



The weekend of **Aug 30 2014**

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



What better way to bid a fond farewell to another great summer season at Birch Lake than with a "swan" song from the campers and counselors who walked around the lake during the last week of camp and serenaded the residents ... We hope everyone has a safe, healthy and prosperous off season and we look forward to seeing all of you again next summer. thanks to Dennis and Claudia Phipps (north side) or the photo

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

The six months of keeping the name of the new Vice Commodore secret ended Saturday night at the 2014 Fall Dinner. Sue Williams accepted my invitation to be Vice Commodore at the end of February 2014 after a month of contemplation. Sue has been active in lake activities for some time and is well qualified for the job. I received many positive comments after the announcement from other lakera about their satisfaction with Sue becoming Vice Commodore. I publicly want to thank Sue for stepping up and taking on another role in lake activities that promote and help keep Birch Lake a great place to be. At the same time we welcome Sue, we need to thank Bad Patty for her 2 years of hard work as Commodore this year and Vice Commodore in 2013. Thank you, Patty for your service!

Bob and Sue Waddle received the Commodore's Award for 2014 and deservedly so. Congratulations and thank you for all you do.

Next up, I need to thank all those individuals that pulled the fall dinner together. Ticket sales were headed up by Mary Karceski and the all so reliable crew of experienced ticket sellers. Patti Russwurm, Vickie Rogers, Sue Williams and Sue Waddle. Decorations were handled masterfully by our friends and neighbors on the north shore. Deb Spratt, Sandy Baucus, Pam Mullin and my wife, Carol. Very creative, simple and tastefully done in my opinion. There are always extra hands needed to pull off a catered meal and those individuals that did last night are too numerous for my memory, but I want to thank you too for your help! And those wonderful appetizers were donated by a team led by Deb Spratt and included, Patti Russwurm, Amy Lutz, Sandy Baucus, Bad Patty, Sandy Vitale and Carol Freihofer.

Holly Troeger is stepping down as

Birch Lake Calendar

Aug 30, 31	..... Labor Day Regatta, 11
Sept 1	..... Regatta Rain Date, 11 am
Oct 18	..... Chili Cook Off
May 2, 2015	..... BLYC Spring Dinner
June 27, 2015	..... People's Regatta
July 4, 2015	..... Fireworks
July 5, 2015	..... Pancake Breakfast
July 11	..... House Walk
More info as available	
July 17, 2015	..... Ladies' Golf Outing
TBA	..... Poker Run 2015
Dates subject to change. Watch the Barker for updates!	

Treasurer of BLYC after 17 years in that position. What a wonderful job she has done in a thankless and very important role for BLYC and is leaving very large shoes to be filled. But Deb Spratt is qualified and up to the task and has been shadowing Holly all summer. Welcome Deb!

Two board members are stepping

— Birch Lake Notes —

down and three are starting new terms. Denise Smitley and Steve Quinlan are stepping down and we want to thank them for their years of service to the board. Sandy Vitale, Bob Waddle and Chas Grundy are starting new terms and we welcome them back!

I want to call your attention to the Birch Lake Calendar because we have the Chili Cook Off on Oct. 18 at the Yacht Club. This event has become more popular and I hope to see you there. Watch the Barker for more details. Sue Williams will chair the event and needs help so if you can volunteer, please get a hold of her.

Looking into 2015, we have the House Walk back and slated for July 11, 2015, and a Poker Run is being planned with date to be determined. Spring Dinner is May 2 and I am still shopping for a location but want to see if we can make The RV Hall of Fame on the north side of Elkhart work for us. Of course all announcements for this event and others can be found in the online version after Labor Day and prior to Memorial Day. Also, we will mail a letter with the Spring Dinner details in April of 2015. I'll close with best wishes for a nice Labor Day weekend, and look forward to seeing you at Birch Lake ... where every day is an adventure.

~Commodore Fry

Thanks to all

As the editor of the Birch Barker

for the past 15 years I would like to thanks all of the people who have helped to make it successful.

While I'm usually the only one singled out for the kudos, I want everyone to know that I am merely a focal point around which a lot of very generous and talented people revolve — and without them the Birch Barker wouldn't exist.

In addition me, there are dozens of people every year who quietly do their thing (ok some of them whine once in a while) in ways that most readers will never understand.

So, on behalf of myself, the board of directors of the Birch Lake Yacht Club and all of the people both on and off the lake who have read and (hopefully) enjoyed the Barker this year, thanks to everyone who has contributed all of the columns and features, the photos (especially the great front page pics, the sailing and the kid photos) the tidbits of news and updates on events, and even the classified ads.

And special thanks to the great businesses that bought the ads in the Barker ... unless I miscalculated the revenue the ads generated more than paid for all of the production costs this year, so the Barker actually turned a profit for the BLYC this year ... hope you have and will continue to support our advertisers in the future.

And finally, thanks to Questionable Patti who drove to the printer every week and picked up the finished papers, and to Sue Waddle who distributed the

papers to the individual delivery people, to all of the deliverers around the lake who saw to it that the Barkers made it to the 230 homes on the lake every week, and, as a side note, thanks to Bill Luecht whose 3/4" construction error brought me and the readers who were in on the continuing joke so much mirth throughout the season.

I hate to use a cliché (especially considering the source of this cliché) but in the case of the Barker, every year it takes a community to make it work.

From the bottom of my heart, thanks to our great community! ~PV

The Barker Online

Just in case you missed something in the Barker this summer or want to revisit something you particularly enjoyed this year, the 2014 printed Birch Barker is archived online (along with the printed barkers from 2006 to date) ... go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.

And although *this is the last printed Barker of the year*, assuming the board of directors approves the modest funding required, notices for the monthly Online Barker will begin to be sent via email soon ... If you're not signed up to receive the notifications and would like to be, or if you've changed email address recently, be sure and drop me an email at sailorphil@philvitale.com so I can update my mailing list ... ~PV

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 —

Sympathies

Our sympathies to the family of Janet (Kraiger) Manspeaker Foster, who passed away peacefully on, Aug. 20. Janet was the mother of Debbie Bolinger (east side).

Janet was born on Mar. 14, 1934, in Lawrence, MI, to Charles and Leona Kraiger, who preceded her in death. Survivors include her husband of 11 years, David Foster. David and Janet married later in life and shared many wonderful years together. They enjoyed golfing, wintering in Florida with friends, and spending time with family. Janet was preceded in death by her first husband of 45 years, David Manspeaker, who died in 1996. Together, they had two children: Debbie (Jim) Bolinger and David (Coleen) Manspeaker. Also surviving are two stepdaughters, Patricia Foster and Hillary Foster, along with a stepson, Steven Foster; five grandchildren, Jay (Olga) Bolinger of Largo, Florida, Becky (Michael) Dundek of Nice, France, and Trevor, Kaley and Trace Manspeaker of Mishawaka, Indiana; three step-grandchildren, Leo, Max and Stephen Foster; one sister, Ardith (Ken) Russell of Illinois; and a brother, Kirk (Charlotte) Kraiger of Arkansas. A brother, Kenneth (Joyce) Kraiger, preceded her in death. Janet was a member of the Republican Women of Mishawaka and the St. Joseph



Congratulations to Bob and Gertie Temple (North Shore) who had their 65th wedding anniversary on August 27th. The celebration continues at Birch Lake this weekend with their children and grandchildren

Hospital Auxiliary, Mishawaka.

Memorial contributions may be made to the River Valley Community Church, Janet's home church.

In Memory

Longtime Birch Lake resident, Dave Gableman, passed away Sunday, Aug. 24. Services will be held at the Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens and Funeral

Home Thursday, Aug. 28 at 11 am with the viewing at 10. Address for the services is 10776 McKinley Hwy., Osceola, Indiana.

'Photography and Beyond'

Birch Laker Carol Dugan, is curating 'Photography and Beyond,' an art show at Carnegie Center for the Arts. The five participating artists aim to

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 Notes

expand our view of photography. The display hangs from Aug. 24 through Sept. 30. Carnegie is located at 107 N. Main in Three Rivers. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 10-5, Saturday 10-2, closed on Sundays and Mondays. Call Carnegie 269 273-8882 or Carol 476-2814 with any questions.

Carnegie is an art center that is presently presenting three shows in addition to Carol's. Carol thanks her Birch Lake friends for their support.

"Singin' and Dancin' into the Holidays, A Merry Como Christmas 2014"

November 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22
Battell Center Theatre, 904 North Main, Mishawaka, IN,
Seniors \$12, Adults \$14
574-243-7704 ticket information
Box office, doors open 6 pm.
Curtain time: 8 pm, 7:30 warm-up

"A Merry Como Christmas" features descendants of the famous crooner, Perry Como. Melanie Como-Dits, Wendy Como, and Paige Como, and Mary Como-Bishop, are granddaughters and new addition to the production: his Great-Granddaughter Abigail Como. As of 1985, his Daughter, Melanie Como, directs the production.

This year, "A Merry Como Christmas" brings back highlights from our men performing an homage to the Rat Pack and the Jersey Boys! The female vocalists will be doing some Andrews Sisters favorites, and all of the vocal material will take you on a stroll down memory lane.

This production has been in rehearsal since June. This professional production has a new show every year, highlighting new soloists and new songs! The name is the same, but the performances are brand new. Our beautiful troop of dancers will add just the right touch of energy and excitement, performing great music from the past decade as well as your rock -n- roll favorites. Our musical pit include a harmonica player and four guitarists, as well as a gifted percussionist, and our trumpet and reed players will share their talents.

Costuming takes center stage, as "The Company" prides itself in its flashy costumes and lightning fast costume changes for the entire cast.

This holiday production is as close to Vaudeville, with a touch of the spirit of cabaret as you will find in the Midwest!



Calling all dogs — Pooch Parade

SATURDAY, Aug. 30

Rain date, Aug. 31
Registration 10 am
Parade 10:30 am

Grand Marshall: Our own local Veterinarian, Duffy DUFOUR

All Birch Lake Dogs and their owners are invited to meet at the Sears Memorial Park boat landing for a Labor Day dog parade celebration. If parking is a challenge, you are invited to park at the Yoshizawa's, Steffen's, or Chester's. After the 10 am registration, the parade commences from the boat landing at 10:30 am and proceeds north on Birch Road, ending at the home of Dennis and Claudia Phipps.

Costumes are encouraged. All participants will receive doggy AND human treats!

Prizes will be awarded in these categories: **MOST WELL BEHAVED; BEST COSTUME; LARGEST DOG; SMALLEST; CUTEST; UGLIEST; DOG-OWNER LOOK ALIKE**

PARADE RULES:

1. Animals must be current on vaccinations
2. No aggressive animals or females that are in season
3. Animals must be on a leash and in control by their owner at ALL times.
4. Pet owners must pooper scoop after their dogs

PARADE ORGANIZERS:

Carla Chester, Linda Curtis, Sue Waddle, Claudia Phipps

~Thanks to *Duffy Dufor* for the great illustration!



Welcome to Jaywalker



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— Birch Lake Notes —

Birch goes to the dogs?

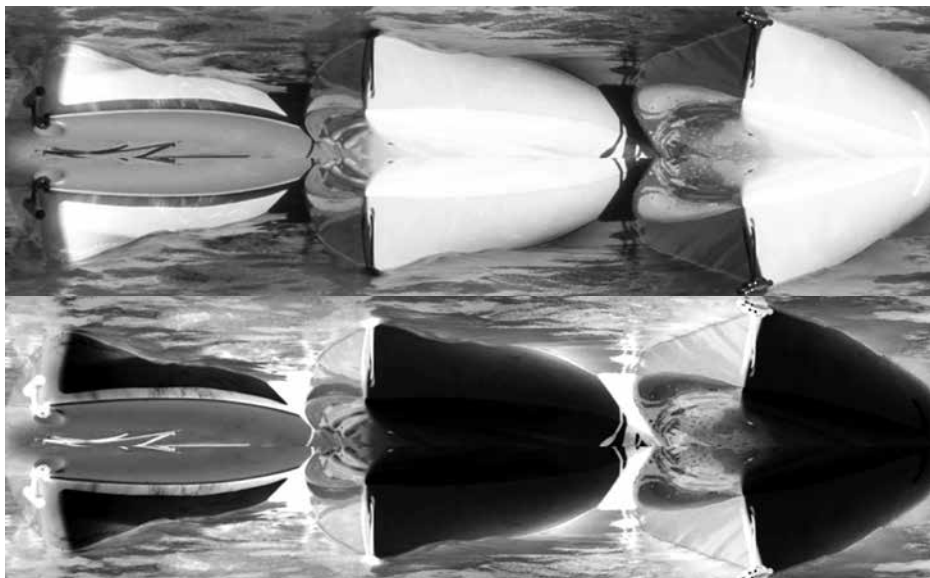


K, the canine parade sounds cute 'n clever. But what's for felines? No worries, no matter ... no self-respecting cat would be willing, unless coaxed by something on a string. Really, largely above it all, cats would probably prefer to watch from indoors while Barfy and Rover get ordered around. Possibly they will nap through the whole thing? Zzz ...

Birch ... it's for the birds.



After the Fall Dinner on Saturday night, well past dusk, as it went deep dark something new presented itself. Had the heron not briefly taken flight to hop a pier it might have gone unseen. Big bird was stalking the shallows spearing fish. Who knew? Do herons have night vision goggles? We are lucky we Lakers. Migratory birds as the ice retreats, and Loons in spring time. The last couple years it's become common place to see a Bald Eagle (or Eagles) soaring, swooping and diving on fish. This all speaks to a healthy environment we share with the creatures who call Birch home.



Do U Yak?

Sometime on Sunday (we B disorganized) after the sailing is done and before it gets dark dark, the First 'Annual' [ka]Yak will be held. Actually, it will more happen than be held. There is no start or end, no registration and ... no plan whatsoever. Get your kayaks and paddles out, join in for a lake loop or any portion of a loop. Drop in and drop out as you like. Being a counter-culture type of event, go counter-clockwise inside the raft line (let's break all the rools, shall we?).

Just tidying up.

Saturday there was a great disturbance in the Force. As has been done every year since inception, the power of the outgoing BLYC Commodore was handed off to the new guy. Hats off to Patty who made light of her duty but labored long to keep the ship afloat. For those who don't join BLYC (and, ahem, pay their dues), know many hands row our boat. Birch Lake Yacht Club is more than a social organization. The Club, your Club, works all year long to benefit property values, protect the watershed, and take our collective voice to Township and County governmental bodies. The Barker you are reading right now is a gem of our Club.



Many thanks to Editor Phil. Buy ya a beer sailor? Now comes the days of the Freihofer stewardship. Let's all pitch in to keep up boat-speed ... take a turn at the oars.

For the little ones

There appears to be a baby boom on Birch. All round the lake we (just we, not a Royal we) see kids of all ages at play. Is it in the water? Wouldn't it be nice if these kids got to know each other? Once upon a time BLYC had a Junior Yacht Club. At the start of this millennium an attempt was made to begin again. All it takes is a few parents to kick the can and kids, well, they will be kids. Shall we?



— Barker Cats of the Week —



Cat of the Week Kudos to Charlotte on her jungle perch above, and Miss Kitty in the tube. Charlotte and Miss Kitty are the cats who let Stewart and Deb Spratt live at their house as long as they agree to regularly and lovingly feed and pet them/



— Birch Lake Notes —

Summer days

~ a poem by Amanda butler

Summer days are so sunny
And the people are so funny
Most of the time I get to swim and splash with my friends
But it all depends
It all depends on the weather
The butterflies fly like little feathers
I go tubing behind my dad's boat
But the tube doesn't always float
When I go to camp
It's usually damp!
Fourth of July is the most fun of all
The fireworks fall
Fall from the sky
As I eat a piece of pie
The there is the boat parade
The parade that makes some people need some mental aid.

On Sunday we have a breakfast full of pancakes!
Everybody wakes
Wakes up early to go to the camp
The damp camp
Once the Fourth of July festivities are over we mope around
On the clean fresh ground
Then Labor Day comes around, that's the last weekend to
have fun for most of my group of friends.
Our parents get mad so they send us out to fend!
When you look out at the lake on Labor Day weekend, it's
busy from end to end!
So now the summer is over,
Farewell red rover.
See you next summer, that's to all my friends!
Summer days are long and sunny.
Memories that I will keep forever have been made!!!



Summer photos courtesy of Chuck Horn
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— Barker kids of the Week —



KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS!

Everyone loves to see their kid in the paper ... and one picture is worth a thousand words! Send your kid of the week to me (or grandpa of the week or neighbor of the week or dog of the week ... we even print weeds of the week!) with the details via email at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM (Please send files of 6 MB OR LESS ... huge email attachments bog down my email server!)

Above: Finley Gableman, grandson of Claudia and Dennis Phipps (north shore), exhibits excellent posture at a recent family gathering!

At top left: Macey, Taylor, Layla, and Parker Gableman, grandkids of Dennis and Claudia Phipps (the same north shore grandparents who sent in the pic of the baby above), enjoy making Birch Lake s'mores!

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— Barker kids of the Week —



At left: Amanda butler (west side) enjoying the last few weeks of summer. Photo by Kelly Niepokuj, Amy and Mike Lutz's niece.

Above is a "selfie" that Amanda shot with a friend when she was just messing around taking selfies ...

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Oliver, Gabriel and William Drinkall are my grandsons visiting from Connecticut. They are the 5th generation enjoying Birch Lake in my family. My grandfather bought this property in 1925 and it now entertains me and my wife Shirley (3rd generation) and 3 more generations of my children, my grand children and great grand kids! I have spent my entire life at this lake, Tom Drinkall (east side).



Great Catch in the Cove

Saturday afternoon Timmy (Linda and Jim Bergan grandson), and Peyton (Tom and Vicki Rogers grandson) had a great adventure when they spotted the sea monster. They knew they needed help to capture it so together they shouted, "Grandma." Soon the Cove was bustling with interest. Tim's Dad, Joe Bergan, chased the creature down and grabbed him by the tail. Now what? Lu Kelly of course, came to the rescue and tamed the wild beast. Determining it to be a very pregnant and docile female water snake. After many photo ops with the neighbors the "she beast" was set free on Larry McKay's natural shore line, where Sunday morning she gave birth to a clutch of slithering babies. The recounting of this adventure is fairly accurate.

To test the strength of the supports holding up the Murphy Bed that Bill Luecht built into his cottage on the east side, a group of us posed on the bed showing hand signs reflecting 3 and 4 to represent the completely uncharacteristic 3/4" error It-wasn't-my-fault Bill made in construction (obviously he corrected it since it not only works well and looks great, it supported all of us at once!). Pictured are, from left, Dennis Phipps (north side), me, Wild Bill Luecht (east side), Claudia Phipps and Stewart Spratt (north side).



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Birch Lake Cottage with 52 FT of frontage, sandy beach, knotty pine walls, vaulted wood ceilings, stone fireplace and 2 enclosed porch areas with awesome views. Spacious living room, quaint kitchen area, and huge loft area with extra sleeping room for the guests. Two car detached garage and plenty of parking space. Bright and cheery with the many windows and enclosed front room for family gatherings.





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



One Last Time!

After a week off with no wind, we were fortunate enough to be able to sail our normal three races last Sunday. Winds were all over, light to moderate with a few gusts at times.

I want to thank the Grundy family for doing a magnificent job on the committee boat last Sunday. We could not do your races without people like you!

We only have this week left of our 2014 season, it has been a wonderful year. Don't forget our annual Labor Day Regatta will be this Saturday and Sunday, with Monday being a make up day if needed.

Thanks to all that have participated in both sailing and running our committee boat this season. I hope everyone has a wonderful off season and can't wait to start next year, in just eight months ... on my mark.

Until next year,
~"Fleet Captain Mike"

Committee Boat Assignments for the Labor Day Regatta

- Aug. 30 — *Bad Patty*
- Aug. 31 — *Bad Patty*
- Sept. 1 — *Committee boat needed*



2014 Season Sailing Results

Date	24-Aug	24-Aug	24-Aug	Total	Season	Races	%
Race #	31	32	33	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor						31	
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	40745	1567	26	83.9%
Jeff Smitley #2002	2	3	4	40402	1496	27	87.1%
Phil Vitale #500	3	5	2	38341	1420	27	87.1%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	6	7	DNS	41292	1376	30	96.8%
Bob King #1199	4	4	3	38325	1369	27	87.1%
Bill Luecht #1579	5	2	5	35326	1308	27	87.1%
Gib Eberhart #916	7	6	6	27860	1266	22	71.0%
Rick Harman & Kids	DNS	DNS	DNS	1225	1225	1	3.2%
Katie Luecht	DNS	DNS	DNS	3401	1134	3	9.7%
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS	2245	1123	1	3.2%
Sunfish/Sailor						27	
Stewart Spratt	1	1	1	37385	1558	24	88.9%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	2	2	2	35386	1539	23	85.2%
Brad Davis	5	5	4	15752	1432	11	40.7%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	4	6	3	34163	1423	24	88.9%
Herb Cleveland	3	3	5	28065	1403	20	74.1%
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	DNS	DNS	DNS	4186	1395	3	11.1%
Peter Soldoto	DNS	DNS	DNS	16073	1339	12	44.4%
Chris of the Scofields	DNS	DNS	DNS	2525	1263	2	7.4%
Nick Anderson	7	4	DNS	12264	1226	10	37.0%
Bill Butler	6	7	DNS	15882	1222	12	44.4%
Camille Butler	8	8	6	26351	1198	22	81.5%

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.
 DNF (Did Not Finish), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place).
 DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed.
 CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.
 Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)
 Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted
 Crew - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.



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— Dana on Drugs —

Flu shots and you

By **Dana Soldato, PharmD**

The 2014-2015 flu shot has arrived!! It came in 2 weeks ago and I have already received mine. Receiving the flu shot is the #1 best way to protect yourself against the flu this year!

Who should get the flu shot?

The CDC recommends that everybody age 6 months of age and older should be vaccinated. The only people who should not get the flu vaccine are those who have had a serious allergic reaction to the vaccine, and those who have a rare, severe paralytic disorder called Guillain-Barré Syndrome. If you have a high fever or feel very ill, you should wait until you feel better before getting immunized. Certain high risk groups such as pregnant females, health care workers, diabetics, asthmatics, lung or heart disease, children, and people age 65+ should always receive the shot because these people are most at risk for flu complications if they catch the flu.

When should I get the shot?

The CDC recommends that you should be vaccinated as soon as the vaccine becomes available. Flu season typically starts around October and peaks in January, but outbreaks can occur at any time. It takes 2 weeks after your shot before full immunity takes place, so it's important to be vaccinated before the flu season actually begins! In the ideal world, everybody would be vaccinated before October. Since the vaccine is available right now, you should head to the pharmacy after you finish this article.

What's in the flu shot?

The flu shot always contains at least 3 strains of influenza virus that research indicates will be most common during the upcoming season. The 3 strains that are covered in the 2014-2015 shot are

- 1.) A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus,
- 2.) an A/Texas/50/2012 (H3N2)-like virus,

3.) a B/Massachusetts/2/2012-like virus.

I'm not an immunologist so this all looks like gibberish to me, but I do know that research shows these are the 3 strains that are most likely to cause flu outbreaks this season. However, viruses are constantly changing so the shot will not protect against 100 percent of the circulating strains. Last year's flu shot was considered to be 60 percent effective against circulating strains.

Can you still get the flu if you received the flu shot?

YES!!! The shot is intended to cover the influenza strains that are most likely to cause flu outbreaks, but other strains of influenza still exist. If you catch a strain that is not covered by the shot, you will get sick. Also, as mentioned above it takes 2 weeks for the shot to take effect so you can still get sick during that 2 week period. In addition, you can get the rhinovirus which produces flu like symptoms, but is not the flu. Keep in mind it is IMPOSSIBLE to catch the flu from the shot alone. You do not have to worry about catching the flu from the flu shot.

Side effects of the flu shot

Side effects of the flu shot include pain and redness at the injection site, low grade fever, and mild body aches. Typically, the only side effect people experience is a sore arm. The soreness only lasts for a few hours and will go away quicker if you get the injection in your dominant arm. For this reason, it is recommended to get the shot in your dominant arm.

For more AWESOME information, please go to www.cdc.gov/flu or www.vaccines.com. There is a lot of misconception out there about vaccines, but overall vaccines are both safe and effective for protecting ourselves against disease.

Thanks for reading!



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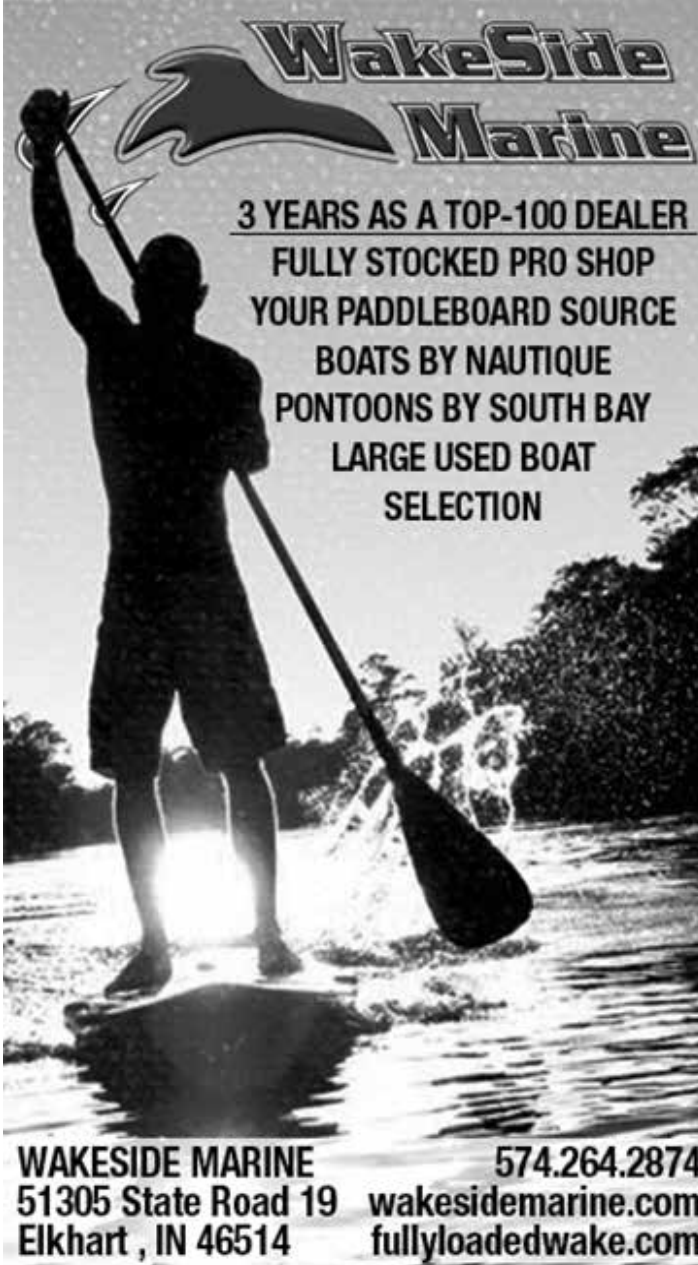
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STU'S STAR STUFF



Billions and billions of stars

In the past, I've drawn inspiration from a number of different sources. "StarDate," a daily radio program put out by the University of Texas McDonald Observatory, is one example. StarDate can be heard at various times each day on National Public Radio. Another resource for me has been The Abrams Planetarium at University of Michigan. I've subscribed to their monthly star calendar for many years. Carl Sagan is also one of my cosmic heroes. He, along with the aforementioned and others, have fueled my passion for what goes on overhead every day and night of our lives.

Carl Sagan had, what has become for him, a signature phrase — there are "billions upon billions" of planets, stars and galaxies out there. And I've pretty much written and/or plagiarized about all of them, multiple times. So where do you suppose I can go from here?

I'll leave you with three things, two of which have to do with death. First, some doomed planets.

A star in Cygnus, the swan, is entering the final stages of life, so it's starting to puff up like a giant balloon. And that's trouble for two of its planets. Over the next couple of hundred million years, they'll be roasted and then engulfed by the dying star.

The system is known as Kepler 56. It's about halfway between bright Vega, which is high in the east at nightfall, and slightly fainter Deneb, the tail of the swan, to the lower left of Vega.

The star is younger than the Sun, but it's also heavier, so it quickly converted the original hydrogen fuel in its core to helium, a process that will continue in the Sun for at least a few more weeks. Today, the core of Kepler 56 is quiet, with nuclear reactions taking place only in a thin shell around the core.

In response to that change, the outer layers are puffing outward, toward two planets. Both worlds are much closer to Kepler 56 than Mercury, the innermost planet in our own solar system, is to the Sun. And both are quite large and puffy similar to the giants of our solar system.

As Kepler 56 continues to evolve, its outer layers will expand even more. As the star's surface approaches the planets, their atmospheres will vaporize and stream off into space, leaving only their dense cores. Eventually, those bare chunks of rock and metal will fall into Kepler 56 and the two planets will die a fiery death and vanish from the universe.

Second, I have for you another Carl Sagan quote — "I would love to believe that when I die I will live again, that some thinking, feeling, remembering part of me will continue. But as much as I want to believe that, and despite the ancient and worldwide cultural traditions that assert an afterlife, I know of nothing to suggest that it is more than wishful thinking." Amen.

Finally, it is often overwhelming to look at the "billions upon billions" of stars overhead in our night sky. So much so that it's easy to overlook some of the stars so close by here on Earth. One is our very own Phil Vitale, Editor in Chief of our Birch Barker. For our enjoyment, Phil has been cranking out 13 - 15 weekly Birch Barkers per summer for the last 15 years. Additionally, there are the monthly on-line Barkers throughout fall, winter and spring. Phil has tirelessly, and without pay, designed, laid out, edited and solicited the content that we all enjoy and look forward to each week. Thanks to our star Phil for his hard work, his creativity and his tolerating my lateness for so many years.

Look for Phil in the east, near Tequila the Flamingo around 10:30 on Sunday mornings. He'll most likely be in The Pickle, (or still pickled), sail number 500, heading west toward the center of the lake. Though Phil's path may be largely unpredictable, he can most likely be spotted again in the east around two hours later.

Look for Cygnus, Vega, Deneb and the rest of the summer triangle in the east and overhead for a couple more months.

The show remains free.

I'm done. Yay!

~Stu Spratt

Celebrating 50 Years at Birch Lake

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time,
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.275

2.2 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 7:07 am
Sunset: 8:22 pm
Moonrise: 12:00 pm
Moonset: 10:49 pm
Day length: 13h 15m

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) Grab hold of your life and get better organized. You feel this urge so why not act on it? What can you do to make your life run more smoothly? Look around you and make a list. Be realistic. List the projects, big and small, that you want to tackle, and then get the right materials and tools to do a good job. You're also keen to improve your health. Excavate your bedroom closet.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) This is a playful, fun-loving time! Get in touch with your creative urges and have fun. How often do you indulge your creative talents? Most Tauruses are musical and like to sing. Pick up an instrument. Explore your talents. You are a verb not a noun. It's the doing that counts. Move out of your comfort zone and enjoy socializing with others. Invite people over. Accept invitations from others.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Home, family and your personal life are the areas you can improve right now. Two approaches are cleaning and tidying where you live. And the second approach involves the relationships you have with family members and those where you live. The latter requires more than just spit and polish. Have you noticed how we are often nicer to strangers than to our own loved ones? Appreciate them while you can.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Take a look at your style of communicating to the people you see every day. Next to direct physical contact, or the physical assistance you offer to others — it is your communications that are the building blocks of your daily relationships. Yes, words! And not just your words because conversations are a two-way street. How well do you listen to others? How well do others grasp what you say? .

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) It's time to check the royal coffers. Get a strategy on how to handle your money better. For starters, you need money coming in. Right? Think about your job, or a better job, or ways to make money on the side or all of the above. Are you doing whatever you can to generate cash? Next, how much money is left over? Now we get to the nitty-gritty, which is how you spend your money. You are a generous sign who loves a good time. You will go into debt to treat others.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This week is your best chance to look in the mirror to see how you can improve your appearance. It's also a primo opportunity to figure out how to improve your closest relationships — intimate and professional. This is a "clean-up-your-act" week. You take care of yourself, and as a result, you often look younger than you are.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You are pulled in two directions. On one hand, you want to meet friends, be active with groups, attend gatherings and be in the swim of things! Nevertheless, you want to withdraw from the busyness of life. Since this is the only New Moon all year in this "hidden" position, it means it's totally appropriate to be contemplative and seek out privacy so you can ponder your values and your future. What's up in your life?

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This month, fair Venus enhances your relationships with others, to the point you might have a romance with a boss or someone older, richer or worldlier. In addition, you have lots of energy to socialize, especially with younger people. You are out there flying your colors, enjoying the company of everyone! But this week in particular, you have a chance to make resolutions about improving and scrutinizing your friendships. After all, your friends influence you!

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This week is your chance to give serious consideration to your life direction. Where are you headed? Are you going in the direction you want or are you just drifting? Are your goals your goals or the goals of other people? Looking ahead, where do you want to be five years from now? What do you have to do to get there? This is the best week to think about this stuff.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) This week take stock of your education, training and skills. How prepared are you to reach the goals you want to achieve? More than another signs, you intend to "be" someone. Assess your education and training but also your religion, philosophy and belief systems. Even if you have rejected religion - you still have a "belief" system.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This week your chart relates to debt, taxes, shared property and anything you own jointly with others. Look at the balance in your life between what you give others and what they give you in return. Do you owe too much to others - personally, privately or in credit? If you are in debt, take time this week to strategize how you can ruthlessly slash your debt so that you will be freer. After all, you are freedom-loving sign!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) This week is the best chance all year to think about how you can improve your closest relationships and partnerships. It's also a chance to study your underlying beliefs about relationships. For example, if you believe others only want something from you - then you will attract takers. We script our lives to support our core beliefs. Finish the sentence "What people want from me is ____." Or "Every time I'm in a relationship ____." Our lives are movies and each of us is writing the script.

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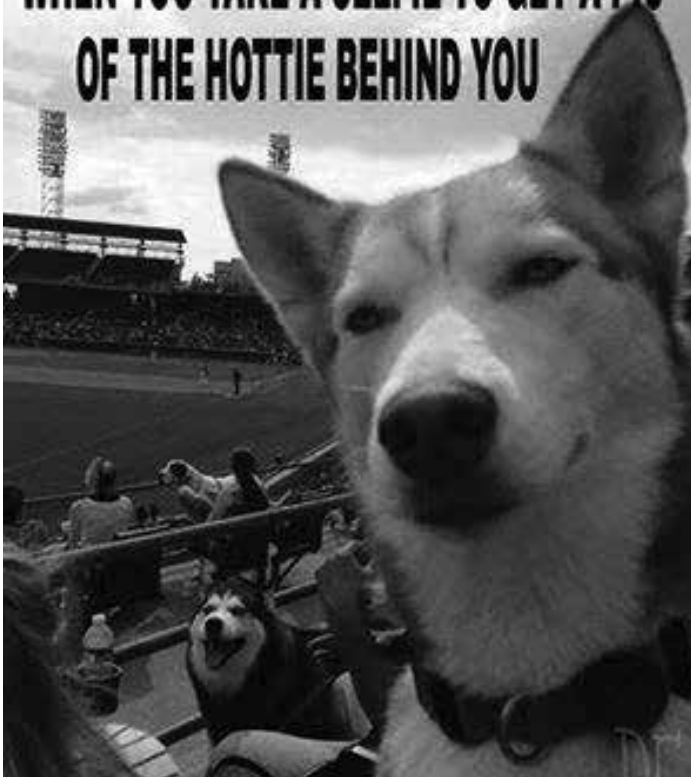
BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

If I make you breakfast in bed, a simple 'thank you' is all I need.

Not all this 'how did you get in my house?' business.



WHEN YOU TAKE A SELFIE TO GET A PIC OF THE HOTTIE BEHIND YOU



Typewriting while driving



I LOVE



THIS POST

Pre Test - Answer these questions as accurately as possible.

1. In which battle did Napoleon Die? *His last one* (F)
2. Where was the Declaration of Independence Signed? *on the bottom of the page.*
3. River Ravi, flows in which state? *Liquid state*
4. What is the main reason for Divorce? *MARRIAGE*
5. What is the main reason for Exams? *FAILURE*
6. What can you never eat for Breakfast? *Lunch & Dinner*
7. What looks like half an apple? *The other HALF*
8. If you threw a red stone into the Blue Sea, what will it become? *simply, A wet stone*
9. How can a Man go 8 days without sleeping? *EASY, sleep at night.*
10. How can you lift an elephant with one hand? *you can never lift an elephant that has 1 HAND*
11. If you had 3 apples and 4 oranges in one hand and 3 oranges and 4 apples in the other hand, what would you have? *VERY Large HANDS*
12. If it took, eight men 10 hours to build a brick wall, how long would it take four men to build it? *No time at all, the wall was already built.*
13. How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it? *Any way you want, because a concrete floor is very hard to crack. :)*

SOMETIMES I WRESTLE WITH MY DEMONS
SOMETIMES WE JUST SNUGGLE

BLYC Officers and Directors

2014/5 BLYC Officers

Fred Freihofer Commodore (N) .. 476-9823
cdfreihofer@aol.com
Sue Williams VComm. (S)..... 476-8886
smwillia@comcast.net
Deb Spratt Treasurer (N)..... 476-2113
debspratt@cressyandeverett.com
Mike Sheffieck Secretary (W)..... 476-1849
mcsheff@aol.com
Mike Lutz Fleet Captain (N)..... 476-2843
mmtlconcrete@aol.com

2014/5 BLYC Directors

Patty Luecht (E) Past Comm..... 476-2615
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com
Chas Grundy (H) 476-7062
Chas.grundy@gmail.com
Greg Bolin (W)..... 476-2420
gbolin31@aol.com

Ed Chester (E).....476-1010
ed@chesterlawoffice.com
Harold Cranmer (W) 574-264-6817
dhcranmer@yahoo.com
Terry Dugan (S) 476-2814
s581122@aol.com
Celia Fallon (E)476-1467
celia.fallon@gmail.com
Pam Mullin (N).....476-1080
Classegir1@comcast.net
Vickie Rogers (C) 476-2383
tvrogers@frontier.com
Rick Russwurm (N)..... 476-2407
paramountp@aol.com
Scott Troeger (E) 476-9898
scott.troeger@btlaw.com
Bob Waddle (E).....476-2293
sparkybob220@comcast.net

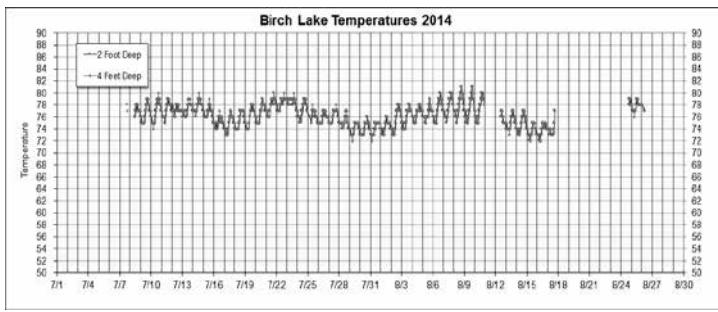
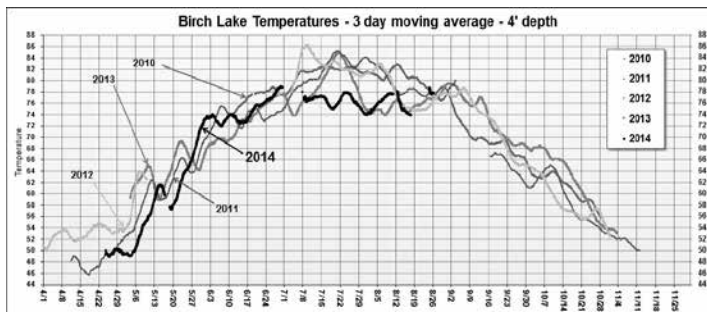
PJ Vandewalle (H)476-7086
pjvandewalle@gmail.com
Alan Van Huffel (S)..... 269-244-3487
abec3@aol.com
Phil Vitale (E).....476-1680
sailorphil@philvitale.com
Sandy Vitale (E)476-1680
sandra.vitale@franciscanalliance.org

NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:

Jim Bolinger BLYC Homeowners' Association Chairman (E)..... 476-9737
debo36@comcast.net
Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E).....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com

Next Board Meeting
September 6, 9 am

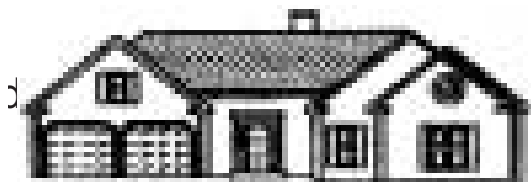
Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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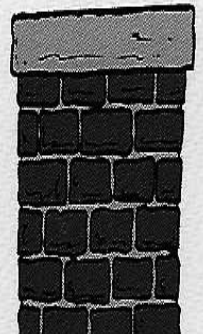
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Birch Barker Word Search

The End of Summer

Find each of the following words.

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WOOLY WORMS

SEAGULLS
LABOR DAY
BACK TO SCHOOL
FARE WELL FRIENDS
MORE RAKING
PIER JERK
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TRAILERS
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~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Ratatouille Soup

"Are you looking for a hearty soup that doesn't take all day to make? Try this delicious soup packed with beef, pasta, eggplant and zucchini, that's ready in under 45 minutes."

Recipe makes 5 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 pound ground beef**
- 1 (24 ounce) jar Prego® Traditional Italian Sauce or Tomato, Basil & Garlic Italian Sauce**
- 1 (10.5 ounce) can Campbell's® Condensed Beef Broth**
- 2 cups water**
- 1 small eggplant, cut into cubes**
- 1 medium zucchini, cut into cubes**
- 1 large green pepper, chopped**
- 1/2 cup uncooked elbow pasta**

Directions:

1. Cook the beef in a 4-quart saucepot over medium-high heat until it's well browned, stirring often to break up the meat. Pour off any fat.

2. Stir the sauce, broth, water, eggplant, zucchini and pepper in the saucepot and heat to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat to low. Cover and cook for 15 minutes.



3. Stir the pasta in the saucepot. Increase the heat to medium and cook for 10 minutes or until the pasta is tender, stirring occasionally.





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— Camp Tannadoonah —

One awesome summer!

2014 by the numbers from Camp Tannadoonah (with a few “guess-timates”):

818 total campers who attended camp

28.8 percent increase from 2013

23 full time cabin counselors

53 days of camp

68 buddy calls at the waterfront

1650 gallons of KoolAid served

400 Band Aids

1100 rolls of toilet paper

3000 marshmallows

950 gallons of Milk served

2500 Chippers at store

44 games of “Sham Battle”

86 rounds of “Ride that Pony”

51 times we sang “Hey Burrito”

42 campers who swam across Birch Lake

74 campers who received camperships

40 times we sang “Green Trees”

136 games of Knock Out on the basketball courts

1 Awesome Summer at Camp Tannadoonah

It really was a great year at Camp T, with a new record set for the number



of campers who attended. We didn't always love the cool weather (brrr!), but we sure did make a lot of great memories.

We averaged over 102 campers per session of camp, compared to just 79 campers per session last year. We had a great staff, comprised of nearly 80 percent who were returning from prior years. So it was an experienced group, with lots of camp knowledge.

If you have ideas for new programs, please let me know — I'm still working on the specialty programs for next sum-

mer. This year's specialty programs included sports camps (basketball, lacrosse, volleyball, diving, swimming, soccer), science, lego robotics, sailing, theater, guitar, CSI, and Glee.

And we already have 2 campers registered for 2015! I can't wait to see what we accomplish in the coming year. I have lots of ideas for further improvements that might be on the slate, and because it will be my 10th year as Camp Director, I want to make it a big one!

~amber@tannadoonah.org



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For Sale: **1986, 12 foot long Mistral Maui windsurfer.** The relatively wide board makes it easy to learn how to sail and helps in light wind. \$50. Call 574 220 0407

Selling a 11' Snark Sunflower Sailboat. In great condition. We are on the south side of the lake. Call (269) 476-9575. \$425



FOR SALE: **Wood computer desk and a nice wood and glass TV entertainment center.** Make an offer. Call Kathy at 476-9317

Crafts for sale: Do you need a baby gift? Bridal shower gift? Hostess gift? or just something to brighten up

your own kitchen? I have several baby afghans for sale, crocheted dish rags, and decorated dish towels, crocheted doilies. I have ear warmers and boot cuffs to keep you toasty warm when that beautiful white stuff starts to fall again. All price ranges wonderful gift ideas Please call Staci Whiteman (south side in front of yacht club) at 269-816-5755 to see my items

COTTAGES 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

LOST & FOUND
 During a recent storm we lost our **zipper pouch that holds out canopy for our Sweetwater pontoon.** The word Sweetwater is in white, and the rest is a reddish color. Reward offered ... two tickets to Singin' and Dancin' into the Holidays, 2014.

LOST - **prescription sunglasses,** gold aviator style. I lost them either at the turtle races, or on the west side. If you find them, please call Tricia Zoller @ 773-230-4521. Thanks!

FOUND: A square piece of **blue foam** floated up to our pier for a visit, its name is Bouwkamp and address is S 100. Please pick up your visitor at your convenience. It is sunbathing on the east shore, cottage 63418.
 FOUND: at the intersection of Walnut Road and Harvey, a **ring of keys.** Call 269-476-1145.

MISC.

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - Zippers, hemming, small alterations call Kathy at 476-9317.

HELP WANTED

Camp Fire River Bend, and Camp Tannadoonah a growing Michiana based youth development non-profit with club programs, is seeking **volunteers to assist in our Fundraising, Marketing, and Finance Committees and to serve on our board.** Please contact us at info@riverbendcampfire.org or at 574-387-6095.

WANTED

Camp needs a ski boat. If someone has one and wants to donate it or sell cheap. Skiing is a real hit.

Work wanted: **looking for house cleaning and yard work jobs.**

Contact Becky Beers at 269-476-1145 or 269-445-7584

Looking for a **photograph of Bernie and Helen Weesner and Bernie and Blair Garceau** in the 2001 or 2002 (we think) July 4th boat parade? The boat was titled, "Weekend at Bernie's." If you have an old Barker or photo please contact Blair at 476-9862.

BOAT STORAGE

Indoor Winter storage for boats, cars, RVs available close to Birch Lake (Walnut St., across from the old Tom's Garage). Reasonable and secure. Gardeann Storage, Call Gary or Deann Abshagen, 989-533-9085. Last day to store is Oct. 19; First day to remove boats is May 4, 2015.

CLASSIFIED ADS in the Birch Barker (including the Printed and the Online Barker) are 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@philvitala



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Haven't paid your 2014 dues yet? There's still time!

Or, you can be the First to pay your 2015 Dues, Contribution & Donations!

support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!



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

\$____ - BLYC Associate Member Dues
 (\$10 / year)

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

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

\$____ - Building Improvement Fund

\$____ - Fireworks Fund

\$____ - Water Quality Program

\$____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$____ - Safety Committee

\$____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$____ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$____ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$_____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to

BLYC

c/o Holly Troeger

1516 Ash Dr. East

Elkhart, IN 46514

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