

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 6, 2009



Thanks to Amy Lutz (the newlywed) for this cool pic of the bass whose eyes were bigger than his ... mouth.

A Sunday Night Sunset

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Sunday night, freshly and well fed by the generous neighbors, sitting at the picnic table on the deck, gazing out over the lake, solid blue covering the entire sky save a few inches of clouds on the Southern horizon, the sun starting to set...what to write...what to write. Hell, I'm having a hard time holding a thought much less a column, paragraph or even a complete sentence. My God, this place is magnificent! And Dear Lord, aren't we lucky!

We entertained 10 or 12 of our daughter's friends over the weekend. It was great to be able to do so. They are all wonderful young adults, and being able to do so was one of the anticipated benefits of lake living. So we are grateful they came, grateful to feed and house them, grateful to share time with them (after all they have become our friends too), grateful to drag them around the lake countless times; and now we are

grateful they have left. I've always thought one of the joys of hosting was not having to travel home. Now the revised thought is more appropriate — and even better — when the event you are hosting at Birch Lake is over, the real joy is not having to leave Birch Lake. But I'm sure not telling you all anything you don't already know.

Thanks to all of you, whether "active" or "inactive," whether well-known or inconspicuous, for doing all the little things that add up to making this such a great place. Your contributions may seem small and not worthy of note: cutting your grass, picking up your trash, keeping up your property, treating others with respect and dignity be it on the roads, on the water, or just by keeping the noise levels within reason. Your being here and doing the things you do, enriches all of us. Thank you.

A prime example of how small actions of many, united through a group

continued on next page

2009 BLYC Calendar*

June 6—Board meeting 9 am
Commodore's Party 7:30 pm
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, 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)

can accomplish so much for the common good is your Yacht Club. Like any man-made entity, we have our flaws and imperfections (Just look at who the Commodore is!), past, present and future. No doubt some actions taken by the Yacht Club or its members in the past were contrary to your preferences. But I know all of us, and all of you, have been, are, and will be better off because the Yacht Club has been here and plans to continue to be here, doing its thing and looking out for all of us.

We have a lot of proud, accom-

plished and honest people at the lake. People that say from the bottom of their hearts, "I pay my bills, I honor my obligations, I carry my weight, I don't want any handouts." I believe its hard to make these claims with conviction if you don't pay your way with your Yacht Club dues.

The amount(s) are pretty insignificant. Certainly the BLYC can continue to survive without anybody's individual contribution. Really its about the support you should show for all the dedicated volunteers doing a kick-but job on your behalf, and to your benefit — whether you agree with every single thing they do or not. If you don't want to be here fine ... but if you are here, acknowledge your debt to those who work hard in your

interest and to your betterment. I could fill this entire column just listing the names of your neighbors that regularly spend hours and hours of their time on Yacht Club matters. (I'd do so but I'm sure I'd miss some.) They deserve your support.

I'm told that historically a lot of folks don't pay their dues until the July 4th weekend

Pancake Breakfast. If you are hung up on that, so be it, but by then the summer season is almost half over. What if, at the last minute, you become unable to attend, or do go but forget to bring a check? Won't you feel terrible if you all of the sudden become tardy, or worse yet, don't get the job done and your dues are unpaid? Don't wait for the Pancake Breakfast. Let's right now, put this Barker down, clip out the dues/registration form, grab your checkbook, and do the right thing. Stuff Holly Troeger's mail box!

Hope to see you at the Yacht Club tonight (Saturday, June 6th) for the Commodore's Party, starting at 7:30 pm. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre or snack to share and any exotic beverages you might desire. We'll have everything else.

In the meantime, let us together 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

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

No — BIRCH LAKE KARAOKE!
Mark your calendars! Saturday, June 20th at the BLYC.

Be there or be square!

-Bob Waddle, 2009 Vice Commodore

Smokin' Hot Bar-B-Que

**Pulled Pork, ribs, chicken,
sausage, wings, salmon & shrimp**

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— Birch Lake Notes —

To All Our Birch Lake Friends

How do we ever thank everyone that helped us with our Memorial for Steve? Words alone can't begin to express our thanks and sincere gratitude. The attendance was wonderful and thanks to "God" the weather was beautiful, just the kind of spring day Steve loved. I am sure he was smiling and probably laughing a time or two.

So many people helped us with setting up, preparing and serving refreshments, loaning golf carts for transporting people back and forth from the parking areas, and taking down after the service. We don't want to forget anyone so a "Huge Big Thank You to All."

It's wonderful to know there are so many friends who come together at times like these. Steve was truly blessed and so are we to have such an outpouring of love.

-Sincerely, Donna & Harold Cranmer and family

Commodore's Kicks the Party Season into Gear

That's right. This year's inaugural Yacht Club Party will be held this Saturday, (today) June 6th at Birch Lake's social mecca, our very own Yacht Club Facility. It's been a long

winter, hasn't it? It's great to be back at God's favorite place, and to be enjoying His favorite lake again, isn't it? Well, come up and say hi to all your friends and neighbors, old and new. After all, they are God's favorite people. We are starting at 7:30 pm. Please bring a snack or desert to share and your smile. See you there.

Rowboat found

Laveta Schofield has reported that an aluminum rowboat drifted up to her pier (with a broken mooring line) after last weekend's wind. The boat has a green registration sticker and bears the number NC6578PY. If this is yours, contact Laveta at 941-223-1918.

Evelyn "Buddy" Asire

Evelyn Marcine "Buddy" Asire, 91, of Virginia Beach, Virginia passed away in her home last month. Evelyn will be remembered as a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother whose cheery smile and laugh could brighten an entire room. She enjoyed her travels over the globe, including living in Ethiopia in her earlier years, as well as arranging flowers, hosting dinner parties and serving charitable groups. She

was a part-time resident of Birch Lake during the summer months. Evelyn was also an active member of the Republican Women's Group and Nimmo and Virginia Beach United Methodist Churches. She married Jack Bowe Asire, who was previously deceased. She is survived by Martha Asire of Virginia Beach, VA; Jeff Asire of Freeport, TX; and Nancy Asire of Kansas City, MO. Grandchildren include Brian & Patrick Asire; Brett Carey, Christopher and his wife Brynn Carey, and Erisa Carey of Virginia Beach, as well as many great-grandchildren. A remembrance service was held May 31. Donations may be made in lieu of flowers to LALMBA ("A Place of Hope"). LALMBA is non-profit humanitarian group which provides medical and orphan care in the poorest regions of Africa of which Evelyn & Jack were avid supporters. Contact: donate@lalmba.org or LALMBA 7685 Quartz Street Arvada, CO 80007

"We love you, G-ma!"

Township Cleanup Day

Porter Township's annual Clean up day will be Saturday, June 6 from 8 am to Noon at American Waste in Union.



Customer Appreciation Event and Boat Demo Day



Come and join us at the *Summer Celebration at The Lake*

WakeSide Marine welcomes you to join us on June 20th as we celebrate our customers and lake-lovers the like at the Summer Celebration at The Lake event.

You and your friends are invited to enjoy a day at the lake at Baldwin Landing - Southwest Michigan's only maintenance-free, new home, lakefront community. Activities include boat tours of Baldwin Lake, boat demonstrations (Azure, Bennington, Four Winns and Nautiques models), live music, bar-be-que, and model home tour. Come and join us in celebrating summer!

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Auction June 6

The Cass County Drug Enforcement Team's annual sale of used equipment, unclaimed and forfeiture property will be auctioned at the Cass County Fairgrounds Show Arena on Saturday, June 6, with inspection/Registration at 8 am. Auction starts at 9 am. Items include vehicles, televisions, tools, lawn mowers and miscellaneous items. All items will be sold as is.

Food Ministry

The First Church of God located at 21083 Spencer Rd in Cassopolis (behind Family Dollar) will have their doors open from 9-12 the 4th Saturday of each month for the Food Ministry.

Bags of food are available for those in need. If someone cannot come at that time, we will make other arrangements for them. The church number is 269-445-8500.

Online Barker experiment

Because some of my neighbors have been bugging me to put printed Barkers online, I have been working my poor fingers to the bone to do so ... and will continue for a while if people are using it. To see it, go to <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker>

Barker Critter of the Week



Thanks to Mr. Bob for this cool photo of Kermit's second cousin on his mother's side, twice removed ... or something like that ...

[/pvBirchBarkerNew.htm](#). I'll do my best to keep up with it (it is cur-

rently being updated/posted by the day it is distributed).



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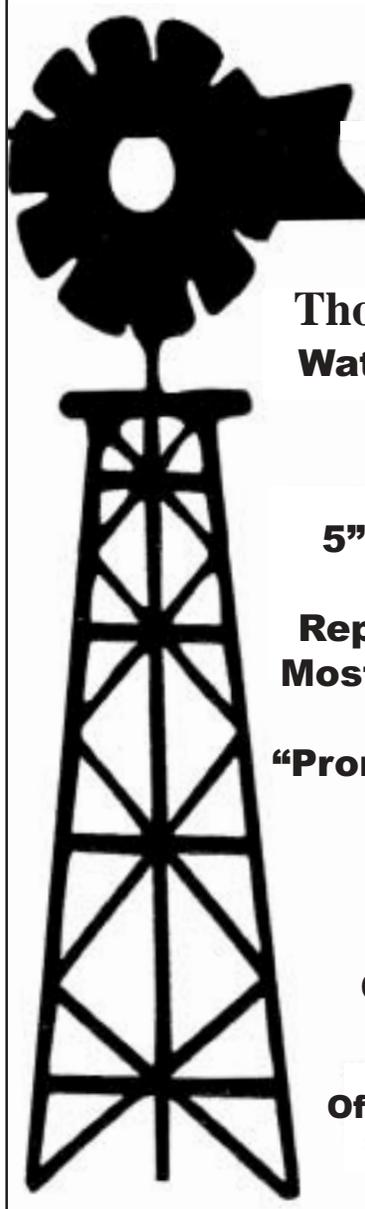
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Ian Whiteman, a lifelong resident of Birch Lake, graduated from Constantine High School on Sunday, May 31. All friends from Birch Lake are invited to stop by the Whiteman house on Sunday, June 7 from 2-6 pm to join Ian at his Open House. Please stop by and tell him Congratulations and best wishes as he starts classes at Southwestern Michigan College in the fall.



Not sure who the kid is but he's got an interesting technique for hiking out on his sunfish ...

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) 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



Where are all the Sunfish?

We started out with a glassy smooth lake on Sunday morning, but by Noon it turned into a great day for sailing. We had a respectable turnout for the first day of the racing season — at least from the MC's.

Tom Howard, the new owner of the Whale Boat, came out and showed us how to sail a boat. That guy can tell which way the wind will shift before it happens. Also, Gib Eberhart returned to the fleet after a 12-year hiatus; he is sailing an MC now. He said it was his first time sailing an MC, but he sure didn't seem to have any trouble with it. I think the rest of us are going to be up against some tough competition this year!

Thanks to Harold Cranmer for setting out the marks for the race. The wind wasn't blowing at all when he set up the course, but, like Tom, he just knows which way it will be coming from.

If anyone wants to dust off their old, neglected sailboat and join the fun, then just do it! I hope you Sunfish sailors are ready to go this week!

See you all out on the water this Sunday, 11:00 a.m.

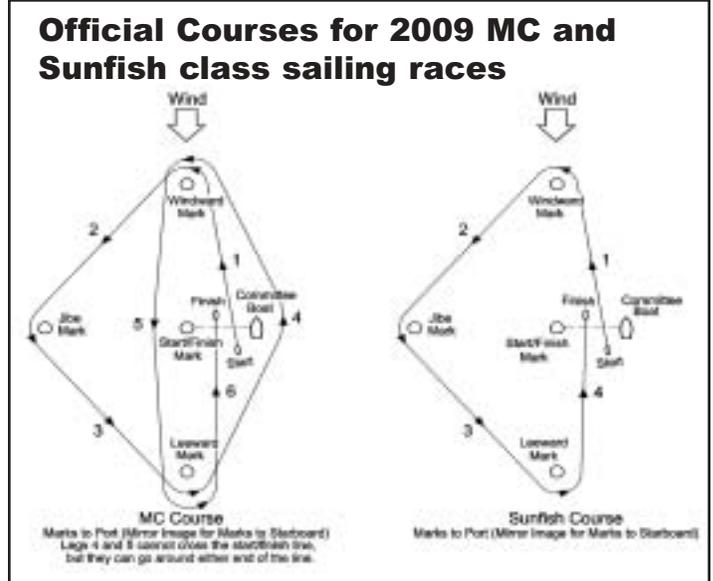
-Fleet Captain Bill Luecht

NOTES: 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 other boats finished and you would have finished 6th, you will be scored as 7th place). DNF not counted toward minimum number of races needed to qualify. DQ (Disqualified) 0 points. 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 Average = total season points/number of races completed.

2009 Sailing Season Results

MC Scow Fleet

Race	1	2	Season	Season
Date	5/31	5/31	Points	Average
Tom Howard	1	1	3200	1600
Harold Cranmer	2	2	3042	1521
Gib Eberhart	4	3	2813	1406.5
Jeff Smitley	3	5	2740	1370
Phil Vitale	5	4	2665	1332.5



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Committee Boat Sign Ups (Tentative)

Date	Name
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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Tannadoonah Tidbits

This week starts our first group of campers at Tannadoonah! Not our regular summer program yet, though. The People of Praise will be here from Sunday through Friday with a group of approximately 200 campers and staff. This is their 20th year renting Camp Tannadoonah for their week-long camp program! I'm sure you'll hear them singing and see them down at the waterfront!

As of Tuesday, we have 310 campers signed up for our camp program this year, compared to 279 on this date last year. So we're still about 30 campers ahead of the pace from last year, but a long way from our goal of 550 campers. To date, I have received 35 requests for campership funding, totaling over \$9,000 in requested financial aid. I have received some donations for camperships, which are very much appreciated! If you are still thinking about sponsoring a camper, please let me know.

This past weekend we had a board and staff retreat up at camp. We welcomed two new members of the board, one of whom is a Birch Lake resident, Patti Russwurm. We're very excited to



have some new faces and new energy on the board as we come into this busy part of the year for Camp Fire! During the retreat we all had the opportunity to take part in some camper activities, including archery and the low ropes team-building course.

Next we had cookout - we made walking tacos and S'Mores for lunch. After lunch the group worked on a service project for camp and built 3 new picnic tables, and got all the materials cut out for an additional 3 tables to be assembled later. We then had a strategic planning session, a board meeting, and an excellent dinner prepared by Miss Peggy. It was a fun afternoon and a great opportunity for the board to put their heads together and plan for some upcoming Camp and Camp Fire events.

Speaking of Camp events, we are planning to host a Hog Roast up at camp on Saturday, August 1st. We're hoping this will be a fun way to get people together and just hang out at camp to enjoy some great food and drink. More details will follow, but mark your calendars now and come spend the afternoon / evening with us up at camp!

Thank you again to everyone who has helped out with getting camp ready for this summer - we really appreciate all the assistance from everyone around the lake!

Miss Amber Grundy

Director, Camp Tannadoonah

Amber@tannadoonah.org

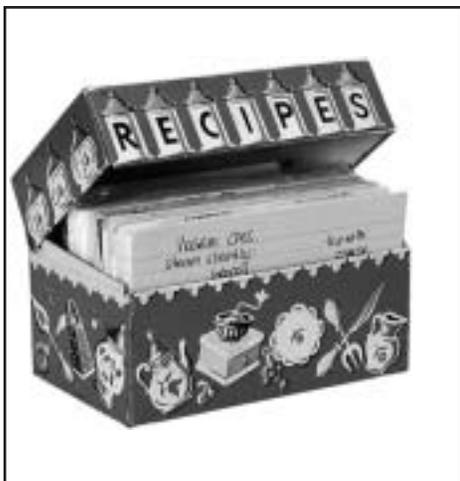
574-217-4731

Camp Wish List:

- Electric Clothes Dryer(s)
- Electric Water Heater(s)
- Life jackets (the orange kind)
- New mattresses for camp bunks (\$100 each)
- Campership Funds (\$350 per camper)
- Old Nylons / Stockings
- Yarn
- Plastic Easter Eggs
- Holiday Decorations (all holidays!)
- Baby Dolls & Barbies
- Doll Clothes

~Birch Lake Recipes~

The most fun lunch — EVER!



I had the pleasure of spending the day — and having lunch — at at Camp Tannadoonah Saturday, and I just had to share the most fun lunch I have ever had — Walking Tacos. Enjoy!

Walking Tacos

Ingredients:

- 1 individual bag of Fritos per person
- 1 lb lean hamburger
- 1 envelope taco mix
- 3/4 cup water
- Lettuce chopped
- Tomato chopped

- Onion chopped
- Cheese for garnish
- Sour cream if desired

Preparation:

Brown hamburger in skillet. Drain. Add taco mix and water. Bring to boil reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes. Give everyone their frito bag. Allow them to open and put in any and all ingredients they want. Shake well and eat right out of the bag with a fork.

How fun is that!

Happy snaking

-Good Patti



<http://tannadoonah.org/>



211 Dixie Way North
South Bend, IN 46637

574-272-7000

Stu's Star Stuff

How big is the Milky Way Galaxy?

Late on clear summer nights a long stream of stars stretches from north to south across the sky. When Sagittarius, aka the Tea Pot is visible the stream could be imagined to be steam coming from the spout. This stream is actually an edge-on look into our Milky Way galaxy. So just how big is it?

On a scale of 1 to 10, our galaxy is about a 6 or 7. The 1's would be dwarf galaxies, some of which actually orbit the Milky Way. The 10's are giant spirals and elliptical galaxies that form the cores of super-clusters of galaxies. Our galaxy contains at least 200 billion stars. The dwarf galaxies contain millions of stars, and the giant spirals and ellipticals contain upwards of a trillion stars.

The luminous material of the Milky Way stretches about 100,000 light-years across, with our Sun situated about 27,000 light-years from the center. Astronomers are limited to seeing whatever glows in space, but they think a large chunk of the Milky Way may be invisible,

and as yet unmeasurable. Our galaxy actually could be much bigger.

Sources differ, but the number of galaxies in the universe could be as "few" as 10 billion or as many as 100 billion. Recent discoveries of extremely faint dwarf galaxies, including one right next to the Milky Way, and the remarkable number of older galaxies detected in the Hubble Deep Field photos would seem to favor the larger of the two estimates.

The Milky Way is the second-largest galaxy in what astronomers call the Local Group. The slightly larger Andromeda Galaxy and many smaller elliptical and irregular galaxies also populate the group, which spans about 6.5 million light-years. The Andromeda Galaxy is the most-distant object that's readily visible to the unaided eye -- about two and a half million light-years away. But don't try looking for it just yet. Besides it being little more than a fuzzy smudge of light it won't be readily visible until autumn.

But there are many other wonders to behold in the night sky. Especially in the

un-light-polluted skies over Birch Lake. So pay your money and take your chances. Enjoy

-*Stu Spratt*

The Moon tonight:



The moon for June 6 (at Midnight)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.996
0.5 days until full moon

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21-April 20)

Adventurous day. Do you feel like having an adventure? Well today, you're more likely to have an adventure when you go on a short journey. No need to go very far, just someplace you've wanted to go before, yet never been. Today is also a good day to surprise a close friend with news or a small gift. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21-May 21)

Different strokes for different folks. Today, more people around you will differ in their beliefs from yours. Rather than clash with all of them, listen respectfully to their opinions. Then only if absolutely necessary, try explaining your position. Great day to expose yourself to other points of view. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Shiny happy person. Today your individuality will really shine. So for the best day possible, try showing off the qualities that make you different and unique. That could involve wearing your favorite clothes, sharing your hobbies and collections, or even telling others your most unique desires. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Take time for both. Today you'll have dual needs. On one hand, you'll want to take part in social activities. And at the same time, you'll need some time alone. Fortunately, you can and should do both! Today plan time with others, and also try to find someplace quiet where you can spend an hour alone. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

People power. To feel your best today, spend more time socializing with others. Attending a party would fit the bill perfectly! But, that's not the only solution. You can also go to any crowded public place where you can mingle with lots of people. Great day to go to a popular restaurant, movie theater or store. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

Out in front. Today your leadership skills are stronger than usual. So much so, that you should put yourself into situations where you can take a greater leadership role. You'll find you're especially effective when you get out in front and lead others by example. Great day to invite friends to join you. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24-Oct. 23)

Make up your mind! Today spending

too long making decisions won't benefit you. In fact, it could cause you some unnecessary grief. That's because today you'll tend to overanalyze your options. The simple solution to this problem is to make decisions more quickly, especially on unimportant matters. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Can you avoid money? Today you may want to try! That's because today your judgment regarding the use of money is at below normal levels. Try putting off any major purchases or investments. You'll also want to avoid advising others how to spend their money. Tomorrow things will be back to normal. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)

Relationship elevator going up. Today you'll want to spend more time with someone you find special. That's because today the stage is set for your relationships to improve and mature. If possible, try planning something unique with that someone special. And don't let outside influences interrupt your time together. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Better shape. Great day to focus on bettering your health. That's because today your health and physical well-being are in stronger focus. To help achieve the best results today, try to focus mostly on eating healthy foods, and on getting enough rest for your body to rebuild its natural defenses. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

The language of love. Today romance is a much greater possibility! So what can you do to improve your chances? You needn't say a word. That's because today your nonverbal signals are the key to improving your chances of making a love connection. When meeting people today, let your eyes and smile express your true intentions. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Back to the simple things. Today, simplicity is your key to having the most successful and satisfying day. That means you'll want to avoid situations that seem overly complex. Instead, choose to do things in the simplest manner possible. It's also a great day to focus your time on favorite places, activities and people. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

Water Quality Committee Report

**Water Quality Program
Water Quality Committee Lake
Management Report
Rick Russwurm, Chairman,
Terry Dugan, Gordon Seyfarth,
Bruce Wagner**

Blue-Green Algae - Later on this summer, probably about the July 4th weekend, we will have a discussion on blue-green algae, i.e. what they are, what they look like, and any issues related to this bacteria that behaves like an algae and is normally associated with high nutrient (especially phosphorous) lakes. Last summer we had one small documented isolated bloom so we want folks to know what to look for. Blooms would be an unusual occurrence in our low phosphorous lake.

Secchi Disk readings - For those who have been here every weekend, you may have noticed that the water has lost some of the great transparency we saw earlier in the spring. This is validated by the Secchi Disk readings as seen below.

3/21 (26"), 4/9 (25"), 4/26 (35"), 5/15 (36"), 5/19 (27"), 5/26 (21"), and 5/31 (14")

We will produce a graph that will be

added to weekly to illustrate the weekly transparency changes. Why the large drop over just a couple of weeks? More sun, warmer weather, massive insect hatches, lots of tree pollen in the lake. Thus a possible early algae bloom. Gordon and Terry will be doing a side by side testing with Ralph Bednarz of the DEQ on June 15 for chlorophyll (indicator of algae) and dissolved oxygen. We will show Ralph the current data trends and obtain his thoughts, and pass them right on to you.

Lake Stratification - We are doing the dissolved oxygen this year. This involves passing a oxygen and temperature probe through the water column in the deep part of the lake and taking measurements every 2.5 or 5 feet depending on depth. In a shallow lake you would not expect to see much difference in temperature or amount of dissolved oxygen from top to bottom. This is because wave action etc. permits mixing of the total water column. In deep lakes like ours, you will see a definite thermocline develop indicating the depth where mixing stops. We are seeing this happen now in the 15-20 foot range where the temperature drops rapidly. On May 31, the temperature was relatively constant from the surface to 15 feet, then a 16 degree drop

down to 30 feet. From the 30 foot level to 88 feet it only dropped by another 7 degrees. So effectively from below thirty feet, there will be no additional oxygen from the surface mixing into this water. The ability to keep oxygen in this lower level of nonmixed water is an index of lake productivity, i.e. migration from oligotrophic to mesotrophic. We will follow this over the course of the summer and provide some hopefully clear graphs to demonstrate how our lake is doing, and what it means.

E coli -- Terry did a little more spot sampling to screen a couple of places on the lake this past week. He took two sets of duplicate samples from about 2 foot of water by the public park on the south side and about 30 feet south of the stream inlet in the northeast corner. One set of duplicate were from his kayak and the second set of duplicates were after getting out of the kayak and stomping around a bit. There was only one sample from the public park that had a single colony. Due to the sensitivity of the assay, this would be a E coli count equivalent to 20 per 100 ml in 1 of 8 samples. If you want an area checked, give Terry a call and he will do a screen.

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Lake Living and Safety

Operating a PWC safely

Lake Living and Safety is a new Barker feature being provided by the Birch Lake Yacht Club's Homeowner's Association and Safety Committee.

Each week we will feature one or more informational pieces dealing with boating, lake living and safety for our Birch Lake neighbors.

This week we are looking at the safety issues regarding operating a personal watercraft. Please make sure you help keep your family, friends, neighbors and visitors safe on our waters.

PWCs and you

Although a personal watercraft (PWC) is considered an inboard vessel and comes under the same rules and requirements of any other vessel, there are specific considerations for the PWC operator.

Steering and Stopping a PWC

■ PWCs are propelled by drawing water into a pump and then forcing it out under pressure through a steering nozzle at the back of the unit. This "jet" of pressurized water is directed by the steering control-when the steering control is turned, the steering nozzle turns in the same direction.

For example, if the steering control



is turned right, the nozzle turns right and the jet of water pushes the back of the vessel to the left, which causes the PWC to turn right.

Remember-no power means no steering control ... You always must have power in order to maintain control. If you allow the engine to return to idle or shut off during operation, you lose all

steering control. The PWC will continue in the direction it was headed before the engine was shut off, no matter which way the steering control is turned.

■ A PWC has no brakes. Always allow plenty of room for stopping. Just because you release the throttle or shut off the

continued on next page

NICHOLS

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EXCAVATING

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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

Boating Regulations and Safety

engine does not mean you will stop immediately.

Ignition Safety Switches

■ Most PWCs and powerboats come equipped by the manufacturer with an important device called an emergency ignition safety switch. This is a safety device that is designed to shut off the engine if the operator is thrown from the proper operating position.

■ A lanyard is attached to the safety switch and the operator's wrist or PFD. The safety switch shuts off the engine if the operator falls off the PWC or out of

the powerboat. If your vessel does not come equipped with an ignition safety switch, you should have one installed.

■ It is illegal to ride your PWC without attaching the lanyard properly between the switch and yourself

Reboarding a Capsized PWC

After a fall, the PWC could be overturned completely. You should be familiar with the proper procedure to right the PWC and to reboard from the rear of the craft.

■ Most manufacturers have placed a decal at the rear or bottom of the craft

that indicates the direction to roll your PWC to return it to an upright position. If no decal exists, check your owner's manual or ask the dealer. If you roll it over the wrong way, you could damage your Pwc.

■ Practice reboarding with someone else around to make sure you can handle it alone. Don't ride your PWC if you are very tired because reboarding would be difficult. Also, avoid riding where there are strong currents or winds, which could hamper your reboarding efforts.

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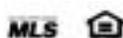
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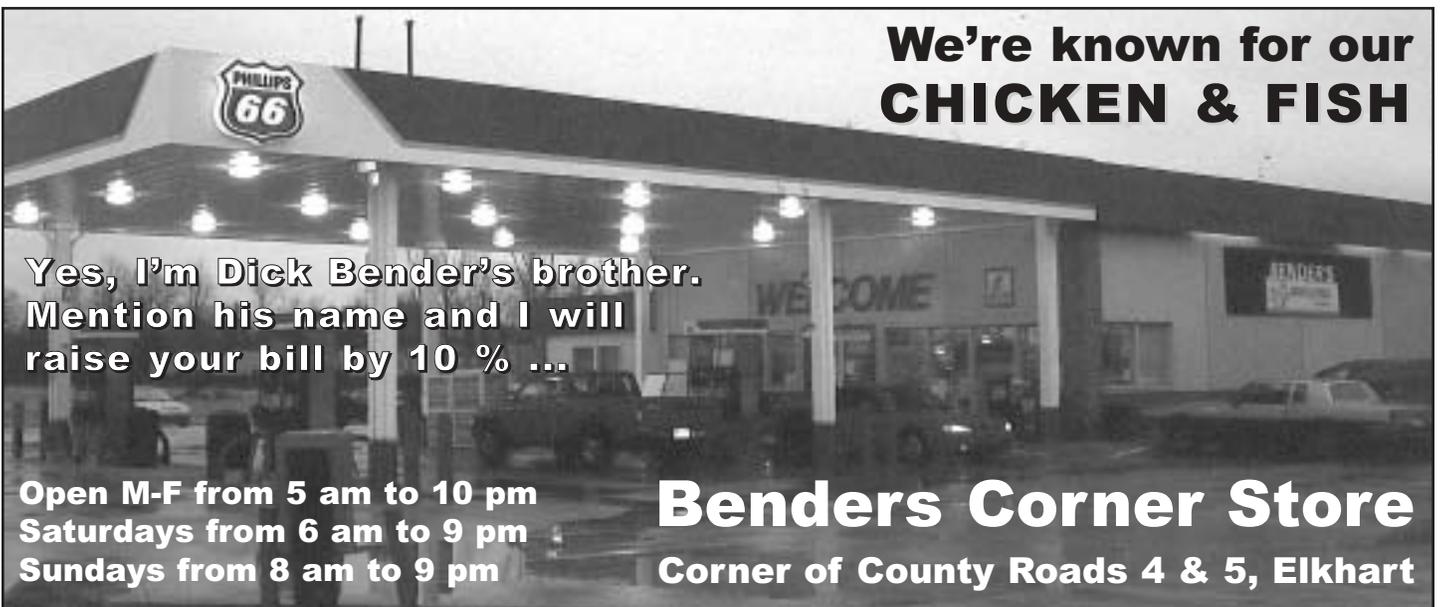
Barker photos



thanks to Mr. Bob for the nice pix



Editor's Note: Due to technical difficulties the Birch Lake Crossword was not available this week. We hope to resume it next week.



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Now, let's go play some golf!

Barker Word Search

Lake Toys

Find each of the following words.

FINS
CANE POLE
BICYCLE
TOWEL
SWIMSUIT
KID DRAGGER
PIER
BOAT COAT
FLOATIES

JONBOAT
RAFT
NOODLES
SUNFISH
SPEEDBOAT
FRISBEE
JET SKI
BEACH BALL
FLIP FLOPS

FACE MASK
NET
WATER WINGS
PONTOON
PAIL
AQUA PADIO
SNORKEL
SHOVEL
SAILBOAT

WAKE BOARD
FISHING POLE
SLALOM
CANOE
SUNTAN OIL
SKIS
ROW BOAT

N S F K B E F L I P F L O P S S H O W E
 E E R S I E L E O N A C E L C Y C I B C
 O I I A U N O S T A O B N O J C S A L I
 L T S M S A A Q U A P A D I O O B K N I
 S A B E M L T S R L L A B H C A E B I D
 K O E C I M I R E G G A R D D I K W E S
 T L I A W M U O I S A I L B O A T F L A
 I F P F S S D P P W A K E B O A R D O U
 K T I U S M I W S G N I W R E T A W P D
 S S U N T A N T K S L E O F F I N S G E
 T L C O O A L O O S P I S A I L B N N B
 E L A O R A F T O W L E O T A S L F I H
 J F N O O D L E S T E A E N A B T A H B
 A R E S K S C B A A N L L D A O E F S W
 O I P G H N E B C T N O P O B T B K I T
 B S O A C O A L E S D B P B M O N W F C
 E B L I B R V N I W N E T L I N A U O W
 K E E W N K E E S U N F I S H D S T S R
 A E O W T E J A L A B O A T C O A T O F
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Sea Doo inflatable Splash Island - Excellent condition, used only 2 summers. \$75 - Call Ann, 317-753-6853

Hobie Cat, 16 foot, with sails, on trailer. \$850. Call Artie at 476-1692 or 574-514-3179.

4' X 7' expanded metal utility trailer with ramps. New tires. Perfect for hauling riding mower, etc. \$200. call Sparkybob Waddle 476-2293

WANTED

Wanted to buy: **Bass clarinet** in good condition. Contact Bill Luecht 476-2615

Wanted: **tennis partner** to play with aspiring young phenom. Call Katie Luecht 476-2615

Wanted: **winning lottery ticket** so I don't have to be a trunk slammer. Call Bad Patty 476-2615

Wanted: **teenagers to do yard work** while we lounge in lawn chairs - contact Joe King

MISC.

Condolences: on D-day (how apropos), in 1981, Leslie Anne Steele "jumped the broom" ... flowers and well-wishes gratefully accepted.

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.

Lake Cottage: Are you having family or friends up and ran out of room? You can use my place. Willing to rent weekly, monthly, or just for a weekend, Family room, large kitchen with all new appliances, recently remodeled, washer/dryer, central air, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, loft with sleeper, new deck, gas grill, lake access. \$1200/week. Contact Vickie or Sam Tomaino @ 630-775-9336 or mytoria@aol.com for more information and pictures.

Luxury Condo for \$975/Week (rates contingent on availability and dates). Over 2100 square feet with panoramic balconies that are over 400 square feet, overlooking the ocean, speedway and downtown Daytona. 3 bedrooms, 2

baths with walk-in showers. Fully furnished with washer, dryer, dishes and brand NEW appliances. King bed in master suite, 2 queen beds in guest bedroom and 2 twin beds in third bedroom. Large private swimming pool on complex. Hot tub, tennis courts, par 3 golf course, billiards room/game room, ping pong. Cleaning fees separate but optional. PLEASE CALL 561 603 5522. Ask for Angela or email berganfsu@aol.com (photo below)



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Barker Advertising: **The Birch Barker will publish classified ads free for members of the BLYC ... non-members will be charged \$5/ad. Send ads to sailorphil@philvitale.com**



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Bob Baucus — 476 2863

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Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Lind Harman — 476-2039

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Sue Williams —476-8886

West — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Nancy Walker — 476-2515

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Cove — Vicki Rogers—476-2383

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Gordon Seyfarth — n/a

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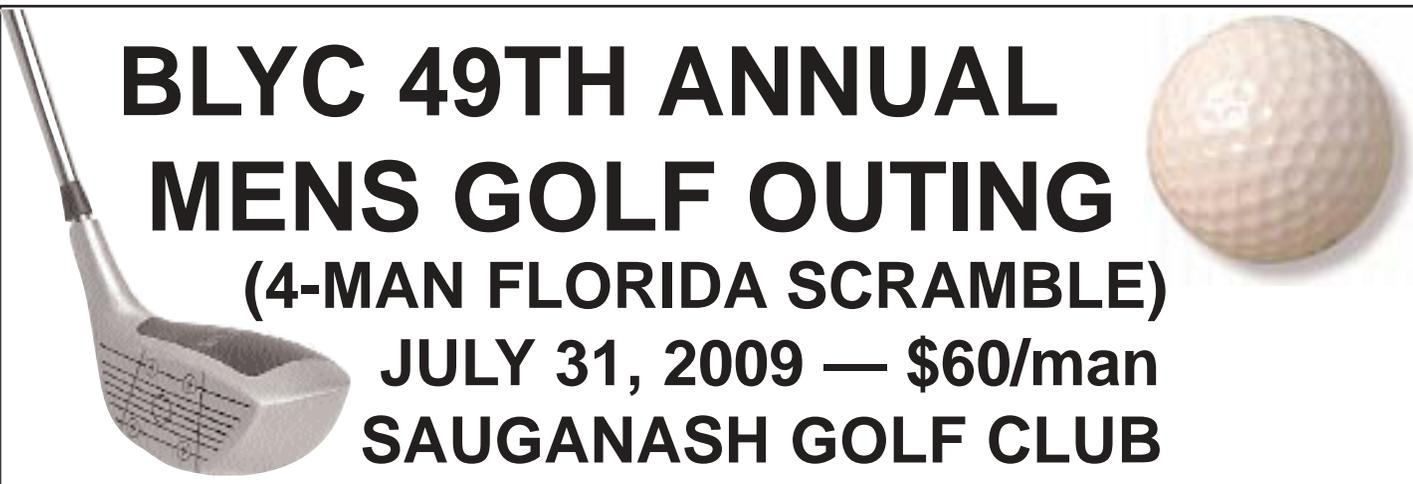
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BLYC Fleet Captain

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BLYC 49TH ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE) JULY 31, 2009 — \$60/man SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB

61270 Lutz Rd., Three Rivers, MI — Shotgun start at NOON; dinner at BLYC at 6 pm

* 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 dessert.
- * 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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- \$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)
- \$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member Dues (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ ___ - Fireworks Fund
- \$ ___ - Water Quality Program
- \$ ___ - Riparian (\$8/yr, provide address for magazine)
- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other (non-party related expenses)

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

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Elkhart, IN 46514

or drop off at: 63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

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