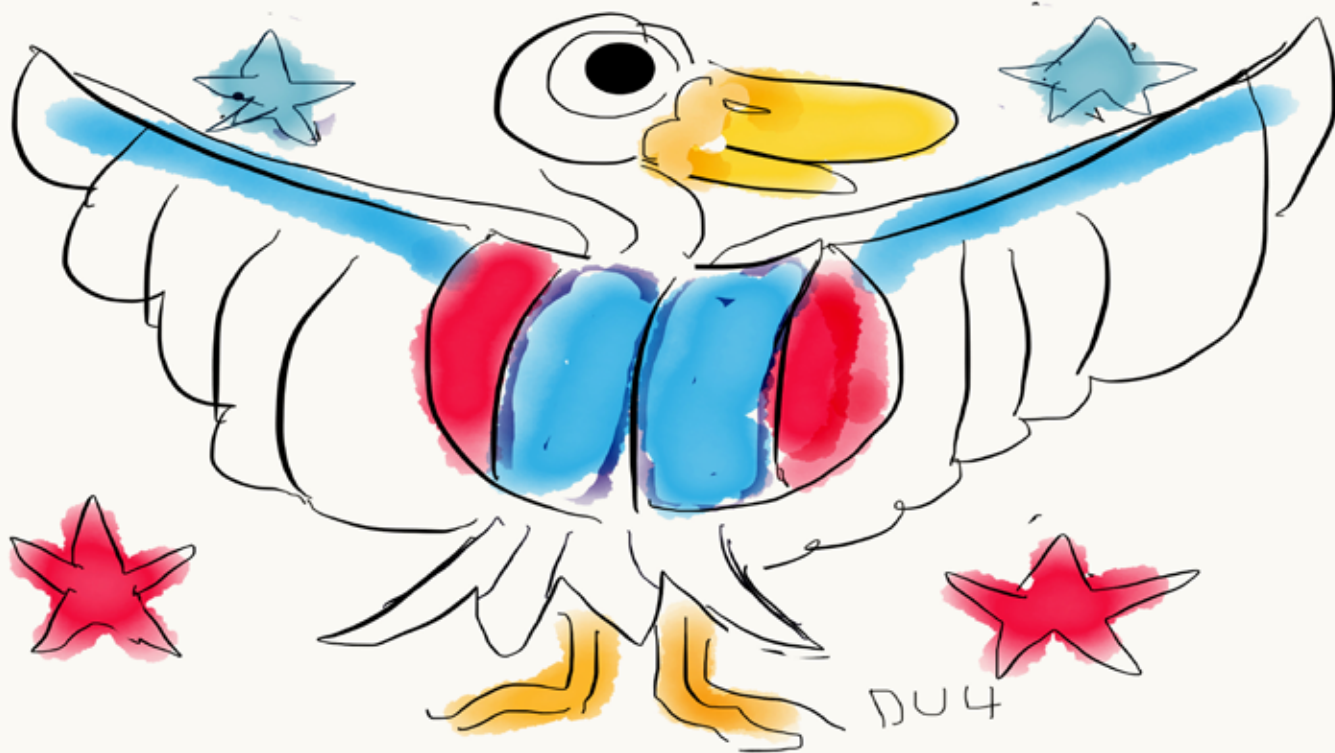


The weekend of July 2 2016



Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club



Happy July 4th

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

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

On behalf of the Birch Lake community, I express our sincere sympathy to the family of Tom Howard. Tom passed away unexpectedly last Saturday afternoon. He was a long-time south side resident, and I hear quite an avid sailor in his younger days. Tom will be missed.

Our sympathies also go out to Rick Russwurm who's mother died last week.

Last Saturday was a picture-perfect day for the Don Harman's People Regatta. We had blue skies, perfect wind, lots of sailors, and a delicious hot dog lunch. A fun time was had by all! Thanks to Amy and Mike Lutz and Patty Luecht for sponsoring the event.

There was a nice turnout for the teen party last Saturday. Pizza, pop, ice cream, and games. Sounds like fun to me! Hopefully, this will turn into an annual event. A big thank you goes to Keith Kinzler for planning the party.

Fourth of July weekend is upon us, and Birch Lake is a perfect place to celebrate our country's birthday. The fun begins at 2 pm with our annual boat parade. All the favorite recording artists

and their boats should line up at Dick Bender's pier (south side) to begin the parade lap around the lake. Look in this Barker for the announcement of this year's Grand Marshalls. It has been kept top secret until today! Thank you to Bob and Sue Waddle for organizing this favorite event.

Fireworks begin at dark on Saturday. Remember they will be coming from the field behind the tennis courts up at Camp T. I hate to even mention the "R" word, but if it does happen to rain Saturday night, fireworks will be Sunday night (July 3). Thank you to Chas Grundy for coordinating the show. Thank you also to all of you who contributed to the fireworks fund. As you know, these shows are not cheap! The cost of our show the last couple of years has been around \$8,000. This year, all of the profits from the Spaghetti Dinner (approximately \$1,200) went toward the fireworks. The rest of the money came from individual contributions. Thank you!!

The weekend festivities conclude with the Pancake Breakfast on Sunday morning. Breakfast will be served from 8:30 to 11 in the dining hall at Camp Tannadoonah. All of the profits from the

2015 Birch Lake Calendar

- July 2.....Boat Parade, 2 pm, Bender's
- July 2..... Fireworks (dark)
- July 3..... Fireworks rain date
- July 3..... Pancake Breakfast (8:30 - 11 am)
- July 9 Homeowners Association Annual Meeting & Meet the Candidates, 10:30 am
- 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)
July 9, Aug. 6, Sept. 10 @ BLYC

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

breakfast go to Camp T. Thank you to Sandy and Phil Vitale and Amy and Mike Lutz for coordinating this event.

Next Saturday (July 9) is our monthly Board of Directors meeting followed by the annual Homeowners Association meeting. The Homeowners Association has invited all of the local candidates running for office in Porter Township to come to the meeting for a meet and greet. This will be an excellent opportunity to put a face to all those

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 —

names and learn a little about each candidate. Hope to see you there!

I wish you all a happy and safe holiday weekend. Remember there will be a big increase in the number of people on the lake, so be vigilant and watch out for each other. A safe weekend will be a fun weekend! Hope to see you on the water!

~Commodore Sue

Homeowners Association to host Porter Township candidates

The Birch Lake Homeowners Association will have its annual meeting following the July 9 BLYC Board meeting (at approximately 10:30 am) at the Yacht Club. This year the Homeowners Association has invited the candidates running for officer and trustee position on the Porter Township Board of Trustees. Plan to attend!

Boat Parade Grand Marshal

It is a little early, but happy Fourth of July Holiday to all. Each year, we are tasked with choosing very deserving Birch Lakers to lead the Boat Parade as Grand Marshal. This year the decision was easy. We are pleased to announce our selection of *Duffy and Sue DuFour* of the East Side as our Grand Marshal this year.

Duffy (aka A.C.) was born in Utica, Michigan and graduated from Michigan State University in December, 1946. He



Pet Parade

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

came to Middlebury, Indiana in 1947 as a newly hatched veterinarian, worked for Dr. C.R. Corson. By 1949 he had opened his own practice in Lagrange, Indiana and in 1950 he married Sue Norris of Middlebury. After two years in the Air Force he returned and opened a small animal practice in Elkhart. Sue's parents owned a farm on Lake

Maxinkuckee in Culver, Indiana, but in 1970 her dad could no longer maintain the farm and it was sold. Duffy and Sue really wanted a place on a lake and luckily found a rental cottage on Birch Lake. After renting it from the late Bernie and Helen Weesner for about seven years they were again lucky enough to buy the place.

Simply STUNNING

Have you seen the stunning new stamped-concrete compass rose at the Birch Lake Yacht Club?

This is just one example of the custom concrete services and products available to our friends and neighbors here at Birch Lake.

Interested in a whole new look for your plain old concrete garage, patio or entrance?



Call us today!

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SW Michigan's FLATWORK experts

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(269) 279-7973

mmtlconcrete@aol.com

— Birch Lake Notes —

Duffy was a veterinarian for 60 years, 50 of those in Elkhart. He has related many unique animal stories that have been printed in the Barker. His present hobby is art and his drawings appear in the Barker. Last summer he was honored to be chosen as the Grand Marshal of the Pet Parade.

Celia and Paul Fallon will have the privilege of escorting the Dufours as they lead the parade around the lake. Please get out and show your appreciation for the Dufours and for all the decorating efforts by all the parade entrants.

The parade begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 2, so please register at Dick Bender's pier before that. After the parade lap all boats should return to the registration pier to receive a trophy. Only one entrant will be judged "Most Outstanding."

July 4th Regatta

The Fleet Captain has advised that the starting times both Saturday and Sunday have been altered to accommodate other activities. Races will begin at **10 am on Saturday** to give people time to participate in the boat parade at 2. **On Sunday, races will begin at noon** because of the pancake breakfast at Camp T from 8:30 - 11 am.

Pancake Breakfast

Come join us this Sunday, July 3, for the annual Pancake Breakfast at



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

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 break-

fast were used to buy materials to build new bunks in the cabins at Camp Tannadoonah. This year's take will be used to help update the equipment in the dining hall kitchen in memory of Dom Harman.

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



BACK ON TRACK!

56951 N. Main St.
Three Rivers, MI

(269) 273-9015

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.

Daily food & drink specials

follow us on Facebook at frankiesbythetracks

— Birch Lake Notes —

Visitors on north shore

This Holiday weekend we will host perennial 4th of July guests: Chuck and Karen Horn (Carmel, IN) / Ric and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie, IN). Cal's ladyfriend, Elizabeth Kramer, will be back and ... it's hoped Liz's parents Steve and Mary Kramer (Dodge Center, MN) will also visit. Which and how many of Cal's friends will attend? TBD. Please feel free to stop by to say hi or ... wave as you go by!

~The King family

Find another hobby!

Attention: For those of you who

think it's ok to shoot, poison, or drown the creatures of Birch Lake because they annoy you or get in your way couldn't be more wrong. And yes you know who you are. I've been on Birch Lake for 60 years and this makes me very sad and physically ill that someone could do such a thing ... I'm the voice of all chipmunks, bunnies, birds, ducks, herons, turtles, raccoons, deer and muskrats that can't be heard. They live here too. And for all of you who love Birch Lake as I do should also include and learn to live with the creatures of Birch Lake. So if you feel the need to go out and kill some-

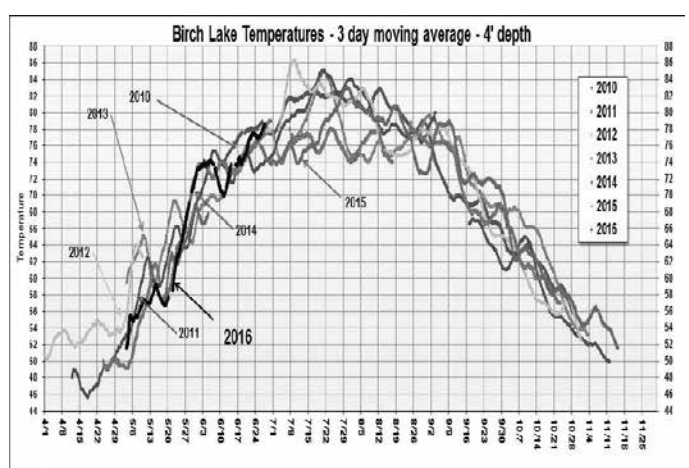
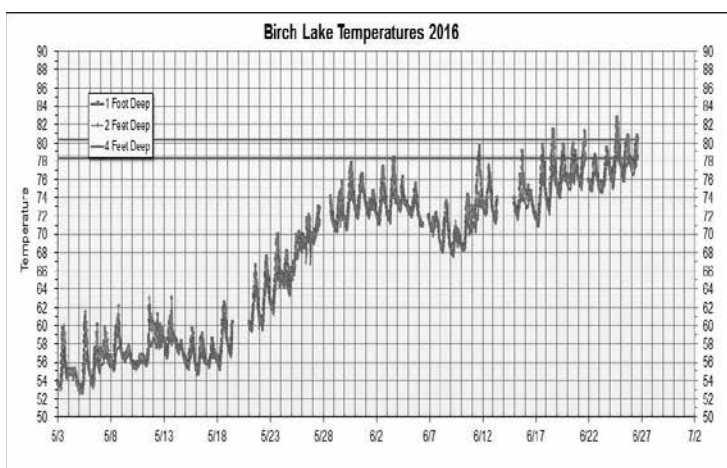
thing such as our creatures of Birch Lake please find another hobby and leave Birch Lake intact, creatures and all.

~Anonymous

Happy birthday Suzy

Karen Sue (Suzy) King will again be celebrating the anniversary of a former birthday on July 6th. We won't publish the running total (but it's a really big number). Condolences expressed in cash, coin of the realm -or- liquid form will be happily accepted ... well wishes too!

Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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Any licensed REALTOR® can list your property.
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LIST YOUR HOME WITH PAUL DELANO — THE AREA'S #1 LAKE REALTOR!¹

Birch Lakes homes currently for sale



63300 Birch Rd; 3 Beds, 3.5 Baths, Built by Nick's Custom Homes, 63 Feet of frontage, Adjacent property with wood shop / quest quarters may be purchased separately **\$990,000**



14965 Birch North Shore Dr. 4 beds, 2 baths, Sandy Beach frontage on the North Shore **\$548,900**



14901 Birch North Shore Dr., Newly Remodeled, 3 Bed, 2 bath, 100 Feet on North Shore **\$664,900**

Recently sold Birch Lakes homes



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Contact Paul DeLano:
(574) 536-6363
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

- SOLD **72** LAKE PROPERTIES IN 2015... versus 27 lake properties sold by the #2 agent
- Extensive database of buyers looking to purchase this year
- Lake home website with over 4,000 monthly visitors
- Proven results and experience that **close the sale**

Explore more online: MichiganLakesAndLand.com



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 12/31/15 in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph Counties. Sales of properties where agents represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the M.S.A.R.

— Birch Lake Notes —

Ladies Fun Golf Outing

If any of you ladies have a partial team, or if you have no team, and want to golf, call me and I will do my best to help you find a team or golfers.

~Patty Luecht, 476-2615

Summer Art Show is July 9

Regional and local artists will be showcased at the Cass Area Artists Summer Show on July 9.

Jewelry artist Darlene Troyer (Birch Lake east side) will be one of several jewelry artists participating in the show. Darlene works with precious metals and fused glass, and has been perfecting techniques that she has learned from master crafts persons and from teaching jewelry classes. She has won numerous awards and her art is currently featured in several Michiana galleries.

Visitors to the show can win free artwork which has been donated by participating artists. Drawings for the free art work will be held throughout the day so that winners can take the artwork with them.

With juried art, affordable prices and new artists, the Cass Area Artists show will showcase a wide range of visual art that will allow patrons to add to or update their collections with a fresh look and spend an enjoyable day in Cass County.



The Bad Patty Flag is once again flying high! After a "mishap" during the start of the sailboat races on June 26th, it was snapped off the committee boat by a sailor in the MC fleet. This sailor will not be named to save him from the embarrassment. (however, he does live on the east side, in an A-Frame, next to the Flamingo Room, his initials are P.M. and he sails boat #1735!!)

The one-day Cass Area Artist Summer Show is free and located on the outdoor track of the Lowe Center COA at M-60 and Decatur Road in Cassopolis. It will be open from 10 am until 4 pm.

Celebrate Birch Lake

As the 4th is coming up and our family is coming up to be with us to cele-

brate. I think of what a wonderful, fun place we have on Birch Lake. This year we will also celebrate having our beautiful place for 50 years thanks to my Grandpa Morgridge who bought it for my mom as a gift. He had saved up money for both my Mom and my aunt Louise for college and was able to send them both to collage without using that.

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 BIRCH LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

— Birch Lake Notes —

money. So in 1966 he gave that money to them as a gift. Mom and dad bought our cottage and my aunt Louise and uncle Sid got a cabin cruiser on Lake Michigan. It was neat that my mom, who grew up in Niles, Mi, played at the East's property at Birch Lake when she was a kid. That property is the property that grandpa got for her years later.

I thank my family for getting this wonderful home that my husband and I now live in. It's what my mom wanted, a place for friends and family to gather and enjoy each other and our beautiful Birch Lake.

~ Kathy Parnell Niezgodski

Register for fiber internet service

Midwest Energy is rolling out fiber internet service in communities throughout southwest Michigan. They choose which region to work on based on demand from each region. There's no commitment; just your expression of interest. Let them know you'd be interested in fast, reliable Internet (and some competition for Comcast) by registering at <https://jointhecrowd.teamfiber.com/>.

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.

The Barker welcomes the submission of editorial and advertising materials for publication (at the discretion of the editor). 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



Another first from Mr. Bob ... the first-ever Birch Lake Submarine of the Week?

3 pm on Tuesday, May 31) ... thanks.

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

COA Grand Festival

On Friday, July 8, the Cass County COA will host its 13th annual Grand Festival. From 2-4 pm, guests can enjoy hay rides, a jumping castle, a petting zoo, balloon animals, a climbing wall, and many other activities, and dinner will be served at 5 pm. Grand Festival will be at the Lowe Center, 60525 Decatur Road, Cassopolis. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For further information, call 445-8110 or visit www.casscoa.org.

Area Lake homes to be featured on HGTV Lakefront Bargain Hunt

Homes from several Cass County lakes will be included in a special HGTV feature on Monday, July 4 at 6pm. More info at <http://www.hgtv.com/shows/lakefront-bargain-hunt/episodes/cashing-in-on-a-deal-in-cass-county-mi>

Online content

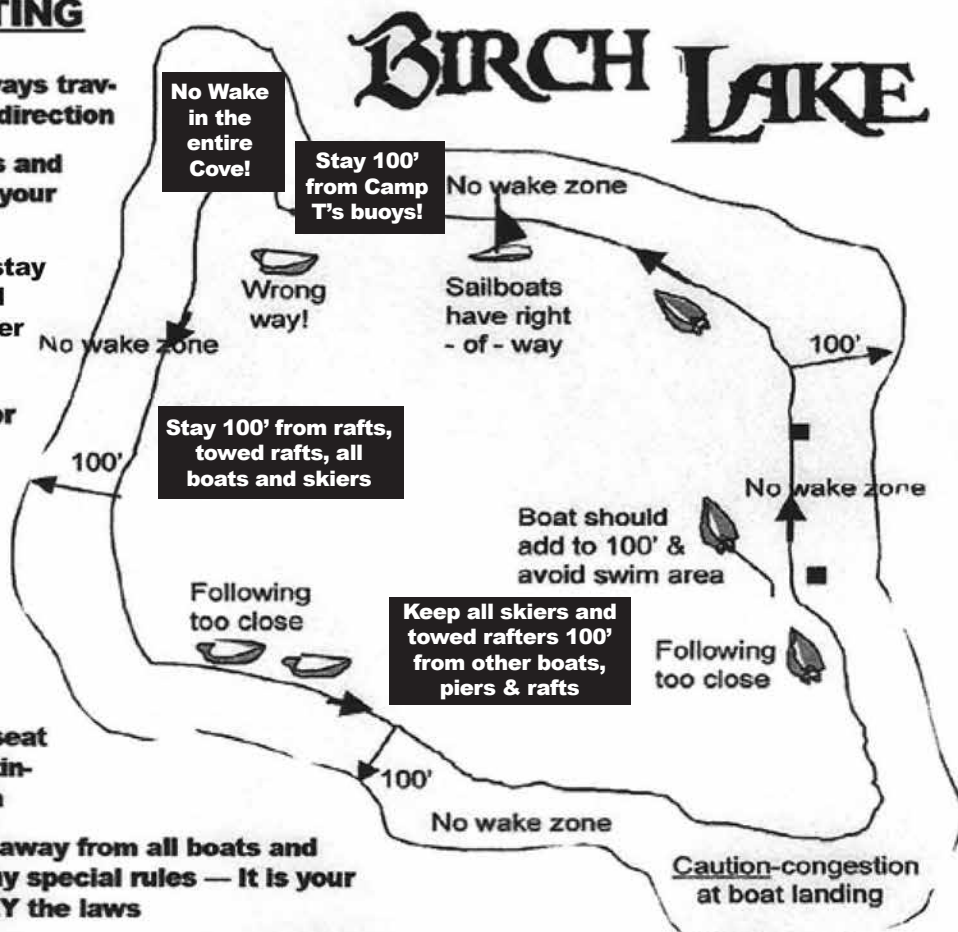
The printed Birch Barker is once again online this season, as well as additional content ... just go to www.philvital.com and follow the links.

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.

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!**



— Water Quality Comments —

Eurasian Milfoil

Eurasian Milfoil is an aggressive, tall growing exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. It is capable of growing to the surface in 10 to 15 feet of water. At the surface it forms a dense canopy of vegetation over other plants. Many native plants may be reduced in abundance by the Milfoil canopy. It also conflicts with many recreational activities. In dense conditions it is a serious localized and lake wide problem. It is not a significant food crop for waterfowl, other birds or aquatic mammals. It readily regenerates from detached fragments and spreads rapidly. Consequently, this plant can form dense colonies covering much of a lake's shoreline out to a depth of about 20 feet.

Monday, May 23 Progressive AE surveyed Birch Lake for invasive aquatic vegetation species. Progressive AE has

been surveying our lake since 2007. Every year they have surveyed the entire lake. This year one site was identified as having invasive species. The location is at the north end of the east shore where Eurasian Milfoil was identified along with Curly Leaf Pond Weed. Curly Leaf Pond Weed is not a concern because when the water temperature rises into the lower 70 range it will die. On the other hand the Milfoil was treated.

Professional Lake Management treated the site on June 7. They treated approximately 1-¼ acre. Progressive AE conducted a follow up inspection on June 23 and surveyed the entire lake. The survey did not reveal any other problem areas. However, the treatment on the east shore was not 100 percent successful. Professional Lake Management will return for a partial treatment on a por-



tion of the previously treated area. This year the Milfoil was especially hardy due to the mild winter.

This annual program is important in order to keep the Milfoil under control and to detect any other invasive species in the early stages to enable us to better control them. With your continued support we can maintain this important program and avoid having to deal with acres of invasive species like so many other lakes are currently dealing with. A good example of what can happen when Milfoil is not treated is Stone Lake in Cassopolis, which currently has approximately 67 acres of eurasian milfoil spread around nearly the entire shoreline.



ATTENTION

**YOUR DOG DID HIS DUTY
PLEASE DO YOURS**



**CLEAN UP AFTER
YOUR PET**



ART SHOW

Sat. July 9 10am - 4pm

Council on Aging (COA)
M-60 & Decatur Rd. Cassopolis, MI



On-Site Portraits!

Jewelry - Painting - Sculpture - Prints - Fine Crafts and More



William Becker



Vivian Purkhiser



Darlene Troyer

(Over)

Keep this card to enter for Door Prizes!

Birch Lake lat 41.9153
Michigan long -85.8793

FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Storm takes wind, no sailing!

Well as many of you know, we did not sail last Sunday. Harold and I had set the marks with strong SSW winds that were about 5 to 10 mph. I got back to the house to look at the radar one last time and saw a strong line of thunderstorms heading our way. We put the races off an hour hoping that the storms would move through and we could get our sailing under way. After the storms came through the winds died to almost nothing, leaving me no option but to cancel the races.

Looking at this weekend, we will have

our first regatta of the season, this will consist of three races on Saturday (10 am because of the boat parade) and two races on Sunday (noon due to pancake breakfast) with Monday being the rain day, if either day gets postponed!

In closing, I want to thank all the sailors and participants that came out last weekend for the "Kids Regatta" we had a good turnout and many great experiences hope to see you young sailors out on the lake soon! Have a great and safe fourth!

Until next week "Splice the main brace"
~Fleet Captain Mike~



2016 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date19Jun 19Jun Total Season Races.....%
Race78 PointsAverage FinishedFinished

MC Scow/Sailor 6

Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	9521	1587	6	100.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	3	3	7378	1476	5	83.3%
Phil Vitale #500	5	2	4261	1420	3	50.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	2	4	8305	1384	6	100.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	4	5	7926	1321	6	100.0%
Pat McGann #1735	6	6	6563	1313	5	83.3%
Barb Cassady #2435	DNS	DNS	5186	1297	4	66.7%
Gib Eberhart #916	DNS	DNS	3833	1278	2	33.3%
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%

Sunfish/Sailor 8

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	CB	CB	7921	1584	5	62.5%
Peter Soldato	2	4	10424	1489	7	87.5%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	1	2	10345	1478	7	87.5%
Sandy Vitale (White)	3	3	2888	1444	2	25.0%
Herb Cleveland	4	1	11270	1409	8	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	8106	1351	5	62.5%
Bob Niezgodski	5	5	10664	1333	8	100.0%
Camille Butler	6	6	6427	1285	5	62.5%
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	1156	1156	1	12.5%
Bob Cassady	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%
Chris Lintner	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%

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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— Barker Sailing Page —

2016 Don Harman Peoples Regatta pics



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the pics

Elect Steve Northrup

For Porter Township Supervisor



VOTE Aug. 2 to ELECT

An Experienced Public Servant

Steve Northrup
Ph# 269-476-1275
13562 Harvey Street

I am a lifelong resident of Cass County and my family still resides in this area. I moved to Porter Township with my wife Christine in 2002. I retired after 32 years of service with the Cass County Road Commission and then spent 6 years with Great Lakes Chloride in Michigan Sales.

My two terms as Porter Township Trustee have afforded me the opportunity to address many issues which affected the lives of our residents which included the negotiation of contracts to secure safe and affordable services needed while maintaining a balanced budget.

I created a long-term plan to upgrade all township roads used by our residents. This plan includes directing the dust control, gravel maintenance, and securing cost-effective long-term maintenance for our paved roads.

- **SERVING THE PUBLIC** of Cass County for over 40 years.
- **8 Yrs as Porter Trustee** serving the residents of Porter Township.
- **32 Yrs Experience** with the Cass County Road Commission.
- **Trained And Experienced** to work with County and State agencies.
- **Problem Solving Skills** to negotiate issues on behalf of all residents.
- **Accountable** and courteous to every township resident.
- **Accessible and Available** to listen and consider all views and opinions.

I have also served as liaison to the SEPSA board and as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and have gained extensive knowledge regarding the importance of careful study before making any decisions affecting all township residents.

As a Veteran and life member of the Post #4054 Veterans of Foreign Wars, I promise to uphold and protect those rights and freedoms guaranteed to each of our citizens of Porter Township, State of Michigan, in these United States of America.

- Keep us moving in a **Good Direction.**
- Elect an experienced **Public Servant.**
- Elect a leader you can **TRUST.**

Elect Steve Northrup

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Steve Northrup

At Tuesley Hall Konopa, we've built our reputation providing quality legal services to businesses throughout the community. Along the way, we've learned one universal truth. Business as usual seldom is. That's why we work hard to make sure we thoroughly understand the unique needs of each and every client. This enables us to provide relevant strategic insights and, ultimately, identify the most effective solutions to their specific needs.



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www.VickieHall.info
willowtree.vickie@gmail.com



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Realty

13549 U.S. 12 / UNION, MI 49130

When it comes to choosing a Realtor, it's not about claims of having or selling the most listings. Nor is it about the claims of being the "Lake or Waterfront Expert." It's about who will provide you with a quality experience and good results from listing or searching to closing. Read what my clients have to say and then call me when you're ready to sell or buy.

Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake

"Vickie is an extremely dedicated professional who will make you feel like you are her top priority. She can grasp complicated situations easily, explain them to you accurately, and then wisely advise you as to what to do. We found her knowledgeable in many areas and helpful in many ways beyond her obligations as a Realtor. You will enjoy working with this personable, warm, trustworthy lady who will take the stress and strain of buying and selling a home off your shoulders and put them onto hers."

Amanda North Druckeniller "Working with Vickie to sell our home was a pleasure! Our home sat on the market for a year with another realtor. We switched to Vickie and had an offer within a month! Vickie is prompt, professional and very knowledgeable in her field. I strongly recommend her for your realty needs!"

Tom Davidson -- Top qualities: Personable, Expert, High Integrity
"Vickie did an excellent job in finding a house in Michigan that represented what I was looking for. She also was instrumental in providing detailed information on the history of my property and several adjacent Birch Lake properties which along with her knowledge of building regulations allowed me to obtain a reduction in property taxes. She is dependable, knowledgeable, and follows through. I would highly recommend her."

Tony Clark -- Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres
"Vickie is the hardest working and most knowledgeable Realtor I have ever known. I have flipped about 7 properties. She sold my partner's house on Eagle Lake in a couple of weeks. While another Realtor had the listing for 9 months. She helped with taxes, inspections and legal transfers that were outside of her realm of duties."

See more at www.VickieHall.info under the "resources" tab

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**

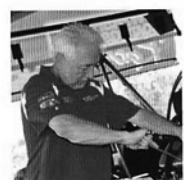
Paid for by the Committees to Elect Cory Marlow, Honna Gableman and Tom Lutz



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

— Barker Kids of the Week —



My name is Becky. I am a granddaughter of Jim Foos in the cove. Here is a picture of Jim Foos (79 yrs young) and his two granddaughters (Amy Condle and Becky Anderson) skiing around Birch Lake from Father's Day. (We have also started the next generation of Birch Lakers with Jim's great-grandkids having lots of fun this year as well) I know seeing this picture in the Barker would make my grandpa smile!



Tate Guyton, 8 year old grandson of Di Wozny and Craig Fredlake, South Side, and Bob Wozny and Kathy Niles, West Side, quickly mastered wakeboarding in a few lessons. He loves it! Tate is the son of Meredith (Wozny) and Jeff Guyton, West Side.

BARKER 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 the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email to SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Here is a picture for kids of the week. It's from the 1982 Men's golf outing. Left to right Bill King, Keith Weesner, Gus Eshleman, Bernie Weesner.



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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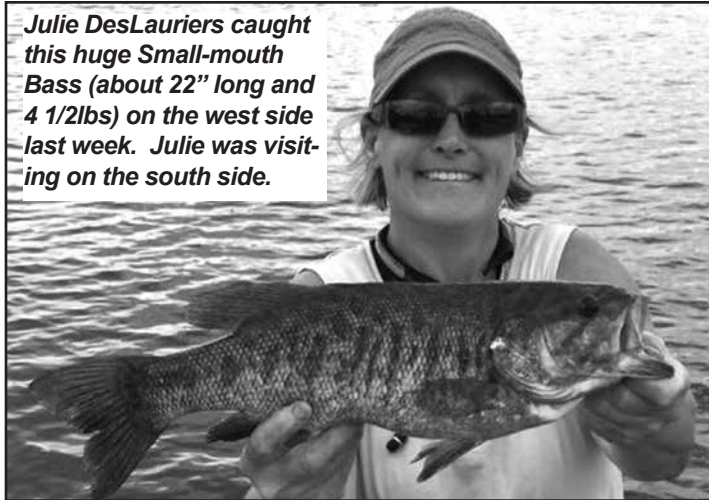


— Barker Kids of the Week —



4th Generation Birch Lake Kids! Photos were taken as part of a Birthday and Father's Day gift for John Ball. Above left, Ball boys, girls and dogs: Alex Ball & Bri Pletcher-Holding Milo, Chris Ball, Rebecca Kolbe & Adam Ball -Holding Bailey; Above right, Ball boys and Cars: Adam Ball in front of John & Jennifer's 1970 Plymouth Satellite, Chris Ball in front of his 2015 Dodge Challenger, Alex Ball in front of John's 1970 Plymouth Cuda.

~Photo session location Ben & Vanessa's outstanding barn-Many Thanks! Photo credit to Uncle Tom Lacy



Julie DesLauriers caught this huge Small-mouth Bass (about 22" long and 4 1/2lbs) on the west side last week. Julie was visiting on the south side.



Thanks to Austin Witchie (east side) for taking the photo and Barkley the dog for alerting the family about these "kids" in their yard.

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FIREWOOD AVAILABLE

— Barker Kids of the Week —



*Taylor Gableman (above center and right), granddaughter of Claudia and Dennis Phipps, north side, lead the June book club meeting with her selection, *The Secret School* by AVI.*



Macey, Parker, Layla, Finley, Taylor, and Foster, grandkids of Dennis and Claudia Phipps (north side), formed their own Birch Lake band.

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STU'S STAR STUFF



Explaining the phases of the moon

Have you ever wondered what causes the moon phases? We all know that its appearance changes over time. But why?

It's probably easiest to understand the moon cycle in this order: new moon and full moon, first quarter and third quarter, and the phases in between.

The new moon occurs when the moon is positioned between the earth and sun. The three objects are in approximate alignment (why "approximate" is explained below). The entire illuminated portion of the moon is on the back side of the moon, the half that we cannot see.

At a full moon, the earth, moon, and sun are again in approximate alignment, just as the new moon, but the moon is on the opposite side of the earth, so the entire sunlit part of the moon is facing us. The shadowed portion is entirely hidden from view.

The first quarter and third quarter moons (both often called a "half moon"), happen when the moon is at a 90 degree angle with respect to the earth and sun. So we are seeing exactly half of the moon illuminated and half in shadow.

Once you understand those four key moon phases, the phases between should be fairly easy to visualize.

An easy way to remember and understand those "between" lunar phase names is by breaking out and defining 4 words: crescent, gibbous, waxing, and waning. The word crescent refers to the phases where the moon is less than half illuminated. Gibbous refers to phases where the moon is more than half illuminated. The word waxing essentially means "growing" or expanding in illumination (unless you're Bob B.), and waning means "shrinking" or decreasing in illumination.

Thus you can simply combine the two words to create the phase name, as follows:

After the new moon, the sunlit portion is increasing, but less than half, so it is waxing crescent. After the

first quarter, the sunlit portion is still increasing, but now it is more than half, so it is waxing gibbous. After the full moon, the light continually decreases. So the waning gibbous phase occurs next. Following the third quarter is the waning crescent, which wanes until the light is completely gone - a new moon.

The Moon's Orbit

The moon goes through a complete moon phases cycle in about one month. But it's not exactly one month. The synodic period, or lunation, is about 29.53 days. It's the time required for the moon to move to the same position (same phase) as seen by an observer on earth. If you were to view the moon cycling the earth from outside our solar system (the viewpoint of the stars), the time required is 27.3217 days, roughly two days less. This figure is called the sidereal period or orbital period. Why is the synodic period different from the sidereal period? The short answer is because on earth, we are viewing the moon from a moving platform: during the moon cycle, the earth has moved approximately one month along its year-long orbit around the sun, altering our angle of view with respect to the moon, and thus altering the phase. The earth's orbital direction is such that it lengthens the period for earthbound observers.

Although the synodic and sidereal periods are exact numbers, the moon phase can't be precisely calculated by simple division of days because the moon's motion (orbital speed and position) is affected by various forces of different strengths. Hence, complex equations, that only I and a few others can even begin to understand, are used to determine the exact position and phase of the moon at any given point in time.

So why, at a new moon, doesn't the moon block the sun, and at a full moon, why the doesn't Earth block sunlight from reaching the moon. The reason is because the moon's orbit about the earth

The Moon for this Saturday

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

Illuminated Fraction: 0.021

1.2 days before new moon

(yes, the square below's supposed to be black)



Sunrise: 6:13am

Sunset: 9:23pm

Moonrise: 4:45am

Moonset: 7:31pm

Day length: 15h 10m

is about 5 degrees off from the earth-sun orbital plane.

However, at special times during the year, the earth, moon, and sun do in fact "line up". When the moon blocks the sun or a part of it, it's called a solar eclipse, and it can only happen during the new moon phase. When the earth casts a shadow on the moon, it's called a lunar eclipse, and can only happen during the full moon phase. Roughly 4 to 7 eclipses happen in any given year, but most of them are minor or "partial" eclipses. Major lunar or solar eclipses are relatively uncommon.

Go give your neighbor the moon. That's free, right?

~Stu Spratt

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) Home and family is your focus now. This is a good time for family discussions, especially about home repairs. Act on your ideas to redecorate your digs and make things look better. Whatever you do will not only enhance your home but increase its real-estate value.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) This continues to be a busy week with short trips, errands, conversations with everyone plus increased reading, writing and studying. It's a good time for those who write, edit, study, act, teach, sell and market because your communication skills are hot! Avoid arguments late Thursday. You'll notice that difficulties with a close friend or partner that have been a squeeze play since April will now start to soften.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) Finances, cash flow and earnings are your focus. You've got moneymaking ideas and chance to boost your income. Be careful about shopping or demanding your way on Thursday evening - not good. Aside from that, increased wealth or profits with a family business or real estate will please you by the end of this week.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) The Sun, Mercury and Venus are all in your sign. This is empowering! It gives you energy. Plus it makes you talkative, charming and diplomatic. This is why others want to be in your presence. In turn, this is also why you might solidify plans for a vacation or something to do with sports, musical performances, the arts and playful times with children.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) With three planets "hiding" in your chart, you are waiting in the wings. It's a pregnant moment waiting to take birth or burst out a month from now. This means the next few weeks are the time to get your ducks in a row and do careful planning. Your efforts will ultimately affect your earnings.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) This is a social time for you because you're enjoying hanging out with friends and being involved with clubs, groups and organizations. Younger people are in the picture plus creative, artistic types. It's a swirl of fun and activity! A platonic friendship might turn into something romantic. Starting this week, you will notice that others will listen to you more because your communications will be bolder and more direct.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Make the most of the next month because almost by magic, you look fabulous to others, especially bosses, parents, teachers and the police. Since you can pull off this magic act, demand the advantage! Make your pitch to the boss. Push your agenda or ask for permission or approval for something because you will likely get it. (It's smoke and mirrors.)

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Any opportunity to travel will delight you now because three planets are in the part of your chart associated with travel, exploration and foreign countries. You really want to expand your experience of the world. But, if you can't travel, explore your own environment because this will also give you satisfaction and rewards.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) This is a passionate time, which is why you might be absorbed with a romantic relationship. However, this is also a time to focus on mortgages, debt, taxes, inheritances, wills and shared property. Tackle loose ends in these areas because you can benefit somehow. This is an excellent time to go for a loan or a mortgage because the stars favor now and for the next few weeks.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) (Note; A gentle reminder that you need more sleep in the next few weeks. Be kind to yourself.) With three planets opposite your sign, you are focused on partnerships and close relationships more than usual. On the whole, you can improve these relationships.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You are in work mode now, and admit it - you like it! Ever noticed that the more you want to get something done - the less it feels like work? Part of what motivates you now is a desire to be efficient and productive. (Hey, even if you're a train wreck - at least, you're a cautionary tale.) Don't let your desire to introduce reforms and make improvements on your job lead to an argument on Thursday.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) The next few weeks will be fun-loving and playful! Accept invitations to socialize and party. Enjoy fun activities with children, the arts, movies, plays, picnics - you name it. This is also an excellent time to go on a vacation. Meanwhile, romance and love affairs will flourish. Take note that Thursday is an intense day dealing with lovers.

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For sale: an antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.

For sale: a quilted high chair that can be made into a table, pottie chair, rocking horse, refrigerator, spring coat, size 8 and fur collar.

Four-poster bed, 101 years old. Perfect for antique lover.

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This ad just sums up all he crazy stuff we have a great Wednesday! - with Aaron Urbanski and Connie Urbanski.

Aaron HENDERSON

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FRIDAY, JULY 29, 2016 - \$70/MAN*

SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

61270 Lutz Rd., Three Rivers, MI

Shotgun start at Noon - Dinner at BLYC at 6 pm

MUST HAVE COMPLETED REGISTRATION BY JULY 11, 2016

**Golf prize, dinner at BLYC, and Food & Drink coupons included in the price of registration
Please include shirt size in registration information for golf prizes*

Team prizes and contests 2016

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Prizes awarded at dinner

Donations of door & team prizes needed*

**If you have access to logo or golf or lake related merchandise that could be donated, please contact Peter Soldato at psoldato86@gmail.com or Chas Grundy at chas@grundyhome.com*

2016 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

TEAM CAPTAIN:

PLEASE PRINT NAMES

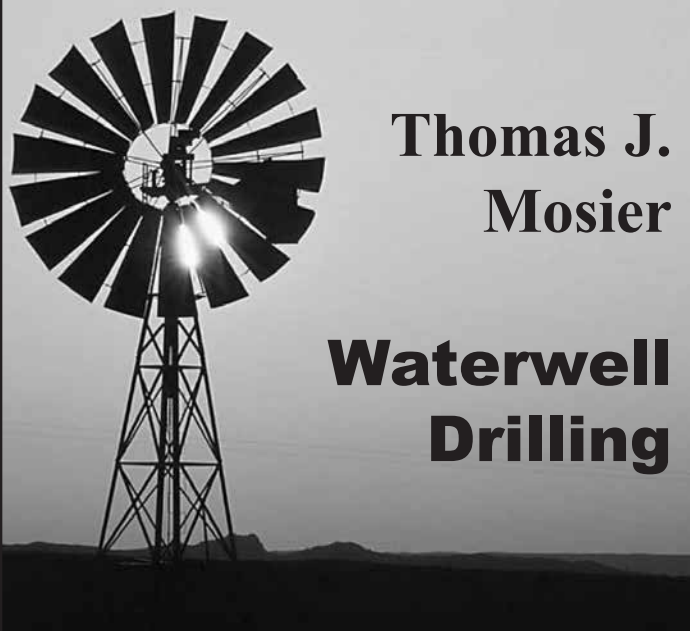
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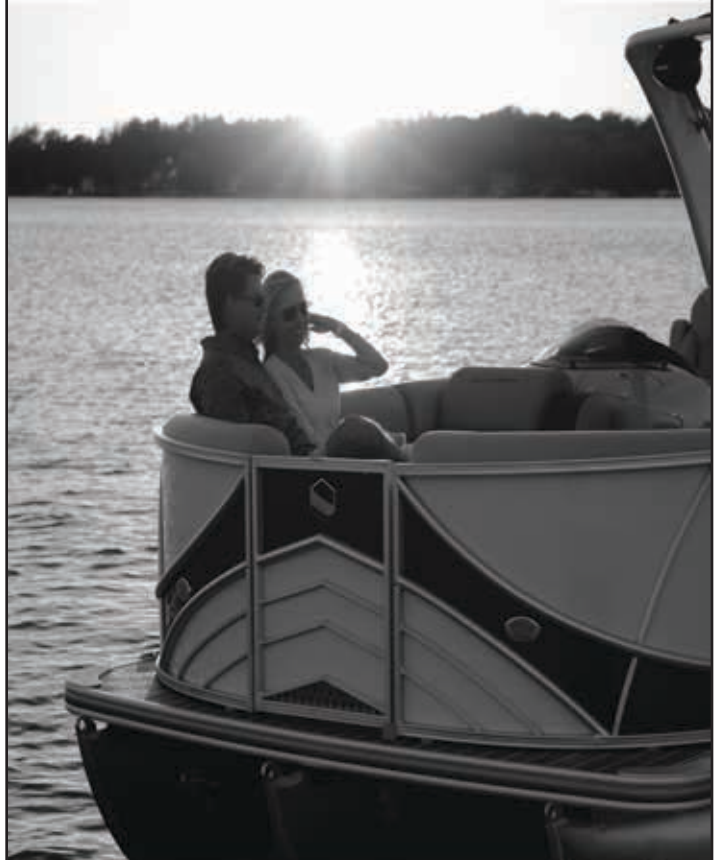
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~Birch Lake Recipes~



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Uncle Sam Banana Split

MY FRIEND'S RECIPE WILL SERVE A GROUP OF UP TO FIVE WITH ENOUGH SPOONS

Ingredients:

- 5 fluid ounces heavy whipping cream
- 3 cups chocolate ice cream
- 3 cups strawberry ice cream
- 1 (5.5 ounce) can chocolate syrup
- 7 tablespoons caramel ice cream topping
- 5 tablespoons multicolored candy sprinkles, or to taste
- 2 sparkler fireworks (optional)

Directions:

1. Beat heavy cream with an electric mixer in a chilled metal bowl until light and fluffy, 3 to 5 minutes. Set whipped cream aside.
2. Scoop vanilla, chocolate, and strawberry ice cream into a large serving bowl. Sprinkle with bananas and spread whipped cream over bananas and ice cream. Drizzle with chocolate and caramel toppings and scatter candy sprinkles over the sundae. Decorate with lit sparkler

Birch Barker Word Search

Random Words

Find each of the following words.

CREATED
DIALOG
SEAT
AWOKE
VIRTUES

FLEECING
RAMS
SIREN
ANIMATED
AIDE

WHALES
FETED
REST
DAZE
APED

MODEST
FLITS
SIGNALS
RIGS
PIECE

I E A D R A M S S R P M A S L E N G I S E O N E G A N I M A I R I G S E
 C A O D O M G D I L S T C S N D S G I R E E E T A E R C O A R A A O S S
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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Super Hero week at Camp T

It's Super Hero week here at Camp Tannadoonah! On Sunday evening we had Super Hero Training – a series of stations for campers to test their strength, balance, speed, agility, etc. We had a tug of war, a game of “sharks and minnows,” and a game of “Go for the Gold.” At crafts this week, the kids are making Super Hero capes and masks. Other evening activities include Super Kickball, and a Counselor “Villain Hunt.” They also have Superman Ice Cream planned for one evening ... hopefully on a night when it's warmer than it is today as I'm writing this!

All the stormy weather last week led to a lot of questions about how we handle weather emergencies here at camp. During staff training, we spend time discussing procedures and what to do in different situations. Miss Michelle (my assistant director) and I each carry walkie talkies with built-in weather radios. Whenever there is a storm watch, we alert all of the counselors in camp, just to make sure they stay aware of what's going on. We have several different signals for severe weather, so if a counselor

doesn't hear the message over the radio, we also blow the air horn or ring the big bell outside Main Lodge to signal an emergency.

If a tornado warning is issued, or if the storm gets bad, we immediately bring all of the campers to two central locations: The Dining Hall and Morris Lodge. Both of these buildings have basements, so they are the safest places in camp to bring the kids. During the time we're waiting out the storm, we sing camp songs and play games to keep the kids calm. We monitor the weather radar and radios, and if it gets bad, we move the campers to the basements. We also do periodic drills with the counselors to make sure they stay sharp and remember all of the proper procedures for various emergency situations.

Last week we took all of the campers to the dining hall on Wednesday night when the storms came through – but luckily we were only there for a few hours, and didn't have to go to the basement because it never got really bad. Sunday afternoon this week we had to cancel the swim test because of thunder and lightning, which meant

we had to do a lot of creative rearranging of the schedule on Monday!

Our camper numbers continue to climb. We're currently at 888 campers for the summer! That's 41 more than we had last year at the end of the summer. Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of room to continue to grow this year. We're still hoping to get to 900 for the summer, but after the 4th of July, there are only 14 more beds available for the whole summer – and 13 of those spots are for boys! So we're pretty much at capacity for girls from here on out.

It's so exciting to see the numbers creep up closer and closer to 900! We're a long way off from the summer of 2006 when we had a grand total of 351 campers for the entire summer.

We're all looking forward to a little bit of a break next week for the 4th of July Holiday. Our international staff are excited to see what the holiday is like here in the states! We hope to see many of you here for the pancake breakfast on Sunday morning! Have a wonderful holiday weekend.

Until next week,

~Miss Amber



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For sale golf **caddy cart** call 476-7073



For sale: **oak table**. 41 wide, 84 long. Includes 24 inch leaf, **6 chairs**. Good condition. \$350. Contact Denny. 476 2569

2006 Coachman Captiva 265. Like new condition. Hardly used. Slide-out in back opens camper to 31 feet. Sleeps 8. Everything works! Great for overflow sleeping. Asking \$7995.00. Please call Bob Groszek @ 1-708-738-0088.

Small boat lift, great for motor boat, sailboat or two kayaks. \$250/ Call Bud at 476-2526.
For Sale: **Shore Station**, 3,000 lb aluminum, \$200. Call 708-307-4324, Bill Odenwald.

For Sale: **Furnace/Air Conditioner**, Outdoor Unit 92,000 BTU... \$900 Call or text Bob at 574-298-2480.

For Sale: **Paddle Boat with Canopy**. Very good condition. \$150.00
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For sale **Toro self-propelled lawn mower** in great condition call 476-7073



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FOR SALE: Antique fireplace set with accessories. \$30. Call Machallecks at 476-2642



For Sale: **Samsung Galaxy Centura TracFone**. \$25. 476-1680 or email sailor-phil@philvitale.com

For Sale: Eight puppies from a German Shepherd and an Alaskan Husky. Call Xavier Money

FOR SALE BY OWNER : Complete set of Encyclopedia Britannica. 45 volumes. Excellent condition. \$1,000, negotiable. No longer needed. Recently married; wife knows everything. Call Yule B. Sari

PUBLIC AUCTION

Public Auction, Saturday July 9th 2016 at 10 am; 23576 South Shore Drive, Edwardsburg MI. Exceptionally clean, high Quality Estate liquidation sale for David and Lee Kinson Estate. (Sherry Hollemans' parents). Some items of interest: 2009 Pontiac Vibe, good condition, low miles, 1990 Hurricane with 175 HP Cobra inboard. Great condition. Electric Shore Station, boat lift with canopy, in excellent working condition. Toby mugs, a primitive dry sink, (1850), solid Cedar Chest, several sets of good dishes (Copeland-Spode) dinnerware for 8. Jewellery & Silver. Household furniture, including beds, couches, sofa sleeper, dining table with chairs, and much more. Car, boat and shore station to be auctioned around noon.

WANTED Looking for a place to rent. I'm Michelle, the new Assistant Camp Director and After School Program Director at Camp Tannadoonah, and new to the area. I'm a responsible, non-smoking, pet-free, tidy 32-year-old. Since I live at Camp during the summer, I could even vacate during the prime season. (734) 652-1611

WANTED: 6 hp or below out-board motor. Contact Machallecks at 476-2642

WANTED: Return our name! We have had our family's last name on the back of our cottage for 30-plus years, and last week it was taken from the cottage. I am sure that it is somewhat of a novelty but it has sentimental value to it since our father made it and recently passed away. We would greatly appreciate it's return to 63500 Birch Rd. Thank you. The Thomas Drinkall family

Wanted - Small, 4x8 or 5x10 or 7x11 enclosed trailer that is good on the road? Do not want to pay an arm and a leg. Please call or text Pat at 574-532-5377.

Wanted - **Yard maintenance person** for the summer. Contact Stewart at 476-2113

Camp Tannadoonah is looking to purchase a **pickup truck**. We are hoping for an older 4x4 model for Ranger Bob to use around camp, and for picking up materials for projects. Nothing fancy! If you have a truck you're interested in selling (or donating!), please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

Camp is also looking for a **gas-powered wood splitter**. If you have one that doesn't get much use and you're interested in selling (or donating!) it, please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

SERVICES

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

FOUND

Found: **styrofoam noodle (pink) and boogie board (blue)**. Call Tom Kuhn 708-772-7373/Jan Temple (847-846-8600)

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We had a tree taken down and have a quantity of large pieces of **unsplit wood** you can HAVE free. Just takes a man, a plan and a big chain saw. The Trybulas, east side, 574-272-5941.



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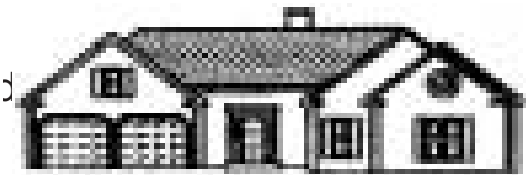
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