

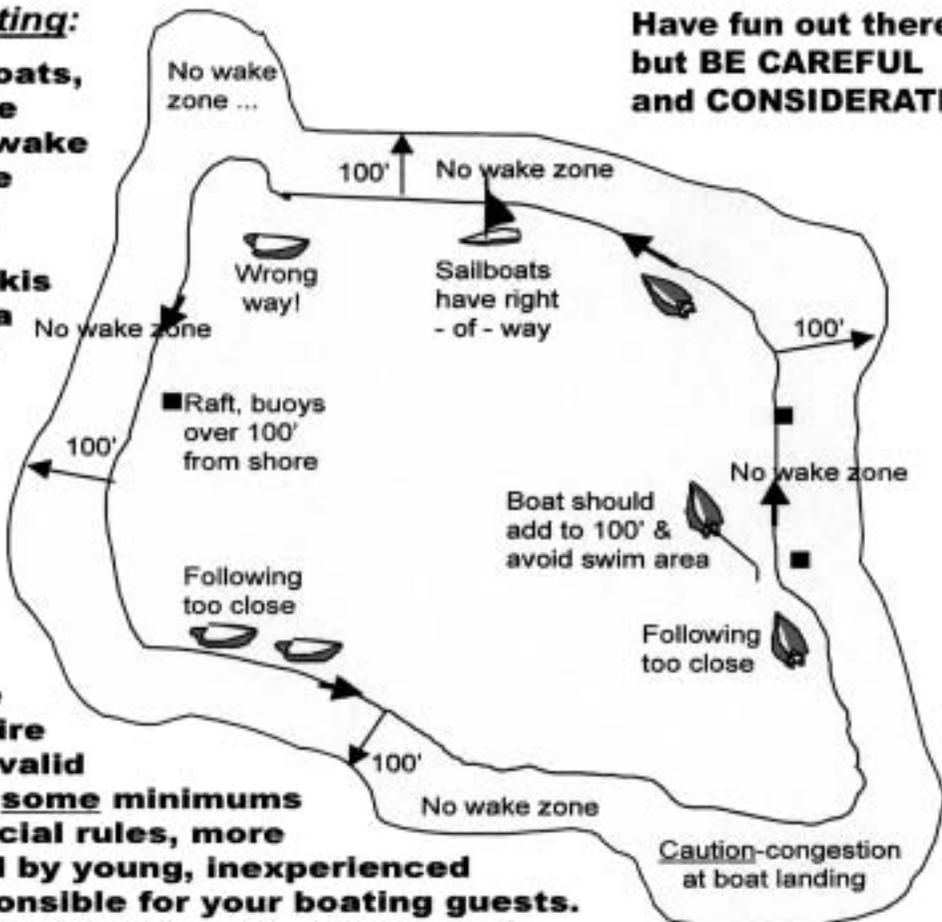
Birch Barker

Weekend of May 31 2010

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Common-Sense Boating:

- * **Go slow near other boats, rafts & shore. You are responsible for your wake**
- * **Take your time & give room - stay 100' from boats, rafts & shore**
- * **Pulling someone on skis or tube requires extra caution, an observer & add the length of your tow line to the 100' rule**
- * **Drive only in the counter-clock-wise direction (flow)**
- * **One wearable USCG life jacket must be available for each person on board! One throwable device, a fire extinguisher, horn & valid boat registration are some minimums**
- * **PWCs have many special rules, more caution must be used by young, inexperienced drivers. You are responsible for your boating guests.**
- * **Consult the Cass County Sheriff's Dept. (Marine Div.) for Michigan boating laws**



**Have fun out there
but BE CAREFUL
and CONSIDERATE**

Here comes SUMMER!

2010 BLYC Calendar

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I woke up real early, my repaired shoulder was aching and I'd used up the few comfortable sleeping positions available to me. I quietly made some coffee, sat down and looked for something to do. The newspaper's not due for an hour and television's not an option — either infomercials or old Law and Order reruns. So I sat there and began to think (also known as daydreaming). It seems that time for daydreaming has become a scarce commodity in today's techno-frenzied world. Anyway, I'm sitting there thinking about a lot of things like little chores I have to do that day, that worrisome oil leak on the boat that I can't figure out, did I change the lawnmower's oil last fall? You know what I mean. But, sooner or later my thinking sessions almost always come around to my duties



as your Commodore. The very successful Spring Dinner is past, we've had a Board of Directors meeting and the annual road clean-up is completed. But those are just the beginning, and there are still tons of things to do.

June 5	Board meeting 9 am Commodore's Cocktail Party
June 26	Vice-Comm Cocktail Party
July 3	Board meeting 9 am Boat Parade Fireworks
July 4	Pancake Breakfast
July 17	Spaghetti Dinner
July 23	Women's golf outing
July 30	Men's golf outing
July 31	Camp T Hog Roast
August 1	Board meeting 10 am
August 7	Corn and sausage roast
August 14	Garage sale
August 28	Fall dinner
September 11	Board meeting 9 am
September 18	Birch Lake Trivial Pursuit
October 9	Chili cook-off

And that's when it hit me. I'm already a "lame duck" commodore. A one-term wonder. Things are just starting up and three-quarters of my term is already behind me. Time is growing short for me in more ways than one. So please

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvital.com, or if you must, put the items in the red newspaper box at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), or mail to: Phil Vitale, 102 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax to (269) 445-9200. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want the materials returned. To contact us by phone, call Phil at (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Bob Waddle at (269) 476-2293. -Phil Vitale, editor

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

do an old guy a favor. Try to make me look good for a few months. Come out, join in, volunteer or merely participate. You can eat a lot of good food, have lively and sparkling conversations, maybe wash some dishes, watch a parade and fireworks, eat a lot of pancakes or sausages, watch princesses, help at the camp or race sailboats to name just a few things that you can do. Let's try to break some membership and attendance records. Let's win one for the Gipper! Rah! Rah! (sorry I got a little carried away).

Speaking of the Spring Dinner, it went off without a hitch. All of the feedback has been very positive and I think everyone had a great meal and a grand time re-acquainting with friends and neighbors they hadn't seen since last fall. A special thanks goes to Denise and Jeff Smitley, who both volunteered to greet the nearly one hundred guests.

Jeff asked me to remind everyone that they still need volunteers to man the Committee Boat for the sailing races. Speaking from experience, it is quite awesome to be out on the lake on a beautiful summer afternoon in a stiff wind with all of the sights and sounds of the competing sailboats surrounding you.

A beautiful spring morning met all

the volunteers that showed up to pick up litter on the public roads surrounding Birch Lake. Despite a small starting time mix-up, 14 Birch Lakers quickly made short work of cleaning up the mostly trash-free roadsides. The prize of the day was a portable TV set, but it wasn't flatscreen. If you see any of these great volunteers whose names are listed below, please give them a hearty thank you.

If you're reading this it must be Memorial Day weekend. It's going to be very busy so be careful out there. This is the beginning of a very full and fun-packed social season for our Yacht Club (BLYC) that starts with a Board of Director's meeting at 9 am on Saturday June 5 at the BLYC. Later that evening you are all invited to the Commodore's (that's me) Cocktail Party beginning at 7 pm at the BLYC. Since your aging Commodore is retired, poor and living on a fixed income (with no raises in the foreseeable future) I'm inviting all who attend to bring a little snack for everyone to sample. I'm really looking forward to talking to all of the people I missed at the Spring Dinner.

On a very serious note, if you're planning to attend the party, please bring a donation of food or paper goods to the party. The local economic situation is still pretty bleak and most of the foodbanks are down to bare shelves. We tried

this idea at the Chili Cook-off last fall and it was very successful, so our Board of Directors decided to try it again at the first two cocktail parties. There is a great need and we are all quite blessed.

Whenever I talk to Past Commodores of our Yacht Club, it seems that the one duty that most of them dreaded most was preparing their "comments" for the Birch Barker every week for the entire summer. On the other hand, I can't stop writing. I feel like a magpie in print. So I'm going to stop here and save some for later. I still have lots of things to tell you about all of the great activities we have planned for you this summer.

I would like to mention in closing that we have taken a group photograph of almost all of the current Birch Lake Board of Directors members and Yacht Club Officers that you will find in this issue. They could all use a word of thanks if you see them. As always, I am here to serve you all, just give me a call.

-Commodore Gabbybob

Road Clean-up participants:

Special thanks to Blair Garceau, Rick Russwurm, Paul Fallon, Ed Chester, Bob Baucus, Karen Brovold, Clair Brovold, Amanda Butler, Stan Pitakos, Sue Waddle, Linda Curtis, Jodie Okoniewski, Marc and Lynn Caenepeel, Mike Sheffieck.

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Boat Inspection, classes

Philip Esarey of the Cass County's Sheriff's Department Marine Division has scheduled the annual Boat Inspection at Dan & Sheryl's pier (east side) on June 12 from 11 am to 3 pm.

He also provided the following list of 2010 Boating Safety Classes:

June 5, Donnell Lake Conservation Club

June 12, Marcellus Township Hall

June 19, Eagle Lake Marine

June 26, Diamond Lake Yacht Club

July 10, Cass County Conservation Club

July 17, Donnell Lake Conservation Club

July 24, Indian Lake Yacht Club

The boating safety certificate is only valid for students older than 12 years. Students should have their 12th birthday in 2010 to pre-register.

Students may pre-register by calling the Cass County Sheriff's Office at (269)445-1240 and register with the Administration front desk. Please have the student's legal name, address, phone number, and date of birth at the time of registration.

All classes start at 8 am and should be done by 2 pm. Students are required to bring a #2 pencil, a sack lunch and something to drink.

Adults are recommended to take the class and anybody born after December 31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate to ride a personal watercraft.



Birchie?

I just saw one of the most amazing things I've ever seen in Birch Lake. I was out on the pier looking at bass, bluegill, crappie and baby turtles and out of nowhere these gar appear. They were in a tight formation swimming next to next. At first I thought there were 4, then no, 5, then no, 6.

Amazing. I chased them to Baucus's pier then to King's. I wish I had pictures for you. They looked like they were trying to eat the fry or the eggs off the bass/crappie/bluegill nests. They weren't much intimidated by the fish guarding the nest. The biggest was easily 30 inches. Smallest, nearly 20. Makes you rethink skinny dipping on hot August nights.

-Stu Spratt

Forth of July Boat Parade

Once again it is time to start planning for this year's 4th of July Boat Parade at Birch Lake. I know that

many of you have been spending long hours through the winter planning and constructing your boat designs! There will be a trophy for each participating boat and new as of last year, a first place trophy for the best of parade.

As tradition has it, the parade will start at Dick Bender's pier, on the south side of the lake, and proceed counter clockwise around the lake. For all you newbies, this means you only have to decorate the front and right side of your boat! (This is a tip for Paul, Ed and Tim who did not have that information last year.)

Check the Birch Barker for more information in the near future.

-Carla Chester

July 31st Camp T Hog Roast

On the afternoon and evening of Saturday, July 31, Camp Tannadoonah will join nearly 50 other Camp Fire Councils around the country in a National Centennial Campfire Celebration of 100 years of serving our mission. Everyone is invited for the festivities, which will include a Hog Roast. Camp is also seeking volunteers to help organize this event - please call Marty at 574-234-4145.

Birch-Williamsville Drain update

The Cass County Road Commission petitioned this project

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LOGGING - FERTILIZING - CABLING
BRUSH HOGGING - STUMP GRINDING
GUTTER CLEANING - HEDGE TRIMMING**

EXCAVATING

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

LEAF REMOVAL, SNOW PLOWING, SNOW REMOVAL, LOT CLEARING

"Justin Nichols recently put in a seawall at my home on Birch Lake ... and he did an amazing job in a very short time. Thanks Justin!"

-Tom DeCocker, East Shore

"Nichols brought in topsoil, graded my yard, buried the gutter drains and put in a short 25-foot wall ... now I'm ready to enjoy summer at Birch Lake thanks to Nichols Tree Service & Excavating."

Tim Liddell, East Side Hill

"I needed a retaining wall at my new home on the hill (Kinzie St.) while it was under construction. I called Justin Nichols, and he came up and put it in for me. He does very good work!"

-PJ VandeWalle, East Side Hill

"Justin Nichols was working next door when I met him. I needed several trees removed and the stumps ground ... Justin can do it all!"

Ryan Gableman, East Side Hill

— Birch Lake Notes —

under the Drain Code. The water-course between Birch and Shavehead Lakes is being looked at. Preliminary survey and engineering have been completed. The Board of Determination issued an "Order of Necessity" at a hearing that was held at the Porter Township Hall on November 9, 2009.

Merritt Engineering out of Stevensville, MI was retained as the project engineer and Stephenson Land Surveying, Cassopolis, MI was selected to do the surveying. A DNRE Permit is being applied for and the easement acquisition process has started.

Depending on the progress of the easement process the construction phase is being planned for in late summer or fall.

-Bruce A. Campbell

Cass County Water Resources
Commissioner 269.445.4428,
269.506.5178 bruceec@cassco.org



In case you missed it ... the huge cottonwood tree across from Carl & Sandie Klappauf's house on the east side was struck by lightning a couple weeks ago during a thunderstorm. No one was hurt but the damage to the tree, yard and some indoor electronics was extensive.

IN MEMORY

Frances Kay Dennert

Sept. 5, 1940 - May 10, 2010

Kay Dennert, 69, of Osceola, passed away at 3:51 p.m. Monday, May 10, 2010, in the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka. Kay was born on Sept. 5, 1940, in South Bend, to Hurley Parker and Blanche (Bock) Cukrowicz. On Dec. 30, 1961, she mar-

ried Larry J. Dennert in South Bend. She is survived by her husband, Larry; three children, Joan Dennert of Marshall, MI, Janis Dennert (companion, Michelle Emery) of St. Petersburg, FL, and Mike Dennert (Tina) of Osceola, IN. She is also survived by a granddaughter, Lauren Dennert. She was preceded in death by her parents,

and by a brother, Robert Parker.

Kay had been a lifelong area resident, graduating from South Bend Central High School in 1958. She worked for Penn Harris Madison Schools as a Guidance Secretary at Schmucker Middle School for over 25 years. Her kids at school and at home were her life.

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-Ryan & Rachael McDaniel, Owners

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PEOPLE HAVING FUN**

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— Birch Lake Notes —



She enjoyed summers at their Birch Lake (east side), where she enjoyed pontooning and social get-togethers with their many friends.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 7363 East 21st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46219; or to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, 2600 Network Blvd., Suite 300, Frisco, TX 75034.

IN MEMORY

Jeanette Lochmandy

Jeanette Lochmandy, 94, of Elkhart, Jupiter, Fla., and Birch Lake died Nov. 21, 2009 in her Florida home.

She was born Nov. 1, 1915, in Galien, Ill., to Leo and Alta (Martin) Van Huffel. On June 11, 1938, she married Michael J. Lochmandy in South Bend. He died Aug. 9, 1988.

Mrs. Lochmandy is survived by two daughters, Elaine Lochmandy of Elkhart and Kaye (Richard) Miller of Farmington Hills, Mich.; three sons, Dennis M. (Paula) Lochmandy and

Brian K. (Jane) Lochmandy, both of Elkhart, and Kirk L. (Deborah) Lochmandy of Goshen; 18 grandchildren; and 39 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Lochmandy was a homemaker and member of St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church and the Rosary Society. She was a former member of Elcona Country Club and the Elks.

Memorials may be given to Alzheimer's Foundation. Visit www.hartzlergutermuthinman.com to send online condolences.

Ladies' Golf Outing

The correct date for the womens golf outing will be FRIDAY, July 23! (a mind is a terrible thing to waste!!)

-Bad Patty

Hello Fellow Sailors!

This message is being send to you as notice of our annual start of the season sailors' meeting. It will be held at the Yacht Club on Saturday, May 29 at 9 am. We will be covering the usual topics to get agreement on the course layout, scoring, and additional events such as a kids' or couples' regatta.

It's been several years since we've had a Memorial Day regatta, but since the weather is turning nicer and Memorial Day is late in the month, more of you may be able to launch



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the great butterfly, swans and heron photos ...

their boats. So, if we have enough people ready, we will sail later Saturday, weather permitted. We will need at least 3 boats per class to hold the regatta. We can discuss this further at the meeting.

-Fleet Captain Jeff

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Now, let's go play some golf!

— Barker kids of the Week —



A group of northsiders (and friends) had a Derby Party recently at Stewart's and the ladies all wore hats! Great looking group of kids! Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Just send pix to me (via email) along with pertinent info (see front page for submission 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 ... I'm even worse at proofreading the stuff I had to type. -Editor/SailorPhil



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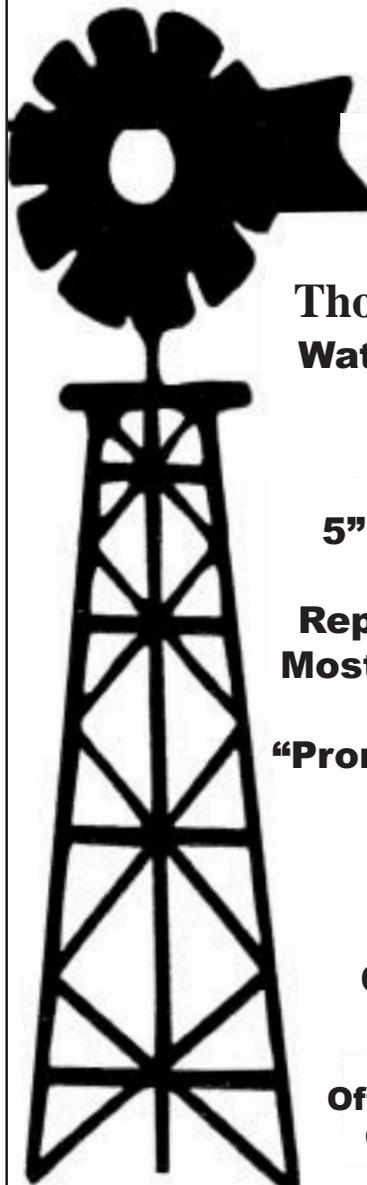
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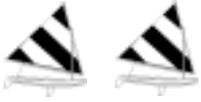
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Fleet Captain's Corner



Hello everyone, I'm Jeff Smitley, and I'm your new Fleet Captain.

That is a sentence that I never thought that I would write when we purchased our west-side home almost 10 years ago.

Back then I had only sailed a sailboat once in my life. For the first 6 years or so, I had thoughts of maybe getting a sailboat just to sail casually but never race.

I started looking at Sunfish, and then almost purchased Vic Jones' MC ... but Bob King beat me to it. After riding in his boat, I was convinced that I needed an MC.

My Lovely Bride located one for me later that summer, and I brought her to the lake and launched her (the boat that is, not my wife.) My friends on the west side cajoled me into sailing in the next week's race even though I hadn't a clue what I was doing. After that race, I was hooked even though I finished last.

So here I am, living proof that anyone can race and have a great time. If anyone out there is contemplating

racing, feel free to come to our annual start of the season sailors' meeting which will be held at the Yacht Club on Saturday, May 29 at 9 am. We will be covering our usual topics such as course layout, season and regatta scoring, etc.

The course we have used for the past few years is shown below.

We will also be discussing the Memorial Day Regatta. There will need to be at least 3 boats in a class to hold the race. If there is enough interest and weather

permitting, we will hold the races after the meeting ends.

I want to thank all of those who have already signed up for the committee boat. Without your help, we would not be able to hold our weekly races. If you would like to take an open slot (or hitch a ride on the committee boat).

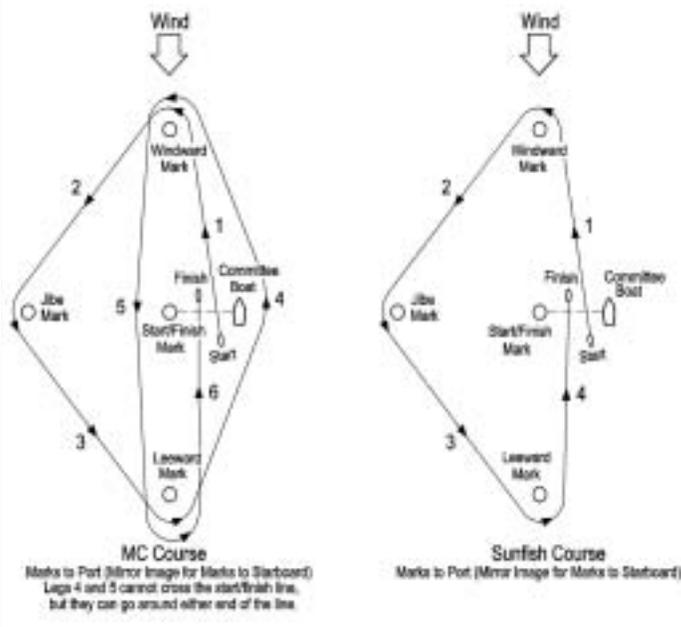
Here is the current schedule:

- June 6.....OPEN
- June 13.....Patty Luecht
- June 20.....Stewart Spratt
- June 27.....OPEN
- July 3-4.....Karen Brovold/Fry
- July 11.....Marc & Lynn Caenepeel
- July 18.....Bob & Sue Waddle
- July 25.....Open
- Aug. 1.....Open
- Aug. 8.....Bob & Sue Waddle
- Aug. 15.....Chas & Amber Grundy
- Aug. 22.....Open
- Aug. 29.....Open
- Labor Day Regatta.....Open

If anyone would like to take an open slot, you can call me at the lake at 476-9000 or email me at jsmitley@ameritech.net. See you at the starting line ...

-Fleet Captain Jeff

Official Courses for 2009 MC and Sunfish class sailing races



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Fire-EMS data

Due to some concern expressed at various recent township meetings regarding response times for our fire and emergency services providers, local volunteer Pete Fournier (who lives in North Porter Township near Birch Lake) has begun collecting and charting the data on these runs for our area.

Much of the early data was reported in the Online Barker during the off season, and Pete has promised he'll keep supplying the info for us ... I intend to continue to make the data available to Birch Lake residents as it

comes to me ... and I will publish it through the Barker and/or on the Internet.

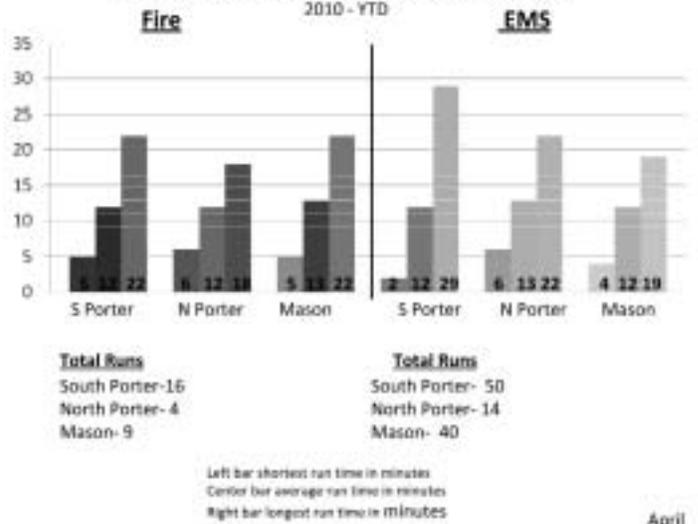
Since this is the first printed Barker of the year, I thought I'd show you the kind of thorough job Pete's doing with this recap of the year's information.

Pete's originals are in color, but we're hoping these will reproduce well enough for readers to be able to see what they show.

At any rate I'll pass 'em on as they become available to me.

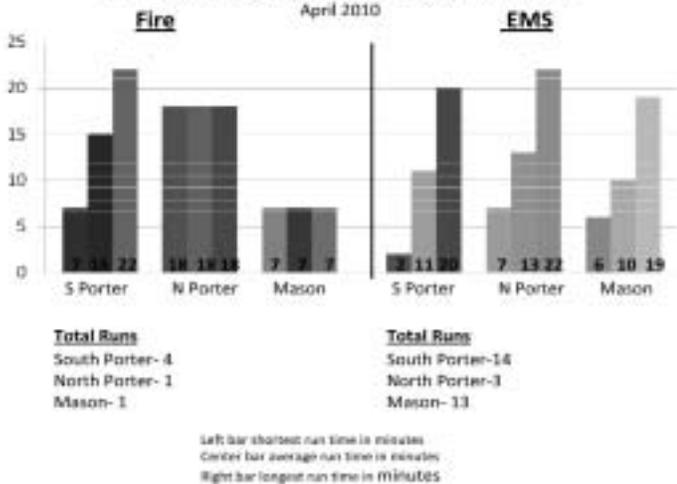
And thanks Pete!

Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes) 2010 - YTD

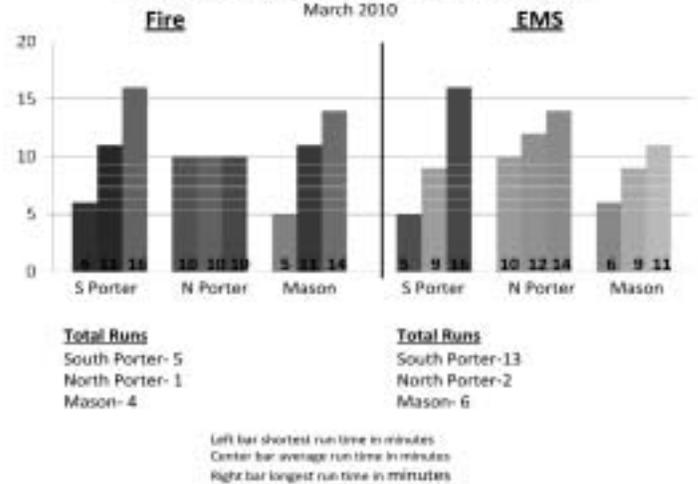


April

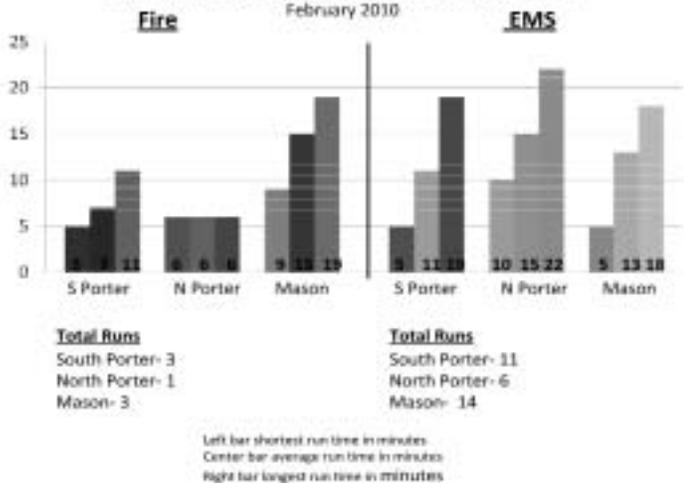
Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes) April 2010



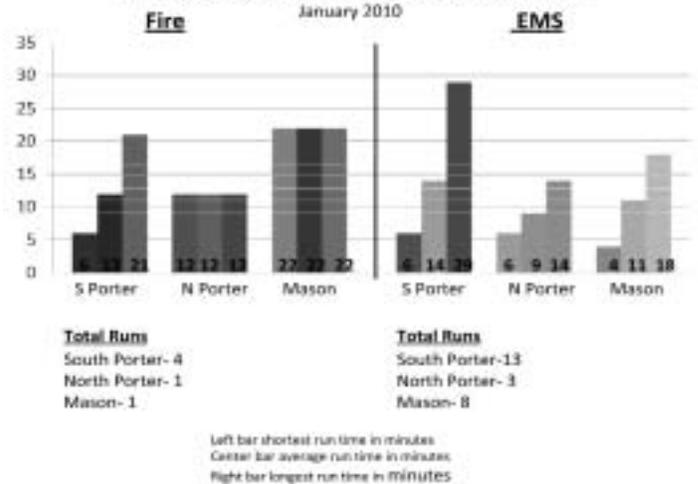
Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes) March 2010



Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes) February 2010



Fire-EMS Response Time Study (In Minutes) January 2010



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Stu's Star Stuff

Welcome back my friends ...

Welcome back everyone. The next few weeks we're going to work our way through our very own solar system. Remember the rhymes to name all the planets? A couple are...Man Very Early Made Jars Serve Useful New Purposes...or...My Very Educated Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizza pies. The first letter of each word reminds us of each planet in our solar system from the sun to the outer-most (not always) reaches...Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. Some question the validity of Pluto. Read on...

Our solar system is a small and exclusive neighborhood in the vast Milky Way galaxy. It consists of a star, eight or maybe nine planets, scores of moons, and countless smaller objects. So far, we haven't seen anything else like it. No other known solar system is as diverse, and there's no evidence that any of them contains life.

The solar system was born four and a half billion years ago, when a cloud of gas and dust collapsed to form the Sun. A disk of "leftovers" gave birth to the planets. A ring of rocky debris between two of the planets formed the asteroid belt.

The most-distant official planet is Neptune. It's about 30 times farther away from the Sun than Earth is. But it doesn't mark the solar system's edge. A vast magnetic "bubble" generated by the Sun extends far beyond Neptune's orbit. It deflects particles and radiation from other stars, making the solar system a little safer.

Beyond that is the doughnut-shaped Kuiper Belt, which contains billions of icy comets. Its most prominent member is Pluto, which is classified by some as a dwarf planet.

But the solar system still doesn't end there. A "shell" of comets encircles the solar system. Known as the Oort Cloud, it may extend half-way to the next star system.

Occasionally, one of its comets is deflected toward the Sun. As it streaks past, it sprouts a long, bright tail. For a little while, it becomes one of the most spectacular members of our home neighborhood: the solar system.

Being at Birch Lake in the summertime is so awesome because we are mostly away from the light pollution of the cities and we can see so much more in the night sky. Look for Jupiter low near the horizon at

dawn. We'll talk about other stuff next week. Until then...well, you know...enjoy the show. It's free.-*Stu Spratt*

The Moon tonight:



May 29, 2010
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.941
2.3 days after full moon

BIRCH LAKE HOROSCOPE

ARIES (Mar. 21- April 20)

You will find that social activities will lead you into passionate meetings. Try to be there for someone if they need assistance. There could be opposition or temper tantrums on the home front. Don't offer to pay for others.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS (Apr. 21- may 21)

Keep on your toes when dealing with others. Your ability to visualize will help you convince others of the possibilities. Put in some extra hours and finish those careful jobs before you move on to some fun and games. You are best to work behind the scenes on projects that require detail or precision.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21)

Get back into the swing of things. Romance is likely if you can bring yourself to go out with friends. Be willing to listen, but don't be fooled. Trying to deal with your mate will be unproductive and possibly hurtful.

Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

You may have to take a short trip to visit someone who hasn't been well. Discord could be unnerving. You could come into extra cash. You are best to be discreet.

Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO (July 23-Aug 22)

Put your efforts into physical fitness pro-

grams or competitive sports. Uncertainty regarding your direction is likely. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling.

Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23)

You will be in the mood to socialize. Don't get involved in expensive entertainment that involves gambling. New relationships could evolve through group activities. This is not the day to be extravagant.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23)

You may be up for some changes in your home. Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse. Go on business trips if at all possible. Your charm will attract someone special.

Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)

Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate. You may divulge private information without realizing it this week. Emotionally you won't see things accurately. Put some energy into getting back into shape. Listen to reason.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21)

Sudden changes regarding your domestic scene are probable. Don't take advan-

tage of your expense account. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted. Shopping could cost more than you bargained for.

Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22.- Jan. 20)

Someone envious of your popularity may challenge you to a debate. You may find yourself caught in a triangle. Property investments will payoff. Your ideas may be good, but they aren't necessarily right for everyone.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19)

Education may be the answer. Family members may want you at home, when your heart is telling you to spend time with someone you recently met. Drastic changes regarding your personal attitude are evident. You can expect to have problems with your mate if you've been spending too much time away from home.

Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20)

You can't help everyone. You can make a big difference to children if you are understanding of the difficulties they are experiencing. Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development. Be careful of the groups you join or the people you associate with.

Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SPOTLIGHT

The people next door ...

Yeah! It's beginning to feel a lot like summer and that is Great! The lake is awake and ready for our yearly fun and frolicking. Our summer friends are returning and people are stopping to chat on the streets. Our secondary refrigerators are humming and full of pop and beer, ready for a spur of the moment get-together. Most of us are familiar with many of our fellow Birch Lakers (like our esteemed Editor and our past and present Commodores) but there are newer, or more reclusive ones that we do not know, or some that just never run into.

This summer, starting in the next Barker, I would like to SPOTLIGHT some of our less well known neighbors so that we can call them by name if we ever do have the opportunity to meet up with them. If you get a call or a letter from me requesting information, please know that I am not trying to steal your identity and I am not a stalker- I just want to SPOTLIGHT your family.

For this week, here's a poem about the people next door ...

PART TIME FAMILY

Home Sweet Home!
We just love it when spring is here!

Always our favorite
Time of the year.

Weather warms,
Our windows we crack,
And what do we hear?
Our neighbors are back!

Kids laughing, dogs barking,
Mom says, "Take something in!"

We have lots to do
Before fun can begin!"

But straight for the water
Empty handed they hurry,
Willing to risk all
Her shouting and fury.

Now, there goes the Dad,
Not holding a thing,
Surveying all
Of which he is king.

We give them some time
To put stuff away,
Then we take them cold beers
To toast the day!

Yes, the neighbors are back,
Sometimes something to fear,
But if you're lucky like us,
They're "family,"
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Water Quality Committee Report

Water Quality Committee updates

Water Quality Program
Water Quality Committee Lake
Management Report
Paul Fallon, Chairman;
Terry Dugan, Gordon Seyfarth,
Bruce Wagner

Water Quality

There are two easy-to-read and high-quality reports that we would encourage you to read and evaluate from two testing programs we participated in during 2009.

The first is from Dr. Wally Fusilier, Ph.D. a consulting limnologist who has a Water Quality Investigators program that we participated in for the first time in 2009. This is a combination of our sending in samples and data and his actually coming out to the lake to perform his own sampling and evaluation. He currently is providing this service to about 80 lakes in the State of Michigan. He produced an easy to read, but extensive, and very educational report on the state of Birch Lake that each of the Water Quality Committee members has a hard copy of. Phil also published an electronic version in an Online Barker early in the spring. This can be found at

<http://www.philvitale.com/barker/March%202010/Water%20Quality%20Study.pdf>

and downloaded or printed. You can also ask a committee member to borrow the hard copy so you can sit on the deck and read this while looking at the lake.

The second report is from the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program which is a part of the DEQ and uses the Michigan Lakes and Streams members as their sampling volunteers. The report can be found on the Michigan Lakes and Streams website at mlswa.org. Look for the 2009 CLMP report in the CLMP section. This report, like the one referenced above, is educational, describing the dif-



ferent sampling programs and what they mean, and includes the data from Birch Lake in addition to the data from all the lakes in the program, so you can look at us in comparison.

It should be noted that our participation in these programs is important from two aspects. These are to look at any real changes in a particular year as a signal of something that might be happening around the lake and to also be able to evaluate changes over time. Change in our lake will occur and the lake will age. However, it would be hoped that most of these changes are gradual and truly part of the natural cycle. By testing every year we are able to look at the rate of change to ascertain whether this is part of the natural cycle or maybe due to circumstances around the lake that we can evaluate and potentially mitigate. We will discuss and provide context for the testing parameters and what change might mean in future issues of the Barker. However, we should note that there were no issues raised by either of these 2009 testing reports. Overall, our lake received relatively high scores. That is a good thing. Also reassuring is that these two reports, prepared by two different entities, are generally consistent, not only

with each other, but also with previous data and summaries thereof.

Invasive Species Program

Within the week, ProgressiveAE, the water quality consulting firm we have used regularly in the past, is scheduled to perform a spring survey of the lake for invasive aquatic plants. Progressive will survey the entire lake and look for invasive plants including Eurasian Watermilfoil. In the event that they find Eurasian Watermilfoil again this year, they will provide a map with GPS coordinates to Professional Lake Management identifying the areas requiring treatment. If treatment is necessary, PLM will treat in early June using DEQ approved methods. We have already obtained the required permit in advance from the DEQ as to avoid any delays in treatment. PLM will post notices on all properties that may be affected by the treatment after they have treated.

Later this summer we will be on the look out for Purple Loosestrife. When we get into the season, as in the past we will appreciate your assistance by reporting any suspect plants that you might see to the Water Quality Committee.

Committee changes

Paul Fallon has joined the committee and will serve as the chair. Rick Russwurm will remain on the committee, but due to additional county responsibilities asked to step down from the chair position. Rick and Bruce Wagner will continue to provide oversight on our invasive species program, i.e. Eurasian milfoil, purple loosestrife, etc. Terry Dugan and Gordon Seyfarth will be working with the Cooperative Lakes management Program on water testing programs. Terry Dugan will again do random evaluations for E coli as in the past.

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UP ON THE HILL

The best kept secret on Birch Lake: Suite Serendipity

Up on the hill hidden from all to see is a little piece of paradise, a spot of tranquility. Although previously cluttered and unrecognizable, it was there, waiting to be discovered. The perfect refuge, full of life and color, an untapped resource.

The back side of the house clearly visible from the road was a place of many gatherings, the obvious source of good memories. Now with much effort, sweat, and tears the front of the modest birch lake cottage is just as beautiful, and useful.

As I sat there admiring all that was just taken for granted previously, I realized my cottage ... my home ... my safe haven had no name.

But what would I name her?

Many great names came to mind. Some of them corny and others ok, but I needed something meaningful. Maybe not meaningful as much to anyone else, but to me.

Nothing seemed right.

I looked around ... there is Ivy ... I could call it Birch Ivy League ... cute, but no meaning other than the obvious.

I could rhyme. Yeah! Why not? So I wrote down a whole slew of names ... still none that summed up my 12 years



of experience here.

So I went for a walk to ponder this important task, this monumental decision.

Ok I'm being a little dramatic, but we all secretly harbor a drama queen that periodically peeks out!

Anyway back to the task at hand ... a name. While I walked I saw all these cottages with very fitting names. Lazy Lodge, Dunroamen, etc.

Although inspired, still no closer.

I thought what does this place mean to me? So again with the pen and note pad, I wrote all the events that transpired here. When reading the list I realized not all were good and not all

were bad. It was a series of events that landed me exactly where I am today ... "serendipity."

That sounded meaningful, but it didn't have that clever quality that all the other cottage names processed, and we couldn't have that! So again back to the drawing board.

Nothing sounded right.

Then a friend of mine called and told me some good news.

My response?

Sweet.

There it is, but it's still not clever, so I decided to incorporate a play on words ... sweet could be "suite."

There you have it, Birch Lakes newest addition ... ok it's not exactly new, but the name is!

"SUITE SERENDIPITY," my little slice of heaven.

So I'm shouting from the roof tops ... no ... that's not it. I'm shouting from the top of the hill ... no ... that's not it either. I'm bellowing from the Barker.

Hee hee!

"I christen thee "SUITE SERENDIPITY."

-Tammy Sobczak

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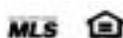
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Camp Tannadoonah

Here come the campers!

We're back and ready for another awesome summer at Camp Tannadoonah!

This summer will be my fifth (!) year as the camp director, and I can hardly wait for summer to get here. We currently have 322 for the 2010 season, which is quite a bit ahead of last year's numbers. On this date in 2009, we had 263 campers, and reached 322 on the 12th of June! So we're excited to be a couple weeks ahead of last year's pace.

If you know any youth between the ages of 6 and 16, definitely encourage them to come to camp. We offer a \$25 referral bonus for new campers who sign up — you can use it towards camp registration or to purchase items in the camp store. We're shooting for a total of 550 campers by the end of the summer, and we really need to meet that goal! Last year we made it to 490, so we're hoping for a bit of an increase this year.

Two weekends ago (May 14-16) we held our fourth annual Spring Spectacular camping weekend. The weather was beautiful, and we all had a great time. It was a small group of campers, but a great weekend nonetheless. We had as many volunteer staff members as we did campers!

It's hard to believe that camp is coming up so fast. Next weekend (June 5th) the People of Praise group arrives for their annual week at camp. They will have over 200 people up at camp this

year! I'm sure you'll hear them singing at night, and see all their kids swimming, canoeing, and tubing out on the lake!

We are again seeking donations for Camperships, which are basically scholarships or financial aid for camp. So far this year I have seen an unprecedented number of applications for aid. Last year we were able to help an astounding 66 campers with partial or full funding for camp, and I'd love to match or beat that this year.

One of the most rewarding parts of my job is the opportunity to share the camp experience with youth who otherwise would never be able to attend camp. The cost of camp is \$397 this year, but contributions of any amount can be designated for camperships. We try to stretch the funds to as many youth as we can, depending on how much their families are able to contribute towards the camp fee. I hope that you'll all consider the idea of sponsoring a camper this year!

Finally, a HUGE thank you to all of the volunteers who came up to camp to help with work days and work evenings this spring. We had an amazing turn out for our big work day on May 1st. There were nearly 50 people up at camp helping clean cabins, rake leaves, and prepare our buildings for campers.

Also, thank you to the Mosiers for chlorinating our wells, and to the Birch

Lake Book Club for cleaning the dining hall! We really couldn't make this happen without all the help of our volunteer workers. Thank you!

-Miss Amber
574-217-4731

Amber@tannadoonah.org

Be a part of the Tannadoonah Tennis Club!

Our tennis courts up at camp will be made available to lake residents this summer. The membership fee is a donation of \$25 or more to Camp Tannadoonah or Camp Fire. All members will receive a Tannadoonah Tennis Club t-shirt, and will have access to the courts any time that we're not offering lessons at camp. For more information (including schedules) contact Amber@tannadoonah.org or call 574-315-0227. See you on the courts!

Public meeting planned

Public Meeting at Camp Tannadoonah — June 12, 10 am

Camp Tannadoonah and Camp Fire USA River Bend Council will hold a public meeting at 10 am on June 12 to share our financial picture and our vision for the organization and our camp.

Additional details will be published in next week's Birch Barker.

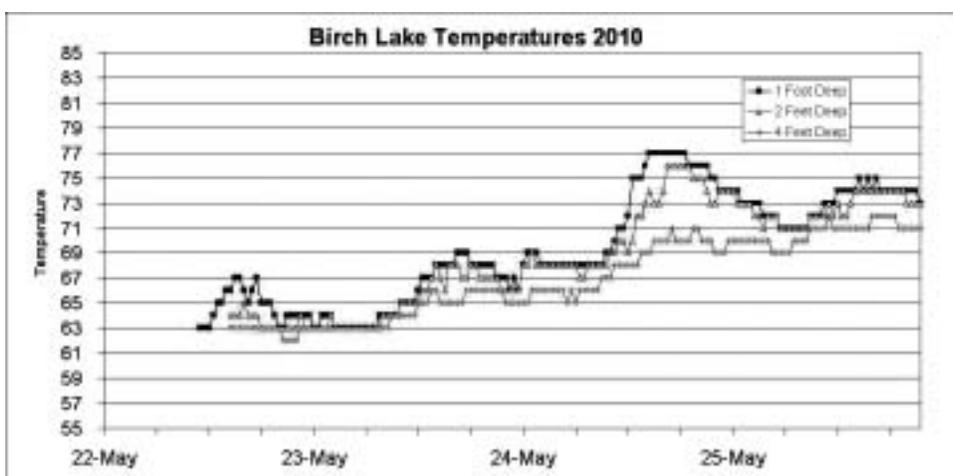
Lake Temperatures

Birch Lake West Sider Steve Quinlan has begun collecting and recording the lake temperature every day.

The readings are being taken every 30 minutes. The Temperature sensors are at the end of his pier, 50 feet out into the lake. The temperature sensors are 1 foot, 2 feet, and 4 feet deep.

The graph at right shows the data collected from May 22 through, May 25.

Steve has offered to share this data with the Birch Barker ... watch for updates weekly.



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BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org/>

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BLYC Officers and Board of Directors, from left: front row: Scott Troeger; Sandy Vitale, Secretary; Stanley Pitakos, Vice Commodore; Karen Brovold; Paul Fallon; Sue Williams; Jim Bolinger; Bob Baucus; Phil Vitale; back row: Holly Troeger, Treasurer; Bob Waddle, Commodore; Terry Dugan; Mike Sheffieck; Lind Harman; Rick Russwurm; Fred Freihofer; Steve Quindlan; and Jeff Smitley.

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Fleet Capt. — Bill Luecht—476-2615

Treas. — Holly Troeger—476-9898

Secretary —Sandy Vitale—476-1680

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Bob Baucus — 476 2863

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Mike Sheffieck — 773-660-1673 X211

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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.

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Paul Fallon—476-1467

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- \$ _____ - Water Quality Program
- \$ _____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication Program
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Classified Ads in the Barker

The Birch Barker will publish classified ads free of charge for paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club ... non-members will be charged \$5/ad. Send classified ads to sailorphil@philvitale.com

Memorial Day

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is about honoring those who serve, those who served, and especially a day to remember the fallen.

The Holiday was first observed on May 30th, 1868. On the first Memorial Day, those in observance were decorating Civil War graves in Arlington. Southern states refused to acknowledge the date for many years, a sign of continued division. Congress passed the National Holiday Act of 1971 certifying the last Monday in May as Memorial Day, though some southern states persist to this day, in holding different observance days for the Confederate dead.

In the long history of our nation, with notable exception being the Civil War (a misnomer, if ever), we have set aside animosity to honor our service men and women. Despite our differences in this, another divisive election year (or maybe especially now), let's cast aside conflict, remember those who serve, and honor those who have given all ...



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