

The
weekend
Of

Aug. 26
2017

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Pat McGann flew a broom from his mast to indicate a "clean sweep," after winning both Sunfish races last weekend.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I decided to write my last Commodore Comments sitting out on the lakeside porch. It is a gorgeous Sunday with a soft constant wind. I see swimmers taking a dip, fishermen meditating, boats cruising, and sailors racing. Everything is green and lush. The water is gently lapping on the shore. Two hummingbirds are vying for food. My dog and cat are napping at my feet. Life is good!

This weekend is the Fall Dinner. Exciting things happen at this event. The new Vice Commodore will be announced, the Commodore's Award will be given to an individual for exemplary service to our Birch community, Karen Curtis Miller will be our new Commodore, and I will become a PC! Actually, Past Commodores stay on the board for another year and some continue on. I can see why. The board is a caring group of individuals who represent each shore. They want to insure that Birch Lake continues to be a quality

home for all of us. I feel gratitude for having the chance to be your Commodore. If you are ever asked to be Commodore, say yes! As was stated last week, there are hidden treasures in every experience.

There are so many others who deserve appreciation, including all of the committee chairs and the countless people who helped them, everyone involved in the publication and distribution of the Barker, and everyone else who donated time, money, and talent toward making this a great summer. Thank you!

Even though the Fall Dinner is this weekend and school has started for some of our Birch kids, the season is not over. Don't forget the Labor Day Flotilla is the Sunday of Labor day at 5 pm. Meet you in the middle!

So I wanted to tell you how the Moonbeam Moment started. My friend and neighbor Good Patti shared that my nickname behind my back was "Moonbeam." I decided to roll with it. So my last Moonbeam moment is a biggie. BE KIND. Right now this very moment make a decision to be extra kind to all you encounter today. It has a great boo-

Birch Lake Calendar

2017

August 26 - Fall Dinner
September 3 - BLYC Flotilla 2, 5 pm
September 9 - BLYC Board Meeting
September 16 - Tour of Heddon Museum
October 14 - Soup Challenge
October 29 - Memorial Mass for Stanley Pitakos, Our Lady of the Lake, Edwardsburg, 8 am

2018

May 19 - Spring Dinner
June 30 - House Walk
July 7 - Fireworks
July 20 - Ladies Golf
July 27 - Men's Golf
October 10 - Soup Challenge

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

merang effect.

Thanks again!

~Commodore Claudia

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Deadline is 3 pm on Tuesday. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or put the items in the stone/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). 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 Commodore Claudia Phipps at 476-7073 or email claudia2154@gmail.com. ~Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —

Sunday Night Flotilla!

Sunday September 3 – 5 p.m.

Due to the past successful flotillas, let's do it again! Meet in the middle of the lake with your boat. Bring an Appetizer. Boats will be tied together and we will walk from boat to boat sharing food and camaraderie. Look for the boats in the middle!

Fishing Lures, Local History

On Saturday, September 16, (4 pm) arrangements have been made for Birch Lakers to tour The Heddon Fishing Lure Museum (there are lures, reels, poles and antique cars!). It is a fascinating piece of local history as well as fishing history. Dinner at the Wounded Minnow would follow the tour. This tour/dinner is open to everyone: men, women, children (sorry no pets!) If you are interested in joining us for a brief overview of the lures and how they came to the couple who owns the museum and then enjoy a good hamburger please contact me. We have enough interest to make this event happen, however, contact me if you want to join us so I can give the museum and the Minnow a head count. The museum is free (donations welcome). Below is a brief account of this local history.

"In the late 1890s James Heddon launched a hand-made lure into a Dowagiac, Mich. pond, and the ripples are still expanding. It marked the begin-

BLYC Commodores, 1960 - Present

1960 – RAY MESSNER	1980 – DAVE ANTHONY	2000 – BOB KING
1961 – JOHN MACHALLECK	1981 – CHUCK FORTINO	2001 – MIKE MACHALLECK
1962 – BILL KING	1982 – EARL TROEGER	2002 – JIM BOLINGER
1963 – SELDON FOOT	1983 – EARL TROEGER	2003 – PHIL VITALE
1964 – EARL TROEGER	1984 – HERM KRUGGEL	2004 – STEWART SPRATT
1965 – CHAS PURDY	1985 – RANDY WELCH	2005 – JOHN ERHARDT
1966 – JOHN BALL	1986 – MIKE MACHALLECK	2006 – RYAN GABLEMAN
1967 – DALE BRATCHER	1987 – KEN TATE	2007 – BLAIR GARCEAU
1968 – FLOYD FULMER	1988 – DAN REYNOLDS	2008 – MIKE LUTZ
1969 – DICK COWEN	1989 – HAROLD CRANMER	2009 – PAUL FALLON
1970 – JACK TROEGER	1990 – BUZZ RASMUSSEN	2010 – BOB WADDLE
1971 – BRUCE HARLAN	1991 – BUD ZESSINGER	2011 – STAN PITAKOS
1972 – J. BEEHLER	1992 – JOHN GABLEMAN	2012 – PAM MULLIN
1973 – TERRY MONTAGUE	1993 – RICH MULLIN	2013 – CHAS GRUNDY
1974 – BOB ROSS	1994 – BOB WADDLE	2014 – PATTY LUECHT
1975 – JOE O'BRIEN	1995 – LINDA CURTIS	2015 – FRED FREIHOFFER
1976 – BILL HAYDEN	1996 – SUE WAGNER	2016 – SUE WILLIAMS
1977 – JUDY OLSON	1997 – SCOTT TROEGER	2017 – CLAUDIA PHIPPS
1978 – DICK WHITEMAN	1998 – AL COVER	2018 – KAREN CURTIS-MILLER
1979 – ROY HENDERSON	1999 – JIM BECK	2019 – TBA

ning of a new era – the artificial-lure fishing era – for all anglers. Heddon is the manufacturer of legendary lures, including the Spook, Torpedo, Lucky 13 and many more" (heddonlures.com). Joan and Don, a local Dowagiac couple, stumbled into obtaining a vast number of the antique Heddon lures and have created the Heddon Museum.

~Blair Garceau

476-9862, bgarceau@comcast.net

"The Company" to present A Como Cabaret Christmas

Date: November 3-4, 10-11, 17-18

Place: Battell Center Theatre, 904 N. Main St., Mishawaka, IN

Ticket Information: Tickets will go on sale September 20. There are 350 seats in the Theater, seating is limited. To purchase tickets, send a check & a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: "The Company" 50643 Sorrel Dr.,

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Birch Lake Notes



Granger, IN 46530. Reference night of performance, seat preference, let us know if a wheelchair seat is needed, and please provide a phone number. Ticket Prices: Seniors \$12.50, General Admission \$16. Any remaining seats will be sold at the door the night of the performance.

Box office and doors will open at 6 pm, warm-up starts at 7:30 pm, show begins at 8 pm. For information: call The Company at 574-229-0083 Mon-Fri 10 am to 5 pm, or visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheCompanyPlayers>.

BARKER FACTS

Would you like to know another interesting fact that makes Birch Lake special? We are one of very few lakes in Michigan that publishes a weekly newsletter (monthly on-line) during the summer season. One very important reason for this is we are lucky enough to have ex-newspaper guru, Phil Vitale, living amongst us.

Every week, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, Phil does all he work neces-

sary to assemble the Birch Barker that you receive each weekend. Phil also sells enough ads to cover all of the printing costs. Also helping with the printing costs is our new South-side neighbor, Pat Welch of Alphagraphics Printing, who has volunteered to donate most of the costs of the actual printing of the Barker.

When the Barkers are ready they are picked up by longtime North-sider, Stewart Spratt, and delivered to Sue Waddle on the East Side. Sue springs into action, counts out and distributes all of the Barkers to all of the local delivery people around the lake. These fine people are: Vickie Rogers (Cove/West-side-north), Sarah, Ben, Cameron and Cooper Petty (North-side West), Claudia Phipps (North-side-East), Linda Curtis (East-side-North), Bob Waddle (East-side Center& Hill), Holly Troeger (East-side South), Julie Lacy (South-side East), Staci Whiteman (South-side West) and last, but not least, Buzz Rasmussen (West-side South)

So next time when you open your Barker on a Saturday morning, take a little time to think about how it got there. And if you see any of these fine people, tell them thanks for all they do.

The Birch Barker

The deadline for submitting materials for any given Birch Barker is 3 pm on the Tuesday prior to publication.



That's soon-to-be Past Commodore Claudia Phipps soaring off into the sunset as she anticipates the freedom the Fall Dinner will bring. Thanks Claudia, job well done!

The printed Birch Barker is online ... to see any week, go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links to the "Latest Printed Birch Barker."

Birch Lake Totes

Birch Lake Totes are available for just \$5 each (special pricing for large orders). Call Bad Patty at 476-2615.

High speed Internet project

Advise neighbors and family to sign up on teamfiber.com.

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Birch Lake Notes



East side eclipse eyers John, Bill, Patty Luecht, Pat McGann and Linda Curtis, all wearing special eclipse-proof glasses, marveled at the solar eclipse last Monday.



Happy Birthday Cal!

Calvin S. King, grandson of Bill and Le and son of Bob and Les (North side) turns 24 at 4:05 pm on Sunday. Please join in the mass paddling.

Waggoner Family Reunion/Baby Shower



For 53 summers the Chet Waggoner family and friends, and friends of friends, have gathered at the family cottage called "Chaos" in the cove of Birch Lake. In August of this year we had a baby shower. It was a delight and of course had a nautical theme. Lindsay and Paul Johnson are expecting a little



boy in November. We were lucky enough to have three soon-to-be Great Grandparents, Ellen Waggoner Nyberg, John Nyberg and Frances Mamula. Also attending were a Great Aunt and Uncle, Martha Waggoner Norquist and Gordon Norquist. Family is everything and we sure our lucky! Bring on the summer of 2018 when we will welcome little Bodie Johnson.



—COMMUNITY CORNER—

Meet the board member

Hi, I'm **Vickie Rogers**. I was lucky to first come to Birch Lake when I was in high school, later renting cottages for five years, and finally in 1983 purchased a lot in the Cove. After 34 years, we are now in our second house on the lake, still loving the Cove.

My husband Tom and I live full-time with our dog Riley. We have three grandchildren from our daughter Angie, who now visit and have come to love the lake.

I have served on the board since 2006, and find it privilege to be a member. We are blessed to live in a community where we all strive to make Birch Lake the best it can be.



Vickie Rogers and Riley

— Water Quality Report —

E Coli - Still not an issue

For the past almost 10 years we have sampled the waters of our lake for the presence of E coli, a common intestinal bacteria present in all warm blooded animals. (The presence of E coli as part of the intestinal mixture of bacteria is by the way a good thing.) The initial sampling, 10 years ago, was conducted in response to some concerns after the installation of the sewer system. That initial sampling indicated no problem at any of the sampling stations. The only location to have an elevated E coli level was in the little stream that led into the lake on the northeast bay, but the E coli was proved to be non human and therefore not from the sewer, and was diluted to virtually undetectable levels immediately upon entry to the lake.

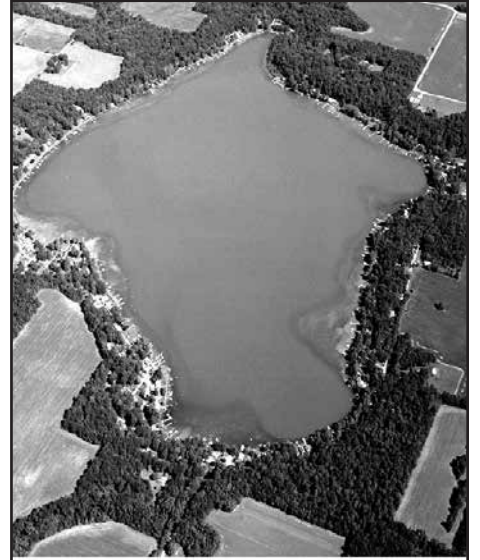
Even though we have not found levels of E coli from the lake to be other than minimally present, (way below DEQ determined safety levels) we have decided to continue testing as an annual event.

Sampling for E coli is common at most public beaches where there is high usage or reasons to believe there might be some contamination. The sources of contamination at these sites could be from nearby storm/sewage overflow

outlets or where there has been a high level of animal presence, i.e. large flocks of geese in particular.

The presence of E coli itself is not necessarily a problem leading to illness, but high levels of E coli are an indicator that there might be more troublesome pathogens (bad bacteria) present such as contaminants from unwashed greens that have been fertilized by manure, or improperly handled by food service workers.

This year we sampled 6 sites, 5 from the lake itself and 1 from within the above-mentioned inlet stream, and took triplicate samples from each site. These samples were processed and incubated with a nutrient media that will illustrate if E coli are present after at least 24 hours of incubation. We are happy to report that of the 15 samples taken from the lake itself a single colony grew from one sample. (Public beaches are typically not closed until a sample reaches a count of 300.) This is unusual since there is commonly some E Coli in the waters. Dogs, geese, ducks, small children (diapers etc), can be responsible for some random E coli that will show up. However, this year the lake is almost pristine, according to the sampling.



This was true even of the samples taken from the little inlet stream on the northeast part of the lake. Only a couple of colonies grew from these samples. Some of this may be due to lack of rain recently and thus runoff which might contribute to E coli levels, but nonetheless, this is continued very good news about the safety of our lake for swimming, wading and other water sport activities.

Enjoy Birch Lake!

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Finally! Enough wind to sail

Finally Mother Nature gave us enough wind to sail last week-end. Not great ... especially for the second race -- in fact the third race was canceled when the wind died to a puff and the sailors all got tired of bobbing in the boat wakes instead of sailing.

Once again thanks to Bad Patty Luecht for Committee Boat honors, and thanks to Rick Russwurm who did the "man up" thing and went along to help her, eschewing sailing for a week.

Way to go Rick!

Bad Patty is always looking for help on the Committee Boat ... if you have a Sunday morning free and can help out, give her (or Fleet Captain Mike) a call, text or email ... we promise you'll get a ringside seat for the races and you might even have a lot of fun!

Hope to see you all out there next week and then at the end-of-season Labor Day Regatta (days and times TBA). Until then,

"Splice the Main Brace!"

~Editor Phil

Standing in for *Fleet Captain Mike*



2017 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date	20-Aug	20-Aug	Total	Season	Races	%
Race	19	20	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
MC Scow/Sailor					18	
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	27505	1528	17	94.4%
Rick Harmon	DNS	DNS	2969	1485	2	11.1%
Jeff Smitley #2002	3	6	22079	1472	15	83.3%
Barb Cassady/Maggie Cassady #2506	2	2	26397	1467	18	100.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	5	4	22995	1353	17	94.4%
Phil Vitale #500	4	5	13418	1342	10	55.6%
Gib Eberhart #916	7	7	9094	1299	7	38.9%
Bill Luecht #1579	6	3	20693	1293	16	88.9%
Pat McGann #1735	DNS	DNS	15870	1221	12	66.7%
Bob King #1199	DNS	DNS	2381	1191	2	11.1%
Sandy Vitale	DNS	DNS	0		0	0.0%
Sunfish/Sailor					20	
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	CB	CB	31293	1565	20	100.0%
Peter Soldato	3	2	25279	1487	17	85.0%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	DNS	DNS	22601	1413	16	80.0%
Herb Cleveland	4	4	25333	1407	18	90.0%
Pat McGann	1	1	7033	1407	5	25.0%
Stewart Spratt	2	3	23737	1396	17	85.0%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	5403	1351	4	20.0%
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	13483	1226	10	50.0%
Camille Butler	5	5	20650	1215	17	85.0%
Greg Cowan	DNS	DNS	3468	1156	3	15.0%

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.

Select sailing rules

The following is derived from the generally accepted Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). Locally, these rules may be interpreted in many different ways, or, as is most often the case, disregarded altogether.

Definitions:

1. Mark: An object the sailing instructions require a boat to leave on a specified side, and a race committee boat surrounded by navigable water from which the starting or finishing line extends
2. Racing: A boat is racing from her preparatory signal until she finishes and clears the finishing line and marks, or retires, or until the race committee signals a general recall, postponement or abandonment.

SPORTSMANSHIP & THE RULES

Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected

to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire.

ON OPPOSITE TACKS

When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.

WHILE TACKING

After a boat passes head to wind, she shall keep clear of other boats until she is on a close-hauled course. During that time rules 10, 11 and 12 do not apply. If two boats are subject to this rule at the same time, the one on the other's port side or the one astern shall keep clear.

AVOIDING CONTACT

A boat shall avoid contact with another boat if reasonably possible.

However, a right-of-way boat or one entitled

to room or mark-room (a) need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear or giving room or mark-room, and (b) shall be exonerated if she breaks this rule and the contact does not cause damage or injury.

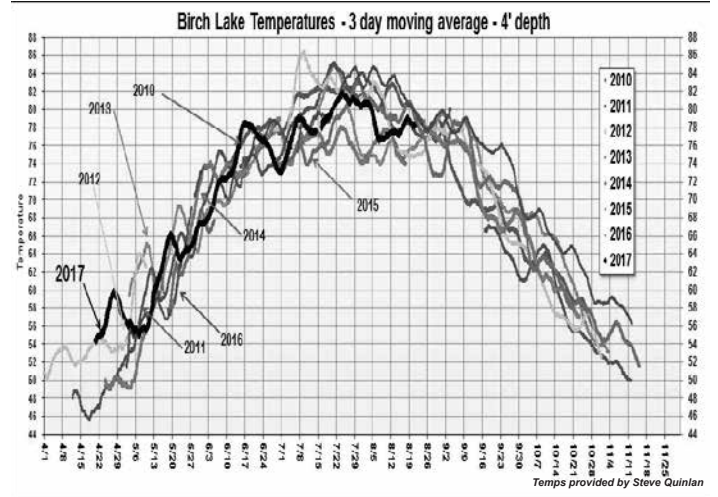
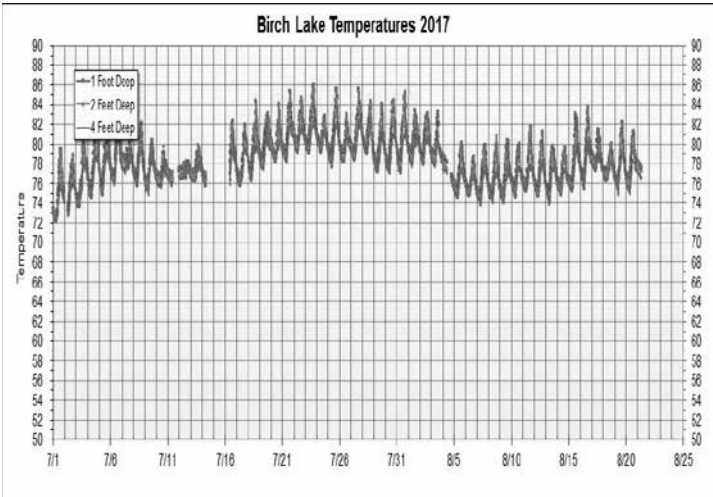
TOUCHING A MARK

While racing, a boat shall not touch a starting mark before starting, a mark that begins, bounds or ends the leg of the course on which she is sailing, or a finishing mark after finishing.

PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF AN INCIDENT

if the boat caused injury or serious damage or, despite taking a penalty, gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach her penalty shall be to retire.

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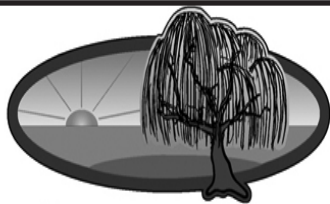
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Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake

"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!"

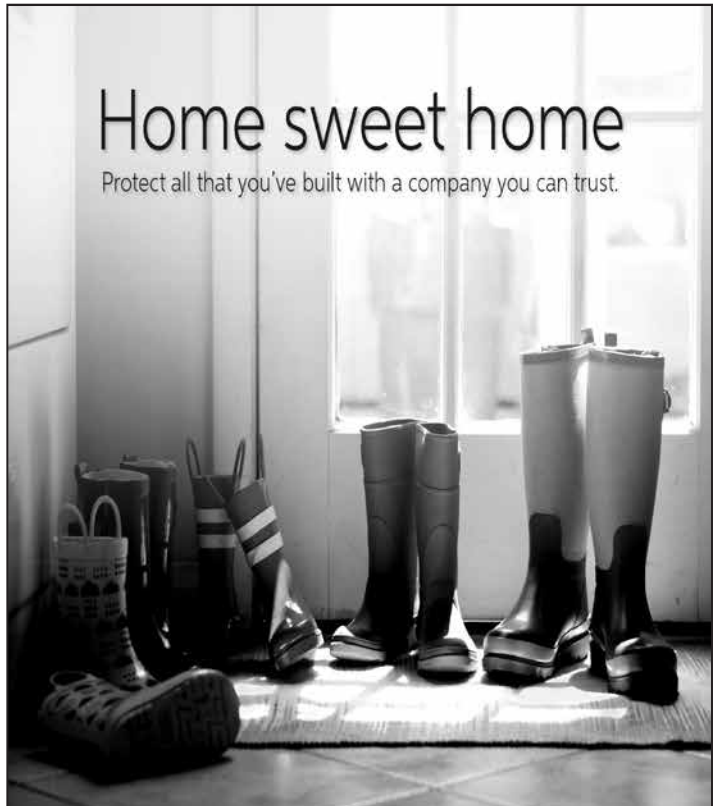
Tom Davidson -- Top qualities: Personable, Expert, High Integrity

"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



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Labor Day, 1967

From left: Tim Burchell, Pete Winiarski, Barry DeCoudres, Kim Price, Denny Bratcher and Steve King.



Another blast from the past ... that's Amanda Butler, Claire Brovold and Kelly Mae Niepokuj (Mike & Amy Lutz's niece) enjoying an ice cream cone a few years ago.

KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo 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 them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

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— Barker Kids of the Week —

It's a Lion Thing!

Aurora (aka Aurorable), granddaughter of Mike and Amy Lutz (north side) enjoying her first Detroit Lions game with dad, especially with the official Lions' Jersey Gramma gave her.



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



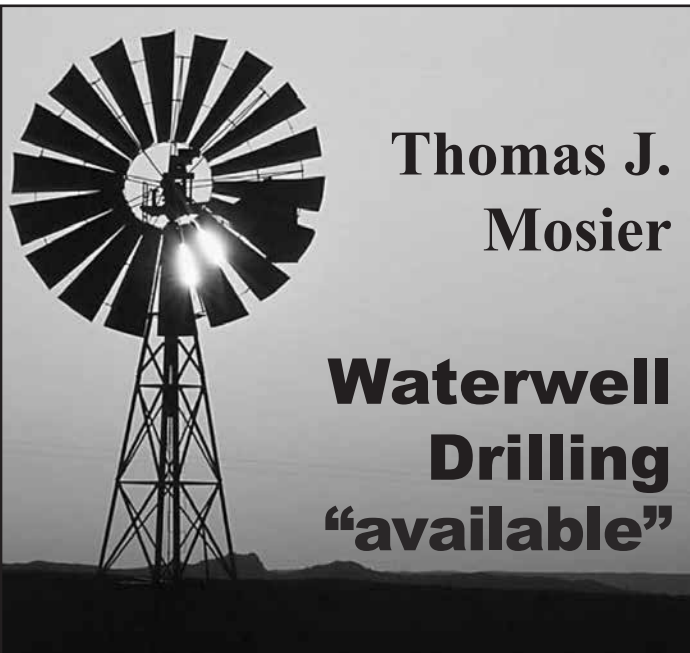
This is Mason Dombrowski, grandson of Bob and Sandy Baucus, East side. Parents are Ashlee and Kyle. Mason is 16 months old :) He loves the water!



Grumpy old man Bill Luecht (east side) proudly made a grumpy face as he posed for a photo in the shirt his daughter Katie Hass gave him for Father's Day.



First Birch Laker to land on the moon! John Luecht recently completed a successful flight to the moon. He said it is definitely NOT made of green cheese. It is large-holed swiss! The rumor that John's appetite was somehow responsible for last week's solar eclipse has been widely dismissed as "fake news" from unreliable sources.



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— Barker Special Feature —

A Sunny blast from the past

Birch Lakers, who remembers Sunny Waters and her amazing 'News from the Cove' column? Well, thanks to Sunny's BS (Beloved Spouse), we've received a number of her old columns and will reprint them here as space allows. This week's contribution is from June 16, 2001

News From The Cove

"Where the elegant intelligent reside"

By Sunny Waters
Local Mensa Chapter
President

It's been the usual frenzy around these parts. Vicki Rogers is under sedation, having chipped a fingernail. Vivian Kolber is in the throes of organizing her canned goods in alphabetical order, and Bill Lyzen has completed a crossword puzzle in Latin and can't stop muttering, "In vino veritas."

Obviously we are in desperate need of gossip, scandal and accounts of outrageous behavior. We can rely on Loretta Drolet only so long.

Misbehavers, please call me.

The Blackwoods are hosting some unusual house guests. Making a home in an outdoor hanging basket of ferns is a mama robin and her five unhatched fledglings. She must have discerned that the lady who lived within hatched five herself and

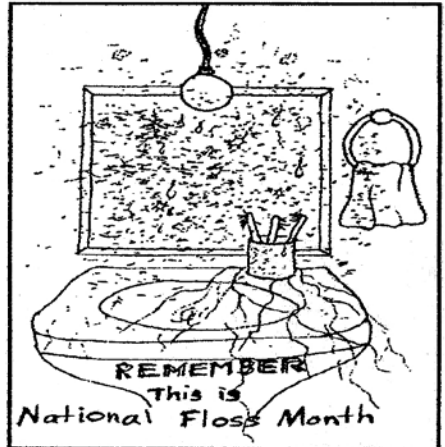
would provide a safe haven.

Jim Blue, you've done it again. I read the moving tribute to Jack Asire with accumulating eye moisture. Jack, who is my cousin by marriage, is hospitalized with health problems which make living at home impossible. Like you, Jim, I have wonderful memories of this gentle man who was never without a smile. Thank you for those tender words. I am sending the Barker on to him. It's sure to bring on his expressive smile.

Nice Person(s) of the Week Award:

Beth Blackwood, Ilene Golden and the Bouwkamp brothers, Scott and Spenser. These earthbound angels came to the aid of the Minix-Bergan family during Roberta Minix's hospitalization in Chicago. Hopefully, by this reading, our Roberta will have returned home.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, B.S.



June 16 is the Viola Gopher Count in Viola, Minnesota, a celebration of catching pesky gophers and family reunions. The Blackwoods and Loretta Drolet are native Minnesotans. Kind of makes you wonder, doesn't it?

Remember; Tempus Fugit, so get out there and Carpe Diem. (Been hanging out with Bill Lyzen too much).

She who informs and enlightens,

— Sunny



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STU'S STAR STUFF



2017 Solar Eclipse - one last time

Wasn't that great? I was able to watch a good portion of it. Very cool. Some describe it as a spiritual experience.

Throughout human history, solar eclipses have been seen as having great religious significance, often as omens or signs of divine warning or punishment.

Major and minor religions alike have their own (mis)understandings. Ancient tribes covered, fled, retreated, shied away, recoiled, flinched, hid, quailed, trembled, wilted, blanched, and wet themselves at the sight of the sun being devoured by the moon.

Many (un)civilizations indeed performed horrific acts of human sacrifice, praying in vain to fend off an event that would likely (and certainly unknowingly) not be repeated in their lifetimes. More horribly, as science began to progress, many with advance knowledge of celestial events took shameful (not nearly a strong enough word) advantage of hordes of peoples, who had no way of understanding the laws of physics or the universe in which they lived, by threatening, terrifying and lying to them in the most immoral ways.

It was thought that the sudden disappearance of the Sun was one of those mysteries that only the gods could explain. Science eventually, as always, provided the answers.

Imagine you're a Plains Indian on a perfect summer day, hunting buffalo under a cloudless prairie sky. Suddenly, for no reason, the sun begins to go dark.

You go through a twilight like you've never seen. You see shadows like you've never seen. You see colors like you've never seen. And then you see what looks like a hole in the sky.

You're terrified. In some pre-mod-



That's a photo taken of the image of the eclipse revealed by reversing a pair of binoculars. Thanks to Bill Luecht (east shore) for holding the binocs.

ern societies, the sun was itself seen as a living thing. During a solar eclipse, some people figured the sun was being eaten and needed to be alerted to the danger it faced.

People would be banging pans and making noise and pinching their dogs to make them howl at the eclipse. And an anthropologist might have asked them about this and said, you know, are you chasing away the demons with your noise? And one responding said, no, we're not chasing away the demons. We're trying to get the sun's attention.

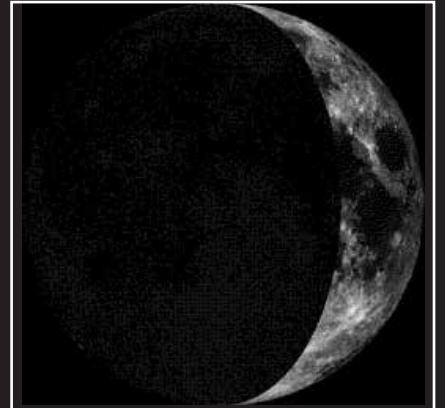
Those who believed in one God, like the Jews, didn't see the sun as a cosmic player, but a solar eclipse scared them as well. They turned to their rabbis for guidance.

In Judaism, human actions have consequences. And so when the rabbis in the Talmud experienced the darkness of a solar eclipse, they thought it was a curse and asked what could have led to this frightening event.

Some seemingly random explanations appear in the Talmud, among them that an eclipse could follow from a chief rabbi not being properly eulogized at his death. Once it became clear an eclipse could be predicted, of course it became

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.302
2.1 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 07:04:31 AM

Sunset: 20:28:24 PM

Moonrise: 12:08:08 PM

Moonset: 23:22:48 PM

Daylight: 13 Hr 23 Min 53 Sec

harder to see it as a divine response to some human conduct. Go figure.

And yet the notion that an eclipse is a sign from God persists in many religious circles even today.

As for an eclipse being a spiritual experience, well, it's just nature folks. But if it's more than that, then perhaps hurricane Katrina was a spiritual experience? Or maybe if a tornado tore the roof off your house? But maybe if you pray enough that will never happen. And those with cancer will be cured and thousands of children will no longer starve to death every day.

I'm almost done. Really, I am. Look up, see nature and enjoy the show.

~Stu Spratt

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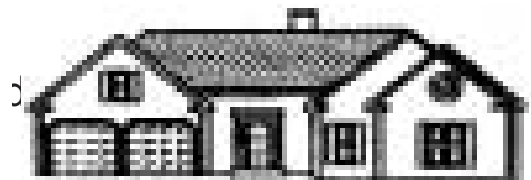
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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - In the next four weeks, you will set high standards for yourself. You will decide to become a better person - starting with your health. Past behavior and issues from the past will be on your plate again. Keep on with your effort to turn over a new leaf.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Your involvement with the entertainment world and the hospitality industry will be positive whether or not you work in these areas or you are just a paying customer. During this window of time, it's important to feel free to just be yourself. Many of you will deal with old flames from your past. Meanwhile, home and redecorating projects will hold your attention and keep you busy.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - Although the Solar Eclipse might trigger more short trips and lots of communicating with others, the next four weeks will usher in a strong focus on home, family and your private life. For starters, this will attract relatives you haven't seen for a while back into your life.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Without question, the pace of your days will definitely accelerate in the next four weeks. Suddenly, you have things to do, places to go and people to see! Expect to take more short trips than usual and also to be reading, writing and studying more than usual as well. Interactions with siblings and relatives will be important. However - beware! There will be transportation delays, car problems, missed appointments and silly, goofy mistakes in your communications with others.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - In the next four weeks, your mind turns to money. Actually you will wrap up old deals about wheeling and dealing with financial matters that were already in the works. You might be able to pay off bills or do something with money that actually relates to your past.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - This week the Sun will give you a chance to rejuvenate and restore yourself for the coming year. It will also attract favorable situations to you along with important people. You will misplace things. You might miss an appointment. And most definitely - you will run into people from your past, quite likely ex-partners and close friends.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - It's always this time of year when it serves you best to keep a low profile. This means you want to hide, or work alone or behind the scenes. Fear not, a friend could become a lover. Furthermore, physical activity, possibly competitive, will keep you active! Many of you are already dreaming moneymaking ideas. Oh yes - there is money in your future.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - You now enter a four-week window where your popularity will soar! Suddenly, everyone wants to sit at your table and be on your team. Use this to your advantage! It's an excellent time to work with others to benefit in any way that you can. Friends from the past will be back in your life and you can learn something from this experience. While all this socializing is going on, keep an eye on bosses and VIPs because they are watching you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - This week bosses, parents and VIPs see you in very attractive terms. They admire you even if you don't do anything different or anything special. Obviously, you can use this to your credit! This is the time to make your pitch or your proposal. Ask for what you want.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - You want to see more of the world and you want to do anything that will expand your horizons and your experience of life. For those of you who cannot travel, you will be just as thrilled with a chance to study and learn something new. Meanwhile, your sex drive is amped and your intimate relations are tender, affectionate, wild and wanton!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - The next four weeks will be a very intense time for you. This could be due to a physical passion in a relationship. But it also might be an intensity that involves business deals, financial matters or disputes about shared property. These disputes might even be about a basic difference in values. There's a good chance that what arises is an old story.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - It's important to know that in the next four weeks, you need more rest because you will be more tired than usual. It might also be a bit of a strain from encountering ex-partners and old friends. The strain of course, depends upon the way those relationships ended. The good news is that your work will definitely bring positive results; and possibly more money or a raise.

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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

In my defense, I was left unsupervised.



A balanced diet is a taco in each hand.



Life is short. Smile while you still have teeth.

DON'T WORRY, SOME PEOPLE ARE THEIR OWN PUNISHMENT IN LIFE



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Couple of summer side dishes

HOMEMADE MAC AND CHEESE

I made this for my brother in law this past weekend. I'm now his new favorite.

INGREDIENTS

- 8 ounces uncooked elbow macaroni
- 3 cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 cups milk
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 1/2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 1 pinch paprika
- Add all ingredients to list

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cook macaroni according to the package directions. Drain.
2. In a saucepan, melt butter or margarine over medium heat. Stir in enough flour to make a roux. Add milk to roux slowly, stirring constantly. Stir in cheeses, and cook over low heat until cheese is melted and the sauce is a little thick. Put macaroni in large casserole dish, and pour sauce over macaroni. Stir well.
3. Melt butter or margarine in a skillet over medium heat. Add breadcrumbs and brown. Spread over the macaroni and cheese to cover. Sprinkle with a little paprika.
4. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 30 minutes. Serve.

PARMESAN GARLIC CABBAGE

A quick side dish made using cabbage, this is so tasty I can have it plain as a meal! Sometimes I make a well and add an egg then pile it onto toasted bread.

Serves: 4

INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/2 tbsp olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 red onion, finely sliced



- 7 handfuls shredded green cabbage
- 1/2 - 3/4 shredded parmesan
- Salt and pepper

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat oil in a large skillet over high heat.
2. Add garlic and onion - cook for 2 minutes until onion is translucent.
3. Add cabbage and cook until wilted.
4. Stir through parmesan, season to taste with salt and pepper. Serve!

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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Still a lot going on at Camp T

It's amazing how fast this summer went by. And hard to believe that this was my 12th summer as camp director at Tannadoonah. We've come a long way from that first summer, when we served a total of 351 campers for the entire year. This year we nearly tripled that, with 960 total campers.

We had a wonderful summer staff, and many tears were shed at our staff party last week. We had 16 countries represented this summer by our campers and staff. Staff members came to camp from as far away as China, and campers from as far away as Singapore and Myanmar.

Usually, Michelle and I would take the week off following camp. However, this year, we are launching a brand new program, starting today (Tuesday, August 22)! We will be running the extended day program at Good Shepherd Montessori School in South Bend. This new program will run every school day after school from 3 to 5:30.

We have been working for the past two years to get an afterschool

program started, so we're very excited to finally have something in the works. There are quite a few camp families whose kids go to Good Shepherd, so we're also happy to have some familiar faces. Michelle is the director of school year programs, in addition to her role as assistant director at camp. So she will be taking the lead on running this new program.

We are also starting to plan for the 2018 camp season already. We hope to have registration up and running by September 1! Last year, in the month of September, we had nearly 200 campers registered for camp. We have some fun new ideas that we're tossing around for new specialty programs at camp next year.

In addition to the new after school program we are starting, we will also be taking on another new venture for Camp Fire. A few months back, Camp Fire National put out a request for proposals for a council to take over running the online Camp Fire store. We put in a proposal, without really expecting to be selected. To my surprise, a couple weeks ago we received

a call letting us know that our council was chosen to take this on! So starting in the spring, we will be running the online Camp Fire store. Michelle and I will be flying to Kansas City in a couple weeks to look over all the inventory.

And the other exciting thing happening at Camp Fire this fall is that we will soon be breaking ground on another new building at camp! This one will be called the welcome center, and it will serve as our year-round office space, a place for our board and committees to hold meetings, and a place for campers and parents to check in and out at camp. We've been looking forward to getting this project started for a couple years now, and it's really exciting to be moving forward! As our programs expand, and our staff grows, having a professional, year-round office space at camp is going to be really important.

So even though camp is over for the year, we've still got a lot going on up here at Camp T!

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FOUND

FOUND: One white "San Marin" **inflatable buoy**, Item Number "NB60,"

approximately 20" diameter, on 2/17/17. Call 476-1467.

FOUND: **Black "Kitchen Aid" grill cover.** Please call Jeff & Denise Smitley at 269.476.9000.

Found: **Golf club head cover** at men's golf outing. Contact Chas at 574-315-0217

LOST

Lost **Canoe Paddle**, black and gray. If found please call 269-476-7062

Camp T is missing several kayak and stand up paddleboarding paddles

Lost: **Yamaha Waverunner key fob.** If found please contact: Bill Magro @ 937-657-8988



Lost: **Four ducks, one large, three small.** If found please roast with orange sauce and call me in time for dinner.



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