



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

# Birch Barker

Weekend of Aug. 8, 2009

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## Safety first team nets 4th in Men's BLYC Golf Outing

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**H**ard to believe, yes. Particularly when considering we might not have had the best equipment, most talent, coordination, conditioning, experience, or practice. We were further handicapped by 3 - 4 orbs of florescent yellow-green light that seemed to follow us, and our balls, nearly everywhere, almost blinding us every time we attempted to "address" the ball (with the club).

We probably would have done better had we not persisted in giving all the other teams an advantage by hitting our balls perpendicularly to the straight lines between the tees and pins. Really our goal in going on out there was to serve as visual reminders to the other 16 teams to play and act in a safe manner. And there too (more importantly) we were successful. There were no reports of any of our golfers being

run over or even hit by a train or car.

I do want to thank the other 3 members of the "Southeast Yellows Golf and Safety Club" for carrying (dragging) me across the finish line. Tim, Jim, and Ed know patience and long suffering and good cheer, too.

If our team, at 14 over, finished fourth, I do kind of feel sorry for all those other guys. And a lot of them actually play more than once a year.

Seriously, it was a great day and evening. Thanks so much to Fry and Mike Lutz for planning and running the show. From this novice's perspective, everything went without a hitch. The dinner food and wait staff were out of sight. Thanks too to all the real golfers who didn't mind letting me tag along. Do you think there is any significance to the irony that the team I was on last year (which didn't do particularly well then) this year — without me — finished second?

A particular thanks to the generous cash

### 2009 BLYC Calendar

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.

winners who donated their prizes back to the Yacht Club.

At last Saturday's Board Meeting, there were a few changes made on your Board. Nancy Walker, upon sale of her home and moving off the lake, had recently resigned. Former Commodore Ryan Gableman, upon hearing of another willing soul on the hill, marked the birth of his and Shanna's second child (Congratulations to all!) by also resigning.

We thank both for their service.

After the Board voted to increase the number of Board Members by one, PJ Vandewalle (hill), Mike Sheffieck (west), and Greg Bolin (west) were nominated and approved to fill the 3 vacant slots. Welcome

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. E-mail your items to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com), or, if you must, put the materials in the red newspaper box at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). You can also mail your items to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200. PLEASE NOTE, if you do not receive a Barker, call BLYC Commodore Paul Fallon at 476-1467. -Phil Vitale, editor

aboard guys. Ironically the Sheffieck's purchased Nanny Walker's house. Small world, isn't it? One might even say the beat goes on.

This week's first place essay prize winner won in the category of "Best Use of Vertical Lettering Down the Left Hand Side of the Paper." There were two other entries that rivaled this one in this specific category, but they each won first place prizes in other categories. (Best by a Non-Human and Best Shout -Out/Homage to the Commodore and Commodress). Providential, wouldn't you agree?

#### **Birch Lake**

B - Beautiful Waters  
I - Iridescent Sunsets  
R - Refreshing Breezes  
C - Cool Camp Tannadoonah  
H - Heaven on Earth  
L - Lazy Days  
A - Awesome Friends  
K - Kid's paradise  
E - Enchanting!!

by Blair Garceau

Thank you Blair for being so generous with your time and talent.

This Saturday night, tonight, 8/8/09, all wanting a delicious, reasonably priced meal and another opportunity to visit with their neighbors, will be in attendance at this year's Corn and Sausage Roast. I can almost taste it now. Hope to see you there.

Until next time, together let us continue to protect and enjoy the miraculous healing waters of Birch (God's favorite) Lake.

*-Paul Fallon, 2009 Commodore*



BLYC Commodore Paul Fallon presented a check to Camp Tannadoonah last Saturday at their Hog Roast and sports complex dedication. The check was for the proceeds from the Pancake Breakfast and Spaghetti Dinner. Accepting the check is Mr. Chas.

photo by the PattiCam

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# — Birch Lake Notes —



## Fall Dinner and Annual Meeting!

Some of you may be unaware that the Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC) is governed by a set of bylaws that sets the rules and objectives for the BLYC. These bylaws establish conditions for membership, set up dues and assessments, provide governance and management and also outline procedures for the selection of our officers and directors.

One of these bylaws requires that an annual meeting be held each year as designated by the Commodore. Traditionally, this meeting is combined with our annual fall dinner at the end of the summer season. It also marks the departure of the present Commodore, installation of the new Commodore and their Vice-Commodore and election of members of the Board of Directors whose terms will expire at that time. The BLYC Nominating Committee will recommend a slate of candidates, but nominations can also be made from the floor at the meeting.

So, if the prospect of a delicious Mexican Fiesta dinner feast isn't enough, please come out to show your appreciation for Commodore Paul Fallon and his lovely wife, Celia. You can also meet the new Commodore, Bob Waddle and his Vice-Commodore,

whose identity will be revealed at the meeting and you can enjoy the fellowship and companionship of your Birch Lake neighbors.

**BREAKING NEWS!** — We have just learned that frozen margaritas have been added to the expansive menu. Time for some brain-freeze! I feel better than James Brown! For advance tickets see any director or officer. Judy Olson will also have tickets for sale. See you there!

## Corn and Sausage Roast

The Corn and Sausage Roast will be this Saturday, August 8, serving food from 5:30 pm until 7:30 pm. Once again we will be serving grilled chicken breasts on a limited basis, so come early if brats aren't your thing. Our combo meals include your meat choice, corn, four sides, cookies and one beverage. The donation can will be out for additional canned drinks. Prices are: \$5 for a hot dog meal, \$6 for a bratwurst meal, and \$7 for a chicken breast meal. See you there.

## Gum dispenser

While at our home during the House Walk, a couple of people had asked where I had gotten a gum dispenser that I had hanging on my wall. I found the information, called the store and they do have them. They are \$30.00 each (plus tax and shipping—unless I take a drive there and can pick them up). Please call me (476-

1080) if you are still interested.

*-Pam Mullin*

## Baby Shower / Open House for Chas and Amber



Sunday, August 30th — 2 to 5 pm at Birch Lake Yacht Club — ALL are welcome! Join us for appetizers, drinks, cake and a visit with the parents to be.

If you are interested in being part of a group gift please call: Cove: Vickie Rogers 476-2383

Northside: Amy Lutz 476-2843

Eastside: Blair Garceau 476-9862

Southside: Katha Machalleck 476-2642

Westside: Karen Brovold 476-8862

Chas and Amber are registered at Babies R Us and Target.

## Boat safety inspection

Thanks to Sgt. Philip Esarey, the head of the Marine Division of the Cass County Sheriff's Department, and his crew for the boat inspections last weekend — and special thanks to Cheryl and Dan for letting us usurp their pier

## Everyone's raving about the new **SKI NAUTIQUE 200**

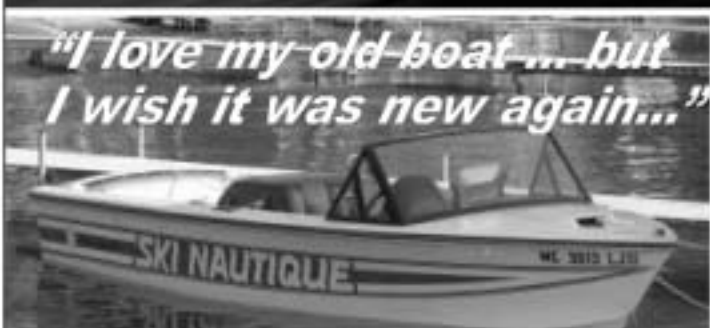


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# — Birch Lake Notes —

for the afternoon!

## Labor of Love

The First Church of God Cassopolis located at 21083 Spencer Road (behind Family Dollar) will host a "Labor of Love" garage sale on September 5, 2009 from 8 am until 5 pm. There will be homemade corn dogs, music and lots and lots of well priced items... Prices will be EXCELLENT!

This event is a fundraiser to assist the pastor and his family in the purchase of a home closer to the Cassopolis area.

## Third annual Sausage Fest



It's that time once again, Kinzler's 3rd annual sausage fest returns to the west side of Birch Lake Aug 14th-16th. It's the ever popular all-guys trip to the lakehouse. You may remember the waterskiing pirate made his debut last year and rumor has it he will be joined by a hot dog this year! Don't be alarmed if you see 20+ guys barbequing in matching sausage fest T-shirts. So be on the lookout for the "dancing sausage" and feel free to stop by for a game of bags and the coldest beer on Birch Lake.

## News From The Cove

By Sunny Waters

To John Gableman and his crew who man the grill at the Corn and Sausage Roast, I sadly offer my regrets. It has been a small but meaningful tradition that I make a trek up the hill to bestow a blessing upon the red-cheeked, handsome hunks and make sure they have plenty of lemonade and juice boxes. Be brave, gentlemen; this year I will be with you only in spirit due to a hapless conflict.

What, you may ask yourselves, could possibly supersede this long-awaited annual tribute to grease?

It is, dear friends, THE GREAT AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS REUNION!

The Mishawaka High School class of '56 will gather for an evening of "do you remember...golly, you haven't changed a bit, we've got to get together more often, let me show you my grandchildren's photos, etc."

But before the gala event takes place there is a tremendous preparation frenzy. Cosmetic counters are wiped out, hair salons are booked solid and department stores lingerie departments are sold out of a popular item called The Tummy Tamer. (B.S. renamed it Meat Packer). We have dieted, we have ClairOLED, we cake on the Estee Lauder and make our way

into a room of much older-looking people. Minutes after arrival a chunky, smirky man saunters up and says, "Hi! I remember you when you were cute an thin." Oh swell, it's Marvin who used to do disgusting things with his nose in study hall. Desperately I scan the crowded room in hope of signaling B.S. to rescue me. I spot him chatting with a former cheerleader who has squeezed her size 16 into her cutesy Size 6 uniform and is tickling everyone who walks past with her pom poms. I am beginning to seethe when Marvin the nose sculptor yells in my ear, "Hey, they're playing our song! Let's dance." Not at all certain my Tummy Tamer would hold up to Rock Around the Clock and marvin's sweaty hands, I excuse myself and hole up in the ladies until dinner is served.

The evening dwindles and the crowd thins. Someone starts singing the Mishawaka Fight Song and nostalgia sets in. Everyone hugs, eyes are dabbed and we all silently wonder if we'll all be together again at our 50th. Even Marvin gets a warm, if brief, hug from me.

Though I'll miss the frivolity at the Corn and Sausage Roast, it will have been worth it.

-Sunny

Found this "News from the Cove" in one of Sue's files. Thought it might be fun to put it in the Barker this week as the Corn & Sausage Roast is coming up 8/8. It might bring a smile to those who worked with John Gableman back when. I believe Sue's article was written in 1996.

-Bruce

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## The Eastern Hognose

The first time I saw it, it startled me. My heart pumped a little faster. Outside my basement door, all curled up in a circle was a snake. Upon closer examination, at a distance, of course, its eyes were losing their sparkle and were clouding.

This snake was close to shedding its skin. I hadn't seen a snake of this type around the lake. Once in a while a garter snake would be seen, but never one like this. I identified this one to be an Eastern Hognose snake.

Through the next few days, I watched as it eventually, nose first, peeled off its skin in a complete replica of its former self. The Hognose has a funny face with an upturned nose. It has fangs and is slightly poisonous. Its small fangs are located in the back of its mouth, not up front.

The Hognose is notorious for playing dead when threatened. He can raise his head, flatten his neck like a cobra, and hiss. It was interesting to see its metamorphosis.

I had a complete four foot exoderm taped to my fireplace mantle for a long time. That is, until my wife, who doesn't care much for snakes as interior decor, made me take it down.

Birch Lake has a lot of surprises along with its beauty.

-Duffy Dufour

## Happy Birthday, Katie Luecht!



Happy Birthday to Katie Luecht who turned 16 last Tuesday. Katie, who considers it an honor to be the next door neighbor of the Barker editor-in-chief, is the daughter of Bill and Bad Patty Luecht, owners of the infamous Eastside Flamingo Room. Pictured at top right is Katie at age 8 in her Dorothy-from-Kansas Halloween costume. At bottom right is Katie with the famous Ethel the Wonder Dog ... Pictured above is Katie at Camp Tannadoonah, where she recently completed a two-week stint as a Counselor in Training.

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# — Birch Lake Notes —



49th annual BLYC Men's

# GOLF OUTING

photos by the PattiCam



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

# — Barker kid of the Week —



ABOVE: Picking Nana & Papa's flowers (Doug and Judee Eichorst) are their three youngest grandchildren, Luke and Aidan Eichorst from Sun Prairie, WI, and Kelly Eichorst from Midland, TX. Photo by Carol



AT TOP RIGHT are Morgann Applegate and Dominic Vitale-Richards, grandchildren of Sandy and Phil (hey, that's me) from the East side. Morgann and Dom have both become aquatic lake rats who spend as much time in the water as their parents will allow.

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

Your kid can be in the Barker if you send pix to me (via email) along with their name(s) and pertinent info. If you don't email, make sure the info is legible and not too long because I have to retype all that stuff from scratch (and I'm not a very good typist ... and I'm even worse at proofreading stuff I type). -Editor

Contact;  
Major O'Brien  
269-476-2126



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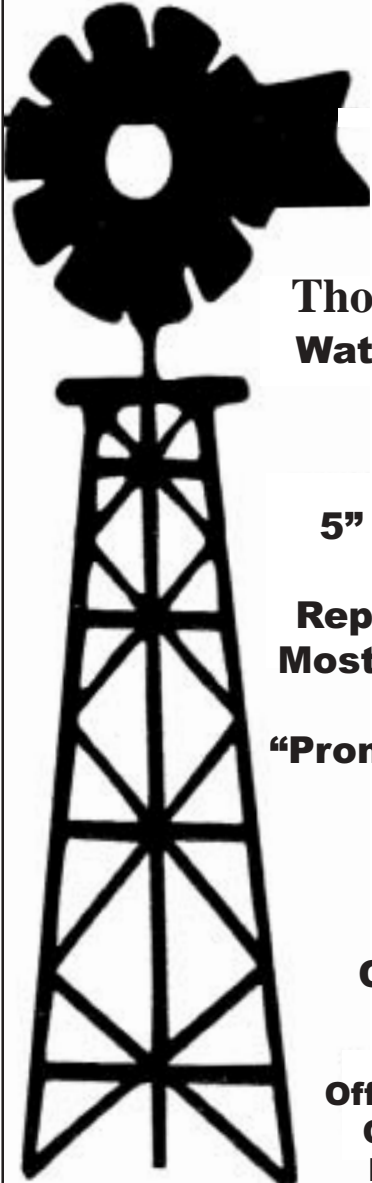
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# Fleet Captains' Corner



## Volunteers Needed!

Attention all you landlubbers! If you've always wanted to be in the middle of one of those exciting sailboat races, but you've stayed away because you don't know your starboard\* from your daggerboard, or your binnacle from your bimini top, then this is your chance! We still need people (and boats) to help start the races. No experience necessary! If you can count backwards from five then you are qualified. We still need volunteers for this Sunday, August 9, and also for Sunday August 30 and Sunday September 7 (second day of Labor Day regatta). You bring your boat and your friends, and we'll furnish instructions, extra anchors, and a really cool PA system (have I mentioned that before?) for you to use. (Dave Olson has volunteered to run the committee boat this week, but he would really rather be sailing. It would be nice if someone else would step in.)

We had some really great racing last Sunday - we had strong winds, and a nice long course that Mr. Cranmer laid out. (Most people don't think about it, but Harold is out there before the rest of us, setting out the marks, and then he is out there afterwards, gathering them up. Special thanks, Harold!) We only got in two races, but each one lasted about 45 minutes. Long courses are fun - it gives you a chance to try out different strategies (or in my case it gives me time to recover from my strategies.) Thanks to Bruce Wagner, Jim and Sally Beck, and Stanley Pitakos for starting the races, even though they had engine

## 2008 BLYC SAILING SEASON RESULTS

Date	2-Aug	2-Aug	Total	Season
Race	13	14	Points	Average

### MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	10817	1545
Rick Harman #379	DNS	DNS	7469	1494
Harold Cranmer #618	DNS	DNS	11653	1457
Bob King #1199	3	3	13107	1456
Jim Bolinger #1735	DNS	DNS	4259	1420
Tom Howard #1713	6	5	15066	1370
Jeff Smitley #2002	5	4	9505	1358
Phil Vitale #500	4	7	16020	1335
Don Harman #582	7	6	9307	1330
Dave Olson #1979	2	9	15618	1302
Gib Eberhart #916	9	8	16068	1236
Bill Luecht #1579	8	2	14608	1217

### Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	DNS	DNS	11200	1600
Erica Vitale (White)	1	1	12405	1551
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	DNS	DNS	4563	1521
Sandy Vitale (White)	3	4	10266	1467
Eric Odenwald (Blue/Yellow)	2	2	10262	1466
Bernie Garceau (Red/White/Blue)	4	3	13651	1365
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	5	5	6480	1296

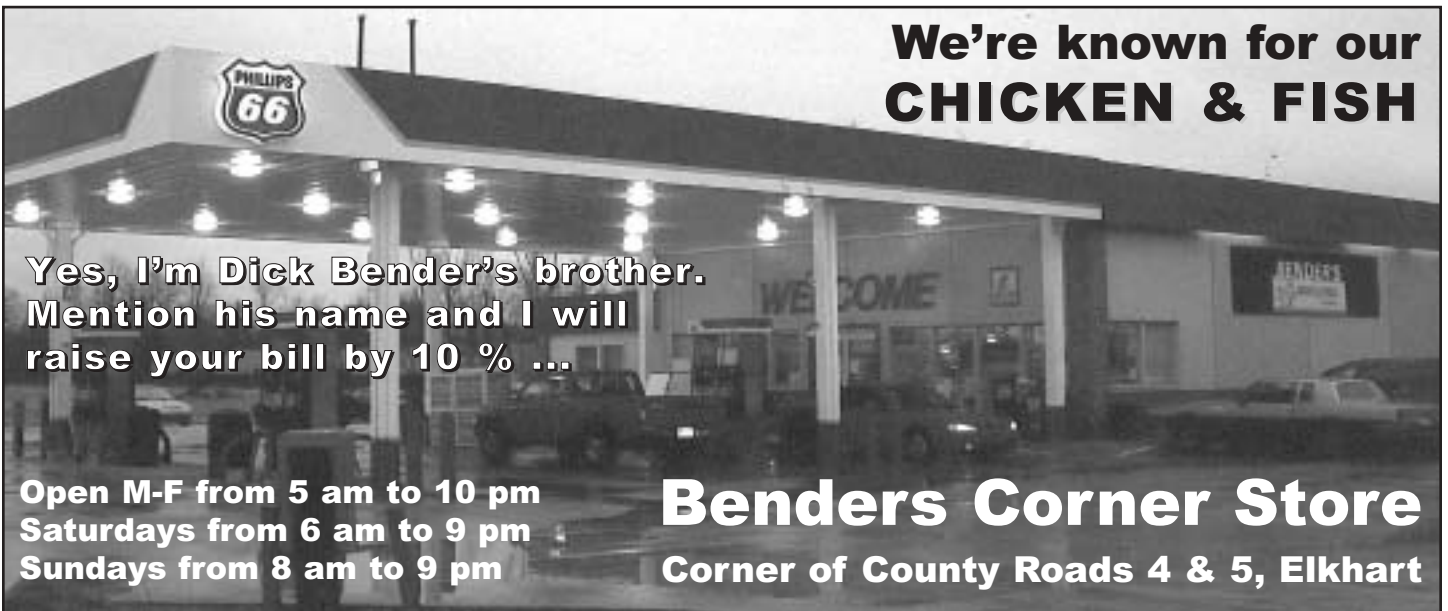
trouble. Thanks to Blair Garceau and Patty Luecht for offering to drop what they were doing and run the committee boat.

*-Bill Luecht, Fleet Captain 2009*

\*Actually, "starboard" is not a physical object. It is a friendly greeting that sailors call out to other sailors which means "get out of my way, you stupid idiot."

### COMMITTEE BOAT SIGN UPS

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!



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# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## The easiest recipe EVER!

No lie. I do this all the time.

Family and/ or friends coming for a visit? Just pick up the phone and call: Sauk Trail (269) 641-7285. Eight minutes from the lake in Union Michigan.

My favorite take out is their pulled pork. Just last weekend I had family coming so I called ahead and ordered 5 lbs. I had a little left over so I just put it in the freezer for another time.

In May I hauled 15lbs to Ohio for

a graduation party. It was such a hit I was asked to bring it to all family functions.

Sauk Trail also has the best bar-beque sauces. Our house favorite is called Politically Correct. You can even get the buns there.

Maybe, if everyone mentions my name, Mark will start carrying Miller Lite on tap again. It's worth a try!

How easy and yummy is that?

-Good Patti



## Birch Lake Directory update

Early in the summer I readily agreed to help update the Birch Lake directory. You may ask, "Why would anyone subject themselves to such a onerous task?" If you wish to read on, I will try to explain.

Paul and I used to live a neighborhood with the same amount of homes as Birch Lake (ballpark 220.) Every other year a new Homeowner's Directory was issued much to the delight of our growing children. It was like Christmas when that new directory arrived at our home - the kids would squeal with delight when someone new their age would appear in the directory. One of our daughters (she now works as an analyst) would calculate grade levels of the new comers and what bus route they may possibly share. To keep peace amid the home, we found it prudent to purchase extra copies of the directory.

Back to the business at hand-we would like to publish an updated Birch Lake directory. Some updates have been received and duly noted, but there are new cottage/homeowners appearing that may not be noted. Could everyone who reads this please extend a neighborly welcome to new families and share this plea for accurate data? Perhaps you know of a property that has changed hands (i.e. your adult children bought the cottage next door or down the street — wishful thinking!) I'll be willing to list ages of children, but that information needs to be COMMUNICATED. (College-age will be listed as "college age") Here's how the information can be transmitted without too much nagging:

- call 269-476-1467, if there is no answer, I'll call you back
- stop by 63600 Birch Road, by water or land
- complete an update form, conveniently included in this week's Barker, and mail it to Celia Fallon, 63600 Birch Road, Vandalia 49095
- complete an update form, conveniently included in this week's Barker, and place it the Fallon's mailbox
- deadline for this information is August 22, 2009

■ if we do not receive an updated form, what is in the current directory will be printed again

Thanks to previous Yacht Club administrators, computer software and copious record keeping, this task is mini-

mal and may bring delight to the many new members, young and old, of our Beautiful Birch Lake community. Perhaps there are some future analysts among us. Thank you.

-Celia Fallon

### INFORMATION SHEET FOR UPDATE OF BLYC DIRECTORY

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Birch Lake address \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_

Other address: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phones: \_\_\_\_\_

Email addresses \_\_\_\_\_

Children : Please state ages as of September 1, 2009

Other information (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

# Stu's Star Stuff

## 2009 meteor shower viewing tips

The next meteor shower is the Perseids on August 12, 2009. The shower peaks early afternoon on the 12th, so the morning of the 12th (midnight to dawn) and late evening are the best times to watch from the U.S.

### What are meteor showers?

An increase in the number of meteors at a particular time of year is called a meteor shower.

Comets shed the debris that becomes most meteor showers. As comets orbit the Sun, they shed an icy, dusty debris stream along the comet's orbit. If Earth travels through this stream, we will see a meteor shower. Depending on where Earth and the stream meet, meteors appear to fall from a particular place in the sky, maybe within the neighborhood of a constellation.

Meteor showers are named by the constellation from which meteors appear to fall, a spot in the sky astronomers call the radiant. For instance, the radiant for the Leonid meteor shower is located in the constellation Leo. The Perseid meteor shower is so named because meteors appear to fall from a point in the constellation Perseus.

### What are shooting stars?

"Shooting stars" and "falling stars" are both names that people have used for many hundreds of years to describe meteors -- intense streaks of light across the night sky caused by small bits of interplanetary

Name .....	Date.....	Peak time.....	Moon Phase
Quadrantids.....	Jan. 3 .....	morning .....	First quarter
Lyrids .....	April 21/22 .....	night .....	near new Moon
Eta Aquarids .....	May 5.....	.....	Sets @ 4 a.m.
Perseids .....	August 12 .....	morning.....	Rises around .....
.....	.....	evening .....	midnight
Orionids .....	October 21 .....	morning .....	Near new Moon
Leonids .....	November 17/18 .....	morning .....	New Moon
Geminids.....	December 13/14 .....	night.....	Near new Moon

**NOTES** These are approximate times for the Lower 48 states; actual shower times can vary. Bright moonlight makes it difficult to see all but the brightest meteors.

rock and debris called meteoroids crashing and burning high in Earth's upper atmosphere. Traveling at thousands of miles an hour, meteoroids quickly ignite in searing friction of the atmosphere, 30 to 80 miles above the ground. Almost all are destroyed in this process; the rare few that survive and hit the ground are known as meteorites.

When a meteor appears, it seems to "shoot" quickly across the sky, and its small size and intense brightness might make you think it is a star. If you're lucky enough to spot a meteorite (a meteor that makes it all the way to the ground), and see where it hits, it's easy to think you just saw a star "fall."

### How can I best view a meteor shower?

If you live near a brightly lit city, drive away from the

glow of city lights and toward the constellation from which the meteors will appear to radiate.

For example, drive north to view the Leonids. Driving south may lead you to darker skies, but the glow will dominate the northern horizon, where Leo rises. Perseid meteors will appear to "rain" into the atmosphere from the constellation Perseus, which rises in the northeast around 11 p.m. in mid-August.

After you've escaped the city glow, find a dark, secluded spot where oncoming car headlights will not periodically ruin your sensitive night vision. Look for state or city parks or other safe, dark sites.

Once you have settled at your observing spot, lay back or position yourself so the horizon appears at the edge of your peripheral vision, with the stars

and sky filling your field of view. Meteors will instantly grab your attention as they streak by.

### How do I know the sky is dark enough to see meteors?

If you can see each star of the Little Dipper, your eyes have "dark adapted," and your chosen site is probably dark enough. Under these conditions, you will see plenty of meteors.

### What should I pack for meteor watching?

Treat meteor watching like you would the 4th of July fireworks. Pack comfortable chairs, bug spray, food and drinks, blankets, plus a red-filtered flashlight for reading maps and charts without ruining your night vision. Binoculars are not necessary. Your eyes will do just fine.

-Stu Spratt



### The Moon tonight:

The Moon for Aug 8, 2009  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.901  
3.3 days after full moon

## BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

### ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

A little overtime may help you reduce the workload. Be sure to organize events that will keep the children busy. Avoid conflicts with in-laws or other family members. You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood that might be hanging over your head. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

### TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Sudden changes in your financial situation are likely. You might find that coworkers will support your endeavors. You may want to get involved in some kind of creative group. If you're uncertain of your feelings, keep your opinions to yourself. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Dealing with in-laws or relatives will not be in your best interest. You could be dis-

illusioned if you let relative in on your emotional thoughts. Your emotional partner may make you angry this week. Take care of your personal needs. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Consider starting a small business on the side. Look for a marketable gimmick. You have the stamina and determination to succeed. Don't let your jealous imagination play games with you. You may want to make changes that will turn your entertainment room into a real family affair. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

### LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

You must get out and mingle. Don't hesitate to sign up for lectures or seminars that will enlighten you. Don't let your emotions interfere with completing your

chores. You could have trouble persuading others to accept your ideas and opinions. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

Concentrate on home improvement. Small details will make a difference. Older family members may take advantage of you by making you feel guilty. Don't allow your personal problems to interfere with your professionalism. Your determination may make you a little overbearing when dealing with others. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

### LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You can convince anyone of anything. You can make major gains professionally

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

by completing projects on time. You may find that family members may not be too easy to get along with. You may not get your facts correct this week; double-check before making any statements. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)**

Children may be demanding, and entertainment could cost a lot more than you can really afford. If you go shopping, only take what you can afford to part with. Coworkers may not be completely honest with you; try not to rely on help from others. You must get out and mingle.. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)**

Your efforts won't go unnoticed; however,

someone you work with may get jealous. This could be a difficult day to deal with coworkers. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. Try to include friends and relatives in your activities.. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)**

You will be able to make financial gains. Sudden disruptions will cause upset and a change of routine in your home environment. Only offer to do the things you have time for. Luxury items will cost you more than you can truly afford. You should consider getting into self improvement endeavors.. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)**

You may be tempted to get involved in secret affairs or love triangles. Family trips or projects should be on your mind. Your ability to put things together will be appreciated by your comrades. Avoid lending money or belongings to friends. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)**

You should get out and meet some of those clients that you only speak to on the phone. You will be moody and react poorly to issues concerning your mate. Don't press your luck with your loved ones. Travel is evident, but be cautious while in transit.. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

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# Tannadoonah Tidbits

It's the last week of camp for 2009! It's so hard to believe that it's gone so fast this summer. It seems like just yesterday I was writing about our staff training week, and now here we are cleaning up camp and putting everything away for the season.

We had a great summer up here at Camp Tannadoonah. Our final count for the summer was 432, which is just 25 campers behind the 2008 total. We're very excited to have crossed 400 for the second

year in a row, and considering the economy we're pretty happy about the total. Looking at the numbers, we had more returning campers this year than last year, but we were nearly 65 short on new campers.

I think maybe people who came last year and knew that they wanted to come back were able to plan throughout the year for the cost of camp, but new campers had a harder time because they didn't find out about us until later. So this

year we want to try to get the word out about camp much earlier to give people more time to plan ahead for camp.

Tonight (Friday) is our special candlelight ceremony down at the lake, so if you're up here around 9 pm, come on over in your boat to listen to us sing! It's a really beautiful sight, if you've never experienced it before.

Saturday the staff will be spending the day cleaning up camp and packing everything away for the year. Then we have a staff banquet, followed by an end-of-the-summer staff party. It's always very bitter-sweet — we're all a little relieved to have completed another great season of camp, but also very sad to be leaving.

After spending the last 8 weeks living together, the staff usually is very close, and no one wants to think about leaving to go back to work and school! I wish we could have a "staff training" type week at the end of the summer so we could all spend one more week together!

Last weekend we had our first annual hog roast, and dedicated the Murphy Memorial Sports Complex. Thank you to everyone who came out for the dedication and joined us for the hog roast! I think that Mrs. Murphy was really looking out for us, because the rain stopped for just long enough to have the dedication of the tennis courts! I am sure that she would be so proud of the courts.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to that project over the years, and also a HUGE thank you to the Yacht Club for the donations from the Pancake Breakfast and the Spaghetti dinner! Those funds will go towards camperships to help campers attend camp next summer. The 2nd annual Tannadoonah Hog Roast is already on the calendar for July 31st next year. If you have a calendar for next year already, save that date!

Hope to see you all up at the lake!

-Miss Amber



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*"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

# Water Quality Committee Report

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



## Further information regarding E coli and Birch Lake

Although it may seem at times like overkill, we are going to continue to inundate you with information and data. Concerns about potential sources of pollution need to be taken seriously as we are all invested heavily in this beautiful lake and we all have little interest in seeing any of our recreational activities taken away. Thus, to repeat, last year there were some concerns about bacterial contamination in the lake. A formal program was undertaken to evaluate this at multiple sites around the lake, and nothing in the body of the lake was found. However, the inlet stream did demonstrate elevated levels of E coli. In concert with Michigan State University, this was found not to be of human origin, and thus was considered to be the wildlife in the wetlands which upon entering the lake was diluted to insignificant levels. We have surveyed the lake twice this year with nothing being found in the body of the lake beyond one or two very low level findings. Again the

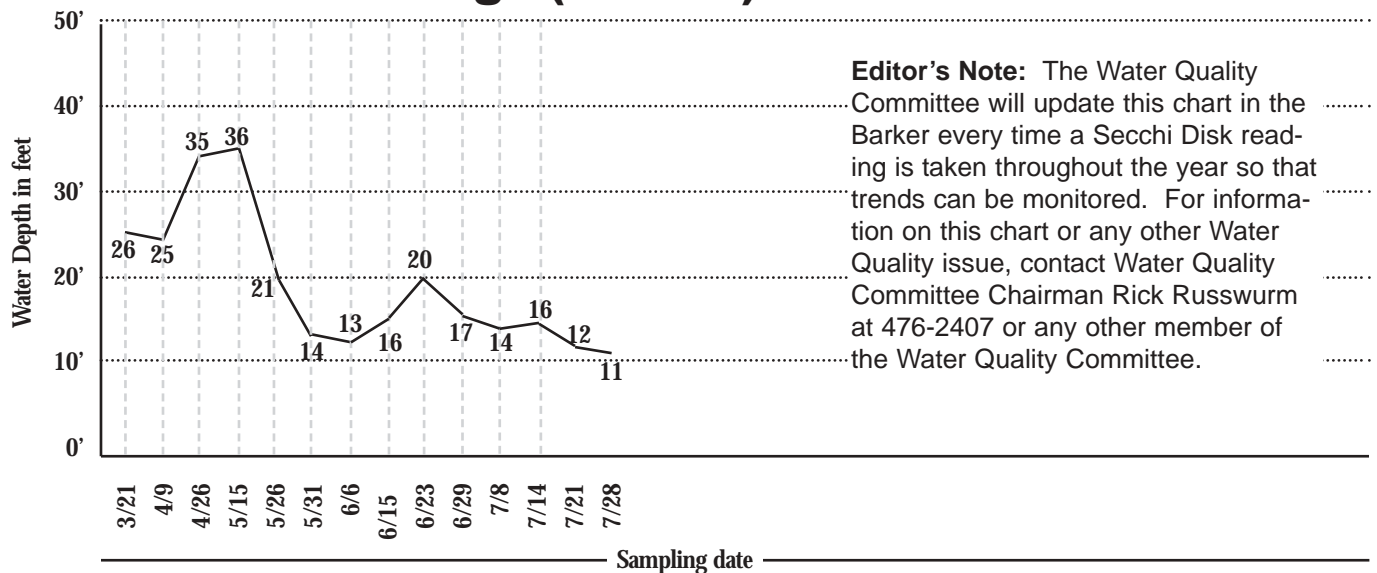
stream had the highest levels, but we illustrated last week that this is rapidly diluted immediately upon entering the lake to nondetectable levels mere yards away. We will survey the lake fully in another week or two of further clarity. We are also in touch with Michigan State regarding evaluating agricultural versus wildlife origins of the bacteria in the stream. This brings us to the latest data generated

If the bacteria in the stream were agricultural, i.e. runoff from the hog barn operation about a half mile east of Birch Road on Harvey Road, it has to be able to actually run off into the stream. Gordon and Terry did a sleuthing walk about last week starting with stream and moving east through the wetlands,

to the pond beyond the wetlands, and to the small inlet stream that comes under the road that feeds the pond. The pond is blocked from the Hog Barn by a hill, valley with wetlands and pond and a woods thus precluding runoff into the pond on the east side. On the north side of Harvey Road is another pond adjacent to a open field. We sampled the stream as it comes out of the wetlands and obtained a count of 420, the stream that is between the pond and the wetlands and obtained a count of 200, the stream that leads into the pond from the under the road and obtained a count of 100. The pond in the valley east of the pond and west of the hog barn field had a count of 60 and the pond on the north side of the road had a count of 120. Thus, the highest count was coming out of the wetlands and the farthest area removed from the hog barn operation. By this, it would seem unlikely that we are getting runoff from that operation, and if so it is not contributing to the bacterial count. Thus, it might be presumed that the E coli in the stream is from wildlife. We will continue to clarify this.

Additionally, on the same day, there was a lot of foam out on the lake in the early AM. This was sampled in duplicate. One sample was non detectable and in the other a count of 20.

## 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

This week, I've been thinking of some the positives and negatives of getting older. Yes, there are some positives, but this week is "negative week." I've listed a few of the common complains but there are many others that I didn't want to mention! Maybe you can make your own list! Here's my list to get you started!

1. Reading becomes more difficult as you must hold the paper farther and farther away to see the print. Eventually, reading glasses are necessary and you are constantly looking for them around the house, they are dangling from a chain around your neck, stuck in your shirt pocket or perched onto of your head.
2. If you find yourself on the floor, to get up,

it's necessary to crawl to a chair or couch so you can use it to pull yourself up.

3. When rising from a soft chair, you make a funny "Uh" sound.
4. Digestion becomes a factor in your menu choices.
5. You lose hair where you want it and grow it in places you don't.
6. Shoes become more comfortable and less fashionable.
7. You need more trips to the bathroom in the middle of the night.
8. A wild night out ends at 10:00 p.m.
9. It's hard to see the numbers on your watch, or the time on the clock at night.

the dead.  
 Though I'm getting more forgetful  
 And mixed up in the head.  
 I got used to my arthritis.  
 To my dentures I'm resigned.  
 I can manage my bifocals,  
 But God, I miss my mind.  
 For sometimes I can't remember  
 When I stand at the foot of the stairs,  
 If I must go up for something,  
 Or have I just come down from there?

And before the 'fridge so often,  
 My poor mind is filled with doubt,  
 Have I just put some food away, or,  
 Have I come to take some out?  
 And there are times when it is dark  
 With nightcap on my head...  
 I don't know if I'm retiring, or  
 Just getting out of bed.  
 So, if it's my turn to write to you,  
 There's no need to get sore.  
 I may think that I have written  
 And don't want to be a bore.  
 So, remember that I love you  
 And wish that you were near,  
 But now it's nearly mail time so,  
 I must say goodbye, My Dear.

There I stand beside the mailbox,  
 With a face so very red...  
 Instead of mailing you my letter,  
 I'VE OPENED IT INSTEAD!

10. You get to where you're going only to find you've forgotten why you went.  
 Addressing number 10, I have a poem that was my grandfather's favorite. I have a copy in his own, shaky handwriting, which I cherish. I'd like to share it with you. Maybe you can relate!

I CAN'T  
 REMEMBER  
 Author, Anita Spoon

Just a line to say I'm  
 living  
 That I'm not among

-Antique on the East Side

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BEER MAN  
PUTT  
EAGLE  
BUNKER  
FAIRWAY  
GOLF BALL  
WEDGE  
APPROACH  
BOGEY

GOLF BAG  
SAND TRAP  
MULLIGAN  
FLAG  
PAR  
WOODS  
SHANK  
CHIP  
TEES  
HOOK

PUSH  
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ROUGH  
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SCORE CARD  
LIE  
CART  
SNOW MAN

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

## LOST

**Lost—large white plastic boat fender** during house walk shuffling—family heirloom—please call Sparkybob @476-2293

**New York Yankees fitted Navy Blue and White hat.** Lost somewhere between Bernaciak and Curtis residences on east side. Call Kyle at 476-2166, Mike at 476-9852 or 773-304-8317. **Reward!**

## 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](mailto:mytoria@aol.com) for more information and pictures.

**The Villages - Florida rental.** Conveniently located an hour from Disney World, and an hour from either coas just off highway 75. Active community with 2 downtowns, every kind of eating place, 34 golf courses, a hospital, a Sams, 2 Walmarts, tennis courts, swimming pools, bocce courts, and polo fields. Everything accessible by golf cart. The Villages is the Disney World for adults. 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](mailto: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](mailto:berganfsu@aol.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**



**Mark VanDusen**  
68827 M62  
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Cell: 574-215-6548  
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