

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 3, 2013

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Thanks to Mr. Bob for the cool pic of some of our aquatic neighbors ...

At the Very Top of Summer

Commodore's Comments

"The first week of August hangs at the very top of summer, the top of the live-long year, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot.

It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color."

~**Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting**

Last weekend was positively insane. On Friday, the Men's Golf Outing was a great time and we were fortunate to be joined by many

friends, new and old. Special thanks to Bill Holleman for organizing the event. And thanks to our sponsors and donors for making it possible. If you're interested in volunteering for the outing next year, please let me know.

Then, Saturday saw a complete mess of a day as I moved along to the Camp hog roast. Just a couple of hours before the event began, the power went out and stayed out until 15 minutes prior to the start. We were just about to rent a Port-a-Potty when the power kicked back on. Thank goodness it did, because the hog roast was a smashing success.

Boy, was I hurting on Sunday. We lit a fire in the fireplace, cleaned up the camp, and did our best to recover from the rough weekend. It may just take all week before I'm back to normal. But I am very much looking forward to the Corn and Sausage Roast on

2013 BLYC Calendar

August 3...	Corn and Sausage Roast 5:30 pm
August 6	SEPSA millage renewal election
September 7	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!

Saturday. It's at 5:30 pm at the Yacht Club and features the best damn corn and sausage you'll eat all year. See you all there!

~ **Commodore Chas**

Fall Dinner date changed

Due to a scheduling change, The Fall Dinner 2013 will be September 7.

The Birch Barker is always soliciting and accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), 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 photos or any other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200, or BLYC Commodore Chas Grundy, 269-476-7062. --Phil Vitale, editor

— Birch Lake Notes —

Please Save the Date. More information coming soon.

~Thanks, Bad Patty, VC.

Corn & Sausage Roast Aug. 3

The BIG DAY is finally here! The annual Corn & Sausage Roast is TODAY, Saturday, August 3rd. From 5:30 to 7:30 pm at the Yacht Club we'll be serving delectable meals consisting of your meat choice, roasted corn, four sides, cookies and lemonade or iced tea. Prices are only \$4 for a hot dog meal and \$7 for a bratwurst or chicken breast meal (we'll only have a limited supply of chicken breasts so they are first come, first served until we run out). Pay at the door - no reservations required! Come hungry, visit with your neighbors and leave with a smile! We look forward to seeing you!

Mens Golf Outing 2013

This proved to be a successful year for the 53rd Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing. The weather was perfect for golf, partly cloudy and warm, but not too warm. This year we had 13 teams participate in the event at the Sauganash Golf Course in Three Rivers. A special thanks to Bob Bales and his team at Sauganash, who again, did a great job of getting everything set up for us. Congratulations to this years winners:
■ First place went to Team Zesinger (Bud Zesinger, Spencer Rheinhardt, Terry Wiseman and K.C. Wiseman)

ATTENTION BIRCH LAKERS!!!

There is an URGENT NEED for a Committee Boat crew for Sunday, August 4th at 11AM!!!
This will be the last time the "BAD PATTY" can be out there until the LABOR DAY REGATTA.

I have to return to Danville, Indiana and start influencing 3rd & 4th graders, so
This is your last opportunity for you to have
MORE FUN THAN A BARREL OF MONKEYS!!!

Call Bad Patty @ 476-2615
or
Mike Lutz @ 476-2843
and I will pick you up Sunday morning!

DON'T BE A STICK IN THE MUD!!
Join me on the committee boat!!!

■ Second place Team was Team Bender (Bob Bender, Jim Limes, Ken Petty and Andy Karceski)

■ Third Place Team was Team DeCoker (Tom Decoker, Scott Klousky, Devon Nichols, and Scott Giest)

Winner of the closest to the pin contest on hole number two was John Rondot

Winner of the longest drive on hole number 17 was Charlie Heckel

A big round of applause to all of our participants. A great effort by everyone.

A big Thank You goes out to our hole sponsors this year:
Dick Bender
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Matt Koscielski
Mike Sheffleck

We also had a number of individuals

Be the first

Later this year Lutz Concrete will be installing a beautiful compass rose made of stamped and stained concrete (see photo at right) in a new concrete garage-style apron at the entrance of the Birch Lake Yacht Club.

This design is an example of the services and products available for our our friends and neighbors at Birch Lake!

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— Birch Lake Notes —

who contributed gifts and prizes, including:

Bud Zesinger, Tom Nevala, Terry Wiseman, Camp Tannadoonah, Gus Eshleman (wine), Tim Steffen (beer).

Sauganash Club provided 4 passes for 18 holes of golf with a cart

Thank you again. This event would not be successful without the great support we get each year.

Any proceeds left over, after expenses, from this years event will be donated to the Birch Lake Yacht Club Building Fund.

We are looking for volunteers to help run the event next Year. If your interested, contact Chas Grundy.

In memory

Barbara (Barb) Joan Myers was born May 1, 1950 in South Bend, IN and died comfortably on June 17, (cancer) after moving to Port St. Lucie, FL. Barb was the daughter of Glen (Joe) Myers and Bertha (Bert) Myers who moved to Birch Lake in 1962. Joe, a masonry contractor, built the brick house, E159, on the east side of the lake,

Although she accumulated fond memories her during her years at Birch Lake, after leaving Barb sought warmer climates, thus, spent the last twenty five years living in Palo Alto CA, Atlanta GA., and, Florida. Barb recently retired from the field of Marketing and Event Planning.



Big thanks to our good neighbor Duffy Dufor for continuing to supply us with the great paintings for the Birch Barker ... Keep it up, Duffy!

She is survived by her mother Bert now living in Corvallis, Oregon, a brother Dean of Port St Lucie, FL; and sister Carole Kalk of Corvallis Oregon. Her spirit was good and quick wit remained sharp to the end despite being bed ridden.

RIP ...

Thanks to Camp

Thanks to Camp Tannadoonah for hosting another fine gathering "up on the hill." That many toiled to set the table was obvious. Of note, the counselors gave up their night off and many board members were in attendance. We, the Birch Lake family, appreciate your

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— Birch Lake Notes —

kindness.

Do it again, shall we?

Online content

The printed Birch Barker is online this season, ... go to www.philvital.com and follow the links. The Michigan Lakes & Streams May Newsletter is also available on the Printed Barker page.

Birch Lake Calendar

It's calendar time again. We're searching for photos for the 2014 Birch Lake Calendar. We need photos from all

seasons, and color photos in horizontal, or landscape, format work best. E-mail your best photos (up to five per person) to sailorphil@philvital.com or linda1008@comcast.net, or get them to Linda Yoshizawa by Friday, August 9.

Your Help is Needed!

The Sewer Department & Porter Township need your help! 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 caus-

ing 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 the sewer maintenance rate can be maintained.

Barker Deadlines

The deadline for submitting information for any edition is always the Tuesday of the week before publication.

Question of the week:



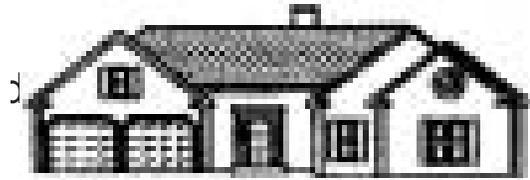
Question:

What year was the Yacht Club built and who donated the land for this purpose?

Answer: (coming next week)

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— Barker kids of the Week —



The Groszek family (south side) reunion was held at Birch Lake July 27.



That's Claire Brovold (west side) and Kelly Mae Niepokuj (niece of Amy and Mike Lutz, north side) being goofballs last weekend ...



Enjoying being Barker Kids, is Deron Phipps, son of Dennis Phipps, and granddaughter's Maggie and Gracie taking a golf cart ride on Deron's 48th birthday.



New addition to the Bob Groszek family - MOOSE, who belongs to daughter Julia Groszek.

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Fleet Captain's Corner



Cold, too cold and frigid!

As you all know, last weekend was cold and wet — it reminded me of early October bonfires and made me wonder when are the docks going to be pulled???

Due to the inclement weather, sailing was cancelled! I could not find enough sailors who had gloves and winter parkas readily available! I hope next week's weather is better since I will be fishing for walleye in Canada!

As the "Fleet Captain" it is my job to figure out if we are sailing or not! I have only been at this post for a short time. My judgment may not always be right, but I try to look out for the best outcome! Just a word to a past "Fleet Captain" who called and complained that we were not sailing! The job is yours next year!!!!

-Fleet Captain "Mike"

Committee Boat Schedule:

- August Races
- 4 — Bad Patty
- 11 — OPEN
- 18 — Amber and Chas
- 25 — OPEN
- Labor Day Regatta
- August 31 — OPEN
- Sept. 1 — Bad Patty
- Sept. 2 — OPEN

We need volunteers to help with the Committee Boat!

To sign up to take care of responsibilities (or to help with) the Committee Boat for Sunday sailing, contact Mike Lutz via email at: mmtlconcrete@aol.com or call him at 476-2843.



BLYC Sailing standings to date

Race	Total	Point
Date	Points	Average

MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489	18649	1554
Jeff Smitley #2002	15228	1523
Phil Vitale #500	2755	1422
Bill Luecht #1579	22384	1399
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	17778	1368
Gib Eberhart #916	15947	1329
Bob King #1199	16022	1335
Dave Olson #1979	7638	1273

Sunfish

Stewart Spratt	15457	1546
Erica Vitale (White)	4644	1548
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	15064	1506
Sandy Vitale (White)	23357	1460
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	14381	1438
Brad Davis	5494	1374
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	21717	1357
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	2665	1333
Peter Soldoto	7780	1297
Bill Butler	19476	1298
Amy Lutz (Yellow/Blue)	3267	1089

<http://birchlakeblog.wordpress.com/>



Birch Blog



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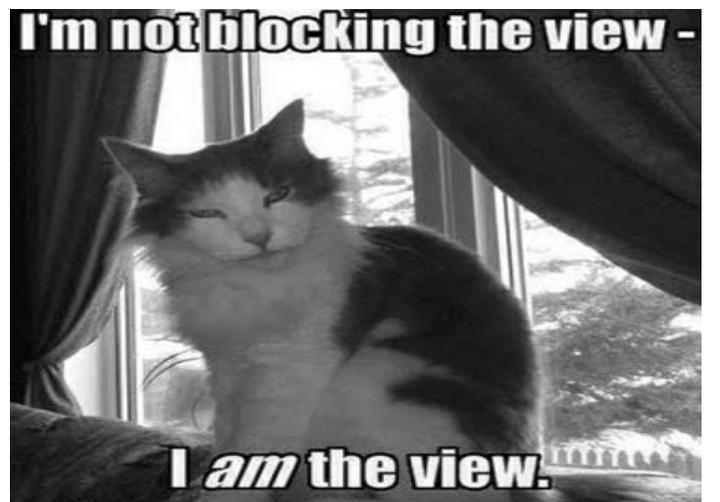
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

Seeing a spider isn't a problem. It becomes a problem when it disappears.



I love these and never knew they had a name. PARAPROSDOKIANS ... (Winston Churchill loved them) are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.

1. Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
2. The last thing I want to do is hurt you, but it's still on my list.
3. Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

Stu's Star Stuff

Turn your eyes to the southern sky

The Big Dipper hangs by its handle on summer evenings as though it were about to scoop up a dipper-ful of stars. The handle is anchored by Alkaid, a star that's far more impressive than our own star, the Sun. It's bigger, heavier, brighter, and a lot hotter.

The key to all of those traits is the heavier business. Alkaid is about six times as massive as the Sun, which puts it in the top one percent of all the stars in the galaxy.

Like our Sun, Alkaid is in the prime of life, steadily fusing the hydrogen in its core to make helium, and releasing energy in the process. But heavier stars have stronger gravity, which squeezes them more tightly. That makes their cores much hotter, which in turn revs up the pace of nuclear reactions.

Energy from the core radiates outward through the star, pushing the layers of gas around it. A hotter core generates more energy, hence a stronger push, which causes the surrounding layers of hot gas to puff up. So Alkaid is more than three times wider than the Sun.

All that energy also heats the star's surface in the case of Alkaid, to about three times the temperature of the Sun. That makes the star shine blue-white.

And the combination of the star's hot surface and its great size makes

Alkaid extremely bright, hundreds of times brighter than the Sun. So even though Alkaid is a hundred light-years away, HDTV signals from it's solar system are difficult to receive yet it still shines brightly in our night sky at the tip of the Big Dipper's handle.

Look for the Big Dipper any night this summer high in the northern sky. Follow the handle down to the outer two stars of the bowl to draw a line north to the tip of the handle of the Little Dipper, the North Star (like Stan, not particularly bright). Here at the lake, away from the city lights, it's easy to find. Continue the line to find a lazy W shape, Cassiopeia, one of my favorites. To find our sun look low on the eastern horizon at daybreak or near twilight in the west.

Sorry about last week. But don't get used to this. With or without me the show is always free.

~Stu Spratt

The Moon for August 3
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.063
2.6 days before new moon



Sunrise: 6:39am
Sunset: 9:01pm
Moonrise: 3:48am
Moonset: 6:42pm
Day length: 14h 21m

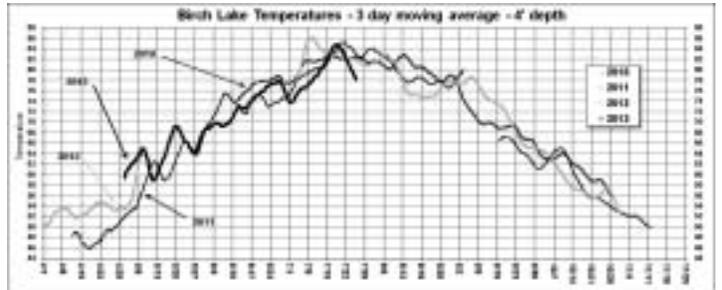
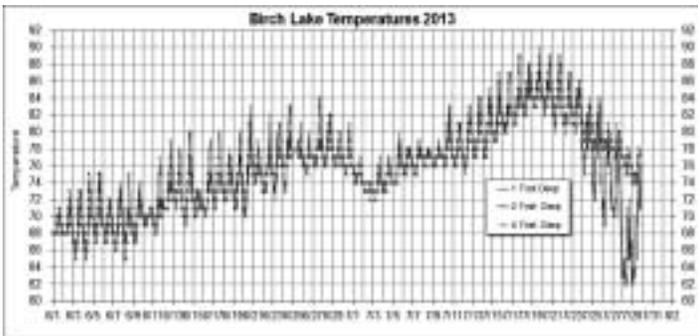
Watch for Perseids meteor shower

The Perseids are a prolific meteor shower associated with the comet Swift-Tuttle. The Perseids are so-called because the point from which they appear to come, called the radiant, lies in the constellation Perseus.

The shower is visible from mid-July

each year, with the peak in activity being between August 11-12. During the peak, the rate of meteors reaches 60 or more per hour. They can be seen all across the sky. As with all meteor showers, the rate is greatest in the pre-dawn hours.

Birch Lake Water Temperatures



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21-April 20) — Get busy putting your place in order. Empty promises will cause upset. Tell it like it is. Take time to explain your intentions to loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

TAURUS — (Apr. 21-May 21) — A long, quiet walk alone may help you sort out your thoughts. Don't get involved in other people's problems. Take time to reevaluate your motives regarding friendships. You need to look into ways to change your self-image. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — You can make money if you're willing to push your ideas on those in a position to support your efforts. Social activity should be on your agenda this week. Opportunities for financial gains through investments and games of chance are likely. Get together with those you find men tally stimulating. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — Peers may not be on your side. Changes in your home may be alarming at first. Listen to the complaints of others. You may have a problem keeping secrets. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — Try to be understanding. Try to channel your energy into physical work. Uncertainty regarding your mate may emerge; reevaluate what you see in each other. You need an outlet that will not only stimulate you but also challenge your intelligence as well. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO — (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Arguments with children or friends may leave you steaming. You may be overly emotional when dealing with your mate. You may need to make a choice. Your talents are likely to be discovered. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

LIBRA — (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — Go to the top if you're being harassed or held back. Channel your energy into decorating or household

chores. You will do well if you mingle with the brass this week. Learn some new skills that will increase your income. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SCORPIO — (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Taking on too much won't help the situation. You can make money if you're willing to push your ideas on those in a position to support your efforts. The distance may make you both appreciate each other more. Be careful not to get roped into uncertain joint financial deals. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — You can learn a great deal if you listen to those who are older or more experienced. You may be up for some changes in your home. You will find that uncertain individuals will want to draw you into joint ventures. Don't make excuses. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec 22- Jan. 20) — Be creative in your efforts. Do not blow situations out of proportion. Get involved in philosophic groups that will enlighten you. Your hard work will payoff; advancement looks positive. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Eliminate situations that are no longer to your advantage. Children might be on your mind. Don't hesitate to make special plans just for two. Sports, physical fitness programs, exercise in general will make you feel better and show some pretty quick results. You will have a tendency to exaggerate, which will lead to major confrontations with loved ones. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — You can make excellent career moves if you are open to the opportunities that exist. So smile! Don't be critical or overly opinionated with dislikes; it could cause disapproval and unwanted opposition. Visit friends you don't get to see that often. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



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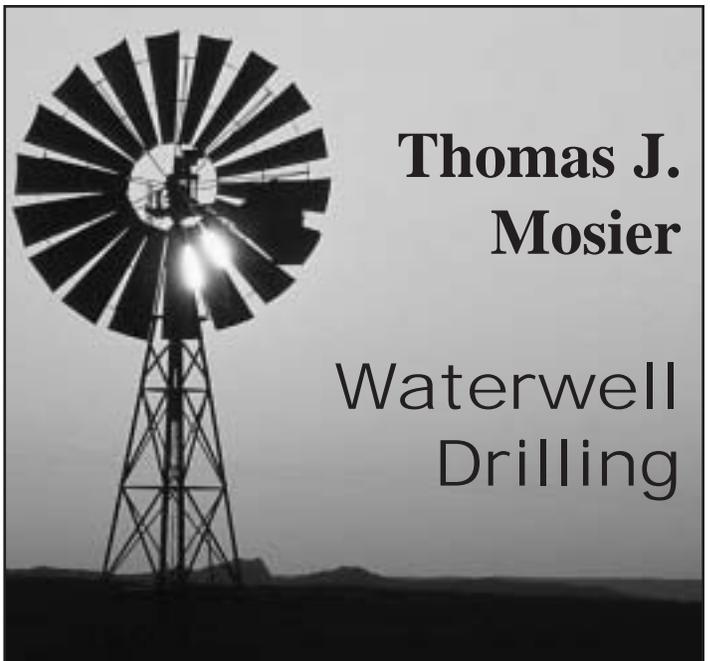
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Melt in your mouth chicken

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Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup parmesan cheese
- 1 cup Greek yogurt -plain
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 1/2 tsp seasoning salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper

Directions:

Spread mixture over chicken breasts, bake at 375 degrees for 45 mins--

Absolutely Delish!



—BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH PUZZLE—

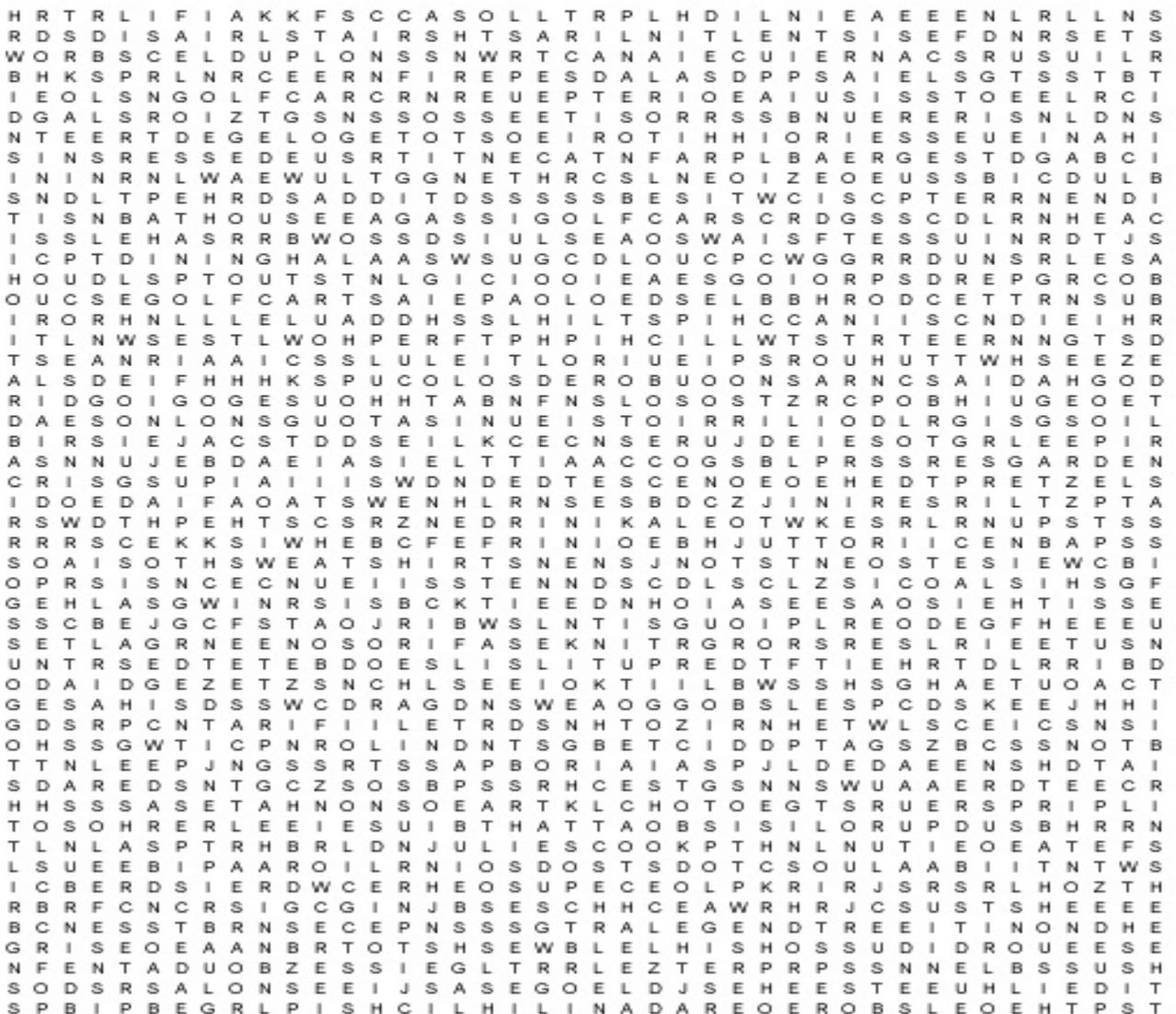
Camp T 2013 Hog Roast

Find each of the following words.

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SALADS

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BUNS
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HOG
SWEATSHIRTS
DESSERTS
DINING HALL
CHIPS



Camp Tannadoonah

Chilly week at camp

Brrrr! It's been a chilly week at camp so far. We even had a fire going in Main Lodge on Sunday afternoon! We're glad that things look to be warming up a little for the rest of the week!

A HUGE thank you to everyone who came out to the Hog Roast on Saturday night! I think it was our biggest Hog Roast yet, and I loved seeing all the people up here at camp. I hope that everyone who attended had a great time. I know we all did!

This week is Holidays Week at camp, and it's a whirlwind through the calendar year. On Sunday night it was Valentine's Day, and we played "Capture my Heart" (aka Capture the Flag). Monday was St. Patrick's Day, and Tuesday was Easter. Tuesday morning we had Easter Eggs for breakfast, and an Easter Egg Hunt for evening activity.

Wednesday was the 4th of July, and we celebrated with a picnic on the dining hall lawn, followed by a 4th of July Carnival. Thursday we celebrated Halloween with a dinner-time costume party and trick-or-treating around the lake. Thanks to everyone who provided candy and treats for us! Friday we had Thanksgiving dinner, and then a Christmas Eve movie with cookies and

milk in the dining hall. Finally, on Saturday morning we had Christmas morning.

Next week at camp is a really special week for Camp Tannadoonah. Every 5 years we have a special tradition called the Patteran. During Patteran years the theme for the last week of camp is always Gypsy Week.

Throughout the week our campers and staff work on writing songs for each of the Gypsy Bands, they tie-dye bandanas to represent the colors of their Gypsy Band, and on Thursday night we all gather to search for the Patteran.

The Patteran is a time capsule that dates back to the late 1930s. Every five years we have a Patteran week, and we search for the location of the Patteran, then dig it up and examine all of the scrolls inside. On each scroll are the signatures of all the campers and staff who were present that year at camp, a log of what happened at camp throughout the week, and strips of cloth dyed in the colors of the Gypsy Bands.

Since it's also the last week of camp, we have our traditional end-of-the-summer Council Fire on Friday night. If you get your Barker before 8 pm on Friday, come on up to camp and join us for this last ceremony. We will have 15 candidates for the Order of Birch Award,



which is the highest honor that a camper can receive at Camp Tannadoonah. At the end of the Council Fire, these Order of the Birch candidates will read or sing an original poem or song, and they will then proceed through an Honor Guard of staff who have been a part of Camp for five or more year.

Following the Council Fire, we will all proceed to the Waterfront Stairs, where the campers will receive candles to carry to the waterfront. If you come out on your boats and wait near camp, you will see and hear us coming down the stairs. Once we are at the waterfront, we'll place our candles in the water and serenade all of the residents in their boats on the lake.

It's looking like we're going to finish the season with about 635 campers for the summer, approximately 70 short of last year's numbers (and well short of our goal). However, I think it was still a very successful season, and we provided a great camp experience for all of the kids!

-Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org

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Association
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debo36@comcast.net

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

Bob Waddle (E)476-2293
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Lost: **RED SCARF WITH ELMO IMPRINTS.** Contact Morgann c/o Phil Vitale @ 476-1680.

Lost **BOAT BUMPER FOR PONTOON.** Large, white with black on each end, a white rope on one end with a metal clip. Call Jan Temple, 847-846-

8600

Found: **BLUE PADDLE BOAT FLOAT** found in Cove. Contact Bergans at lkbergan@live.com.

Found: Washed up on the south shore last week; **A VERY NICE YELLOW KAYAK.** Call 476-2461

MISC

From The Atlanta Daily:

SINGLE FEMALE seeks male companionship, ethnicity unimportant. I'm a very good looking girl who LOVES to play. I love long walks in the woods, riding in your pickup truck, hunting, camping and fishing trips, cosy winter nights lying by the fire. Candlelight dinners will have me eating out of your hand. Rub me the right way and watch me respond. I'll be at the front door when you get home from work, wearing only what nature gave me. Kiss me and I'm yours. Call (404) 875-6420 and ask for Daisy. Over 15,000 men found themselves talking to the Atlanta Humane Society about an 8-week old black Labrador retriever. Men are so easy...

From The Guardian Newspaper

Concerning a sign seen in a Police canteen in Christchurch, New Zealand: 'Will the person who took a slice of cake from the Commissioner's Office return it immediately. It is needed as evidence in a poisoning case.'

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