

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 10, 2013



Thanks to the PattiCam for the nice action shot of last weekend's sailing.

The Birch Lake Life

Commodore's Comments

"And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places. Those who don't believe in magic will never find it." ~Roald Dahl

Last weekend, we arranged for our neighbor to babysit so we could be free to gorge ourselves on delectable corn and sausage. We finished dinner and couldn't bear to leave. It was a rare moment away from the busy life and a step, if only temporary, back into the Birch Lake life.

The summer season has begun its lazy, winding descent. During these weeks we greedily hoard every moment of warm Birch Lake days and cooler-than-seems-fair nights. For some,

thoughts turn to the impending school year and the many tasks to be done before we can rejoin the real world. After eight years with Camp Tannadoonah, Amber and I equate the camp season with summer. At the bittersweet end of camp, we nearly forget there are always a few weeks left to enjoy the lake. As we move back home, we launch into nightly boat rides, landscaping projects that should have been done in May, even camping in the front yard with the kids.

Straddling these two worlds is what makes us appreciate them. Like the campers who count the days until next summer, my mind will drift back to the lake even as I drive through snowdrifts in winter. So from now until they hold an intervention to get me to stop referring to October as summer, you'll find us living the Birch Lake life.

~ Commodore Chas

2013 BLYC Calendar

- September 7Fall Dinner
- September 7Sailing Awards
- September 14Card and Game Party
- October 12Chili Cookoff

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

Fall Dinner change

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2013 BLYC FALL DINNER. Join us on September 7th at the Yacht Club for witty conversation, drinks, and dinner. Tickets will be available starting Saturday, August 17, and also watch for more details in the next Barker for times and ticket price.

~Thanks, Bad Patty, VC.

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 —



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@philvitale.com or lindal1008@comcast.net, or get them to Linda Yoshizawa by Friday, August 9.

Thanks to Barb & Fred

We all owe Barb Zesinger and Fred

"That's the best corn I've ever tasted!" "Those brats were phenomenal!" "I'm stuffed!" Mighty praise from just a few of the comments by the 160 or so lakers who enjoyed the delicious offerings at the Corn & Sausage Roast last Saturday. The revelers feasted on brats (from Mills Market in Zimmyville), hot dogs, chicken, buttered corn (from a farm in Granger), coleslaw, green beans, baked beans, cookies, lemonade and iced tea. The great food, beautiful weather and wonderful fellowship with friends and neighbors made for an outstanding day. Thank you to all who helped make this fun event such a success, starting with our leaders Blair and Bernie Garceau. And a BIG THANK YOU to the outstanding crew who helped in so many ways: Vickie and Cornmaster Tom Rogers, Bill and Patty Luecht, Denise and Jeff Smitley, Stan Pitakos, Greg Bolin, Ed and Carla Chester, Rick and Patti Russwurm, Sue Williams, Bob Waddle, Julie and Mike Sheffieck, Steve and Julie Plaia, Gordon and Michelle Seyfarth and all those anonymous Yacht Club Board members who helped set up after their meeting earlier in the day. What a team! See you all next year! *photos courtesy of the SparkyCam*

Freihoffer a big thank you for their years of serving our community through the Birch Barker. Although most people don't know it, Barb and Fred have been the "pick-up" and "drop-and-delivery" the

Barker for years. Fred has been picking up the freshly printed Barkers every week at the printer (Office Max in Granger) for the past four or five years. He brings them to the lake and drops

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!

Interested in a whole new "nautical" look for your plain old garage or entrance?

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— Birch Lake Notes —

them at Barb's house ... and Barb has then divided them out and delivers the correct number of Barkers to each delivery person around the lake ... for most of the past 25 years!

Thank you both so much!

Well, having said that, both Barb and Fred have decided to retire from their Barker positions ... so I am looking for a couple of good people to fill their shoes.

If you come to the lake from the South Bend/Mishawaka area to the lake every Thursday and can stop by Office Max and pick up the Barkers, WE NEED YOU!

AND, if you have some spare time on Fridays and would be willing to count out the Barkers and deliver the bundles to the delivery people so they can get them to us for the weekend ... WE NEED YOU!

If you are willing to help us out, please call me at 476-1680 or email me at sailorphil@philvitale.com

Thanks in advance!

Thanks ...

MANY THANKS to the wonderfully supportive Birch Lakers who offered housing and contributed flowers for Brittany Gableman's wedding. A special thanks goes out to the Van Huffels, Hoyers, Russwurms, Garceaux, Chesters, and Kruggels. You reaffirm Birch Lake is a fantastic place to live!



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!

Claudia & Dennis Phipps, Brittany & Cory Marlow

Coast Guard celebrates 223 years

The Coast Guard celebrated its 223rd year this on Aug. 4. The Coast Guard is one of America's five armed forces and traces its founding to Aug. 4, 1790 when the first Congress authorized

the construction of 10 vessels to enforce tariff and trade laws, prevent smuggling, and protect the collection of federal revenue. Responsibilities added over the years included humanitarian duties such as aiding mariners in distress.

The service received its name in 1915 when the Revenue Cutter Service merged with the U.S. Life-Saving

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— Birch Lake Notes —

Service to form a single maritime service dedicated to the safety of life at sea and enforcing the nation's maritime laws.

The Coast Guard is a multi-mission, maritime, military service and the smallest of the five Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment and U.S. economic interests in the nation's waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security.

This Article was reprinted from Military.com

Online content

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

Reminder!

The Sewer Department & Porter Township reminds everyone to please 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 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:

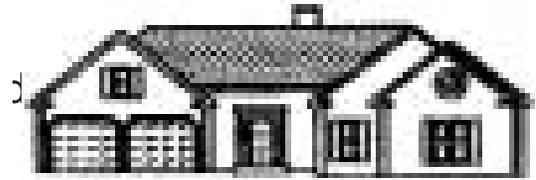


Question: What year was the Yacht Club built and who donated the land for this purpose?

Answer: The Yacht Club was built in 1962. The land was donated by lake residents Herb and Doris Howard. Their two sons, Jim and Tom, still reside on the south shore.

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— Barker kids of the Week —



Barker kid Brittany Gableman and her bridesmaids get ready at Birch Lake moments before she becomes Brittany Marlow.



That's Ronan Scheuer and his grandma, Past Commodore Pam Mullin having a toe-dunk on their north-side pier.

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



Birch Blog

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south side of Eagle Lake, Edwardsburg, MI



Fluky winds but 3 races

Fleet Captain Mike was out of town last week so his dearly beloved spouse (BS for short) handled the scoring, and I got stuck writing the column (ok, I volunteered, which proves that no good deed goes unpunished).

Anyway, the weather last week was, in a word, fluky. The wind ranged from about 5 to about 15, changing directions on a whim and without notice. The wind had in fact changed just before the first race so the course Harold had plotted was less than ideal ... even after Mr. Bob moved the windward mark between the first and second races, the wind refused to cooperate and any given leg of a race was subject to (and did) change. At one point each of the three telltales on my boat were pointed in different directions at the same time ... which prompted my smart-a** neighbor to mention that I should have had plenty of

opportunities to find a fast tack...

It was good to see Rick Harman out again, and special welcome to Patrick O'Brien, who, despite being dismayed on Saturday, managed to get it all back together and sail "Spray" in the Sunday races for the first time.

Thanks to our intrepid committee boat crew of Bad Patty, Keith Kintzler and his friend Rocky, Chantel and Questionable Patti (who were joined for a while by PJ and Sue VanDewalle) we managed to get in three races.

Steve and Julie Plaia have volunteered for committee boat this weekend (thanks!) ... but since Bad Patty has decided that making money is more important than running the committee boat for the rest of the year (how Republican!), we still need help. If you can handle one of the open dates or can volunteer to help out on any given Sunday, please talk to any sailor.

See you out there,

-Guest Columnist from Steerage Phil

Committee Boat Schedule:

August Races
 11 — Steve & Julie Plaia
 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	17	18	19	Total	Point
Date	4-Aug	4-Aug	4-Aug	Points	Average
MC Scow					
Scott Troeger #1489	1	3	1	23293	1553
Jeff Smitley #2002	4	6	3	19266	1482
Phil Vitale #500	6	7	2	26657	1403
Bill Luecht #1579	8	5	5	26065	1372
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	2	4	7	21824	1364
Gib Eberhart #916	5	1	6	20068	1338
Bob King #1199	3	2	8	20076	1338
Dave Olson #1979	9	9	9	10710	1190
Rick Harman #379	7	8	4	3614	1205
Patrick O'Brien	10	10	10	2883	961
Sunfish					
Stewart Spratt	2	1	1	20178	1552
Erica Vitale (White)	5	5	2	8757	1460
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	2	4	19554	1504
Sandy Vitale (White)	3	3	3	27689	1457
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)	4			15750	1432
Brad Davis				5494	1374
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)				21717	1357
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)				2665	1333
Peter Soldoto				7780	1297
Bill Butler	6	4	5	23366	1298
Amy Lutz (Yellow/Blue)				3267	1089

Sailing 101 — A review of the Rules

It was fun to see the great turn-out for last week's sailboat races. Whether you watch from land or from sea it's always more fun if you understand what's going on and why some of the things you see are happening. Boat positions and directions are constantly changing and situations often arise where rules must dictate what a sailor may or may not do.

Let's have a quick review of some basic racing rules of sailing.

It is not the least bit uncommon for two sailors to want to occupy the same spot on the water, but as on land, that just doesn't work. Therefore, there must be a rule.

A section of the rules referred to as

"when boats meet" says: When boats are on opposite tacks, a port-tack boat shall keep clear of a starboard-tack boat.

Simply stated, the starboard-tack boat has right of way (a.k.a. ROW).

In a section "avoiding contact" the rule says: The [ROW boat] need not act to avoid contact until it is clear that the other boat is not keeping clear.

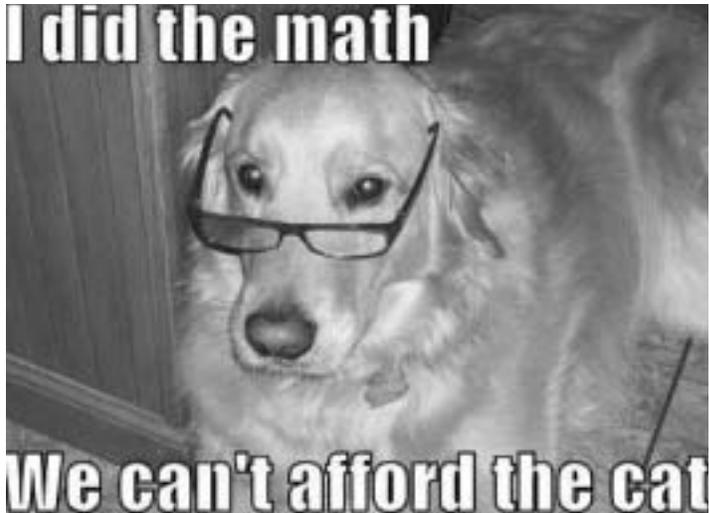
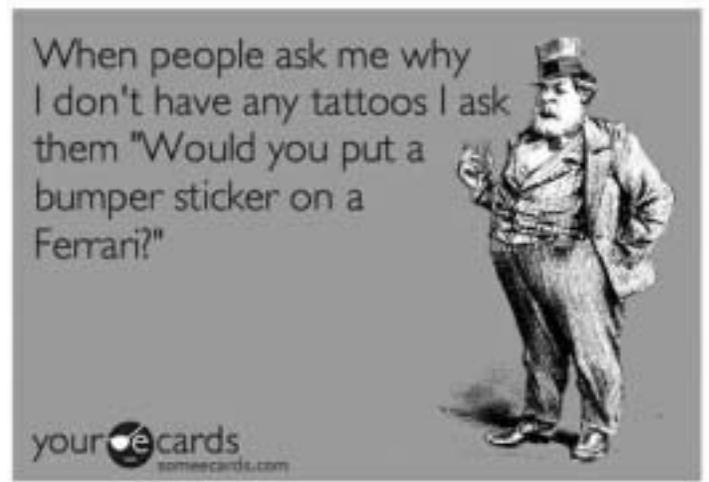
Though not required, those who compete in compliance with recognized principles of sportsmanship and fair play may, may hail to establish ROW. Again it is the responsibility of the port tack boat to stay clear and avoid contact.

We'll look at another situation next week. Shove off.



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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

War does not determine who is right - only who is left.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening,' then proceed to tell you why it isn't.

Stu's Star Stuff

Perseids, the 'Old Faithful' of Meteor Showers

If you ask most skygazers to name their favorite meteor shower, the odds are good that "Perseid" will be the first word out of their mouths. This annual shower seemingly has it all: It offers a consistently high rate of meteors year after year; it produces a higher percentage of bright ones than most other showers; it occurs in August when many people take summer vacation; and it happens at a time when nice weather and reasonable nighttime temperatures are common here at the lake. No other major shower can boast all four of these attributes.

And this year's Perseid meteor shower promises one other significant advantage: It peaks under a Moon-free sky. At the lake, the waxing crescent Moon sets around 10:30 p.m. on Sunday evening. As always, you'll see more meteors at a viewing site far from artificial lights.

Watching meteor showers can be one of the easiest, most relaxing forms of entertainment available to backyard skygazers. There's no need for a telescope because optical aid narrows your field of view, and you want to take in as much sky as possible. And best of all, you can observe the spectacle while lying down. Who could ask for more?

The Perseids begin as tiny specks of dust that hit Earth's atmosphere at 37 miles per second, vaporizing from friction with the air and leaving behind the streaks of light we call meteors. The meteors appear to radiate from a spot on

the border between the constellations Cassiopeia and Perseus (the latter gives its name to the shower). This so-called radiant lies about one-third of the way from the northeastern horizon to the zenith (the overhead point) around midnight and climbs higher as dawn approaches.

Enjoying a meteor shower requires only comfort and patience. Viewers in North America should see up to 80 meteors per hour, an average of more than one per minute in the hour or two before twilight starts to break shortly after 5 a.m. If cloudy skies prevail on the 12th, look on the morning of the 13th, when rates will be somewhat lower but still impressive.

Fast facts:

- The dust particles that create Perseid meteors were born in the comet known as 109P/Swift-Tuttle. This object orbits the Sun once every 130 years; it last returned to the inner solar system in 1992.

- Although 37 miles per second may seem fast, Perseid meteors are not the quickest among annual showers. The Leonids of November top the charts, hitting our atmosphere at 44 miles per second.

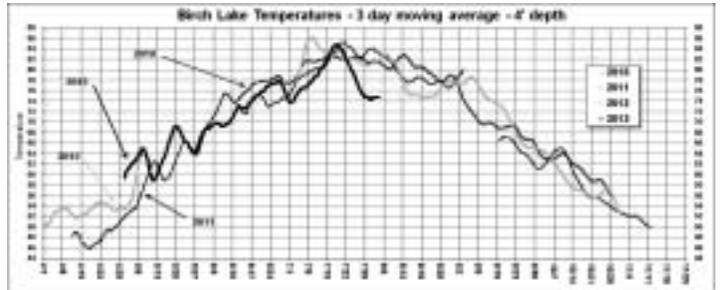
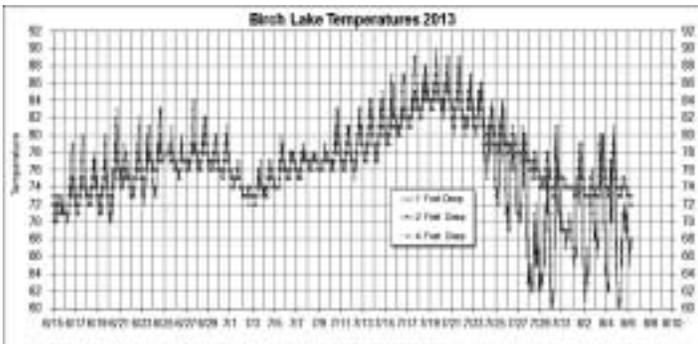
- Although most shower meteors meet their demise high in Earth's atmosphere, at altitudes between 50 and 70 miles, a few bigger particles survive to within 12 miles of the surface. These typically produce "fireballs" that glow as bright as or brighter than Venus.

The Moon for August 3
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.182
3.2 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 6:46am
Sunset: 8:52pm
Moonrise: 10:38am
Moonset: 10:27pm
Day length: 14h 6m

Look for the best show of the summer tonight, tomorrow night and Monday night. Meteors can appear anywhere in the sky so there is no need to look at a specific region to see them. But, that said, you might look toward the southeastern sky to see the meteors that may be at their brightest and longest. The show is best after midnight when our part of Earth is moving full on into the dust cloud. Enjoy the show. It's on me this week. (Sorry, no rain checks.)
~Stu Spratt



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21-April 20) — You will also encounter individuals who can help you further your goals. Lack of cash might be partly to blame for the problems at home. Opportunities to upgrade your living standards will come through your lover or through joint financial investments. Try to compromise rather than having an all out battle. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

TAURUS — (Apr. 21-May 21) — Don't let your mate stop you from attending an event that could be most important. You should consider getting your whole family involved in a project at home. Unfortunately, your personal life may suffer from a lack spare time. Use your high energy and dynamic approach to win favors from superiors. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — Think hard before going into business with friends or family. Try to join groups of interest such as ballroom dance classes or perhaps an internet organization. Confronting a situation will only result in indignation and misunderstandings. Delve a little deeper if you really want to know the score. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — Changes to your self image will be to your benefit as long as you don't over pay. Plan a nice evening for two. Plan to get together with someone special later in the day. Be considerate and avoid being overly opinionated, or arguments will ensue. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — You will both have to bend if you want this union to work. Do the necessary chores and then do things that please you. Secret affairs may be tempting. Stand up and propose your ideas, and you'll be surprised how many people will follow you. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

VIRGO — (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) — Travel may be confusing. Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. Try not to lend or borrow money this week. Look into attending seminars that can expand your perception. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

LIBRA — (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — The personal problems you may be having are interfering with your productivity. Make sure that all your legal papers are in proper order. You will have to be careful not to let others find out about your intentions. Don't overspend on items for your home. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

SCORPIO — (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — You have been going through a period of change that no doubt caused problems with your loved ones. Take your time be fore making personal decisions. You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. Confusion could result when communicating with others. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — Don't jump the gun; you may find yourself getting angry at the wrong person. Don't let your health suffer because of worry. Talk to someone you trust. Use your obvious talent to work with detail and you can come up with something great. Stay out of other people's affairs. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec 22-Jan. 20) — Be sure to take care of any minor ailments. Sign up for courses or join fitness clubs. Your ability to communicate with ease will win the hearts of those you are in touch with this week. Find out all the facts before you jump to conclusions. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Don't trust a deal that looks too good, or a lover who appears to have it all. Job changes are in order. Go for interviews or send out resumes. You can make major gains professionally by completing projects on time. You must steer clear of overindulgent individuals. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

PISCES (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Don't hesitate to look for alternatives that will enable you to raise the kind of donations you need to do the job right. Look into ways that you can make extra cash. this week will be rather hectic on the domestic scene. Don't let your health suffer because of abuse. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



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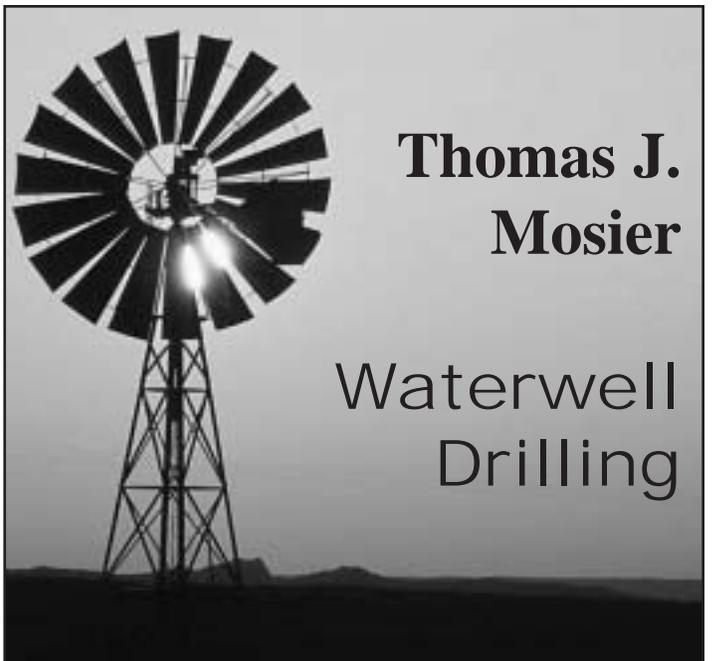
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Cheesy Chicken and Mushroom Pasta

Ingredients:

The ingredients listed are for 2-3 people, but it can be increased as needed:

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cubed
- 8 oz pkg mushrooms, sliced
- 1/2 to 3/4 can Cream of Mushroom soup
- 1/3 cup Velveeta cheese cubed
- 1/3 cup milk
- 1/2 lb. bowtie pasta
- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 2 tbsp. minced garlic
- 1/2 tsp. basil
- 1/4 tsp. Italian seasoning

Directions:

Start large pot of water heating while preparing following sauce. When water starts to boil, cook pasta per pack-

age instructions, salting water at this point, if desired.

Drain when cooked, but do not rinse.

SAUCE:

In deep fry pan coated with the olive oil, combine chicken, garlic, basil, and Italian seasoning. Cook over medium heat, stirring often, until chicken is not quite cooked through. Add mushrooms and continue cooking until chicken is cooked through and mushrooms are cooked to desired consistency. It will be juicy.

When pasta is added to boiling water, add mushroom soup, and Velveeta cheese to chicken/mushroom mixture. Stir, adding in milk a small amount at a time until the sauce reaches the desired consistency. Add drained pasta into the sauce and toss until well coated.

Ready to serve!

Other vegetables are good, too, such as broccoli or sugar snap peas.

—BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH PUZZLE—

Find each of the following words.

YACHT CLUB
LEMONADE
FISHING
COLE SLAW
SWIMMING
CHICKEN
BUTTER
CORN
GRILL

FRIENDS
HOT DOGS
BREEZY
WARM
SUNSHINE
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SALT
BAKED BEANS
KAYAKS

COOKIES
POTATO SALAD
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Camp Tannadoonah

Gypsy week a hit ...

It's Gypsy Week at Camp Tannadoonah this week, and also the last week of camp for the summer.

We kicked off the week on Sunday by playing "Gypsy Wars" (a ball game played on the sports field, normally called "ball wars"). After that all the campers tie-dyed their gypsy bandanas for the week. Each cabin drew a color, and the campers and counselors used rubber bands to create designs on their bandanas. While the bandanas were in the dye, we taught the campers some of the special songs that we only sing during Gypsy Week every five years.

Throughout the week, the campers and their counselors worked on writing songs to represent their gypsy bands. Then they all sang them on Thursday night when we hunted for the Patteran (the time capsule). Each night we gave the campers a clue to help them in their search for the Patteran.

On Tuesday night we had a Gypsy Caravan (carnival), followed by singing around the camp fire. Wednesday we taught the campers to square dance, and then some more singing.

Thursday night was the big search! We gave the final clue and then set off in search of the Patteran. We led the campers around camp to several loca-

tions that they guessed, and then finally to the correct location. We started digging, and gave several campers and staff a chance to dig. We unearthed the time capsule, and took it back to Morris Lodge to be opened.

The cabins performed their songs, and we read some of the scrolls that we pulled out of the jar. In the jar were lists of campers from prior Patteran years, logs of what the campers did at camp during those weeks, stories, songs, and pieces of fabric tie-dyed by prior gypsy bands.

Friday night was our final council fire, followed by the torch ceremony for the Order of the Birch recipients. After the torch ceremony, we proceeded to the waterfront for the candlelight ceremony.

We had 102 campers this week - our 2nd week this summer with over 100 campers! We finished the summer with a grand total of 635 total beds filled. It was 65 short of our goal for the summer, but still great compared to the early years when I was director! My first summer (2006) we had a total of 351 kids.

Maybe you can figure out where the Patteran was hidden this year! Here are the 5 clues they received:

1. The Patteran is buried at the base of a tree.



2. If you are standing on top of the Patteran, you can see the dining hall.
3. Although you can see the dining hall, you cannot see the gazebo from where the Patteran is buried.
4. If you were at camp in June this year, the Patteran would have been much more difficult to find than it is today.
5. The ground above the Patteran has a distinctly red hue.

I'll write the answer next week!

-Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org

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LOST & FOUND

Found: **BLACK MUD MASTER INNERTUBE.** Call 269-476-7073. (Unless you are Rick and Patti Russwurm. In that case we are keeping it) Claudia and Dennis Phipps

Found: **BLACK WILDERNESS WAKEBOARD** cover and a foam kickboard. Call 574-596-2154 unless you are Rick and Patti Russwurm. In that case we are keeping it. (Inside joke in case you didn't guess).



FOUND Sunday morning in front of Scott and Holly Troeger by the committee boat. You are welcome to pick them up at Bad Patty's on

the east side. No explanation necessary, but one might be very interesting!!!!

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

Found: **BLUE KICKBOARD** ... pick it up at the group pier, middle of the east shore

WANTED

Want to Borrow: **A SMALL FLAT BOTTOM BOAT** to be used in Middlebury Elementary Library for the 2013-14 school year. The boat would be used for students kindergarten through 3rd grade to climb into and read while in the Library. Call 574-535-3733 or email balljkb@aol.com.

WANTED! VICE COMMODORE! Position does not require being faster than a speeding bullet, or leaping over tall buildings in a single bound! Applicant must possess a sincere interest in Birch Lake and the ability to have fun! No background check required. Send letter of interest or call Bad Patty.



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