



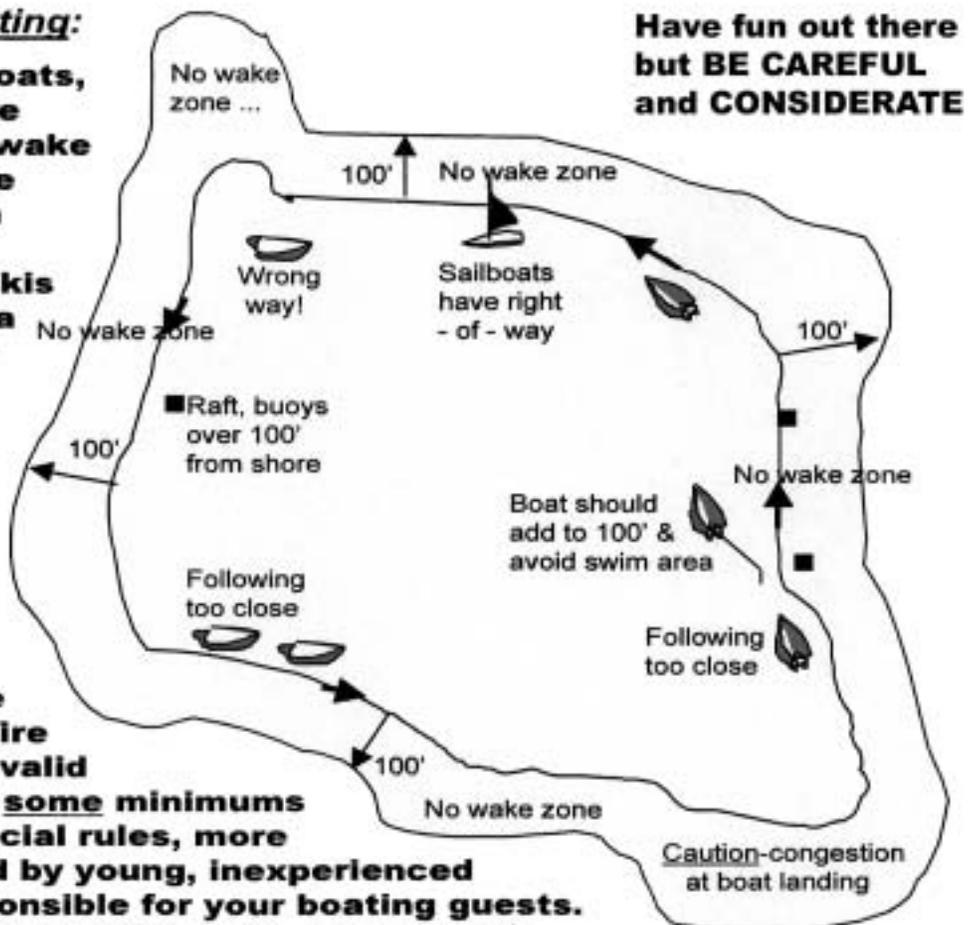
The official publication of the  
**BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB**

# Birch Barker

Weekend of May 23, 2009

## Common-Sense Boating:

- \* **Go slow near other boats, rafts & shore. You are responsible for your wake**
- \* **Take your time & give room - stay 100' from boats, rafts & shore**
- \* **Pulling someone on skis or tube requires extra caution, an observer & add the length of your tow line to the 100' rule**
- \* **Drive only in the counter-clock-wise direction (flow)**
- \* **One wearable USCG life jacket must be available for each person on board! One throwable device, a fire extinguisher, horn & valid boat registration are some minimums**
- \* **PWCs have many special rules, more caution must be used by young, inexperienced drivers. You are responsible for your boating guests.**
- \* **Consult the Cass County Sheriff's Dept. (Marine Div.) for Michigan boating laws**



Have fun out there  
but **BE CAREFUL**  
and **CONSIDERATE**

## The wait is over, or is it?

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**W**ell here it is, in your very own hands, finally, after almost nine months of doing without, of waiting with baited breath, filling your time doing little more than no doubt suffering sleepless nights and empty days, all endured in simple anticipation of this very moment, of this event, of this very piece of paper — the first published and printed edition of the 2009 Barker.

This indeed is a joyous and momentous occasion. Not only does the Barker provide enjoyable reading and weekly updates on what's going on in the neighborhood, it signals the return of all of our friends and neighbors from places afar, back to the Lake, back to the place we hope they all join in calling home.

No less important is the first Barker's historical role as harbinger of summer, confirming that the occasional

warm days prior, are now here to stay. Something's wrong with this year though. There seems to be a serious disconnect between the calendar and the weather. We (at least those of us who stayed) have just barely survived a particularly long and arduous winter. While it's nice to declare winter over and put it behind us, and I have enjoyed the demise of the snow and ice and the subsequent sunny days which have just recently brought us the releaving of the foliage I trees and the greening of the grass, we need some warmth, some heat, some real summer. Anybody who even *thinks* they have any pull with the big guy upstairs should get on their knees ASAP and put in a word for warmth ..... please! Thank you all. Now that we have that problem solved ... on to more stuff ...

Since we last communicated, mem-

continued on next page

### 2009 BLYC Calendar\*

- June 6—Board meeting 9 am  
Commodore's Party tba
  - June 20—Vice-Commodore's Party tba
  - July 4—Board meeting 9 am  
Boat Parade, Fireworks
  - July 5—Pancake Breakfast
  - July 18\*—Spaghetti Dinner
  - July 25—House Walk
  - July 31—Men's Golf Outing
  - August 1—Board meeting 9 am
  - August 7—Women's Golf Outing
  - August 8—Corn & Sausage Roast
  - August 22—Fall Dinner
  - Sept. 5—Board meeting 9 am
- \* Date unconfirmed/subject to change

There are numerous other good ideas for worthwhile activities (such as an Ice Cream Social and a Garage Sale) floating around and open dates available. If you are willing or interested to take on an event (there is usually plenty of help available) just contact the Commodore at 476-1467 or 574-274-9580.

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail your items to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com), or, if you must, put the materials in the red newspaper box at my home, 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, call Paul Fallon at 476-1467. -Phil Vitale, editor

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

continued from front page

bers of your Yacht Club have been active, largely on your behalf:

■ Rick Russwurm, Terry Dugan, Gordon Seyfarth, and Bruce Wagner have been attending conferences, studying, meeting, organizing and planning this season's water quality efforts. To many of us their work is probably the most important function of the Yacht Club. You guys are wonderful.

■ Your board met on May 6th for its regular monthly meeting. While nothing momentous transpired, it was comforting

to witness and be part of such a caring group watching out for and conducting the business of the lake. Thanks to all who attended.

■ Later that day, almost 80 hardy souls joined their fellow lakers at The Matterhorn in Elkhart for the annual Spring Dinner. The place was nice, the food was good, and the company was great. Thanks to Sandy Vitale and her mom Bessie, for running the admissions table and to Sandy Baucus for the display of For Sale items. And we cannot forget the Rev. Jim Bolinger for leading us in prayer. As always, it was great to hear that Camp T and Tom's Garage are continuing to move forward.

■ On the morning of May 9th, a few really hardy souls ventured out in the cold drizzle to participate in the Annual Road Clean-up. Key volunteers walked both sides of all of the outside perimeter roads (Birch, Sears, Walnut sans Williamsville, and Harvey) bending over and picking up all sorts of trash and other undesirable objects. A huge Thank You to:

Morgann Applegate, Sandy & Phil Vitale, Carla and Ed Chester, Bob Waddle, Mike Lutz, and Nora Fallon.

It's beautiful here, but not entirely by accident.

As we get into the regular "summer" season, there will be even more going on.

The current schedule is listed on the front page of this Barker. We hope you join us in as many of the events as you can. We look forward to seeing you then, if not sooner.

In the meantime, together let us continue to protect and enjoy the miraculous healing waters of Birch Lake.

-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore

## VICE COMMODORE'S COMMENTS, TOO

### Be there or be square

"He could barely see the audience's faces as he squinted his eyes and tried to see past the blinding bright lights. All their eyes were upon him as he tightly clutched the microphone and began to sing. Haltingly at first, but soon the words and melody began to flow..."

"American Idol"? "America's Got Talent"?

No — BIRCH LAKE KARAOKE!

Mark your calendars now!  
Saturday, June 20th at the BLYC.

Be there or be square!

-Bob Waddle, 2009 Vice Commodore

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Barker Critters of the Week



Thanks to Don & Lind Harman for the Osprey photo they shot in the backyard of their Florida home, and to Dan Waxman's older sister for the Blue Heron atop the boat lift on Birch Lake.



For more information contact the Marine Division at 445-2481.

### Safe Boating Classes

Boating classes are being offered in Cass County throughout the summer for boating licenses required for anyone 12 to 16 years old who wants to operate a boat, and 14 years old to operate a personal water craft (jet ski).

The boating safety certificate is only valid for students older than 12 years. Students should have their 12th birthday in 2009 to pre-register.

Classes will be held June 6 at Donnell Lake Conservation Club, 16900 Lakeview Dr., Vandalia; June 14 at Midway Water Sports, 50663 M-152, Dowagiac; June 20, at Eagle Lake Marine, 68777 Avenue A, Edwardsburg; July 11, at Cass County Conservation Club, 13710 US 1., Union and July 18, at Indian Lake Yacht Club, 55900 Indian Lake.

Students may pre-register by calling the Cass County Sheriffs Office at (269)445-1240 and register with the Administration front desk. Please have the student's legal name, address, phone number, and date of birth at the time of registration.

All classes start at 8 am and should be done by 3 pm.



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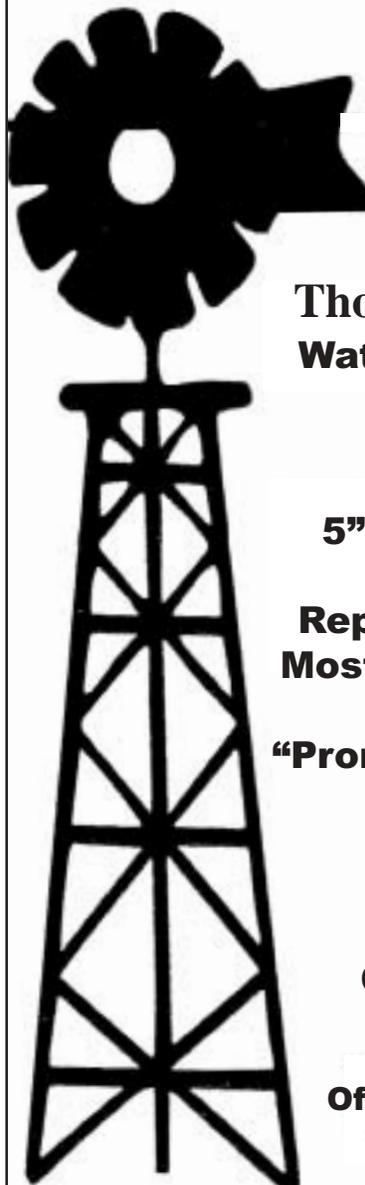
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Ian Whiteman lifelong resident of Birch Lake will be graduating from Constantine High School on May 31. All friends from Birch Lake are invited to stop by the Whiteman house on Sunday June 7th from 2pm to 6pm and join Ian at his open house. Please stop by and tell him congratulations and best wishes when he starts at Southwestern Michigan College in the fall.



Morgann Applegate, granddaughter of Phil & Sandy Vitale (East side) hung out recently with Major Russwurm, the dog who lets Rick & Patti Russwurm (North side) live at his house. Morgann is a lake kid who loves to catch frogs, snails and almost any other thing that slithers, crawls or swims. Major would love to collect those things two but Patti keeps telling him that they are "NOT YOUR TOYS, BUSTER!"



Just in case you didn't hear the shouting from Danville, Indiana last week, John Luecht's science fair project was chosen to receive the GRAND CHAMPION award at this year's DCMS science fair! John's project was on measuring the speed of sound in a musical instrument. John is the son of Bad Patty and Bill Luecht (east side). CONGRATULATIONS JOHN!

## Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week?

Hey, we all love kid pics, don't we?  
And we especially love them if they're pics of OUR kids or grandkids!

You can see your favorite kids' pics in the Barker if you send them to me (preferably via the email address [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com)) along with their name(s) and pertinent info like their par-

ents' or grandparents' names, or who they were visiting, or what they were doing in the photo.

If you don't email, please make sure the info is legible and not too long because if I can't cut-and-paste, I have to retype all that stuff from scratch (and I'm not a very good typist ... and I'm even worse at proofreading my own stuff). -Editor

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# Fleet Captains' Corner



## Let's get out there and sail

Greetings, sailors! Finally, it's time to get the sailboats out of mothballs and do something worthwhile.

Those of us who enjoy sailing will tell you that we value things like family and friends and careers and all that other stuff, but when that sparkling water beckons and that breeze is blowing, we will let you know what our priorities are.

Actually, there are not many sailboats ready to sail yet this weekend, so I don't

think there will be a Memorial Day Regatta. Maybe it will warm up this weekend, and we will see a few more sailboats in the water.

The big sailing activity this weekend will be the Committee Boat training session to be held Sunday at Noon. Anyone who is interested in learning how to start races is invited. (Committee-boating is just as worthwhile as sailing, f.y.i.) Please see the announcement elsewhere in the Barker (like

below ... duh!). If any of you sailors are ready to sail, bring your boats out and join us - the demonstrations will be better if there are real sailboats to yell at.

I haven't scheduled a start-of-the-season Sailor's Meeting yet. Sailors, please let me know when you would be available.

The regular sailing season kicks off next weekend, so be ready!

**-Fleet Captain Bill Luecht**

### Committee boat training

Have you ever wished to start the Sailboat Races and be the captain of the Committee Boat? Do you like spending time in the middle of Birch Lake? Do you secretly yearn to hold a bull horn to your lips and say, "Good morning, sailors!?" If you thought about answering yes to any of these questions, YOU need to come to Committee Boat Training!

Meet in the middle of the lake on Sunday, May 24th at noon. Learn everything you need to know to be a powerful Committee Boat commander!

In just one session you will learn how to hold a bull horn, start a stop watch, and how to write down boat numbers. After this session, you will know how to win friends and influence people! And at no additional charge...learn what to put in your cooler to make it one of the best days ever spent on the lake! Don't miss this amazing opportunity to help the sailors on Birch Lake!

**-Fleet Captain's Wife, Bad Patty Luecht**

### Committee Boat Sign Ups (Tentative)

Date .....	Name .....
5-24 (Training) .....	Patty Luecht
6-7 .....	Stewart Spratt
6-14 .....	Available for You!
6-21 .....	Patty Luecht
7-3 (Regatta) .....	Karen & Stan
7-4 (Regatta) .....	Karen & Stan
7-12 .....	Available for You!
7-19 .....	Bob & Sue Waddle
7-26 .....	Available for You!
8-2 .....	Available for You!
8-9 .....	Available for You!
8-16 .....	Bob & Sue Waddle
8-23 .....	Available for You!
8-30 .....	Available for You!
9-5 (Regatta) .....	Available for You!
9-6 (Regatta) .....	Available for You!
	9-7 (Regatta) Available for You!

Call Patty at 476-2615 if you are interested in signing up for any of these dates.

\*Must provide own boat \*Must provide own crew

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POST HOLES 9" TO 32" - DRIVEWAYS  
SEAWALLS - TRENCHING 0" TO 36"  
FOOTINGS - BACKFILLS - RETAINING WALLS**

**LEAF REMOVAL, SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, LOT CLEARING**

*"Justin Nichols recently put in a seawall at my home on Birch Lake ... and he did an amazing job in a very short time. Thanks Justin!"*

-Tom DeCocker, East Shore

*"Nichols brought in topsoil, graded my yard, buried the gutter drains and put in a short 25-foot wall ... now I'm ready to enjoy summer at Birch Lake thanks to Nichols Tree Service & Excavating."*

Tim Liddell, East Side Hill

*"I needed a retaining wall at my new home on the hill (Kinzie St.) while it was under construction. I called Justin Nichols, and he came up and put it in for me. He does very good work!"*

-PJ VandeWalle, East Side Hill

*"Justin Nichols was working next door when I met him. I needed several trees removed and the stumps ground ... Justin can do it all."*

Ryan Gableman, East Side Hill

# Tannadoonah Tidbits

**W**e're back and ready for another awesome summer at Camp Tannadoonah!

This summer will be my fourth year as the camp director, and I can hardly wait for summer to get here. We currently have 263 campers registered for the 2009 season, which is right on pace with last year's numbers. On this date last year we had 245 campers, and reached 263 about a week later.

If you know any youth between the ages of 6 and 16, definitely encourage them to come to camp. We're shooting for a total of 550 campers by the end of the summer, and we really need to meet that goal! Last year we made it to 491, so we're hoping for a bit of an increase this year.

We have a couple great new things going on at camp this year. We added a new "advanced nature" activity, which will include compass navigation, GPS tracking and Geo-caching, hikes to Lawless Park, and an overnight campout in the woods!

Three weekends ago (May 8-10) we held our third annual Spring Spectacular



camping weekend. The weather was a bit cold and wet, but we all had a great time. It was a small group of campers, but a great weekend nonetheless.

The next couple weekends at camp are completely booked with upcoming events, and we're just three weeks away from our first big group coming up to camp! After that my staff arrives for staff training, and our first group of regular summer campers arrives on June 21st. The first week is a big one — we're already at 70% capacity for that week!

I mentioned at the Spring Dinner that we are again seeking donations for Camperships. Camperships are basically scholarships or financial aid for camp. So far this year I have seen an unprecedented number of applications for aid. Last year we were able to help an astounding 66

campers with partial or full funding for camp, and I'd love to match or beat that this year.

I think that one of the most rewarding parts of my job is the opportunity to share the camp experience with youth who otherwise would never be able to attend camp. The cost of camp is \$350, but contributions of any amount can be designated for camperships. We try to stretch the funds to as many youth as we can, depending on how much their families are able to contribute towards the camp fee. I hope that you'll all consider the idea of sponsoring a camper this year!

Finally, a HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who came up to camp to help with work days and work evenings this spring. Thank you to the Mosiers for chlorinating our wells, and to the Birch Lake Book Club for cleaning the dining hall! We really couldn't make this happen without all the help of our volunteer workers. Thank you!

-Miss Amber 574-217-4731  
Amber@tannadoonah.org

## ~Birch Lake Recipes~

### From the world's best vacation spot



Where is the best family vacation spot in the whole wide world???? A FAMILY MEMBER'S LAKE HOUSE. Yep it's true. We all know it.

I always like to keep certain staples around so at any surprise visit I have something spectacular I can just whip up. They think I'm a culinary genius!

#### **Russwurm lake house favorite:**

All of the ingredients in this recipe have a long shelf life. Be sure to check the dates prior to purchase. You can buy them at the beginning of the season and have everything on hand anytime.

#### **Mexican Cream Cheese Roll ups**

8 ounce package cream cheese, softened  
1/3 cup mayonnaise  
1 (2.2 ounce) can chopped green olives  
1 (2.2 ounce) can chopped black olives

6 green onions, finely sliced  
8 (10 inch) flour tortillas  
1/2 cup salsa for dipping

In a small mixing bowl, combine cream cheese, mayonnaise, olives, and onions. Spread this mixture in a thin layer onto tortillas. Roll tortillas and chill until firm. Slice chilled roll ups into 1 inch medallions. Serve with salsa for dipping. Makes 8 to 10 servings

Do you have any lake house favorite recipes? Please send them to me at [paramountmanage@aol.com](mailto:paramountmanage@aol.com) and I'll try and put at least one in the Barker every week.

Happy snacking!

-Good Patti



<http://tannadoonah.org/>



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# Stu's Star Stuff

## Morning Star, Evening Star ...

**W**hat is the difference between a morning star and an evening star?

It's the morning star. No, it's the evening star. No, it's two (clack, clack) stars in one.

A planet's "elongation" refers to its separation from the Sun in the sky, as viewed from Earth. When a planet's elongation is zero, it is aligned with the Sun and Earth, and is in a "conjunction." What many people call the morning or evening star is actually a planet, usually Venus but sometimes Jupiter, Saturn, or even Mars or Mercury. When one of them appears close to the Sun as viewed from Earth, sunset or sunrise watchers are treated to starlike brilliance of one of our planetary neighbors, which may be brighter than any of the true stars in the night sky. The distinction between

"morning" and "evening" simply refers to the time at which the planet is visible.

Due to the orbital motion of planets around the Sun, a planet might be a "morning star" at one time of the year, and then later, as its orbit carries it behind and then to the other side of the Sun, it appears as an "evening star."

Look for Venus and Mars as they line up near the Moon, quite low in the east, at first light. Venus, the "morning star," is to the lower right of the Moon, with Mars farther along the same line. Later this week Venus is to the lower right and fainter Mars is below the Moon.

I apologize profusely, but due to rising costs, the show's not free anymore. Please pay your admission fee (only one dollar) to the ticket taker on the north shore. You won't be disappointed.

*-Stu Spratt*

### The Moon tonight:

The moon for May 23 (at Midnight)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.002  
0.2 days before new moon



## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES) Mar. 21- April 20)

Helping children may be rewarding and challenging. You may find that your family responsibilities are piling up. Your partner may make you feel jealous and unloved. Catch up on your reading and correspondence. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS) Apr. 21- may 21)

Try making some changes to your appearance and your attitude that will reinforce just that. You need to keep everyone on your domestic scene too busy to complain. You can expect to have a passionate time if you go out with someone you are romantically interested in. You might be a tad overindulgent this week. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI) May 22-June 21)

Opportunities will come through behind the scenes activities. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Your emotional attitude with respect to your status and direction in society may be unrealistic. Changes in your home may be alarming at first. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER) June 22-July 22)

Don't turn down offers that include sports activities or children. Do not let your mate annoy you; patience will be the key. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments. Be careful not to push your luck or take too much for granted when dealing on either a personal or professional level. Your lucky day this

week will be Saturday.

LEO) July 23-Aug 22)

Join humanitarian groups and let your leadership ability take over. Take time to explain your intentions to loved ones. Put your efforts into your work or money making ventures rather than your emotional life. You can expect to have a problem with your lover. Don't put off the things that they have asked you to do. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

VIRGO) Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

An older member of the family may need assistance. Family outings will make you feel secure and happy. Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip. Your social activity should be conducive to finding love. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA) Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Do your job and then spend some time with family; you'll be glad you did. You will have to make some changes regarding your direction if you wish to keep on top of your career expectations. Sign up for seminars that will expand your business awareness. Be sure that you lay your cards on the table. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO) Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Don't take your frustrations out on loved ones. Jealous coworkers may try to sabotage your attempts to get ahead. Don't hesitate to sign up for

creative courses or physical fitness programs. Don't let your mate talk you into going somewhere you'd rather not go. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS) Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Patience will be of utmost importance. Travel may be confusing. Your leadership qualities will come in handy. Don't count on others to cover up for your shortcomings. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN) Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Red tape could be impossible to clear up this week. Keep your eyes and ears alert for any evasive or deceptive statements. You will meet new friends and enjoy a multitude of new activities. Old friends may not like your choices. Your lucky

day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS) Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

You need to make changes that will raise your self esteem, such as a new hairstyle or a new image. Older family members may try to put unreasonable demands on you. Travel will be favorable. Avoid joint ventures and steer clear of groups that want you to contribute financial assistance. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES) Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Avoid any hassles. You may find yourself in an opportune position if you are willing to take a bit of a risk. Residential moves will be favorable. You will be emotional when dealing with coworkers or employers. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.



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# Water Quality Committee Report

## Water Quality Program Water Quality Committee Lake Management Report

**Rick Russwurm, Chairman,  
Terry Dugan, Gordon Seyfarth,  
Bruce Wagner**

This is the first Water Quality Committee report for the season in the printed Barker. For those that do not get it, we provide information in the off season via the online Barker. However, this is a new summer season and a fresh start. The goal of the reports will be to provide to all members of the lake community with all available information the committee has regarding water testing and invasive species programs, plans for any additional programs and interactions with governmental and other outside agencies, and the usual reminders of the things we can do as lake residents to help ensure ongoing Birch Lake Quality.

Today we will review some Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program data with updates from this year, discuss the pollution fears from last year, and provide a few behavioral reminders.

### CLMP Information

CLMP is a Michigan Lakes and Streams Association program that is actually run through the Department of Environmental Quality. It is a volunteer testing program that permits hundreds of Michigan lakes to be sampled for a number of properties each year beyond what the

DEQ would be able to do. Thus, this program serves as a early warning system that the DEQ can use to spot problems as well as provide data for each lake that the lake can use for educational and action programs locally. Bob and Gert have been doing the testing for years on Birch Lake and the data you have seen previously has been from their work.

In order to validate that the testing by volunteers is accurate and reliable, Ralph Bednarz who manages this program from the DEQ, will on occasion do a side by side testing with a lake volunteer. This permits samples by the volunteer and the DEQ to be compared, testing methodologies to be discussed, and general discussions to be had. We had a side by side in April, where Ralph spent a couple of hours on a cool breezy lake with Terry. Additionally, in order to participate in the program one must go through training at the Michigan Lakes and Streams meeting for each of the parameters being tested. Gordon Seyfarth and Terry Dugan attended the meeting in April and participated in a full day of training on Secchi disk measurement, phosphorous testing, chlorophyll testing, and doing dissolved oxygen measurements. In successive weeks we will describe in detail each of these measurements, what they are, what they mean, and if we as lake residents can impact each of these.

Last year was a year of some concern

on the lake due to diminished water clarity from the spring onward. This was an unusual observation based on the past 10 years of measurements. Using the Secchi disk, a maximum depth reading of only 20 feet was observed in the spring with a minimum of 8 feet in the summer. As you are aware, the greatest clarity is in the spring months when one can see the bass in the drop offs, decreasing with the long sunny days and increase in algae growth and sediment dispersal of boat traffic during summer. Chlorophyll levels were not unusually high compared to past years, and the late summer phosphorous was at 7 parts per billion, still well below where one might see a real swing up in productivity. Thus, 2008 is somewhat of a conundrum and hopefully and anomaly.

Based on the data developed so far this year, we have had a maximum Secchi disk reading of 36 feet. We will follow that weekly and report on the changes in the Barker. The side by side testing provided an early chlorophyll (normally these are May through September) and the spring mixed lake phosphorous level. Ralph did a temperature and dissolved oxygen probe through the water column in the deep part of the lake to ascertain whether the lake had fully mixed and was not stratified. The entire water column was in the in the brisk low 40s and saturated with oxygen from top to bottom indicated full mixing. The phosphorous level

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# Water Quality Committee Report

was at 5 parts per billion which is very low. Ralph indicated that we should be doing monthly dissolved oxygen testing as this is the best indicator of lake changes, so he helped get us in the program and we will be sharing equipment with Eagle and Corey lake. Terry and Gordon will go out on the lake monthly to do dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll. A full discussion on dissolved oxygen and what it means will be provided in another Barker.

At this point in the year, we have good excellent water clarity and a low phosphorous reading which will hopefully translate into low algae productivity this summer. Again we will do a full discussion on phosphorous, how it cycles, and its relationship to productivity in another Barker.

## **Pollution concerns - fact or fiction?**

Last year we had some water testing done for E coli by a lake resident that demonstrated occasional higher levels of E coli. In addition to the decreased water clarity, there was the observation of some bubble masses and what looked like slicks of some sort especially on the east side. This led some to fear that the new sewer was leaking into the lake. Visual inspections and dye tracing failed to demonstrate any indication that this was happening. The physics of the issue also indicated this was not likely in the absence of a break leading to a bubbling of sewage to the surface and then run off into the lake. Additionally, if there were point sources from the sewer entering the lake, we should have seen readings of E coli in the 10s of thousands and not in the hundreds as was observed on a few occasions.

Nonetheless, in response to the elevated observations from a resident, the Water Quality Committee with full backing of the Yacht Club board entered into an agreement with Garrett Laboratories to do a month long testing at five sites on the lake. The samples were not taken by a lake resident but a Garrett employee and all analyses were conducted by Garrett. Additional samples were taken from "slick" sightings, and the inlet stream at the northeast corner of the lake. For reference purposes E coli is not a pathogen in itself outside of a form that may be found in the intestine of some cattle and the issue of some ground beef recalls. Instead as a fecal bacteria from warm blooded animals (all warm blooded animals, birds

and mammals), it is used as an indicator of potential fecal contamination of a water body. The higher the E coli levels, the higher the probability of other bacteria and viruses that can be pathogens might be present. EPA and DEQ levels are determined from epidemiological reports of illnesses correlated with increasing levels of E coli. The current standards for E coli are the number of colonies that can be generated from a 100 milliliter sample incubated on a specific nutrient plate for 24 hours at a defined temperature. For 3 replicates of a single sampling incident it is 230 colonies, and for 4 successive triplicate samples over a time frame it is 130 colonies. A geometric mean is used to discard outliers that might be sampling errors, but we will not discuss that today. Nonetheless, from the 5 stations sampled in the body of the lake at areas that were of concern based on resident sampling, no levels higher than 13 were seen and many were undetectable, and this includes "slick" samples.

A observation we did make, however, was additional samples taken from the inlet stream, both between the road and the lake and farther upstream. Here, levels of 900 and greater were observed. A sample was taken to Michigan State University to ascertain if the DNA represented human bacteria, and it was found not to be human. Further genotyping has not been done.

In order to get ahead of this in 2009, Terry Dugan has purchased sampling and culture material from Micrology Laboratories in Goshen, IN, a maker of bacteria testing supplies for food services and water. He also purchased a incubator to be able to let the bacterial grow at a optimal and defined temperature. He has run one set of duplicate samples from sites around the lake including the stream. No E coli were found in any of the samples from the body of the lake. All samples were taken from a Kayak in about 1-2 feet of water, 5-10 feet from the shore, without disturbing the sediment. In duplicate samples from the stream, colony counts of 40 and 60 were seen. Terry will survey the lake on a regular basis as a screen only to see if we need to discuss additional formal testing. The sensitivity of the home test is not as great as what can be done through Garrett labs, but it has a high correlation with the 100 ml filtered samples (pub-

lications available) and thus serves as a screen.

We do not believe that there is a pollution problem with Birch Lake, but will continue to screen and evaluate observations as they arise. In future Barkers we will show sites of samplings and data from those sites.

## **Some reminders.**

**Fertilizer.** Do not use. Absolutely no phosphorous based fertilizer. Watering from the lake should provide all you might need. If you cannot stand it and use a service, make sure they clean their tanks before using a non-phosphorous fertilizer. We will say this a number of times, but remember, if it is around the lake, it will get into the lake. Green lawns are nice, but at the expense of a green lake?? Put in a little buffer between the lake and the lawn. Even a foot or two of deep-rooting plants would be good to shore up the soil and absorb nutrients. Check with your local garden shop for the best plants and make sure you use something native and are not introducing a invasive species.

**Weed Killer - Not recommended.** However if you apply something like 2,4 D on a sunny, non-windy day, it will likely be absorbed and modified so that it will not affect the lake. Using before a rain, or right up to the waters edge, or when the wind is blowing toward the lake — not smart.

**Fires.** Be smart. If you must burn leaves, shovel up your ashes and throw in the garbage. Do not burn leaves near the lake. Leaf ash is a great, readily available source of phosphorous and minerals that lake algae would love to see, and with a good rain they will see it. If you have fire pits, dig out the ashes on occasion and toss in the garbage.

An observation: Ralph Bednarz told Terry that he likes to come to Birch Lake. It is pretty special and a unique lake in southwest Michigan. He feels it is a jewel and this has been mentioned before.

Additionally, through attending a regional MLSWA meeting and the state meeting, Terry and Gordon were able to see first hand that a lot of lakes have a variety of problems that we do not seem to have. Lets hope it stays that way.

Next week we will discuss invasive species and our programs for these. Additionally, although not an invasive species, we will discuss blue green algae.

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# Barker Crossword

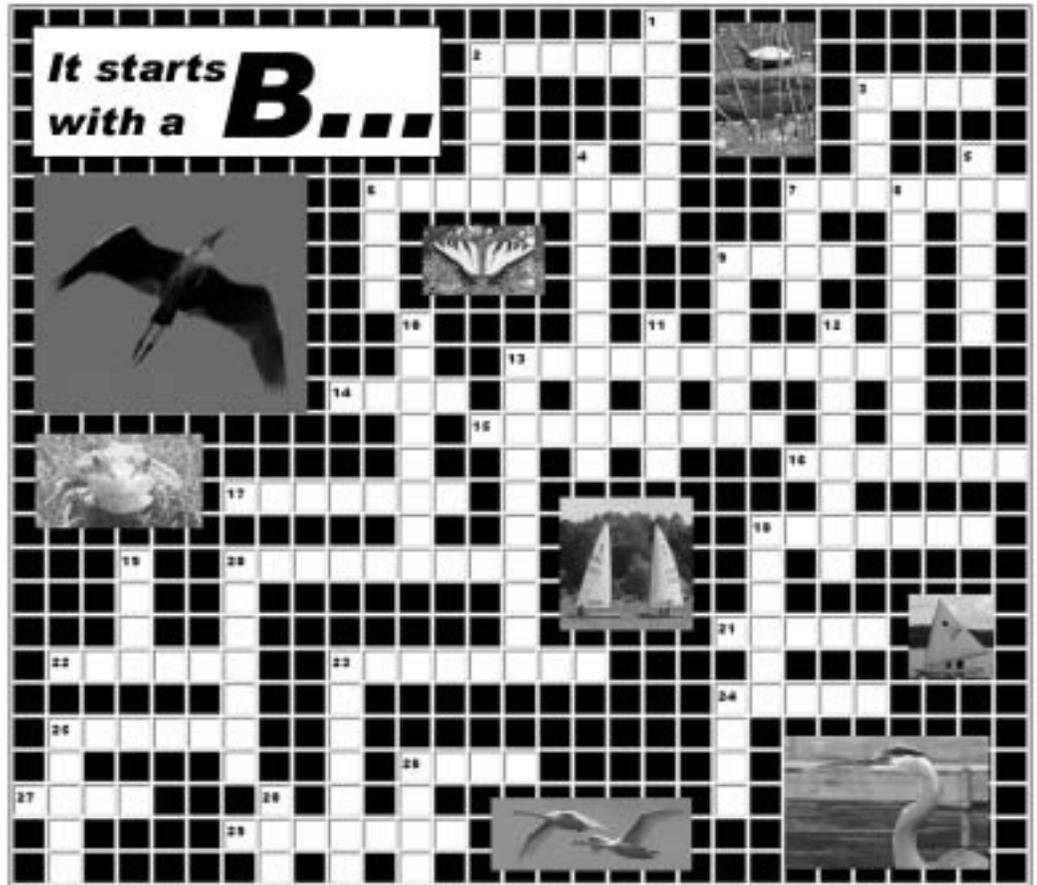
This Holiday weekend is brought to you by the letter B ... watch this space next week for the solution!

## Across

2. YC weekly
3. bed
6. deck officer
7. heron (2 words)
9. into the wind
13. attire (2 words)
14. fish food
15. zebra mussels
16. wife on board
17. stern sprit
18. to float
20. pressure guage
21. Tom's daughter
22. fender
23. internal wall
24. to make fast
25. roach support
26. marker
27. skull crusher
29. yacht knot

## Down

1. pirate
2. loop -or- bay stopper
3. stopper
4. foremast square rig
5. spin out
6. lake steward
7. water conveyance



- |                         |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 8. Lutz union 05-16-09  | 13. decorated convoy (2 | 24. water removal  |
| 9. club flag            | 18. sail fuel           | 25. plunder        |
| 10. Jones lake (2 words | 19. width               | 26. to secure      |
| 11. best lake           | 20. relative direction  | 28. the pointy end |
| 12. cottage             | 23. Stan's girl         |                    |

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*Now, let's go play some golf!*

# Barker Word Search

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

**Find the following words:**

SLUSH  
 DAFFODILS  
 HERONS  
 SHORTS  
 MAYFLIES  
 BUDS  
 BALMY  
 POTHLES  
 FISHING  
 PIERS  
 FLIP FLOPS  
 SHOWERS  
 DANDELION  
 WARM  
 MUD  
 RUNOFF  
 EQUINOX  
 POWER OUTAGES  
 ROBINS  
 CROCUS  
 SPRING  
 MELTING  
 SUNSHINE  
 WINDY  
 BASS  
 STORMS  
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**Hobie Cat**, 16 foot, with sails, on trailer. \$850. Call Artie at 574-514-3179.

## LOST

**Mature Groundhog** ... answers to Chuck (or, it could be Charlene ... we were never quite sure). Contact Wade Moore.



## FOUND

**Large woodchuck.** Needs work. Please pickup by Sunday evening (before the Monday barbeque). Call Rick O'Shea.

## MISC.

**Recycling comes to Birch Lake!** Blue out front — green out back. In our increasingly "green" world, it's a shame Birch Lakers toss so many aluminum cans into the rubbish. This weekend Calvin King is test-marketing a home-spun re(bi)cycle service. Please put your (un-crushed) cans in plastic bags at the curb on Monday evening. Cal will cycle the lake picking up bagged cans. Areas difficult to reach by bicycle may require a central collection site (TBD).

## FOR RENT

**Lovely 3 bedroom cottage** on the beautiful north shore. Sleeps 6, plus a pull out couch. Indoor plumbing and no mosquitoes. \$850.00/week. Discounts available. Contact Stewart at 574.514.0667 or 269.476.2113.

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Gordon

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Scott Troeger—476-9898

Paul Fallon—476-1467

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

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\* must have registrations by July 22nd.

**Additional Information**

- \* team prizes and contests
- \* dinner only, \$25 per person
- \* dinner includes 10oz. grilled sirloin, side salads, corn on the cob and desert.
- \* lunch not included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service availability.
- \* prizes awarded during dinner.
- \* the mens' and ladies' outing is looking for

donations of door prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact Fred Freihofer @ cdfreihofer@aol.com. We have need for 80 players in the mens' and 40 players in the womens' event.

\* **Send entries to Fred Freihofer, 14921 Birch North Shore Dr., Vandalia, MI 49095.**

\*checks should be made out to BLYC

**Foursome Information**

Team Captain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Player

\_\_\_\_\_

Player

\_\_\_\_\_

Player

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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