

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 11, 2009

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We ought to have a contest ...

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

To come up with the best singular adjective describing our most recent July 4th weekend here at the Lake. Because everything was so great, so far over the top, I myself can't begin to come up with, or limit myself to, a singular perfect word or phrase. Heck we even hit a bulls-eye with the calendar, holding the celebration on the fourth.

Thanks to all who contributed to the Boat Parade: Grand Marshall Harold Cranmer, Registration and View Stand host Dick Bender, Judges Vickie and Tom Rogers and Blair and Bernie Garceau, and co-chairs Ilene Golden and Carla Chester. Jim Bolinger and Mike Lutz again deserve our gratitude for doing the lion's share of the work for the Fireworks Show (Wasn't it great?).

I'm told the Pancake Breakfast set

another attendance record. As usual, it was run by Lind, Don and the rest of the Harman family and all of their, too many to mention, minions. I can't say enough about this event either.

Now that we've made it through the ultimate Birch Lake experience, the July 4th weekend, and all the months of preliminary buildup, it's time to focus on the subject next closest to the hearts of all Birch Lakers....Literature. I mean, isn't that what we are all really all about up here at Birch Lake?

We spent the last few months thinking of summer, the lake, and related outdoorsy subjects. But that was all really just a brief hiatus from the number one subject of priority here at the lake ... fine writing. Virtually all of us spent the entire winter concentrating on, writing and rewriting, drafting, and submitting their numerous entries.

For those that don't recall (hard to

believe anyone forgot), announced at last fall's dinner was the contest of all contests. A challenge was issued to write and submit a piece on "Why I love Birch Lake" or "What I love most about Birch Lake".

Much of the following was first announced at this year's Spring Dinner.

2009 BLYC Calendar

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, 3 pm
August 7—Women's Golf Outing
August 8—Corn & Sausage Roast
August 22—Fall Dinner
Sept. 5—Board meeting 9 am

For more info on any BLYC event, 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 BLYC Commodore Paul Fallon at 476-1467. -Phil Vitale, editor

As you know, Birch Lakers respond positively to all calls to action. The judges, Jim Blue and Phil Vitale, were overwhelmed with entries. It seemed like there were thousands, or so. Faced with having to sort through and pick among so many, the judges broke all of the entries down into one of the six major categories of fine literature. For those that don't recall that portion of their high school, college and post-graduate English studies, the six major categories into which all great literature is assigned are as follows:

1. Feel Good
2. Impending doom with silver lining
3. Homage/shout-out to the Commodore and Commodores
4. Incorporation of the four seasons
5. Vertical assortment of letters down the left-hand side of the sheet
6. Authored by a non-human

Starting with this edition, we will share each week with you the first place winner in each of the six categories. This week's selection is the Best Authored by a Non-Human. Enjoy.

There are so many reasons why I love Birch Lake. It's hard to put into an essay so, I'll just list my favorite:

- Going on long walks and greeting my neighbors
- Lying on my back on the grass just to enjoy the day
- Splashing and swimming
- Boat rides
- Playing catch with my buddies



Thanks to our intrepid Boat Parade Judges and Organizers ... from left, Blair, Ilene, Bernie, Carla, Vickie and Tom.

- Campfires
- Fourth of July - great food, good times
- Skinny dipping
- Naps in the sun at the end of the pier
- Friends visiting
- Seeing my brother
- Digging up clams and rocks
- Running down the pier and jumping in
- Swimming morning, noon, and night
- Diving off the pier, swimming underwater to find my treasures.

Life's a ball!

By, Jack "the dog" Garceau

Finally, for all of those who didn't want to get a refreshing squirt of lake water from a guy that might have looked like me riding on the grand championship boat in the parade, I'm sort of, maybe a little bit, sorry.

Until the next time, let us together continue to protect and enjoy the miraculous healing waters of Birch Lake.

-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore

Handyman Repairs

- Roof to basement - inside and out
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— Birch Lake Notes —

Boat Parade

Creativity and fun highlighted Birch Lake's annual boat parade. (And for many participants and watchers alike, beer seemed to be right up there with the other highlights!!)

The judges Tom and Vickie Rogers and Bernie and Blair Garceau, were overwhelmed by the entries. (And as they continued to drink more beer, they were more and more overwhelmed!!) Though quite incapacitated, they pulled thru and did the difficult jobs of judging and making up categories. A few of their suggested categories had to be nixed due to some pretty lewd ideas. They stayed firm when two or three undecorated boats tried to bribe them. One boat, after registering, had to be reminded that the Grand Marshall, Harold Cranmer, went first-not behind them!

Every boat was a winner, and the grand prize of overall best in show was very hard to decide on. By a sliver, congrats to the Lindzy's. The judges, Dick Bender (who once again furnished his pier and refreshments), our Grand Marshall, and Carla and I had a ball. Thanks to all who participated. *Ilene*

All participating boats received a trophy but one boat received Best of Parade 2009. **The Best of Show** award for 2009 goes to **the Lindzy family** for their creative fiesta theme. Congratulations!



The Lindzy family was named "Best of Parade" in last weekend's Birch Lake Boat Parade for this Fiesta - n - siesta party boat theme.

The following are the results of the 2009 Birch Lake Boat Parade:
Lindzy Family- 2009 Best of Show for "Tacos to go."
Henderson Family - "Best Fresh Patriotic"
Oldenwald Family - "Best Jungle Fever"
Olson and Everett Family - "Best Island Fever"
Van Huffel Family - "Best Sumores-N-More"

Burket Family - "Best green Float"- Shower with a Friend
Chester and Fallon Families - "Best Hammock on the Birch" also special judge award "Dazed and Confused"
Ball Family - "Best Great Balls of Summer", So many titles, so few we could us.
Witchie + Friends - "Beest Feesh'n Boat"
Weesner + Eshelman - "Least

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Decoated Boat”, typical lazy Birch
Lakers
Luecht Family - “Parade Crashers”

Thanks!

Don and I would like to thank everyone who attended the Pancake Breakfast. It's so nice to see everyone support the camp. We had 590 people attend this year!

Once again we had a great team: Deb & Jim Bolinger, Rick Harman, Tyler & Barb Rondot, Tom Rogers, Marty Sante, Paul & Celia Fallon, Dick & Peggy Cowen, Dave & Judy Olson, Patty Luecht and Carla Chester. A big thank-you to the clean-up crew!!!! Blair & Bernie Garceau, JP & Marlow Hoyer, Terry Kerns and Carla Chester pulling double duty.

Thanks to the Fallons for the donation of plates and flag decorations.

-Don and Lind Harman

Memories of Trout Fishing Days

The shadows from the trees surrounding my Birch Lake cottage reach out into my own private fishing hole. I call it that because, more than anything, I am wishfully thinking that its location is mine. I have gotten a little possessive about it as I look out over the lake. I've got to get out there pretty soon, for now is the time to catch those big trout. I get



Tom and Jen Navala (west side) with daughter Sophia taking a little break from the water.

-Photo by Greg Bolin

sort of an urgency welling up from the pit of my stomach to get off my kitchen chair and out in the boat to start fishing.

I reach for my spinning rod and reel in the corner and look out the window to check my gear in the boat resting at the pier and ---what the devil !!! It's one of my neighbors, heading for my fishing hole. How could he dare have the same idea I

have. There he goes, steaming toward MY fishing hole. Stay away from that spot, I think to myself. You know there is no greater crime in the world than to steal a man's fishing hole! I can see him now, settling down in that big boat of his, like a hen on a nest, smothering those fish. I bet he will be just horsin' in my beauties. I should have known better than to put him on to

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— Birch Lake Notes —



In case you missed it, the flag of Spain was flown on the North Shore last Friday to welcome two Spanish foreign exchange students visiting the Kings last weekend with Chuck and Karen Horn of Carmel (the Horns are college friends of Bob King and frequent visitors to Birch Lake). The girls appreciated the gesture, but thought it was funny that there is a "Good Patti and a "Bad Patty on the lake, So they named Bob Baucus "Good Bob." Guess who "Bad Bob" might be ...

that productive trout spot. He's there every chance he gets. Now I'm going to have to hurry out on the lake earlier than usual. Got to get there before he catches all of MY fish.

-Duffy Dufour

Happy Birthday Jim Mitchell

Belated birthday greetings to Jim Mitchell (87 years old), a resident of Birch Lake for 27 years. Jim is recovering nicely from his 4th pacemaker and additional surgery and enjoyed his great granddaughter's visit last weekend.

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Now, let's go play some golf!

— Barker kid of the Week —

A Fish Story

Monday began like any other day for 9 year old Kyle Kinzler (grandson of Dennis and Ruth Kinzler, west side) of Birch Lake, but little did he know as he set off on another day's adventure that today would be the day he landed the big one. Kyle and his cousin headed over to the nearby pond next to birch lake to fish at their favorite fishing hole aka "Bass City." Kyle mainly tagged along to learn the tricks of the trade from his Bassmaster cousin.

Using a spinner bait, Kyle's cousin tossed a few lines in the lily pad field hoping for a few nibbles. Then on the now-infamous cast, his cousin flung a monster cast past the lily pads, and just as he started reeling in, he felt an enormous tug on the line. "I got a keeper," he yelled as he began the long fight with the bass through the lily pads.

Unfortunately the lily pads were a little too thick and fisherman and fish were in a deadlock standstill. Knowing the two foes were at a stalemate the unthinkable happened. Kyle took the helm of the fishing pole while his cousin heroically dove in the water to free the fish from lily pads. As his cousin cleared the path for the bass, Kyle muscled the monster through the water to the dock where his cousin was able to simultaneously lift himself and the behemoth onto the dock for measurements and pictures to prove this amazing story actually happened. All together the fish measured over 19 inches and little over 4 lbs. Ultimately they each choose to honor the fish and release the monster back into the wild. It was Kyle Kinzler's first trophy fish and further added to his 4th of July weekend glory that had already been highlighted by a win by Manny the number 82 turtle in the annual Birch Lake turtle race.

Needless to say this 4th of July weekend was priceless for one Kyle Kinzler and just further added to his growing legacy on Birch 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@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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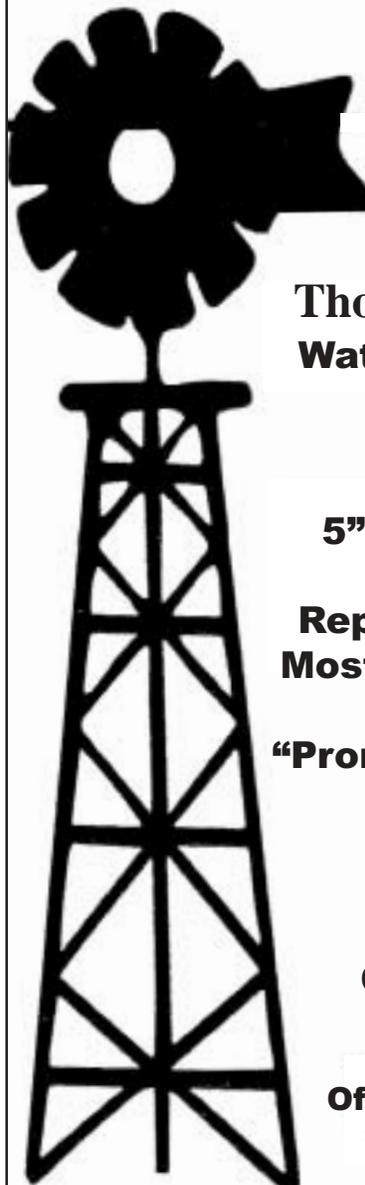
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Fleet Captains' Corner



Fourth of July Regatta a hit!

We had a great turnout for the Fourth of July Regatta, some great weather to sail in, and, of course, a great place to sail! Friday morning started out with a good breeze, and it got even breezier as the day went on. It was windy enough to make the boats scoot across the water without making them tip over. Much more fun than last week. We took advantage of the wind and got three races in on Friday.

Saturday was not nearly as windy, so we got some practice sailing in "light air." The first race on Saturday was particularly interesting, as the MCs also got some practice sailing an intricate new yet-to-be-named maneuver where some of the boats sail around the course in a generally clockwise direction, while others sail in an approximately counter-clockwise pattern, while the fleet captain's boat makes small figure-eights in the middle.

Because of the confusion arising from this race, I am scoring the regatta according to the rules for regatta scoring as given in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012, detailed below the results.

Thanks to Stan and Karen for manning the committee boat ... sorry about all the confusion and shouting!

-Bill Luecht, Fleet Captain 2009

FOURTH OF JULY REGATTA RESULTS

Date7/3.....7/3.....7/3.....7/4.....7/4.....Final
Race No.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....Score

MC Scows

Bob King #1199	1	1	1	1	1	4
Scott Troeger #1489	2	2	2	5	2	8
Phil Vitale #500	3	3	3	4	8	13
Jeff Smitley #2002	4	4	5	2	4	14
Tom Howard #1713	7	5	4	7	3	19
Harold Cranmer #618	5	8	7	3	9	23
Bill Luecht #1579	6	6	6	*	5	23
Dave Olson #1799	8	7	*	6	7	28
Gib Eberhart #916	*	*	*	*	6	36

Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	1	2	2	5
Sandy Vitale (White)	2	*	3	1	1	7
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue)	4	2	4	6	4	14
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	5	3	*	5	6	19
Erica Vitale (White)	3	*	2	*	*	21
Brad Davis (Yellow/Teal)	*	*	*	4	3	23
Eric Odenwald (Blue/Yellow)	*	*	*	3	5	24

Regatta Scoring: This regatta was scored using the Low Point System as specified in the Racing Rules of Sailing 2009-2012, Appendix A. For each race, a boat's finishing place is her race score. A boat which did not compete or did not finish in a race (marked * above) is given a score equal to the number of boats competing in the series plus one. The boat's worst score for the series is thrown out, and the final score is the sum of the remaining scores.

COMMITTEE BOAT SIGN UPS (TENTATIVE - AND STILL OPEN!)

7-12	Available for You!
7-19	Bob & Sue Waddle
7-26	"SISTAS, Good Patty, Deb, Bad Patty
8-2	Jim & Sally Beck, Bruce Wagner
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

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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Fruit Pizza "Fun"

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).
2. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and 3/4 cup sugar until

smooth. Mix in egg. combine the flour, cream of tartar, baking soda and salt; stir into the creamed mixture until just blended. Press dough into an ungreased pizza pan.

3. Bake in preheated oven for 8 to 10 minutes, or until lightly browned.

Cool.

4. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese with 1/2 cup sugar and vanilla until light. Spread on cooled crust.



5. Arrange desired fruit on top of filling, and chill. Fun!

Easiest Cake Ever

INGREDIENTS

- Yellow cake mix
- 1 can of pop (my sister used diet cherry dr pepper)

DIRECTIONS

Mix the cake mix with the pop. That's it. Do not add anything else. Bake according to box directions. Yum!

Happy snacking!

-Good Patti



BIRCH LAKE LADIES GOLF OUTING



August 7, 2009 9:00a.m. Shot Gun
Start

Lunch 12:00p.m. At the Birch Lake Yacht Club

Sauganash Golf Club, 61270 Lutz Road, Three Rivers, MI 49093, Ph. 269-278-7825

Cost of golf and lunch: \$35.00

Lunch only: \$10.00

Proxy Bundles include closets to the pin, closest to the line, longest putt, and longest drive. These bundles may be purchased for \$5.00 per person.

Ladies, it's time to start gathering your team for the Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing. We will be teeing off at 9:00 a.m. at the Sauganash Golf Course in Three Rivers then heading back to the yacht club lunch.

We are asking each team to donate a basket to raffle. We will also be raffling off the centerpieces as well as having a 50/50 drawing.

Lunch includes: veggie tray, cheese crackers, chicken caesar salad, mixed green salad, rolls, butter, mixed berries with frangelico cream, water, iced tea and chardonnay.

Any questions please call Amy Lutz at 269-476-2843. Donated items can be dropped off to Amy Lutz or Carol Freihofer.

2009 Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Checks should be made payable to the B.L.Y.C. and can be dropped off to Amy Lutz.

Tannadoonah Tidbits

Hope that everyone had a wonderful Fourth of July Weekend up at the lake! There was a fantastic turnout for the Pancake Breakfast. Thank you all for coming out to support camp! If you didn't get a chance to pick up some camp apparel, we have t-shirts, hoodies, water bottles, long sleeve tees, stuffed animals, and lots more stuff in our store, which is open every weekend during check in (Sunday 3-4pm) and check out (Saturday 10-11am). Or you can always just give me a call.

We'd like to extend a huge thanks to the Davis / Condle / Foos families who donated 25 beautiful new life-jackets for our swimming and boating programs. Our campers will look nice and bright out there in their boats now!

We're back at camp after a nice holiday break, and enjoying a quieter week with only 47 campers. The theme this week is Tannadoonah Cup Week, and we're doing lots of sports-related activities. On Sunday night we played Water Balloon Volleyball. On



Tuesday afternoon we had a campers vs. staff volleyball tournament, and on Tuesday night we played Big Base Kickball and had a series of tug-of-war matchups.

Wednesday afternoon Miss Sue's nephew and a friend came up to camp to run a soccer clinic, and on Wednesday and Thursday nights we held the 3rd annual Camp Tannadoonah Soccer Tournament.

Next week we have a completely full camp, with 108 total campers! That means that every single bed in camp is going to be filled, and we even have a waiting list! The theme is Survivor Week, and it should be a very exciting and crazy week.

Chas would like me to note that Camp Fire is currently looking for new office space in the Mishawaka or South Bend area. If anyone knows of available space that could house 4-5 Camp Fire employees, please let us know. You can either contact me, or

call our Executive Director, Jenny, at 574-234-4145.

We're getting closer to the upcoming Tannadoonah Hog Roast on August 1st. We plan to start the party at 3pm. We'll provide the Hog and the beverages, and we'd like everyone to bring a side or a dessert or appetizer to share. We're planning to have games and a bonfire, and we'll also be "unveiling" our newly surfaced tennis courts up here at camp.

The tennis courts are part of the Murphy Memorial

Sports Complex, honoring Mrs. Jo Murphy who was the director of Camp Tannadoonah for 27 years, from 1971 to 1997. We're very proud to finally finish this project and know that Mrs. Murphy would be happy to see these beautiful new courts!

-Miss Amber

Wish List

Child Size Orange Life jackets (40-90lbs)
Mattresses for camper bunks
Nylons / Stockings
Yarn



<http://tannadoonah.org/>

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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

"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

"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

"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

Stu's Star Stuff

The second brightest object in the sky

Not long ago we talked about the brightest object in the sky, the Sun. This week it's the second brightest object in the sky ... the Moon.

Earth's partner in its yearly trek around the Sun, the Moon, is geologically dead. Dried lava fields called "maria" -- Latin for seas -- cover its surface, along with impact craters. The maria formed about four billion years ago, when giant asteroids punched holes in the Moon's crust, allowing molten rock to bubble to the surface, where it cooled and hardened.

Earth and the Moon are more like a double planet than a planet and a moon. The Moon is quite large in comparison to Earth -- about one-quarter of Earth's diameter. The two gravitationally interact with each other, most famously causing Earth's ocean tides.

The interaction has other important consequences. Over time, the Moon's rotation has become tidally locked, so that the same side of the Moon always faces Earth. And the Moon acts to stabilize a "wobble" in Earth's axis. (We've talked about that before.) Over billions of years, this has led to a much more stable climate, which was friendly to the evolution

of life. The Earth-Moon interaction also slows Earth's rotation by about two milliseconds per day per century.

The Moon probably formed in a "big whack." The theory arose after scientists analyzed the rocks brought to Earth by Apollo astronauts and Soviet Luna probes, as well as the readings of seismometers left on the lunar surface to record "moonquakes."

Their studies showed that the Moon's composition closely resembles that of Earth's crust and mantle. From this, scientists concluded that a Mars-sized body hit Earth within a few million years of its formation. The impact vaporized much of the material in Earth's crust and mantle and blasted them into space, forming a ring around the planet. This material quickly coalesced to form the Moon -- Earth's steady companion in its never-ending trek around the Sun.

The Moon, Venus, Mars, and Aldebaran stage a beautiful show next weekend. The Moon is above the others on the morning of the 17th, beside Mars on the 18th, and to the left of Venus on the 19th. Aldebaran stays to the right of

Venus. Look for them early in the morning. Next week, info on a planet we don't really see much of at any given moment. Until then, enjoy the show. It's a good value for your entertainment dollar.

-Stu Spratt



The Moon tonight:

The Moon for July 11, 2009
Illuminated Fraction: 0.793
3.1 days before last quarter

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

Don't say something you'll live to regret. You may exaggerate your emotional situation. Don't get involved in expensive entertainment that involves gambling. Try not to use emotional blackmail; it will only make matters worse. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

You should follow through on educational endeavors you have wanted to pursue for some time. Your emotional attitude with respect to your status and direction in society may be unrealistic. You won't have to look for the action. Losses are likely if you get involved with uncertain individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Trips will be favorable for business as well as pleasure. Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. Pushy people must be kept at arm's length. Don't overreact to someone's advances. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You may have a problem dealing

with elders. You can handle situations that require contact with institutions or large corporations. Don't get involved in other people's private doings. In return, the satisfaction you get is enough for you. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You may have difficulties with family members if you get involved in petty arguments. Your concern with older family members and those less fortunate than yourself will only add to your attractiveness. You will be able to get good advice if you listen to close friends or relatives you respect. Try to stay calm, and whatever you do, don't nag. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

You will make new friends through physical activities. Get involved in worthwhile endeavors and meet new friends. Avoid being overly opinionated or you will alienate friends. Outbursts of passion may cause arguments with your mate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

Regardless of your first reaction, the outcome will be favorable. You will have a problem sorting out your true feelings when it comes to your relationship. Drastic financial losses may be likely if you lend money. Creative pursuits should payoff. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

You should teach children some of your unique creative talents. You are best to concentrate on your professional endeavors. Rather than making a scene, communicate quietly about the way you feel. You should get out and meet new people this week. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Take time to catch up on gossip and make plans to do a little adventure travel. Your boss won't be too thrilled if you leave things unfinished. The existing problems must be dealt with one way or another. Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22- Jan. 20)

You can mesmerize anyone you meet with your cultured attitude and outlook. Listening can be more valuable than being a chatterbox. Don't hesitate to voice your ideas and opinions. You can accomplish a great deal. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Uncertainty regarding your mate may emerge; reevaluate what you see in each other. Don't let situations get out of hand. Do not over expand if you have your own business. Sit tight. Insincere gestures of friendliness may be misleading. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

If you can mix business with pleasure much can be accomplished. You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing. Make money using your ingenuity and creative talent. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at home. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

Water Quality Committee Report

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



one called microcystis. Microcystis can produce a toxin that if in sufficient concentration can cause some skin reactions for swimmers, and produce systemic toxicity if used as drinking water (dogs, farm animals). Last year the USGS did a survey of 41 lakes to test for this toxin, and although found in some cases, was at levels 10 times less than what the World Health Organization would deem as the lowest level of concern.

Blue Green Algae

Last year we had one small documented bloom of blue-green algae over in a isolated spot of the northeast corner of the lake. It was documented by laboratory analysis, but we do not know if we had other occurrences that went unknown.

Although blue-green algae is basically ubiquitous in waterways, blooms, i.e. extensive overgrowth that actually form a scum on the surface, are primarily limited to high phosphorous containing bodies of water during the hot summer months. Thus, a bloom on Birch Lake is unexpected and curious.

Blue-green algae is not really algae at all, but a type of bacteria called cyanobacteria. This bacteria has two unique properties in that it has chlorophyll so it can photosynthesize like plants, and can fix gaseous nitrogen to use in growth. Most plants need nitrogen in the form of ammonia or various nitrates, etc. and cannot use gaseous nitrogen. Thus in the late summer when nitrogen levels in bodies of water may decrease, but still have high phosphorous (not Birch), this provides a perfect opportunity for blue-green

algae to out compete other algae and overgrow.

So with our lake being low nutrient (especially phosphorous), would we see any blue-green algae blooms. There is no clarity here, but it may be due to the zebra mussels. Work between Michigan State and the DEQ demonstrated that blue green algae populations were uncharacteristically elevated in some waters with lower phosphorous, and the common factor was zebra mussels.

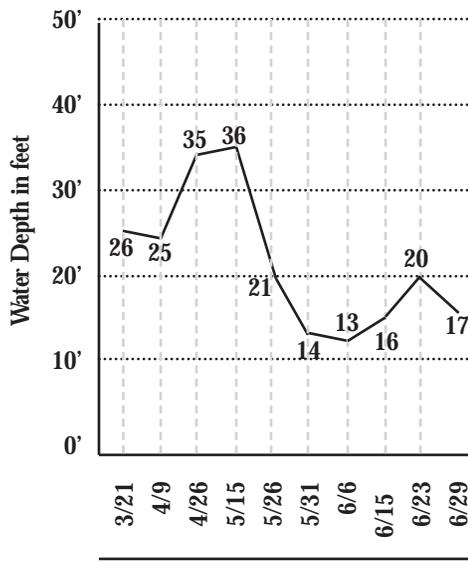
In some controlled experiments, this observation was also borne out. It is speculated that the zebra mussels may selectively filter some algae and not others leading to a imbalance and a competitive advantage for some blue-green algae species, especially

However, should in the later summer you see what might be a blue-green algae bloom (most likely greenish looking scum covering a area of water when there is no wave action and the water is quite warm) avoid swimming in the area until it has dispersed due to wave action etc. If you look at all the stuff you have seen so far this year, that is not blue-green, but our everyday junk that accumulates on the lake from the air and the lake combined.

Errata

Last week we reported on E coli and stated that in the body of the lake that no detectable levels were found. That is still true. However, on the table site 4 was listed as having detectable E coli levels. That is not true. The duplicate samples from site 4 were both non detectable. The two detectable samples were the duplicates from the stream midway between the lake and the road.

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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REFLECTIONS

At the Commodore's Party I was telling a friend about my visit to the Nursing Home (Alzheimer's) where I discovered my mother-in-law had an invisible friend staying with her. I told my friend that I was happy because now she has someone that is always with her and someone she can talk to anytime she wants. One of the many heartbreaking things about this particular disease is that it is not always possible to make or maintain friendships with the other residents because many of them can't remember anything long enough to know that they have met before. Gatherings there are often very quiet because they have no memories to share and no ability to anticipate future events, hence, nothing to chat about. Therefore I am happy and amazed that the invisible friend is a constant entity. (Why she can remember that this invisible person is always there when she can't remember that I was there five minutes after I leave is a wonder.) Then it occurred to me that possibly this invisible person IS REALLY ALWAYS THERE and only "Mom" can see her.

It is said that children are more sensitive to things unseen (ghostly spirits, etc.) because their minds are less cluttered than those of an adult. I know that one of our

children had an invisible friend named Wilhelmina, and a five year old just doesn't make up a name like that! Maybe as our memories fade out and our cares disappear, we again become sensitive. I think perhaps Mom's new friend is someone sent to be with her until it is time for her move on, maybe a long gone relative or friend that will eventually guide her "home." I, personally, find some comfort in that. I would appreciate it if, when my time comes, a friendly face is there to lead me (UP I hope - some will disagree.)

It is an interesting possibility that I will continue to ponder. Think about this and we'll can talk about it at the next BLYC party, after some beers or a little wine....it becomes a lot more plausible then.

-Antique on the East Side

From the mouths of babes

A little boy opened the big family bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it.

What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed between the pages.

"Mama, look what I found", the boy called out.

"What have you got there, dear?"

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

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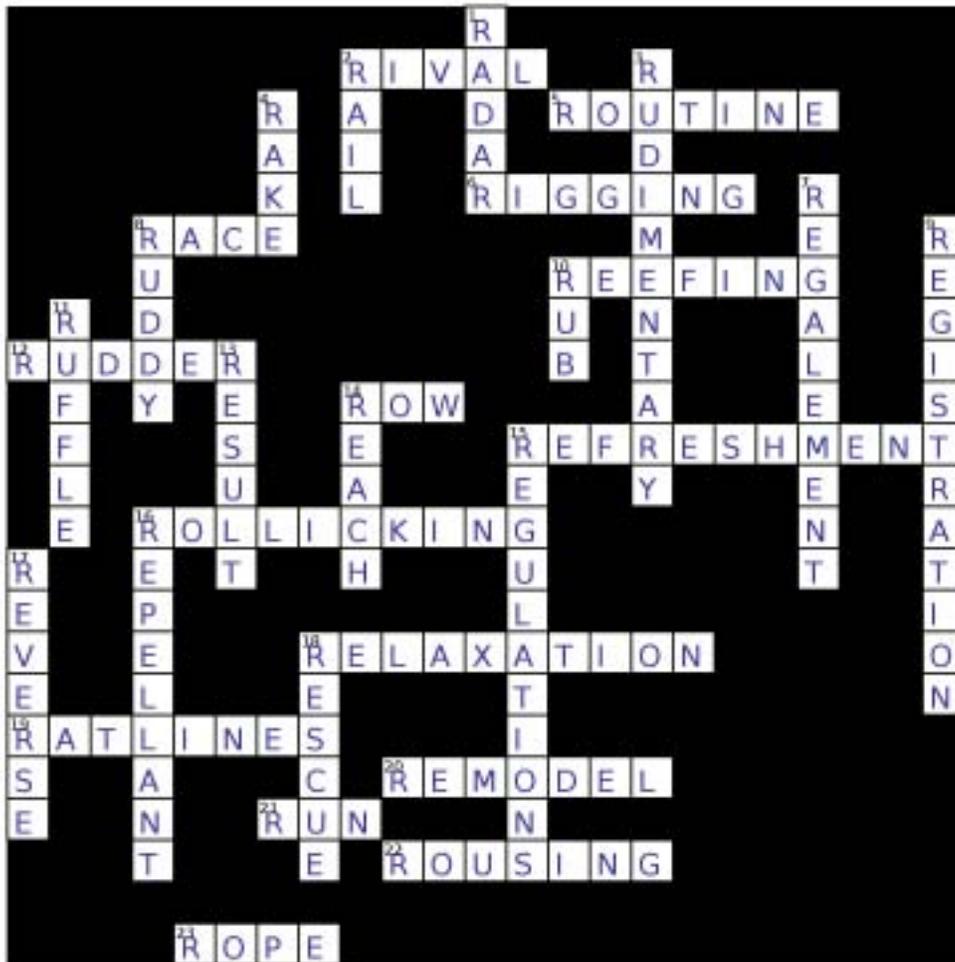
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Barker Crossword

THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE LETTER "R" ... IT STARTS WITH AN R!



- Across
- 2 OPPONENT
 - 5 ORDINARY / S.O.P.
 - 6 WIRE AND LINES
 - 8 SUNDAY CONTEST
 - 10 REDUCING SAIL
 - 12 STEERING BLADE
 - 14 MANUAL PROPULSION
 - 15 BEVERAGES
 - 16 EXUBERANT
 - 18 TIME SPENT AT REST
 - 19 TALL SHIP LADDERS
 - 20 HOME IMPROVEMENTS
 - 21 SAIL DOWNWIND
 - 22 SPIRITED
 - 23 CORDAGE

- Down
- 1 DETECTOR
 - 2 BULWARK EDGE
 - 3 ESSENTIAL
 - 4 MAST ANGLE
 - 7 CELEBRATION
 - 8 REDDISH
 - 9 BOAT DOCUMENTS
 - 10 POLISH
 - 11 YOUR FEATHERS
 - 13 RACE OUTCOME
 - 14 FAST POINT OF SAIL
 - 15 RULES
 - 16 SKIN SO SOFT
 - 17 MAKE STERNWAY
 - 18 GOOD SAMARITAN

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Barker Word Search

Find these words that are seen during the "dog days" at Birch Lake

BATHING SUIT
SHADE TREES
PINACOLADAS
COOLER
GRILL
HOT DOGS
BEACH TOWEL
SPRINKLERS
GARDEN HOSE
ICED TEA
SUN HAT

BUNS
DREAM BARS
SWIM RAFT
HAMMOCK
LEMONADE
BRATWURST
SODA
POPSICLES
NOODLES
COLD BEER
SANDALS

COLD COKE
TANK TOPS
POTATO SALAD
ICE CUBES
UMBRELLA
SHORTS
RAIN
BEACH BALL
CHARCOAL

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

Home #5 — the Cowens

It's only 2 weeks until our House Walk on July 25th! 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 at 1 PM and ends at 4 PM and brochures must be picked-up at the Barn the day of the house walk. A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn so please walk or car-pool, if possible. Each week, in the Barker, we will feature one of the homes on the tour.

Tickets are on sale for \$10 in advance and \$15 on the day of the tour. All proceeds are going towards Birch Lake Water Quality testing fees in their efforts to monitor our lake. Tickets can also be purchased from Denny Weesner south shore, Judy Olsen east shore, Vickie Rogers the cove, Bev Kruggel west shore, and Michelle Seyfarth north shore.

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 fifth home on the tour is Dick and Peggy Cowen at 62803 Birch Lakeview Dr. (west shore).

Dick's Parents, Clifford and Avanelle Cowen bought the cove lot and the family built the initial house in 1946. Dick and his sister, Carolyn, spent each summer there and one of Carolyn's paintings can be seen on the present upper wall, including one of Dick and his father during an early year on the lake. Dick and his wife Peggy went on to live in two other Birch west side homes as their chil-

dren and grandchildren grew up. After inheriting the cove cottage, they rebuilt it in 2002-03 with the aim of "low maintenance, enhanced comfort, openness, and keeping as many original things as possible." The old Oak trees, removed to enlarge the house, were cut and sent to the Amish to finish for the new upstairs flooring and stairs. Peggy really wanted to keep the lake level looking as much like the original cottage as possible so the knotty pine from the old cottage was used for the new lake level wainscot-

ing. The tulip tree at the lakefront was carved into lake memories -- a heron, an owl, fireflies, and a sea captain.

The builder of the new house, Duane Gundy, did a great job of designing the house so there were views of the lake from every upper room, including the living room, kitchen, and even lying in bed. This home is quite unique in that the main level is done in a white trim craftsman style and the lake level is a knotty pine -- two completely different styles under one roof.



photo by Carol Dugan

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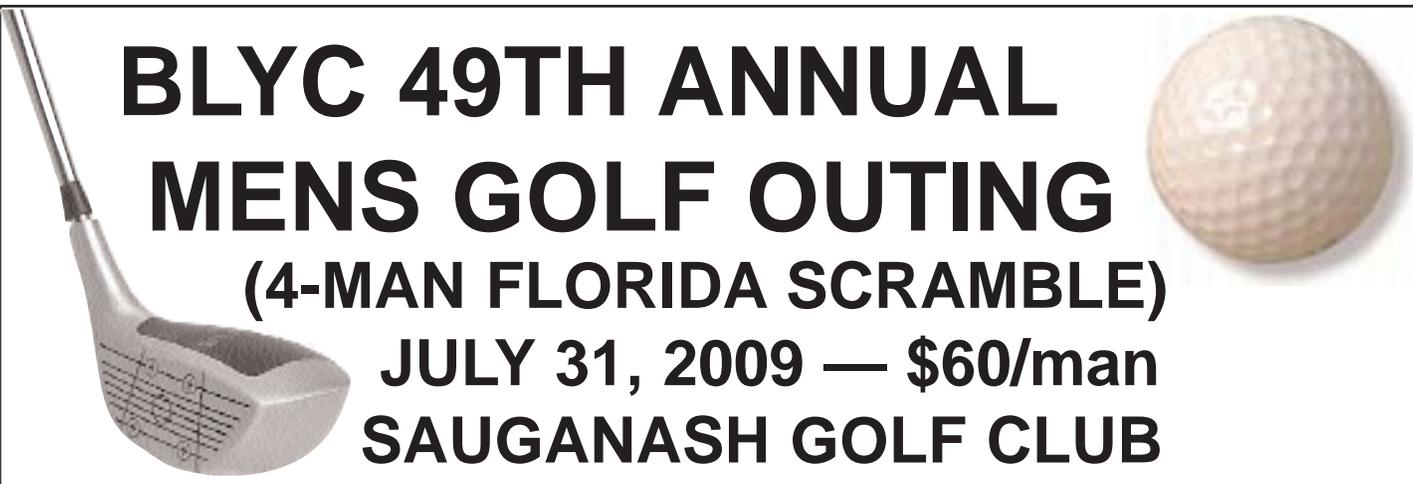
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*** must have registrations by July 22nd.**

Additional Information

- * team prizes and contests
- * dinner only, \$25 per person
- * dinner includes 10oz. grilled sirloin, side salads, corn on the cob and 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.**

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Foursome Information

Team Captain:

Player

Player

Player

Total Enclosed \$ _____



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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.

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