACKET** for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (seat cushion, etc.), a horn, a fire extinguisher, and a valid registration
- * **PWCs (Jet Skis)** must stay 100' away from all boats and other PWCs. Jet skis have many special rules — It is your responsibility to know and **OBEY** the laws
- * Be responsible for everyone on your boat — safety is **NO ACCIDENT!**



Boating Safety information brought to you by the Birch Lake Homeowners Association

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STU'S STAR STUFF

Danger Will Robinson ...

In a lot of sci-fi movies and TV shows, humanity's fate is in the stars. According to these visions, we'll be warping off to Alpha Centauri, (Danger Will Robinson!) and beyond any day now.

The reality is far more daunting. Consider that the most distant spacecraft yet launched, Voyager 1, recently exited the solar system 35 years after it left Earth. At that rate, if the probe were headed toward Alpha Centauri, our nearest stellar neighbor, it would need another 75,000 years to get there.

Even so, a few scientists and engineers are thinking seriously about how we might reach the stars.

One leading idea is solar sails propelling a starship with the pressure of sunlight. Such a ship might reach a few percent of the speed of light but its sail would be as big as Michigan and the ship would need a thousand years to reach Alpha Centauri. Change the power source from sunlight to giant lasers and you could cut the travel time to a century. But such a laser would require as much power as all of humanity generates today.

There are other possibilities, but they're even more difficult. Giant worldships could carry hundreds of people on a one-way trip that would last many generations. And even a faster-than-light warp drive might be possible but wildly impractical.

For the time being then, we're stuck in our own solar system. Yet some small steps into the galaxy could help set the

stage for journeys to other stars.

It'll be a long time before we can send even a robotic probe to another star. The challenges of time, distance, and energy are just too tough to overcome with present-day technology or even foreseeable technology.

Yet some scientists and engineers are pondering a small step toward the stars: a probe that would travel farther than any has yet journeyed.

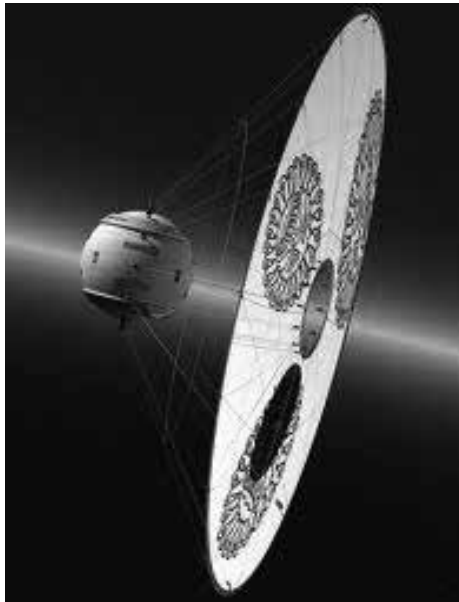
The initial goal is to get a ship out to 250 times the distance from Earth to the Sun (faithful readers will recall that 1 AU, or Astronomical Unit, is about 93 million miles, about the average distance from Earth to the

Sun) more than 20 billion miles within 20 years of launch. By comparison, the farthest object yet launched is only half that far, and it took 35 years to get there.

After that, the ship would keep going, perhaps reaching close to a hundred billion miles before losing contact with Earth.

One concept calls for the mission to be propelled by solar sails. Another, devised about a decade ago, calls for a smaller sail that would be propelled by nuclear reactions triggered by antimatter. The study found the mission could reach the goal of 250 AU in a decade, using just 30 milligrams of antimatter. One small problem though, it would take decades to produce that much antimatter. Don't ask me how or why.

As such a craft sailed out of the solar system, it could measure the par-



The Moon for July 5
(At Midnight, US Central time,
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.575
0.8 days since first quarter

Sunrise: 6:14am
Sunset: 9:22pm
Moonrise: 2:17pm
Moonset: 1:07am
First Qtr: 8:00am
Day length: 15h 8m

ticles and magnetic fields of interstellar space. So even though it wouldn't reach another star, it could give us a taste of what our stellar neighborhood is like.

Check out our neighborhood any night of the week here at the lake. Raise your telescope, binoculars or eyes above the level of your neighbor's bathroom window and enjoy the show above. Look for the summer triangle, made up of Deneb, Vega and Altair, getting higher in the East each night as darkness falls. Blood-red Mars is between Spica and the Moon in the southwest. There's so much up there, and even if you don't know exactly what you're looking at, the show is still amazing.

And of course, it's always free.

~Stu Spratt

Celebrating 50 Years at Birch Lake



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) Venus now guarantees all your communications with others are not only sweet and harmonious but they're also productive. Many of you can make money from your words! Your focus is still on home, family and your private life. Transportation delays and goofy mistakes in your communications to others will reduce.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Your life continues to be busy with short trips, long-distance travel, plus negotiations and wheeling and dealing with others. You want to enlighten others about your point of view because you have something to say! It's a good time to buy beautiful treasures for yourself or loved ones (and you do love your collectibles). Mars continues to energize you with your work, which is why you can accomplish so much now. The only downside is partnerships are challenging. Nothing is perfect.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) This is an excellent time to buy wardrobe goodies. You're charming, diplomatic and you like what you see in the mirror. It's a good time to make peace with others if you have difficulties; and of course, you will want to have fun. You have had a good run on vacation opportunities and chances to enjoy sports events and social fun with others. Keep working hard because recognition will come to you in 2015-16.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) You are blessed and favored! People and auspicious opportunities are attracted to you, which is a good thing because at home, things are pretty hairy with chaotic events, confusion and domestic tension. Meanwhile, secret friendships and love affairs continue to percolate.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) It's the perfect time to do some soul-searching and take stock of your life. How well are you doing at the art of living? How do

you want your life to be different? This is good time to set some goals for your next year and possibly even 3 or 5-year goals.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You're popular because the Sun and Jupiter bring friends into your life. You will benefit from others. Work with them, deal with them and learn from them. Not only will they be supportive, they can give you good advice. New love with someone older, richer or a mentor figure is likely. This is also why someone wants your creative input on artistic matters - design, layout, redecorating, landscaping whatever.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Since December, fiery Mars has been in your sign and will continue to be there until next month. In one way, this is positive because it boosts your energy and makes you assertive and proactive. However, this lengthy stay of Mars also makes you a bit pushy. You're certainly more of a fighter for your rights. It also generates lots of activity in your life. The upside is you can show the world what you can do.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) A chance to explore new territory is a big motivator now. You want to get out and see the world! You want to broaden your horizons through study and meeting fascinating people. This could promote an interesting love affair because Venus now stimulates your sexual energy. In fact, for some, sex will go beyond the physical and become a vehicle for self-transformation. This week and next are excellent times to seek a loan or financial support. Watch out for secret enemies. If you think someone is out to get you, you might be right.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Partnerships are great because Venus now paves the way for improving all your relationships - even with

your enemies. You're open to the needs of others and how to work harmoniously with them. This is a good time to ask for a loan from a bank or negotiate with others; plus it's a good time to create partnerships. Since December, you've been keen to formulate your goals and pursue them. Physical activity, especially athletics, continues to rev your engines.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Just a reminder to get more sleep. This Sun is the perfect time to study partnerships and close friendships. How do others perceive you? What kind of partner are you? Would you want you as a partner? This year, you have worked hard to achieve something because your ambition is strong. You want independence and authority. Ideally, you want to be your own boss. This could create conflict with coworkers.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your sense of adventure is strong now. That's why some of you will impulsively travel or do something to expand your world and give you some thrills. Travel will be gratifying because you want fun and pleasure! Venus promotes romance and amusing diversions plus you feel free because there is no need to pretend to be what you are not. Continue to work to get better organized, which is your primary objective.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) You are really the lucky sign this year because so much of your chart is urging you to enjoy romantic liaisons, vacations, pleasurable outings and social escapes. You want to have fun! Not only do you want to entertain at home, your sex drive is supercharged! This weekend and next are great times to redecorate your digs because you will want to show others what you have done. Get out and have a good time. Enjoy playful activities with children. This is the month to just be yourself.

Talk With A Live Person



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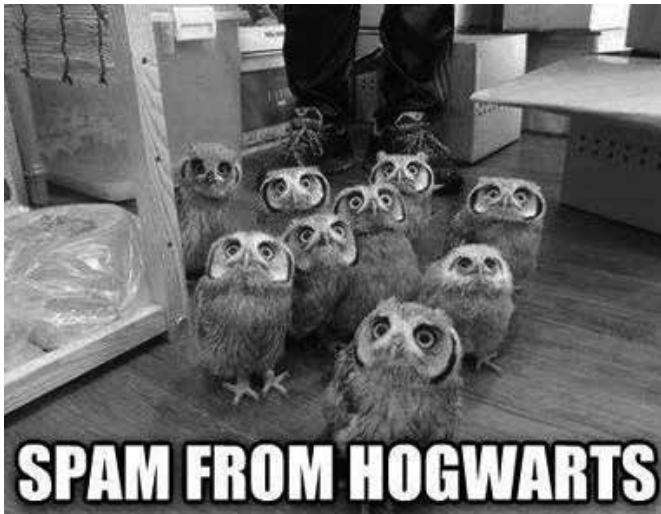
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**JULY 25TH 2014 - \$70 PER MAN
SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB**

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 rib tips, chicken quarters, two sides, and a salad**
- * 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 Golf Foursome Information

Team Captain:

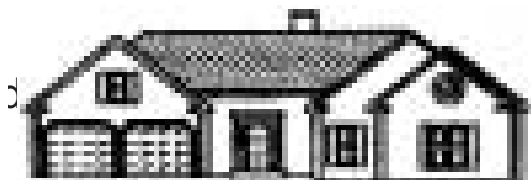
Please Print Players names:

Total Enclosed \$ _____

*** checks should be made out to BLYC**

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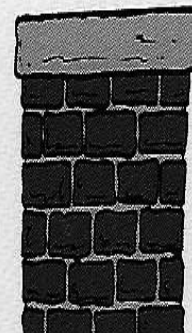
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Birch Barker Word Search

4th of July Fun

Find each of the following words.

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BANNERS
REGATTA
PANCAKES
SODAPOP
BOATPARADE
CANOE

SKIING
BARBEQUE
FLAGS
FIREWORKS
HOTDOGS
SPARKLERS
LEMONADE

CORN
WATERMELON
WAKEBOARD
HAMBURGERS
TUBING
REDWHITEBLUE

C R P D A A G E S S S A W A I R N A A S P A K L E R S A A S R E U R G O
I P A G F G E E A R I E R T H H A N S C R F O A W A K E B O A R D E P R
D G D P S I A D R C P O E E E O E K P T E L I S C K R T T D E P G E H N
H E T P N E R R S P A R K L U B N G K R S A O P W R R I A D A I P D G R
O W P R W T W E A B N T B O A T I N G L S G R T W N G E B A N N E R S U
T N G E G K I A W W R A U R E R G W R D C S E C R R S O W P O R K A N E
D L K I N O I P N O O G E B S P E A C R B E O A N D E N W O B R S R H G
O A W A A Q S A F R K A E D I L R T E A A L E S S R F G N P R I A G A B
G A N H M R O I B L G S O S I N R E O A O S W O P A N C A K E S K U E U
S T C R O O R F W N E K G K R E I R S N T B A R B E T S D P M S E R M C
O L E M O N A D I N N G I L I O A M A M P S T E N R E K G C S O D A P E
D E R E D N S T G P L R S B M A E E O I A R I E A I E I K H I O K T A P
A C U A G O O E N B I L G S L U P L H O R N R R S G E I W W M R E I S S
P B S W G A A R W L O R D W L O P O E A A A M O L U B N E N O K U I B A
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P O N B O A T I N A W O I W U E A A L E M O N A D E R E A A A R R R E U
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debo36@comcast.net
Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee
Chairman (E).....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com
Deb Spratt (N).....
debspratt@cressyandeverett.com

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



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Breakfast of Champs

(SERVING FOR TWO)

Ingredients

- 1 small to medium **sweet potato**, diced
- 2 **eggs**
- 8 slices of **bacon**, diced
- 4 Tbs **dill**, finely chopped
- 2 Tbs mayonnaise
- 2 Tbs **lemon juice**
- One 4x8 sheet of 3/4" plywood

Instructions

1. Place eggs in small sauce pan, cover with cold water, cover pan and place over high heat until just before boiling.

2. Remove from heat and let sit, covered, for 13 minutes.
3. Immediately rinse in cold water, peel eggs, dice and set aside.
4. Meanwhile, dice sweet potato.
5. Heat skillet over medium-high. When hot, add bacon and cook for 5 minutes. Add diced sweet potato and continue to cook until potato is tender and bacon is fully cooked.
6. In a small bowl, mix dill, mayonnaise and lemon juice.
7. Add eggs, sweet potato and bacon, and mix. Serve warm or cold.
8. Just kidding about the plywood ... ;-),



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Camp Tannadoonah

Special treat from Camp T

This week I have a special treat for my camp article! I collected camp stories from a group of our campers (4th – 7th grade girls). I thought it would be fun for you to read about camp from the campers' point of view for once! (I didn't edit other than spelling and grammar, and I didn't bribe them to mention me or my kids, really!)

Before I get to the kids' writings, though, don't forget to come out the pancake breakfast on Sunday morning at camp! It's from 8:30-11. There's great food, great company, and you get to see the improvements we've been making here at camp!

From Mia B.: I love the counselor and the food. I love the waterfront, and I love gaga ball. The best part of this week was when I made a new friend. The best part of last week was when I moved up to level 5 in swimming. It was a little funny when Luta Koda (our cabin) had to move to Cardinals and Wrens, but scary at the same time. (note from Amber: the night of the storms this week a limb fell on the cabin and they had to sleep in a different cabin)

From Abby P.: If I could say any phrase about camp, it would be "home away from home." Camp means everything to me. Everybody from Music Condors to Avery and Elyse are so nice. (and adorable). My two favorite activities are kayaking and archery, because it feels like I can just let everything out. Camp is a place where I can be myself and just be free.

From Gabby B.: What I like about camp is we have a great cook, and every day is beautiful. My favorite activities are iron chefs and bejeweled, and my favorite counselors are everyone and Miss Amber.

From Molly M.: My favorite activities were archery, pickleball, and sailing. And bejeweled and free swim too. I

would surely come back next year!

From Aleya P.: Camp was fun. On Sunday I was scared of the sand in the water. I thought it was under water grass. Oh my gosh. But yesterday and today I wasn't scared of the water and sand! I put my whole face in the water, and I was brave.

From Maddie M.: My experience at camp is that I made a lot of new friends. Also I had some favorite activities like drama is my first favorite one because my two best friends were there. Plus iron chefs which I loved to make my own food. Camp Tannadoonah is an awesome camp to go to. Camp Tannadoonah rocks.

From Greta B.: I've had a great experience. My favorite activity was gaga ball. The girls in my cabin are all really nice. The counselors are awesome and the food is great.

From Katie K.: Camp Tannadoonah is super fun. It is always safe, it's like a home away from home. We swim in the lake 2 times a day and have 4 activities which are our choice. I have been going here for five years and camp is just a fun way of brightening your day. And at the end of each week you get noticed in our activities for something like Golden Arrow or Golden Bobbers and Golden Broom for the cleanest cabin and sometimes Most Improved. And sometimes it's for the biggest splash or most muddiest. The counselors are awesome and always watch over us and make us laugh. Everyone makes you feel welcome. Miss Amber is always nice and remembers everything and everyone's name. Every from ages 6 and up are welcome for 1 week or more. I would tell you more but instead of boring you you should just come and have fun!

~Miss Amber amber@tannadoonah.org



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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE

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

FOR SALE: **nice parachute** – never opened – used once – slightly stained. Call 476-9862.

Used sofa FOR SALE – seats the whole mob – 100% fine Italian leather. Call 476-1680.



Home for sale, AVAILABLE for immediate occupancy – sold as-is (see photo above)

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 Ilene at 574-360-8766

WANTED TO RENT

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

WANTED: somebody to go back in time with. This is not a joke. You'll get paid after we get back. Must bring your own weapons. Safety not guaranteed. I have only done this once before. Call 476-2113.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday(Sunday) to Suzy King - age omitted to save on ink – since the local Fire Department is busy watching over firework shows we have been asked to cancel the candles
~ **The Kings**

LOST & FOUND

LOST — Paddle boat. Cream top side and aqua green bottom. It is all plastic and will seat 5. Please call Lu Kelly in the cove. 312-287-9274

Found: Washed up to our seawall on Father's Day - **Green lid for children's turtle sandbox.** One million dollars ransom. Call Vito at 476.2113.

FREE

Swim Raft. Call Marlow at 574-903-3431.

FREE: Yorkshire terrier. Eight years old. Hateful little dog. Call 476-2863.

SERVICES OFFERED

Tired of cleaning yourself? Let me do it. Call 476-2380.

MISC.

Looking for a day of family fun? Come out to the Newberg Twp Fire and EMS Open House Saturday, July 19 from 11 am to 3 pm at the Newberg 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 drink); dessert are ice cream, sno cones and cotton candy for \$1.

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 YACHT CLUB

2014 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form

support the BLYC, support the Birch Lake Community!



\$___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)

Total contribution:

\$___ - BLYC Associate Member Dues

(\$10 / year)

\$_____

\$___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)

\$___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

Name _____

\$___ - Building Improvement Fund

\$___ - Fireworks Fund

Address _____

\$___ - Water Quality Program

\$___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$___ - Safety Committee

\$___ - Other non-party related expenses

\$___ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$___ - Misc.

Make checks payable to

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