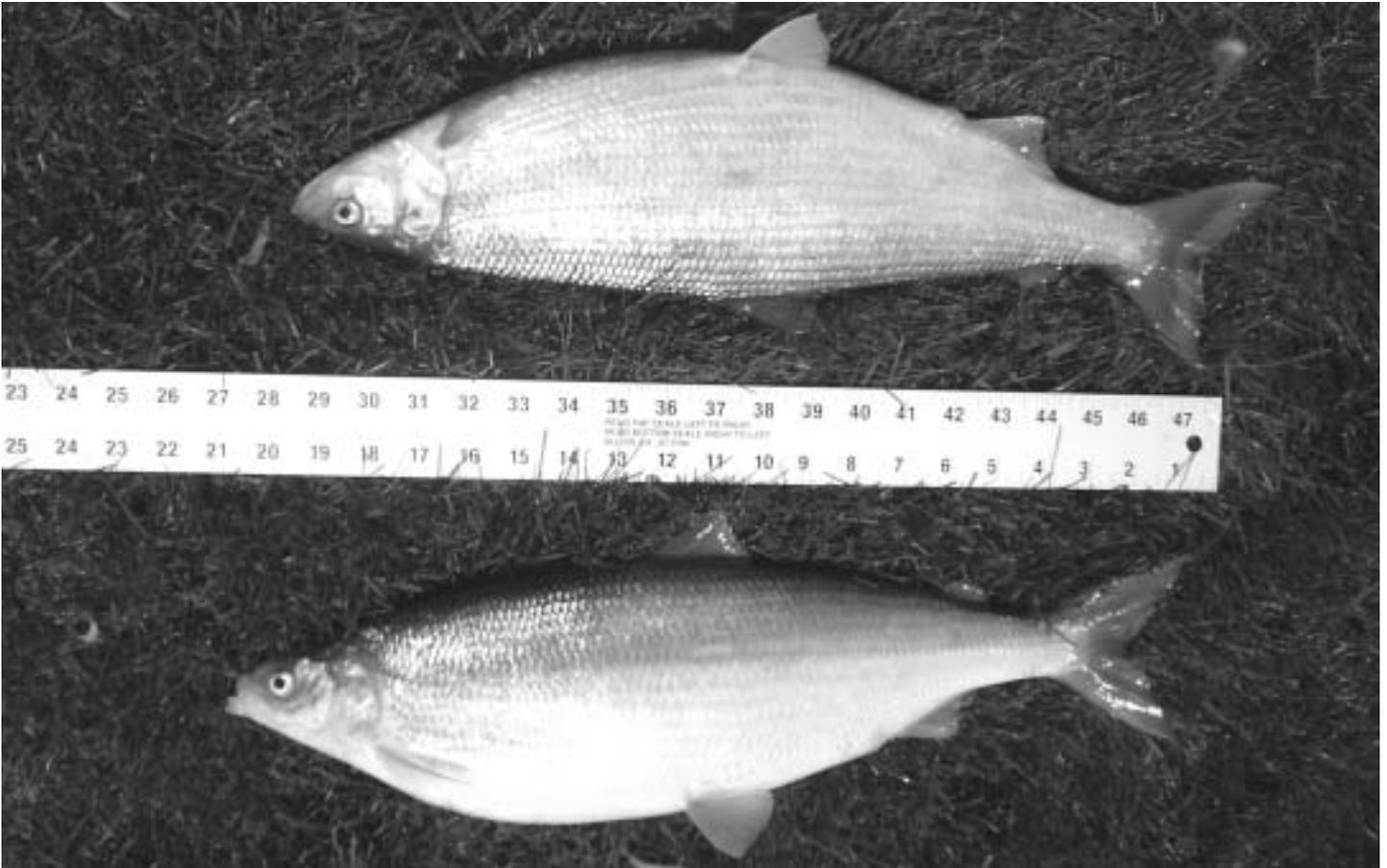


Birch Barker

Weekend of August 9, 2008

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On Monday morning Aug 4 during a strong thunderstorm, lightning struck the West side of Birch lake about 300 feet from shore. Ten minutes after the strike, 2 large fish floated to the surface. After the storm, I retrieved the fish shown in the photo. The fish are cisco, (a species of Salmon) which are native to Birch lake. They are rarely seen because they live on the bottom in very deep water. They have a very small, soft mouth which will easily tear when they are hooked. Therefore it is almost impossible to catch a large cisco on a hook. These fish struck by lightning were over 4 pounds each. I am told that in the 1950s-1960s, cisco were often netted by fishermen at Birch lake.

Submitted by *Steve Quinlan*

Commodore's Comments

Another picture perfect weekend at Birch Lake! Fantastic weather this last weekend brought many out to enjoy our great lake. Boaters, sailors, swimmers and even our K-9 pets all had something to wag their tails over! Plenty of sun, wind, waves and cool Birch Lake water. It just does not get much better than what we had last weekend.

I would like to thank everyone who came up to the Yacht Club for the corn & sausage roast on Saturday night. We served over 115 dinners between brats and hot dogs. From what I heard from people leaving was that the food was fantastic and that they may have eaten a little to much!!! I need to say a special thank you to all of those that helped put this great event together, from the orderers, cooks, servers to the clean-up crew a very huge heart felt thank you to all!!!

In two weeks will be the annual Fall

Dinner — mark August 23rd on your calendar. Paul has a great program, and I know you really want to know who his Vice will be?? Come out and enjoy some great food and socializing.

Next, I need all of us to be extra careful on the water, either being our power boats, sail boats, jet skis, paddle boats or kayaks. In recent weeks we have had several power boats interfere and hinder the progress of the sail boat races. Please stay clear of the sailing course and remember that sailboats always have the right-of-way, (p.s. it's the law). Secondly, the swimming area at the camp is off-limits to power boats. Amy and I have told several boats to move, if you see someone in that area please let them know that they are not to be there.

This week brings an end to camp for the year. Amber again surpassed her goal of campers for the season. Hats off to Amber, Chas and the entire staff. Congratulations on a job well done. Thank you for the time and effort you put forth.

2008 BLYC Calendar*

Sat. Aug 23 — Fall Dinner, 6:30, Camp T
see page 8 for details

Sat. Sept 6 — Board Meeting 9 am

Oct 4 — Annual Chili Cook Off

TBA — Sailing Awards

Fish & Wing Dinner
Card Party

*all dates and times are tentative.

Watch the Barker for updates

In closing, take a few extra minutes, if you are in your boat or even if you are on land, make sure you and your guests are having a fun and safe time at the lake. Birch Lake has been a extremely safe lake for a long time. Let's keep our eyes open for others and let's all enjoy our beautiful Birch Lake. Have a safe and enjoyable weekend!! See you on the pond!

-Mike Lutz

Commodore 2008

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail the info to sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). You can also mail your items to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200. Please note, if you do not receive a Barker, please call Mike Lutz at 476-2843 or (cell) 269-207-1153.

— Birch Lake Notes —

Congrats Sheryl & Dan

A BIG congratulations to Birch Lake newlyweds Sheryl Papandria and Dan Covey!

From the Habich family

The Habich family would like to thank all of our dear friends and neighbors at Birch Lake for all the prayers, flowers and cards during a very difficult time.

We would also like to thank the BLYC for the donation to the Advocate Christ Medical Center Organ Donation Transplant Education Fund. It was very thoughtful of you all and so appreciated in honor of our Blake.

Birch Lake clothing

Birch Lake clothing & accessories available for purchase! Due to overwhelming requests for items presented at the Ladies Golf outing, we are happy to take orders for bathrobes (unisex&size) white embroidered for \$55, Sweatshirts & pants \$35 ea; In stock we have PING hats \$20 (black), golf towels \$8, and t-shirts \$15. Call Amy for more details (2843).

Ladies golf

If you weren't a part of the Ladies Golf Outing/Luncheon, you

Birch Barker Kid of the Week



On Saturday, August 9th Tate Alan Guyton will be celebrating his 1st Birthday and Baptism at the lake. The celebration will be performed by Fr. Dave Porterfield of the University of Notre Dame, it will take place at his grandparent's house (Diana Wozny-Fredlake and Craig Fredlake south side). Tate's family has been on the lake for over 48 years. His great grandparents, Roy and Kate Henderson, started the family tradition from their cottage on the south side and in addition to the Henderson cottage, he has two sets of grandparents on the lake, Bob Wozny (southwest side) and Diana and Craig Fredlake (south side). The whole family has wonderful memories and experiences on the lake and look forward to continuing them in the years to come...

sincerely missed a great time!! The Ladies enjoyed the back 9 at Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers, followed by lunch and the famous basket raffle! The atmosphere was lovely and it was a great

opportunity to get acquainted & reacquainted. Hats off and sincere thanks go to Fran Welch, Deb Taghon & Amy Trudell for organizing this event.

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— Birch Lake Notes —



Congratulations to Callie Garceau (daughter of Bernie & Blair, east shore), and new husband Jared Schlemmer ... the pair were married last weekend.

Anyone interested is welcome to come and join us for what promises to be a very interesting morning.

BLYC Spaghetti Dinner

Mama Mia! What a Spaghetti Dinner! After three great years of pasta hosted by the Cove, the North Shore contingency had a pretty tough act to follow! We are happy to report that we kept up the Birch Lake tradition and put on another feast. Word is no one left hungry.

We want to thank everyone involved in putting the dinner together.

Our energetic ticket sales people — Denny Weesner, Bev Kruggel, Karen Brovold, Le King Patty Luecht and Judy Olson; Ticket designer and marketer — Bob King; Greeters — Le and Bill King; The galloping gourmet Sauce Chefs — Pam Mullin and Debbie Taghon; Stan, Stan the salad man!; The sweet dessert coordinators, Sandy Baucus and Patti Russwurm and all their helpers — Deb Bolinger, Lucene Daley and Vickie Rogers.

What would the pasta dinner be without the fresh Italian bread baked up by Stewart Spratt?

Our super dooper pasta cooking crew — Rick Russwurm, Fry Freihofer, Gus Eshleman, Artie

Birch Lake Book Club

Don't forget the Aug. 16 (10 am) meeting. Scott Teter, the prosecuting attorney at the time of the

Rainbow Farm incident and has agreed to come and talk to our book group, which is reading "Burning Rainbow Farm" by Dean Kuipers.

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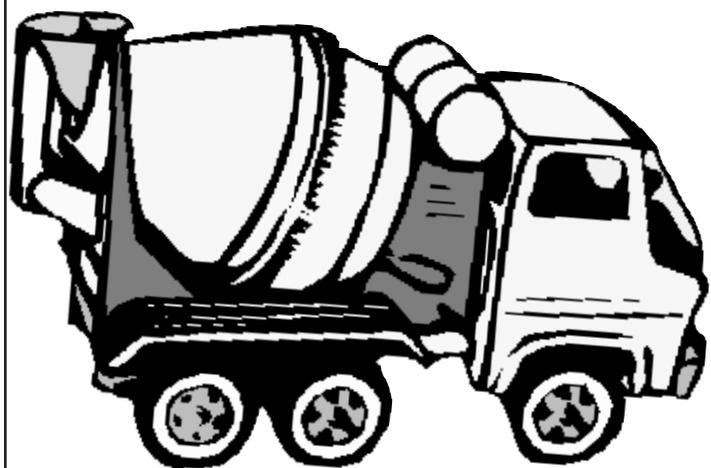
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— Birch Lake Notes —

Birch Barker Kid of the Week

*Greta Boecher,
Granddaughter of
Rick and Patti
Russwurm (north
side) in her new
boat coat which she
wore with no prob-
lem after writing
her own name on it
and adding some
stickers.
Who's in charge?*



McAlwee; Servers — Carol Freihofer and Sarah Mullin — did they pile it on or what?; Pasta runner/utility man — Matt Sheuer; Table attendants (formerly known as bus girls and bus boys) Leslie King and Rich Mullin — All the above, for all the help planning, shopping, set-up and clean-up

Most of all — a big thanks to everyone that attended and helped make the dinner a festive and social occasion!!! Despite ending up with enough leftovers to feed another 100

people, this year's dinner netted \$890 which we have asked the directors of the BLYC to allocate these funds to water testing. See you all again next year — Ciao!

Line dancing

Line Dance continues at the Yacht Club, 9 am Tuesday mornings.

Missing items ... thefts?

Contact the Cass County Sheriff at "911" for to report suspected thefts, suspicious behaviors or non-

emergencies at 445-8644. For emergencies, dial 9-1-1.

Weather Websites

Lake friends, some have asked me to send weather web page links for their use. Below are what I have stored as favorites. The wunderground daily detail pages AND radar animated loops are very useful.

-Best Regards, Bob

WX FORECASTS:

Wunderground for 49095
<http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/find-weather/getForecast?query=49095>

WeatherMichigan for 49095

<http://www.weathermichigan.com/cgi-bin/weather/hamweather.cgi>

ANIMATED RADAR LOOPS:

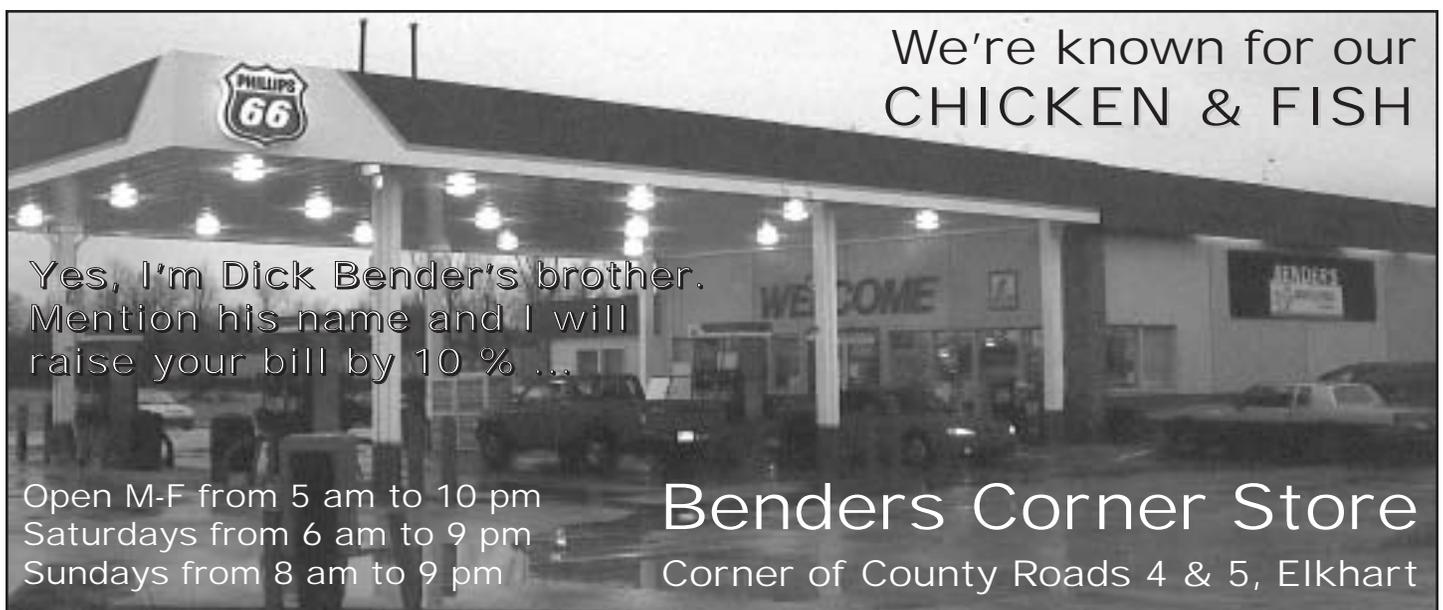
Local (Accuweather)
http://sirocco.accuweather.com/nx_mosaic_640x480c/RE/INMAREMI.gif

Regional (Wunderground)

http://radar.wunderground.com/data/640x480/2xradara4_anim.gif

WeatherMichigan (select animated maps)

http://www.weathermichigan.com/radar_F.htm



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Now, let's go play some golf!

A letter on muskrat eradication

We read with interest the proposal for the lakewide eradication of muskrats as mentioned in the July 19 Birch Barker.

We can sympathize with those people who have had an unfavorable muskrat encounter because we had a muskrat in our other pond on the east side of the lake adjacent to the creek. In less than a half hour, it had devoured every single one of our 40 arrowhead plants, put a hole in our skimmer net, and started to eyeball our cattails. We rounded the critter up in a bucket and carried him to the lakeside where we planned to watch his graceful retreat into the water. The muskrat had other plans, however, and upon release, it ran around us, jumped into the creek, and swam back towards the pond.

The report labels the muskrats as pests and proposes lake wide eradication. But, let's face it, if one was to start a list of other pests found at the lake, the list would have to include skunks, opossums, raccoons, beavers, deer, woodchucks, squirrels, chipmunks, heron, ducks, geese, bats, moles, rats, and mice. Of course, included as well would have to be insects, plants, weeds in the lake, some trees, and certain neighbors. Within a short amount of time, this list would begin to dangerously resemble the list of virtually every plant, animal, and human found here at the lake.

We feel there is a danger in even proposing this type of policy for the lake. Who are we to decide which species on the lake should be eradicated? What message does it send to the lake residents, their children, and others who are thinking of buying a home here? It is one thing to destroy an invasive species but another to destroy a population that belongs here.

We think that in order to live with nature around us, we have to have a certain amount of tolerance and realize that these animals, like us, are just trying to survive. Muskrats have been lake residents here 100 times longer than we have



and the few that remain constantly have to deal with persecution by humans and habitat destruction. How can we tell others that dangerous animals such as elephants and tigers are worth saving when we cannot co-exist with nature in our own backyard?

It is unfortunate that we cannot have more knowledge of individual animals, their lives, their history, and their offspring. I know that if the individual muskrats on the lake could be recognized, and their daily lives and offspring tracked, there would be a great deal more tolerance, if not compassion, towards them. Muskrats have an average lifespan of less than a year and a den, in a bank or under a lawn, close to a food supply is essential for their survival under the ice through the winter.

Most problems with muskrats arise from lawn collapse due to the ground not being of sufficient thickness above water level for den construction. Otherwise, their presence can go undetected by most people. Many times, some landscape

cloth secured to the surrounding area, some fill dirt to create a berm, and grass seed or sod are all that is needed to allow the den to exist beneath our feet.

For us, a muskrat swimming across the water is a reminder of our wild heritage and we enjoy their presence on the lake. We surveyed a dozen of our neighbors and, while some have had holes dug in their yard or property chewed up, over 90% of them either enjoyed seeing them or did not dislike them enough to wish to see them exterminated.

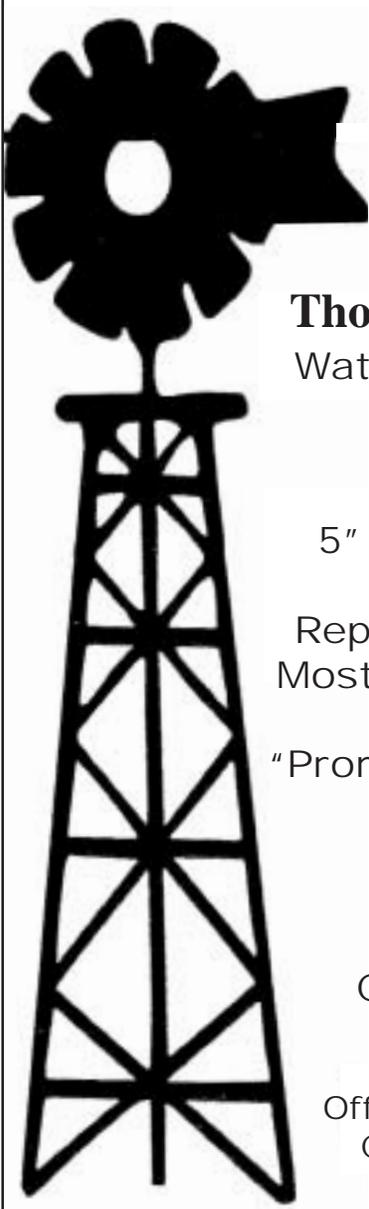
Besides, are we absolutely sure that muskrats cannot be trained to collect zebra mussels or milfoil?

-Gordon and Michelle Seyfarth

Birch Barker Critter of the Week



Lynne Barnaby (North side hill) submitted this cool turtle-feeding pic from last weekend.



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Fleet Captains' Corner



Drifters and dog days

The dog days of August arrived with a vengeance on Sunday. There just wasn't much wind, but we managed to get in a couple of slow, drifting races. We haven't had much practice this year — until now — sailing in such light air. Days like this test the skill of the best sailors (and really highlight the lack thereof in the rest of us).

Thanks to Bob and Sue Waddle for starting the races (and then waiting and waiting to finish them).

-Fleet Captain Bill

Kids' Regatta August 16th!

Hey kids, the annual Kids' Regatta will be held Saturday, August 16 at Don and Lind Harman's home on the east side. This is a chance for all kids (young and old) to join the crew of one of Birch Lake's sailboats for races, fun, and food. Watch this spot for further information.

Last week's results & totals

Date.....3-Aug.....3-Aug.....Total.....Season
Race.....16.....17.....Points.....Average

MC Scow

Scott Troeger.....	3.....	1.....	20024.....	1540
Harold Cranmer.....	1.....	DNS.....	22833.....	1522
Bob King.....	2.....	2.....	18502.....	1423
Jim Bolinger.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	10781.....	1348
Phil Vitale.....	8.....	4.....	18687.....	1335
Don Harman.....	5.....	5.....	18642.....	1332
Jeff Smitley.....	4.....	3.....	22449.....	1321
Bill Luecht.....	7.....	6.....	20942.....	1232
Dave Olson.....	6.....	7.....	15407.....	1185

Sunfish

Tom Howard.....	1.....	4.....	23455.....	1564
Rick Russwurm.....	2.....	1.....	9284.....	1547
Katie Luecht.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	7613.....	1523
Erica Vitale.....	4.....	2.....	14987.....	1499
Sandy Vitale.....	3.....	3.....	13229.....	1470
Mike Gotstein.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	2813.....	1407

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) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place); DNF not counted toward minimum number of races needed; DQ (Disqualified) 0 points; STT (Stopped to Teach) scored as first place; CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives a 1st place finish for that day - 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; * Did not complete due to course mix-up (not scored towards season points, however, race will count toward minimum number of races needed to qualify.



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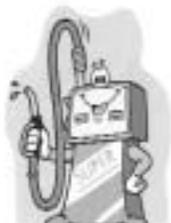
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How to be the leader of the pack



Whether you realize it or not, your dog views you and your family as his own private wolf pack. In the canine world every pack has its own dominance hierarchy. This pack mentality means that in your dog's mind you are either a leader or a follower. As in the human world, leaders give commands and followers do what the leader says.

Your dog's instinct is to figure out where he falls in the pack hierarchy. You may think you are your dog's "master" but your actions may be telling the dog something else. If you want your dog to follow your commands (instead of the other way around) you can do a few simple things to show that you are the boss.

Being leader of the pack has nothing to do with harsh punishment. It has everything to do with consistency and setting limits. You need to set the rules from the first moment you meet

your dog. Because you are the leader, your dog shouldn't be calling the shots. For example, leaders control who gets fed when. You should get to eat your dinner first and you should make Rover "sit" before he gets access to his food bowl.

The "sit" and "down" commands are powerful tools you can use to let your dog know you are the ruler of the roost. Before he gets to go out on a walk, make Rover sit while you attach his leash. If Rover is being a nuisance while you are cooking dinner, put him in a "down-stay" and if he gets up, put him back into the "down-stay" as many times as necessary until you (not the dog) decide its okay for him to get up.

If Rover is lying in the middle of your way and won't move, don't walk around him. In a wolf den, dominant dogs lie where they want to and dogs lower on the dominance scale move

out of the way. If you walk around your dog, your dog will assume this is an act of submission on your part. Also make sure you go through doorways before your dog. It sounds obvious, but pack leaders lead, so don't follow your dog. Even asking for affection can be an act of dominance from the canine perspective. Dogs that demand attention are asserting dominance, so if your dog gets pushy, ignore him. When you are ready to pet him, ask him to sit first. In the leader-follower game, making a few little changes can have a powerful effect on the way you relate to your dog.

-Fido's Friend
LEASH YOUR DOG IT'S THE LAW!

Birch Lake Wordsearch

P O T A T O C H I P S U T K E T C H U P
 G R M T O N G S F E I G P A A R F K R R
 S P O U F S E R L R O C S P D O I O E U
 A R I P S E H K L D I S E P I E S O L I
 U O S C A T C R T M O T N T A C H L I A
 S P K U F I A O I T E O C A E T N A S I
 A A S C P T H R I M P I C K L A S I H T
 G N P U R B H R D U P S C F N F A D C A
 E E A M A E F F O R B S E O E T O N G R
 C M T B A E L P E O E N L R S O D A R E
 O A U E S R Y E B I I E I K T F S H I W
 L T L R D A B A R W M S A L T F U U L C
 E C A S R T K R S R B U T T E R S N L I
 S H C G O L E E E A K T O M A T O E S T
 L E C O O B I T S O R A I C E C R E A M
 A S R E E R A P G R E E N B E A N S O P
 W S U U R W S T E A K B R A T W U R S T
 B T L E E G R B H A M B U R G E R S E E
 U B H C P E P P E R S E A H O T D O G S
 O C I U B R E T H A I B A A B O I E N P

Answers to the Birch Lake Wordsearch from last week

REFLECTION
 SPEEDBOAT
 TURTLES
 WAKE
 TRAILER
 SUNTAN LOTION
 GEESE
 TAN
 PIER
 SLALOM
 SUNSHINE
 BOAT COAT
 SAILBOAT

DIVING BOARD
 SEA GULLS
 TOW
 PONTOON
 BOATING
 LILLY PADS
 MINNOWS
 GAS TANK
 FISHING
 BAIT
 RAFT
 SWIMMING
 LURE

FENDERS
 KID DRAGGING
 CATTAILS
 WAVES
 DUCKS
 BATHING SUIT
 SAILING
 DOCK
 BEACH TOWEL
 WATER SLIDE
 FROGS
 HERON
 ROWBOAT

BLYC ANNUAL

Corn & Sausage Roast



photos by
Ronnie
Eschleman
& The
PattiCam



Summer's over — time for the BLYC Fall Dinner

It's time (dammit).....

For the *"I can't believe it's already upon us, and yes it is depressingly named, annual Birch Lake Fall Dinner."* While the title may leave something to be desired (a bad taste in your mouth so to speak) the dinner certainly won't. This is the last major lake event of the normal summer season. Don't miss this opportunity to mingle & say good-by to all your summer lake friends. If talk of the onset of the next season has you bummed, just remember our enjoyment of the highs of life is a function of our ability and willingness to accept its lows also.

Saturday, August 23, 2008 @ 6:30 PM

@ Camp Tannadoonah

Fare: Polish Wedding Feast

Fee: \$20.00 / Adults & Teens

\$10.00 / Kids (3 - 12)

Tickets: North Side: Le & Bill King

Cove: Vickie Rogers

West Side: Karen Brovold

South Side: Denny Weesner, Katha Machalleck

East Side: Judy Olson and The Fallons

Tannadoonah Tidbits

Last week of Camp for the summer ... :-)

It's the last week of camp for 2008, and we're finishing out this summer with a bang! We have a full camp for the week — 102 campers! It's our biggest week of the summer, and in fact, it's the first time we've been full in about 10 years.

We will end up finishing the summer with 457 total campers; 7 over our goal for the summer. Even more importantly, though, that's an increase of 106 campers from last year! That doesn't even count the children of our staff who have attended camp this summer.

Two-hundred-fifteen of those campers were new to camp this year, and approximately 65-70 percent of last year's campers returned this year! I think that we've had a really incredible summer here at camp, and I hope to see an even higher return rate next year.

This week at camp is a really special week for Camp Tannadoonah. Every 5 years we have a special tradition called the Patteran. During Patteran years the theme for the last week of camp is always Gypsy Week. Throughout the week our campers and staff work on writing songs for each of the Gypsy Bands, they tie-dye bandanas to represent the colors of their Gypsy Band, and on Thursday night we all gather to search for the Patteran.



The Patteran is a time capsule that dates back to 1941. Every time we have a Patteran week, we search for the location of the Patteran, and then dig it up and examine all of the scrolls inside. On each scroll are the signatures of all the campers and staff who were present that year at camp, a log of what happened at camp throughout the week, and strips of cloth dyed in the colors of the Gypsy Bands.

Since it's also the last week of camp, we have our traditional end-of-the-summer Council Fire on Friday night. If you get your Barker before 8 pm on Friday, come on up to camp and join us for this last ceremony. We will have 10 candidates for the Order of Birch Award, which is the highest honor that a camper can receive at Camp Tannadoonah. At the end of the Council Fire, these Order of the Birch candidates will read or sing an original poem or song, and they will then proceed through an Honor Guard of staff

who have been a part of Camp for five or more year.

Following the Council Fire, we will all proceed to the Waterfront Stairs, where the campers will receive candles to carry to the waterfront. If you come out on your boats and wait near camp, you will see and hear us coming down the stairs. Once we are at the waterfront, we'll place our candles in the water and serenade all of the residents in their boats on the lake.

By the time this week's Barker comes out, we'll be wrapping up camp, and playing Taps and Reveille for the last time this year. It's amazing to me how fast this summer has gone by. It seems like just this morning I thought to myself, "wow, there are only 4 more weeks of camp." Then tonight I realized that there are only 4 more days of camp as I write this column.

The end of the summer is very bitter-sweet for me every year. I am happy knowing that we had a great summer, and that we really made a difference for these 450+ campers who attended camp. But I'm never ready for it to be over! Hope that everyone had as great a summer as I did, and I can't wait to see you all on the lake.

-Miss Amber

Amber@tannadoonah.org

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Water Quality Committee Report

Water Quality Program Water Quality Committee Lake Management Report Rick Russwurm Chairman, Bob & Gert Temple, Terry Dugan

As many of you are probably aware, there have been some concerns expressed regarding the "quality" of the water here at Birch Lake. This has been the result of some observations of 'slicks' or "bubble masses" on the lake and variable bacteria levels depending on where and when a test was taken. The Yacht Club Board in concert with the Water Quality Committee has decided to embark on a formal testing program that was announced this past week and will have started prior to this issue of the Barker.

First let us clarify that there has been an ongoing and continuous testing program in concert with the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association (see last weeks Barker) for items related to nutrient levels and algal growth in the lake. These effectively help us measure how well Birch Lake is aging. The goal is to keep this very very slow, and is a reflection of nutrient loading into the lake. This is the program that Bob and Gert Temple have participated in for many years. The current testing program is related to safety, and in particular bacteria levels in the lake.

Do not get exercised by the term bacteria in the lake. The lake is rife with them and they serve a useful purpose in the overall

ecology of the lake. The bacteria we are interested in are of the coliform variety and more specifically E coli and potentially enterococci, because these are associated both with warm blooded animal fecal waste products. These bacteria are not inherently pathogenic, i.e. disease causing, but could be. Thus the EPA and the DEQ use these as marker bacteria for ascertaining safety of swimmable waterways. E coli has been the marker for fresh water and enterococci for salt water, as E coli does not survive well in salt water.

The sampling for determining the levels of either of these bacteria usually is done in 3-6 feet of water from a boat so the sediment is not disturbed. A sterile bottle is submerged mouth down and then using a sweeping motion the bottle is filled, capped, and put on ice to be quickly transported for testing. A 100ml sample is filtered and the filter placed on a culture medium that promotes the growth of coliforms and actually will color differed bacterial colonies. After a defined time the colonies are counted. DEQ standards for a single test (which should consist of 3+ samples from the same area and time) state a health concern if there is 300 or greater colonies. If sampling is repeated 4 + times over a month, the level is 130 colonies as a geometric average. New testing strategies using molecular techniques may permit analysis in a couple of hours, but this is probably not relevant to our issues

today.

So, back to Birch Lake and our local concerns. In order to ascertain if there are issues and also in order to ascertain if additional questions need to be asked, a 4 week sampling will be conducted by a DEQ certified person and the samples analyzed in a DEQ certified lab. Samples will be taken from 4 periphery locations in addition to the middle of the lake. These results will be published as they are received in addition to a final analysis. Additionally, members of the Water Quality Committee receive calls regarding "stuff" on the lake that looks suspicious, but we really have no idea what it really is so we tend to get concerned. When we have the opportunity to properly sample some of this from the surface, it will also be delivered to the lab for a biological breakdown, i.e. we want to know what it is so we can tell you what it is.

Where this is all leading, we do not know. However, in keeping with everyone's interest in maintaining the quality of the lake, the Yacht Club and Water Quality Committee are trying to determine what (1) issues there may be, (2) to communicate whatever findings from this testing to the lake community, and (3) continue dialog with relevant authorities regarding findings. This may be a bit more detail than you want, but the Water Quality Committee wants the community to have as clear an explanation as possible.

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 Bob & Gert Temple—476-2773
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-Pat Keirn

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Stu's Star Stuff



Perseid meteor shower

The Perseid meteor shower is at its peak this coming week. At best, you might see a few dozen “shooting stars” racing across the sky in just a few hours. Unfortunately, the Moon is in the way for most of the night. Its light will overpower the view of its fainter meteors.

So just what is a meteor shower? An increase in the number of meteors at a particular time of year is called a meteor shower.

Comets shed the debris that becomes most meteor showers. As comets orbit the Sun, they shed an icy, dusty debris stream along the comet’s orbit. If Earth travels through this stream, we will see a meteor shower. Depending on where Earth and the stream meet, meteors appear to fall from a particular place in the sky, maybe within the neighborhood of a constellation.

Meteor showers are named by the constellation from which meteors appear to fall, a spot in the sky astronomers call the radiant. For instance, the radiant for the Leonid meteor shower, which is in November, is located in the constellation

Leo. The Perseid meteor shower is so named because meteors appear to fall from a point in the constellation Perseus.

So what are shooting stars? “Shooting stars” and “falling stars” are both names that people have used for many hundreds of years to describe meteors -- intense streaks of light across the night sky caused by small bits of interplanetary rock and debris called meteoroids crashing and burning high in Earth’s upper atmosphere. Traveling at thousands of miles an hour, meteoroids quickly ignite in searing friction of the atmosphere, 30 to 80 miles above the ground. Almost all are destroyed in this process; the rare few that survive and hit the ground are known as meteorites.

When a meteor appears, it seems to “shoot” quickly across the sky, and its small size and intense brightness might make you think it is a star. If you’re lucky enough to spot a meteorite (a meteor that makes it all the way to the ground), and see where it hits, it’s easy to think you just saw a star “fall.”

Look for shooting stars this week late at night. The peak is on Tuesday the

12th. Perseid meteors will appear to “rain” into the atmosphere from the constellation Perseus, which rises in the northeast around 11 p.m. After the first-quarter moon sets, around 2 a.m., meteors should be more easily visible until dawn. You may see dozens of meteors per hour. Good luck and enjoy the show. And best of all...

-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:



The moon for July 26 (at Midnight)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.631
1.4 days since first quarter

Horoscope for Birch Lakers

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Friends may not understand your situation. Self-deception about relationships is a problem. You will have a little more energy than usual. Your determination and stamina will make your work look flawless and effortless. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

You will do well with clients this week. Get busy. Try to make amends by planning a nice dinner for two. False information from someone trying to start problems is likely. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Your words will be taken out of context if you’re evasive with coworkers or employers. Don’t divulge secret information. Residential moves will be favorable. You should make special plans for you and your lover. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Problems with in-laws may cause friction in your personal relationship. Limitations on the home front can be expected if you have been restricting your mate’s freedom. Changes regarding your career direction will payoff handsomely. Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Residential changes, renovations, or moves are likely to disrupt your routine. Do not get

involved in joint financial ventures. A friendship might suffer if money becomes an issue. Don’t get involved in secret affairs or underhanded involvement’s. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Someone you live with will get angry if you are neglecting your duties. You may find that your boss is not delighted with your work lately. Your accomplishments could exceed your expectations if you mix a little business with pleasure. Difficulties with females you live with could cause emotional stress. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Chances are you could get stuck with a colleague’s job unexpectedly. Make the necessary changes that will enable you to advance financially. Take care of any paperwork concerning institutional or governmental agencies. If you’re feeling uncertain, spend some time alone and reevaluate your motives as well as your needs. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Social activities that involve the whole family will be enjoyable. You will impress others with your initiative and ability to accomplish while on short business trips. This will not be the day to lend money to friends or family. Your temper could get the better of you if you confront personal situations. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. If you can’t trust someone, question the connection. You may have been too nice to a friend who just wanted to take advantage of you. There are ways of making extra cash if you put your mind to it. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Your temper may get the better of you if a colleague has tried to ruin your reputation. Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity. Don’t let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. You can easily impress others with your generous nature. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

You may have difficulty trying to get your mate to understand your position. Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs. You will enjoy interaction with others this week. Romance appears. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Upheavals may occupy your day. Don’t be too confident that coworkers are on your side. Past partners are likely to reappear. Try to keep to yourself; work diligently on domestic chores and responsibilities. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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FOR SALE: Boat Lift — 3600 lb, electric, with new extended custom cover (w/ custom openings). \$3,000. 574-514-3179, 476-1616.

FOR SALE: Barnett Butterfly Sailboat, good condition. \$475. 574-274-6327

FOR SALE: Escape 9 foot sailboat/rowboat. Great condition. \$300 or best offer. Call Eric Odenwald, 476-8840.

FOR SALE: 15' Aluminum canoe \$400 call 476-2744

FOR SALE — MC Scow, sail # 1141. One-owner; in excellent condition. Trailer included. Contact Dick or Sue Peterson, 269-445-2050

For Sale: Solid oak (rare cross cut grain) dining room table, six upholstered chairs and matching buffet & china cabinet. Also includes 2 extensions. \$700.00 A 5 burner electric counter cook top by Kenmore. Excellent condition \$95.00. Call Tom DeCocker for further info. 476-9821.

FOR SALE - 3 piece Queen bed, dresser and mirror \$200, 2-unit bookcase 59"x76" \$100, 5' wooden snow sled \$25, 6' wooden toboggan \$25, Sunfish and Lift \$350, Mistral windsurfer \$200, 1985 Johnson 9.9 HP \$200. Call 476-2642.

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ALSO FOR RENT — Naples, Fla cottage near Vanderbilt Beach Road. Over 1500 SF home; 3 br, 2 baths; Fully furnished w/ washer/ dryer, dishes, appliances; king bed in master suite, 2 twin beds in guest br, 2 twin beds in third br. Screened patio with grill. Near beach, 3 Shopping Centers Golf Courses Nearby. \$750/ week or \$1500/ month includes taxes, cleaning (no hidden fees). Contact Angela Bergan at 561 603 5522

FOUND:

If you are missing a **Ski-Doo air intake stack** please call 476-9862.

Found orange inter tube on east side on Sunday evening after storm Call Tom DeCocker at 476-9821.

LOST

Lost BLACK SLALOM SKI on west side of lake on Sunday, July 20th late afternoon. Please call Odenwald's at 269-476-8840 or 708-957-8926 if found.

Lost: Orange and Black kayak paddle. Says "Pelican" on the blade. If found, please call Camp T at 476-2177.

WANTED

LOOKING for an MC 16ft sailboat. JP and Marlow Hoyer, 476-2656

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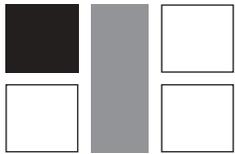
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We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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- \$ _____ - Safety Committee
- \$ _____ - Other (non-party related expenses)

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Mail to: Holly Troeger, Treasurer
 1516 Ash Drive East
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or drop off at: 63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

Make checks payable to *Birch Lake Yacht Club*