

WOW! Who says there are no big fish in Birch Lake? Thanks to Tom Lacy for the cool fish pix.

Communication is the key

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

That's an adage we've all heard thousands of times, yet rings true each time we've heard it. Its three simple words remind us how important communication is to virtually all living, breathing creatures. Without communication we would all be islands onto ourselves, required to do everything necessary just to survive for ourselves, and by ourselves. Some form of communication is necessary even to ensure successive generations (i.e. procreate). A phrase not as short, but more commonly used by me is "90% (or more) of life's problems are due to poor communication." Clearly the more we communicate, the better our worlds seem to run.

There are two current instances in which Birch Lakers have benefitted from good communication.

Considering the somewhat dismal weather, the attendance at last Saturday's Commodore's Party was outstanding — in spite of being themeless. Scores of

lakers shared delicious snacks, quenching beverages, time, updates, stories, and fun with their neighbors. Thanks to all who came. I was then, as I am always, tickled pink to be among you. Special thanks go to Don Harman (for performing his typical pre and post event behind the scenes activities), Sandy and Phil Vitale (for making the advance bar order and bartending), Bob Waddle (for securing the items on the bar order list), Cal King (for segregating the recyclables and helping with the trash), Tim Steffen the donation bucket Nazi (believe it or not, by the end of the night, donations totaled \$500.00, far more than was spent to stock the bar), and all the other nameless masses who helped "set up" and "take down" and provided any other acts of assistance. Our goal was to come together to positively communicate and enjoy ourselves. With proper planning and communication, we did a great job. Congratulations, all of you good communicators.

I've always enjoyed the Barker immensely. Like all of us I hope, it just seems to get better and better with age.

Certainly it's bigger with more articles about more subjects of interest to all of us. Maybe I'm not completely objective but even the advertisements appear to be

2009 BLYC Calendar*

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 1—Camp T. Hog Roast, tba
 August 7—Women's Golf Outing
 August 8—Corn & Sausage Roast
 August 22—Fall Dinner
 Sept. 5—Board meeting 9 am

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), 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

more attractive. This year the ads are going to cover the costs of production and then some. Obviously all of those failing newspapers around the country have "missed the boat." They should copy us.

As great as it is, don't let the price (after all it's free) mislead you. Week after week (yep, there's 16 printed editions) a lot of people put in a lot of hard work to make this thing go. Each week your Barker is delivered door to door by a group of wonderful volunteers: Julie Weaver and Lacey on the south side, the Troegers, Olsons and Linda Curtis on the east side, the new Mrs. Lutz on the north, Vickie Rogers in the cove and to the west, and Buzz Rasmussen completes the westerly circumference. They are all delivered to, and under the tight supervision of, Barb Zesinger, Route Commander. Fred Freihofer is our would be teamster, doing the pick up in Mishawaka, the over-the-road haul, and dropoff at Barb's.

Also each and every week numerous people contribute to the content of the Barker: Bill Luecht our fleet captain, Rick Russwurm and Terry Dugan with lessons on water quality, Camp Director Amber Grundy, Stewart Spratt with articles on astronomy and astrology, Bob King and the Patties with top notch camera work, and others contribute every week.

While on the subject of contribute, you may have previously picked up on

my opinion that the dues amount are paltry (only \$25) and way too few people pay them (some years only 100 families or so). As stated all the work done in the Barker is donated, except for the printing which costs around \$2,000, almost as much as one year's worth of collected dues (100 x \$25 = \$2,500). Lucky for us the crack sales team of Dick Bender, Bob King, and Phil Vitale sold more ads than our annual printing fees. It's obvious, these advertisers want to be in your Barker.

At our board meeting in May, in their report on all the conferences and meetings they had attended recently, your Water Quality Committee members advised us of how shocked and jealous all the other lakes representatives were to learn we regularly put out a quality, informative piece of written communication to all lake families every week. The non-Birchers knew how much that steady information flow could improve things where they lived. If not with algae, I'm sure they were green with envy.

Truly there are a lot of people who work hard on this thing we call the Barker. Isn't it great? Don't they all deserve our gratitude?

Equal to or exceeding the combined contributions of all others, are the contributions of the editor, publisher, cheerleader, and chief cook and bottle washer of the Barker, the one and only Phil Vitale. What he does amazes me. The quality and efficiency with which he does

it astounds me. Whether you know Phil, like Phil, or agree with Phil doesn't matter. There is absolutely no denying the importance of this one contribution alone of his (he and Sandy do more other contributions in different ways than I could ever begin to list) and he continues to make it week in/week out year after year. Yes communication is the key. Think of how many more problems we'd have without it, and, around here, Phil Vitale is the ultimate key master. Phil you are a truly key part in assuring the quality of our community's life through the communications you orchestrate and provide to all of us. Thank you from all of us.

-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore

VICE COMMODORE'S COMMENTS, TOO

Birch Lake Karaoke

I don't know about you'all, but when I go to karaoke I can never remember the songs I can sing best i.e. alone in the car, alone in the shower, or alone with my walkman (shows how old I am). So next time you're really belting one out — grab a pencil and write it down — and bring it to BIRCH LAKE KARAOKE. Be square ... or be there!

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

-Bob Waddle, 2009 Vice Commodore

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Line Dance every week

We will have LINE DANCING again this year on Tuesday mornings at 9 am at the Yacht Club. Look forward to seeing everyone.

-Lind Harman

2009 Boat Parade

The Birch Lake Boat Parade is just three weeks away. It's time to get your creative juices flowing. The theme for this year is "CELEBRATE SUMMER AT BIRCH LAKE!" So get your family and friends together and let your imaginations go wild! This highly anticipated event takes place on Saturday, July 4 at 4 p.m. More info will follow — Watch The Barker!

Golf Outings need donations

The Mens' and Ladies' Golf Outing organizers are looking for donations of money and door prizes for both events. If you have "logo" merchandise or any items to donate, or if you would like to sponsor a hole for either or both events, please contact Fred Freihofer, 14921 North Shore Drive at 476-9823.

Swimmers' Itch

Stan Pitakos (formerly north side, but of late, of west side), would

like to thank northsiders Bob Baucus and Stu Spratt for coming over and sharing the delights of the first confirmed cases of swimmer's (or duck) itch with him ...

Open House at Porter

The Porter Township Fire Station will host an Open House on Saturday, June 20 from Noon to 3. All are welcome

Candle Fundraiser

The BLYC is having a fundraiser this summer by selling "The Olde Cranberry Barn Candles." These highly scented, 16 oz candles have two wicks and will have a special Birch Lake label. The candles are available for just \$17 each.

The candles, in 6 different scents will be available for you to see, smell and order at the June 20th Vice Commodore's party. All orders need to be paid in full at the time of order. Orders will be taken until July 5th, and candles can be picked up July 18th at the Spaghetti dinner.

These candles make great gifts for family, friends and yourself! They are manufactured by two Birch Lakes' residents, Greg and Marcia Bolin, who recently purchased Cranberry Barn Candles (they also

BLYC Fundraisers



Birch Lake Candle label (above) and Birch Lake coaster (both items will be in color)



own Chickadee's in South Bend).

If you have any questions please contact Sandy Baucus at 641-5644 (during the week) 476-2863 (on week ends) or by email at Sabaucus@AOL.com

Enhance your home decor with a wonderfully scented candle sporting a Birch Lake label!

Coaster Fundraisers

The Yacht Club is also sponsoring a fundraiser selling Birch Lake coaster sets. The four-coaster sets feature a topographic map of Birch Lake. Impress your guests all summer — and have a memory of your favorite summer spot when you go home in the fall.

Coaster are just \$25 per set. To order contact Phil Vitale at 476-1680 or email sailorphil@philvitale.com



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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— Barker Kids of the Week —



This week's Barker Kids of the Week are (at left) Morgann Applegate and her friend Mimi Panzica (Morgann is the granddaughter of Phil & Sandy Vitale, east side), who shared a hug after school in South Bend, and (above) Amanda Athanes-Butler, Claire Brovold and Amy Lutz's niece, Kelly Mae, who shared (and wore) ice cream at the lake.

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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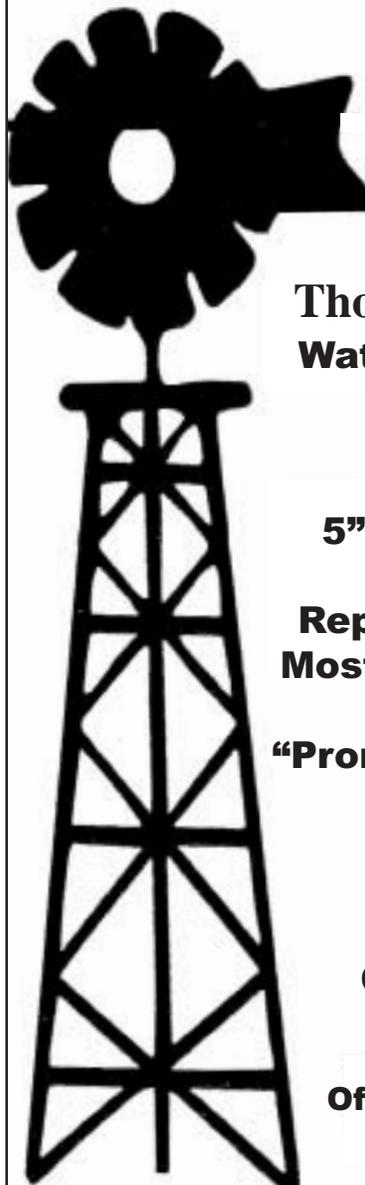
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— Barker Critters of the Week —



At left, Major Russwurm, owner of Rick & Patti Russwurm (north side) was photographed recently taking his people for a boat ride. Thanks to Mr. Bob for the pic.



At right, on Tues June 2, "Kylie" (Randy Welch II) had 8 boxer puppies. 5 males and 3 females!



Dick

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Want all of our Birch Lake friends to have a safe and fun summer!

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Digital sailing doesn't work

Well, we found out last weekend that Digital TV and sailing don't mix very well. It used to be, in the good old days, that the TV set in the cottage (the old black-and-white one with the rusty bow-tie antenna on the roof) would only pick up two or three channels. And on Sunday morning none of those channels had a weather forecast (well, they might have — who could tell? — it always looked like it was snowing on Channel 16).

But now, in digital perfection, we can get Channel 22.3 with its round-the-clock weather radar and precipitation forecasts.

So what did we do last Sunday morning, Phil and Don and Harold and I, but stand around and watch the terrible storm that was blowing in across Lake Michigan from Chicago? Those radar images left no doubt that the rain was going to be at Birch Lake by eleven o'clock a.m., and that it was going to last for the rest of the day.

So I did what any technically savvy, digitally-informed fleet captain would do, and cancelled the races. Never mind that it wasn't very cloudy, or that there was a nice breeze blowing, or that I had been waiting all week to go sailing.

Nope, I had to cancel the races.

This wouldn't be a big deal, of course, except that the rain didn't arrive by eleven, or by noon, or by one o'clock, for that matter.

From now on, I'm just going to watch the hummingbirds at the feeder. You can tell by watching them if it's going to rain, and best of all, they're not digital.

Speaking of being digitally informed, all of you would-be sailors who would like to have a little more knowledge about the rules of sailboat racing before you come out and join us (hint, hint) will find a lot of good information about sailing on the internet.

One site that has some good diagrams showing which boat has the right-of-way in different situations is at <http://www.gosailing.com.au/> — click on "Helpful Information" and then "Beginner's Notes."

If you want to get serious, the entire Racing Rules of Sailing is online at <http://www.sailing.org/racingrules.php>.

There is a marked-up version which shows the differences from the 2008 rules.

And all of you more experienced sailors who like to cluster upwind of the committee boat at the start of the races (like I do) need

to read the article about barging on the starting line at <http://www.vicsabot.yachting.org.au/> click on "Sailing Tips" and then "Barging at the Start."

Barging at the start of the race is illegal



I'll admit that before I read this article, I didn't really understand what Tom Howard was yelling about.

Hope to see you all out on the water 11 a.m. Sunday for the races.

-Fleet Captain Bill Luecht

Committee Boat Sign Ups (Tentative)

Date	Name
6-14.....	Available for You!
6-21.....	Patty Luecht
6-28.....	Stewart Spratt
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.....	Jim & Sally Beck
8-9.....	Available for You!
8-16.....	Bob & Sue Waddle
8-23.....	Stan & Karen
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

If you've been up at the lake this past week, you've probably noticed that we had our first group of campers at camp this week! This week the People of Praise rented camp for a week-long camp program. This is the 20th year that they have rented Camp Tannadoonah for their camp, and they had a record number of campers attending this year. There were over 200 people in camp for the week! They even had to put about 50 people in tents because we didn't have enough cabin space for everyone!

My staff will be arriving at camp on Sunday afternoon, and I can hardly wait to kick off the staff training week. It looks like we're going to have a fabulous staff this summer. It's the first time I've actually had a completely full staff going into the summer! We have nearly one half of last year's staff returning this year, which should make this summer go very smoothly.

Among the returning staff, we have Miss Sue Felix, Miss Lo Pauwels, Miss Kristi Vurpillat, Miss Molly Dungan, Mr. Bobby Durkin, Mr. Andrew Early, Miss Catherine Laskowski, Miss Peggy Laskowski, Miss Laura Lietzan, Mr. Zach



Nease, and Miss Katie Powell. Miss Stephanie Foreman and Miss Abby Wolf are both returning from the 2007 staff, and Miss Rachael Kelly, Miss Kristin Shide, Mr. Ian Whiteman, and Mr. Dakota Olguin will all be taking part in a week or two of camp. So there are bunches of familiar faces up here this summer!

This week we started wrapping up an exciting project up at camp. Arndt Asphalt has been up at camp surfacing the tennis court. By the end of the weekend we will have a beautiful "US Open Blue" surface on the court, and there will be 2 courts rather than just the one we have had in the past! We're super excited for tennis this summer. This is the last portion of a project started almost 10 years ago, and once it's complete we plan to have a grand opening up the Murphy Memorial Sports Complex, in honor of Mrs. Jo

Murphy, who was the Tannadoonah Camp Director for 27 years.

The numbers for this summer are still looking good. We're at 333 campers currently, and on this date last year we had 313. So we're still just ahead of last year's pace, although I'd like to see the numbers growing at a faster rate! We're still hoping to hit a total of 550 campers by the end of the summer! There are three weeks that are at or above my goal for the summer, but the remaining 4 weeks are still rather low.

Don't forget to mark your calendars and join us for the Hog Roast up at camp on August 1st! It should be a fun party and a great chance to meet some of the camp staff and Camp Fire Board Members.

-Miss Amber

Camp Wish List

Electric Water Heater(s); Lifejackets (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~

Let's get dippy ...

Thought I would share a couple of dips that are often requested at my house.

Corn and Walnut Dip

2 packages (8oz each) cream cheese, softened

¼ cup vegetable oil

¼ cup lime juice

1 tablespoon chili powder

1 teaspoon ground cumin

½ teaspoon salt

1/8 teaspoon pepper

1 can (8 ¾ ounces) whole kernel corn, drained

1 cup chopped walnuts

1 small onion, chopped (1/4 cup)

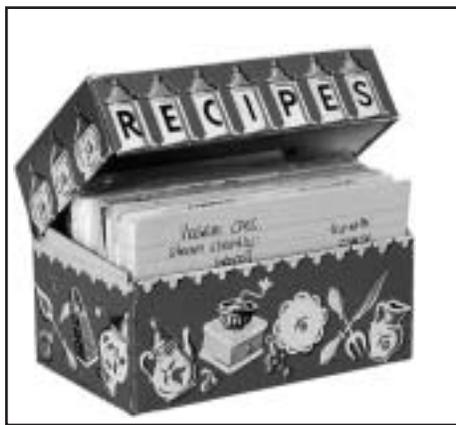
Beat cream cheese, oil, lime juice, chili, cumin, salt and pepper in large bowl with electric mixer on medium speed until

smooth.

Stir in corn, walnuts and onion. Serve with tortilla chips.

Horseradish Cream Dip

1/3 cup heavy cream



1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

1-½ tablespoon drained horseradish (drain well)

1 tablespoon sour cream

Salt and pepper to taste

Blend the cream and mustard in a food processor or in a bowl with an electric mixer until the mixture forms soft peaks, about 1 minute. Whisk together the horseradish, sour cream, salt, and pepper until smooth. Fold the mustard cream mixture into the horseradish mixture.

I serve this as a dip for shrimp. Yummy! I personally like this one better after it sets in an air tight container in the refrigerator for at least four hours or overnight is best.

Happy snacking!

-Good Patti

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CAMP TANNADOONAH
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org/>

Stu's Star Stuff

The brightest star in the sky ...

The brightest object in our sky can't even be seen on warm summer nights at the lake. Instead we all enjoy it during the day at the lake. We don't think much about it, except to complain when it's too hot or not out at all. But we all enjoy it when it's just right.

The Sun and your fingernails might not seem like they have much in common. But it turns out that they're growing at about the same rate.

Your fingernails grow an inch or two a year, and so does the Sun's diameter. Here's why. The Sun generates energy by "fusing" some of the hydrogen in its core to make helium. It takes four hydrogen atoms to make one helium atom. So as the Sun transforms hydrogen into helium, the number of individual atoms in its core goes down.

The Sun's gravity pulls inward and tries to make the Sun collapse. But the Sun's hot gas exerts an outward pressure. That balances the inward pull of gravity, so the Sun survives.

But the strength of the outward pressure depends on both the temperature of the gas and the total number of atoms. As the Sun converts hydrogen into helium, the total number of atoms decreases. That

causes the Sun's core to shrink a little, which makes it hotter and denser. The higher temperature and density in turn speed up the rate at which the Sun converts hydrogen into helium.

This process makes the Sun get brighter. And over time, it adds up: the Sun is about 40 percent brighter today than it was when it was born four and a half billion years ago.

But the Sun doesn't just grow brighter — it grows bigger, too. Astronomers estimate that the Sun's diameter gains an inch or two a year — which just happens to be how fast your fingernails are growing. As you've read here before, as the sun ages it will eventually expand enough to swallow Mercury, Venus and even Earth. But if you do the math you'll know you don't need to worry about it happening before Labor Day.

What else is going on? The planet Mars is slowly climbing into better view in the eastern sky before dawn. This week it has a showy companion: Venus, the "morning star." Mars looks like a fairly bright orange star to the upper left of Venus at first light. Jupiter, which looks like a brilliant star, is to the lower left of

the Moon early Saturday morning. They are closest together at first light.

Mercury stands farthest from the Sun for its current morning appearance. It is quite low in the east-northeast at first light, well to the lower left of brilliant Venus. Send in your dollar and enjoy the show.



-Stu Spratt

The Moon tonight:

The moon for June 13 (at Midnight)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.655
1.6 days before last quarter

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Strength will come from your ability to overtake just about any one. Expect problems with settlements that you are trying to resolve. Use your charm to get your own way. If you're in the mood, go out and socialize, or get involved in sports activities. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Difficulties relating to children will be stressful. Don't try to deal with important issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Be sure to think twice before you say something that might hurt your partner's feelings. Make money using your ingenuity and creative talent. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Abrupt changes in your home may send you for a loop. They didn't fully understand what was expected. You may want to take a serious look at your goals and objectives. Try not to attempt to do something unless you are fully intent on following through with the plans. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

This will not be the best day to try to push your ideas or concerns. A second chance will result in good work. You will have problems with coworkers if you are too extreme about doing things perfectly. Invite people home to discuss your plans for group fundraising events and outings. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Don't be too quick to blame others for your bad mood. You will be best suited to doing things around the house or inviting friends over for a visit. Sudden changes regarding colleagues may surprise you. Don't ruffle the feathers of those you care about most. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

You can meet new friends who will let you know just how valuable you are. Females may put demands or added responsibilities on you. Don't trust a deal that looks too good, or a lover who appears to have it all. Help those incapable of taking care of their personal affairs. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

If boredom has set in, find new and unique directions that offer interesting friendships. You need to take a long, hard look at yourself and your personal situation. Don't be angry, but be on your guard. Travel for business will be advantageous. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. You can offer your mate a commitment or promise that will help stabilize your personal life. Get proper medical attention and confront your situation decisively. You may win favors if you present your ideas and include your family. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Too much talk will lead to disputes. You need to look into ways to change your self-image. Don't get talked into get rich quick schemes. You can get ahead if you present your ideas to superiors. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

The existing problems must be dealt with one way or another. If you can't trust someone, question the connection. Your outgoing nature might work against you this week. Pleasure trips will induce exciting and passion ate encounters with those of foreign extraction. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Your contributions will be valued and helpful. Take your time and try not to overload yourself. Use your own ideas to further your interests. Be prepared to make compensations and adjustments. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Give everyone in the house a physical chore that will help burn off some of the excess energy. Don't put your professional reputation on the line. Positive changes regarding your personal status are evident. You will be in an overly generous mood this week. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

Water Quality Committee Report

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

As you may be aware, the lake was treated in two locations for Eurasian Milfoil on Thursday, June 4. The product used by Professional Lake Management under a DEQ permit, was Renovate OTF. The posting indicated that irrigation of crops and ornamental shrubs should not take place for 120 days. This led to a question of concern by a lake resident. We contacted the management group and asked what was really meant, and the following note was received:

“The 120 day restriction is what we are required to post. When they determine the restrictions, the testing is more or less done in a controlled environment. In a lake situation, you are dealing with dilution, breakdown, plant uptake I cannot tell you it is safe to irrigate, but I will tell you that we have done a number of treatments with Renovate OTF and have taken samples to test for residues. We usually don't have a detectable amount after 3 days and have never had

detectable amounts after 10 days. We usually tell people irrigation should be fine after 2 weeks. Hope this helps. Thanks. Andy Tomaszewski, Professional Lake Management”

Hopefully this will answer any questions regarding this point.

Phosphorous - what is it and why do we make such a big deal about it.

Pure phosphorous is a highly reactive element and when exposed to air will spontaneously combust. Thus it is always found in a chemical combination.

The primary source of phosphorous in nature is found in apatite rock in combination with calcium and this may be mined.

We have approximately a pound of phosphorous in each of us, as it is a major component of bone along with calcium. However, aside from bone, phosphorous is a vital component of DNA, RNA, cell membrane phospholipids, and the compounds that provide us with all the energy for all life processes, i.e. muscle movement, synthetic reactions, etc.

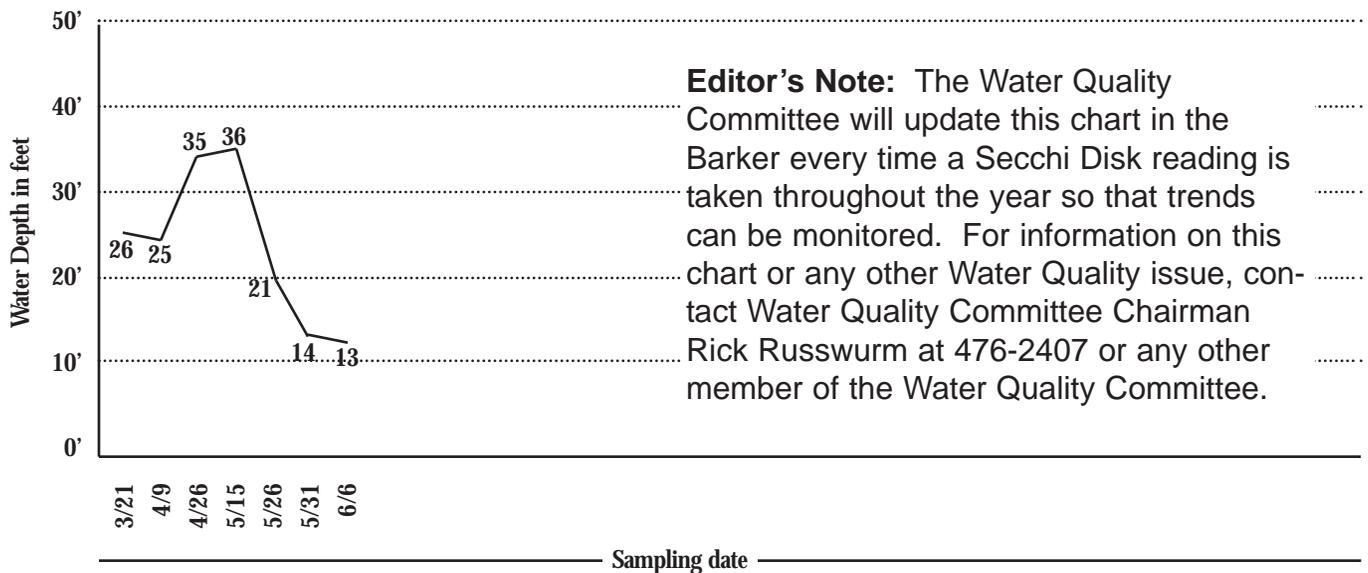
Phosphorous is one of the truly limiting nutrients involved in the eutrophication of lakes. Excess phosphorous leads to algae

blooms and dense aquatic vegetation. It is estimated that about a half pound of phosphorous will be enough for about 100 tons wet weight of aquatic plant material (remember no bones here). In measuring lake productivity, levels of phosphorous below 10 parts per billion are considered healthy and indicative of oligotrophic lakes. Between 10 and 30 parts per billion indicate the productivity of a mesotrophic lake.

From this it should be obvious why we have concerns about sources of phosphorous that could enter the lake, i.e. septic tanks, fertilizer runoff, firepits exposed to runoff, and excess decaying leaves and other vegetation that may enter the lake and is not removed.

The phosphorous in Birch Lake has generally been between 3 and 7 parts per billion. This past April, a measurement of 5 parts per billion was ascertained from multiple samples. We will sample for phosphorous later in the summer as part of the monitoring program. In theory, the sewer system, as everyone keeps telling me, should actually result in a decreased phosphorous loading of the lake due to elimination of the septic tanks and lechate fields, as this is one of the primary effects man has on a body of water.

Secchi Disk readings (to date) on Birch Lake in 2009



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Lake Living and Safety

More PWC considerations

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 additional safety issues regarding operating a personal watercraft (jet skis). Please make sure you help keep your family, friends, neighbors and visitors safe on our waters.

Courtesy When Encountering Other Vessels

■ Jumping the wake of a passing boat, or riding too close to another PWC or boat, creates risks and is restricted or even prohibited in some states. The vessel making the wake may block the PWC operator's view of oncoming traffic and also conceal the PWC operator from approaching vessels.

■ Excessive noise from PWCs often makes them unwelcome with other vessel operators and people on shore. Be a courteous PWC operator.

■ Vary your operating area, and do not keep repeating the same maneuver.

■ Avoid congregating with other PWC operators near shore, which increases



annoying noise levels.

■ Avoid making excessive noise near residential and camping areas, particularly early in the morning.

■ Avoid maneuvers that cause the engine exhaust to lift out of the water because that increases noise levels.

■ Do not modify your engine exhaust

system if it increases the noise.

Improperly modified exhausts will not make your PWC faster and may raise the noise to an illegal level.

Environmental Considerations

When operating your personal water-

continued on next page

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

"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

Lake Living and Safety

craft, consider the effect you may have on the environment.

■ Make sure that the water you operate in is at least 30 inches deep. Riding in shallow water can cause bottom sediments or aquatic vegetation to be sucked into the pump, damaging your PWC and the environment.

■ Avoid causing erosion by operating at slow speed and by not creating a wake when operating near shore or in narrow streams or rivers.

■ Do not dock or beach your PWC in reeds and grasses. This could damage fragile environments.

■ Take extra care when fueling your PWC in or near the water. Oil and gasoline spills are very detrimental to the aquatic environment. Fuel on land if possible.

■ Never use your PWC to disturb, chase, or harass wildlife.

Other PWC Considerations

■ Remember that everyone on board a pwc must wear a life jacket (PFD).

■ Keep hands, feet, loose clothing, and hair away from the pump intake area.

Before cleaning debris away from the pump intake, be sure to shut off the engine.

■ Keep everyone clear of the steering nozzle unless the PWC is shut off. The water jet can cause severe injuries.

■ Frequently inspect your PWC's electrical systems (e.g., starter and engine gauge connections) to ensure there is no potential for electrical spark. Gas fumes could collect in the engine compartment and an explosion could occur. After fueling, sniff the engine compartment for any evidence of gas fumes.

■ Never exceed the manufacturer's recommended capacity for your PWC.

■ Know your limits, and ride according to your abilities.



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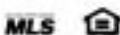
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Barker Word Search

Words typically found in the Birch Barker

Can you find these words often found in a Birch Barker:

yacht club	lakeview	horoscope
barker	northshore	crossword
toms garage	kiloqua	wordsearch
harvey street	tannadoonah	classified
walnut	kinsey	golf outing
sears	commodores comments	events
birch road	stus star stuff	sunny waters
lakeshore	recipes	housewalk
cove	water quality	pancake
landing	kid of the week	fireworks
storey hill	birch lake notes	hog roast
woodland	critter of the week	corn and sausage
	fleet captain	boat parade
	committee boat	board meeting

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 C O V E C R O S S W O R D P O A C T E S
 G O D A R A P T A O B H I R O O U N K E
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 A N C U W L L S L R R O D A N A R C H S
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Birch Lake House Walk

Home #1 — Rodriguez



photo by Carol Dugan

It's only seven weeks until our Birch Lake House Walk on July 25th! We are very excited that seven families have agreed to make their unique and wonderful homes available to view on the tour. To add to the afternoon's enjoyment, there will be free pontoon shuttle service between homes. In addition, there will be several local artists and vendors displaying their work at the Wozniak barn, along with free refreshments and several drawings going on throughout the day.

The House Walk starts Saturday, July 25, at 1 pm and ends at 4 pm. Brochures must be picked-up at the Wozniak's Barn on the day of the house walk. A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn so please walk or carpool if possible.

Each week, in the Barker, we will feature one of the homes on the tour.

Tickets will be on sale for \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour. We will be selling tickets at the Pancake Breakfast and door to door. Tickets can also be purchased from Michelle Seyfarth (476-1319) or Vickie Rogers (476-2383).

A limited amount of ad space is available on the brochure. All ads must be submitted by June 27th. Please call Michelle for further ad information.

Don't miss out on this fun filled day! Mark your calendars for July 25th. Co chairs: Michelle Seyfarth, Vickie Rogers, and Vanessa Wozniak.

Our first home on the tour is **the Rodriguez family home at 14723 Kiloqua Woods Lane** (north shore).

The Fortino Family built this yellow Victorian house in 1988.

Mike and Lisa Rodriguez bought it in 2006, and within the first six months, put on a new deck, screened-in porch on the lake level, and a new master bath. Wait until you see the room over the garage with 5 beds in it — perfect for kids' sleepovers!

It's a great home for all the entertaining the Rodriguez family does.

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From the mouths of babes ...

The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples. The nun made=2 0a note, and posted on the apple tray:

'Take only ONE . God is watching.'

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies.

A child had written a note, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.' A Kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, 'I'm drawing God.' The teacher paused and said, 'But no one knows what God looks like.'

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, 'They will in a minute.'



A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically

impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, 'When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah'.

The teacher asked, 'What if Jonah went to hell?'

The little girl replied, 'Then you ask him'.

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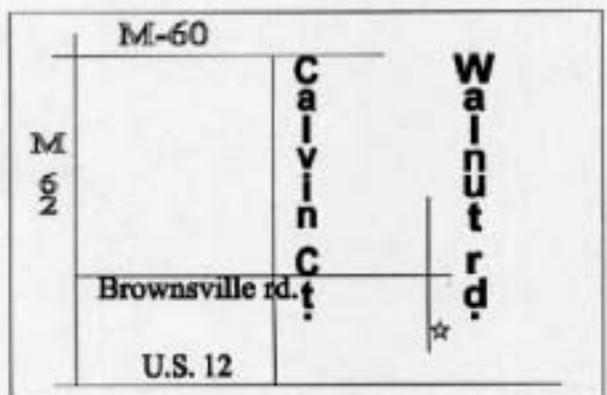
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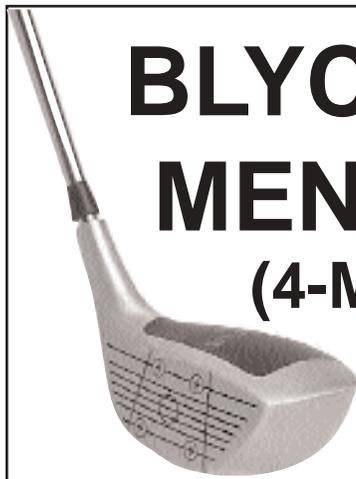
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BLYC 49TH ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE) JULY 31, 2009 — \$60/man SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB



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 \$ _____



Official BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB 2009 Dues, Contributions & Donations Form



- \$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$25 / year)
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- \$ ___ - Safety Committee
- \$ ___ - Other (non-party related expenses)

Total \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Address _____

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**

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Sea Doo inflatable Splash Island - Excellent condition, used only 2 summers. \$75 - Call Ann, 317-753-6853

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

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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

FOUND

Aluminum rowboat floated up to Laveta Schofield's pier. Registration No. NC6578PY. Call 941-223-1918.

MISC

Opportunity: due to continued job losses, the Obama administration announced Monday, June 8, that they intend to create (or save?) 600,000 jobs in the next 100 days. We entered an application through the MLS and DNR for grant money to determine where the minnows go in winter. The administration has long desired to promote "green" initiatives, and well,

nothing's more green than minnows. Kids are wanted to "tag and release" minnows for this valuable environmental study beginning on receipt of funds. Send your application (including an essay of 100 words or more on why you love minnows) to: Earl E. Bird, c/o Michigan Ponds and River

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Birch Lake



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Seller says "Bring them all OFFERS"



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