

COMMON SENSE BOATING

- * No matter what your speed, always travel in a COUNTER CLOCK-WISE direction
- * Go SLOW near other boats, rafts and shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- * Take your time and give room — stay 100' from shore, other boats and rafts when you are travelling over wake speed
- * When pulling someone on skis or a tube, you MUST have an observer. Watch out for other boats and be sure to add the length of your tow line to the 100' clearance rule
- * There must be one USCG-approved LIFE JACKET for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (seat cushion, etc.), a horn, a fire extinguisher, and a valid registration
- * PWCs (Jet Skis) must stay 100' away from all boats and other PWCs. Jet skis have many special rules — It is your responsibility to know and OBEY the laws
- * Be responsible for everyone on your boat — safety is NO ACCIDENT!



Kicking off the season

Commodore's Comments

"Begin at the beginning" the King said, very gravely, "and go on till you come to the end: then stop."

Certain things signal the beginning of the season, and one of my favorites is the arrival of the printed Birch Barker. I've been warned about two things by past Commodores: don't be Commodore when they're installing sewers and don't forget to write your Barker column on time. We had 91 people attend the Spring Dinner last Saturday at Sauk Trail on 17. It was fantastic seeing everyone and welcoming some new people to our Birch Lake family. We also managed to collect some food for the Edwardsburg Food Pantry, while we were at it. Thank you to those who joined us.

If you haven't already paid BLYC member dues, homeowner's association dues, sailing fees, or donated to fire-

works, etc. please do so soon. Dues mailers went out a few weeks ago. If you need one please email me at chas@grundyhome.com.

In case you haven't noticed by now, I love stories. I can't help but tell them and I love to hear great stories. Sometimes they're real and other times they're completely fictional. Recently, I started telling Avery (he's 3 years old and demands stories every night before bed) stories from Greek mythology, such as the Twelve Labors of Hercules. One evening at dinner, he interrupted loudly: "I wonder what task Hercules has tonight!"

I'd like to use this column to share stories. If you see me, or would like to email me and tell your story, feel free to do so. We have so many wonderful people with lives full of stories, and I always enjoy hearing them. At dinner on Saturday, I learned that Earl Troeger was not only the first Commodore of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, but he was Commodore a full seven times! On top of that, he once served as Commodore of

2013 BLYC Calendar

June 1	Porter Township Cleanup Day
June 15	Commodore/V. Commodore Party
June 22	Sewer Plant Open House
June 22	Spaghetti Dinner
July 6	Fireworks and Boat Parade
July 7	Fireworks rain date
July 7	Pancake Breakfast
July 19	Ladies Golf Outing
July 20	Poker run
July 26	Men's Golf Outing
July 26	Ladies on the Lake
July 27	Camp T Hog Roast
August 3	Corn and Sausage Roast
August 17	Fall Dinner
September 7	Sailing Awards
September 14	Card and Game Party
October 12	Chili Cookoff

Note: ALL dates and times are subject to change.
Watch the Barker for updates!

QUESTION OF THE WEEK:

Who coined the name
'BIRCH BARKER?'

Answer next week.

— Birch Lake Notes —

the Diamond Lake Yacht Club. Here's to Earl, seven times the champion of Birch Lake!

- *Commodore Chas*

Congratulations are due:

Kevin Bernaciak has been promoted to "Battalion Chief" of the Chicago Fire Department. He has been a fireman for 33 years. He is a long-time resident of the east side. Way to go, Kevin!!

Welcome Back Cover Family

Al and Liz Cover (Al is a past commodore and former west-side Birch Laker) have returned to the lake, buying a cottage on the east side. Welcome back Cover family!

Julie Greene in promotional video

Former Birch Laker Julie Greene (east side) has been featured in a promotional video for the Arizona Republic Newspaper in Phoenix. To see it, go to: <http://youtu.be/9BCjaGb31SM>

Township Cleanup Day

June 1 from 8 am thru Noon take your unwanted stuff to the American Waste Yard at 15621 Mason St. in Union (north of US 12 off Union Rd.).

All household trash will be accepted. There will be a small fee to drop off items like auto batteries, tires, and refrigerator-type appliances. Please do NOT drop off yard waste, garbage, or



Duffy's Artwork — Long-time Birch Laker Duffy Dufor has created a series of beautiful original watercolor illustrations of Birch Lake, which, unfortunately we can't reproduce here ... so I'm going to print a b/w repro from time to time to remind you to go to the website and click on "duffy's paintings" where I've posted some of the originals ...

construction materials.

If you have any questions call the township at 641-2375.

Sewer Plant Open House

Ever wonder how an effluent sewer plant works? The Porter Township

Sewer Plant will have an open house June 22 from 10 am thru 2 pm. Refreshments will be provided.

Your Help is Needed!

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Please do not flush any type of wipes, diapers or feminine hygiene products into the sewer system. These items get tangled in the grinder pumps and in lift stations causing maintenance problems that could be avoided.

Problems like this may cause replacing pumps or other mechanical parts which may necessitate increasing the maintenance rate. If problem causing items are not flushed into the system the cost of maintenance and thus the sewer maintenance rate may be maintained.

Line Dancing

Line Dance will start May 28 at 9 am. Hope to see everyone there.

~Lind

Barker Deadlines

Please be advised that the deadline for submitting information for any particular edition is always the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the June 1 issue is Tuesday, May 28) ... thanks.

Advertising in the Barker

We are still (and always) accepting both display and classified advertising for the Birch Barker (see page 17 of today's Barker).

Classified ads are free to members of the BLYC (non-member rate is \$5 per ad). Email your classified ads to the Barker at sailorphil@philvitale.com.

Display ads are charged at the low, one-time rate of \$65 for a 1/8 page ad; \$130 for a 1/4 page ad; \$260 for a 1/2 page ad; and \$520 for a full page ad.

Rare Species



My son Jake Groszek caught this under our pier on the south side. This species buries itself in the sand. They spawn in late spring. Adult size is typically 3-5 inches but can reach 7 inches. My brother in law, Dr. Thomas Simon (who is an ichthologist), said we should be proud to have them in our lake as they thrive in clean waters only.

~Bob Groszek
south side Birch Lake residents

For information and help building your ad, contact Phil at 476-1680, 445-9200 or sailorphil@philvitale.com.

All ads are subject to the approval of the editor and/or Commodore, officers and board of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Online content

The printed Birch Barker will be online this season, as well as additional content ... go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.

The Michigan Lakes & Streams May Newsletter is also available at on the Printed Barker page.

Roy Henderson

From Diana Wozny, south side, regarding her father, Roy Henderson:

Roy Henderson passed way on Monday, May 13. My dad was a long time Birch Laker when the family starting renting in 1956 together with the Bob Temple family (North Side & Jan Temple West Side). He owned a cottage on the South Side for over 45 years that was bought by his grandson, Neil Henderson, in 2011 where Neil lives in a home behind it today. His love for Birch Lake is a wonderful legacy he has given to all of his children and grandchildren.

Verla McKee

Verla Mae McKee, 81, of Cassopolis, died Friday, May 17, in Cass County Medical Care Facility, Cassopolis. Verla Mae was the mother of our Birch Lake Letter Carrier, Kathy Wishart. Kathy asked that anyone withing to pay tribute to her mom might plant morning glories. Our sympathies to the family.

Free Fishing Weekend June 8-9

The Department of Natural Resources reminds everyone the annual Summer Free Fishing Weekend is June 8 and 9. On that weekend, everyone – residents and non-residents alike – can fish without a license, though all other fishing regulations still apply.

Boating Safety

Michigan Department of Natural Resources' conservation officers remind Michigan residents to practice safety when boating. The DNR encourages Michigan residents and visitors to:
■ **Wear a life jacket** – more than 80 percent of drowning accidents in the United States are due to people not

SLOW DOWN

BIRCH LAKE HAS
NARROW ROADS,
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,
A TON OF CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS

SLOW DOWN ON
OUR ROADS
AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!

SPEED LIMIT

15 MPH



— Birch Lake Notes —

wearing their life jackets.

■ **Make sure your boat is properly equipped and your equipment is in good working order.** In addition to all legally required equipment, such as life jackets and fire extinguishers, always carry a first-aid kit, nautical charts and an anchor. Make sure your navigation lights are working properly.

■ **Avoid drinking alcohol** – nearly half of all boating accidents involve alcohol. Studies show that passengers are 10 times more likely to fall overboard when they have consumed alcohol.

■ **Maintain a sharp lookout.** Stay alert for other boats, swimmers, skiers and objects in the water. This is especially true when operating in crowded waterways, at night and during conditions of restricted visibility.

■ **Carry a marine radio or cell phone.** Be prepared to call for help in case you are involved in an accident, your boat becomes disabled or you otherwise need assistance. Program the phone numbers for the county sheriff or U.S. Coast Guard in your cell phone. Make sure your cell phone is fully charged, but be aware that there are often gaps in coverage on the water.

DNR marine safety specialists for the Law Enforcement Division, emphasize the use of life jackets.

In Michigan, anyone 6 years of age or younger must wear a life jacket when on the open deck of

any vessel — but wearing a personal flotation device (PFD) is recommended for everyone.

For more information on safe boating, visit the U.S. Coast Guard's Boating Safety Resource Center at www.uscg-boating.org.

Birch Lake Swans — some notes

It used to be that I admired the picture of stately swans gliding about on ponds and it was of interest to see the occasional one on Birch Lake. The forays by these birds on the lake were normally short lived as if we were only a stopover on some route they would take in Michigan or during a migration. However, we seem to be building our own little population of resident birds.

Normally, I would not make much of something like this but the threesome currently inhabiting our waters are actually an invasive species that the DNR is engaged in trying to drastically reduce in number. As is usual for the story, these swans were brought to the US for another reason, kept in pens and enclosures, and lo and behold like the now-feral boars, escaped only to find the pickings good and have bred very successfully.

There are three types of swans: The trumpeter swan with a totally black bill, native to Michigan, and now being threatened by the invader; there is also a tundra swan, which only migrates

through; and finally to the heart of the story, the mute swan i.e. the birds which are rapidly increasing in numbers on our lakes, ponds, and streams.

The mute swan is easily identified by its distinctive orange bill with black at the top base of the bill. This invasive species of swans like our friends the zebra mussels, Eurasian milfoil, etc., rapidly breed and populate, outcompete native species, and have some pest-like qualities. The DNR states that they are the most aggressive species and this can mean to other birds, animals, and humans. They are not seen as good caretakers of their habitat since as they increase in number they become more destructive. Finally, they are pushing out the native trumpeter species.

Feeding and encouraging these birds to make Birch a happy home is probably not in our long-term interest. Just as a side note shoreline birds make great reservoirs for swimmers itch. Secondly, it has been noted that they may be feeding on the Eurasian milfoil. Should that be true they will cause lots of fragmentation leading to potential further spread and propagation of that invader. Fortunately, we do not have marshy areas that allow for nest making — lakes that do have such areas now are finding themselves seeing real population increases of mute swans.

~Terry Dugan

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— Around the Lake —

It's a small world

by KYLE BERNACIAK
East Side

It would be very cliché of me to use the phrase “it's a small world” to describe the extreme coincidence that occurred this year, my second semester as a freshman at Hope College.

However, I'm going to use it anyway, in spite of a person and fellow Birch Laker that came to be a very good friend.

As an English Education major at Hope College in Holland, Michigan, I am expected to take a plethora of English classes during the course of my four undergraduate years. In my second semester, I signed up for a course titled English 113: The Geography of Writing. I heard that it was a class taught by Rob Kenagy, a first-year professor. Many people that took the class in the first semester gave the course rave reviews, so I was definitely looking forward to the experience.

On the first day of class, he walked in, introduced himself and made it clear that it was completely fine to just refer to him as Rob. He felt that Professor Kenagy seemed too formal. I immediately noticed that Rob was young, energetic, and looked like he was still a stu-

dent at Hope, which just so happened to be his alma mater.

One day, Rob was doing a brainstorming activity on the chalkboard regarding a paper that he assigned. The paper was about our vision of home. Rob described his birthplace, hometown, and other places that had significant personal meaning. He wrote down the two words “Birch Lake” on the board, and I was taken aback. I remember muttering under my breath, “There's no way!” In twenty years, I have never encountered anyone that shares residence in one of the best hidden gems of Michigan. Rob briefly went on to describe “the lake” as a getaway that has been a part of his life since childhood. I share a strikingly similar experience.

As soon as class ended, I talked to Rob for a good amount of time and told him I was a fellow laker. He explained that his grandmother, Grace Bliler, owned a house on the north shore, where he spent countless summers. I could not wrap my mind around this coincidence. I had spent twenty summers at my east side cottage, just a brisk walk from where he had enjoyed many

beautiful lake days.

As the semester continued, I had the opportunity to know Rob very well and he was always willing to help me with whatever English questions or problems I encountered. I learned more about him personally and we began to share lake experiences. He described the lake as an escape from the real world. Also, he stressed the very unique personalities and sense of camaraderie that lake residents possess. I agreed with him completely.

I can truly say that the coincidence has been striking, I have made a great friend, and the people of Birch Lake are always warmhearted, wherever you might stumble upon them. And, yes, it really is a small world out there.

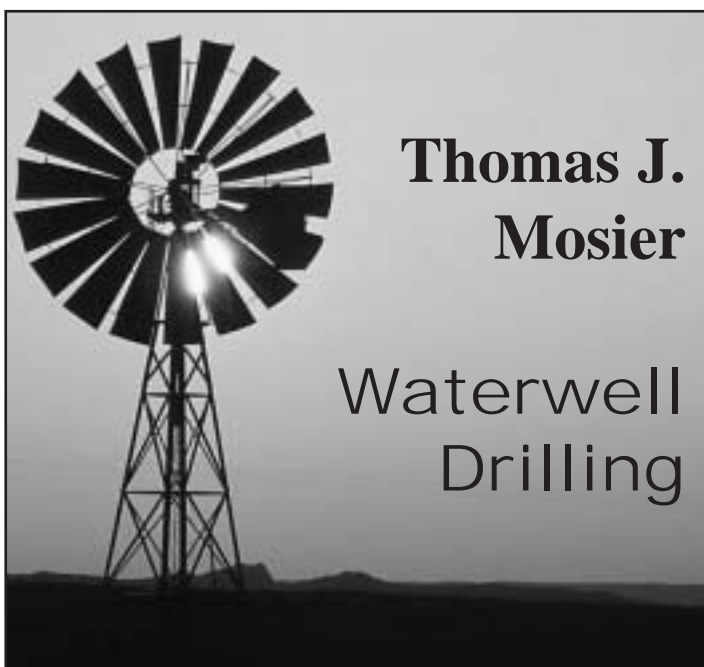
Editor's Note: Kyle Bernaciak is the son of Kevin and Cindy Bernaciak, whose family has owned an east-side home for years. Kyle has volunteered to write for the Barker this season in order to get experience. Among other assignments and suggestions, Kyle will be interviewing and writing about some of our neighbors that we think you'll enjoy. If you have a suggestion for Kyle, please send it to the Birch Barker at barker@philvital.com.

-editor pv



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— Barker kids of the Week —

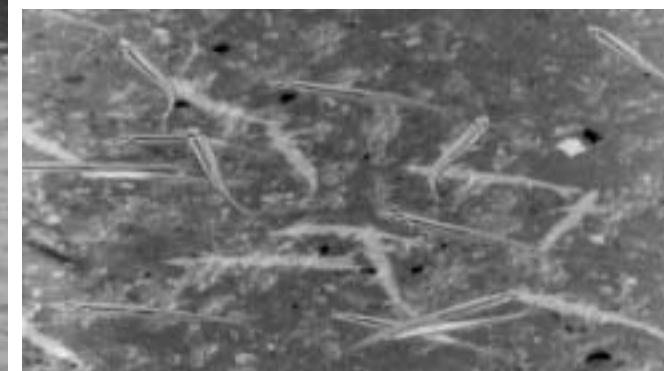
Rare
'Birchie'
sighting
at Birch
Lake ...



Thanks to Amy Lutz (north side) for this rare "Birchie" sighting ... Loch Ness, eat your heart out!

Wait, Bait

Thanks to Mr. Bob King (north side) for the cool reverse image of a school of minnows (below) he caught (with a camera, not literally) swimming past his family's pier last weekend.



Please join us for
**John's
Open House**
June 8th
2 p.m. to ?
63168 Birch Rd.
Vandalia, MI.
269-476-2615



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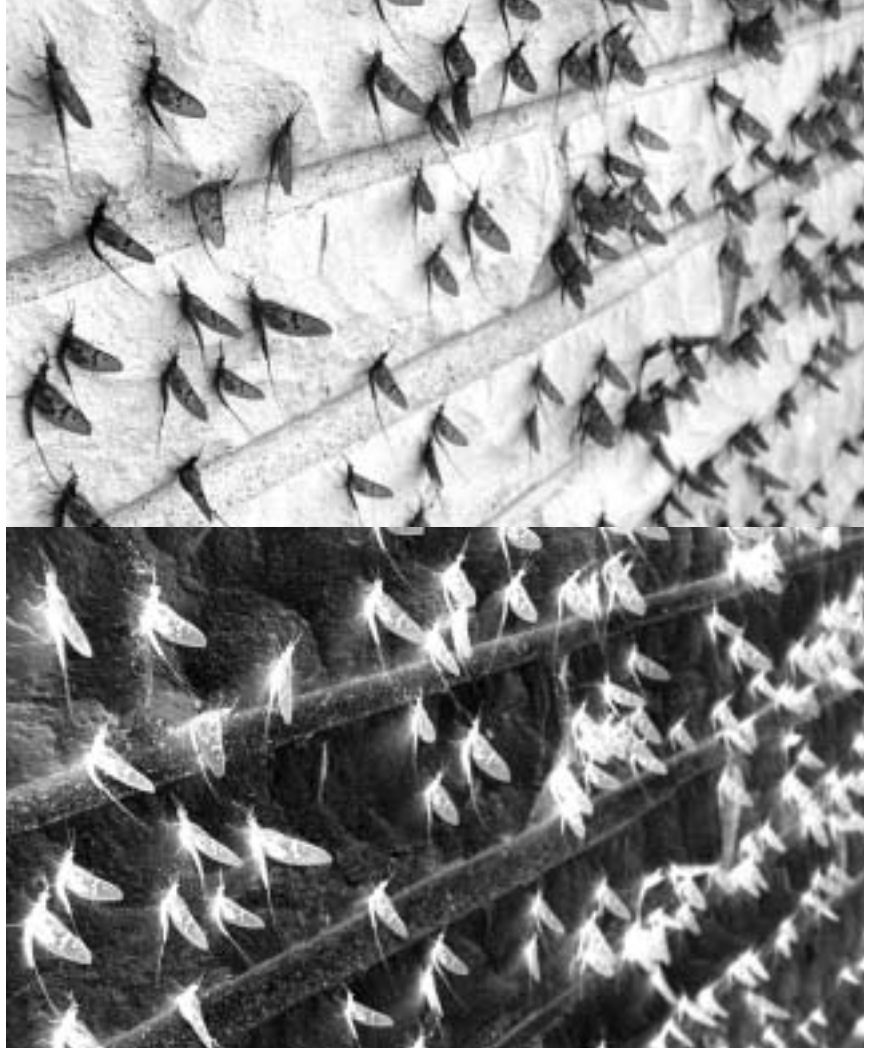
269-759-4010

63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI
email: diamondconstr@yahoo.com

— Barker kids of the Week —



Congratulations to John Luecht (above), son of Bill and Bad Patty Luecht (east side), who is graduating from high school this month, — and, as if that isn't enough to make a parent proud, the Senior band members of John's High School, Danville Community (near Indianapolis) will be performing a debut performance of American Reunion, an original composition for wind ensemble that John created. And you thought he was just another pretty face ...



Bugs-of-the-Week

Thanks to Mr. Bob for the great photo (and negative image) of the mayfly hatch from last weekend!

Talk With A Live Person



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Committee Boat

Committee Boat participants and race starters are needed for our sailors this year. Here's

what we've got so far ...

Memorial Day Regatta

May 25 — Bad Patty

May 26 — Bad Patty

May 27 — Amber and Chas

June Races

2 —

9 —

16 — Bad Patty

23 —

30 — Bad Patty

4th of July Regatta

(these dates may change due to the Pancake Breakfast. Please watch for updates.)

July 6 —

July 7 —

July Races

14 — Bad Patty

21 —

28 —

August Races

4 — Bad Patty

11 —

18 — Amber and Chas

25 —

Labor Day Regatta

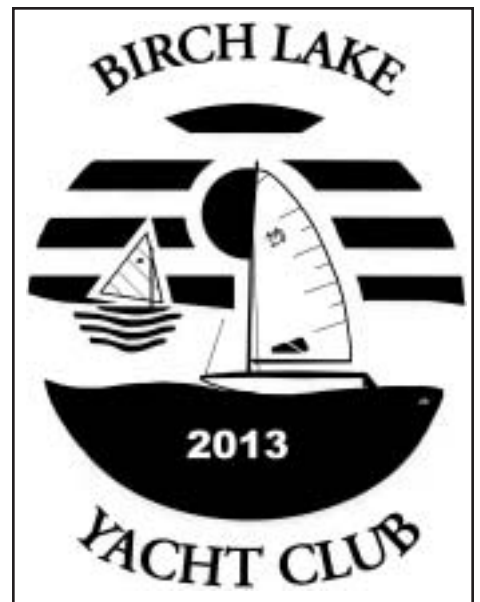
August 31 —

Sept. 1 — Bad Patty

Sept. 2 —

If you are looking for a legitimate excuse to have a great day on the lake — SIGN UP!!! Plus, you will be helping the brave men and women that venture out on the high seas every Sunday. Just call Fleet Captain Mike at 476-2843 or Bad Patty at 476-2615 and we will make it happen!!!

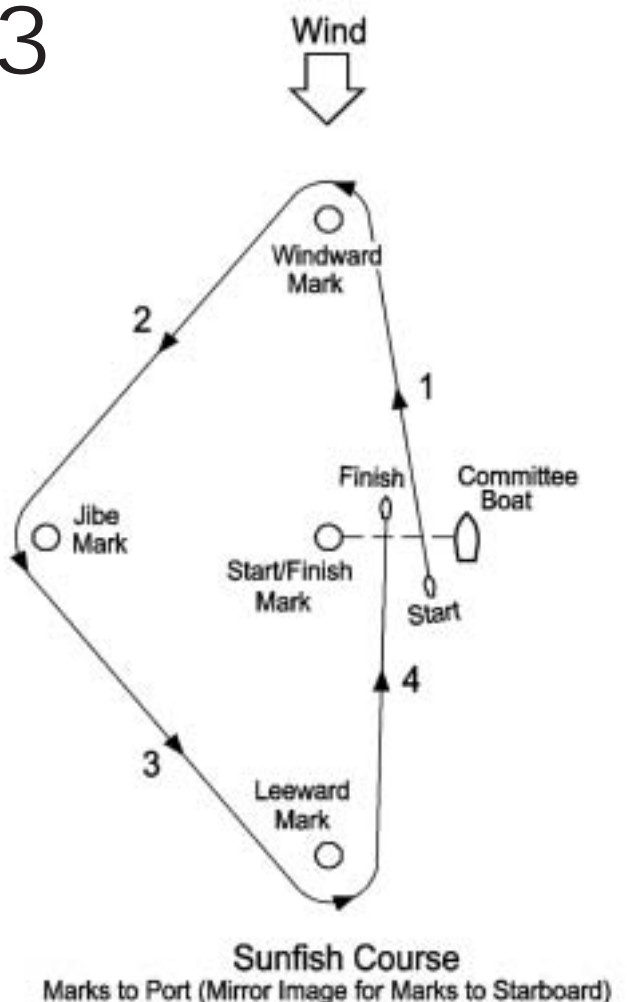
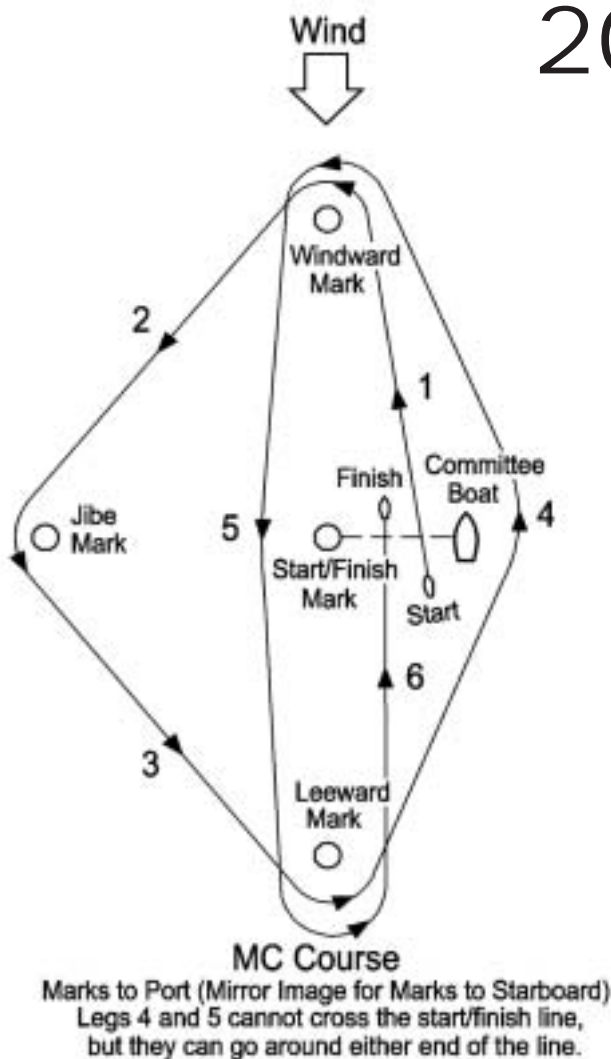
All races will start at 11AM unless delayed by our Most Honorable and All-Knowing Illustrious Fleet



Captain! All decisions will be final so don't even try to change his mind!!!

BLYC sailing courses for MC and Sunfish

2013



In February 2010 the BMW Oracle team from GGYC (Golden Gate Yacht Club), San Francisco, California won the America's Cup from Alinghi, the Swiss Defender. After a protracted court battle USA met SUI in a best of three Deed of Gift Match sailing enormous multihulls. Alinghi raced in a catamaran while Oracle fielded a trimaran with a rigid wing

mainsail. The Americans won 2:0. WTTW / PBS just released a movie of the 2010 Cup saga titled "The Wind Gods" - watch for run dates on WTTW / WNIT.

The Louis Vuitton Cup and America's Cup regattas will sail in San Francisco this summer. The teams have each built 72' catamarans with 130' tall rigid winged mains. The

AC72s have daggerboards fitted with hydrofoil tips allowing the cats to rise out of the water and fly at speeds approaching 50 mph.

July 7 - August 30: Louis Vuitton Cup (Challenger Selection Series)
September 7 - 21: the 34th America's Cup Match

— Water Quality —

Welcome to 2013!

Greetings from the Water Quality Committee on this commencement weekend of the 2013 summer lake season!

As we have previously reported, the committee is involved in the evaluation and treatment of invasive plants, which to date at Birch Lake, have been generally limited to Eurasian Milfoil and purple loosestrife. Those efforts will continue this year with a lake survey and treatment for the Eurasian milfoil by outside firms, and primarily our own Bruce Wagner using muscle power in pulling out errant purple loosestrife as it appears on our shorelines.

In addition to the monitoring and treatment of invasive plants, of which new ones may be on our horizon, the committee has been engaged in programs through the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association via the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP). Sampling is done by lake volunteers and analysis is conducted by state certified labs. The data is published by the CLMP and is available by going to that link on the mymlsa.org site.

In 2011 we published graphs covering the 10+ years of data collection for the tested parameters which included phosphorous, chlorophyll (an index for algae growth), and transparency throughout each season. In future weeks we will update those graphs and

republish the background information regarding each of these parameters.

At this time we have been able to review 2012's results and see whether we need be concerned with any changes of note. Phosphorous and chlorophyll had not increased at all and in fact may have trended down. Future years of testing will determine if this is true. Transparency, as measured by secchi disk readings, however was a bit lower than previous years. This might be attributed to a very early and warm spring last year initiating an early algae growth. Although the chlorophyll levels do not indicate overall increased levels of algae growth, its presence in the spring looks to have reduced transparency at a time when the water is usually clearest. A reading taken on May 16, 2013, (last week) showed 34 feet, which is excellent. If you have been on the lake you can believe that, as the dropoffs and bass are truly visible.

A couple of question have come to the committee that we will further elaborate on in coming issues. One was last fall where a west side resident described a small classic blue-green algae bloom. Every body of water has blue-green algae, but usually it does not bloom except in high nutrient waters. However, since the advent of zebra mussels we have seen a few small late summer/early fall blooms that occur in the



early morning and dissipate with wave and wind action. The blooms have been very small in nature (over maybe tens of feet of a shoreline) and not widespread. Data from researchers at MSU has demonstrated that unexpected blooms of blue-green algae can occur in low nutrient waters in the presence of zebra mussels. These blooms are not presently an issue here at Birch Lake. However more information will be provided in future weeks for education purposes.

Another question was about the foam that appeared on the shoreline during some of our high wind and wave days. Although not usually noticed, there are organics on the surface of the lake as a result of the normal decay of vegetative matter. These organics can behave as surfactants (surface active substances, i.e. detergents) that allow the water to form bubbles trapping air when agitated. In the thousands, these bubbles create a foam. The bubbles and foam don't last long. When the wind and waves die down, they are no longer replenished.

Take precautions against ticks!

Before venturing out this summer make sure you take some precautions against ticks. Lyme disease is the most commonly reported vectorborne illness in the U.S. In 2011 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recorded over 30,000 cases in the United States. These statistics according to the CDC are grossly under reported by at least ten fold, putting the actual number of cases occurring annually around 300,000. Michigan Physicians reported 105 cases in 2011, 98 cases in 2012 and 40 so far in 2013.

Lyme Disease and other Tick-borne Illnesses are transmitted through the bite of an infected tick. Ways you can

protect your family this summer:

- Wear light-colored clothing. This allows you to spot ticks more easily.
- Wear a hat and long-sleeved shirt. Tuck your clothes in, shirts into pants and pants into socks.
- Use an insect repellent with DEET on exposed skin.
- When hiking, stay in the middle of the trails, and try to avoid underbrush, fallen trees, and tall grass.
- Always perform a tick check when returning in from outdoors or when outdoors for extended periods of time.
- Immediately, place clothes in the dryer for 15 min on the hot cycle to kill ticks on clothing before washing.

- If you do find a tick, use a pair of fine-pointed tweezers, grasp the tick as close to the skin as possible and pull gently and firmly until tick releases; this may take several tries. Avoid crushing or killing the tick while it is still attached to the skin. Once the tick is removed clean the area with an antiseptic.
- Save live ticks for testing. Directions and forms can be found at www.mlda.org.

For a free packet of information on Lyme disease and other Tick-borne Illnesses contact the Michigan Lyme Disease Association at 1-888-784-5963 or visit www.mlda.org.

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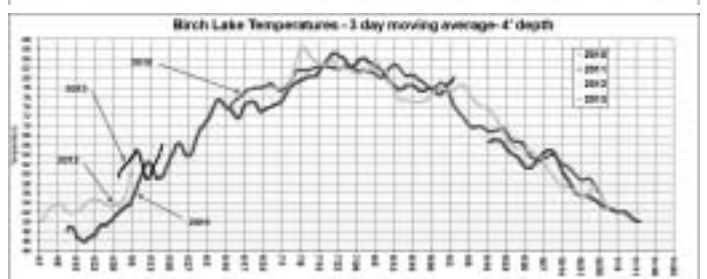
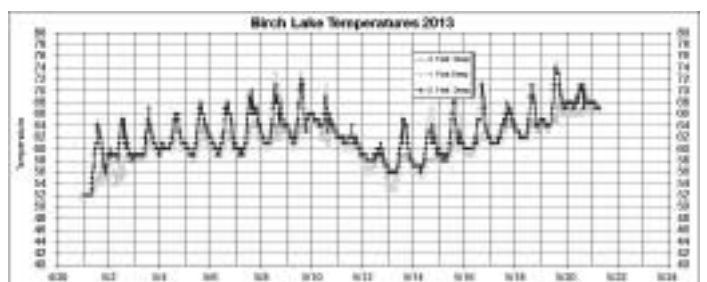
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Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)

Stu's Star Stuff

Going out with a bang

The Universe is commonly defined as the totality of existence, including planets, stars, galaxies, the contents of intergalactic space, and all matter and energy. The broadest definition of universe is that it is simply everything, while a narrower definition is that the universe is limited to what can be observed.

But how did it all begin? The accepted theory is that the universe began with a fiery Big Bang. Matter and energy interacted with gravity and other fundamental forces to form the earliest structures.

Over billions of years, the building blocks of the cosmos — galaxies, galaxy clusters, giant walls, and voids — have evolved. The study of that evolution may allow us to predict what the future will bring.

Cosmology deals with one of mankind's earliest questions: what is the nature of the world? Ancient civilizations believed that Earth was flat, and covered with a spherical dome on which the sun, moon, planets, and stars resided. In the second century A.D., the Ptolemaic system moved Earth to the universe's center. In the mid 1500s, the Copernican system placed the Sun at the universe's center.

Later, Galileo Galilei showed that the Milky Way is made of millions of stars. He argued that the Sun is itself a star, no different than the others. He was punished for such blasphemy but the Milky Way is now known to be a system composed of hundreds of billions of stars, organized in the shape of a flattened disk with a diameter of about 100,000 light-years. Our Sun is about 27,000 light-years from its center.

Until the early twentieth century,

astronomers thought the Milky Way was the sole constituent of the universe. Then they discovered that the spiral nebulae — fuzzy objects found all over the night sky — are large systems of stars.

Among the nebulae, they found a few special stars called "Cepheid variables," whose brightnesses regularly increase and decrease every few days. By comparing how much light these stars actually give off to how bright they appear from Earth, astronomers measured their distances. It was a stunning discovery: The nebulae containing these stars were at least one million light-years away, far beyond the edge of the Milky Way. The universe was much larger than originally thought.

In our modern picture, the nebulae are called galaxies, and there are at least 100 billion of them in the universe. Our Milky Way is a galaxy just like these others.

In 1929, Edwin Hubble discovered that the galaxies are in motion. With few exceptions, all galaxies are moving away from the Milky Way. Furthermore, the farther any galaxy is from us, the faster it's moving.

This implies that the galaxies are moving not only away from us, but also from each other. The universe is not static, but evolving. It expands. Expansion implies that the galaxies were closer to one another in the past. The farther back we go, the closer together they were, until a time when they were all at the same place. This leads to the idea that the universe was created by a primordial explosion, or "Big Bang," which occurred 13 billion to 14 billion years ago. The galaxies today are moving away from each other because the universe itself is

The Moon for May 25

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.980
1.1 days after full moon



Sunrise: 5:31
Sunset: 20:15

Length of daylight: 14h 44m

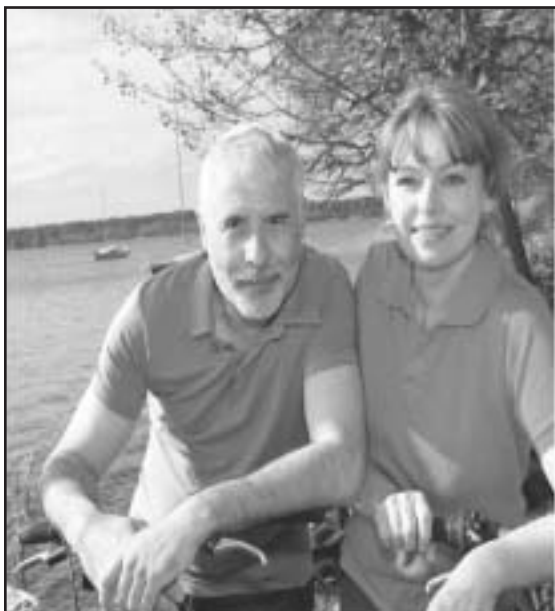
Of Note: A penumbral lunar eclipse will take place on May 25, 2013, the second of three lunar eclipses in 2013

expanding.

With this discovery, cosmology acquires a new meaning. It is no longer concerned solely with the nature of the universe, but with its evolution as well.

I mentioned going out with a bang for a reason. Phil has been accepting this trifle for over 10 years and he has both beaten me up about deadlines and forgivingly permitted my lateness. I'm letting him off the hook and I, myself, am getting off the hook. Thanks for reading and thanks for the compliments and encouragements I've received over the last 10-plus years.

But have no fear. Keep looking up. Because the show will always go on and, well, you know, say it with me now, It's free.



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21- April 20) — Passion is inevitable and commitments can be made during the heat of the night. Unexpected visitors will be a welcome surprise. You may find it difficult to discuss personal matters with family members. You're best not to get involved in joint financial ventures. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS — (Apr. 21- May 21) — Spend time with friends and relatives. Travel for pleasure. You will be extremely sensual; take precautions and don't take any risks. You will find your vitality is lowered. Don't let friends or relatives make you feel guilty if you're not able to attend one of their affairs. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — You may find that your emotional partner will not be too eager to accommodate you. Your doubt could lead to insecurity. Your high energy will enable you to enlist the help of those in a position to back you. After all, they may have valuable information to pass on. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — You can make it up to them later. You may find your nights sleepless due to bad dreams. Friends or groups that you're affiliated with may want you to contribute more cash than you can really afford. Don't give out any personal information that you don't want spread around. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — Be prepared to overcome frustrations and obstacles at work. Secret affairs could cause upset. Empty promises will cause upset. You may be confused emotionally. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO — (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. You will find that friends or relatives may not understand your needs. Your anger may be impossible to contain if you get into debates with family members. Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA — (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — Your lover will be extremely sensitive and now will not be a good time to make changes that they won't like. Exercise is always a good way to relieve stress. Don't push your luck with authority. Your ability to relate will close the generation gap. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SCORPIO — (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) — Difficulties with older females in your family may turn out to be quit trivial after all. Your emotional state will vacillate. You may jump from the frying pan into the fire if you make a move this week. Knowledge can be acquired if you listen. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) — Although up setting, changes in your domestic situation will be favorable. You will have the stamina and the know how to raise your earning power. Leave your checkbook and credit cards at home. Reevaluate your situation. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) — Children may be less than honest with you. Difficulties with your mate may lead to estrangement. Abrupt changes concerning your professional position are evident. Don't let your personal dilemmas interfere with your goals. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) — You will be emotional with regard to your personal life. Be sure to take care of the needs of your immediate loved ones first. You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them. Try not to overreact to the loss. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Electrical problems may be an issue. Offer good conversation and a nice soothing lunch. You may want to make changes in your home environment. You haven't been totally honest with yourself and it's time to review your motives. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Holy Guacamole!!!

Ingredients

3 avocados, halved, seeded and peeled
 1 lime, juiced
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
 1/2 teaspoon cayenne
 1/2 medium onion, diced
 1/2 jalapeno pepper, seeded and minced
 2 Roma tomatoes, seeded and diced
 1 tablespoon chopped cilantro
 1 clove garlic, minced

Directions

In a large bowl place the scooped avocado pulp and lime juice, toss to coat. Drain, and reserve the lime juice, after all of the avocados have been coated. Using a potato masher add the salt, cumin, and cayenne and mash. Then, fold in the onions, jalapeno, tomatoes, cilantro, and garlic. Add 1 tablespoon of the reserved lime juice. Let sit at room temperature for 1 hour and then serve.



— BIRCH LAKE CURVEYWORD PUZZLE —

Oh, no! The letters from 14 words have been curved and hidden in the puzzle.

A curved word may start anywhere in the puzzle. It can then move in any direction.

Once a word has used a square in the puzzle, that word may not re-use the same square. But another word is allowed to re-use squares from other words.

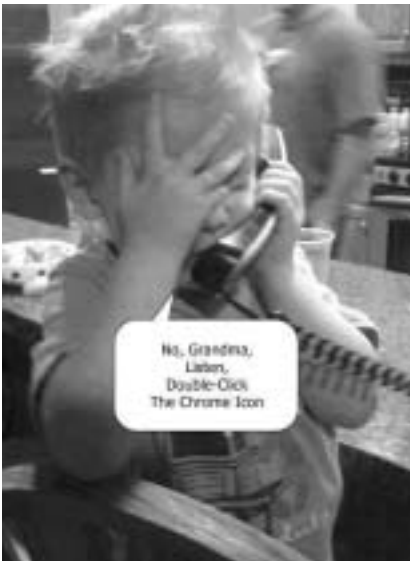
One word has already been found for you!

Find each of the following words.

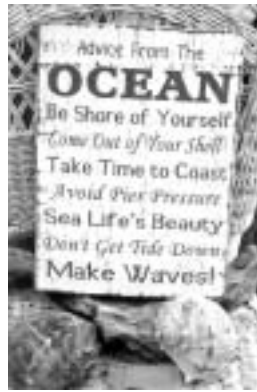
BLUEGILL	CRAPPIE	ROWBOAT	RAFT
PIER	PONTOON	HERON	YACHTCLUB
SAILING	KAYAK	BIRCHLAKE	DUCK
CANOE	TUBING		

O	T	N	O	P	E	A	Y	R	C
O	E	K	A	L	H	C	R	A	B
N	C	B	G	W	A	H	P	I	G
W	R	U	D	N	T	P	T	N	H
O	B	P	S	C	I	U	I	C	N
W	P	O	L	E	B	L	C	O	N
B	I	U	A	G	P	I	R	A	Y
L	B	E	R	T	S	A	E	E	N
U	H	K	A	Y	R	K	P	O	H
E	G	I	L	L	A	F	T	Y	U

BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



No, Grandma,
Later,
Double-Click
The Chrome Icon



Special Thanks to
the Funny Lady for
the Birch Barker
Funnies!



Never
thought I'd
say this,
but...

please can
we trade it
for a cat?



I PUT REDBULL IN MY COFFEE THIS MORNING
INSTEAD OF WATER

AND NOW I CAN SEE NOISES nohope.org



No longer wishing to jump over the moon,
the cow leaped over the hedge, and chased
the cat, who promptly dropped
the fiddle and ran for his life...

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Camp Tannadoonah

Camp T is gearing up!

Welcome back! It's been a great off-season for camp, and I'm getting very excited about the start of Camp 2013.

I'd like to start with a huge "Thank You!" to everyone who came out for the work day in April, the Book Club for cleaning the kitchen and dining hall this week, and everyone who has come up to help with various projects around camp this spring. Thank you to the Mosiers for chlorinating our wells again this year, as well as helping us remove an old well head near the dining hall. Thanks also to Jim Bolinger for helping get some electrical work done, and to Jeff Smitley for tilling the camp garden, and to Bob Bienz at Diamond Construction for all the projects he has been working on at camp. We have so many wonderful neighbors here at the lake who help! We really appreciate all the time and effort our volunteers put in to help us get Camp ready each season. THANK YOU ALL!

Our camper numbers for the 2013 season are looking great. As of 5/21, we have 371 registered campers, which is nearly 40 more than we had on this date last year! Last year was a

record year for us, so we're very happy with where things stand right now. We've already surpassed the total camper numbers we had during my first summer (357) and second summer (351) as camp director, and camp hasn't even begun yet! Over the course of the last seven summers, we've had an average growth of over 13% each year. It's all looking great for this year!

We have added a few new activities this year, including Gaga Ball, Camp Craft, Glee! (musical theater), Scrapbooking, Flag Football, and Geocaching. Just like last year, we have a number of lake residents who are helping us offer specialty programs throughout the summer. This year we have Terry Dugan (science), Claudia Phipps and Brittany Gableman (Glee!), Celia Fallon (water-skiing boat driver), Rich Mullin (lacrosse), Rick Harman (advanced sailing), and Tish Harman (archaeology). We are so grateful for all the time that people put in to help us offer unique programs.

We have also been working on a lot of different projects around camp this spring. The waterfront stairs are complete (thank you to all who donat-

ed to that project!). We also completed the finishing of the shower house floor, added new split rail fence along the bird yard, built the new Gaga Pit for Gaga Ball, put new roofs on Rotary and Exchange, new fascia on the dining hall, a new front gate, and are in the process of moving the archery range to a new location.

Our goal is to surpass 700 campers again this year. We finished last season with 706 for the summer. Help us reach that goal by recruiting new campers! We have yard signs for anyone who has a good place to display them (e.g., a house off the lake, a business, a family member or friend who might display it, etc.) Let me know if you'd like to get a couple of them!

As always, please feel free to call or email me with any questions you have about the changes in Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah over the past year. We are always happy to talk about Camp and clear up any misunderstandings or concerns people may have!

-Miss Amber
amber@tannadoonah.org
574-217-4731

SPAGHETTI-FEST JUNE 22, 6 - 8 pm

Come see the new Yacht Club door purchased with the proceeds from last year's dinner!

TICKETS ON SALE SOON

Tickets will be available at the Commodore's/Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party June 14 or from any member of TEAM EASTSIDE, or by calling 476-1680

\$8 for adults
\$5 for kids 4-10 years old
kids under 3 eat free
To-Go (carry-out) available



Tickets must be purchased in advance



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Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee
Chairman (E).....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com

Bob Waddle (E)476-2293
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Free fishing and hunting licenses now available to active-duty military members. To qualify, persons must be active-duty U.S. military members and, at the time of enlistment, must have been residents of Michigan and must have maintained residence status for the purposes of obtaining a driver's license or voting. These individuals may receive, free of charge, a resident military all-species fishing license or any hunting license for which a lottery is not required. Applicants must present proof of military status when applying for the free license. Proof of military status may include military I.D., leave papers, duty papers, military orders or other evidence verifying that the applicant is a member of the military. The licenses are available at DNR Customer Service Centers and at license retail outlets statewide.

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Birch Blog



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TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

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(\$10 / year)

\$ _____

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Name _____

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