

BIRCH *Barker*

vol. 77 issue 4

Weekend of
JUNE 14
2025

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com



Mason Talos, A.J. Bishop, and Jake Bishop (grandchildren of Alan VanHuffel, south side) sporting fun hats at the Commodore / Vice Commodore Party last weekend.

2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

June

14 - Trivia Night
18 - Card Night
21 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

July

5 - Boat Parade, 3pm
5 - Fireworks, 10pm
6 - Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11am
16 - Card Night
18 - Ladies' Golf Outing, 9am
19 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am
25 - Men's Golf Outing, noon

August

2 - Corn and Sausage Roast
16 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am
20 - Card Night

September

20 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

October

25 - Bad Patty Crockpot
Challenge, 6pm

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COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello to all Birch Lake lovers! The Commodore/ Vice Commodore party had a great turnout! There were lots of tasty food contributions!

It was fun seeing so many awesome hats! I loved the variety! Mark Van Huffel and his nephews were hilarious! Although it wasn't previously announced, there was going to be a prize for the best hat award! It was a tough decision with so many great hats! Linda Witchie was a real stand out in her lobster claw headpiece! Congrats to Linda!

She won a gift card to Meijer! Instead of keeping it for herself, Linda chose to give it back to support the BLYC! Wow, that is so special!

The generosity and kindness of others continued. Special thanks to Kevin and Cindy Bernaciak for giving their time to run the 50-50 raffle and sell floating Birch Lake key chains to support the water quality fund. The winner of the 50-50 raffle was Ed Chester! Congrats Ed! That money flew out of his hands and got donated right back to the water quality fund! The total amount raised for the water quality fund was \$290! That is fantastic! Thank you Ed and Linda for your generosity! You are the queen and king of giving back!

I want to give special thanks to the people that helped get the party started! Thanks to

Steve Frew, our Vice Commodore, for shopping for some needed items! He did a great job of cleaning up the outside and helping set up and decorate the inside. He also helped distribute name tags and greet everyone with of his wife, Jackie! Thank you Jackie!

I also want to thank my husband, Kelton and my son, Johnny for helping set up and decorate the BLYC! Big thanks to Phil and Sandy for being our much appreciated bar bartenders! Thank you Cam, for helping straighten things up at the end!

Tables and chairs were kept up for the Trivia Night happening this Saturday! Everyone is welcome. See the details in the Birch Barker. Thanks to Blair Garceau and Sue Williams for organizing this fun event!

Linda W itchie contributed a fascinating story about her Birch Lake family history that dates back 5 generations! Thank you, Linda for sharing your very interesting story and collection of photos. It allows us to try to go back in time and imagine what it was like to live at Birch Lake in the past. I am once again looking forward to the next history contribution!

We have had some very enjoyable weather! We all welcome the sunshine! The warm weather brings family and friends together! We will be enjoying a large family gathering this weekend! Wishing everyone a great week ahead!

We come from many different places, but we are on the same boat, we love Birch Lake.

~Commodore Julie



The 2025 Birch Barker is
generously sponsored by Culver's.
See ad on page 2.

The Barker will consider ads, photos, and editorial content for publication.

Email items to birchbarker1@gmail.com.

For editorial concerns, contact editor Amber Grundy at birchbarker1@gmail.com or 574-315-0227.

For delivery concerns, contact Ron Niezgodski at birchbass1@gmail.com or 269-476-9317.

For all other BLYC matters, contact Commodore Julie Dickey at jdjuls@aol.com or 574-220-9132.

DEADLINE for submissions is always **NOON** on the Tuesday of the week before publication.

BIRCH LAKE NOTES

The Birch Lake Floating Keychains that were available at the Commodore / Vice Commodore party are still available for purchase for \$5.00 each. 100% of proceeds go to the Water Quality Fund. Text or call **Jennifer Ball** at 574-535-3733 or **Cindy Bernaciak** at 773-401-9191 to get yours. Makes a great gift for Father's Day!



THANK YOU to all of our 2025 Barker advertisers! Please check them all out on the BLYC website and support our advertisers.



The Printed Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all of the homes on Birch Lake each week, and is available online at

birchlakeyachtclub.com

The submission deadline is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication. Contributions can be emailed to birchbarker1@gmail.com.

Advertising rates are posted at birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise. To buy an ad or for more info, contact Amber at birchbarker1@gmail.com or 574-315-0227.



Grab your friends/neighbors/family and come to Trivia Night at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Previous Trivia Nights have been very popular - so don't miss out on the fun! You can either form your own team or just come individually and we'll get you on a team. Teams can be anywhere from one to eight people.

WHEN: Saturday, June 14th
Doors open at 6:30
Trivia begins PROMPTLY at 7pm

WHERE: Birch Lake Yacht Club

BRING: Your own drinks, a dish to share (either an appetizer or dessert), paper and pen, and your wallet (for 50/50 raffle and to buy mulligans - good for free answers!)

QUESTIONS? contact
Blair Garceau (269-475-9862) or
Sue Williams (269-298-2839)
Hope to see you there!

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2025 is \$16,000

Contribute now at

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Yacht Club Building Use

For information on the rules and requirements, or to make arrangements to use the Birch Lake Yacht Club building for a non-BLYC event, call or text Sandy Vitale at 269-858-8184, or email sv6102@gmail.com.



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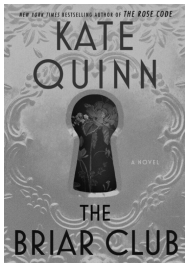
ODDS AND ENDS

Ladies Weekly Golf

We usually tee off Monday mornings and follow up with lunch after the nine-hole “adventure.” We don’t keep track of scores and welcome all levels of players. The only judgment and competition is with yourself. If you have questions or are interested in golf or just lunch, contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862).

Book Club

Our first meeting will be June 24th, discussing *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn. Any questions, or if you’d like to join in the fun, contact Jackie Frew: seeitall8@gmail.com or call/text 708-285-2999.



HAPPY READING!

Boat Parade

The Boat parade will be held on Saturday July 5th and boats that are participating should gather at the Waxman pier at 2:45pm for a 3pm start. This year’s theme is “Favorite TV Show.” When you arrive at the Waxman pier, the 3 judges will ask for your family name(s), TV Show theme and will give you a number so you can line up behind the Grand Marshal’s boat for the lap around Birch Lake. Will you choose McHale’s Navy as your boat theme or a slightly more recent (not really) show like JAG? Of course, JAG was more of a courtroom show than a Navy boat show. Go forth and create! See you on the 5th!

“Newsies”

This week’s Barker delivery spotlight is Sue Williams who lives on the South Side with husband Pat. Her route is the west part of the south side as delivery Boss Ron divided the south side route into west and east sections. Sue has been on Birch Lake since 1988 and has lived here full time since 2007. Sue’s favorite part of the Barker is the Commodore’s Comments, and you can look in the Barker Archives online to see Sue’s comments in 2016 when she was the Yacht Club Commodore. Thank you delivery girl Sue!



Boat Parade Grand Marshall

In our Grand Marshal countdown, we made it up through 2005 last week with Herm and Bev Kruggel. Going forward, there was then Mike and Katha Machalleck in 2006, Bob and Gert Temple in 2007, James and Eleanor Thayer in 2008, Harold and Donna Cranmer in 2009, Don and Lind Harman in 2010, Dave and Judy Olson in 2011 and Bill and Le King in 2012. My mother Jane Zabel Waxman grew up with Jim Thayer in Niles and came to Camp Tannadoonah and Camp Eberhart in the summers. And note from last week’s list, we honored John and Arline Machalleck in 2001, and then son Mike and wife Katha Machalleck in 2006. Also, Bill and Le King were repeat Grand Marshals as they led the parades in 2003 and then again in 2012. Next week we list Grand Marshals from 2013 to 2018.

Ladies’ Golf Outing

The 2025 Ladies’ Golf Outing will take place on July 18 at 9am. A luncheon will follow the golf outing. More details and registration coming soon!

Slow Down Signs

“Slow Down” signs are available for lake home owners. Contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862) if you need a sign for your yard. Courtesy of the BL Home Owners Association.



Yacht Club Dues

Hey Lakers! Have you contributed to the Yacht Club yet this year? If not, why not? Our annual dues are a pittance so, it can’t be that. BLYC does way more than host parties [insert the long list, starting with protecting water quality, etc., etc.] so, it can’t be that. Your weekly Birch Barker is an ongoing expense and ... delivered by a great crew of volunteers. Pry those purses open and support our Club!

~Chrys A. Lis

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WATER QUALITY REPORT: EURASIAN MILFOIL

Eurasian watermilfoil has been a problematic invasive weed in Michigan lakes for decades. Eurasian Milfoil is an aggressive, tall-growing, exotic aquatic plant from Europe and Asia. Once introduced, it can grow to the surface in up to 10 to 15 feet of water. At the surface, it forms a dense canopy of vegetation, reducing in abundance many native plants. 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 also conflicts with many recreational activities. 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.

On Friday, May 29th, Progressive AE surveyed Birch Lake for invasive species of aquatic vegetation. Progressive AE surveys the entire lake every year and has been doing so since 2007. This year, two sites were identified as having invasive species. One of the sites is at the north end of the east shore, where Eurasian Milfoil and Curley Leaf Pond Weed were identified. Curly Leaf Pond Weed is not a concern because when the water temperature rises into the 70’s it will die.

On the other hand, the Milfoil will need to be treated. The other site is in the cove, where it was also identified last year. We were unable to treat last year due to not acquiring a timely permit, but we are good to go this year. Professional Lake Management is scheduled to treat the two sites and treatment should be completed by the time you read this. Last year we treated 1 acre. This year we will treat a total of 1½ acres. There is also an area on the north side that we are monitoring.

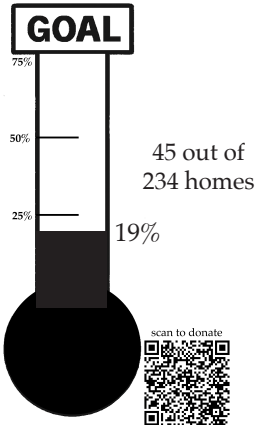
After the treatment has had time to take effect, Progressive AE will return for a second survey to inspect the sites. Again, at that time they will survey the entire lake for any invasive species. Depending on their findings, we may need a second treatment.

This annual program is important to keep Eurasian 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 many other lakes are currently experiencing.

THE SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY

- I. Thou shalt prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- II. Thou shalt minimize surface runoff.
- III. Thou shalt minimize the effects of waves.
- IV. Thou shalt protect and expand Natural Shorelines.
- V. Thou shalt not allow phosphorus, nutrients, and other undesirable chemical elements to enter our lake.
- VI. Thou shalt remain informed and active about other Water Quality issues.

**Birch Lake Yacht Club
WATER QUALITY FUND**
Our goal for 2025 is to have 75% of homes on the lake contribute.
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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

NO WIND, NO SAILING

The wind was not favorable enough for us to sail this past weekend. Assistant/Vice Fleet Captain Stu Spratt had to postpone the races for another weekend. In other news, Tom and Megan Caplis have graciously volunteered to host the Kids Regatta this year. This is a wonderful event where the sailors take the kids out on their sailboats to let them experience sailing. It's also a great event for kids to meet new kids around the lake and make new friends. The date is to be determined, so keep posted. Due to no sailing this week, I thought I would include some sailing art from past Birch Barkers for everyone to enjoy. All the art here is from the 1960's.

~FC Bob Niezgodski
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BIRCH LAKE SAILING

The wind didn't cooperate last weekend, so no new sailing results and standings to report. Instead we have some "sailing stuff" submitted by Bob King (north shore). Thanks, Bob!

When I was a kid, my Dad (Bill King ~ RIP) was a homespun entrepreneur (before the term existed). He was plenty busy running the family manufacturing business, but had a couple "side-hustles" too, including marine supply? I'm quite certain that side job was just to obtain manufacturer discounts for his partner (who lived on Diamond Lake), and everyone here at Birch.

Eventually, they represented (were granted territory by manufacturers) SmokerCraft boats, Evinrude engines (and boats), Cypress Garden skis and ... about everything else in the West Marine Catalog. My favorite holding was when they became a Sunfish dealer. AMF AlCort (a combination of the founders' names, Alex Bryan and Cortlandt Heyniger) began producing daysailor dinghies in 1945. By 1960 they switched from a plywood kit boat to the modern plastic version in fiberglass.

Over time, we sold hundreds of boats into the surrounding lakes and shazam, fleets were born! In 2000, we drove around the lake by car and counted hulls then ... added that tally to those viewed from the water. There

were 60(!) boats on Birch. Strangely, half are moved to launch position but don't come out on Sundays? Why? Please join our fleet! Is your boat in need of help? We can fix anything. Need a sail? Those are available too. Contact Fleet Cap'n Bob (rjniezgodski@gmail.com) and we will get you out there!

A tangent: there is a boat for sale (see classified) by Tammy Hanstine. This was Tom Howard's race boat. Tom was a seriously accomplished sailor and that boat is worth buying. If you acquire it and don't want the extras, I'll happily pass them on to the next guy. Is your boat a nasty moldy shade of green? It looks nearly new with a bucket of lake water and a 3M -or- Scotchbrite scuff pad (note: sand in-line).

Please join our fleet on Sunday. Are you reluctant not having paid the sailing fee? No worries, we have a fund for that. Do you need help rigging? We do that. Are you anxious not wanting to get in the way? You won't and ... can just follow one of the several accomplished Sunfish sailors from Birch.

~See you in the start box, Bob King, MC1199 / Sunfish 21351

August 9, 1969 Barker Advertisement for a Water Ski Club Ski Show on Birch Lake.

SUN FISH SAIL FISH
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See Bill King, # 253 or
PHONE 476-2128

August 1969 Barker Advertisement, King Marine Sales.

Birch Lake is lousy with kids. It's a shame if they don't get a chance to meet, develop friendships. Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club can gather the young to ... do just about anything. In days of old we had a Junior Club, run by kids, for kids (with some minor adult supervision). Let's make sure at least some of the kids of kids have BLYC memories, have ownership. They are the future.

BIRCH LAKE WATER SKI CLUB PRESENTS THEIR FIRST WATER SKI SHOW TO BE HELD ON THE 16TH DAY OF AUGUST. ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE LAKE AT 4:00 pm INDIANA TIME. THEY WILL SKI IN A MARKED OFF AREA BETWEEN ASIRES AND COWENS COTTAGES. PLEASE KEEP CLEAR OF THIS AREA. WE INVITE YOU TO COME AND WATCH WATER SKIING AT ITS BEST.

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Friday, July 25: *Memphis Underground*
Friday, August 22: *Whistle Pigs*

The COA's Summer Concert Series is back by popular demand. Join us at the COA Lowe Center's Pavilion for some great music and an opportunity to purchase food from our food truck vendors. Bring a chair or blanket enjoy three FREE outdoor concerts!

Food is available from 5:30-7:30pm
Concerts begin at 7:00pm

more info -->





CAMP T CORNER

We just finished up Session 1 at Camp T, and it was an amazing week! Campers enjoyed the temperate weather this week, and had lots of fun making s'mores, new friends, and memories. You may have heard evidence of the start of the camp season yourself; the speakers are up and running for reveille, flag, and taps! We are happy to be getting back into the swing of things. It feels so great for all of us here to be able to finally do what we've been preparing for all year: spend time with campers and give them an unforgettable experience! The feeling around camp during our sessions is unlike anything else.

We had our first all-camp campfire of the summer on Tuesday this week, delayed from Sunday due to the rain and from Monday due to cabin night. We gathered at the waterfront to sing songs together after a fun night of *Go For the Gold*. If you heard us, I hope you enjoyed and were able to pick out a few songs you recognized!

This was also the first week that we've been able to offer transportation for day campers in many years. Thanks to a grant from the State of Michigan, we are able to provide pickup and dropoff locations in Edwardsburg and Cassopolis for up to 13 day campers. This week was a little different because Cassopolis Schools got out for the summer Tuesday, and Edwardsburg Schools on Wednesday.

Looking forward to this coming week, Session 2, we have a few specialty activities we are excited to be offering! This week we have Advanced Fishing, STEM, and Soccer. As a previous middle school science and biology teacher, I am always looking forward to the weeks that we offer STEM! It should be a great week of critical thinking and creative problem solving. You may see our advanced fishers out on the lake with their fishing rods, or trying out different types of rods to expand their skills and see what they can catch. As for soccer, I know we have multiple staff members who will be very excited to get the chance to teach the campers their skills! It is always a hit with the campers and staff.

Before each summer starts, there are many things we must do to make sure we are ready for campers. One of those things includes testing each of our three wells. We here at Camp T want to send a big thank you to Tom Mosier and his team, who donate their time and labor to help us get this done! We hit some snags with our wells while opening this season, and they have been instrumental in making sure we have functioning and safe wells and water for everyone. We could not get the summer started without you! Thank you to Mosier Well Drilling for always being quick to respond and generous with their time.

If you follow us on any of our social media sites, or if you have a camper



coming this summer, you will surely be seeing some photos from us. This is all thanks to our wonderful photographer, Miss Mia! Miss Mia has been coming to camp for 15 years as a camper and staff member, and she is so happy to be back as the photographer. When she was a camper, Miss Mia used to attend the entire summer with her sisters, so she is full of Camp T spirit. Miss Mia's family has a home on the south side (the Como Family), and she has spent many wonderful summers at Birch Lake.

We here at Camp T can't wait for another fantastic week of camp now. See you around the lake!

-Miss Meghan at Camp T



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BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: CAMP T PROPERTY

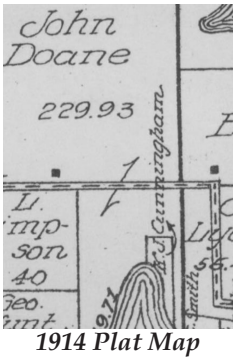
Editor's Note: This season in the Barker, we plan to feature different properties on the lake each week, with historical information about the families who have lived there, photos, and stories. If you would like to submit content about your home at the lake, we will gladly accept new submissions! Please send to birchbarker1@gmail.com

We're taking a look at the history of the Camp T property on the north shore this week. The South Bend Camp Fire girls acquired the first piece of property in 1930, but there were a number of families who preceded Camp on the hill overlooking Birch Lake. According to an 1897 Porter Township Plat map, the entire cove was owned by John J. Doane, and the entire north shore by E. C. Doane at that time. In the early 1900s, the cove area was referred to as "Doane's Cove," and many families camped there each summer.



1904, Doane Family at Birch Lake. From the Cass County Archives.

In 1903, John Doane sold a parcel of his property to Wm. T. Jefferson of Chicago, for the price of \$200. Only three years after building his home at Birch Lake, Mr. Jefferson was offering it for sale because he had "to go east." The home was purchased by Dr. Ersom Mills Cunningham and his wife, Katherine Josephine Cunningham. On the 1914 plat map, the property is listed in the name of K. J. Cunningham. The land comprised the entire shoreline that now belongs to camp, and appears to have extended to about the northernmost point of the cove.



May 17, 1905 advertisement in the Niles Daily Star

Country Home Sacrifice

The Chicago owner of the prettiest country home in Southern Michigan, has to go east—and wants an offer—cash, trade or time. The property comprises six acres superb woodland and a stone-foundation cottage of 7 rooms, with barn, cellar, etc. The house is located on a bluff seventy feet above the shore of Birch Lake—the clearest and deepest lake in Cass County, Michigan. No mosquitos and a constant breeze. The owner built economically and well—stone fire place—screened in verandas—probably invested about \$3,000 altogether, land included.

Telephone connection. Proposed electric line will run within walking distance. Four miles drive from Vandalia—the next station to Cassopolis on the Michigan Central Air Line.

House is hardly two years old and is completed and artistically furnished—dishes, beds, stove, etc.

Birch Lake is within 5 miles of over 20 lakes—well known to fishermen—and is a beautiful body of water—said to contain nearly as much water as Diamond Lake—though much smaller in area.

The owner wants an offer now—or perhaps he might rent. I believe if the property were bought before the electric line got here, he would sell for less than the material and land cost.

Call at my store and i'll drive you out to the property—or write me.

LESLIE GREEN

::

Vandalia, Michigan

Dr. Cunningham was a medical doctor who served the Cassopolis and Vandalia area. The Cunninghams had seven children: six daughters and one son. They called their home at Birch Lake "KathMarDo Lodge," for their oldest three children: Katherine, Margaret, and Dorothy. Their home is what is now known as "Main Lodge" at camp. Several of the children were born in the house at Birch Lake, including their daughter Mary Cunningham Deitle, who was born in August of 1912. Mary visited camp with her daughter Ann in 2010 when we were celebrating the 100th anniversary of Camp Fire. She told us stories of her childhood at KathMarDo Lodge. Her daughter Ann Deitle worked at Camp T in the 1960s!

In 1919, Katherine Cunningham sold the land at Birch Lake to an attorney from Niles, Wilber N. Burns. The Burns family, along with the Schmidts, Smiths, and Thayers occupied most of the north shore at this time. In the early 1920s, it appears that the Boy Scouts utilized the Burns property for a number of camping trips, and at one point were considering purchasing the property from the Burns family.

BOY SCOUTS TO BIRCH LAKE

Niles Boy Scouts will start Tuesday morning on a three day camping party at the cottage of Atty. W. N. Burns at Birch lake. The scouts will leave Niles at 6:20 Tuesday morning, assembling at the Michigan Central station to take the air line train to Newberg and hiking from there to Birch lake. Each scout must take two warm blankets and food for eight meals. Car fare for the round trip will be \$1.80. Every scout in Niles should go and enjoy an outing at one of the finest lakes of this section. Reginald Smith will be acting scout-master.

March 28, 1921, Niles Daily Star

The South Bend Camp Fire girls had been operating their annual summer camp program, originally called "Wohelo Camp," on Pleasant Lake in Edwardsburg since 1921. They held their camp each year on land owned by Mr.

Henry Harwood, on the southwest side of Pleasant Lake. The Camp Fire girls adopted the name "Camp Tannadoonah" in 1923. In 1929, the South Bend Camp Fire council formed a committee to locate a property to become the permanent home for their summer camp. The committee was chaired by Mr. Charles W. Copp, a Camp Fire board member and owner Copp's Music Store in South Bend. After Camp Fire purchased the property from W. N. Burns in 1930, they moved a building from the Edwardsburg site to the edge of Birch Lake, in the cove. This building was then named "Copp Lodge," in honor of Mr. Copp.

WILL CONSIDER CAMP SITES.

Further discussion of prospective camp sites will be the chief interest of the board of directors of the Camp Fire Girls' organization at a meeting in Camp Fire headquarters this evening at 7:30 o'clock. Choice of the new camp now centers on a tract at Birch lake, Michigan. C. W. Copp is chairman of the camp committee.

January 7, 1930, South Bend Tribune

There were two buildings present on the site when Camp Fire acquired it, and both are still used today! The original house which we call Main Lodge is used for staff housing, and the building the Burns called their "guest cottage" is now our camp store and crafts building. Camp Fire had an old school house moved to the site and attached it to the west side of the lodge. This was used as the Dining Hall in the earliest days. They constructed six small cabins on the bluff, and four of those buildings were still in use until just last year.



Camp Fire girls setting the tables for a meal in 1940. This room is on the west end of Main Lodge, and is still in use today as the Staff Lounge for our summer camp staff.

Over the next few decades, Camp Fire aquired additional parcels of land from Clifford Lyon (1932; the parcel that borders Harvey St.), from Lowell and Alice Lyon (1940; the parcel that runs along the top of the bluff above the homes on the north shore), and from Luther and Mildred Binkley (1952; the parcel behind the homes in the cove). Morris Lodge was built in 1938, and named in honor of Mr. E. M. Morris. The current Dining Hall was built in 1954 using funds from a bequest from Mrs. K.C. DeRhodes. The "Birds" cabins were built with additional funds from that bequest. The Kiwanis Health Center was built in 1960. After that, nearly 30 years passed before the Shower House was constructed in 1989. Camp T has now been serving campers on Birch Lake for more than 95 years!

BLYC 65TH ANNUAL MEN'S GOLF OUTING

FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

Friday, July 25, 2025

Shotgun Start at **NOON**

Sauganash Country Club
61270 Lutz Rd
Three Rivers, MI

Dinner and awards at Sauganash
Cocktail hour at 5pm
Dinner and Awards at 6pm

REGISTRATION INCLUDES:
Four Man Scramble
Team Prizes⁺ & Contests
Cocktail Hour & Dinner

Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)

⁺ Donations of door & team prizes are needed. If you have access to golf- or lake-related merchandise that could be donated, please contact John.

ALL ENTRIES DUE BY JULY 14

2025 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Registration

\$75 per man*

Please PRINT names:

Team Captain: _____ Player 3: _____

Player 2: _____ Player 4: _____

Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to:

John Ball
63690 Birch Rd.
Vandalia, MI 49095

***Individual registrations available.**
If you don't have a team, contact John
and he can match you up!



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BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Pete and Dana Soldato's kids, Marlee and Jonah enjoying the weekend at grandma and grandpa's

Want your kid to be a Barker kid of the week?
Send your photos to birchbarker1@gmail.com

Addison Machalleck, daughter of Brian & Kris Machalleck and granddaughter of Mike & Katha Machalleck (South side), has graduated from Miami University. She will be attending IU School of Dentistry beginning in July.



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Pat McGann, Former Birch Lake Resident

Dominic Philip Vitale-Richards, the grandson of Phil and Sandy Vitale (east side), graduated on June 6 as a proud member of the James Witcomb Riley Class of 2025. Dom graduated Magna Cum Laude (medal and certificate), with the following distinctions: Eagle Scout, World Language, Engineering Magnet, President's Education Award, Citizenship Award, Outstanding Achievement in Science, 4 Years of Band, and 4 years of Swim. He will enroll at Indiana University (Bloomington) in the fall.



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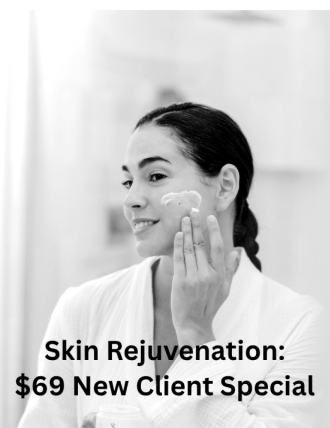


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269-591-9848

primepropertycarellc@yahoo.com

SUMMER RECIPES: ALMOND FLOUR BROWNIES

Sweet, decadent and ultra-fudgy, these almond flour brownies are rich and delicious. Made with only a few simple ingredients, you'll never believe these brownies are naturally grain-free. If you try to eat gluten-free, these are an amazing dessert option that actually taste like regular brownies!

Ingredients:

- 5 tablespoons butter, melted
- 1¾ cups granulated sugar
- ½ teaspoon table salt
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¾ cup unsweetened cocoa - Dutch-process or natural
- 1½ cups almond flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder

Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Grease an 8" square pan or 9" round pan; either should be at least 2" deep.
3. In a medium-sized bowl, stir together the melted butter, sugar, salt, vanilla, cocoa, and eggs.
4. Stir in the almond flour and baking powder.
5. Scoop the batter into the prepared pan, spreading it to the edges.
6. Bake the brownies for 33 to 38 minutes, until the top is set; and a cake tester or toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean or nearly so, with perhaps a few wet crumbs, or a tiny touch of chocolate at the tip of the tester.
7. Remove the brownies from the oven and cool them for about 15 minutes before cutting.
8. Once the brownies are cool, cover them tightly with plastic. Store at room temperature for several days; freeze for longer storage.



Recipe and photo credit
to KingArthurBaking.com



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50124a-HM-0824

CLASSIFIEDS

SAILBOATS

Free to a good home: Dennis Tudor (west shore) has an Alcort Minifish that he would like to give away to a good home. Needs a good cleaning! Has a sail, dagger board, and rudder. No major cracks or damage to the fiberglass. Contact Dennis at 269-476-2744 for more information.



Alcort Minifish

Sad Sunfish Seeking Sailors! Our boat pines to go racing on Sundays. Please borrow the boat (rigged and ready)! It's a great way to "kick the tires" at no expense. Contact the Kings at 574-299-0705 and leave a message. **UPDATE:** I was mobbed by sailors at the Commodore's Cocktail wanting to race our Sunfish on Sundays. First guy wins, watch for 21351 on a lake near you.



Sad Sunfish

Vintage Sunfish: Tammy Hanstine has a 1990-vintage AMF Sunfish previously owned and raced by Tom Howard on Birch Lake for sale. Brand new sail (still in plastic), new tiller and extension, 3 daggerboards, 2 complete mast/boom set-ups with sails, 2 rudder assemblies, plus misc. extra parts. Everything is in good to great shape. Make an offer (minimum \$500) and take it all (or will sell parts individually).

Come see on the south side; contact Tammy at tkhanstine@yahoo.com

FOR SALE

Imitation Wicker Settee, \$10. Contact Deb at 219-765-8691.



Small Litter Box, free. Contact Deb at 219-765-8691.

Pier Bumper, \$20. 86 inches long, fits 4" rail. Text Vic at 574-220-0407



2017 22-foot South Bay Pontoon. 220 CR series. 70 hp Yamaha motor four stroke. automatic Bimini. Also for sale 2022 Shore Station boat lift. Both in excellent condition.

Call Claudia at 574-596-2154.

Free! Perennial Plants (Hostas, Ferns, Lilies, Sedum, Myrtle, and Lily of the Valley). Bring a shovel & container, and help yourself. Plants are located WITHIN THE ORANGE STAKES, lakeside of road, next to our shuffleboard court. We will be rototilling that area mid-month. Located at the Witchie's 63670 Birch Road (east side cottage #106).



Sundolphin Pedal Boat with Canopy, \$250. Text Denny at 574-850-9691 if interested.



Classified Ads in the Barker are free to current BLYC members. The cost is \$5 per week for non members. Send your ad to birchbarker1@gmail.com Deadline is Tuesday noon for the upcoming weekend's Barker.

FOUND

This short paddle washed up on Fallon's shore last week. Come by anytime to reclaim it. It will be at the end of our dock, wind permitting.



SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices – zippers, hemming, small alterations. Call Kathy at 269-476-9317.

Sourdough Baking Class: Have you ever wanted to learn to make sourdough bread, but found the whole process intimidating? Come to the west side for a complete class on making sourdough bread. I will walk you through each step and finish with a loaf of homemade sourdough bread to sample. Bring a container to take home sourdough starter to begin making delicious sourdough bread at home!

When: Friday, July 11 at 10am

Where: 62769 Birch Lakeview Drive (west side, Scofield cottage)

RSVP: text 574-210-5584. Text any questions to the same number!



WANTED

Wanted to Buy: Bill and Sherry Holleman are looking to get back on to Birch Lake part-time or full-time. If you are thinking about selling, please email Sherry at dakotalynn01@aol.com.

Save your plastic for camp! We need plastic containers with lids (like cottage cheese, cool whip, margarine, etc.). We are also in need of plastic grocery bags. You can drop off items at Amber's house on the east side or the Welcome Center at Camp.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE BIRCH LAKE HOME OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

Unlike homeowners associations in many other parts of the country, The Birch Lake Homowners Association (HOA) does not mandate or enforce laws, rules and guidelines on issues like construction, lawns, nuisances, pets, etc. The HOA will NOT show up at your home to tell you to cut your grass, replace your mailbox or park in specific areas. It does NOT issue citations or impose fines, and it does NOT arrange for snow or weed removal, handle common area maintenance, or address neighbor disputes.

To understand what this group does, it is helpful to have a little bit of explanation and background.

The HOA was formed in the mid-1990s to address issues and problems of property owners at Birch Lake, specifically the issues that are not part of the goals and mission of the Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC). The HOA is a committee of the BLYC, but it is a committee with a separate and independent membership and board of directors and with its own separate finances which only the HOA can direct. The association often interacts with the BLYC and its various committees (like the Water Quality Committee and the Safety Committee) on a variety of lake-related items, and HOA funds are occasionally used to fund or supplement BLYC funding when the goals and direction of the groups coincide.



The HOA is self-tasked with the following:

- Monitoring and working with governmental groups and agencies at all levels to keep abreast of current, proposed and/or pending laws, regulations, legislation, codes or issues that affect or may affect Birch Lake property owners in the future. In the past these have included a wide variety of public groups that oversee areas like the Birch Lake public landing and Lake Park, township-wide zoning, county-wide parks, roads, culverts, waterways (ditches, streams etc.), keyholeing, pier restrictions, property taxes, as well as state-wide issues like, short-term property rental (AirBnBs, VRBOs, etc.).
- Actively promoting and working to ensure and enhance the health and safety of residents (and guests), and to encourage responsible behaviors in terms of vehicular and boat operations and water safety. The group initiated the

acquisition, installation and on-going maintenance of six Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at key locations around the lake and arranges regular training in their use. The HOA arranges cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training for residents, should an emergency medical situation arise.

- Actively promote the sense and value of our safety, neighborliness and community through the use of public service messages in the Birch Barker and the Birch Lake Directory. Past messages have addressed issues including water safety, invasive species, pets, loud music, exterior lighting, power loading at the landing, and volunteerism.

Board members are elected for three-year terms by the members of the association who have voluntarily joined by paying a \$10/year fee. The board meets with members annually to provide updates, special programs and speakers and hold elections for board membership. The HOA board also meets occasionally during the summer, and special board meetings are called whenever a problem or issue is identified.

The Birch Lake HOA is currently directed by an elected board that consists of Chairperson Blair Garceau (east), Scott Troeger (east), Rick Russwurm (north), Paul Fallon (east), and Phil Vitale (east).

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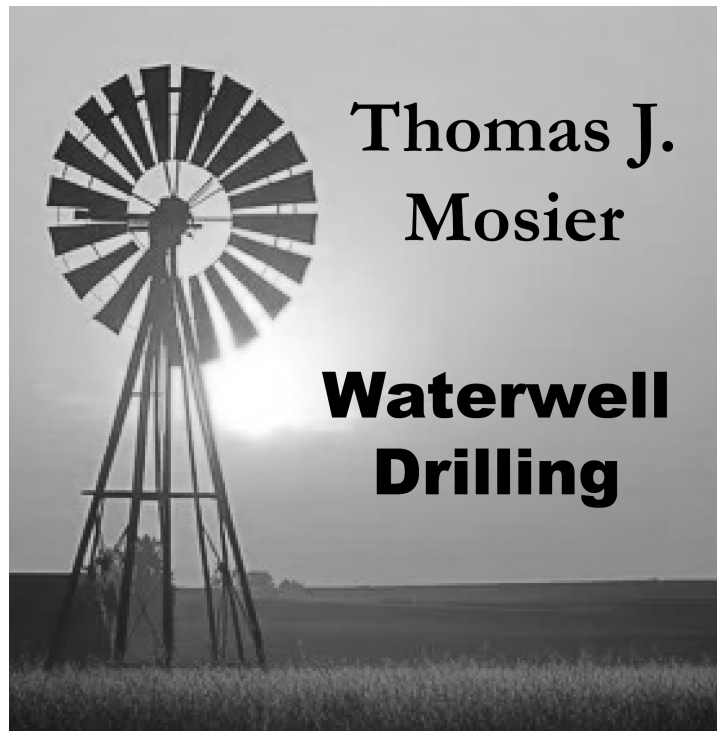
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PUZZLE PAGE

Crossword

DOUBLE CROWN

By Fred Piscop

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21					22	23			
			24					25						
26	27	28					29							
30						31	32				33	34	35	36
37							38				39			
40						41				42	43			
				44	45					46	47			
48	49	50						51						
52							53					54	55	56
57						58	59				60			
61						62					63			
64						65					66			

DOWN

- 1) Tijuana's locale, for short
- 2) Febreze target
- 3) Antarctica's __ Sea
- 4) Bard's "before"
- 5) Flies in the face of
- 6) Cremona collectible, for short
- 7) Gull-like bird
- 8) Vein yield
- 9) Utility company worker
- 10) Tony and Oscar winner for her role as Madame Hortense
- 11) Lower in rank
- 12) Break off
- 13) Milky Way units
- 18) Consulting firm __ & Young
- 23) Rand's politico father
- 24) Oscar and Tony winner for his role as Henry Higgins
- 25) Draws back, with "away"
- 26) Like the style of TV's "Batman"
- 27) Lip balm additive
- 28) Chill, so to speak
- 29) Sexy lady in a Beatles tune
- 32) All of the Bangles' members
- 34) Something to "thumb"
- 35) Australian mine yield
- 36) Is worth it
- 41) Sports show figure
- 42) More foxy
- 45) Seventh Greek letter
- 47) Biological catalyst
- 48) " __ alive!"
- 49) Porridge type, in rhyme
- 50) Sprang up
- 51) Subway tunnel parts
- 53) Hill toy
- 54) Heche of "Wag the Dog"
- 55) "The Iron Lady" of Israel
- 56) Recite the rosary
- 59) Thurman of "Gattaca"
- 60) Swift boat setting, for short

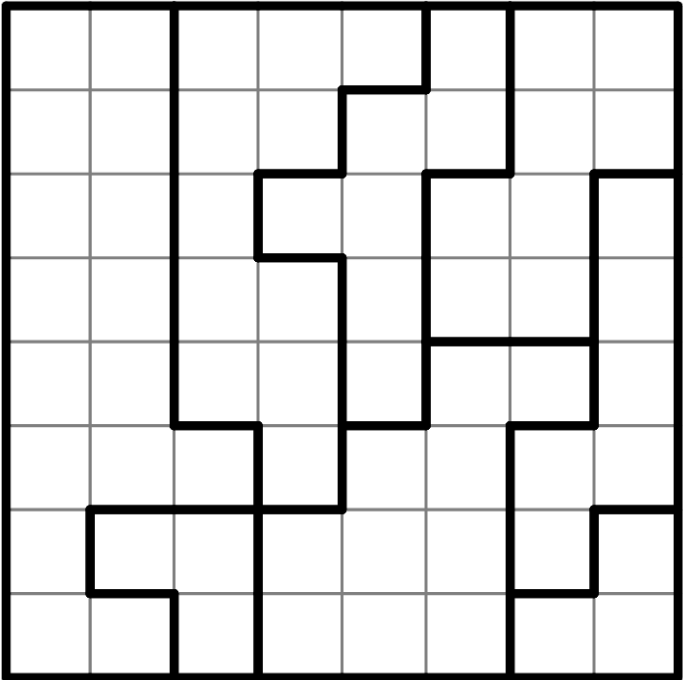
ACROSS

- 1) In need of mental stimulation
- 6) Pack overhead
- 10) Highlands miss
- 14) Be mad for
- 15) Hatcher of "Desperate Housewives"
- 16) "Yeah, sure"
- 17) Oscar and Tony winner for his role as Cyrano de Bergerac
- 19) Kilauea outflow
- 20) " __ longa, vita brevis"
- 21) 1980s war country
- 22) One end of a No. 2
- 24) Tear to shreds
- 25) BBQ equipment
- 26) Light touch
- 29) Singer MacGowan of the Pogues
- 30) One of the Van Halens
- 31) Creator of Sawyer
- 33) Place for a spy's message
- 37) Dance recklessly
- 38) Tribute in rhyme
- 39) Talk-show host Kelly
- 40) Anti-fur org.
- 41) Out of kilter
- 43) Anita, "the Jezebel of Jazz"
- 44) Zellweger of "Cinderella Man"
- 46) Is honest
- 48) Hardly luxurious
- 51) Fey of "30 Rock"
- 52) "Rabbit ears"
- 53) Canal dividing Africa and Asia
- 54) Excite, with "up"
- 57) "Get Smart" baddies
- 58) Oscar and Tony winner for his role as King Mongkut
- 61) Flying A competitor, once
- 62) Hoskins role in "Hook"
- 63) Suffix with "Beatle"
- 64) In the public eye
- 65) Little shavers
- 66) Manicurist's material

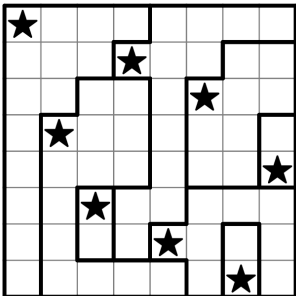
KIDOKU (like Sudoku, but for kids!)

				6	
2		1			
		4	1		6
				5	
	3				
		2	4		

Star Battle Puzzle



Star Battle Puzzles are also known as “Two Not Touch” Puzzles. Each puzzle is divided into 8 different regions. **Each region, row and column contains a single star.** The stars may not be adjacent to each other (not even diagonally). Check out the example below, before you try the one above!



Star Battle Puzzle: EXAMPLE

Scan for Solutions

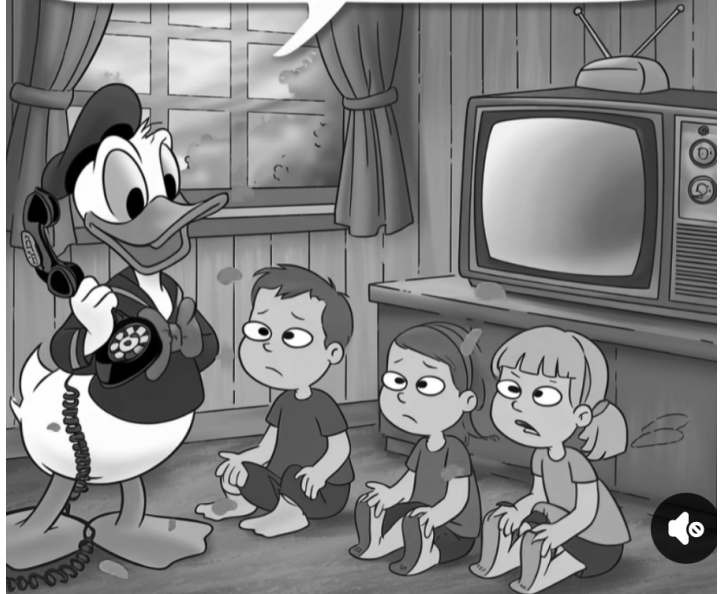


BARKER FUNNIES

OLD AGE HAS COME AT A BAD TIME,
JUST AS I WAS BEGINNING TO
KNOW EVERYTHING, I'M NOW
FORGETTING EVERYTHING I KNEW.



How to frighten the new
generation: put them in a room
with a rotary phone, an analog
watch, and a TV with no remote.
Then leave directions....in cursive.



THERE ARE BONES
IN OUR BODIES?



YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO WORRY
ABOUT. I'VE LICKED
YOUR FEET, AND
BELIEVE ME... THERE'S
NOT A SHARK
IN THE WORLD
THAT HUNGRY.



MAMA TOLD ME
THERE'D BIDETS LIKE THIS



WHERE DO
BOATS GO WHEN
THEY'RE SICK?

WHERE?

TO THE
BOAT DOC!



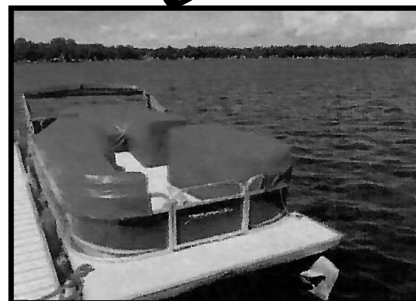
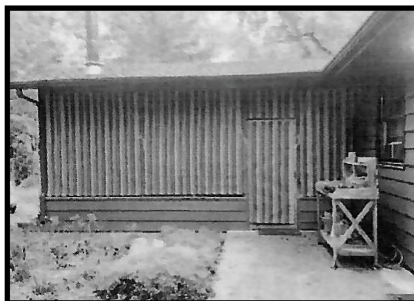


D & M CANVAS

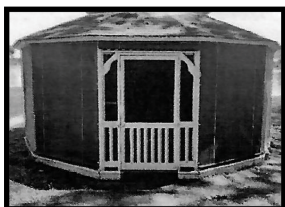
O: 269.244.8020 | C: 269.506.3276

PROTECT YOUR PORCH WITH

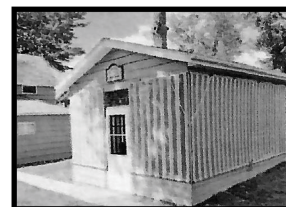
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Jim Gills

Director of Sales

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jim@bastionhomemaintenance.com



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB DUES

Support the BLYC and the entire Birch Lake Community by becoming a member!

The Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC) is a 501(c)(7) non profit organization

What your BLYC dues and donations support:

- Monitoring water quality, which helps keep Birch Lake clean, and improves our ability to respond swiftly to treat and eradicate invasive species.
- Maintaining the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) around the lake.
- Producing and distributing the printed Birch Barker every week in the summer (and online every month in the off season).
- Publication of a biennial Directory.
- Fundraising for, planning and carrying out the 4th of July Fireworks show.
- Providing a forum and means for handling lake-wide concerns with local governmental issues.
- Helping to fund and host a variety of community-building activities.



BLYC dues are NOT used to purchase alcohol for events. All events sponsored by the Yacht Club are organized by volunteers. In 2024, the BLYC Board of Directors voted to make all events revenue-neutral and to not spend any Yacht Club funds on alcoholic beverages.

\$ _____ BLYC member dues (\$50 per year)

\$ _____ Associate member dues (\$10 per year) (non lake residents)

\$ _____ Water Quality donations

\$ _____ Fireworks fund

\$ _____ Homeowners Association (\$10 per year)

\$ _____ Sailing Fees (\$15 per year)

\$ _____ Other Donations (please specify: _____)

\$ _____ TOTAL CONTRIBUTION

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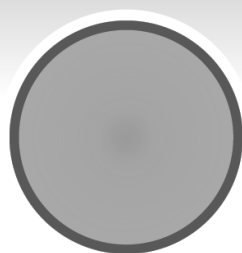
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