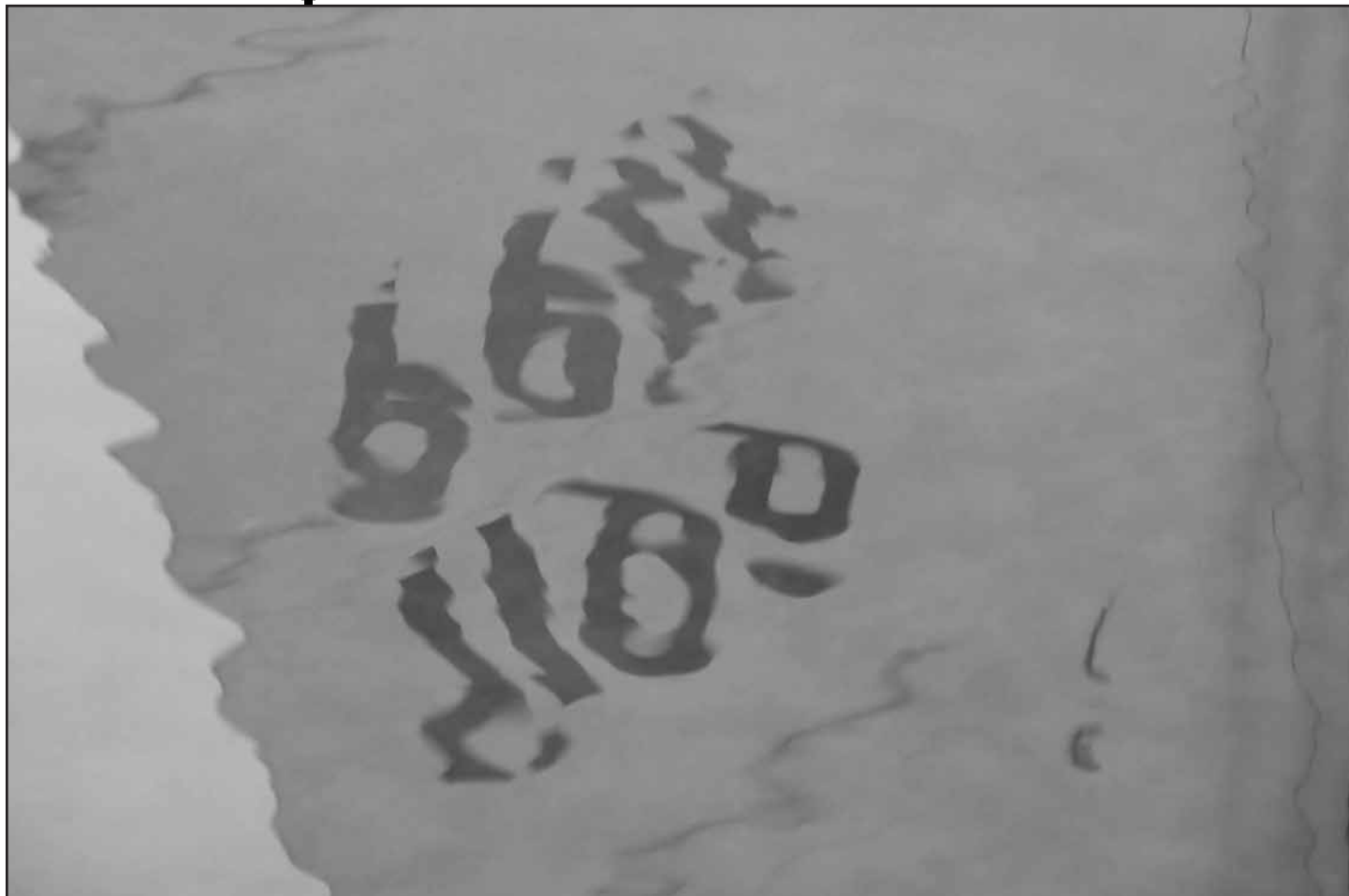


The weekend of | Aug. 13 2016

# Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**



Thanks to Mr. Bob (north shore) for the interesting reflection photo ...

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**R**oll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer  
Those days of soda and pretzels and beer

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer

You'll wish that summer could always be here

It's always around this time every year, that I get a little melancholy about summer. It seems we want to hang on as long as we can, but we know those summer days are dwindling. Even though the calendar says August, there are hints of fall all around. Kids going back to school, preseason football games are playing, and the Birch Lake Fall Dinner is right around the corner!

Mark your calendar for August 27 and come to the Yacht Club for the Fall Dinner. Claudia has a great meal planned! See the ad in this Barker for more information. You will need to get your tickets by August 20. We sure hope to see you there! The annual meeting of the Yacht Club members always takes place after dinner, so plan on coming to find out what's been going on and to

meet the new Vice Commodore. Any ideas who the lucky person will be? Me neither! Claudia has kept it top secret!

A big thank you to Bernie and Blair Garceau and Mike and Julie Sheffieck for co-chairing the Corn and Sausage Roast last Saturday evening. They always do such a great job, and this year was no different. It was a huge success! Of course, what do you expect when you combine great neighbors with a delicious meal? Everyone left happy and full!

The 2017 Birch Lake calendars are going fast! Call Linda Yoshizawa, Carla Chester, Vickie Rogers, or me to get one. You get 13 beautiful Birch Lake pictures, plus all those little calendar squares to keep yourself organized, all for only \$15. What a deal!

We have enjoyed such beautiful weather this summer. With weather like we've had, there's no better place to be than on Birch Lake! Sure hope you are enjoying these lazy, hazy days of summer!

~Commodore Sue

### Corn & Sausage - record crowd served by enthusiastic team

We saw a LOT of satisfied customers after another tremendous Corn & Sausage Roast last Saturday. An amaz-

## 2016 Birch Lake Calendar

- Aug. 12 .....Friday Night Flotilla - 6:30
- Aug. 27 .....BLYC Fall Dinner 5:30 cocktails, 6:30 dinner (at the Yacht Club)
- Aug. 27 .....Vitales' 46th Anniversary (and just 126 days until Sandy retires) (unless she decides not to retire yet) And Calvin King's birthday

**BLYC Board Meetings (9 am)**  
Sept. 10 @ BLYC

**More info as available.; Dates subject to change; Watch the Barker for updates!**

ing record crowd of 182 lake neighbors and friends enjoyed perfectly grilled brats from Mills Market in Zimmyville, outstanding roasted sweet corn from a farm in Elkhart, hot dogs and chicken breasts. What a feast! All the meat was complemented by coleslaw, potato salad, green beans, baked beans, cookies, watermelon, lemonade and iced tea. And because of careful bargain hunting, all of that food was delivered at the SAME LOW PRICE as it has been for the last 5 years! Incredible!

Thank you to all who joined us at the Yacht Club to make this such a fun event, chaired by the Garceaus. And a BIG THANK YOU to the friendly and

# — Birch Lake Notes —

hard-working team that made the day so successful: Jim Hettmansperger and Bob Waddle for repairing the grill so expertly; the BLYC Board who set up all of the tables and chairs after their morning meeting; the smiling greeters and door managers Denise and Jeff Smitley; the efficient kitchen team of Blair Garceau, Patty Luecht, Vickie Rogers, Michelle Seyfarth, Karen Brovold, Julie Plaia, Patti Russwurm and Julie Sheffieck; the strong and speedy corn shucking team of PJ and Suzi Vandewalle, Claire Brovold and Devin Harper, and Commodore Sue and Pat Williams; and the "hot" grill team of Captain Bernie Garceau, Cornmaster Tom Rogers, Steve Plaia, Greg Bolin, Rick Russwurm, Bill Luecht, Gordon Seyfarth, Stan Pitakos and Mike Sheffieck; and SparkyCam photographer (and overall helper) Bob Waddle. Wow! What a night! Hope to see you all next year!



*Thanks to our Artist-in-Residence, Duffy Dufour for the great Birch Lake art ...*

## **2017 Birch Lake calendars here**

Thanks to all the photographers who submitted photos for the 2017 Birch Lake calendar. This year we received over 100 pictures. It was hard to narrow the selection to just thirteen and a little sad to have leave out so many wonderful photos. The calendars are available now. You can get yours from Vickie Rogers (476-2383), Linda Yoshizawa (476-2308), Sue Williams (476-8886), or

Carla Chester (476-1010). They'll also be on sale at the remaining Birch Lake events as long as they last. The cost for each calendar is \$15.

## **Library coloring contest**

The Mason-Union Friends of the Library is sponsoring an art contest for Pre-K to 8th graders. Creative landscapes in flat medium (pencil, paint,

water color, markers) of choice that can be up to poster board size (22x28). All entries received at the Mason-Union branch of the Library by August 16. Judging and award party will be on Wednesday, August 24. Gift Certificates to the first three winners in each age group. Small art prizes for all entry submitters. All entries should be labeled with name and age on the back.

# Simply STUNNING

**Have you seen the stunning new stamped-concrete compass rose at the Birch Lake Yacht Club?**

**This is just one example of the custom concrete services and products available to our friends and neighbors here at Birch Lake.**

**Interested in a whole new look for your plain old concrete garage, patio or entrance?**



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**mmtlconcrete@aol.com**

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Fire truck to be on display

Remembrance Rescue Project's FDNY Rescue 4 Fire Truck will be on display at the Middlebury, IN Fire Department during the Middlebury Summer Festival, Aug. 13, from 10 am to 8 pm. On Sept. 11, 2001, eight FDNY firefighters lost their lives trying to save others at the World Trade Center's South Tower. FDNY Rescue 4 was parked two blocks from the WTC's South Tower when the tower collapsed and destroyed this truck. FDNY Rescue 4 was restored and now is part of the Remembrance Rescue Project, a 100 percent volunteer program. The exhibit is a mobile memorial and teaching tool for Modern American History. For information go to <http://www.remembrance.co/> or contact C. Marc Tjaden (West Side), Remembrance Rescue Project Volunteer at 260-710-3995.

## Walk for Life - "People Who Care"

Come join in on August 27 from 9 am to noon and walk for Cancer fighters and survivors! Gather pledges and take a scenic walk is all it takes to make a difference. Proceeds will go to the Cass County Cancer Service, Inc. to help people with everyday expenses this is for residents of Cass County who are fighting cancer and need a helping hand.

There will be water stops along the route. A light lunch will be provided at the club after the walk. Bring your

friends, family, along with smiles and cash. The walk will start at the Conservation Club, down Birch Road to the "swimming hole" then back.

For more information or to make a donation contact Connie Sue Hulse at (574) 333-8838.

## Sailing Stuff

The 2016 Rio Olympics feature numerous classes including: 470 / 49er & 49er FX / Finn / Laser & Laser Radial / Nacra 17 / RS-X. Good luck finding any sailing TV coverage among the >5,000 hours broadcast on NBC and affiliates! To follow the regatta(s) online go to: <http://www.sailing.org/olympics>

## Updates on Birch Lake sailing

Sailors! Send me your cell phone numbers if you want to be included in text alerts and updates on the status of weekly sailing. 317 605 6421.

~Bad Patty

## Birch Lake Pooch Parade

The Third Annual Birch Lake Pooch Parade will be held Saturday, September 3 (Raindate, September 4). Registration will begin at 10:30 am, the parade will start at 11. The grand marshal will be our own veterinarian Duffy Dufour.

Birch Lake dogs and their owners are invited to meet at Ed and Carla Chester's home to kick off Labor Day

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Patty Luecht  
476-2615



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# — Birch Lake Notes —

weekend with our annual Pooch Parade. After the 10:30 registration, the parade will begin at the Chesters' at 11 and proceed north on Birch Road, making a loop at the Kinsey Street marina and ending back at the Chesters' house for the award ceremony.

Prizes will be awarded in these categories: Best Costume, Largest Dog, Smallest Dog, Cutest Dog, Best Owner-Pet Lookalike, Bushiest Tail, Longest Ears, and more. All canine participants will receive doggy treats!

#### **Parade Rules:**

1. Animals must be current on vaccinations.
2. No aggressive animals or females in season.
3. Animals must be on a leash and in the control of the owners at ALL times. Costumes are encouraged.

Parking for spectators and participants will be available at designated marked areas along the parade route. Spectators, bring lawn chairs!

A donation box will be available for donations to the CASS COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY and event expenses.

#### **Finally, a home!**

The hole where the Lacy cottage number 98 used to be will finally get a house on top of its four-foot crawl space! Completion of the modular home in the factory will be August 8, with the setting of the house within a week or so, we

hope. Letters will go out to all south side neighbors telling them the set date because of road closure on Birch Lakeshore Dr. As of now, we don't have a set date because the weather will play a part in that, and the readiness for the crane on our property.

The cape cod house will come in four sections, each weighing 15 tons, and will be interesting to watch go together. I will try to get a notification in the Barker so you can watch from the water!

Tom and I look forward to being full time residents in September! Its been a long time coming!

~Julie Lacy

#### **e-mail scam persists**

A couple weeks ago I wrote about some emails supposedly from a Birch Laker with an abbreviated message and a note that it couldn't show the entire message but I should "click here" to view it. I warned that this was a scam and it would hack your address list and email itself (with the virus) to everyone on it. Apparently it is still making the circuit around Birch Lake. Always be wary about opening unknown email attachments, even from trusted sources.

#### **BLYC Welcoming Committee**

We are ready to rock and roll on our Welcoming Committee. If you know of a new neighbor please contact Vicky Rogers at 269-476-2383 and Linda

Curtis at 574-361-2629.

#### **Printed Birch Barker**

The Birch Barker is a service of the Birch Lake Yacht Club and provided free of charge every weekend to all the homes on Birch Lake, thanks to our generous advertisers.

The Barker welcomes the submission of editorial and advertising materials for publication (at the discretion of the editor). The deadline for submitting ads and information for any Barker is by 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the August 6 issue is 3 pm on Tuesday, July 26) ... thanks.

Send your kid-of-the-week to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com I'm at 476-1680. For questions or problems with delivery please contact Sue Williams (476-8886, email: smwillia@comcast.net) or Bob & Sue Waddle (476-3393 or email: sparkybob220@comcast.net).

#### **Online Barker**

The full, weekly printed Birch Barker is once again online this season, along with selected additional content ... just go to [www.philvitale.com](http://www.philvitale.com) and follow the links.



**Vickie Hall**

CELL  
574/849-9957

OFFICE & FAX  
269/641-7928

[www.VickieHall.info](http://www.VickieHall.info)  
[willowtree.vickie@gmail.com](mailto:willowtree.vickie@gmail.com)

13549 U.S. 12 / UNION, MI 49130

When it comes to choosing a Realtor, it's not about claims of having or selling the most listings. Nor is it about the claims of being the "Lake or Waterfront Expert." It's about who will provide you with a quality experience and good results from listing or searching to closing. Read what my clients have to say and then call me when you're ready to sell or buy.

**Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake**  
"Vickie is an extremely dedicated professional who will make you feel like you are her top priority. She can grasp complicated situations easily, explain them to you accurately, and then wisely advise you as to what to do. We found her knowledgeable in many areas and helpful in many ways beyond her obligations as a Realtor. You will enjoy working with this personable, warm, trustworthy lady who will take the stress and strain of buying and selling a home off your shoulders and put them onto hers."

**Amanda North Druckeniller** "Working with Vickie to sell our home was a pleasure! Our home sat on the market for a year with another realtor. We switched to Vickie and had an offer within a month! Vickie is prompt, professional and very knowledgeable in her field. I strongly recommend her for your realty needs!"

**Tom Davidson -- Top qualities: Personable, Expert, High Integrity**  
"Vickie did an excellent job in finding a house in Michigan that represented what I was looking for. She also was instrumental in providing detailed information on the history of my property and several adjacent Birch Lake properties which along with her knowledge of building regulations allowed me to obtain a reduction in property taxes. She is dependable, knowledgeable, and follows through. I would highly recommend her."

**Tony Clark -- Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres**  
"Vickie is the hardest working and most knowledgeable Realtor I have ever known. I have flipped about 7 properties. She sold my partner's house on Eagle Lake in a couple of weeks. While another Realtor had the listing for 9 months. She helped with taxes, inspections and legal transfers that were outside of her realm of duties."

See more at [www.VickieHall.info](http://www.VickieHall.info) under the "resources" tab

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# — Birch Lake Notes —



Nancy Helen Phipps, 95, five year resident of Birch Lake and formerly of Bloomington, IN passed away on Sunday August 7, 2016 at the Center for Hospice Care in Elkhart after a short illness.

Helen was born November 16, 1920 in Lawrence County, Indiana and was the daughter of the late Andrew Jackson Inman and Frona (Blake) Brock.

Helen had worked at RCA and loved to knit, crochet, and garden. Helen made lap blankets for residents of local nursing homes and did so up until her illness several weeks ago.

Survivors include her son Dennis (Claudia) Phipps of Vandalia, MI, 2 grandsons;

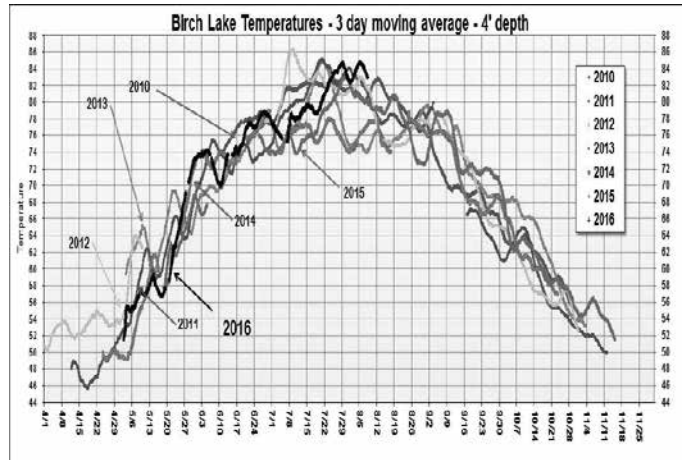
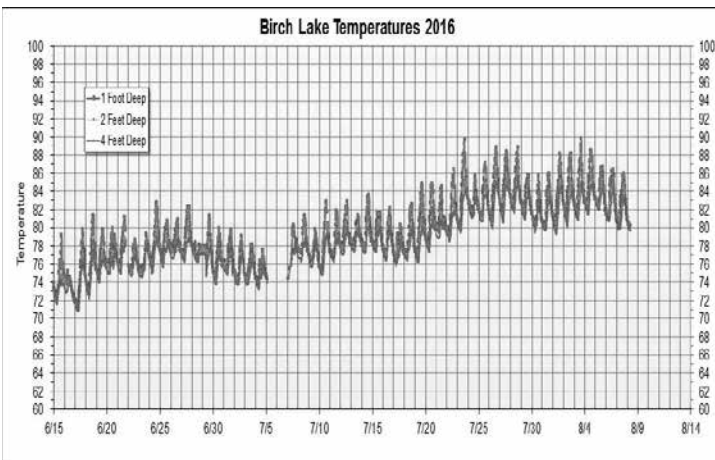
Deron (Bridget) Phipps, and Derek (Melanie) Phipps, 4 great granddaughters; Maggie, Grace, Natalie and Charlotte, 2 sisters; June Wisley and Imogene Brock and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Gardy Rex Phipps, 3 brothers; Lee Inman, Bobby Brock, and James Brock, and 2 half-sisters; Betty Lewis and Berdinia May.

Graveside services for Helen were held on Wednesday August 10, 2016 at Cloverhill Cemetery in Harrodsburg, IN.

Memories of Helen and condolences to the family may be given at [www.thefuneralchapel.net](http://www.thefuneralchapel.net)

## Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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14965 Birch North Shore Dr. 4 beds, 2 baths, Sandy Beach frontage on the North Shore **\$664,900**



14901 Birch North Shore Dr., Newly Remodeled, 3 Bed, 2 bath, 100 Feet on North Shore **\$535,000**

### Recently sold Birch Lakes homes



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<sup>1</sup> The number of sold lake homes is up 22% from 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 compared to 4/1/14 to 3/31/15. <sup>2</sup> Based on data from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, Sales of Inland Lake Homes and Properties, from 1/1/12 to 1/1/16 in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph Counties. Sales of properties where agents represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the M.S.A.R.



**SUNDAY IS SAILING DAY**  
 at Birch Lake. Races Start at 11  
 am ... please give 'em a break and  
 stay clear of the course.

And don't forget that  
**SAILBOATS  
 ALWAYS  
 HAVE THE  
 RIGHT-OF-WAY!**

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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Another week of great sailing

Last Sunday morning started with winds light to none at all. By 10 the winds had started to come around slowly from the Northeast. By 11 they had picked up to around 6 mph to gusting about maybe 10 mph by the start of the races. The 16 boats that did come out, encountered several occasions with little to no wind, but were able to start and complete all three races.

I need to thank, Bad Patty,

Questionable Patti, Deb Spratt and Marty Cleveland for running the committee boat and keep track of all the races and the final results. If you are available for some enjoying friendship and spectacular sailing call Bad Patty or myself and we would be glad to find room on the committee boat for you to participate.

Until next week "**SPLICE THE MAIN BRACE**"

~Fleet Captain Mike~



## 2016 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date ..... 7Aug ..... 7Aug ..... 7Aug ..... Total ..... Season ..... Races ..... %  
 Race ..... 15 ..... 16 ..... 17 ..... Points ..... Average ... Finished ... Finished

### MC Scow/Sailor 15

Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	DNS	21774	1555	14	93.3%
Jeff Smitley #2002	3	4	1	21081	1506	14	93.3%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	4	5	4	20279	1352	15	100.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	6	2	5	19977	1332	15	100.0%
Phil Vitale #500	5	8	6	15888	1324	12	80.0%
Bob King #1199	7	3	2	11765	1307	9	60.0%
Barb Cassady #2435	DNS	DNS	DNS	8944	1278	7	46.7%
Pat McGann #1735	2	6	7	15034	1253	11	73.3%
Gib Eberhart #916	8	7	3	11136	1237	8	53.3%
Maggie & Tom Cassady	9	DNS	DNS	1024	1024	1	6.7%

### Sunfish/Sailor 17

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	3	1	21930	1566	14	82.4%
Peter Soldato	4	1	2	23740	1484	16	94.1%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	5	3	22745	1422	16	94.1%
Herb Cleveland	5	7	4	23187	1364	17	100.0%
Sandy Vitale (White)	2	2	5	10834	1354	8	47.1%
Stewart Spratt	DNS	DNS	DNS	16133	1344	11	64.7%
Katie Luecht	DNS	DNS	DNS	3746	1249	3	17.6%
Bob Niezgodski	6	4	7	20373	1198	17	100.0%
Stefan del Rossi	DNS	DNS	DNS	3539	1180	3	17.6%
Bill Butler	7	DNF	DNS	10369	1152	8	47.1%
Greg Cowan	DNS	DNS	DNS	3417	1139	3	17.6%
Camille Butler	8	6	6	15610	1115	14	82.4%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	DNS	3334	1111	3	17.6%

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.



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## WINE & SPIRITS

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# **2016 BLYC FALL DINNER**

Saturday August 27<sup>th</sup> at the Yacht Club

Door prizes!

It's a **Black and White** Party

Dress in casual black and/or white

## **Social Hour 5:30**

Beer and Wine

***Wine tasting*** and food provided by Bacon Hill Kitchen and Pub

### Appetizers

Crostini with shrimp, avocado, sweet chili aioli with sesame seeds  
Sausage and Goat Cheese Stuffed Dates Wrapped with Crispy Bacon

## **Dinner 6:30**

Spring greens with toasted sunflower seeds, strawberries, blueberries, red onion, croutons, and  
lemon poppyseed vinaigrette

Assorted artisan breads and cornbread muffins with sweet honey butter

Smoked Pork Loin with strawberry balsamic barbeque sauce

Roasted potatoes with parmesan and garlic

Sugar snap peas with pine nuts

Assorted Banana, Boston, and Chocolate cream pies

## **Year End Wrap Up 7:30**

**Ticket Price: \$25.00**

All tickets must be purchased by August 20<sup>th</sup>

Please see the following to purchase your ticket:

Carla Chester 476-1010

Vickie Rogers 476-2383

Katha Machalleck 476-2642

Julie Sheffieck 476-1849

Michelle Seyfarth 476-1319

*Tickets must be purchased in advance and presented at the door*



# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Fill in your own caption for this interesting photo of netman Craig Fredlake (south side).

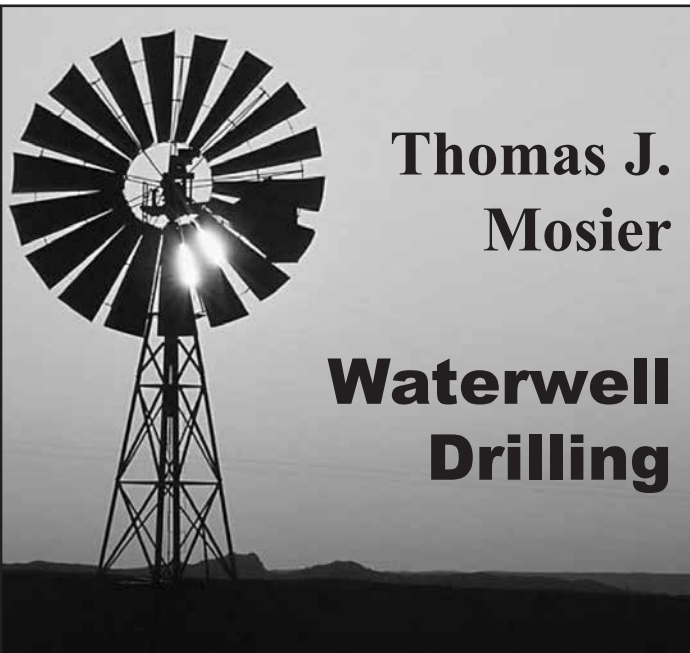
Thanks to Ed Levy for the photo



"Birch Lake girls" celebrating summer and Tim Burchell's birthday at his Birchaccla Party Bar (South Side). The girls are Sue O'Brien Davis (East Side), Jen Ball (East Side), Jill Tunnicliff Scholes (former East Side resident) and Di Henderson Wozny (South Side).

## KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Mail your kid-of-the-week to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (east side), or email to me at [SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM](mailto:SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM) Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you'd like them mailed back to you.



Thomas J.  
Mosier

**Waterwell  
Drilling**

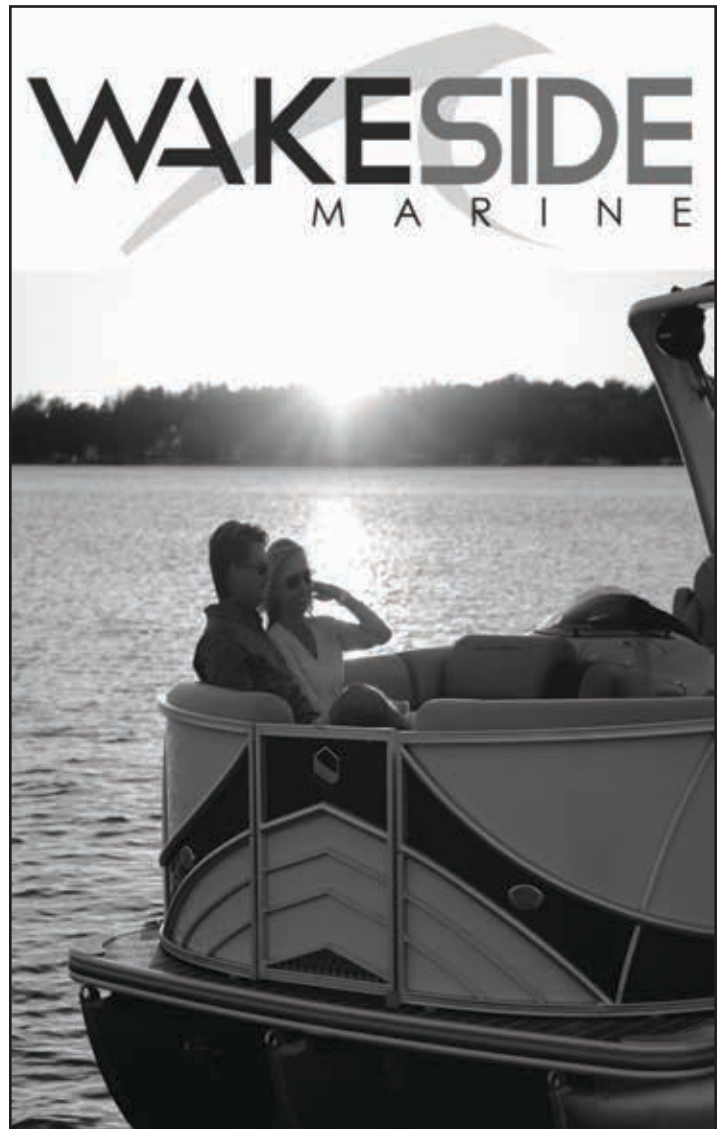
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*That's my grandson Cameron Phillips hauling in his first-ever "ginormous, ridiculous" biggest-ever bass off the end of my pier ... congrats Cam!*



*That's my neighbor, Past Commodore Bad Patty Luecht and her former college roommate Sally Deckard posing before trying to out-do last year's bash ... The pair were students at "That IU" a long time ago.*



## **Birch Lake (Cove) Home 62746 Woodland Drive**

*Newly remodeled 3 BR home on Birch Lake!  
New gas furnace and central air with all new duct work. New well and all new windows.  
New Nantucket bead board kitchen cabinets and all new appliances including a main level laundry area. Bath has all new fixtures. Open concept living and dining area with brick fireplace and skylight. Loft with bedroom, enclosed front porch and deck. All new flooring and newly insulated walls and drywall. Move in ready! \$289,900*



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PROPERTY.**



# — Barker Cats of the Week —

## Meow Mission needs help

Located in St. Joseph County, Indiana, the Meow Mission is an all-volunteer nonprofit that practices and promotes Trap/Neuter/Return. Michiana faces a problem most communities face – an overpopulation of free-roaming cats. A significant amount of these cats are tame, discarded pets. Feeling compassion, many families (referred to as “colony caretakers”) feed these community cats. Unfortunately, a great deal of the cats are found in low-income neighborhoods; often being cared for by the elderly and handicapped or house-bound.

Without our intervention, these cats will continue to breed, overwhelming our residents and animal control in a never-ending cycle. With your help, we are able to assist these kind-hearted folks and offer them the financial support needed to spay and neuter our community’s discarded and free-roaming cats. When needed, we can provide assistance in trapping and transporting the colony cats to the spay/neuter clinic for surgery.

The Meow Mission deeply respects our community cats’ right to life. We are dedicated to advocate for the protection and humane treatment of cats. More than 3,000 healthy cats are “eutha-



nized” annually in South Bend and Mishawaka’s shelters. The World Dictionary defines euthanasia as mercy killing – the act of killing someone painlessly especially to relieve suffering from an incurable illness. We do not believe exterminating healthy animals, simply because they don’t live inside a home, is “euthanasia,” it is inhumane, unnecessary killing.

But Meow Mission needs donations ... which can be made in Mishawaka at Martin’s Paw Mart, Bittersweet & Lincolnway -or- 211 W. 16th Street 46544, 24hrs/7days or in South Bend at ABC Clinic, 4525 South Burnett Drive,

M-F 7 am-5:30 pm -or- For Pet’s Sake Pet Grooming, 3023 W. Mishawaka Ave., M-F 7:30 am - 1 pm, Saturday 7:30 - 11 am, or you can call or text Diana Betzer (south side) at 574 274 3260. For more info visit <http://themoowmission.org/>

### Wish list for cats:

Cat food, wet and dry, Purina Kitten and Cat Chow, Iams kitten and adult food, Fancy Feast Kitten canned turkey, Purina One Sensitive System Formula, tuna, large litter boxes (18×15 inches, 5 inches deep), Tidy Cat scoopable litter, laundry detergent, bleach, hard plastic pet carriers, heated water dishes.

### Wish list for dogs:

Dog houses, straw, sturdy toys, Kongs, Nyla-bones, treat-dispensing toys, soft dog treat, large size Nylabones, Purina One lamb and rice, Iams adult and puppy dog food, Purina Puppy Chow, Iams and Pedigree canned food, Martingale collars, strong leashes (leather or thick ones), grooming supplies, old basketballs, footballs and soccer balls, agility equipment, dog beds, dog/puppy shampoo (oatmeal is best)

The wish list included are for Pet Refuge and Meow Mission. These are both non-profit and run by volunteers. Thanks!

Hope I can fill by Blue Bus.

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# STU'S STAR STUFF



In the modern-day universe, stars face a weight limit about 150 times the mass of the Sun. Anything heavier would be so hot and bright that it would blow away any additional gas that tried to fall on its surface, keeping it from getting any bigger.

In the early universe, though, the weight limit might have been much higher hundreds of times the mass of the Sun. Such stars would have blazed millions of times brighter than the Sun.

The difference is caused by slight changes in the recipe for making stars. The early universe contained only hydrogen, helium, and a tiny smattering of lithium elements forged in the Big Bang. As the universe expanded and cooled, these elements clumped together to make stars.

The cores of these newborn stars were hot enough to ignite nuclear fusion, which forces lighter elements together to make heavier ones. Heavier stars plowed through their original hydrogen and helium quickly, forging carbon, oxygen, and many other elements. And when they could no longer sustain the fusion reactions, they exploded. The energy of these blasts created many more elements.

The explosions filled the universe with many of these heavier elements, which could be incorporated into later generations of stars.

Models of star formation say these extra ingredients inhibit the growth of stars that are born today. The stars can still grow to monstrous proportions just not as monstrous as when the

universe was young.

Many of the first stars in the universe should have been stunner monsters hundreds of times heavier than the Sun, and perhaps millions of times brighter. Yet so far, astronomers haven't seen a single one.

These hypothetical stars are known as Population III. They formed from the hydrogen and helium gas that were created in the Big Bang. They quickly forged carbon, oxygen, and other elements, then expelled them into space where they could be incorporated into new stars. That process continues today, with each generation of stars adding to the chemical mix from which future generations will be born.

The Population III stars all lived billions of years ago, when the universe was quite young. Observed from Earth, that means the stars would be billions of light-years away. And at that great range, even the brightest individual star is far too faint to see with today's telescopes.

A recent study, though, says that clusters of these stars might be visible to future telescopes. Models by researchers at the University of Western Ontario show that gas falling into a newborn cluster could make it look especially bright. In fact, a cluster of as few as 16 of these stars could shine a hundred million times brighter than the Sun. Such a brilliant object should be visible to the James Webb Space Telescope, which is scheduled for launch in a few years. The telescope may bring the first stars in the universe into view for the

first time.

*~Stu Spratt*  
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## The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time,  
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)  
**Illuminated Fraction: 0.814**  
**4.1 days until full moon**



**Sunrise: 6:50am**  
**Sunset: 8:47pm**  
**Moonrise: 5:07pm**  
**Moonset: 2:21am**  
**Day length: 13h 58m**

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** This continues to be a playful time for Aries. All Aries should slip away on a vacation if possible. And if you can't go on vacation, pretend you're on a vacation! Treat yourself in some way! Enjoy sports events, the arts, movies, romantic dates and playful times with children.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** The celestial energy continues to urge you to focus on home, family and your private life. You will also enjoy opportunities to cocoon and "hide" at home. You might have to confront someone about something; and subsequently, you might be forced to modify your position. Mars will also increase your sex drive and make intimate relationships intense and memorable!

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Short trips, schmoozing with others, visits with relatives, neighbors and siblings plus an ambitious To-Do list will keep you hopping! In addition, many of you are reading and writing more than usual. Try to avoid unnecessary conflict. Who needs it? Not you!

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** Your focus on money and earnings continues to be strong. At a deep level, you are reflecting upon your values and examining the way that you use your assets (possessions and wealth) in your life. For example, do they serve your needs or do you serve theirs? (Face it -- you become attached to your stuff.) Fortunately, your relations with others are smooth and friendly because Mercury and Venus make you chatty, interesting, charming and diplomatic.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** The Sun is still in your sign boosting your energy and attracting favorable circumstances and people to you. This is a good! Meanwhile, Mercury, Venus and Jupiter are all in one of your Money Houses sparking moneymaking ideas and attracting opportunities to increase your assets. Venus will also encourage you to buy beautiful things for yourself and loved ones.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Because your birthday is just a few weeks away, you are "hiding" in the wings. However, you can use this time to plan and set goals (with deadlines) for your new year ahead. Make a list! What do you want to accomplish during the time from your birthday in 2016 to your birthday in 2017? This is an excellent week to buy wardrobe goodies.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** You are hyped because this is a fun-loving, social week. Everyone wants to see your face. Enjoy schmoozing with friends as well as being active in groups clubs and organizations. When you talk to others, take a moment to share your hopes and dreams for the future because someone might have helpful feedback for you. This is also a good week for research and doing work behind the scenes. Secret love affairs will also take place.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** This week you continue to be high viz., especially in the eyes of bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. Furthermore, people see you in flattering terms, which means now is the time to strike! Go after what you want! Get the permission or approval you need.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** This is one of the best times of the year for Sagittarius because Mars is in your sign boosting your energy, making it easy to go after what you want. In fact, Mars will pump your energy so much, it might be wise to get physical exercise and be athletic to blow off some pent-up steam. What is wonderful is that not only do you have lots of energy, you are motivated to travel and explore the globe!

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** There are mixed messages for your sign this week; and some of them are secretive and about behind-the-scenes issues. However, what is clear and upfront is your desire to travel and learn more, perhaps through courses or schools. Some of you might become romantically involved with someone from another culture or a different country. All of you are focused on shared property, taxes, debt and something to do with the finances of your partner.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** The Sun opposite your sign continues to give you a chance to learn more about your style of relating to those who are closest to you. You're analyzing your close relationships. This is not a time to go it alone.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** It's been play city for some time now, so who is surprised that you are gung ho to work and be as efficient, productive and effective as you can. Not only are you setting high standards for yourself at work, you are also giving yourself high standards when it comes to your health and puffing your bod. (Impressive.)

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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES





# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



*Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge*

## Roasted red peppers and cherry tomatoes with ricotta

**This high-summer salad hits every note on the sweet (red pepper), sour (tomato), salty (ricotta and anchovy), and bitter (olive) scale.**

### Ingredients

- 4 red bell peppers, halved, seeds and ribs removed
- 6 oil-packed anchovy fillets, finely chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, thinly sliced
- 1 cup basil leaves, divided
- Kosher salt, freshly ground pepper

- 2 tablespoons plus 1/3 cup olive oil
- 1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1/3 cup fresh ricotta
- 1/4 cup pitted small black and/or green olives
- Flaky sea salt

### Preparation

Preheat oven to 375°F. Place bell peppers, skin side down, in a shallow baking dish and top with anchovies and garlic. Tear 1/4 cup basil leaves over top, season with kosher salt and black

pepper, and drizzle with 2 Tbsp. oil. Bake until peppers are tender but still hold their shape and are slightly charred around edges, 35–45 minutes. Let cool.

Meanwhile, blend remaining 3/4 cup basil and remaining 1/3 cup oil in a blender until smooth; season basil oil with kosher salt and black pepper.

Arrange bell peppers on a platter. Top with tomatoes, ricotta, olives, and more basil, then drizzle with basil oil and season with sea salt and black pepper.

## Birch Barker Sudoku

### Puzzle of the Week

	3				8	1		
7		4					8	
			5	2	3		7	
				8			4	
8	4	9				6	1	5
	6			9				
	2		8	6	1			
	7					8		2
		6	7				9	

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

**H**ard to believe this is the last week of camp for the summer! Friday night (August 12) is our last council fire and Order of the Birch Award Ceremony. In honor of the kids who have earned the Order of the Birch Award this year, here are some of the poems and speeches that the campers wrote as part of their requirements to earn the award. They are asked to write about what Camp T means to them.

Wake up. The birds are chirping, the crickets are buzzing. Sunlight hits the ground in spots as it filters through the vegetation. The American flag is raised and we all have our first taste of that day's food together. We go to the activities where we can have fun with other campers, and learn life skills while doing it. Take a break from the fun to eat and rest, but nobody really rests. We talk, we play cards. Everyone gets a mid-day treat, and then it's right back into the activities. The camp has one last meal, and the day closes, but for one activity that the whole camp does together. But the best part is after evening activity and taps is played to honor fallen troops. The cabin has flashlights on, and they have discussions about their days, or even their lives. It goes on for a while, until everyone gives in to the tiredness they feel from their day of joy. Everyone falls asleep, and the cycle repeats. Camp Tannadoonah is a place for me to be who I really am, and to talk to friends that I've only know for a very short time like I've known them for years. Camp is my escape from reality, my home away from home. ~Nicholas

When I think of camp, I don't think about the bad things in life, the troubles of the world, or what stresses me out. I think about the memories that I have made in my 5 years at Camp Tannadoonah. I think about the friends that I have made, the ones I truly trust. I don't think about the people who try to put me down, I think of the ones that pick me up when I am down. I think of all the people who make me feel like I am at home, and like I belong. I think of the people who will talk to me about anything, big or small. Overall, when I think of camp I think about the people who I feel will

always be there for me, and although they might start out as friends or staff, I feel that they have turned into my family. These people are the reason that Camp Tannadoonah is such a special place to me. ~Joe

Six years ago, I came to Camp Tannadoonah. The world was huge, and my mindset was small. My first night was rough, and I was really homesick. I stuck through the week, and ended up loving camp. I was scared to be away from home, and more afraid that no one would like me. But as soon as I got to Camp Tannadoonah, that all changed. It's crazy to think that people you have never met in your life can show you so much compassion. I used to believe that camp was just a thing, nothing special. But I've realized that camp is what brings us together. Camp is playing cards, talking until 1am, and having dance parties at night. Camp has taught me a lot on how important friendship is. Camp has given me the friendships I've had here, and the friendships I have yet to make. Camp is a place where you are loved for who you are. It's where people from all over the world can become lifelong friends. Camp is where friends become family. And it will be especially hard to say goodbye at the end of this summer at Camp Tannadoonah. But in the end, we will all know where to go, because Camp Tannadoonah is our home away from home.

~Samantha

On a hill above a lake is a place I can truly be me. Since the first day I came here 5 years ago I knew I never wanted to leave. At camp I have made lifelong friends and memories. I have met so many great people with whom I have shared laughter and love. Here I have found peace when I am by myself looking onto the lake at the

waterfront. And have made some of the best memories when I am with fellow campers or counselors. My time at camp is always a great experience, each year better than the last. This makes it hard to say goodbye to camp and go back to the real world. A world filled with responsibilities and stress. But at camp you can escape the real world for a while, and spend time at a place of new experience, friends, and pure happiness. So you might just say that here among the trees is my favorite place to be. ~Olivia U.

Home. A place of peace, family, and friends. Where everyone is connected by one love, one heart. Everyone has a place they can call home. Mine is Camp Tannadoonah. Here is a place that I can truly be me and feel at peace. It's crazy to think that camp has been a part of my life since I was 8 years old. Whether it's playing cards with my friends at store, or being down at the waterfront on a sunny day. I'm always happy as can be. The experiences I've had and the memories I've made will forever be remembered and cherished. And the friends I've made will always be in my heart. Not only has camp changed my perspective on the world, but it has changed me as a person. No matter where I go or what I do, Camp Tannadoonah will always be my home away from home. ~Alexis




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**Saturday, August 13** – 8 am to 1 pm, Harvey Street across from the entrance to Camp Tannadoonah (Mullin's Garage). Books, toys, clothes, picture frames, kitchen & office stuff - you name it! Everything will be priced to sell!

## WANTED

**Looking for lake rentals** for next year starting June 10 through 24, 2017! May need 2 cottages. Location not important. Please contact Patty Luecht at 269-476-2615, text 317-605-6421 or email: pgalloway4@yahoo.com. Thanks!

**WANTED SUNFISH** - I am looking for a newer Sunfish in great condition to race and teach my wife and grandkids to love sailing. Pat McGann call or text 574-532-5377, or email pat@mcgannhay.com.

Camp is also looking for a **gas-powered wood splitter**. If you have one that doesn't get much use and you're interested in selling (or donating!) it, please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

## FOUND

Found: **Styrofoam noodle (pink) and boogie board (blue)**. Call Tom Kuhn 708-772-7373/Jan Temple (847-846-8600)



**This floated up on our shore.** We are on the east side located at 63418 Birch Rd.

## SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

## LOST

**Black canvas table cover from our pontoon boat.** It's about three foot square.. Lost on the North Shore. If found please call Roger at 269-217-9291.

## BIRCH BARKER CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to paid members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

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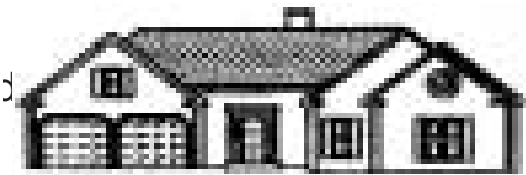
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