



A sheepish tip of the hat to Bev and Herm

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Boy, am I embarrassed. Once again, your Commodore has put his foot (or pen, anyway) in his mouth, too busy worrying about his own self than to pay attention to others so much more deserving.

Last week's column included the self-absorbed reflections of a recently turned 60 year old, carrying on as if he had really accomplished anything of merit, as if reaching a numerical milestone requiring little more than an uninterrupted extended period of lung, heart, and related activity (which are all automatic anyway) was worthy of note, or even mention.

The very day I got that lame column completed, proofed and off to the publisher, I was later perusing a copy of the South Bend Tribune and I noticed a pair of pic-

tures of a local couple. Perhaps you've heard of them, Herm and Bev Kruggel, longtime and active lake residents. Well it seems the Kruggels are about to, within a few days of my 60th birthday, celebrate their 60th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY. That's 60 years of marriage — for each (120 years in total). They've been married as long as I've been alive, each married to the same person(s) no less. Talk about hard work, devotion, and sacrifice. 1.2 centuries of married life and only one wedding, and still married, vibrant human beings! Now that's an accomplishment! God bless you both. Thanks for showing us it can be done, for being an inspiration to all of us. And, please accept my apologies.

Thanks also to Bob Waddle for organizing last Saturday night's Vice-Commodore's Party at the Yacht Club. The karaoke was a great idea, well execut-

2009 BLYC Calendar

June 27—Board meeting 9 am
July 4—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

ed (at least electronically) and clearly enjoyed by all in attendance. More so than others, emboldened by the warm glow of dear friends and neighbors and enabled by the cool refreshment of Bud Light on ice, I'm sure I made a fool of myself (again), this time trying to sing. At least partially because I didn't have to listen to myself, it was a great time nonetheless.

Thanks to all those that contributed by setting up, bringing delicious snacks, tearing down, and letting Paul sing. Sandy and Phil Vitale again ran a friendly yet superbly efficient bar, and Tim Steffen helped others put the "do" into the donation bucket.

Father's Day morning, after having made such a fool of myself twice recently

already, I prayed for an uneventful, embarrassment-free day. No such luck: after having run it for only a few seconds, I broke the Harman's boat, endured the humiliation of having to be towed back to port by Skipper Artie, managed to break 2 of the 4 BLYC sample coasters, play and get terrible cards at bridge, and in my crowning achievement, while climbing for the first time into my first-ever hammock, freshly gifted to me and installed by my kids, I did an almost perfect flip, landing on my head and neck, feet in the air, for all to see. As they say in gymnastics, I really "stuck" it.

One day, I'll make you all proud of me.

In spite of everything, I had a great weekend and

enjoyed immensely what must have been the first two consecutive weekend days of summer-like weather in all of 2009. While the wait was way too long, it was almost worth it.

If you haven't already, start getting ready for next (July 4th) weekend's Boat Parade, Fireworks Show, and Pancake Breakfast. The first two events are free to all spectators but

you'll need to bring your checkbook to Camp T for Sunday morning's breakfast: you'll be charged a modest sum for the food, given the opportunity to pay your annual BLYC dues (if you haven't done so already), get to sort through various Camp Tannadoonah items for sale, and new for this season get a chance to order Birch Lake Coasters and Birch Lake Scented Candles. A true shopping extravaganza awaits us all.

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

WARNING!

Failure to attend Yacht Club events will result in missed opportunities and loss of fun! These are both true if you weren't at Saturday's rip-roaring Vice's Karaoke Party. There was singing — there was dancing — there was a real fun time for everyone. Kudos as always to the list of "usual suspects" that helped to make it such a successful party. I won't try to list them lest I forget someone. If you were there you know them well. And thanks to all who attended. If you weren't there you were probably square, unaware or somewhere (else).
-Bob Waddle, 2009 Vice Commodore



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— Birch Lake Notes —

Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah July 5th

The annual Pancake Breakfast will be up at the camp from 8 to 11 am. Adults \$5. Children 6 to 10 \$2, and Children under 5 free.

It's a great way to meet and greet your neighbor's. Look forward to seeing you there.

Lakers singing on YouTube

In case you haven't seen it ... the Karaoke party last weekend is at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWQB0tw_uTs

Another Fish Story

Does this sound a little fishy? In fact, it is a Little Fishy Story. Anyone that has a fish as a pet should be aware of a fish that "acts funny". Those that do the back stroke as their last act, belly up, you don't have to worry about – that's Curtains!! Swimming upside down, swimming in controlled circles, uncontrolled shaking, or bumping into things, those are the things to worry about.

A patient of mine, named Fishie, had a serious problem. He was a one and a half inch goldfish that was swimming with his head down, refusing to come to the top of the water to feed. Was he depressed? I observed that when he opened his mouth to

breathe, he had a translucent blue color to his throat. Could it be anemia? Maybe a sore throat infection? Let's have a closer look. With a towel wrapped around his small body, I looked into his mouth. I saw a blue object in the back of his throat. With good timing and a small tweezers, I removed a small blue stone, which perfectly matched the small blue stones in the bottom of his glass aquarium. With care I placed him back into his home and he lived happily ever after.

-Duffy Dufour

Director search

The Board of Directors of the Birch Lake Yacht Club are saddened to announce that board member Nancy Walker of the west side has tendered her resignation from the Board. We want to wish Nancy all the best in her new home and thank her for her service to the lake community.

The Yacht Club by-laws call for three directors to represent the west side of the lake. As the chairman of the nominating committee, and in the spirit of ex-Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich, I, Bob Waddle, will be accepting all proposals from prospective candidates. Pabst Blue Ribbon beer is still available at CVS Pharmacy (if you're interested).

No, seriously, if you would like to participate in serious grass-roots decision making and help chart the future course for Birch Lake, please contact me at 269-476-2293 or at sparkybob220@comcast.net.

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!

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

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

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Shore Drive at 476-9823.

Joanne Tunncliffe

Joanne K. Tunncliffe, 88, of Findlay, died on June 21. She was a Birch Laker for 80 years, and the granddaughter of William Krau, a former mayor of Elkhart. She is survived her husband, Bill.

BLYC Candle Fundraiser

As everyone has seen there were order forms for the candles we are selling in their mail boxes. If interested, please fill out and return to

me, Sandy Baucus or bring your order with payment to the Pancake breakfast at the Camp on July 5th. The extra lines on the order form or if friends or family want to order one of our special Birch Lake candles. These candles do make wonderful gifts!!

All orders and payment must be turned in by July 5th, so get them in!!!! I will come and collect your order if you would like. Just give me a call. 269-641-5644 (week days) 269-476-2863 (week ends) or email me at Sabaucus@aol.com

Coasters

Despite having lost two of the samples to a less-than-agile BLYC Commodore, the Yacht Club is still sponsoring a fundraiser of 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



Dick

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



That's Little Lila, granddaughter of Rick and Patti Russwurm (north shore) ready to show off her typing skills on a laptop ...



Thanks to Mr. Bob for this great photo of a pair-o-herons that were fishing on the north side recently. No report on whether or not they actually caught any fish ...

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@philvital.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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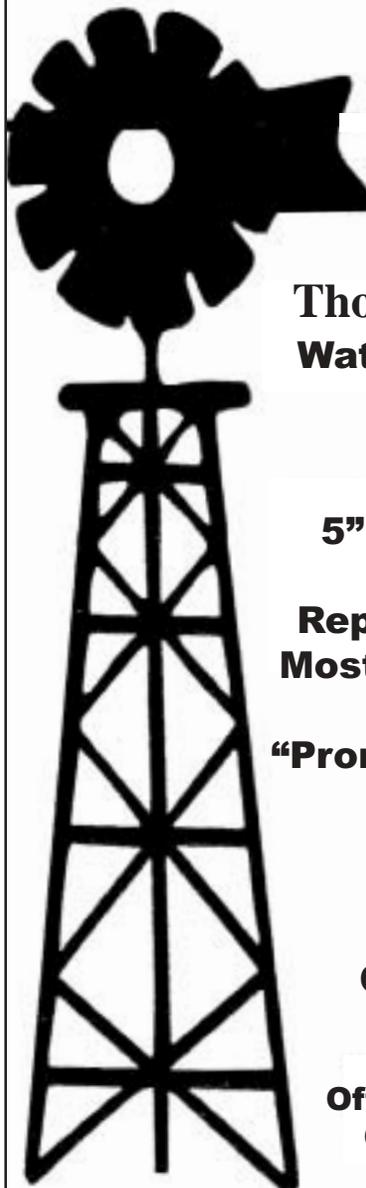
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Fleet Captains' Corner



Sailing with the good doctor

Wow, it was a beautiful day for sailing last Saturday. Several boats were out enjoying the strong, steady breezes. Unfortunately, by Sunday all of the breezes had blown themselves out, and there wasn't enough air to move the telltales on my boat.

So, another weekend of no sailboat races. But it will be better this week. I guarantee it. Absolutely, without a doubt. Maybe.

See you all out on the water at 11:00 Sunday.

Everybody get your boats ready! The Fourth of July Regatta is coming up in a week. It will be on Friday and Saturday at 11:00 a.m. (tentatively), with Sunday as the rain date. (If we have to sail on Sunday, we will start later because everyone will still be full of pancakes from the Pancake Breakfast.)

-Fleet Captain Bill Luecht

Committee Boat Sign Ups (Tentative)

Date	Name
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	"SISTAS, Good Patty, Deb, Bad Patty
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)	Bad Patty
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

Top 10 Reasons to Sign Up for Committee Boat

10. Dr. McGillicuddy might be on board to keep you healthy.
9. Do something nice for the sailors on Birch Lake.
8. Great way to recover from staying too late at the Yacht Club and/or Flamingo Room on Saturday nights. (Bloody Mary recipe available upon request!)
7. Impress your friends with nautical terms like "PORT," "STARBOARD," "MARK" and "OVER."
6. Builds strong bones and bodies!
5. Feel the power of the BULLHORN!
4. Trying to please 12 sailors at one time ... by finding the perfect place to anchor the Committee Boat!!
3. Learn to count backwards from "10" while trying to listen to the Fleet Captain.
2. Possibly get your picture in next week's BARKER.

AND THE #1 REASON TO SIGN UP FOR THE COMMITTEE BOAT.....

It looks good on a resume!!!!

Thanks to all that have already signed up! We really appreciate all your help!

-Bad Patty

Little Johnny

Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. 'Why do you do that, mommy?' he asked. 'To make myself beautiful,' said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. 'What's the matter?' asked Little Johnny. 'Giving up?'

The math teacher saw that little Johnny wasn't paying attention in class. She called on him and said, Johnny! What are 2 and 4 and 28 and 44?' Little Johnny quickly replied, 'NBC, FOX, ESPN and the Cartoon Network!'

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Tannadoonah Tidbits

Camp has officially started for the season! This week was Holiday Week at Camp Tannadoonah, and we kicked off the summer with a big group - 88 campers! It's always so much fun when camp is nearly full. More kids = More fun! Plus this week the weather has been quite warm, which makes the water-front activities much more enjoyable.

We're still just slightly ahead of last year's numbers on this date. We have a total of 367 registered, compared to 358 on this date last year. Two years ago on this date just 300 campers had signed up, and we finished the summer with only 351. So we're way ahead of that pace!

Since it was Holiday Week, we celebrated a different holiday each day. The dining hall got decorated, Miss Peggy made holiday foods to fit the theme, and evening activity was also related to the theme on most nights.

Sunday we celebrated Valentine's Day; Monday was St. Patrick's Day; Tuesday was Easter; Wednesday was the Fourth of July; Thursday was Halloween; Friday was Thanksgiving; and Saturday was Christmas. Tuesday we had Easter Eggs, Ham and Cheesy Potatoes, and evening activity was a giant Easter Egg Hunt. Wednesday we had a picnic on the



lawn and played Capture the Flag. Thursday we went Trick-or-Treating, Friday we had Thanksgiving Dinner, and Saturday morning we woke up to Christmas Music instead of Reveille.

This first week is also part of what we call Super Week. Of the 88 campers, 34 of them are staying at camp for the mini week, which means they get to be here for 11 straight days! This is the biggest group we've ever had for Super Week. Last year I think only about 15 campers stayed through both sessions.

It seems hard to believe, but next weekend is already the Pancake Breakfast! Don't forget to come up to camp for some awesome food and great company. Just like last year, we plan to put the entire Pancake Breakfast donation towards campership awards, so the more people you can round up to come to breakfast, the more campers we can help come to camp! As always, we'll have lots

of Camp Tannadoonah gear and apparel available. We have orange hoodies, royal blue hoodies, yellow t-shirts, gray t-shirts, gray, long sleeve shirts, water bottles, backpacks, stuffed animals, and lots more!

I have an unusual request this week. I am looking for a couple volunteers to come up on Sunday afternoons from 3-4pm during check-in time to help us check campers for lice. Starting this year, we are required to check every camper before they can stay at camp, and this first week we underestimated how much time that would take, and we didn't have enough people to help. If you're available and willing to come help out one or more Sundays, please give me a call or email!

If you'd like to join us for dinner at camp on a Friday evening, please let me know and we will reserve a space for you. It's always fun to see the campers and experience a real camp dinner.

-Miss Amber

574-217-4731; amber@tannadoonah.org

Camp T Wish List

Orange Lifejackets
New Mattresses for the camper beds
Old Nylons / Stockings
Yarn

~Birch Lake Recipes~



This makes me ill just reading it but some might enjoy!

"Dear recipe goddess ... my beloved spouse told me to send this to you ... from an unknown source

This was apparently a favorite on Birch Lake 30 to 40 years ago.

Birch Lake Breakfast Sandwich

2 pieces of toast
mayonnaise
dill pickle relish
peanut butter

jelly
fried egg
bacon

On one slice of toast apply mayonnaise and relish

On the second slice, apply peanut butter and jelly

Add hard or soft fried egg and bacon rasher(s)

It's messy but really good.

Enjoy ... and wipe your face off!"

Happy snacking ...

-Good Patti

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<http://tannadoonah.org/>

Stu's Star Stuff

How the constellations got their names

Most constellation names are Latin in origin, dating from the Roman empire, but their meanings often originated in the distant past of human civilization. Scorpius, for instance, was given its name from the Latin word for scorpion, but ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs from before 3000 B.C. refer to the star group as "Ip," the scorpion king. Orion, the hunter, bears a Greek name, but had been seen as a hunter-hero figure since the times of ancient Babylon.

Of course, many of the constellation names are more modern -- Telescopium, the telescope, being a rather obvious newcomer, along with Stanislovski, the Sloth and RFK1700, the Imaginary Clock. All can be seen flying high overhead on any weekend night regardless of clouds. But in fact, by the 19th century the night sky had become crowded with overlapping and often contradictory constellation boundaries and names as different schools of astronomy prepared their own versions of star maps. To clear up the confusion, names and boundaries were "officially"

assigned to 88 constellations by the International Astronomical Union in 1930, providing complete coverage of the entire sky. Two of the above mentioned may not have been included.

The names of the days of the week also have some interesting backgrounds. They relate to several of the astronomical objects we see each day/night in the sky.

Sunday - Sun - (God's Day) - Dimanche, Domingo

Monday - Moon - (Luna) - Lundi, Lunes

Tuesday - Tiw - Mars - Mardi, Martes

Wednesday - Woden - Mercury -

Mercredi, Miercoles

Thursday - Thor - Jupiter (Jove) - Jeudi, Jueves

Friday - Freya - Venus - Vendredi, Viernes

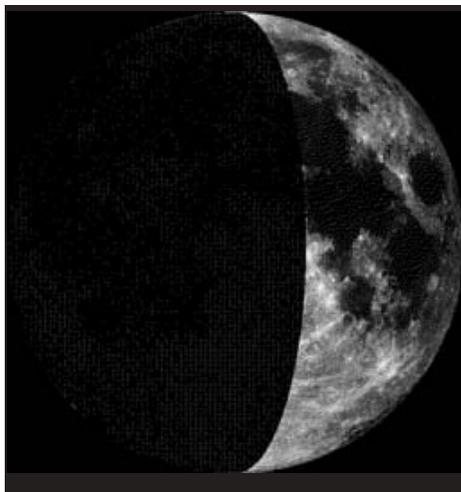
Saturday - Saturn - (Sabbath) - Samedi, Sabado

Look for Saturn, which looks like a golden star, to the upper right of the Moon this evening. Regulus is to their lower right. Regulus is the brightest star in Leo, the lion. To find Leo, imagine a leak in the bottom of the big dipper. It

would drip onto Leo's back.

That's all your getting. Everyone seems to think that the show's still free. Well, it isn't.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon tonight:

The moon for June 20 (at Midnight)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.367

1.2 days before first quarter

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. Direct your energy into physical exertion. Residential moves will be favorable. Moves will be hectic but favorable in the end. Dig deep, ferret out any hidden concerns before you sign your life away. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- May 21)

Your charm will mesmerize members of the opposite sex this week. You must be careful not to ignore the needs of the youngsters in your family. You will need a little competition this week. Get involved in activities that will stretch your stamina. Moves will be hectic but favorable in the end. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Try to curb your bad habits. Your pursuits may end up being fruitless. You may want to clear the air where older relatives are concerned. Help children with important projects. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Don't make unreasonable promises.

es. Be sure to organize events that will keep the children busy. Your self-esteem will come back if you take part in organizational functions that allow you to be in the lime light. Spend a quiet day with the one you love. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Chances to express your ideas and beliefs can bring popularity as long as you're not arrogant. Your high energy must be directed into productive goals, or frustrations will occur. Try not to get into disputes that will lead to estrangements. Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 23)

You will be uncertain of your feelings. Take a break; you can finally mend any disputes on the home front. You may have a problem dealing with elders. Avoid any intimate involvement's with coworkers or employers. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

It's time to reconnect with some of

the people you used to know. Travel for business purposes may bring the highest returns. Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize your ideas are pretty solid. Refrain from arguing with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Take care of the needs of elders in your family. Finish off old projects before starting something new. Don't exhaust yourself or minor health problems will set in. Get involved in worthwhile endeavors and meet new friends. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Your ability to visualize will help you convince others of the possibilities. Don't try to hide your true feelings from your mate. Try not to lend or borrow money or belongings this week. Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Don't trust others with private information that could be used against

you. False information from someone trying to start problems is likely. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. You can come up with ways of earning extra cash. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Do not yield to children or relatives when they really don't deserve it. If you haven't planned a vacation, then at least try to get away for the weekend. Your ability to do detailed work will dazzle those who are less creative. You are ahead of your time, and trying to stay in one spot could be asking too much. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

Be careful to avoid wrong doings. Avoid joint ventures and steer clear of groups that want you to contribute financial assistance. Make changes that will enhance your appearance and entice potential partners. Dead end projects could plague you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

Water Quality Committee Report

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



In this space each week, we usually try to describe various issues related to Birch Lake water Quality.

A lot of this is in regards to the testing that has been ongoing for the past many years and then often relating the results of the tests to classifications about lakes.

Thus we have and will talk about the nutrients such as phosphorous and nitrogen, chlorophyll as a measure of algal growth and thus a reflection of the nutrient load and productivity of the lake, and dissolved oxygen and stratification of the lake.

As you look at the results collectively you can measure against some established criteria to say we are an oligotrophic lake etc.

We have always taken great solace by saying that we are in that oligotrophic classification and thus better than others.

However, the classifications are really a measure of the normal aging process of inland bodies of water.

All lakes will age, and with change bring additional characteristics that some may like and others may not.

The real key is rate of change and how much impact we (humans) with all our activities bring to this rate of change.

In order to lend some perspective to this, we would like to actively encourage you to look at a couple of write-ups that are on the Michigan Lakes and Streams website.

The first gives a great relatively

short analysis of the classification system, the fact that things are a continuum, and what this continuum means in terms of the things we like to do on the lake.

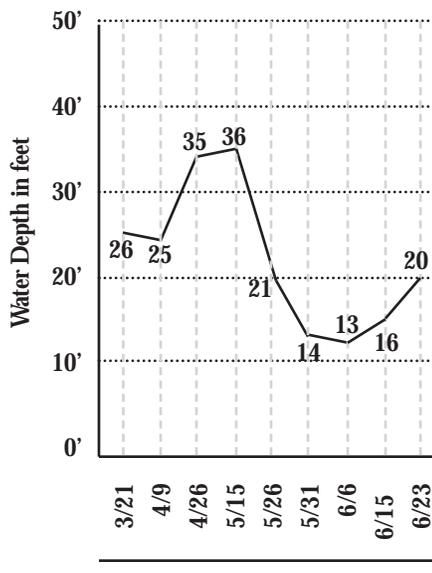
The second is a great discussion on this whole business of the mixing and stratification of lakes, how it happens, why it happens. This will provide a great backdrop for our future discussions regarding the dissolved oxygen and temperature measurements we will be doing this summer.

When we put the graphs together and publish those we will remind you of this website. If you cannot find the ten minutes to look at these items, have your kids or grandkids do it and tell you all about it.

The Michigan Lakes and Streams website is www.mlswa.org. You can find the articles on the left side of the home page under MLSA Information. They are at the bottom of the list and labeled Lake Classification Part 1 and Part 2.

Lake was a bit more transparent this week at 20 feet on June 23, 2009.

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



Editor's Note: The Water Quality Committee will update this chart in the Barker every time a Secchi Disk reading is taken throughout the year so that trends can be monitored. For information on this chart or any other Water Quality issue, contact Water Quality Committee Chairman Rick Russwurm at 476-2407 or any other member of the Water Quality Committee.

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Lake Living and Safety

Skiers and operators

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.

Requirements for Towing Skiers

- Every vessel towing a person(s) on water skis, a surfboard, or a similar device must have a person, in addition to the vessel operator, observing the towed person(s) at all times.
- It is illegal to tow persons on water skis, surfboards, or any device of this type between:
 - One hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise if towed behind a boat
 - One hour before sunset and 8:00 a.m. if towed behind a PWC
- Persons being towed must stay at least 100 feet away from:
 - Any moored or anchored vessel
 - A dock or raft



- Any marked swimming area or person(s) in the water
- Those being towed behind a PWC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, or III PFD. Inflatable PFDs may not be used.

Who May Operate a Boat

Those less than 12 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 horsepower (hp) legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally only if they are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.
- May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

Those 12 to 15 years of age:

- May operate a boat powered by a motor of no more than 6 hp legally without restrictions.
- May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp legally only if they:
 - Have passed a boating safety course approved by the Department of

continued on next page

NICHOLS

TREE SERVICE & SMALL EXCAVATING

Justin Nichols, owner — 269-683-6656 — 2115 Spansail Dr., Niles

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LEAF REMOVAL, SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, LOT CLEARING

EXCAVATING

HAULING - GRADING - RETAINING WALLS
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

Natural Resources and have on board their boating safety certificate or ...

■ Are accompanied on board by a person at least 16 years of age.

Those 16 years of age or older may operate any boat on the waters of Michigan.

Who May Operate a Personal Watercraft (PWC)

Those less than 12 years of age:

■ No one under the age of 12 years may operate a PWC legally.

Those 12 and 13 years of age may operate a PWC legally only if.

■ He or she obtained a boating safety certificate prior to January 1, 1999, or

■ All of the following conditions are satisfied:

■ The operator is accompanied solely by his or her parent or legal guardian and

■ Both the operator and the parent or legal guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate and ...

■ The PWC is equipped with a lanyard-type ignition safety switch and

the parent or legal guardian has the lanyard attached to his or her person, clothing, or PFD and ...

■ The PWC is designed to carry at least two persons.

Those 14 years of age or older:

■ A person born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally only if he or she has obtained a boating safety certificate.

Those born on December 31, 1978, or earlier may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.



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Barker Image File



Thanks to Mr. Bob for these photos from the lake ... at left is a spectacular sunburst through the trees. Below is Birch Lake Fisherman Extrodinaire Tom Decocker.



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Barker Word Search

Find these words that are "things found on a boat"

TOWEL
COKE
DOCKLINE
GRANDKIDS
BEER
CELL PHONE
ROPE
ICE
BIMINI

SWEATSHIRT
LIFEJACKET
COOLER
POTATO CHIPS
SPIDER
CUSHION
TEESHIRT
BLANKET
PEANUTS

BATHINGSUIT
SPIDERWEB
TANK TOP
DOG
PEECAN
SHORTS
NEIGHBORS
CAMERA
FLIPFLOPS

GAS CAN
RELATIVES
FISH POLE
LADDER
BATTERY
GUESTS
SKIS
NOODLE

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

Home #3 — Cove Cottage

Only six weeks until our Birch Lake House Walk on July 25th!

Our third home on the tour is Bruce Wagner's Cove Cottage at 62706 Woodland Dr.

After more than five years of searching lakes in Michigan for a summer cottage, Bruce and Sues' dream became a reality in the spring of 1990.

As luck, fate, or providence above would have it, their dream was fulfilled at Birch Lake in the cove.

The house was not much to look at, inside or out, with lots of unfinished work to be completed but they saw the potential. After many years of hard, but rewarding work, their dream for a Birch Lake cottage in the cove became a reality.

It's small, but ooh sooo cozy! It has an intimate living room and kitchen, with a nautical three season room extended off the main level. There's even an original spiral staircase that leads down to two spare bedrooms, laundry room, and walk-out to the lakefront.

For you I. U. fans, there's Sue's wall of memorabilia and their collection of vintage Indiana sheet music. Wow! What a draw dear friends, it's Bruce's "cove cottage."

Carpe' Diem.

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



photos by Carol Dugan

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REFLECTIONS

For the last several years, an elderly relative has been exhibiting more and more of the harshest symptoms of senior dementia which causes me to more closely examine my own life for tell tale signs that I my brain is not as quick as it use to be (my husband would argue that it never was, but that's the way of husbands!) What I have found in my examination is a bunch of perplexing questions starting with "When did..." Here's just a few.

When did I switch from the local rock and roll radio station in favor of golden oldies? (For that matter, when did I start calling it rock and roll and golden oldies??) At the end of 2008 we purchased a new vehicle and received 6 months free Sirius radio. In our new car you can select 30 channels (from over 100) to install using the buttons of your radio. I only selected 10 and of those, I can only remember where about seven of them are located. The seven I can remember are two blends of 60's, 70's and 80's music and the others are hits of the 60's, 70's and 80's only — also maybe a country station and some classical to show my versatility. I stay mostly on the 60's channel. Thinking back I realized that it wasn't that long ago I was sitting in my office listening to U93, thinking that I was still pretty "hip" and that I was never going to let myself get behind the times musically — but guess what! I can't even name a

new artist unless they performed on an American Idol results show, and then more often than not I'm thinking **WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?**

That's not all. When did ... I start saying "In my day..." "In my day we didn't date until sixteen." Or "When I was your age..." "When I was your age, I had to sit at the table until I ate my vegetables." Unless my audience is about six or seven years old, uttering those phrases gets me the traditional eye roll.

And, when did I lose touch with technology? I can barely make a call with my cell phone, let alone text or look up things on the internet via my phone. I remember when (there's another old age remark, "I remember when...") cell phones were the size of shoes. The first cell phone I ever saw was one of those big ones that some man had the audacity to bring on the golf course. I was appalled! The golf course was a place to get away from work, not bring it with you. I personally have never gone over my allotted 200 free minutes and so far never sent a text message. It's not a case of my principles, it's my lack of knowledge! Also, it annoys me no end when my lunch "date" is texting like a mad person while I am left staring at the TV that is now a prerequisite in every restaurant. When did that happen? But I guess both are here to stay so I had better get used to it. And forget

the digital cameras. What happened to Instamatics with the little flash cubes on top???

And that brings me to the TV remote(s). I am married to a television and stereo fanatic. It took me a week of swearing and screaming to finally learn how to go from TV to DVD on our newest fancy universal remote that can do everything but cook dinner. We also have a Play Station 3. We got it to enhance our DVD watching, not for the games, but I thought that as long as we had it, I would buy a game of my very own — it's still in the package. I remain a veritable PS3 virgin. The other day I DID actually played a Wii game with no help at all. I was quite proud of myself. But the next day I visited the nursing home and an 87 year old woman was bowling on Wii quite competently. Not so proud any more...

What all these "When did..." shows me is that I'm definitely over the proverbial hill and am snowballing down the other side, collecting all the classic signs of old age on my way down. I'm sure that as new toys and technological miracles are developed, I will fall farther and farther behind the younger generation. My only saving grace is that, thankfully, I have a two-year-old grandson who can teach me how to use all these new fangled gadgets!

-Antique on the East Side

Birch Lake Yacht Club to host 5th Annual Spaghetti Dinner Saturday, July 18th from 6-8 p.m.

\$7.00 - Adults

\$5.00 - Children (3-10)

FREE - If under 3

Dine in - or carry-out



Tickets must be purchased in advance (so the cooks can Prepare enough for all diners). Tickets will be available at the Pancake Breakfast on July 5th, from Karen Brovold (476-8862) and from volunteers around the lake.

**Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce or alfredo sauce, salad, bread, tea and lemonade (or bring your drink of choice).
Proceeds go to Tannadoonah Camperships**

2009 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

Commodore — Paul Fallon —476-1467
cell phone: 574-274-9580

Vice Comm.—Bob Waddle—476-2293

Fleet Capt. — Bill Luecht—476-2615

Treas. — Holly Troeger—476-9898

Secretary —Sandy Vitale—476-1680

BLYC Directors:

North — Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Fred Freihofer—476-9823

Mike Lutz — 476-2843

(cell) 269-207-1153

Bob Baucus — 476 2863

Cell: 574-535-4946 Home: 269-641-5644

East — Scott Troeger—476-9898

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

Phil Vitale—476-1680

Lind Harman — 476-2039

Hill — Ryan Gableman—215-0366

South — Terry Dugan—476-2814

Sue Williams —476-8886

West — Harold Cranmer—476-2170

Karen Brovold — 476-8862

Steve Quinlan — 476-8802

Cove — Vicki Rogers—476-2383

BLYC Water Quality Comm.

Rick Russwurm, Chair.—476-2407

Terry Dugan—476-2814

Gordon Seyfarth — n/a

Bruce Wagner — 476-2090

Home Owners Comm.

Rick Russwurm—476-2407

Scott Troeger—476-9898

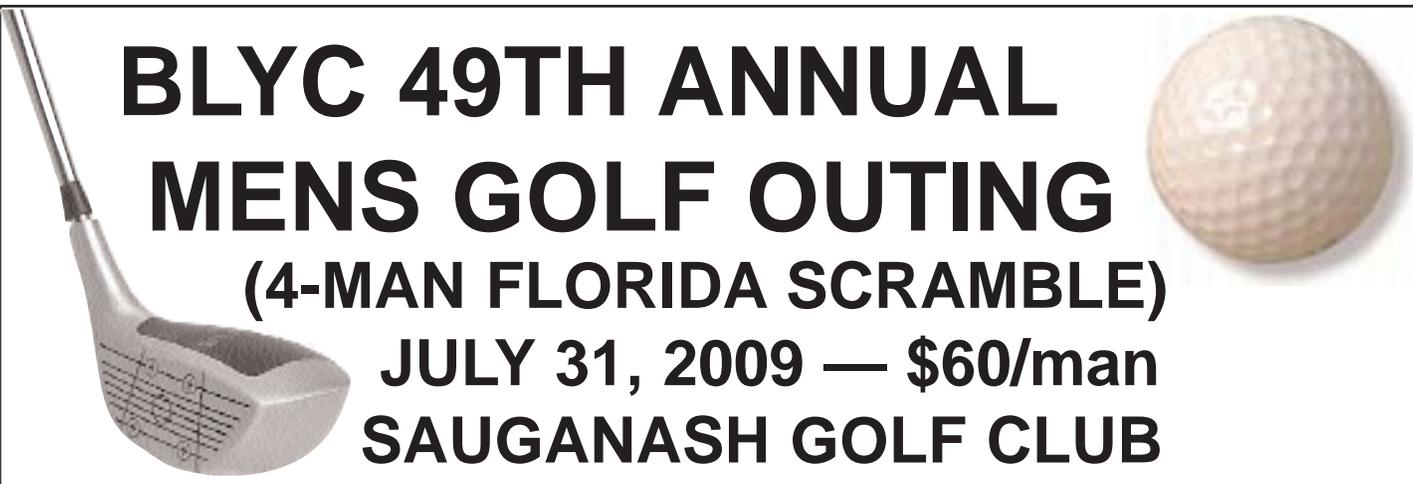
Paul Fallon—476-1467

Jim Bolinger—476-9737

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BLYC Fleet Captain

Bill Luecht — 476-2615



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)
- \$ ___ - 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 _____

Mail to: Holly Troeger, Treasurer

1516 Ash Drive East

Elkhart, IN 46514

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

Make checks payable to **Birch Lake Yacht Club**

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FOR SALE

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

Four **Notre Dame football season tickets** for the 2009 season in section 24, row 3, seats 16,17,18,19. \$5500.00 for the package. 269 476-9528.

Sleep Innovations Queen size memory foam; 60x80x2. 5 years old, like new. \$30. Call Julie, 574-215-5902, see at cottage 98.

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

FOUND

Found: a wooden footstool of an adirondack chair found floating after a rainstorm. Contact Olson, 476-2125.

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.

The Villages - Florida rental. Conveniently located just an hour from Disney World, and an hour from either coast. Located just off highway 75, it avoids much of the traffic the coasts are known for. It is an active community with 2 downtowns, every kind of eating place, 34 golf courses on site, its own hospital, a Sams, 2 Walmarts, many tennis courts, swimming pools, bocce courts, and even polo fields. Everything is accessible by golf cart. The Villages is described as the Disney World for adults. We have a lovely, extra large stand-alone Courtyard villa (which gives complete walled privacy) in the center of it all. It is completely furnished and equipped. It has 2 bedrooms (one a king bedroom and the other twin beds), 2 full baths, an open layout, 3 tvs, cable, local phone service, newspaper, centralized radio/music system, washer/dryer, outdoor furnishings and grill, and many extras. All you need is your suitcase and toothbrush and a willingness to have fun. It is one of the most active villas in that they include any renters in all villa activities: weekly

men/women golfing, monthly dinners, night golf, monthly game nights, block parties, sports activities, etc. It is available this year from Oct. through January. For more information and pictures, call 476-2786.

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

Single-Family Home in Naples Park \$750/week. 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom. Open floor plan. Screened in tile patio overlooking big back yard. Florida fruit trees. Home located 0.7 miles from public beach; great shopping areas nearby & lots to do and see in Naples, Florida. Home includes all linens and dishes, washer and dryer. Please call Angela 561 603 5522 if you are interested or email berganfsu@aol.com

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@philvital.com**

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Birch Lake



3 bedrooms, 1 bath, 2 garages, renovated kitchen, extra garage has an open upstairs for possibly a rec. room or extra living space. The 22x93 lake front lot with a shed and a pier to park your water toys are included. \$275,000.

Seller says "Bring them all OFFERS"



Rent out the cottage below for extra income. 3 bedrooms, 1 bath, kitchen, dining area, and fireplace. This property also has an extra lot next to it. Lake access. \$115,000



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