

# Birch Barker

Weekend of July 13, 2013

© Copyright 2013, The Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the great Fearless Big Bird photo ...

## Slowing Down

### Commodore's Comments

"Slow down, you move too fast. You've got to make the morning last."

As I write this on Tuesday, I am still recovering from an incredibly busy holiday weekend. Family gatherings, projects at camp and at home, and various lake events packed into four days left me eager to get back to the office.

Amber and I had a wedding to attend so we missed the boat parade. I want to thank Linda Curtis and Sue Waddle for chairing the parade, and to all those who participated. I've heard the entries were amazing and I can't wait to see the photos.

We decided Saturday morning to give Avery a haircut. I made him a deal — if he let us cut his hair, he could cut mine. When Amber and I got back from the wedding, we discovered that the in-laws had managed to get Avery's hair cut without shedding a single tear. I understand there was some confectionary bribery involved.

Amber quickly insisted that I follow through on my offer, and the clippers came out. After a quick swipe on the top of my head, Avery grew bored and Amber finished the job. This is the shortest my hair has ever been.

Thanks to everyone who donated to make the fireworks possible this year. We were fortunate to have good weather and a gorgeous sunset precede the show. The running time was just under 30 minutes and featured some spectacular shots. Special thanks to those who help

### 2013 BLYC Calendar

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!

clean up the camp waterfront the next morning.

For many, the weekend wrapped up at the pancake breakfast. We had a great turnout and it was wonderful having so many friends and visitors up at camp. To the entire crew running the breakfast, you have our deepest gratitude for your hard work and generosity.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

A quick PSA: During these busy summer months, please drive slowly around the lake and keep alert for pedestrians. If you are walking/jogging, please be aware of vehicles and move to one side to provide room to pass by safely.

Finally, the homeowner's association meeting is Saturday morning at 10am. See you there!

~ *Commodore Chas*

## Pancake Breakfast

To all of the people who attended and worked at the Pancake Breakfast last weekend, we want to say a big THANK YOU! Thanks to the expertise of our batter makers Jim Bolinger, who is retiring after teaching novice Bob Bender, and our Olympic staff of pancake flippers Mike Lutz and Bill Luecht, we served a record 506 breakfasts — and raised \$2235 for Camp T.

Our delicious Krusties pancakes were again donated by Lind Harman (thanks Lind!), and thanks to the Fallons for donating the plates. Thanks are also due to our crack staff of Amy and Mike Lutz, Jim and Debbie Bolinger, Bob Bender, Karen Brovold, Tom Rogers, Paul and Celia Fallon, Patty, Bill, and Katie Luecht, Mike and granddaughter Addison Machalleck, Linda Curtis, Eric Miller, Karen Curtis Miller and her sister Tina Strukel, Commodore Chas Grundy, and Peter

Trybula (the new outside pancake flipper) — and thanks to cleanup crew Steve Richards, Barb Pence, Cam Butler and the many Camp T counselors who assisted at the end of the day.

Again, thanks to everyone for your participation and support for Camp T - What a wonderful family we have at Birch Lake. Next year don't turn over and go back to sleep, come on up and chow down on the great pancakes!

-*Amy, Mike, Phil & Sandy*  
"Pancake Breakfast Team"

## Men's Golf Outing

Time is running out for submitting your teams for this years Birch Lake Mens Golf Outing. I need to have the final numbers to the golf course and our Caterer early next week. If you have not submitted your teams please do so ASAP.

Send or drop off your entries to Bill Holleman or Chas Grundy at 63258 Kinsey St. Vandalia Michigan 49095 (up on the east-side hill), or to Phil Vitale 63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, Michigan 49095 (east side).

## Birch Lake Tradition Continues

A big thank you to the Benders, Limes, Kellys, and McCays of the cove for continuing the annual turtle races. After organizing the event for 40 some years, I know how much work it is. It is wonderful to see a whole new generation

## Duffy's Artwork



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!

of kids having fun. If you don't already know this — the cove rocks!

~*Margaret Blackwood Bouwkamp*

Bogus classified ads

From a reader: "A classified ad appeared in the Barker last week with

# 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?

Call us today!

# Lutz Concrete

SW Michigan's FLATWORK experts

17050 M-86 — Three Rivers, MI

(269) 279-7973

mmtlconcrete@aol.com



# — Birch Lake Notes —

our home phone number. The ad was for one tomato. Was the phone number a mistake or someone having a little fun?"

Editor's response ... last week's Barker had several "bogus" classified ads submitted by a laker ... we apologize if anyone was inconvenienced (and wonder if they sold the one tomato ...)

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 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.

Online content

The printed Birch Barker is online this season, ... go to [www.philvitale.com](http://www.philvitale.com) and follow the links. The Michigan Lakes & Streams May Newsletter is also

available on the Printed Barker page.

Barker Deadlines

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

Question of the week:

**Question:** If a person were to walk along the shoreline all the way around Birch Lake, how far would they have walked?

**Answer:** You would have walked 3 miles.

## Welcome to Jaywalker's

Whether it's a formal dinner or simply hanging out with friends, we make it our mission to provide our customers with a great dining experience at an affordable price. Stop in anytime, or give us a call to make reservations.

Daily  
Specials

Happy Hour  
Tues-Fri



Closed  
Mondays

Call for  
reservations

Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!

10188 US 12, Mottville

on the beautiful St. Joseph River

(269) 483-2305

## Eagle Lake Marine

SALES \* SERVICE \* STORAGE

SanPan, Aqua Patio, Sweetwater Pontoon,  
Polar Kraft Aluminum Fishing Boats,  
Hurricane Deck Boats, Honda Outboards



[eaglelakemarine.com](http://eaglelakemarine.com)

269-699-5103

south side of Eagle Lake, Edwardsburg, MI

Talk With A Live Person



VOTED NILES  
BUSINESS OF  
THE YEAR!

## ADVANTAGE PLUMBING INC.

Complete Plumbing Service - If there's water to it, we do it.

Let Us Show You Why We Were  
Voted Business Of The Year!

Top 10 Reasons to Choose ADVANTAGE PLUMBING

- Licensed Plumbers
- Drug-Free Employees
- Criminal Background Checked Employees
- No Surprises with the Bill- You know the Cost Before the Work is Done
- 100% Satisfaction Guaranteed
- True 24-Hour Emergency Service
- Fully Stocked Trucks - "Warehouse on Wheels"
- Clean and Professional Technicians in Uniforms
- Longest Warranties in the Business
- Our Phones are *Always* Answered by a Customer Service Employee During Business Hours
- Bonus — The Only Attitude You Will Receive is a Good One!



After Hours  
Emergency  
Service

 Major Credit Cards Accepted



2400 N 5th ● Niles, MI

269-687-7192 Niles, MI

866-751-1470 Toll Free

[www.advantageplumbinginc.net](http://www.advantageplumbinginc.net)

# 2013 Birch Lake Boat Parade

Birch Lakers once again showed their creative sides at the annual July 4th boat parade. Special thanks to Ron and Diana Betzer for chauffeuring our Grand Marshals Phil and Sandy Vitale (Beauty and the Beast).

It was a bigger parade this year despite the cloudy sky in the morning. Judging as usual was a very difficult task as everyone was outstanding. Thanks to all the participants for your hard work and enthusiasm.

The top three families with the most votes:

**1st place** went to the Phipps-Gableman

family for their Captain Hook theme.

**2nd place** went to the Ball family (Disney Queens) as the most alluring.

**3rd place** went to the Fallon family (Under the Sea) for the most authentic. Other winners were:

**Most "Uplifting"** — Up — Lindsey family

**The "Mousiest"** — Mickey Mouse Disney Family — Wozy family

**The "Deepest"** — Under the Sea — Lochmandy family

**The most "Pillaging"** — Birch Lake Buccaneers — Petty family

**"Best Cruise Ship"** — Disney Cruise

Line— Lutz family

**Most "Elegant"** — Birch Lake Ball — Van Huffel family

**The "Baddest"** — Beware of the Pirates — Bad Patty family (scariest and baddest as usual)

Dick Bender was a great host providing a covered viewing area for the judges and supplying numbers for the boaters. Sue Waddle and I along with our esteemed judges; Bob Waddle, Ron and Staci Whiteman, and Millie Zelesko enjoyed the parade and being with our beloved Birch Lake Community.



Photos by the  
SPARKYCAM



# BLYC Poker Run

Saturday - July 20, 2013

We should have another full field for this year's Birch Lake Yacht Club Poker Run. Spots are filling up fast. There are only 25 spots left.

**CALL MULLIN'S TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE — 476-1080. ENTRY FEE IS \$15 PER PLAYER. ALL ENTRY FEES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SUNDAY JULY 14!**

Here is a recap for the event:

Poker Run starts promptly at 3 pm at Stuart Spratt's. You are encouraged to "Boat Pool," as limited parking will be available. You can park at the top of the hill near the Camp entrance near Mullin's yellow garage.

You will receive your first card at Stuart's. Drinks and snacks will be available.

The Poker Run will then proceed by boat around the lake, making 3 to 4 stops. Drinks and appetizers will be served at each spot. You will receive another playing card at each stop. The Poker Run ends at Mullin's. the event should conclude about 6pm with cash prizes for the 1st through 5th best poker hand.

## Rules:

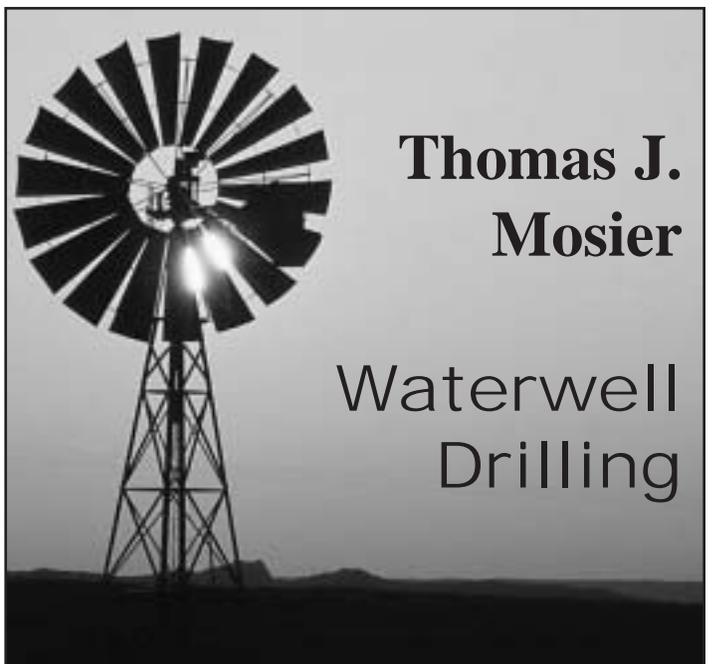
1. Be sure to pick up a card at each location.
2. We will note which card is given to each participant at each stop
3. Present your best 5 card poker hand at the Mullins'
4. In the event of a tie for first place, those involved will have the choice of splitting the prize (if both agree) or they will "cut the Deck" to decide the winner. The loser will receive the 2nd prize. The next best hand will receive the 3rd prize. Same rule if there is a tie for 2nd or 3rd.

We should have 5 or 6 pontoon's lined up to transport all players.



**Ten Years of Excellence,  
Two Years as a Top 100 Dealer.**

51305 State Road 19  
Elkhart, IN 46514  
574-264-2874  
wakesidemarine.com



**Thomas J.  
Mosier**

**Waterwell  
Drilling**

5" Water Wells

Repair & Service  
Most Water Pumps

Promise of Quality

M-60 E  
Cassopolis

Office: 269-445-3246  
Cell: 269-580-3246  
Fax: 269-445-0008

# — Barker kids of the Week —



Visiting Grandma Jean and Grandpa Don Habich (west side) is grandson Mason Habich, son of Joel and Wendy Habich.



Enjoying a rainy day at Birch Lake tubing. On the left side is Sydney Habich, Kaitlin Zoller, Collin Bogue, and Richie Zoller. On the right side are Samantha Bogue and Jordan Habich. The Zollers are the children of Rich and Tricia Zoller, west side. The Habichs are the children of Joel and Wendy Habich, grandchildren of Don and Jean Habich, west side, and the Bogue's parents are Emily and Jeromy Bogue, grandchildren of Dennis and Rita Tudor of the West side)



Blake Schelle pictured with his brother Ben and his winning turtle #44. Grandchildren of Howard and Beth Blackwood (formerly of the Cove)



Collin Schelle (youngest grandchild of Howard and Beth Blackwood) on his first dip in the big blue.

## Camp Tannadoonah

### Wild Week follows wild week!

**T**hank you to everyone who came to the Pancake Breakfast last weekend! It was an awesome turnout, and we were so excited to see so many new AND familiar faces! We are so grateful to the lake community for sponsoring and attending this event to benefit camp.

This week at camp was Where the Wild Things Are week! We had a lot of interesting things planned for the week, including a "Wild Carnival Night" with face painting, dancing, carnival games, and karaoke. We also played "Capture the Wild Animals" (AKA Capture the Flag), and had a Wild Animal Hunt (counselor hunt).

On Wednesday afternoon we had a presentation by the Lake Milton Raptor Education Center. They brought out 5 wild birds of prey, including a Golden Eagle! It was so neat to see these animals, and some campers even got to pet the birds!

The camper numbers this week were quite low (only 59 kids!), but next

week we have a completely full camp with 104 campers coming! We're super excited for a big week, because it's always more fun with more campers. The theme for next week is Sports Extravaganza Week.

It's looking like our numbers this year are going to come in lower than they were last year overall. We're about 35 kids behind last year as of this date, and in order to get to 700 for the summer we would need to be completely full for all 4 of our remaining sessions. I think we'll be completely full for 2 of them, but the other two are still wide open. Right now we're at 575 total, and my best projection is that we'll end up somewhere around 650 by the end of the summer.

The best way that you can help us for the rest of the summer is to help recruit kids! We have lots of openings still for Buggin Out Week (July 21-27) and Holidays Week (July 28-August 3), and there are a few openings left for Gypsy Week (August 4-10).

Before I forget! The week of July 28-August 4 is Holidays Week, and we are planning to Trick or Treat around the north/northeast and cove/northwest sides of the lake on Thursday night (August 2). If you're home, our campers will stop at your house to sing you a camp song and Trick or Treat. Turn on your porch lights (we'll be there around 7:30-8:30pm) if you want us to stop by.

Also, don't forget about the annual Hog Roast here at camp on July 27. We will be dedicating the new waterfront stairs, inducting two new Legend Tree nominees, and there will be lots of food and live music. The festivities are scheduled to start at 5pm this year. The event is free, but we ask people to bring a dish to share.

Thank you again to everyone who has been helping out at camp with programs and projects around camp!

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

# — Barker kids of the Week —



Oh to be a kid at Birch Lake on the 4th of July — Jazmin and Alexis Phillips, daughters of Dave and Sanya Phillips (and our grandchildren) seemed to be enjoying the pier ...



The Quinlan clan (west side) after pancakes at camp



The Petty boys (North Shore) finished off a GREAT weekend with their cousins at the pancake breakfast. All 5 Abernethy grandsons, along their moms and "Grampy" Spike, were at Birch for the big weekend!



The Quinlan grandkids 4th of July lunch on the deck.

## Serving Michigan and Indiana



*Waterfront  
Specialist!*

SusieTucker.com

**susie@susietucker.com 574-320-6697**



**ATTENTION SELLERS:  
LISTINGS NEEDED TO FILL OVERWHELMING  
DEMAND FROM BUYERS! CALL ME FOR  
A FREE MARKET ANALYSIS OF YOUR  
PROPERTY.**





# Fleet Captain's Corner



## Light winds, tuff sailing!

Well, another beautiful holiday weekend on Birch Lake! As you all know, with the Fourth Of July on Thursday it put a real damper on everyone's schedule and lake activities, especially for us sailors. Light winds as well as the increase in boating activity made it difficult to maintain a steady course.

Thursday we completed two races before lake activities put a halt to sailing! Saturday we held only one race (shortened for the MCs), due to the lack of wind.

Many sailors didn't or couldn't make it out — and at one time I was not sure if I was sailing or drifting to the committee boat! So not for the lack of trying,



we were only able to complete three races compared to our usual five races

for a regatta.

I would like to thank Bad Patty, Karen, Tina, Skye, and Bob Baucus (moral support and a Coor's light for Patty on Saturday) for there undivided attention in starting our races and keeping race results. Thanks, to all the sailors and committee boat people who braved the light winds to get our first regatta for the year in. Hopefully in the weeks to come, the winds will be a little more in our favor!

~Fleet Captain "Mike"

Committee Boat Schedule:

- July Races
- 14 — Bad Patty
- 21 — OPEN
- 28 — OPEN
- 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

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](mailto:mmtlconcrete@aol.com) or call him at 476-2843.



Special thanks to Mr. Bob for this great pic of me sailing with 5 of my 6 grands last weekend.

## 2013 BLYC 4th of July Regatta Results

Race	1	2	3	Total
Date	4-Jul	4-Jul	6-Jul	Points

### MC Scow

Bob King #1199	8	8	7	23
Jeff Smitley #2002	8	1	1	10
Harold Cranmer #2412	3	4	6	13
Phil Vitale #500	2	6	4	12
Dave Olson #1979	8	8	5	21
Bill Luecht #1579	4	3	3	10
Scott Troeger #1489	1	2	2	5
Gib Eberhart #916				0

### Sunfish

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)				0
Mike Lutz (Yellow/White)	5	1	2	8
Peter Soldato (Red/White/Blue)				0
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)				0
Stewart Spratt				0
Chris of the Scofield's (Blue/White)				0
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)	4	5	7	16
Bill Butler	3	6	7	9
Sandy Vitale	2	2	3	7
Erica Vitale	1	3	1	5
Brad	7	4	4	15
Amy Lutz	8	0	8	24

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.

DNF (Did Not Finish), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place).

DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed.

CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.

Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)

Season Place = total season points/number of races attempted

Crew - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.

-1 - indicates Committee Boat participation

# — America's Cup —

## The Boat to Beat



Emirates Team New Zealand AC72 catamaran in flight - published with permission © 2013 ACEA (America's Cup Event Authority)

Photo Gilles Martin-Raget

Emirates Team New Zealand has long history with the America's Cup. Team New Zealand first challenged in the 1987 regatta off Fremantle, Australia (where Dennis Connor won the Cup back from the Defending Ozzies). In the 1995 Cup off San Diego the "Black Magic" boats became just the second foreign Challenger to win the Mug. TNZ ran two Defense campaigns in 2000 and 2003 from Auckland, New Zealand.

In 2013 the Kiwis are the only team surviving on corporate funding, with no billionaire patron to fund their (reputed to be) \$100 million Challenge. For this reason the boat is covered with more sponsor logos than her rivals. Over the last

few months their design team continue to install aero features to the 72' long 130' tall flying catamaran.

Though still early times in the Louis Vuitton Cup (LVC), aficionados think New Zealand has the boat to beat. Odds are the Kiwis will win the LVC Challenger selection series and in doing so earn the right to sail against Defender Oracle Team USA in the 34th America's Cup Match.

- by Cap'n Bob - Sunfish 21351 / MC 1199 / E Scow Ego

The LVC is in progress. The America's Cup begins September 7. For more info go to [americascup.com](http://americascup.com) ...

### CHIMNEY SWIFT CHIMNEY SWEEPS

RON COLBORN

58550 Eller Drive  
Osceola, IN 46561

Ph: (574) 674-5257

Cell: (574) 514-4831



**Satori**  
Salon & Spa

Certified Organic - Experience the "Natural" Difference!

Full Service Hair Salon 269.244.5510  
 Massage ~ Facials ~ Waxing  
 Manicure ~ Pedicure  
 Group Spa Parties ~ Gift Cards

11920 McKinley St  
Jones, Michigan 49061 [www.SatoriSalonandSpa.com](http://www.SatoriSalonandSpa.com)



## KB Village Express

M60  
CASSOPOLIS  
269-445-2754

We have **MARINE gas**  
91 Octane — No Ethanol!

Recommended for all 2- and 4-stroke engines



Recommended locally by  
Thorpe's Marine  
and  
Diamond Lake Marina!



Hunting, Fishing licenses, bait available

Open 24 hours  
Liquor ~ Beer ~ Wine  
Liquor sales 7 am to 2 am

20¢ off per gallon with  
Touch-Free Car Wash



# BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

At the bank, I told the cashier, "I'd like to open a joint account please."  
"OK, with whom?"  
"Whoever has lots of money."

You can tell a lot about a woman's mood just by her hands.  
For instance, if they are holding a gun, she's probably angry.

People who say I'm hard to shop for don't know where to buy beer.



your  cards  
someecards.com

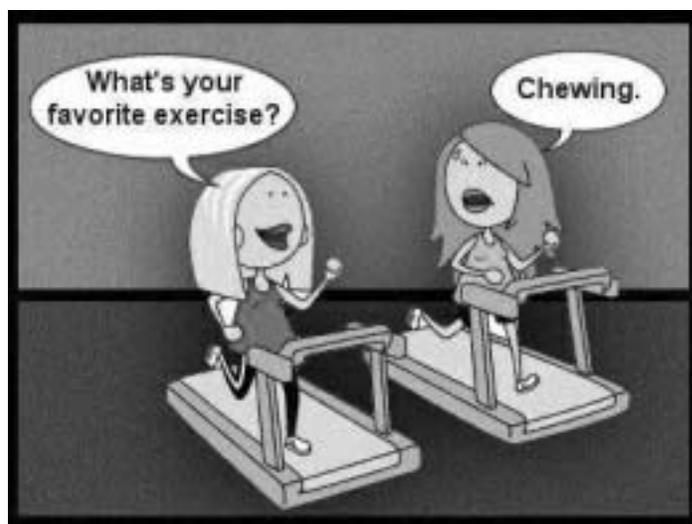


My friend thinks he's smart, he said onions are the only food that make you cry.

So I threw a coconut at his face.



**The funny thing about Facebook is you can talk about one person and it makes 20 others think it's about them.**



PONDERISMS (some things to think about)  
In the 1960s, people took acid to make the world weird. Now the world is weird and people take Prozac to make it normal.

How is it one careless match can start a forest fire, but it takes a whole box to start a campfire?

Who was the first person to look at a cow and say, 'I think I'll squeeze these dangly things and drink whatever comes out?'

# Stu's Star Stuff

## Life in the solar system

In all the universe, we know of just one world that hosts life: our own Earth. Yet right here in the solar system, several worlds seem to have the right ingredients for life. But it's likely to take decades to find out if anything inhabits those worlds.

The world that's intrigued us the longest, of course, is Mars. There's abundant evidence that it was once much warmer and wetter than it is today. Some of its water likely escaped into space, but a good bit of it is still around. It's frozen in the polar ice caps or in permafrost, or it's locked up in underground reservoirs.

It would have taken a long time for Mars to cool off and for its water to freeze or escape into space, though. So if life did arise on the planet, it would have had time to adapt to the changing conditions — and it could still be around today. Microbes could live below the surface, away from the Sun's harmful rays. And larger organisms could live in the underground reservoirs.

No one knows what the odds of finding life on Mars really are. Most biologists are pessimistic. But here on Earth, life can exist just about anywhere — from the Antarctic ice to scalding vents at the bottom of the oceans to fissures in the rocks deep below the surface. So until we've had a chance to explore Mars in greater detail, few scientists are quite ready to give up on the possibility of life

on the Red Planet.

You don't really expect to find anything living inside a giant ice cube — unless the ice cube is a moon of one of the giant planets. In fact, two ice moons — one of Jupiter and one of Saturn — are considered among the best candidates for life in the solar system.

The Jovian moon is Europa. It's bigger than our own Moon, and a lot more interesting. There's abundant evidence that an ocean of liquid water lies below its icy crust — the result of a tug-of-war between Jupiter and some of its other big moons.

Jupiter's gravity "locks in" Europa so that the same side of the moon always faces Jupiter. As Jupiter's other big moons pass by Europa though, they try to turn it away from Jupiter. That heats the moon's interior, melting some of its ice. The heat could also power geothermal vents like those at the bottom of Earth's oceans. These vents would pump out warm water and chemicals — providing a cozy environment for life.

The Saturnian moon is Enceladus. It's a lot smaller than Europa, but scientists don't have to wonder if it has liquid water — they know it does. Water squirts into space from hot spots around the south pole.

We don't know what the prospects of finding life on these worlds really are. But we do know that Europa and Enceladus appear to have the right

The Moon for July 6  
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)  
Illuminated Fraction: 0.306  
1.8 days before first quarter

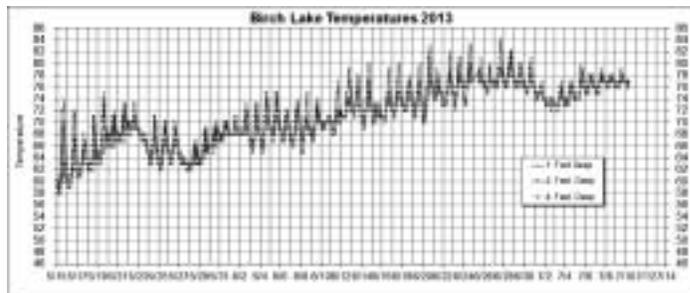
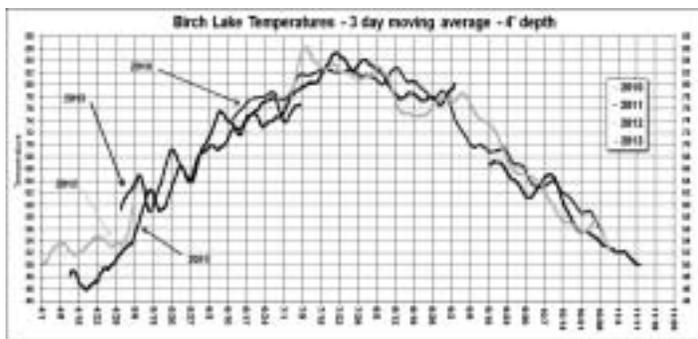


Sunrise: 6:20am  
Sunset: 9:19pm  
Moonrise: 11:42am  
Moonset: 11:53pm  
Day length: 14h 59m

ingredients for life: water, an energy source, and the right chemistry. Now all we have to do is go and look for it.

Mars and Jupiter are deep in the glow of dawn this weekend. But look for Saturn in the southwest after dusk. The rest of the show is up there too. And yes, it's still free.

## Birch Lake Water Temperatures



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)



CAMP TANNADOONAH  
BIRCH LAKE

<http://tannadoonah.org>

### DIAMOND CONSTRUCTION

No Job Too Large or Too Small!



All Types of Remodeling  
\* New Home Construction \*  
Restoration

Licensed & Insured Free Estimates

Bob Bienz 269-759-4010  
63366 Kinsey St., Vandalia, MI  
email: diamondconstr@yahoo.com

**ATTENTION!!!**

**"SUPER-WOMEN-OF-BIRCH LAKE"**

It's time to play some golf!

July 19, 2013

**Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis**

Prizes for best ball, closest to the pin, best putt, and soooo much more! 50/50 cash Raffle, and many surprises!

Lunch will follow at Lunkers in Edwardsburg.

**\$35 per person includes 9 holes of golf with cart, lunch and more fun than legally allowed!!!**

Checks should be made out to BLYC and dropped off to Patty Luecht

East Side 63168 Birch Rd-Next between Phil Vitale and "A-Frame" — Questions call 476-2615

**BE THERE!! GET YOUR TEAM!!!**

Each team is encouraged to donate a basket to be raffled

**Team Members and Entries by July 14th**

Team Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate your lunch selection for each team member from the following:**

1. Grilled Chicken Sandwich(Deluxe)
2. Grouper Sandwich (Hand Breaded)
3. Turkey Club
4. Vegetarian Panini
5. Cuban Panini
6. Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad

If you have dietary concerns, let Patty know ASAP!

**Sandwiches served with your choice of Fries or Homemade Kettle Chips.  
Soft drinks also included. Cash bar for mixed drinks and beer.**

**\$199,900!!!**

**BRIGHT, OPEN, AFFORDABLE  
BIRCH LAKE GEM  
WITH SPACIOUS LOT**

Let your friends know they can own this beautiful three bedroom, two and a half bath Birch Lake home with lake access for the amazing price of \$199,900! Call for information about this realtor owned home at

**574-215-0336.**



# BLYC 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL MENS GOLF OUTING (4-MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE)

**JULY 26<sup>TH</sup> 2013 - 70\$ PER MAN  
SAUGANASH GOLF CLUB**

61270 Lutz Rd, Three Rivers, MI - Shotgun start at Noon; Dinner at BLYC at 6 pm  
MUST HAVE REGISTRATIONS BY JULY 8, 2013

### Additional Information

- \* team prizes and contests
- \* dinner only, \$28 per person
- \* dinner includes 10oz. prime rib, side salads, corn on the cob.
- \* lunch **not** included but the club has complete restaurant and beverage service available.
- \* prizes awarded during dinner.

The mens' and ladies' outings are looking for donations of door prizes. If you have access to logo merchandise that could be donated to one or both, please contact Bill Holleman at [wildbillh24@aol.com](mailto:wildbillh24@aol.com) or Chas Grundy at [chas.grundy@gmail.com](mailto:chas.grundy@gmail.com) for Men's Outing or Bad Patty Luecht at [pgalloway4@yahoo.com](mailto:pgalloway4@yahoo.com) for Ladies' Outing

Last year we had 60 golfers participate. I'm sure there are more golfers out there..

- \* **Send entries to** Bill Holleman or Chas Grundy 63258 Kinsey St. Vandalia Michigan 49095 or Phil Vitale 63174 Birch Road, Vandalia, Michigan 49095

## 2013 BLYC Men's Golf Foursome Information

Team Captain:

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Print Players names:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*checks should be made out to BLYC



## Not just a will. A way.

*Estate planning is more than having a will. It's a way to protect what matters most.*

You've worked hard to build a life for you and your family here in southwestern Michigan. And Tuesley Hall Konopa will work equally hard to make sure the things that matter most to you are passed along to your loved ones. Estate planning is one of our firm's signature legal services and our experience will help assure your legacy is protected and your wishes honored.

To learn more about the estate planning capabilities of our firm as well as our business counsel and civil litigation/mediation services, visit our website or call us. We're right here in Cass County.

Right here for you.



**TUESLEY · HALL · KONOPA**  
attorneys

UNDERSTANDING. INSIGHTFUL. EFFECTIVE.

21550 Shore Acres Rd. • Cassopolis, MI • 269.445.1818 • [thkllaw.com](http://thkllaw.com)

# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**ARIES** — (Mar. 21-April 20) — You can convince anyone of anything. Compromise if you have to, to avoid verbal battles. Short trips to visit others will do the whole family a world of good. Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**TAURUS** — (Apr. 21-May 21) — Try to avoid being extravagant this week. Make sure that you have all the pertinent facts before taking action. You must look into your options. You will find the excitement gratifying. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**GEMINI** — (May 22-June 21) — You can win points with children if you take the time to show interest in their accomplishments. Your intellectual charm will entice mates who have common interests. You can dazzle members of the opposite sex with your quick wit and aggressive charm. Try to understand both sides of the issue before taking sides. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**CANCER** — (June 22-July 22) — You will find that social activities will be enjoyable and will promote new connections. You will be relentless when it comes to getting yourself back into shape. Find out exactly what's expected of you and you'll be surprised to find out how capable you are. Sudden changes of heart may cause disruptions in your domestic scene. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

**LEO** — (July 23-Aug 22) — Don't overextend yourself in the process. You may be confused regarding your love life. Don't waste this exciting day by sitting at home. Children may be less than honest with you. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**VIRGO** — (Aug. 23-Sept. 23) — You should consider getting your whole family involved in a project at home. Travel and creative hobbies will be your best outlet. Be ready to explain your actions. Money may slip through your fingers. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**LIBRA** — (Sept. 24-Oct. 23) — Get out and get active. Don't let friends convince you that you should contribute to something you don't believe in. Jealousy may get in the way of a good relationship. Driving too fast or double parking will result in difficulties with officials. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

**SCORPIO** — (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) — Don't hesitate to enlist the aid of friends or family if you have a big project to finish in your domestic environment. Advancement can be yours if you are assertive in your approach. Your colorful conversation may attract new mates. Concentrate on getting ahead financially and let your personal life settle down for a while. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

**SAGITTARIUS** — (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) — It might be time to make a fresh start. Go directly to the source if you want to know exactly what's been going on. You will easily blow situations out of proportion. You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been well. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**CAPRICORN** — (Dec 22-Jan. 20) — Be careful not to misplace your wallet or belongings. New interests are preoccupying your time. Those close to your heart may be difficult to reason with. Opportunities will develop through those you encounter while attending organizational events. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

**AQUARIUS** — (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) — Social evenings at your place will be highly successful. Take care of your personal needs. Take time to look at any outdated papers or possible investments. Emotional deception will cause friction on the home front. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

**PISCES** — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — Don't bother complaining, do the work yourself. Go to the top if you're being harassed or held back. Those you work with may have little consideration for the underdog. Secret affairs could cause upset. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.



*MH*  
**McGann Hay**  
FUNERALS • CREMATIONS • GATHERINGS  
SINCE 1942

**New Granger Chapel**

- Large Rooms • Children's Room
- Spacious Cafe/Lounge

**574-232-1411**  
[www.mcgannhay.com](http://www.mcgannhay.com)

*"The perfect location between  
Michigan and Indiana"*



*We believe . . . in delivering on  
promises and keeping everything you  
value Safe. Sound. Secure.®*

**Learn how you can save by insuring  
your life, home and auto with  
Auto-Owners Insurance.**

*Call or visit us today!*

**UNION INSURANCE AGENCY**  
Corner of US 12 & Union Rd., Union, MI 49130  
Independent Agency  
**269-641-5995**  
fax: 269-641-5787

email: [Sue@unionins.net](mailto:Sue@unionins.net) [www.unionins.net](http://www.unionins.net)

**Auto-Owners Insurance** 



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~

## Onion Bombs Camping food



AHA!!!!

Summertime is here and that means camping and bonfires!!! Love compact meals!!! Don't forget to share this with your friends so you can find it easily...!!!!

### Ingredients

- large onions
- ground meat (I prefer turkey!!)
- seasonings to taste (mine were like meatloaf tasting!!)
- tin foil

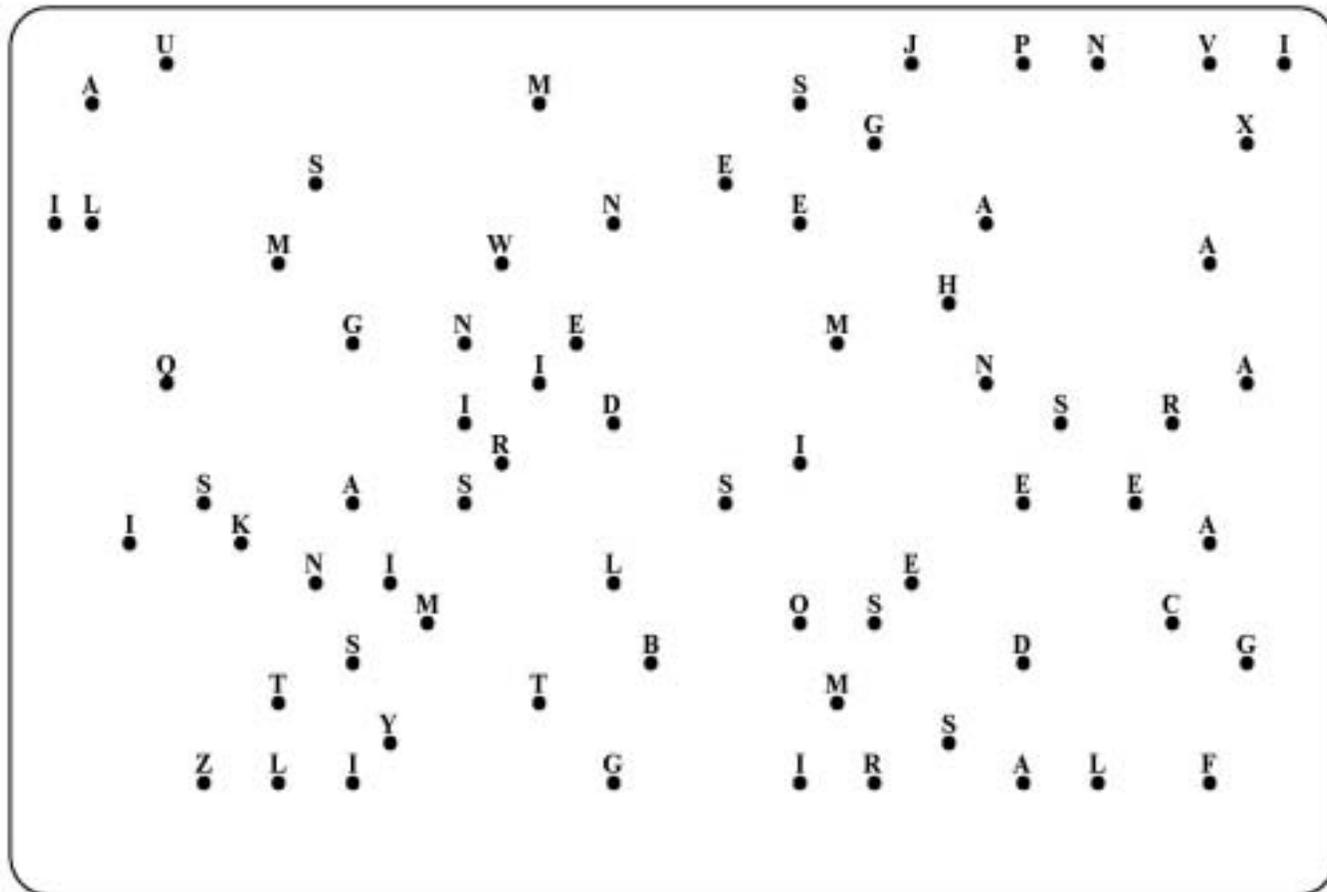
### Directions:

1. peel your onions and cut them in half as equally as possible.
2. Prepare your meatballs how you want them — I used italian seasoning, oregano, chili powder, minced garlic, ketchup, worcestershire sauce and some bread crumbs
3. Size your meatballs so that they can be squished between two pieces of onions. Some meat will push out the ends and that is okay!!! Just make them as compact as possible!!
4. wrap each onion bomb in tinfoil-- might want to double them since they'll be tossed in the fire! Make sure not to poke holes in the foil!!
5. toss in the fire and try to get them in the coals.
6. cook for about 10 minutes, flip em around and cook another 10 minutes or so!!!

## —BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH PUZZLE—

Connect the dots to form words.  
Some letters will NOT be used.

FLAG SKIING	DISNEY PIRATES	SAILING QUEENS	MARSHALLS BEAST	MERMAID SWIMMING
----------------	-------------------	-------------------	--------------------	---------------------



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



# — Water Quality —

## Water Quality Annual E coli report

Those who have been following this subject during the past 5-6 years are aware that we have been testing the lake for E coli each year to ascertain the safety of our waters from a microbiological perspective. The decision to perform the testing was made in response to some initial concerns following the installation of the sewer system around the lake. This testing program was at first contracted out to a third party to ensure transparency and accuracy. However, for the past few years we have conducted the testing in house as it can be done more economically.

This test is only a screen to see if a problem exists that warrant further analysis. As with the original third party testing, our own testing since, and inclusive of this year's testing, we have identified no issue with E coli contamination of Birch Lake. We will further elaborate on this in the ensuing paragraphs, but for now enjoy the lake.

E coli is a natural part of the intestinal flora of warm blooded vertebrates and is extremely important to our intestinal health. Testing for E coli is an indirect way to test for fecal contamination in both drinking water and recreational bodies of water. One cannot test for all the possible bacterial species that may be present but E coli has proven to

be a good indicator species. High levels of E coli may be indicative of the presence of other potential pathogenic species that could cause illness should they be ingested while swimming etc. No body of untreated water, (i.e. Birch Lake), would be expected to have no E coli. Gulls, geese, ducks, swans, and runoff from dog, raccoon, and rabbit droppings will inevitably lead to some E coli, but very low levels that would not be a concern. We do not have cow or pig fields directly adjacent to the lake, we do not have septic tanks anymore, and our sewer system is intact. Hopefully folks are picking up their dog doo doo.

The sampling this year was at the same locations as the last few years. Triplicate samples were collected from a kayak in about 2-3 feet of water. 5 ml from each sample was mixed with a nutrient medium (agar) containing foodstuffs that would cause E coli colonies to become purple/blue. The agar was plated out on petri dishes and incubated for 48 hours at 95 degrees F, and then examined for colony numbers. The samples from the only location which has contained objectionable levels of e-coli, the small stream leading into the lake at the NE corner, had it's usual high number of colonies which was well beyond



safety limits for swimming. This result, no different from past years, comes from the location where we have previously demonstrated genetically that this E coli is not of human origin (i.e. sewer etc). However, from the 12 other samples (3 each from four other sites), seven plates had no colonies and colony counts for the other 5 were way below safety limits. This included a site about 30 feet from the stream outlet and no colonies were demonstrated in all three of these samples, illustrating the dramatic dilution of the stream's e-coli upon contact with the lake. Thus, the data this year is consistent with past years and **we do not have an E coli problem in the lake.**

**O'Donnell's**  
**Docks LLC**



Southwest Michigan's Premier Dock & Lift Headquarters



Sales and service of all major docks, boatlifts and water front accessories

Serving you for over **20 years**

12097 M-60 • Jones, MI  
269.244.1446  
e-mail: [info@odonnellsdocks.com](mailto:info@odonnellsdocks.com)



For an on-line quote, go to:  
[www.odonnellsdocks.com](http://www.odonnellsdocks.com)

Authorized dealer for



Open 7 days a week



**Moomba**  
Wakeboard Boats

**SUPRA**  
2013 BEYOND BETTER



**Avalon**  
Catalina



Luxury Pontoon

**APOLLO MARINE**  
SALES  
SERVICE  
STORAGE

SOUTHSIDE OF GRAVEL LAKE  
15355 96TH AVE  
Lawton, Michigan 49065  
269.423-6011

**1-888-996-BOAT**  
We rent Pontoon Boats  
Service to most area lakes!  
[WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET](http://WWW.APOLLOMARINE.NET)

# 2013 Birch Lake Yacht Club officers and directors

## 2012 BLYC Officers

**Chas Grundy** Comm (H).....476-7062  
Chas.grundy@gmail.com

**Patty Luecht** (E).....476-2615  
Pgalloway4@yahoo.com

**Holly Troeger** Treasurer (E).....476-9898  
amvine@aol.com

**Mike Sheffieck** Secretary (W).....476-1849  
mcsheff@aol.com

**Mike Lutz** Fleet Captain (N) .....476-2843  
mmtlconcrete@aol.com

**Steve Quinlan** (W).....476-8802  
stevequinlan2@yahoo.com

**Vicki Rogers** (C) .....476-8802  
tvrogers@frontier.com

**Rick Russwurm** (N).....476-2407  
paramountp@aol.com

**Scott Troeger** (E) .....476-9898  
scott.troeger@btlaw.com

**Denise Smitley** (W) .....476-9000  
dsmitley@industrial-pack.com

**PJ Vandewalle** (H).....476-7086  
pjvandewalle@gmail.com

## 2012 BLYC Directors

**Bob Baucus** (N).....476-2863  
rebauc@aol.com

**Greg Bolin** (W) .....476-2420  
gbolin31@aol.com

**Karen Brovold** (W) .....476-8862  
karenbrovold@yahoo.com

**Harold Cranmer** (W).....476-2170  
dhcranmer@yahoo.com

**Terry Dugan** (S) .....476-2814  
s581122@aol.com

**Celia Fallon** (E) .....476-1467  
celia.fallon@gmail.com

**Fred Freihofer** (N).....476-9823  
cdfreihofer@aol.com

**Pam Mullin** (N).....476-1080  
Clasegirl1@comcast.net

**Alan Van Huffel** (S).....269-244-3487  
abec3@aol.com

**Phil Vitale** (E).....476-1680  
sailorphil@philvitale.com

**Sue Williams** (S) .....476-8886  
smwillia@comcast.net

## NON-DIRECTOR ATTENDEES:

**Jim Bollinger** BLYC Homeowners' Association  
Chairman (E).....476-9737  
debo36@comcast.net

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

**Bob Waddle** (E) .....476-2293  
sparkybob220@comcast.net

### Handyman Repairs

- Roof to basement - inside and out
- Floors, doors, stairways, ceilings and windows
- Siding, roofing, driveways and sprinklers
- Decks and fences; fascia and soffits
- Plumbing, electrical, heating and A/C
- Piers and Seawalls

### Home Maintenance

- Painting - interior and exterior
- Snow removal - sidewalks, driveways & roofs
- Gutters and chimney cleaning & repair
- We do windows
- Power washing, insulation and weatherproofing

### Lawn Care

- Spring and fall yard clean up
- Tree and shrub trimming
- Rototill your garden
- Mowing and Trimming
- Fertilizing

### Property Management

- Reliable caretaker
- Fulfills all absentee homeowner's needs
- Periodically checks your property
- Provides second home peace of mind
- Call for all lake property requirements



**Dave's Residential Services**  
(269) 476-2797; Wireless (269) 362-0724  
davehardisty@comcast.net

# CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

## FOR SALE



**1976 CADILLAC ELDORADO CONVERTIBLE**  
Firethorn red exterior, red leather interior, white top (with hard "parade" boot), one owner, <79,000 miles, all original, "straight" body, never wrecked, always stored indoors, clean title, call Bob at 574-276-9999 to arrange a showing and / or test drive. Serious inquiries only please.

**YEAR ROUND HOME**, 1240 sq. ft. on 52 ft. lake-front lot. Bedroom and bath on main floor, 3 bedrooms in upstairs loft. Fireplace and central air. Detached 2 stall garage. Sewer assessment paid in full. \$335,000. Call (269)476-2642.

**WOODEN PIER** ... approx. 60' long with 16' wide deck at end for lounging the day away! All upright pieces included as well as aluminum step ladder for attaching to pier. \$500 OBO. Call Vanessa, 476-8885 or 630-988-2225

Do you know anyone who would like to be on Birch in a completely renovated, spacious, 3 bed, 2.5 bath **HOME WITH LAKE ACCESS** for \$199,000? Call 574-215-0336.

**FOR SALE NEAR YACHT CLUB**: four lots approved for building worth \$13,500 each or closest

best offer. Get several people together and buy two and you can build (maybe a pole barn, guest cabin, house, etc.). Call 574-596-2154

**KIDS' RAZOR E300 ELECTRIC SCOOTER.**  
Rechargeable. \$75, Kevin. 773-304-8042 or 269-476-2166

Available for purchase — **ARTISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY IMAGES** from near and far. Frameable cards, as well as matted work, canvas and metal pieces. Custom work is welcomed. Call Carol Dugan at 476-2814 or email at CDugan5310@aol.com. Besides participating in regional art shows, Carol's images contribute to the collections at Michiana Hematology and Oncology.

## FOR RENT

**BIRCH LAKE COTTAGE FOR RENT.** Located on the west side of Birch Lake, just off Walnut Road. Weekly rental - \$650. Times: In Sunday 10 a.m. Out the following Saturday by 12 (noon). To reserve your week call 269-476-2744

**CUTE COTTAGE FOR RENT.** 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, attractive and clean. Great view of the lake from large, landscaped deck and multiple windows. Call to reserve your week. 574-386-8609.

## SERVICES OFFERED

**PROPANE GRILL TANK SERVICE**, \$15 pickup/delivery included. If you run out I have spare tanks I can loan to you. Bill Butler 574-596-1343, or 269-476-9905.

## WANTED

Wanted: **Two twin mattresses and box springs**, in good condition. For Camp T. Call Amber at 476-7144.

**RENTALS WANTED:** Due to Brittany Gableman's wedding, we are looking for **SEVERAL COTTAGES TO RENT** for the nights of August 2nd and 3rd. Call 574-596-2154. Thank you! Claudia and Dennis Phipps

## 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).

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

**Want a Barker classified? Free for BLYC Members, \$5 for others: email to sailorphil@philvitale.com**



# BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

## 2013 Dues, Contribution & Donation Form

SUPPORT THE BLYC; SUPPORT THE BIRCH LAKE COMMUNITY!



\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)**

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **BLYC Associate Member Dues**

**(\$10 / year)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Building Improvement Fund**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Fireworks Fund**

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Water Quality Program**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Milfoil/Loosestrife**

**Eradication Program**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Safety Committee**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **Other non-party related expenses**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - **BLYC Roof Fund (NEW)**

Make checks payable to  
**BLYC**  
c/o Holly Troeger  
1516 Ash Dr. East  
Elkhart, IN 46514

PRE-OWNED  
**SALES**

**BOATS, MOTORS,  
LIFTS, PWCS**

Putting the  
**SERVICE**

**in CUSTOMER SERVICE**  
Pickup, Delivery, Detailing,  
Summer Trailer Storage

*Service Above and Beyond*



**Summer  
Trailer  
Storage**

**Indoor  
Winter  
Boat  
Storage**

**Boat Butler llc**

***Buy A Boat — Sell Your Boat***

We Buy & Sell Boats, Personal Watercraft & Boat Lifts

Open 7 days a week "by appointment" for your convenience

**Pre-Owned Specialist**

**Specializing in pre-owned Boats, Motors,  
Lifts and Personal Watercraft**

**to answer all of your boating needs!**

**269-476-2222**

[www.boatbutlermarine.com](http://www.boatbutlermarine.com)

# We've Got You Covered!



SUMMER'S HERE!  
CALL US TODAY!

- Retractable Awnings for Deck & Patios
- Roll Curtains for Screened Porches
- Boat Covers and Tops
- Canvas Repair
- Aluminum Awnings



---

**SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION**

---

**Call us for a free  
at-home  
demonstration!**

*Locally owned  
and operated  
since 1985*



12291 Bidelman Road • Three Rivers at Big Pleasant Lake

**269 244-5307**  
[www.sunandsshadeawning.com](http://www.sunandsshadeawning.com)