

The
weekend
Of

June 4
2016

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to the Steffens (east side) for the great mess-o-fish-pic their grandson Elliott caught last weekend!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

We couldn't have asked for a better Memorial Day weekend! It looked, smelled, felt, and sounded like summer – it was perfect! Now it just better stay that way!

One of my favorite summer activities is sitting on the deck with a cup of coffee and reading the Birch Barker. The Barker is the only newspaper left that will actually deliver to our neighborhood! There are many volunteers involved in getting it to your doorstep. First, and foremost, we need to thank Phil Vitale. He is not only the editor, but he works very hard at securing all of the advertising. Because of the ads, the Barker is self-supporting! So please support our advertisers. Thanks also go to the many writers who submit weekly articles, Pat Welch and Alpha Graphics for printing, Stu Spratt for pick-up and delivery to the lake, Bob and Sue Waddle for sorting and distributing to the delivery crew, and (last, but not least) to the delivery team: Holly Troeger, Staci Whiteman, Julie Lacy, Buzz Rasmussen, Vickie Rogers, Sarah

Petty, Linda Curtis, Claudia Phipps, and Bob Waddle. As you can see, it is quite a process!

Thank you to all of you! If it weren't for you, I'd have to get another favorite activity!

Linda Yoshizawa has agreed to chair the committee that will put together a 2017 Birch Lake calendar. Thank you, Linda! However, she can't do it alone. She needs your beautiful Birch Lake pictures. So start going through your photos and send your favorites to her. Find more information regarding the pictures and deadline in the Barker.

Mark your calendars (hopefully, a Birch Lake calendar) for next Saturday, June 11. Claudia and I invite you all to join us at the Yacht Club at 6:30 pm for the Commodore/Vice Commodore party. Please come and enjoy a relaxing evening. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

The South Side is busy making plans for the Spaghetti Dinner on June 18th. The South Side has done an AWESOME job the last two years. In full disclosure, I must mention that I live on the south side, but that has in no way influenced my opinion! So get your tickets early, and plan on a great dinner

2016 Birch Lake Calendar

June 4	Porter Twp. Cleanup Day, 8-Noon, American Waste, Mason St., Union
June 11	Comm/Vice Com Party
June 18	Spaghetti Dinner
June 25	Peoples' Regatta, 11 am, Lutz's
June 25	Teen Night at BLYC, 7:30 pm
July 2	Boat Parade, 2 pm, Bender's
July 2	Fireworks
July 3	Fireworks rain date
July 3	Pancake Breakfast
July 22	BL Ladies' Golf Outing
July 29	Men's Golf Outing
Aug. 6	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 27	BLYC Fall Dinner (at the Yacht Club)

BLYC Board Meetings (9 am)

June 4, July 9, Au. 6, Sept. 10 @ BLYC

More info as available.; Dates subject to change; Watch the Barker for updates!

and a fun evening with neighbors!

Now that summer is "officially" here, I would like to remind everyone to be safe. There are lots of people on the water, and we need to constantly stay alert and watch out for each other. If you are operating a motorized boat, please watch out for the smaller non-motorized watercraft and swim-

The Birch Barker is always 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) 476-1680, or contact BLYC Commodore Sue Williams at 476-8886 or email smwillia@comcast.net. ~Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to our Artist-in-Residence, Duffy Dufour for the great lake art ...

mers. I might add a special note of caution to swimmers. If you are swimming in a non-swimming area (i.e., outside of the 100' no wake zone), be advised that it is very difficult for people to see you, especially in choppy water, and you should take extra precautions.

Stay safe and enjoy the water!

~Commodore Sue

BLYC Boat Parade

We've all seen Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and the Rose Bowl Parade, but none can compare to the Annual Birch Lake Boat Parade, held right here on beautiful Birch Lake. After much deliberation, the Boat Parade Committee has chosen the theme for the 2016 event. This year's theme will be "Favorite Recording Artist (or group)."

From Jimmy Buffett to Blake Shelton, from the Beatles to ZZ Top, from Beyoncé to Prince or from Kiss to U2, the selection is endless. We could even throw in a little Lawrence Welk.

The parade will begin at 2 pm on July 2 at Dick Bender's pier on the south side. The parade will be led by this year's Grand Marshalls who's identity will be revealed in the July 2 Birch Barker. Let's get started planning right away because time is fleeting and we want to make this year's parade the best ever.

Calendar Photographers Needed!

It feels as if summer 2016 has just begun, but it's already time to start thinking about the 2017 Birch Lake Calendar. So search out your best photos and send them in. We need horizontal color photos from all seasons. Since the pictures need to be enlarged, camera photos often work better than phone photos. Please e-mail your best pictures (no more than five) to lindal1008@comcast.net or give them to Linda Yoshizawa, Vickie Rogers, Sue Williams, or Carla Chester by July 17.

Commodore/Vice Commodore Party coming soon!

Please join us at the Commodore/Vice Commodore party on June 11 at 6:30 pm at the Yacht Club. Enjoy a relaxing evening catching up with old

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— Birch Lake Notes —

friends and meeting new ones. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Hope to see you there!

~Sue and Claudia

Thanks for the help!

Thanks to the Mullin pontoon crew and especially Matt Scheuer for diving into the water and providing assistance on Sunday to a sailor in distress. I might have figured it out on my own but it sure was a heck of a lot easier to have the help. I appreciate it a lot. Thanks for being great Birch Lake neighbors.

~Stu

Pontoon boat &/or motor wanted

Our pastor at Our Lady of the Lake, Father Joe McCormick OSA, maintains the summer retreat cottage (on Baldwin Lake) for his religious order, the Augustinians from Chicago. Besides the cottage, he needs to arrange for a pontoon boat to be in good working order. (No, these priests do not walk on water.)

If anyone has a pontoon boat that is in good working order and would like to donate it and/or sell it to at a very reasonable cost to the Augustinian religious order besides "heavenly rewards" you would receive a letter of an "in kind" donation for a tax deduction (to the full extent of the law).

Father Joe is willing to negotiate the purchase of the boat or motor – and will gladly speak with you about this



That's my neighbor John Luecht (east side) showing off the cool aprons that Blair Garceau bought with the money from the Corn & Sausage Roast and Bad Patty (John's Mom) embroidered ...



BACK ON TRACK!

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Visit us again For the First Time!

Frankie's Restaurant in Three Rivers has new owners. Over the past few months we have been working very hard to return the quality of the food and the quality of the dining experience to the levels that so many of us fondly remember from years ago. We hope you'll stop by and learn what we mean when we say that we're "Back on Track!"

Open M-Th 11-10, Friday & Saturday 11-11 Closed Sunday.

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follow us on Facebook at frankiesbythetracks

— Birch Lake Notes —



The view from a kayak ride on a quiet Tuesday night.
Photo by Amanda Butler

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Come on Birch Lakers – let's get those priests on the water again.

~*Our Lady of the Lake Parishioners*

Pancake Breakfast

Come join us on Sunday, July 3 for the annual Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah. From 8:30 am to 11 am, we'll be dishing up all-you-can-eat pancakes (a limited supply of gluten-free pancakes will be available), sausages, fruit, coffee and juice!

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

Last year's proceeds from the breakfast were used to buy materials to build new bunks in the cabins at Camp Tannadoonah.

Come and have breakfast and show your support for all the great kids who attend Camp!

Online content

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

Fourth of July fireworks change

Due to changes in safety regulations and insurance, the Fourth of July fireworks can no longer be fired from the waterfront at Camp Tannadoonah. After a "test" fire last fall we have determined that the best available option is to fire from the camp's sports field next to the

tennis and basketball court. Unfortunately this change will mean that people viewing from the homes in the Cove, north shore, and the north side of both the east and west shores of Birch Lake won't be able to see a good portion of the show unless they find a spot on the south side or go onto the lake in a boat to watch the show.

We're sorry for the inconvenience.

~*Commodore Sue*

BLYC Welcoming Committee

We are ready to rock and roll on our Welcoming Committee. If you know of a new neighbor please contact Vicky Rogers at 269-476-2383, Pam VanHuffel 269-244-3487 and Linda Curtis at 574-361-2629. Thanks.

Alpha Graphics is new printer

Thanks to new Birch Lake resident Pat Welch (south side), owner of Alpha Graphics in South Bend and Elkhart. Alpha Graphics is the new printer of the Birch Barker this year, replacing Office Max (which merged with Office Depot last year and closed the store where the Barker was previously printed). We look forward to a great relationship!

Printed Birch Barker

Welcome to the printed Birch Barker. The Birch Barker is a service of the Birch Lake Yacht Club and provided free of charge every weekend to all the homes on Birch Lake, thanks to our generous advertisers.



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— Birch Lake Notes —

The Barker welcomes the submission of editorial and advertising materials for publication (at the discretion of the editor), Phil Vitale (476-1680, email: sailorphil@philvitale.com).

The deadline for submitting ads and information for any Barker is by 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the June 4 issue is 3 pm on Tuesday, May 31) ... thanks.

I'm at 476-1680 or sailorphil@philvitale.com ... for questions or problems with delivery please contact Commodore Sue Williams (476-8886, email: smwillia@comcast.net) or Bob & Sue Waddle (476-3393 or email: sparkybob220@comcast.net).

Free Fishing Weekend

Don't miss your chance to explore our state's world-class fisheries – for FREE! Come on out as part of the 2016 Summer Free Fishing Weekend: Saturday, June 11 and Sunday, June 12. As part of this weekend, all fishing license fees are waived for two days with residents and out-of-state visitors allowed to enjoy fishing on both inland and Great Lakes' waters for all species of fish during their respective open seasons. Please note all other regulations still apply during that time.

Water Quality data is online

The latest water quality data from

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN
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JUNE 25, 2016
Arrival Time: 10:30 am; Sailing/Race Time: 11 am
Picnic lunch (hotdogs, chips) following; soft drinks and H2O provided
Adults: BYOB
Please provide your own life jackets and towels
(next rain date TBA)
More Information? Call Amy at 476-2843 or Bad Patty 476-2615
SEE YOU ON THE WATER

the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Project is available online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm> ... just click the link at the bottom of the page to see the complete report.

Riparian Magazine

The Michigan Riparian Foundation and its publication, the Michigan Riparian Magazine, provide information on Michigan's shoreline, lakes, and

streams and on issues, events and programs dealing with the management and wise use of Michigan waters.

The Riparian Magazine is available to BLYC members at a reduced rate. For information or to subscribe check out <http://mi-riparian.org/subscribe>

Reminder

Remember all motorized boats must travel counter-clockwise at all times!

KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Send your kid of the week to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in my stone mailbox at my home (east side), email at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

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¹ The number of sold lake homes is up 22% from 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 compared to 4/1/14 to 3/31/15. ² Based on data from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, Sales of Inland Lake Homes and Properties, from 1/1/12 to 4/1/16 in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph Counties. Sales of properties where agents represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the MLS.

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



Saturday, June 18

5:30-8:00 PM

Enjoy a great dinner with friends and support the yacht club too! This year's dinner is sponsored by the southside and promises to be a great event. Dinner includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad, dessert and ice tea or lemonade.

Take outs are also available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Southside: Pam VanHuffle 244-3487, Mike Machalleck 476-2642, Diana Wozny 476-7054 or Lisa Groszek 219-384-0349; Eastside: Linda Yoshizawa 476-2308; Northside: Carol Freihofer 476-9823; Cove: Vickie Rogers 476-2383; Westside: Tom Kuhn 476-7075

Children 3 and under are free

Ages 3-6 \$4

Ages 6-Adult are \$8

Paid for by the Committees to Elect Cory Marlow, Honna Gableman and Tom Lutz



Cory Marlow

A candidate for Porter Township Supervisor, lives with his wife and their son on Shavehead Lake. Cory is Executive Vice President at Financial Partners Inc./Raymond James Financial Services in Elkhart, IN and is a partner with Bacon Hill Kitchen and Pub in Elkhart, IN.

Cory earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2004 from Valparaiso University and his M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 2007.

Professionally, Cory has been awarded the Exemplar Financial Network Rising star award in 2013, The Spirit of Notre Dame Federal Credit Union in 2013, The Jackson National Stars Club in 2014 and 2015, and most recently has been named to the Michiana Forty Under 40 class of 2016.

Cory is active in the community. He serves on the board for Camp Tanadoona on Birch Lake, serves on the board for Cockopalooza, a local cancer fundraiser in Elkhart County, and is a member of the Greater Elkhart Young Professionals, Young Professionals Network of South Bend, and Pillars of Elkhart.

Cory's hobbies include golfing, boating, spending time with his family including his dog Ruby, snowmobiling, fishing, and cooking.

Cory's vision for the Township revolves around fairness, transparency, and fiscal responsibility, and he would be honored to help serve the local businesses and residents as Porter Township Supervisor.



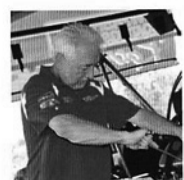
Honna Gableman

A candidate for Porter Township Clerk, lives with her husband and two daughters on Shavehead Lake. Honna has a restaurant and business management background. She's held several positions in general management, dealing in financial processes, employee oversight, multi-site office operations, and key customer account management. Her industry experience includes a history with West Palm Pizza, Sweet Endings Desserts, and 10 years with Panera Bread.

Honna graduated from Constantine High School. She has 2 Specialized Associates Degrees from the Florida Culinary Institute of West Palm Beach. Her course emphasis included business management, global cuisine, and international baking and pastries.

Honna is active in the community. She has served on the Constantine Public Schools PTO Board for 3 years and was President for 2 years. She has also been a past Member at Large for the IC School Commission in Three Rivers for 2 years.

Honna enjoys spending spare time on the family farm near Elkhart and with family, friends, and neighbors on the lake. She has a commitment to the township where she is raising her two daughters. She is passionate about fairness and efficiency. She will focus on enhancing the township, making it an inviting environment for businesses and residents. Honna would consider it a privilege to serve her neighbors as Porter Township Clerk.



Tom Lutz

A candidate for Porter Township Treasurer

Owner and President of Barromean Rings, a Michigan Corporation.

Owner and Driver of a Motorsports Team

35 year Management Career in the Recreational Vehicle Industry

University of Illinois - Criminal Justice

Home Owner and full time family resident in Porter Township since 1981

First family home on Baldwin Lake 1963

Founder and 3 time President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association

Current President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association

Military Service - Vietnam

Army Sergeant, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Center Sniper Course Graduate

— Water Quality Report —

Checking out the ‘stuff’ on the lake

Some of us are fortunate enough to wake up every morning looking out on the lake. With summer coming and the weather warming up, the lake can be sometimes perfectly calm. Thus, whatever is happening on the lake is more visible and not disrupted by wind and waves.

We mention this because occasionally you will see potentially large patches of “stuff” on the lake that does not have an appetizing appearance. However, in all likelihood what we are seeing is perfectly natural and will be dissipated with sun, a breeze, and even minimal wave action.

At this time of the late spring and early summer, the lake is the site of numerous insect hatches. Midges, mayflies, and other small creatures that grow and feed in the lake until they emerge to mate, lay eggs on the water for the next generation, and then die. I am not talking about the handful of dragonflies but the millions of mayflies. The skeletons from the larval stages from which they emerge stays in the water. These mix on the surface with all the tree seeds and pollen from the surrounding landscape providing a rich soup for the natural bacteria in the water. In hours the material can breakdown looking somewhat unpleasant and producing gas bubbles as part of the process of bacterial digestion. In the absence of the perfectly calm flat water at daybreak we would

never be aware of this. However, this is absolutely natural and part of the cycle of life on the lake.

Although not uncommon with the large hatches, it can also occur at other times during the summer. A number of times over the years in response to residents’ concerns, Terry has tested samples of this material and no E Coli bacteria have been found, or only in numbers reflective of our population of water birds etc. There were lots of insect parts and pollen grains however.

These patches, maybe acres in size, are not to be confused with the richer, thick, and colored blue green algae blooms which may randomly occur close to a shoreline later in the summer, usually following a day when the breeze was blowing toward that shore. We have only had a few small algae bloom occurrences over the years which quickly went away.

As touched upon in last week’s Barker, we will be talking more about shoreline development and maintenance this summer. As one aspect of that, we are planning to conduct a full lake shoreline survey as part of the CLMP program called “Score the Shore.” In a few weeks we may ask for anyone who wishes to volunteer to assist in this (basically a long pontoon boat ride with lots of notes). To get an idea of what this may entail, you can do your own sort of score the shore. Go to www.mishorelandstewards.org



org for some education and where you can do an online questionnaire related to your property. Although, you can grade your property, that is not the intent today, but rather developing awareness and helping to prepare for more discussion in this column as the summer proceeds.

A somewhat bothersome trend has already been occurring on the lake. As most of you are aware, the water clarity the last two years during the summer months has been poor to say the least. We have already conducted two secchi disk readings this year. On May 19 the visibility was down to 24 feet, but on May 26 it had already degraded to 14 feet. The water has a more greenish cast indicating algae growth which may explain some of the loss of clarity. We will continue to report on this during the summer.

BLYC PRESENTS TEEN NIGHT

This is an opportunity for our teens on Birch Lake to meet and greet other teens, ages 13-17. It will be a chaperoned event, and will include refreshments, games, and music.

Date: June 25, 2016

Time 7:30 -11 pm

Place: BLYC

For more information

email Keith Kinzler @

keithkinzler@gmail.com

or call (815) 6932975

SAVE THE DATE; Birch Lake Ladies' FUN Golf Outing

**Friday, July 22; \$35 per Golfer
Diamond Lake Golf Course
Tee Off Time 9 am**

**Cost includes green fees, cart, beverages, and more FUN and GAMES than money can buy!
50/50 raffles, Team Prizes.**

**Lunch following at the BLYC
(included in cost)**

Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to raffle.

**Deadline to sign up is July 22
Get Your Teams Together!**

Team Members

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

**For more Information Watch the
Birch Barker
Bad Patty Luecht 476-2615**

FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Sailing once again!

The sailing season is about to begin! After having a gorgeous weekend last week, giving everyone a chance to get there rigging done and possibly a little practice in, it is time to put that hard work to the test. As in the past races will start at 11 am with a possible one hour delay if the winds don't cooperate.

We are always looking for help on the committee boat, please call Bad

Patty Luecht (476-2615 or 317-605-6421) or myself (476-2843 or 269-207-1153) if you are able to help us on a Sunday morning, it's always a great time! In closing everyone have a great and safe summer, and hope to see all you sailors out there this weekend!

Until next week, "Splice the main Brace"

~"Fleet Captain Mike"

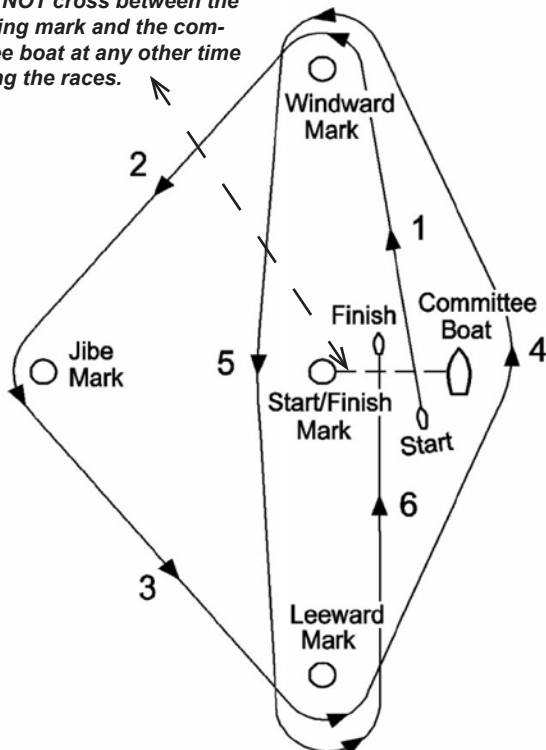


BLYC sailing courses for MC and Sunfish

Note: The Start/Finish line of the MC Course is CLOSED EXCEPT TO START AND FINISH THE RACES; sailors MAY NOT cross between the starting mark and the committee boat at any other time during the races.

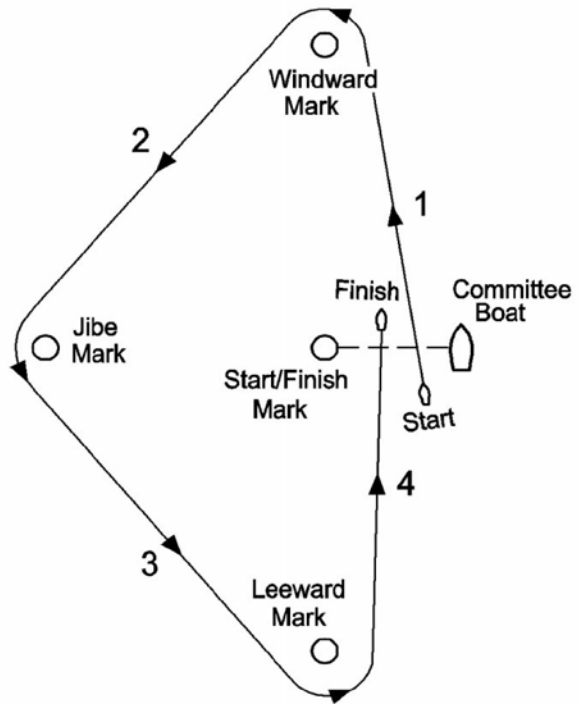


2016



MC Course

Marks to Port (Mirror Image for Marks to Starboard)
Legs 4 and 5 cannot cross the start/finish line, but they can go around either end of the line.



Sunfish Course

Marks to Port (Mirror Image for Marks to Starboard)



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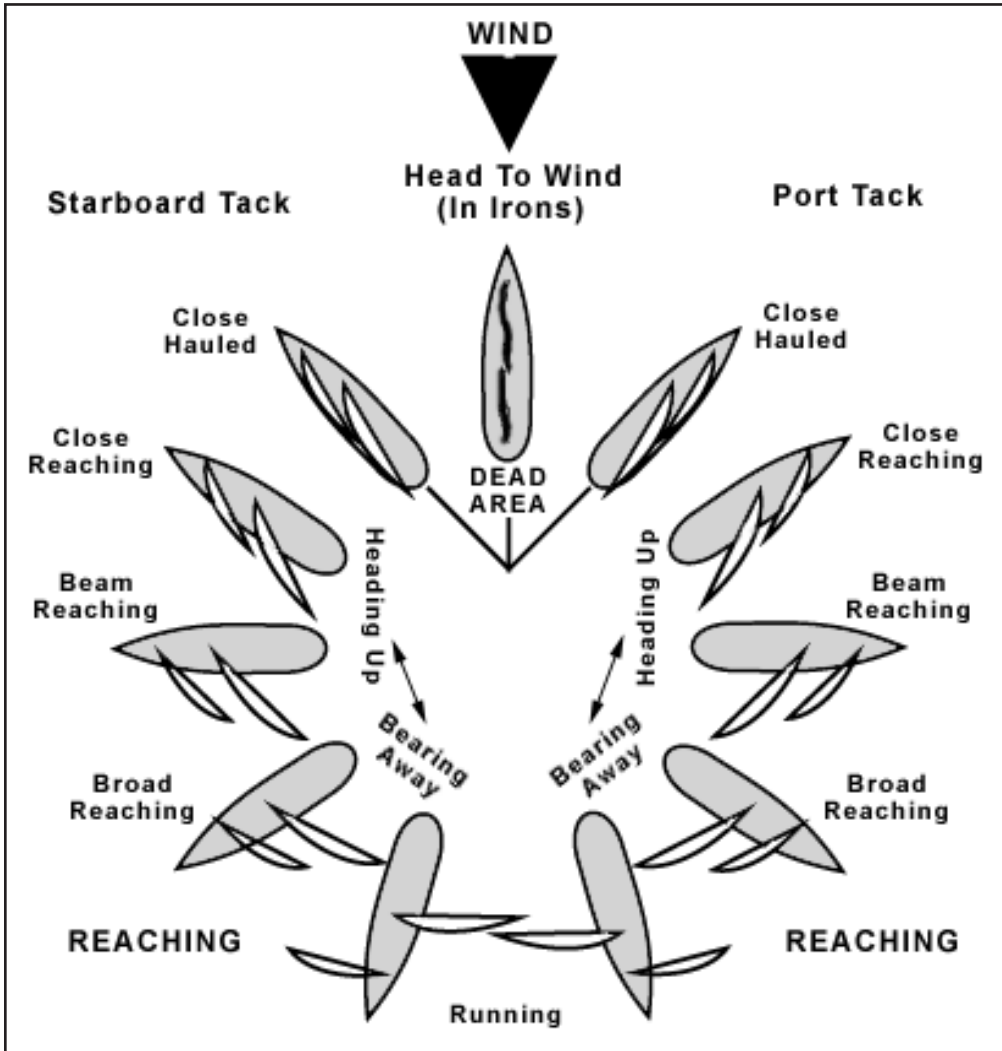
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— Barker Sailing Page —



Sunday is sailing day at Birch Lake. Races Start at 11 am ... please give 'em a break and stay clear of the course.

And don't forget that **SAILBOATS ALWAYS** have the right-of-way!

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Gracie Lintner holding the Camp Tannadonah quilt made for her by her Grandma, Karen Scofield (west side).



Memorial Day Regatta for One? Bill Luecht was one of several sailors who went out sailing on Memorial Day despite the fact that there

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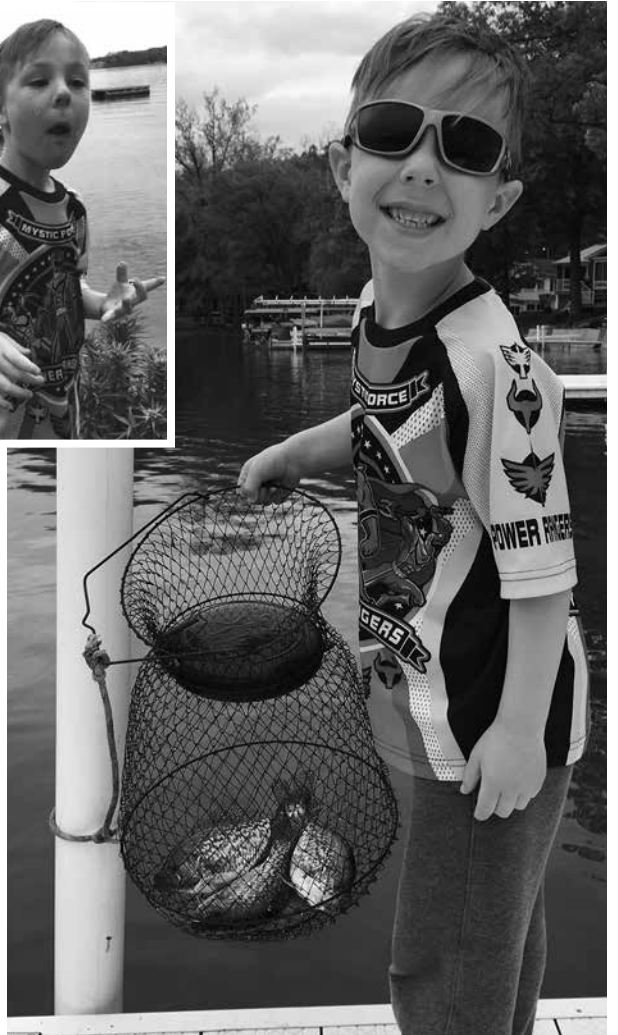
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



The Steffen family (east side) had a great weekend with their 6 year-old grandson Elliott visiting.



Birch Lake (Cove) Home 62746 Woodland Drive

Newly remodeled 3 BR home on Birch Lake! New gas furnace and central air with all new duct work. New well and all new windows. New Nantucket bead board kitchen cabinets and all new appliances including a main level laundry area. Bath has all new fixtures. Open concept living and dining area with brick fireplace and skylight. Loft with bedroom, enclosed front porch and deck. All new flooring and newly insulated walls and drywall. Move in ready! \$289,900



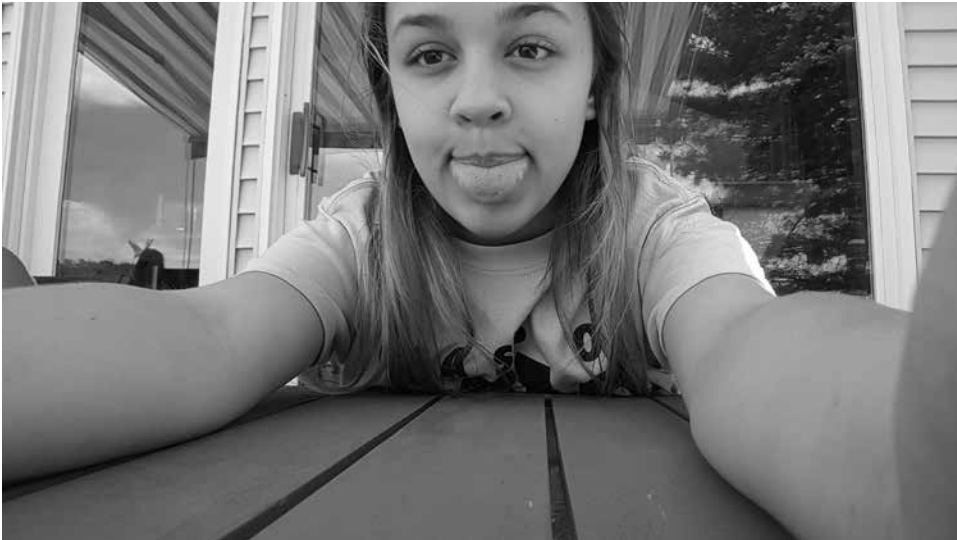
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PROPERTY.**



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Five of the Vitale (east side) grandkids get Barker K-O-T-W honors this week; above are (left) Morgann Applegate taking a selfie and Dominic Vitale-Richards on the boat and at left, from left are Aley Vitale-Richards, Lexie and Cameron Phillips all cheeing it up while swimming off the pontoon.

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STU'S STAR STUFF



Watch the evening sky for planets

Throughout this month, watch for three planets in the evening sky - Mars, Jupiter and Saturn.

Look first for the king planet Jupiter, the brightest star-like object in the June evening sky. It beams quite high up at dusk and nightfall. From here at the lake, Jupiter appears in the southwest sky, in the constellation Serpico, at nightfall, and sets quite late after midnight.

From the lake, Mars and Saturn sit very low in the southeast at nightfall. Those on the east side might have to wait an hour or so after darkness falls before seeing these two worlds shining quite close together.

Fortunately, you have almost all night long to view Mars and Saturn, which travel westward across the night sky from dusk until dawn.

You can distinguish Mars from Saturn because Mars is, by far, the more brilliant of these two bright worlds just now. Mars ranks as the second-brightest starlike object to light up the evening sky.

Although you could possibly confuse the star Antares for Saturn, you can differentiate Saturn from Antares by color. Antares displays a bloody red hue while Saturn appears golden.

Best of all, Mars was closest to Earth for the year on May 30, and Saturn will be at its closest on June 3, so these two worlds will be especially bright in our evening sky this month.

The other two bright planets, Mercury and Venus, are nowhere to be found just now. In the Northern Hemisphere, Mercury sits low in the glare of twilight and is hard to spot in the morning sky.

In an ironic twist, Venus, the brightest planet of them all, is the only bright planet that can't be seen at all this month. Venus hides in the

glare of the sun all month long. Its superior conjunction when it's on the far side of the sun from Earth for this orbit occurs on June 6. Venus will actually pass directly behind the sun during this particular superior conjunction, exactly four years after Venus swung directly in front of the sun's disk at inferior conjunction on June 6, 2012.

Venus is well known for its 8-year cycles. The sun last covered over (occulted) Venus at superior conjunction some 8 years ago, in 2008, and it will do so again some 8 years from now, in 2024. An occultation of Venus by the sun at superior conjunction happens much more frequently than a transit of Venus at inferior conjunction. The next transit of Venus won't happen until a while from now.

By the way, Venus has five superior conjunctions in a period of 8 years, and five inferior conjunctions in a period of 8 years. In other words, one complete cycle from superior (or inferior) conjunction to the following superior (or inferior) conjunction lasts 1.6 years.

In the meantime, while Venus is absent from this summer's nighttime sky, look for three other planets - Jupiter, Mars and Saturn - as soon as darkness falls all month long.

~Stu Spratt

Celebrating more than 52 Years at Birch Lake

The Moon for this Saturday

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

Illuminated Fraction: 0.003
0.2 days since new moon



Sunrise:

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) Many things are happening that impact your sign right now. However, two things are significant. One is that this is an excellent year to improve your health. It is also the best year since 2004 to improve your job, or get a better job, or get a better attitude to your existing job. It could be any of these options because the result will simply be that you will be happier doing what you do!

Taurus (April 20-May 20) There are several messages from the universe coming to you right now. One of the most obvious is that this is your time to play! This is a great year for a fun vacation. Even if you already took a vacation - plan another because it won't be as easy to slip away and have fun next year.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) This is a significant time because Saturn is opposite your sign. When Saturn opposes your sign, you often experience adversities. You feel physically tired and world-weary. Your ambitions are often thwarted by others. But in a way, you are rounding the Cape, and after this year, you will go forward to meet new opportunities for success.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) This is a low-key month because you are waiting for your birthday to arrive. This means that you can use this time to plan what you want your new year to be all about. One thing is certain, you are busting your buns working hard to keep it all together and prove to others what you can do. Fortunately, you're happy! This year it's easy to have an optimistic attitude about life.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) At this stage in your life, you're wondering about your future. Mostly, this is because you're not exactly sure what it is you want to do. In a vague way, of course, you know what you are going to do to keep a roof over your head. But down deep, you are plumbing the depths of your being to find out what really inspires you.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) At this point in your life, it's important to feel secure about where you live. You want to solidify your home base so you don't worry about it anymore. This is why some of you might move again even though you moved recently. It is also why you might repair and fix up where you live because the bottom line is you want a refuge - a base from which you can sally forth to conquer the world.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Some people feel solid with what's happening in their lives; but it's not so easy for you right now, is it? This doesn't mean that you're going off the rails, but things are nebulous and uncertain. One thing that is certain is that you are more in touch with your spiritual values and your spiritual world than you have been in other years.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) This is a feisty, energetic time because Mars is in your sign until August. Use this to get a lot done. If possible, do more physical exercise to burn off some of this pent-up energy, which might otherwise leak out as aggression. (Boo!) This is a time when you are thinking hard about your values and what really matters in life.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a significant time in your life because Saturn is in your sign. It entered your sign last year for the first time since 1987-88. In fact, if you hearken back to that time, you will get a hint of what is going on now, which is basically that you have set off on a new journey! Not only might you be in a new country, a new job, a new relationship - whatever - you are also in the process of redefining who you are.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You want to travel, see new places, seek out adventure, and meet people from other countries and different cultures. However, at the same time, you are in a three-year window where you are downsizing, shrinking and letting go of things. In particular, you are letting go of what is no longer relevant. You're giving up places, people, jobs and perhaps even countries.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Your ambition will be strong this summer. Oh yeah! This is good news because it helps you to set big plans in motion and accomplish what you want to do. Your secret is that others will help you now! This is the year to get a loan or a mortgage.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) This is a tremendous year for you! (Buy all the shoes you want.) For starters, it's a fantastic year for warm friendships and your ability to deal with members of the general public. It's also a great year to get married. This is a blessing because the support of friendships affects your happiness level. Relationships with others benefit you now!

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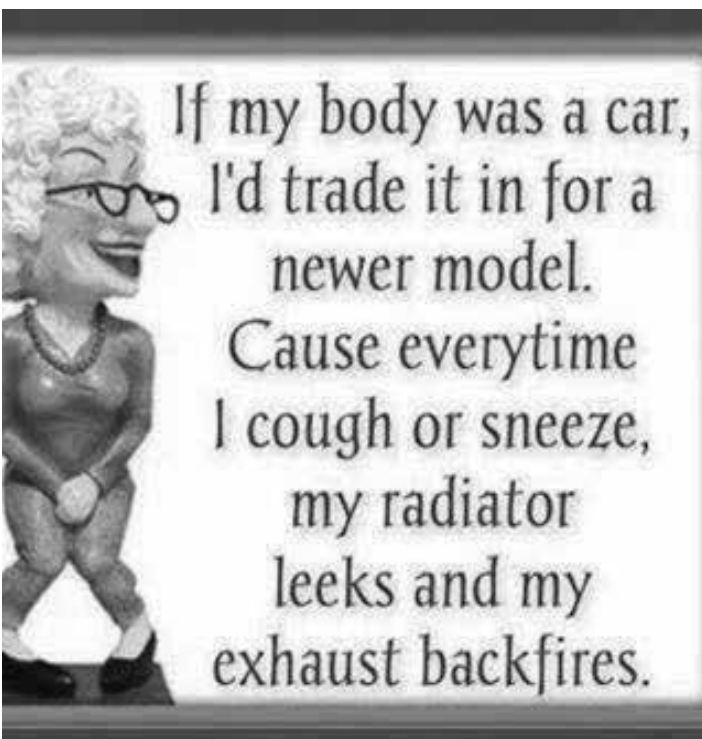
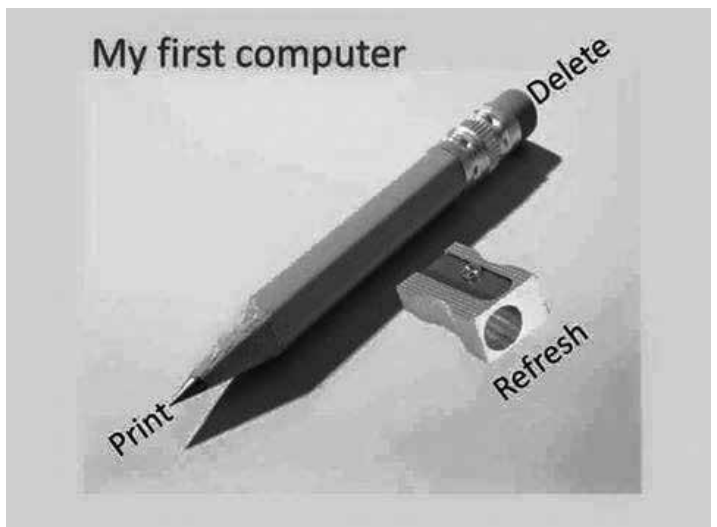
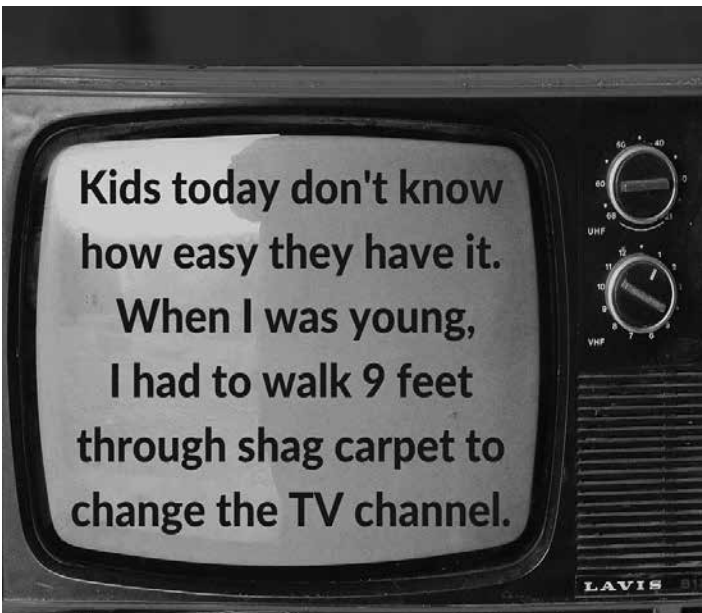
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

BED AND BREAKFAST



Someday us old folks will use cursive writing as a secret code.

Inner tubes for swimming on Grandma's pond on the farm. We always had loooonngg scratches from the valve but sure had fun with them.

It's duck itch season

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

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

site.

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

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

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

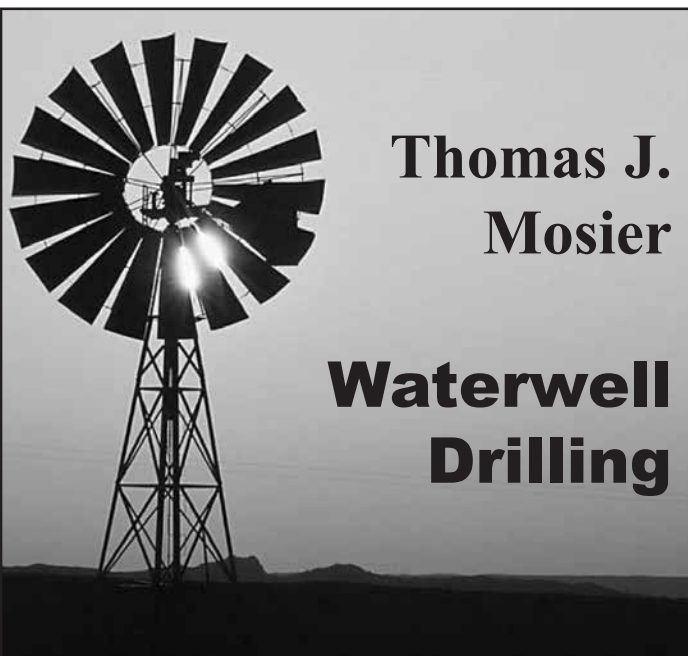
To prevent it, don't stand around in shallow, warm lake water. Staying out in somewhat deeper water and/or keeping moving such as when swimming, will usually prevent the parasites from getting you. When you or the kids get out of the water, towel off immediately



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

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

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



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~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Sausage-stuffed squash

I make this at least once a week. It is truly a house favorite. Even the grand-kids love it. Serving 2

Ingredients:

- 1 acorn squash, halved and seeded (cup the small tip off the bottom so it will set flat)
- ½ lb ground Italian sausage (you can substitute ground turkey)
- ½ cup finely chopped celery
- ½ cup finely chopped mushrooms
- ½ cup finely chopped crispy apple
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- ¼ cup finely chopped onion
- 1 egg beaten
- ½ cup sour cream

- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- Olive oil

Directions:

Sprinkle of Italian seasonings (basil, oregano, parsley)

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Grease a baking sheet or line with aluminum foil.

Rub the inside to the squash with olive oil and sprinkle with a little Italian seasoning.

Place squash, cut side down, on the prepared baking sheet.

Bake in the preheated oven until tender, about 1 hour. Flip squash halves over and set aside to cool.

Heat large skillet over medium-high heat. Cook and stir sausage in the hot skillet until browned and crumbly. Drain and discard grease. Add celery, mushrooms, apples, onion and garlic. Stir until celery is slightly softened. Remove from heat.

Beat egg in a small bowl; stir in sour cream and Parmesan cheese. Stir cheese mixture into sausage mixture. Fill squash halves with sausage filling.

Bake in the preheated oven until filling is cooked through, about 20 minutes.

Birch Barker Sudoku

Sudoku Puzzle

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through to 9. There is only one solution to the puzzle.

5				8			4	
	9				5	7	1	
4		7	1					
				3				4
				6			7	
9		8				3		6
		9			8			
	4			7		5		
		3	4	1	6	9	8	

— Camp Tannadoonah —

What a beautiful weekend we had here at the lake for Memorial Day! It was so great to spend time down at the lake relaxing a bit before we kicked off training on Tuesday morning.

This week is our lifeguard and waterfront training all week. Staff members started arriving on Monday afternoon and evening, and by Tuesday morning we had 8 of our lifeguards here to get certified. Three of the new guards are international staff, coming from Mexico, England, and Spain! Plus we have staff from Florida, Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan here this week for waterfront training. It's quite a diverse group!

During this week of waterfront training we go through all of the skills and procedures that the waterfront staff will need to know. We test their swimming skills, practice emergency action plans, practice rescues and how to handle injuries. We also work on setting up the waterfront, bringing down all the boats and equipment, and getting everything in the proper places for campers to use. It's a long and exhausting week!

Later this week our new Assistant Camp Director will be arriving. Her name is Michelle Hartwig, and she is coming to Camp Tannadoonah for the first time. Miss Michelle has spent the past 11 years working at the Interlochen

Arts Camp near Traverse City, MI. And for the past four years she has also worked at Interlochen during the school year, living in the dorms for their boarding school program. Prior to her position at Interlochen, Miss Michelle taught K-8 Music in Buckeye, Arizona, and in Flint, Michigan. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education, and is currently working towards her Master's Degree in Camp Administration and Leadership. We are very excited to have Miss Michelle join our staff and bring her many years of experience in camping to Camp Tannadoonah!

This weekend we also have our leadership staff training program. We have three unit leaders, who are experienced counselors who serve as supervisors for other staff. The three unit leaders, the waterfront director, the assistant camp director, and the camp director all spend an extra two days of training planning for the rest of the staff to arrive. We plan out the staff training activities, work on cabin assignments, and discuss how we will handle feedback for staff throughout the summer.

This year, our unit leaders are Mr. Ian Riggs, Mr. Bobby Thornton, and Miss Audrey Macsuga, all of whom have been on the Camp Tannadoonah staff at least one prior summer. And our waterfront director this year is Miss Meghan

Burmeister, who will be on the staff for the fourth year this summer.

On Sunday afternoon the remaining members of the camp staff will arrive for training. This year we have brought in two camp consultants to lead some of our staff training sessions. Travis and Beth Allison, the founders of Go Camp Pro and Camp Hacker will be joining us from Sunday through Tuesday to work with our staff on teambuilding and leadership skills. Beth is also part of a wonderful podcast called "Camp Code," where she provides camp leadership advice to directors across the country in a weekly podcast. We're very excited for them to be part of staff training this year!

We have now surpassed 800 registered campers for the summer! As of May 31 we have 804 campers registered for the summer. Last year we reached 803 on the 19th of June – a week after camp began!

And on May 31 we had 753 kids registered. So we're now more than 50 kids (and nearly three weeks) ahead of last year's numbers. We're hoping to hit 900 before the conclusion of the summer!

Have a great weekend!!

~Miss Amber

Amber@tannadoonah.org



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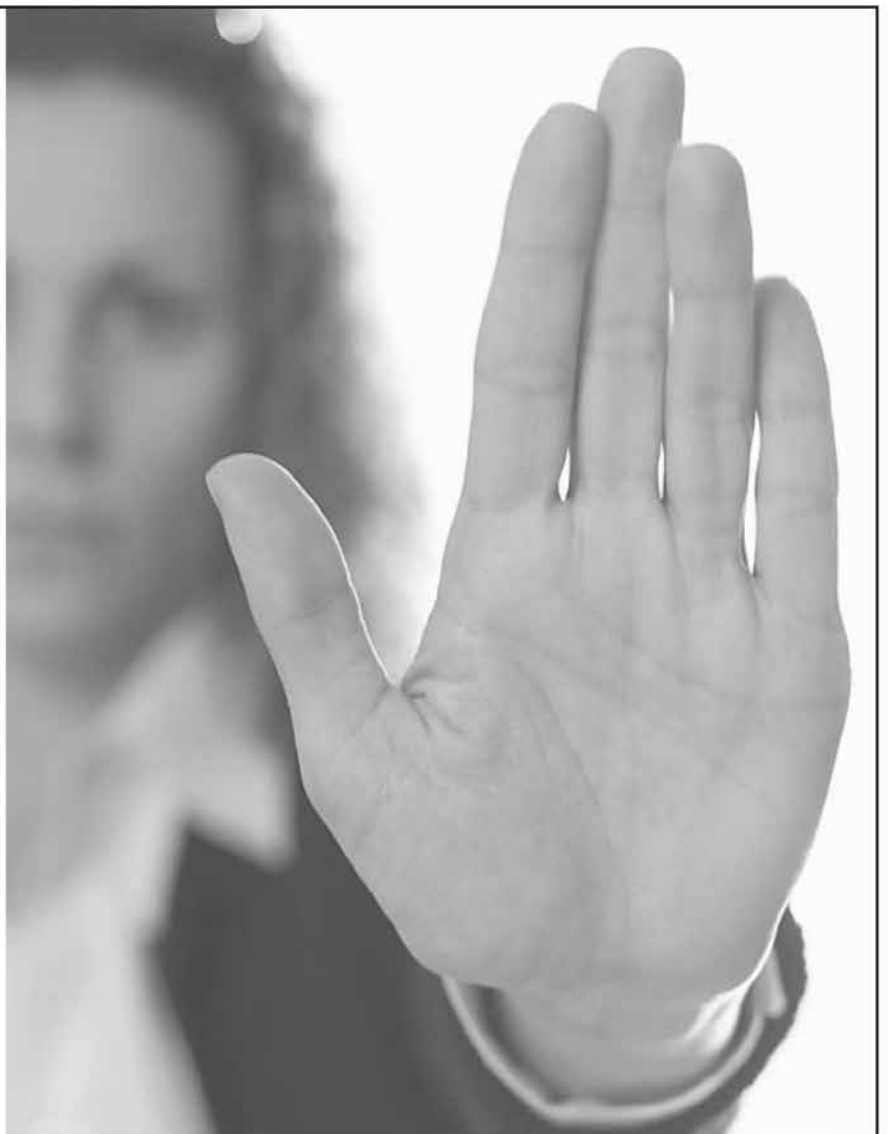
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