

The official publication of the
BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

Birch Barker

Weekend of July 20, 2013

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Dezi Ward, granddaughter of Julie and Tom Lacy (south side), celebrated her first birthday with family on July 13 at Birch Lake.

Summer afternoon

Commodore's Comments

"Summer afternoon - summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language."

~Henry James

Amber and I have a perennial debate. Like many married couples, we agree on one particular thing and have since spent 9 years disagreeing about everything else. This debate revolves around summer weather. (And really, what's sillier than arguing about weather?)

Personally, I prefer a cool, breezy but sunny day. Anything within five degrees of 70 is fantastic. It is the weather I most associate with the emergence of spring and, in the autumn, with the return of college football and apple

cider. These are happy times.

Amber, by contrast, prefers the heat.

It isn't so much that she enjoys sweltering temperatures. To her, summer is all about camp — and camp is more fun when it's hot. It means swimming in the lake and eating ice cream fast before it melts and drips onto your hands. A week like this one, with a full camp and some hot temperatures, is one that sticks indelibly in the memories of kids for years to come. Those too are happy times.

No matter which you prefer, summer afternoons are undeniable. For those of us who live at Birch Lake year-round, we survive the winters for memories of summer afternoons like these; for the crisp, clear waters and the many friends who join us for so many happy times.

~ Commodore Chas

2013 BLYC Calendar

July 20	Poker Run, 3 pm
July 26	Men's Golf Outing, noon
July 26	Ladies on the Lake
July 27	Public Safety Fair & Pancake Breakfast, 8am, Cass Shrine Club
July 27	Camp T Hog Roast
August 3	Corn and Sausage Roast
August 6	SEPSA millage renewal election
September 7	Fall Dinner
September 7	Sailing Awards
September 14	Card and Game Party
October 12	Chili Cookoff

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

Fall Dinner date changed

Due to a scheduling change, The Fall Dinner 2013 will be September 7. Please Save the Date. More information coming soon.

~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 —

53rd Annual Birch Lake Men's Open Golf Outing Update:

We have 11 teams are committed so far. We are looking for a few more teams. If your still wanting to play but have not sent in the team information you need to contact Bill Holleman (wild-billh24@aol.com) ASAP.

Shot gun start at noon on Friday, July 26.

Team check-in by 11 am please.

Lunch is available at the club, but not included in entry fee (brats, burgers, dogs).

6:30pm dinner at the yacht club.

Teams prizes, cash prizes, and hole in-one prizes

Looking forward to a great time

Poker Run this Saturday

The Second Annual BLYC Poker Run is this Saturday ... 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 is available.

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 6 pm with cash



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!

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.

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 —

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.

Spearfishing, Bow fishing

Residents should call the DNR poaching hotline immediately (800-292-7800) if they see someone spear fishing or bow fishing on our lake. It is illegal to fish that way on Birch because we are a designated trout lake.

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.

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.

Barker Deadlines

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

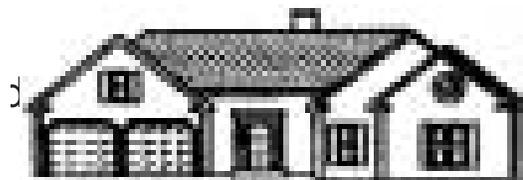
Question of the week:



Question: How many acres does Birch Lake cover?
A clue ... Diamond Lake covers 1020 acres.

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SEPSA millage renewal sought

On August 6 voters in Porter Township will see a millage renewal on the ballot for the renewal of the millage to fund the Southeast Public Safety Authority (SEPSA). SEPSA is the governmental entity that provides us the area with fire and ambulance service.

At Birch Lake, SEPSA has contracted these service to Newberg Township, SEPSA Fire Authority, and Newberg Fire and EMS responded to 412 Medical Calls, and 131 Fire Calls in the last 12 months within our Community.

SEPSA is funded by an Extra Voted Millage that was approved by the electors of Porter and Mason Townships at an election in August of 2007. This millage is set to expire with the 2013 winter tax levy. SEPSA has placed a RENEWAL on the ballot for the August 6 election to CONTINUE funding Fire and EMS operations in the entire service area. This RENEWAL is NOT AN ADDITIONAL TAX on your property, it merely CONTINUES funding for Fire and EMS response in our community at current levels.

Associated Benefits

The benefits of dedicated funding for Fire and EMS service in our communities are many and include training of

fire and emergency medical crews, updated fire and medical equipment and licensing, replacement vehicles, and many other obvious benefits.

There are other relatively unknown benefits as well. For example a Porter Township official has reported that since the Dedicated Millage was passed the Township has been able to spend over \$1.2 million on roads that would have otherwise gone unmaintained. This is only possible because the Township does not have to expend General Funds for the Fire and EMS system.

Ballot Wording

The formal ballot wording will mean that a "YES" vote shows that you are in favor of renewing the millage; a "NO" vote would signify opposition.

Other Homeowners Assoc. news

The Birch Lake Homeowners Association Board of Directors hosted their annual meeting last Saturday following the BLYC Board Meeting.

An estimated 18 people were present to hear Chief Michael W. Holdeman of the SEPSA Fire Authority discuss the upcoming millage renewal election.

Following Holdeman's presentation the annual meeting heard reports on

membership and finances, an update on the road speed limit issue and the lake level monitoring considerations.

A discussion was also heard on the dangers of weeds encroaching on the roadways and blocking sight lines — and all residents are encouraged to clear weeds, trees, grasses and vines along the roads next to their properties to ensure that motorists can see around the corners, particularly in narrow and blind-corner spots.

Thanks for the cleanup!

Many thanks to Staci W. and friend Matt (south side) for trimming and cleaning up the corner of Birch Rd. and Birch Lakeshore Dr. to make it more visible when driving to see other cars and people.

It looks great!!!!

~Julie Lacy

Thanks to Gordon & Michelle

Thanks also to Gordon and Michelle Seyfarth (east side) for clearing and trimming the weeds away from the 15 mph sign at the bottom of the hill off Walnut (at Kiloqua).

Although it is technically up to the Road Commission to clear weeds, proactive homeowners help keep us safe!



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— Barker kids of the Week —



Smiles all around! Chris Carey (west), Clare Brovold (west), Peyton Lapato (Cove) & Amanda Butler (west) were recently spotted splashing around.



Marty Ball holds her three week old great-grandson named Alec Xandar Stephen born June 25. Proud grandparents are Julie and Tom Lacy, south side.



Lucky's first visit ... sent in by David Currier, # 136 East Hill.



Birch Lake baby: Jack (almost 6 months), son of Chris + Brynn Carey & grandson of Marty Asire (west side), took his first swim in the lake. He is a 5th generation Birch Laker.

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Fleet Captain's Corner



Your weekly 'heated' sailing report

Well I hope everyone is dealing with the recent heat wave and spending time in our wonderful and peaceful waters! It is my pleasure to report we finally had enough wind to complete our usual three races! Winds were light to moderate, which made it for very competitive sailing!

I would like to thank our committee boat participants, "Bad Patty," "Questionable Patty," Blair, Karen and Eric! We are always looking for people to help on the committee boat, please call "Bad Patty" or myself if you would like to help out!!

Last week the committee boat nominated Dave Olson for the "Best Sportsmanship" award. From what I was told, Dave was reaching the finish line thinking he had finished the race in first place and then realized he had missed a mark. Not saying anything he



turned and raced off to the missed mark and completed the course!

Congrats Dave!!!

Good sailing and we will see you on the water!!

~Fleet Captain "Mike"

Committee Boat Schedule:

July Races
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 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 Weekly Sailing Results

Race	12	13	14	Total	Point
Date	13-Jul	13-Jul	13-Jul	Points	Average

MC Scow

Scott Troeger #1489	2	1	1	17049	1550
Jeff Smitley #2002				15228	1523
Phil Vitale #500	4	3	5	19790	1414
Bill Luecht #1579	1	2	7	19719	1409
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412	3	7	3	15022	1366
Gib Eberhart #916	6	6	2	13497	1350
Bob King #1199	5	4	4	13057	1306
Dave Olson #1979	7	5	6	4973	1243

Sunfish

Stewart Spratt	1	1	1	12413	1552
Erica Vitale (White)				4644	1548
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	4	3	12099	1512
Sandy Vitale (White)	2	3	2	20540	1467
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green)		2	6	11412	1427
Brad Davis				5494	1374
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	4	6	4	19123	1366
Katie Luecht (White/Red/Blue)				2665	1333
Peter Soldoto				6555	1311
Bill Butler	5	5	5	17024	1310
Amy Lutz (Yellow/Blue)				3267	1089

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

Correction

In the 4th of July drift-fest Regatta, my scores were represented in numerical fashion. Per Fleet Captain Mike, the scoring system will not generate letter results so published output was numerical.

My actual scores were:

R1 - Did Not Start (DNS)

R2 - DSQ (Disqualified)

R3 - Did Not Finish (DNF)

This score report retort was brought to you by the letter D.

That is all (until there's more).

~Bob - MC 1199

CHI-MAC: ... Really Really Slow

(July 15, 2013) — By midday Monday there were still about 250 boats of the 301 starters left to finish the 333-mile Chicago Yacht Club Race to Mackinac, which for most of the fleet started on Saturday. So what keeps sailors busy during an epically slow race with cell service? Posting updates on the race's twitter account (@Racetomackinac) ...

■ "Day three: crew morale is lowered by the report that we have depleted our inventory of pre-cooked bacon"

■ "Food gone. Supplementing w/ protein from dead flies. Anyone know a good sauce choice to go with?"

■ "Things are looking grim with only 5 gallons of sun-

screen remaining."

■ "Flat water, 1 knot of breeze on occasion, frequent double zeros on the knot meter unbearably hot in the sun, hotter below deck."

■ "Does anybody need a 7 pm reservation to the Iriquois? Don't think we'll be there in time."

■ "The only thing consistent about this Mac is the flies."

Around 9 pm CDT Monday, when a lot of the fleet should be passing Gray's Reef, the weather models are predicting dead calm. The forecast indicate that by early in the morning winds may fill a bit and hopefully bring the remaining fleet in by sometime midday Tuesday.

<http://www.cycracetomackinac.com/>

— America's Cup —

Luna Rossa Challenge 2013 (ITA)



Luna Rossa AC72 catamaran - published with permission © 2013 ACEA (America's Cup Event Authority)

Photo Gilles Martin-Raget

The Luna Rossa “brand” (translation: Red Moon) was conceived by House of Prada Billionaire Patron Patrizio Bertelli. Luna Rossa Challenge 2013 sails under the Circolo della Vela Sicilia Yacht Club burgee.

Though Luna Rossa has a long history with the America's Cup, beginning with great success in the 2000 Auckland regatta(s), they were a late entry this go. A quirk in the 2013 Protocol, the governing document negotiated under mutual consent, allowed design sharing and cooperation amongst Challengers through early 2012.

The Luna Rossa design and initial

boat / wing package was purchased “off the rack” from fellow Challenger Emirates Team New Zealand (ETNZ). So, in a sense, their carbon catamaran is ETNZ boat 2 and the Kiwis are campaigning their boat 3. That said, the Italians now steer their own course for aero and hydronamic enhancements.

Prada, ever known for high fashion style, well ... the Italian boat is impossible to appreciate in the photo above (printed here in black and white). The hulls, most of the wing, the soft sail jib and even the crew gear livery are all reflective chrome with Prada-red accents.

No matter how they place in the racing ... the Italians finish first in style.

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

Supplemental Notes:

Last week the Emirates Team New Zealand profile failed to identify their Yacht Club affiliation — the Kiwis sail for the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron, current holder of the Louis Vuitton Cup trophy.

The Louis Vuitton Cup Challenger Selection Series is now underway in San Francisco, California. Go to americascup.com for more.



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— Birch Lake Memories —

Birch Lake — a Grandson Remembers

You can't go home again but ... you can always return to Birch Lake.

For almost 60 years I have been blessed to visit this heaven on earth. In the late 1950s my grandparents, Frank and Anna Bodza, assumed a small cottage on the East Hill. Their selfless generosity and sacrifice transformed this spot into a magnificent oasis of Summer delight.

Four generations of Bodza/Curriers have been privileged to enjoy the endless wonder of this magical fountain of youth.

The "healing water," fresh air, sunshine and tranquility always take me back to childhood. Lord the fun we had; swimming, fishing, skiing, catching turtles, exploding fireworks and just playing till dark. None of this can be found in a ipad, a playstation or a "smartphone."

All these years later I'm still stunned at the placid beauty of this idyllic setting.

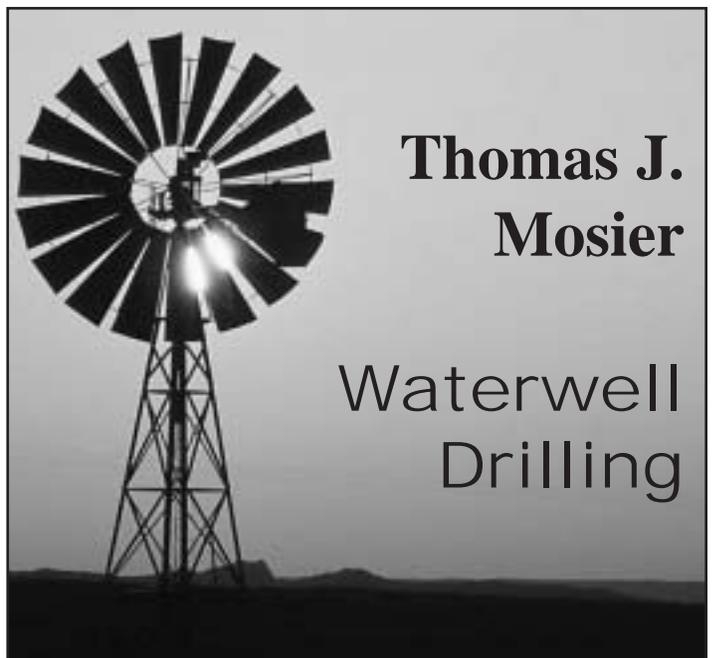
So as I write these words from the hammock at the edge of shore the waves gently lap at the rocks and the puffy white clouds float across a perfect blue sky. I close me eyes and hear my Grandma ringing the dinner bell and Gramps walking off the pier with a stringer full of fish ... and I thank them for this gift that has lasted a lifetime.

~ David Currier # 136 East Hill



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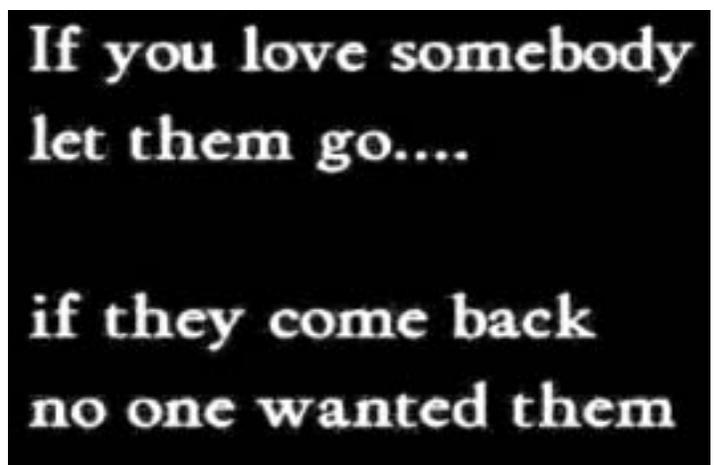
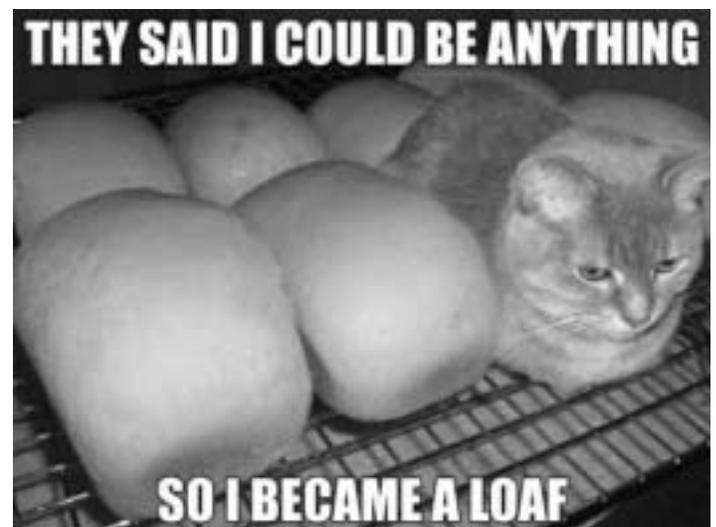
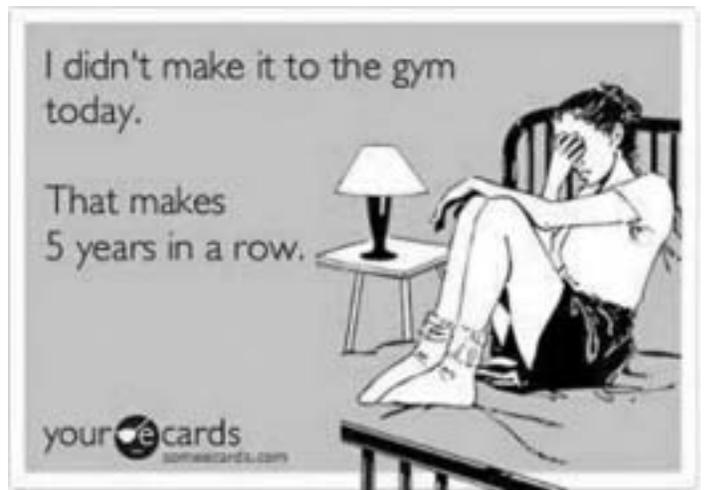
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



IF WE WATCHED COOKING SHOWS
THE WAY GUYS WATCH SPORTS



I wasn't planning on going for a run today, but those cops came out of nowhere!

PONDERISMS (some things to think about)
If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a song about him?
If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, then what is baby oil made from?
Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet Soup?

Stu's Star Stuff

One star that always outshines

The moon is not always the brightest object in our sky. Many nights Saturn, Jupiter and/or Venus may be brighter, but normally only during new moon periods. But even when the moon is brighter than the planets there is still one other star that always outshines ... our sun.

Our Sun has been doing the same thing for the past four-and-a-half billion years, steadily converting the hydrogen in its core to helium, releasing enormous amounts of energy in the process. And it'll keep on doing that for billions of years to come.

Over the eons, that slow, steady change produces major consequences: The Sun gets bigger and brighter as it ages. That trend has important consequences for Earth and the other planets.

As a star converts more and more hydrogen into helium, the core contracts, squeezing the core and making it hotter. That revs up the rate of nuclear reactions, which increases the amount of energy produced in the core. That energy pushes outward on the surrounding layers of gas, making the star expand. It also increases the total amount of energy the star radiates into space, making it brighter.

Models of stellar evolution say the newborn Sun was probably only about 70 percent as bright as it is now. But that creates some problems. Studies show that both Earth and Mars were much warmer in the distant past. With a fainter Sun, though, that shouldn't be the case. The young planets should have been desolate iceballs.

When you turn up your thermostat, it gets warmer. In the case of Earth and Mars, though, it appears to have been just the opposite. Both worlds are cooler today than they were when they were young, even though their thermostat, the Sun, keeps getting cranked higher and higher.

As stars age, changes in their cores cause them to get bigger and brighter. Models of how stars evolve show that the early Sun should have been only about two-thirds as bright as it is today.

With less solar energy reaching their surfaces, Earth and Mars should have been much colder than they are today. But the geological record shows that billions of years ago, Earth was much warmer. Mars was warmer, too, with a thick atmosphere and water flowing across its surface.

There's a range of possibilities for the discrepancy, which is known as the young-Sun paradox. The Sun could have been slightly more massive than it is now, for example, making it brighter.

Other ideas say the difference is in the planets.

The young Earth, for example, had much less land than it does today. Water reflects less sunlight into space, so it may have held onto more of the feeble solar energy. Or volcanic activity may have belched more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, or simply made the atmosphere denser than it is today. Either would have trapped more of the Sun's energy allowing the young planet to crank up its own thermostat.

In the future, the Sun will continue

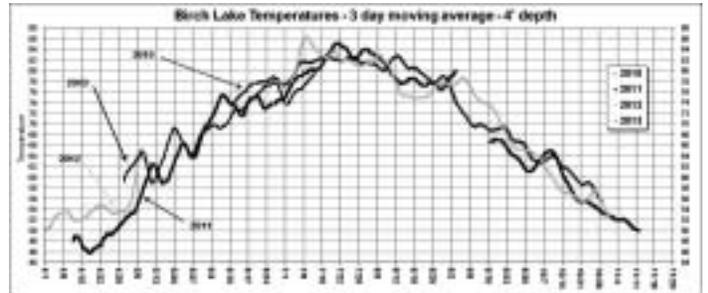
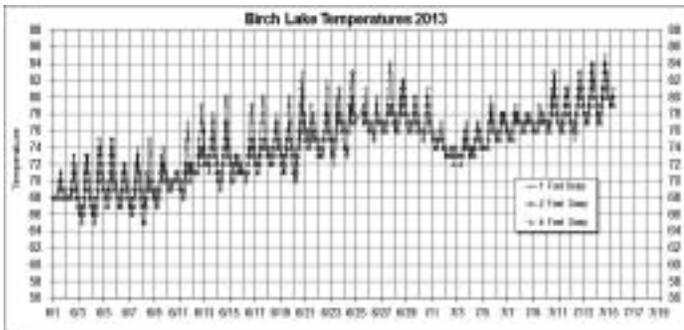
The Moon for July 6
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.306
1.8 days before first quarter



Sunrise: 6:28am
Sunset: 9:12pm
Moonrise: 9:37pm
Moonset: 9:39am
Day length: 14h 43m

to get brighter, which is bad news for Earth. Scientists think that in three of four years, it'll be about 10 percent brighter than it is now. That extra energy may be enough to vaporize Earth's oceans turning our planet into a burned-out cosmic cinder. (Did I leave out the word billion somewhere?)

Look for the sun high over head at mid-day most any day this month. It's easy to spot. The rest of the show starts about ten hours later and admission is free.



Water Temperature charts provided by Steve Quinlan (west side)



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

ARIES — (Mar. 21-April 20) — Be considerate and avoid being overly opinionated, or arguments will ensue. Pleasure trips will be most enjoyable and should lead to new and lasting friendships. You will encounter those who can help you further your goals if you attend functions that attract prominent people. You have more than enough on your plate already. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

TAURUS — (Apr. 21-May 21) — Put your thoughts on paper. Lighten up your serious attitude. Do your job and then spend some time with family; you'll be glad you did. Look into real estate. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

GEMINI — (May 22-June 21) — It would be in your best interest to stay away from any intimate involvement with a client or coworker. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Put your energy into home renovations. Prove your worth; concentrate on getting the job done and steer clear of office politics and gossip. Your lucky day this week will be Monday.

CANCER — (June 22-July 22) — Don't make a move; your confusion has caused this dilemma and you are best to back away and reassess the situation. Don't hesitate to come right out and ask for the pertinent information. Be cautious who you deal with financially. Your lover may not understand your needs so you must figure out a way to communicate them. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

LEO — (July 23-Aug 22) — Opportunities to make financial gains will develop through your connections with other people. Groups and organizations that indulge in social events to raise money will be conducive to meeting new and exciting lovers. Stop those bad habits. Visitors may relieve the tension. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.

VIRGO — (Aug. 23 -Sept. 23) — Use discretion in your dealings and refrain from making verbal promises of any kind. Entertainment could cost you more than you expect. Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. You can finish projects early, which will bring you praise from superiors. Your lucky day this week will be Thursday.

LIBRA — (Sept. 24 -Oct. 23) — Ferret out information that will hold them responsible. Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. You are best to be discreet. Be prepared to take advantage of your good fortune. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

SCORPIO — (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22) — Don't get involved in other people's private doings. Romantic encounters are evident through travel or educational pursuits. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. Find out if they have other commitments. Your lucky day this week will be Friday.

SAGITTARIUS — (Nov. 23 -Dec. 21) — Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time; don't push them, instead just continue working on development. You may not be that popular at home but you should be able to shine at social gatherings. Be sure to get involved in self improvement programs that will bring you in contact with interesting people. Hassles with female colleagues may lead to problems with your boss. Your lucky day this week will be Saturday.

CAPRICORN — (Dec 22.- Jan. 20) — Be cautious when dealing with coworkers. You will be extremely receptive to new and progressive methods at work. Pleasure trips should be on your agenda. Don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar grounds. Your lucky day this week will be Tuesday.

AQUARIUS — (Jan. 21 -Feb. 19) — Calm down and take a step back. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. You can make money if you get involved in real estate deals. If you put your energy into physical outlets you will avoid confrontations. Your lucky day this week will be Sunday.

PISCES — (Feb. 20-Mar. 20) — gamble unless you can afford to lose. You may want to get involved in financial investments presented to you. Don't ruffle the feathers of those you care about most. You will be relentless when it comes to getting yourself back into shape. Your lucky day this week will be Wednesday.



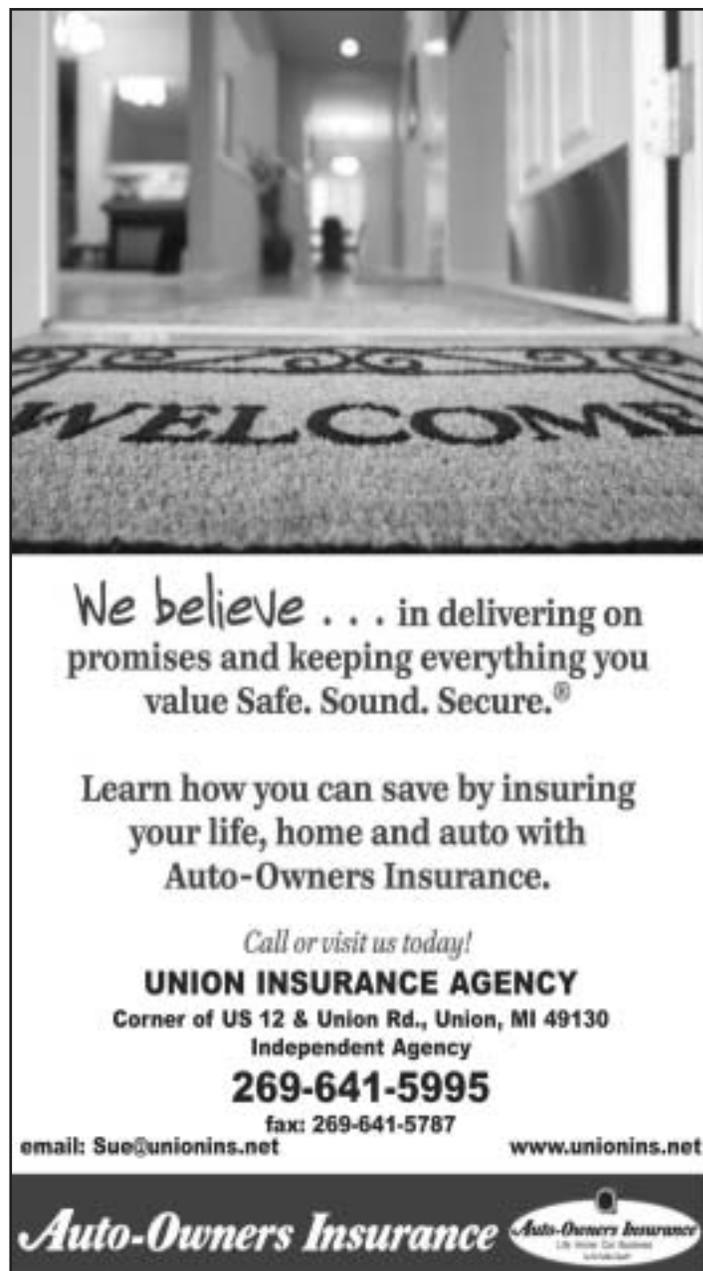
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~Birch Lake Recipes~

Easy Beef Stroganoff

Ingredients:

- 1/2 to 1 pound of lean ground beef (use more or less to make it as meaty as desired, 1/2 lb is usually a great ratio)
- 2 12-16oz bags of medium-width egg noodles
- 2 cans sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1 can cream of mushroom soup (Campbell's Healthy Request version works great and is better for you than the regular cream soup!)
- 1 10.5oz can beef consommé (an equal amount of beef broth plus one beef bouillon cube can be substituted)
- 1 12oz container sour cream
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp pepper

Instructions:

Fill a large pot halfway with water, cover, leave it to boil over high heat.

Meanwhile, crumble the beef into a large saucepan, add chopped onion and garlic powder. Sauté on medium-high until the beef is browned and the onion is soft. If the beef lets off more than 3 tablespoons of fat, drain it carefully. A little bit of fat will help the dish, while too much will make it greasy. Add the mushrooms, consommé, salt, and pepper to the beef & onion mixture. Simmer on low for 10 minutes.

When the water is boiling, add the noodles and cook until they are soft but not soggy. Drain carefully, leaving the noodles in the large pot.

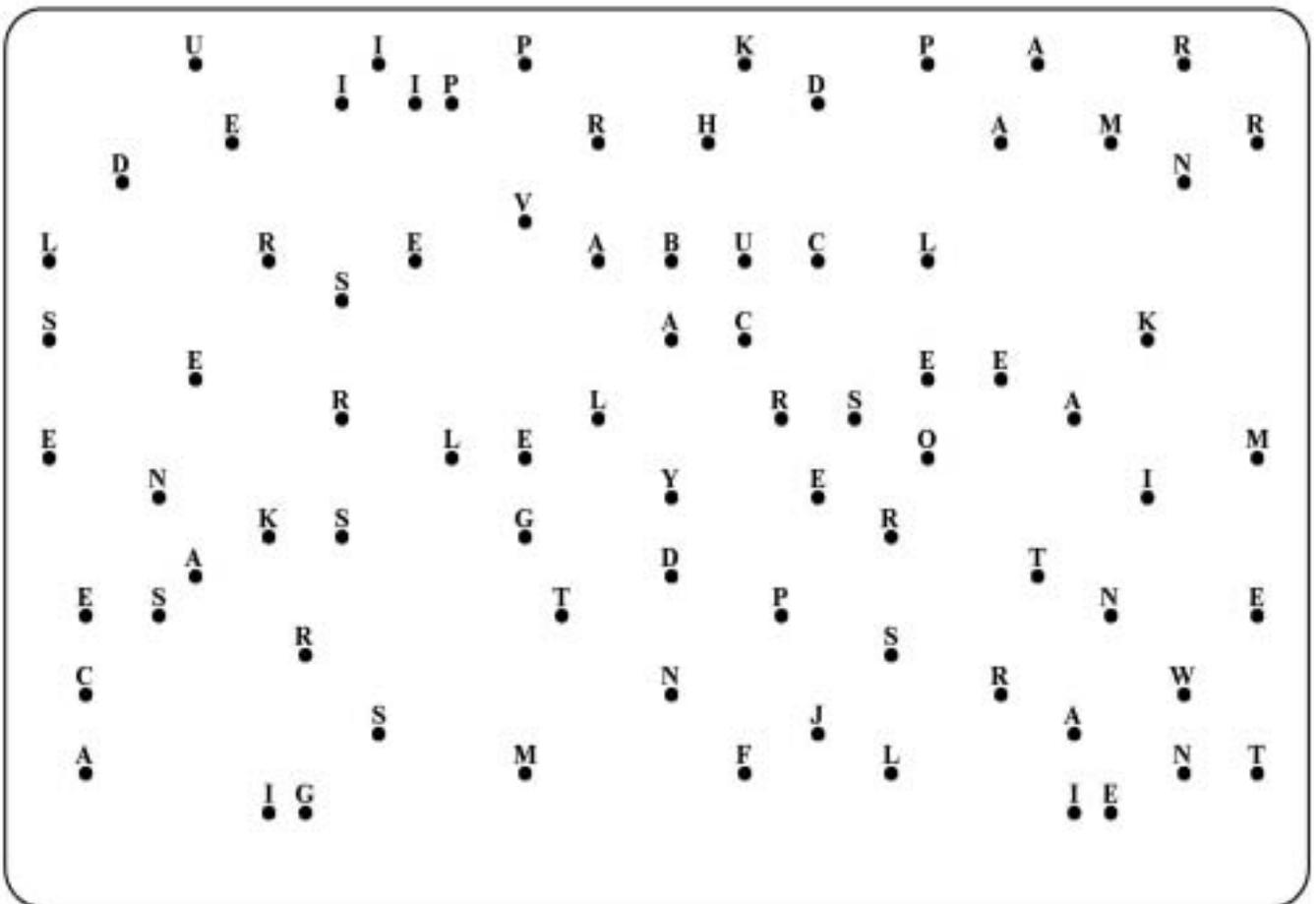


Add the ground beef & mushroom mixture, cream of mushroom soup, and sour cream. Mix gently until everything is combined. Let it sit, covered, for about 5 minutes before serving, giving all the flavors some time to blend.

—BIRCH LAKE WORDSEARCH PUZZLE—

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

MARSHALLS	SKIING	FIREWORKS	SUMMER	TURTLE
INDEPENDENCE	PIRATES	PANCAKES	GRILL	RACE



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



Birch Blog

Camp Tannadoonah

What a week!

What a week! This was our first completely full week for this summer, with a total of 105 campers in camp! The theme was Sports Extravaganza, which meant we had a LOT of boys! In fact, we had so many boys that we had to put boys in Morris Lodge. The older girls were very disappointed when they arrived, but the boys were ecstatic!

Sunday night we made enough noise at the waterfront doing water relays that we nearly scared the Lutzes away for the night. With all the hot weather this week, we spent a lot of time at the lakefront. Every afternoon was mandatory swim time, and several evenings we had sprinkler time or free swims after evening program.

This week we had two new volunteers at camp: Mark and Jennifer Liddell. Mark is the nephew of the Liddells who formerly lived on the hill on the east side. Mark spent the week coaching flag football (a first-time program here at camp!), and Jennifer led a weeklong scrapbooking class. They brought their whole family to camp - Kevin (age 10), Kamille (age 7), and Korey (age 3). Korey and Avery were best buddies by the end of the week!

This was a big week for waterskiing classes - we had 18 campers sign up for

skiing this week, which meant we had two boats running for part of the day, and one boat every afternoon. Many, many thanks to Celia Fallon and my dad, Bill Holleman, for all the time they spend on the water pulling skiers for camp!

We recently hired a facilities director here at camp. Cullen McKinley is a former camper and counselor here at camp, and most recently a camper parent. He had brought us many great ideas, and put in a lot of time working on a facilities plan, as well as taking over the maintenance tasks that need to be done while camp is in session. He will be working year-round in this position, taking care of repairs, getting quotes on projects, working with contractors, and will be instrumental in our facilities planning. We are so excited to have him on our staff!

Our camper numbers for this summer are still down from last year. We are at exactly 600 as of Tuesday. Last year on this date we had 639. We still have openings for next week - Buggin' Out Week (starting Sunday, July 21), and Holidays Week (starting Sunday, July 28). There is limited availability for Gypsy Week (starting August 4) - approximately 5 spots left! So we need to make a big push to fill these upcoming

two weeks, because we don't have much room to grow for that final week.

Please don't forget that next weekend is our annual Hog Roast event! The Hog Roast is scheduled for Saturday, July 27, starting at 5pm. We will have a ceremony to dedicate the new waterfront stairs, and will be introducing our two new legend tree inductees. After that we will have live music, lots of great food, camp tours, and tons of fun! Please join us to celebrate all the contributions of our camp staff, volunteers, and donors.

-Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org

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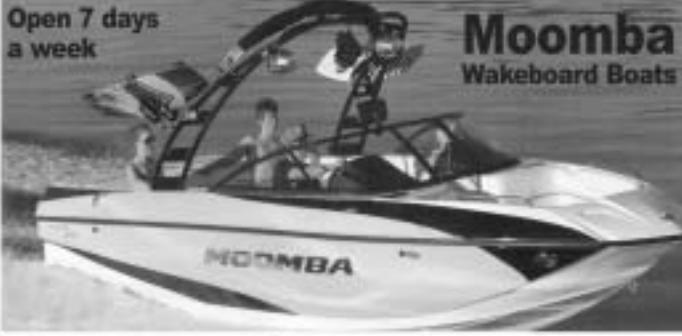
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Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee
Chairman (E).....476-1467
paulf@hrpconstruction.com

Bob Waddle (E)476-2293
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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

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

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



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

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TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

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(\$10 / year)

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