

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of August 17, 2013



Thanks to Paige Como (south side) for this great photo of one of our feathered friends.

Like a Cannonball

Commodore's Comments

"Sailing a boat calls for quick action, a blending of feeling with the wind and water as well as with the very heart and soul of the boat itself. Sailing teaches alertness and courage, and gives in return a joyousness and peace that but few sports afford."

~George Matthew Adams

A few weeks ago I met up with our first Commodore, Earl Troeger. He delivered a couple of artifacts from Birch Lake sailing history, to be displayed on shelves at the Yacht Club. Earl will present them at the Fall Dinner on Sept. 7.

One of these artifacts is a cannon. You read that right; it's an honest-to-goodness cannon. To be clear, it's only about 14 inches long. But it takes a black powder shell and still fires. For

many years, this cannon was used on the committee boat to signal the start of races.

Earl recounted stories and history of the cannon, including one when he sailed a race at Eagle Lake and was fouled. Another boat collided with his, ever so gently as to turn their own boat and knock them into the committee boat. With a sudden splash, the cannon fell from the side of the boat and sank into the lake to be lost forever.

After replacing the cannon, they built a wooden platform that anchored the cannon and stabilized it, thus protecting it from the bumps and bruises of the vicious sport of sailing.

Don't worry, I've already been warned to keep it away from Bad Patty.

~ Commodore Chas

Fall Dinner Information

Please join your Birch Lake neighbors at the BL Yacht Club on Sept. 7 for the Fall Dinner. Social hour with beer,

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!

wine, and soft drinks will start at 5:30 pm, with dinner following.

Our dinner will be prepared by Mario's Catering of Elkhart. Dine on Parmesan Crusted Chicken served on angel hair pasta (or a side of new red roasted potatoes), seasoned green beans, and Mario's delicious house salad with their homemade dressing. Desserts to choose from include chocolate-raspberry mouse, lemon mouse with blueberries, or vanilla mouse with fresh fruit. Rolls and butter and coffee and tea. Cost of the dinner will be \$25 per person.

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 —

Join us as our Fleet Captain, Mike Lutz presents the 2013 sailing awards.

Also, come see if I have successfully secured a vice-commodore. (You may want to apply to the job opportunity listed in the Barker, if you're interested).

All Reservations MUST be received by August 31 — NO EXCEPTIONS!! No tickets will be available at the door!!!!

You may drop your dinner reservations on the east side to Phil and/or Sandy Vitale, or Bad Patty (if I'm there), on the north side to Amy Lutz, on the west side to Denise Smitley and to Sue Williams on the south side. Checks to be made out to BLYC. Any questions please call 476-2615, 317-745-7820, or email pgalloway4@yahoo.com.

See you there!!!!

~Thanks, **Bad Patty, VC.**

Invitation

We would like to extend an invitation to all our Birch Lake Friends and Family that would like to share their best wishes and join us in celebrating with our son Ian on his wedding day. Please feel free to stop by Camp T on Aug. 24 after 7 pm and have a drink with us and meet the new Mrs. Ian (Racheal) Whiteman. We would love to see all of you that know and remember Ian. Looking forward to seeing everyone

~Ron and Staci Whiteman

Additional thanks

ADDITIONAL THANKS to Artie



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!

McElwee and Becky Wiseman for their support during our daughter's wedding. Birch Lake friends are the best!

~Claudia and Dennis Phipps

Birch Lake Calendar

It's calendar time again. Our crack team of Calendar Experts have received a large selection of really great photos

for the 2014 Birch Lake Calendar and are busily making their selections. The committee will meet this week and try to narrow the pictures down to just 12 ... but many thanks to all of our neighbors who contributed! Can't wait to see it!

Online content

The printed Birch Barker is online

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 —

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.

That was quick!

Last week we ran a news article thanking Fred and Barb for helping out with the Barker delivery all these years and soliciting a couple of newbies to take over for them ... I'm pleased to report that both jobs have been picked up and The printed Barker will return next year without interruption!

Recreational boating on inland lakes is only as safe as you make it

Recreational boaters on our inland waterways have experienced one the most accident and tragedy marred summers in recent history. Last weeks double fatality on Sylvan Lake in Oakland County is another reminder that our passion for the water and our love of boats requires that we match our enthusiasm with a high degree of respect, knowledge and situational awareness. The most important thing you can do improve upon boater safety is make sure that you and your neighbors are familiar with Michigan marine safety laws and safe boating practices.

To acquire a copy of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations summary of Michigan boating laws, please contact the Central Office at 989.831.5100.

To complete a Michigan Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Coast Guard approved on-line boater safety course, visit www.boat-ed.com/michigan

~From MLSA Newsletter

Question of the week:

?

Question:

Where is the oldest swim raft on our lake?

Hint: It is currently floating and usable.

Bill introduced to revise AIS Management Laws

State Senator Tom Casperson (R-Escanaba) has introduced legislation to revise laws governing the treatment and management of aquatic invasive species within Michigan waters. Specifically, the language of the bill would revamp Part 33 of Public Act 451 that regulates the issuance of Michigan Department of Environmental Quality permits required to treat aquatic invasive species **and would also allow local governments to collect fees at public boat launch facilities that could be used to fund aquatic invasive species management plans.**

~From MLSA Newsletter

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— Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the interesting positive/negative images from Birch lake ...



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— Barker kids of the Week —



Braden (4) and Brody (2) Bienz, children of Bob and Kelli Bienz (hill) enjoying a summer splash.



Cooper Petty (north shore) with his turtle collection. No turtles were harmed for this picture, we follow all catch and release laws.



On Aug. 3, 40 family and friends attended the 4th Annual Scannell Reunion at the family cottage on the south side of Birch Lake. All of Bob Scannell's kids were here with most of their children. John Scannell's daughter came from Australia and all of Pat Scannell Hogoboom's kids were here. It was a great day for fun and family.

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

Birch Blog

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south side of Eagle Lake, Edwardsburg, MI



Fleet Captain's Corner



What happened to the wind?

I got home late Friday night from a relaxing week on Provincial Canadian waters where the winds were light to medium and the fishing was fabulous! During that time I was hoping we would have the same conditions on Sunday for sailing, to no avail.

No wind, and I mean *no wind!* Harold set the marks due to a slight gust or two, but the winds did not last.

Thanks to the sailors that went out for the start and in making a good decision to cancel the day's races — we would have been out there for hours and hours.

Thanks also goes to Steve and Julie Plaia for helping Harold set the marks and operate the committee boat for a brief stint.

Check your calendar, we could use a

few "good men" (and/or women) to run the committee boat for the remainder of the season. Kudos to "Bad Patty," who is returning to work, for all her help keeping the committee boat stationed during our sailing weekends!

Thanks to everyone,

-Fleet Cap'n Mike

Committee Boat Schedule:

August Races
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 Mike at 476-2843.

Standings to date

Race.....	Total	Point
Date.....	Points.....	Average
MC Scow		
Scott Troeger #1489.....	23293	1553
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	19266	1482
Phil Vitale #500.....	26657	1403
Bill Luecht #1579.....	26065	1372
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412.....	21824	1364
Gib Eberhart #916.....	20068	1338
Bob King #1199.....	20076	1338
Dave Olson #1979	10710	1190
Rick Harman #379	3614	1205
Patrick O'Brien	2883	961
Sunfish		
Stewart Spratt.....	20178	1552
Erica Vitale (White).....	8757	1460
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	19554	1504
Sandy Vitale (White).....	27689	1457
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green).....	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	23366	1298
Amy Lutz (Yellow/Blue)	3267	1089

Luna Rossa (ITA) defeated Artemis Racing (SWE) in a sweep of the Louis Vuitton Cup (LVC) Challenger Selection Series Semi-Finals. On Saturday August 17th the Italians begin a (two races per day / best of 13/first to seven) series vs. Emirates Team New Zealand in the LVC Finals. The winner of the Finals will face Defender Oracle Team USA in the 34th America's Cup Match beginning Sept. 7.

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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

Escape attempt



5% complete

OMG, Tom?! How Long has it been?

Centuries, actually, of Evolution...



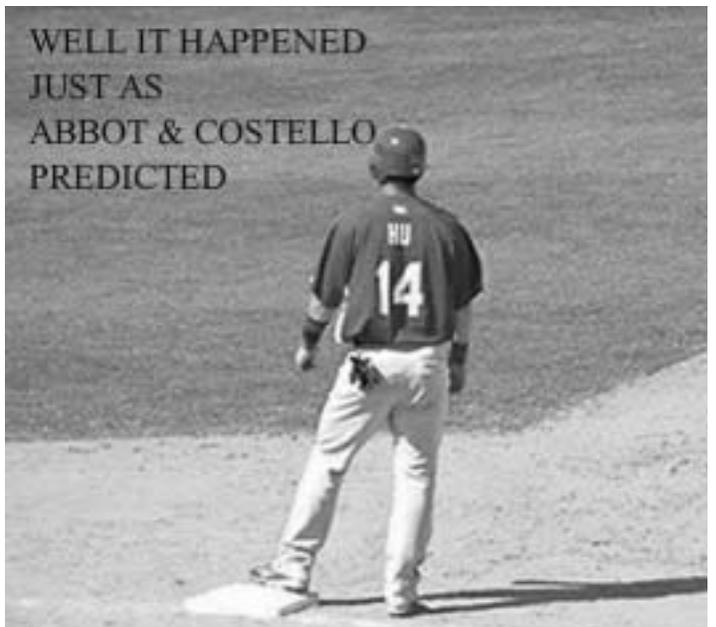
DogWork.com

**SO, I'M JUST SITTING HERE AND THE
WHOLE DANG THING EXPLODES!**



I'M JUST AS SURPRISED AS YOU ARE.

**WELL IT HAPPENED
JUST AS
ABBOT & COSTELLO
PREDICTED**



**"YOU SAID THEY WERE GONNA
BE GONE FOR HOURS!"**



**THE DOG DAYS OF
SUMMER**



I KILLED A BLACK SNAKE



WHY U NOT HAPPY

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

Buses stop in bus stations. Trains stop in train stations. On my desk is a work station.

I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR.'

Stu's Star Stuff

The summer Birch Lake Sky

Scorpius and Sagittarius highlight the summer Birch Lake sky, scooting low across the south during the night. Bright orange Antares highlights the scorpion's hook-shaped body, with teapot-shaped Sagittarius to its left. Under dark skies, the Milky Way rises from the teapot's spout like steam.

The scorpion is generally believed to be responsible for the death of the great hunter Orion. According to some myths, the scorpion stung Orion in response to his boast that he could defeat any beast; according to others, it was sent by Apollo, who was concerned for his sister Diana's continued chastity.

In either case, Scorpius was placed in the opposite side of the sky from Orion so as to avoid any further conflict. It is to the southeast of Libra, and is marked by the bright red star Antares. (Antares is Greek for "Rival of Ares," the Greek war-god. The star is so named because of its brightness and color, which are approximately the same as of the planet Mars. Mars, of course, is the Roman name for Ares.)

The zodiacal constellation Sagittarius represents the centaur Chiron. Most of the centaurs were regarded in myth as bestial—they were, after all, half horse. However, the ancient Greeks had a great deal of

respect for the horse, and so were reluctant to make the centaurs entirely bad. In fact, Chiron was renowned for his gentleness. He was an excellent archer, musician, and physician, and tutored the likes of Achilles, Jason, Hercules and Baucus.

Chiron, however, was accidentally shot and wounded by Hercules. The arrow, which had been dipped in the poison of the Lernaean Hydra, inflicted great suffering on Chiron—so great, in fact, that even the talented physician could not cure himself. In agony, but as an immortal unable to find release in death, Chiron instead offered himself as a substitute for Prometheus. The gods had punished Prometheus for giving fire to man by chaining him to a rock. Each day an eagle would devour his liver, and each night it would grow back. Jupiter, however, had at the request of Hercules agreed to release Prometheus if a suitable substitute could be found. Chiron gave up his immortality and went to Tartarus in place of Prometheus; in recognition of his goodness, Jupiter placed him in the stars.

Look for Sagittarius low in the southern sky most any time after dark. Also find Scorpius to the west of Sagittarius. Bright orange Antares marks the scorpion's heart. Follow the

The Moon for August 17
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.887
2.8 days until full moon



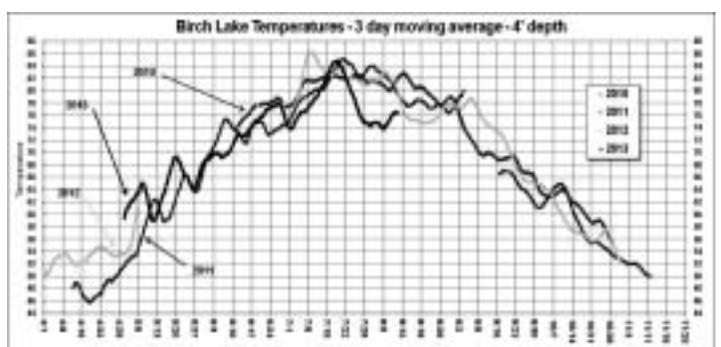
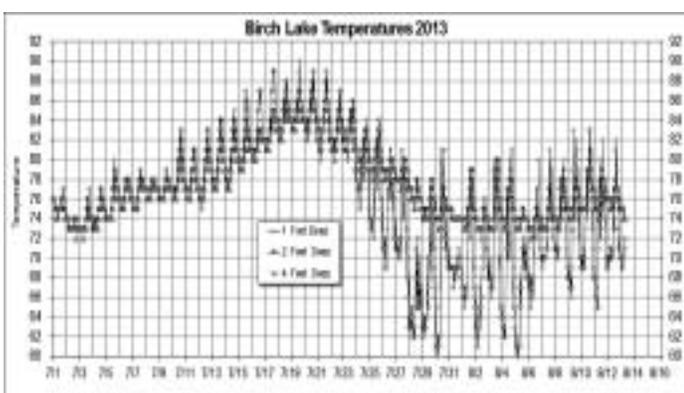
Sunrise: 6:51 AM
Sunset: 8:41 PM
Moonrise: 5:57 PM
Moonset: 2:52 AM
Length of Day: 13h 50m 23s

curve of the scorpion's body to the tip of the tail where you will find two faint stars - the cat's eyes.

The show never gets old and the price is always the same.

~Stewart Spratt
Celebrating our 50th
summer at Birch Lake

Birch Lake Water Temperatures



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21-April 20) — Travel may be confusing. Relationships will be emotional this week. You will have no problem getting along with clients. Pursue outdoor activities or any physical exertion. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

TAURUS — (Apr. 21-May 21) — You must follow your desires and dreams. Travel and educational pursuits may help alleviate the stress you have been feeling. Someone you live with may cause drastic alterations in your usual routine. Do a little investigating if there is someone at work you don't trust. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — Take care of any pressing health problems. If you've been under stress and worrying about older members of the family, it's time to come to terms with the situation. You should put a little extra effort in at work. Resist any idle chatter. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — Social functions will bring you in touch with new lovers. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. Call someone you haven't seen in a long time. Get help setting up a reasonable budget. Look into ways of making extra cash. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — Double-check before you go out. You may interest some of them in a service you have to offer. This could be a difficult day to deal with coworkers. Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

VIRGO — (Aug 23-Sept 23) — Do not trust others with important information. Try to avoid any drastic decisions concerning personal legal matters. Don't divulge secret information. You can get ready to celebrate your new direction. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

LIBRA — (Sept 24-Oct 23) — If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately. You may find yourself in an uncomfortable situa-

tion if you have overloaded your plate unintentionally. Catch up on correspondence. It might be time to pick up the slack and do your share. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO — (Oct 24-Nov 22) — Don't be too eager to cut those who have disappointed you from your life. Use your creative abilities to come up with new ideas and directions. You may have personal problems, but professional duties might be pressing. Don't force your opinions on friends or relatives unless you are prepared to lose their favor. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov 23-Dec 21) — You can make money if you get involved in real estate deals. You should get out and enjoy social events where you are likely to meet new potential mates; however, don't over spend. Your lover will be extremely sensitive and now will not be a good time to make changes that they won't like. You may have been too agreeable to someone who just wanted to use you. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec 22-Jan 20) — Changes in your residence may be financially favorable. Home improvement projects will enhance your residence and bring the family closer together. Someone you live with is ready to play emotional games. You could lose a good friend because of it. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan 21-Feb 19) — Travel will be most enticing. Consider a cruise. Avoid any intimate involvement's with coworkers or employers. Put your emotional energy into passion not anxiety. Your high energy and discipline will enable you to complete any seemingly insurmountable tasks. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

PISCES — (Feb 20-Mar 20) — Be aware of any emotional deception. Do not sign legal contracts or documents this week. You must be careful not to reveal secrets or get involved in gossip. Try to do your job and then leave. Relationships may be hard to handle. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.



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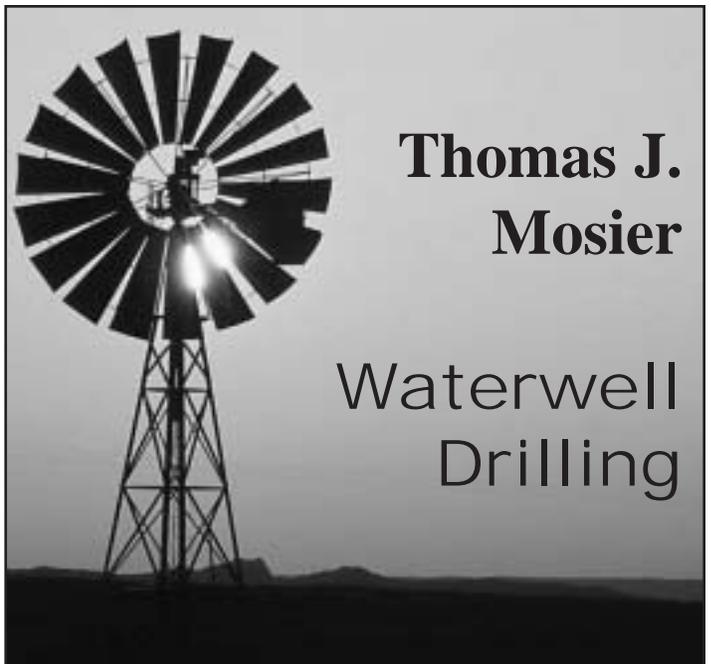
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Bacon Ranch Pasta Salad (from Becky's shower)

Pasta Salad from Becky's shower. Everyone loved it and it is soooooo easy. I use bacon bits and I leave out the cheese. I also do it at least one day before so it has time for the pasta to really absorb the flavors. It is yummy.

Original recipe makes 10 servings

Ingredients:

- 1 (12 ounce) package uncooked tri-color rotini pasta
- 10 slices bacon
- 1 cup mayonnaise

- 3 tablespoons dry ranch salad dressing mix
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic pepper
- 1/2 cup milk, or as needed
- 1 large tomato, chopped
- 1 (4.25 ounce) can sliced black olives
- 1 cup shredded sharp Cheddar cheese

Directions

Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil; cook rotini at a boil until tender yet firm to the bite, about 8 minutes; drain.

Place bacon in a skillet over medium-high heat and cook until evenly brown. Drain and chop.

In a large bowl, mix mayonnaise, ranch dressing mix, garlic powder, and garlic pepper.

Stir in milk until smooth. Place rotini, bacon, tomato, black olives and cheese in bowl and toss to coat with dressing.

Cover and chill at least 1 hour in the refrigerator.

Toss with additional milk if the salad seems a little dry.

—BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH PUZZLE—

End of Summer

Find each of the following words.

BUTTERFLIES
YELLOW JACKETS
PEACHES
BOOK BAGS
TICKS
BUMBLE BEES
WATERMELON
TOMATOES
SCHOOL BUS
SUNSET

HORSEFLIES
APPLES
WASPS
ALARM CLOCK
CANTALOUPE
SWEET CORN
ICE CREAM
METEOR SHOWER
ZUCCHINI
WOLLYWORMS

BLUEBERRIES
ASTERS
RAGWEED
GOLDENROD
MOSQUITOES
CHRYSANTHEMUMS
FRUIT STAND
SOYBEANS

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Camp Tannadoonah

Wrapped up for the season

Camp's all wrapped up, and we've been home for a few days now. It's always such a strange adjustment to "real life" when camp is over! Avery and Elyse are definitely noticing the difference between camp life and home life. They wake up asking to go "side" (outside) first thing every morning!

This past week at camp was an awesome week. On Thursday night we searched for the Patteran, which turned out to be buried on the edge of the newly cleaned up area in the center of camp which we've nicknamed "Central Park." After we dug up the jar, we carried it to Morris Lodge, where we opened the jar and read some of the pages that were found inside.

We read the legend of the Patteran, and we learned that the first Patteran took place in 1940. We read logs from many of the prior years, and looked at some of the names of people who signed the Patteran. We found the names of many campers' grandparents, parents, and aunts in the old Patteran logs.

Friday night was our final council fire, held this year at our new fire pit in the old archery range. The weather was spectacular for council fire and our Order of the Birch torch ceremony. This

year we had a total of 21 Order of the Birch candidates! They were all honored during the torch ceremony, and then got to lead us to the waterfront for the candlelight ceremony.

I think this was the biggest crowd we've ever had at the final council fire, with campers, counselors, and visitors lined up all the way around the pier and waterfront shore. After the beautiful candlelight ceremony (which was especially poignant because we didn't have one last year), the campers went to bed, and the counselors walked around camp and serenaded them before they went to sleep.

Saturday the staff worked hard all day to clean up and pack up camp for the fall. We got done earlier in the day than I can ever remember in the past few years, and then had our staff banquet and party. It was a great close to an super summer. We ended the summer with a grand total of 635 campers for the year.

We're looking forward to a busy fall packed with Camp and Camp Fire activities. We have a long list of rental groups and events taking place at camp this fall. Next weekend (August 24th) is the Whiteman wedding at camp. Then we have another wedding on September

21st, and a third wedding on October 5th!

September 28th will most likely be our club program's group camping weekend. Fall Camp is scheduled for October 11-13th (later than usual this year!), and the following weekend we have a sorority retreat / service day from Valpo University. I'd also like to work in a harvest party or a family camp weekend at some point during the fall, plus we'll have a couple work days to get camp cleaned up and closed up for the fall.

It should be a busy but exciting fall for all of us at camp! We hope to see everyone out on the lake for a few more weekends before fall weather arrives!

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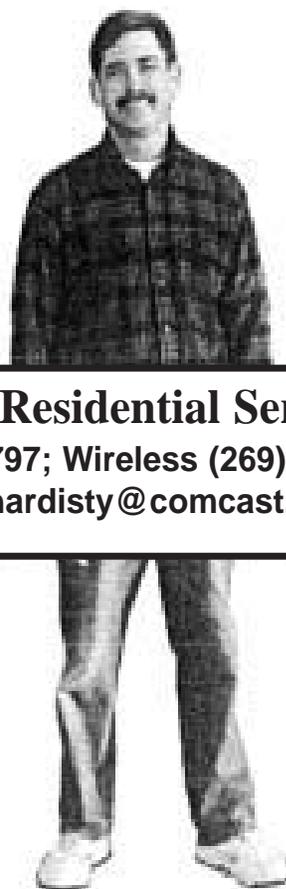
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Found: Washed up on the south shore last week; **A VERY NICE YELLOW KAYAK.** Call 476-2461

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