

The weekend of | **Aug. 20 2016**

# Birch Barker

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



*In case you missed it, two funnel clouds were spotted over the west shore last Sunday in the early afternoon. They dissipated harmlessly after about 10 minutes.*

*Thanks to east sider **CINDY BERNACIAK** for the photo*

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I would like to extend our condolences to the family of Helen Phipps who passed away on August 7. Helen lived on the North Shore with her son, Dennis, and Vice Commodore Claudia for the last several years. She was a regular attendee of many of our Birch Lake functions, and we will surely miss seeing her smiling face around the lake. Our sympathies also go out to Carla Chester whose mother died last week.

Even though we've had a couple of rainy days, we really can't complain (unless, of course, it keeps up for several more days!) The rain has been a welcome relief to our parched yards and low lake. The lake level increased several inches from all of the rain and looks like it's back up to about normal levels. It sure seemed easier getting our boat off the lift.

In case you've been wondering about the swan that's hanging out in the lake in front of our yard – no, we haven't got a new pet! It's just the latest in a long history of "Pat Williams' great ideas to keep the geese off our lawn." This one was sure to work. This was the best idea ever. After all, swans are supposed to be natural enemies of the geese. Only one problem, I think someone forgot to tell the geese! Either that, or they have figured out it's a fake! So, as you've probably guessed, we're still on the lookout for that one sure thing!

The Fall Dinner is quickly approaching. The deadline to purchase tickets is August 20 (that's THIS Saturday). So don't delay, and get yours today. The dinner will be at the Yacht Club next Saturday evening, August 27. More information is in this Barker. The annual meeting of the Yacht Club members takes place at the Fall Dinner. That's where I will turn the reins over to Claudia, and you will learn the identity

## 2016 Birch Lake Calendar

- Aug. 27 ..... BLYC Fall Dinner 5:30 cocktails, 6:30 dinner (at the Yacht Club)
- Aug. 27 ..... Calvin King's birthday
- Oct. 7 ..... Chili Cookoff, BLYC, 6 pm
- BLYC Board Meetings (9 am)**
- Sept. 10 @ BLYC

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

of the new Vice Commodore. That's always an exciting moment! So come and show your support, visit with your neighbors, and enjoy a great meal!

My Commodore days are dwindling, my time's almost up. Probably a good thing because I'm running out of material to write about! With that I will close for this week. Get out there and enjoy the lake because fall will be here sooner than you think.

*~Commodore Sue*

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Porter Township election results

### Supervisor Porter Township

Kim Evans 45

Cory E. Marlow 190\*

Steven A. Northrup 184

Terry Schutter 152

### Clerk Porter Township

Honna Gableman 259

Marty Russell 327\*

### Treasurer Porter Township

Helen Croninger 294\*

Tom Lutz 289

### Trustee Porter Township

Tom Harman 292\*

David Nagy 147

Julie Paksi 154

Robert W. Schultze 158

Leard Wylie 189\*

\*indicates winner



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

## Interested in Music and Art?

The South Bend Area Music Teachers Association will be participating in Art Beat 2016 on Saturday, August 20, from 11 am – 7 pm. This event, which showcases the work of local visual, performing, and culinary artists, will be held in downtown South Bend. The SBAMTA booth will distribute information about our organization and its programs, including scholarship opportunities for students as well as their teachers, membership information and more. We will also have a musical craft. Proceeds from the \$1 craft will go toward the Stickley Scholarship Fund.

SBAMTA's booth will be close to the corner of Wayne/Michigan. Please stop by and say hi!

- Linda Witchie

## 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 nar-

row 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.

# 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.

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## 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.

## 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 (Rain date, 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 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.

## 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



## BACK ON TRACK!

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

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 sailphil@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: sparky-bob220@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.

## Fill the van for the animals

Pet Refuge and Meow Mission are still collecting a variety of items to help pets without a home ... at Birch Lake the contact is Diana Betzer (south side,

behind Bender's and next to Whiteman's). Diana is hoping to fill a van full of needed items to help out. You can drop items at her home or she is willing to pick up items at your home, just call or text 574 274 3260.



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**Patty Luecht  
476-2615**



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[willowtree.vickie@gmail.com](mailto:willowtree.vickie@gmail.com)



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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 —

Wanetta J. McFall, a lifelong resident of Elkhart, died with her family by her side at the age of 95 on Thursday, Aug. 11. Wanetta was born, in Elkhart, July 11, 1921, to Leland "Pete" and Marjorie (Syson) Fletcher. She was a graduate of Elkhart High School.

She married Donald Ray McFall on Nov. 18, 1945, in Albion. Don passed away Jan. 22, 2005. In addition to her husband, a daughter, Leanne J. Brill; granddaughter Monique R. Atkinson; sister Patricia Pixley; and her two brothers, LaVon Fletcher and Charles Fletcher preceded her in death.

Wanetta is survived by her daughters, Donetta "Dee" (Dan) Atkinson of Fairfield Glade, Tenn., Cinda (Terry) Belanger of Granger, and Carla (Ed) Chester of Vandalia, Mich. (east side); her son, Thomas (Teresa) McFall of Bloomington; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a brother, LaMar (Donnabelle) Fletcher. Also surviving are her half siblings, Reggie and Ronnie Fletcher, Thomas Fletcher, William Fletcher and Heloise Almars.

In addition to her role as a wife and mother, Wanetta spent a career as an

executive secretary employed by Driftwood Homes, Labour Pump Co. and as secretary to the chief of the Elkhart Police Department, retiring in 1984.

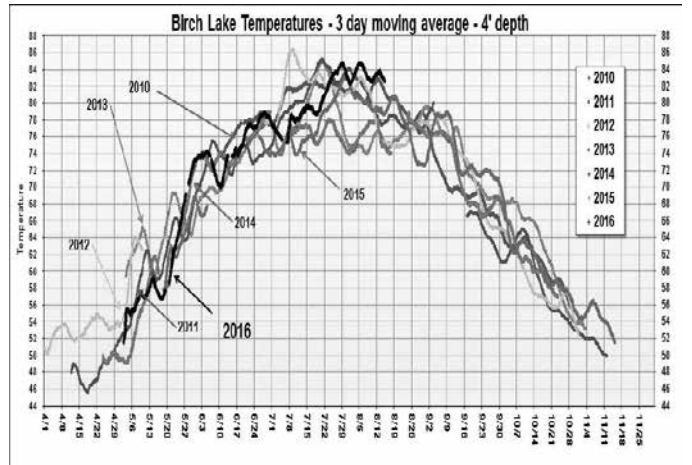
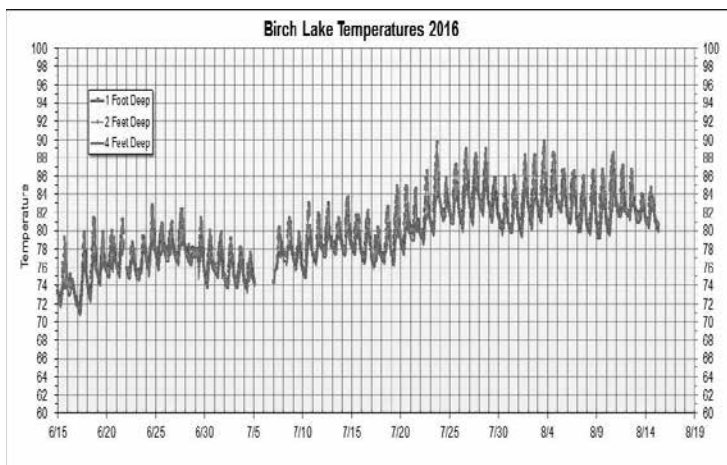
In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to Harbor Light Hospice or a charity of one's choice.

Online condolences for Wanetta may be sent to [www.billingsfuneralhome.com](http://www.billingsfuneralhome.com).

Our sympathies to the family.



## Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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\* 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. † Based on data from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, Sales of Inland Lake Homes and Properties, from 1/1/12 to 12/31/15 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.

# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## No winds, scrubbed again

Harold and I met twice last Sunday, first at 10 am, when there was some light winds forming but not quite enough to sail. We met again at 11 am, and the winds were even lighter, so we had to scrub the sailing for the day. Hopefully the wind Gods will make it favorable for this Sunday!

Thanks to all the sailors that waited to see if the winds picked up, I know that possible hour delay makes havoc on scheduling your day!

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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# **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 —



Greg and Marcia Bolin's (west side) new dog Annie and Jack enjoying the lake.

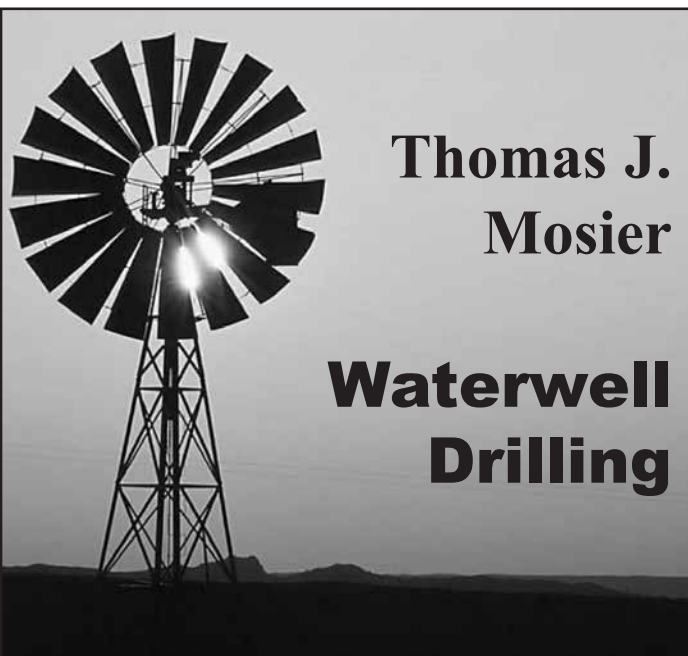
Thanks to NICK BERGAN for the photo



That's our granddaughter Morgann Applegate in a "glamor" shot ... Morgann (as well as four of our other grandchildren) just finished camp and are busy getting ready for school to start. Morgann also had to move with her father to central Illinois and start at a new school. Good luck at school!

## 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)



Thomas J.  
Mosier

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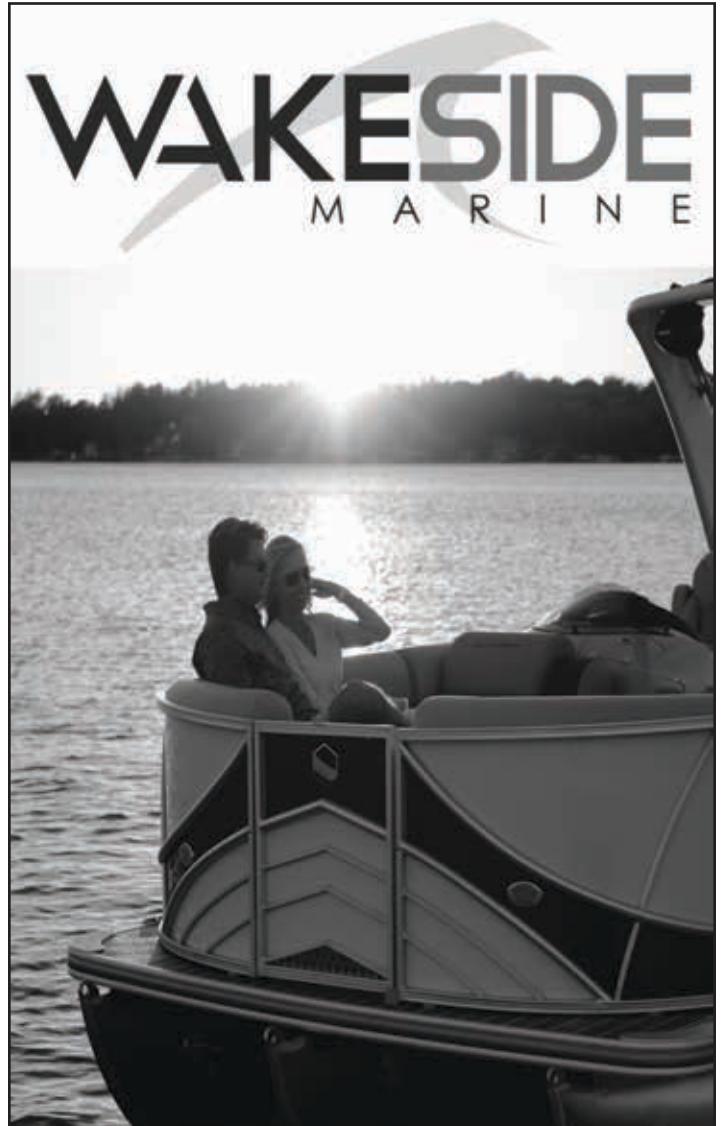
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Apparently the late rock star Prince made a “return” appearance to join the boys at last weekend’s annual Sausage Fest at the Kinzler’s (west side).

thanks to **JOHN DECLOEDT** for the photo



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

*Newly remodeled 3 BR home on Birch Lake!  
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Bad Patty and son John Luecht are Barker Kids of the Week ... John took a week's vacation from his job at McDonald's to spend time at the lake.*

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### Home Maintenance

- \* Painting - interior and exterior
- \* 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 our 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

**FIREWOOD AVAILABLE**

# STU'S STAR STUFF

**M**ars, Antares, and Saturn remain tightly grouped this month, although Mars begins to move away from the others at month's end. By then Venus will be inching its way into the early evening twilight, beginning a long run as the Evening Star. One of August's greatest treats, though, is the Milky Way, which arcs overhead by midnight. It's anchored in the south by one of my favorites, tea-pot shaped Sagittarius, which is next door to Scorpius, home to Antares and the temporary home of Mars and Saturn.

The Milky Way Galaxy is an immense and very interesting place. Not only does it measure some 120,000 light-years in diameter, it is home to planet Earth, the birthplace of humanity. Our Solar System resides roughly 27,000 light-years away from the Galactic Center, on the inner edge of one of the spiral-shaped concentrations of gas and dust particles called the Orion Arm.

But within these facts about the Milky Way lie some additional tidbits of information, all of which are sure to impress and inspire. Here are ten such facts, listed in no particular order.

## 1. *It's Warped:*

For starters, the Milky Way is a disk about 120,000 light years across with a central bulge that has a diameter of 12,000 light years. The disk is far from perfectly flat though. In fact, it is warped in shape, a fact which astronomers attribute to the our galaxy's two neighbors -the Large and Small Magellanic clouds.

These two dwarf galaxies, which are part of our "Local Group" of galaxies and may be orbiting the Milky Way, are believed to have been pulling on the dark matter in our galaxy like in a game of galactic tug-of-war. The tugging creates a sort of oscillating frequency that pulls on the galaxy's hydrogen gas, of which the Milky Way has lots of.

## 2. *It Has a Halo, but You Can't Directly See It:*

Scientists believe that 90% of our galaxy's mass consists of dark matter, which gives it a mysterious halo. That means that all of the luminous matter, i.e. that which we can see with the naked eye or a telescopes, makes up less than 10% of the mass of the Milky Way. Its halo is not the conventional glowing sort we tend to think of when picturing angels or observing comets.

In this case, the halo is actually invisible, but its existence has been demonstrated by running simulations of how the Milky Way would appear without this invisible mass, and how fast the stars inside our galaxy's disk orbit the center.

The heavier the galaxy, the faster they should be orbiting. If one were to assume that the galaxy is made up only of matter that we can see, then the rotation rate would be significantly less than what we observe. Hence, the rest of that mass must be made up of an elusive, invisible mass, aka. dark matter or matter that only interacts gravitationally with "normal matter".

## 3. *It has Over 200 Billion Stars:*

As galaxies go, the Milky Way is a middle-weight. The largest galaxy we know of, which is designated IC 1101, has over 100 trillion stars, and other large galaxies can have as many as a trillion. Dwarf galaxies such as the aforementioned Large Magellanic Cloud have about 10 billion stars. The Milky Way has between 100-400 billion stars; but when you look up into the night sky, the most you can see from any one point on the globe is about 2,500. This number is not fixed, however, because the Milky Way is constantly losing stars through supernovae, and producing new ones all the time

(about seven per year).

## 4. *It's Really Dusty and Gassy:*

Though it may not look like it to the casual observer, the Milky Way is full of dust and gas. This matter makes up a whopping 10-15% of the luminous/visible matter in our galaxy, with the remainder being the stars. Our galaxy is roughly 100,000 light years across, and we can only see about 6,000 light years into the disk in the visible spectrum. Still, when light pollution is not significant, the dusty ring of the Milky Way can be discerned in the night sky.

The thickness of the dust deflects visible light but infrared light can pass through the dust, which makes infrared telescopes extremely valuable tools in mapping and studying the galaxy.

## 5. *It was Made From Other Galaxies:*

The Milky Way wasn't always as it is today - a beautiful, warped spiral. It became its current size and shape by eating up other galaxies, and is still doing so today. In fact, the Canis Major Dwarf Galaxy is the closest galaxy to the Milky Way because its stars are currently being added to the Milky Way's disk. And our galaxy has consumed others in its long history, such as the Sagittarius Dwarf Galaxy.

## 6. *Every Picture You've Seen of the Milky Way Isn't It:*

Currently, we can't take a picture of the Milky Way from above. This is due to the fact that we are inside the galactic disk, about 26,000 light years from the galactic center. It would be like trying to take a picture of your own house from the inside. This means that any of the beautiful pictures you've ever seen of a spiral galaxy that is supposedly the Milky Way is either a picture of another spiral galaxy, or the rendering of a talented artist.

## 7. *There is a Black Hole at the Center:*

Most larger galaxies have a supermassive black hole (SMBH) at the center, and the Milky Way is no exception. The center of our galaxy is called Sagittarius A\*, a massive source of radio waves that is believed to be a black hole that measures 22.5 million kilometers (14 million miles) across, about the size of Mercury's orbit. But this is just the black hole itself.

All of the mass trying to get into the black hole, called the accretion disk, forms a disk that has 4.6 million times the mass of our Sun and would fit inside the orbit of the Earth. Though like other black holes, Sgr A\* tries to consume anything that happens to be nearby, star formation has been detected near this behemoth astronomical phenomenon.

## 8. *It's Almost as old as the Universe Itself:*

The most recent estimates place the age of the Universe at about 13.7 billion years. Our Milky Way has been around for about 13.6 billion of those years, give or take another 800 million. The oldest stars in our the Milky Way are found in globular clusters, and the age of our galaxy is determined by measuring the age of these stars, and then extrapolating the age of what preceded them.

Though some of the constituents of the Milky Way have been around for a long time, the disk and bulge themselves didn't form until about 10-12 billion years ago. And that bulge may have formed earlier than the rest of the galaxy.

## 9. *It's Part of the Virgo Supercluster:*

As big as it is, the Milky Way is part of an even larger galactic structures. Our closest

## The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

**Illuminated Fraction: 0.890**  
**2.9 days after full moon**



**Sunrise: 6:57am**

**Sunset: 8:37pm**

**Moonrise: 10:04pm**

**Moonset: 9:26am**

**Day length: 13h 40m**

neighbors include the Large and Small Magellanic Clouds, and the Andromeda Galaxy, the closest spiral galaxy to the Milky Way. Along with some 50 other galaxies, the Milky Way and its immediate surroundings make up a cluster known as the Local Group.

And yet, this is still just a small fraction of our stellar neighborhood. Farther out, we find that the Milky Way is part of an even larger grouping of galaxies known as the Virgo Supercluster. Superclusters are groupings of galaxies on very large scales that measure in the hundreds of millions of light years in diameter. In between these superclusters are large stretches of open space where intrepid explorers or space probes would encounter very little in the way of galaxies or matter.

In the case of the Virgo Supercluster, at least 100 galaxy groups and clusters are located within its massive 33 megaparsec (110 million light-year) diameter. And a 2014 study indicates that the Virgo Supercluster is only a lobe of a greater supercluster, Laniakea, which is centered on the Great Attractor.

## 10. *It's on the move:*

The Milky Way, along with everything else in the Universe, is moving through space. The Earth moves around the Sun, the Sun around the Milky Way, and the Milky Way as part of the Local Group, which is moving relative to the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation - the radiation left over from the Big Bang.

The CMB is a convenient reference point to use when determining the velocity of things in the universe. Relative to the CMB, the Local Group is calculated to be moving at a speed of about 600 miles/second, which works out to about 2.2 million MPH. Such speeds stagger the mind and squash any notions of moving fast within our humble, terrestrial frame of reference!

Get out there and enjoy the show. I know I will. But I'm about done telling you about it.

**~Stu Spratt**

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Get whatever training or specific experience you need so that you are performance ready in 2018! To put this in perspective, the last time you had this kind of culmination or time when you felt proud of your achievements was in the late 80s.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** This continues to be a time where home, family and your private life are your top priority. In the bigger picture, this means you can get a better job or improve your existing job in a number of ways. The last time you had this good fortune with your employment scene was 2005; and before that, during 1993. When you correlate these dates, it should be encouraging news for you!

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Your busy pace continues with short trips, errands and conversations with everyone. You are busy entertaining at home as well as dealing with plans to redecorate and renovate. Your rewards for all this hard work will pay off because it will herald a year-long window of parties, vacations, romantic opportunities, enjoyment of the arts, plentiful social diversions and fun activities with children.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** "Money, money, money!" Your ability to wheel and deal, buy and sell, and make a great impression on others is strong now because your communication skills are tops. You will have wonderful real-estate opportunities, as well as chances to improve or enlarge your home. You might move to bigger and better digs.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** This week new activities will be exciting and adventurous! In fact, you are keen to study new things and explore new areas, especially science, astrology and the occult. Do something different to satisfy your urge for adventure. When it comes to money, you are focused. And yes, you might be focused about how you spend it.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** Pretty soon, you'll be clicking your heels and singing, "We're in the money." It will also attract money-making opportunities to you. In fact, in general way, it will increase your assets and your sense of wealth. Meanwhile, you are making repairs to where you live or doing major renovations so that you can establish a secure base for yourself and your family.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** This continues to be a popular time, which is why you are involved with friends and groups. This is an excellent time to set future goals. Traditionally, this is a time when many will change jobs or residences or both. The only downside is it could attract weight i.e. flesh to the bone. Write down some goals.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** You continue to be high viz. because the Sun is at the top of your chart making people notice you more than usual, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. Use this to your advantage and ask for what you want because people are receptive to your demands and requests. Relations with friends are positive right now. If you don't know what matters to you - then it's tough to make a decision!

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Your travel vibes are still strong! Yes, grab every opportunity to blow town that comes your way. And something will because at the beginning of this week something unexpected could trigger travel or opportunities in publishing, medicine, the law or a chance to get further education and training. Because people admire you and your achievements, they are willing to help you.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Continue to focus on wrapping up loose details regarding banking, loans, debt, taxes and anything to do with shared property and inheritances. Don't let this stuff pile up. And whack away at your debt because you hate to be in debt. Travel opportunities continue to delight you

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Continue to get more sleep right now because you need this. It's also important to know that for the next month or so, your opportunities to get a loan or a mortgage are fantastic. Make the most of this blessing if this is something you want to do. This is particularly good news for anyone who wants to study or enter school or take some kind of training.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** The stars still urge you to get better organized. Do everything you can to make your life function in a way where your efforts count. In other words, you are productive and efficient! A surprise opportunity to get a better job or some high-tech equipment might arise at the beginning of the week. If so, you will have to act fast because this window of opportunity is brief.

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**I LEAVE MY HOUSE A MESS SO WHEN FRIENDS VISIT THEY GO HOME FEELING BETTER ABOUT THEIR OWN HOUSEKEEPING SKILLS.**

**I'M JUST THAT GOOD OF A FRIEND.**

**GHOST**



**CAUGHT ON TAPE**



**CAPTAIN'S LOG**

**Back in the day... This is how we blocked people.**



**THAT'S THE SIXTH WALK TODAY**



**WHAT IN THE WORLD IS A POKEMON?**



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## Zucchini cake with cream cheese applesauce icing

### Ingredients:

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups white sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups shredded zucchini, squeezed dry
- 1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1/2 cup cinnamon-flavored applesauce

- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 2 cups confectioners sugar, or to taste

### Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.
- Beat eggs, vegetable oil, white sugar, and vanilla extract in a large bowl until
- Bake in the preheated oven until the cake is lightly browned and a toothpick inserted
- Beat cream cheese and butter in a bowl until smooth; stir in applesauce and nutmeg.
- Stir the flour mixture into the wet in-

gredients and mix in zucchini. Transfer  
 ■ Bake in the preheated oven until the cake is lightly browned and a toothpick inserted into the center comes out with moist crumbs, about 40 minutes. Let cool completely.

■ Beat cream cheese and butter in a bowl until smooth; stir in applesauce and nutmeg.

■ Mix in confectioners sugar until the frosting is smooth and workable; spread on cooled zucchini cake. Mix in confectioners sugar until the frosting is smooth and workable; spread on cooled zucchini cake.

## Birch Barker Sudoku

### Puzzle of the Week

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

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Camp's over for the season!

**W**e've officially wrapped up camp for the summer! We ended up with a grand total of 909 campers, which is 52 more than we had last year, and another new record for Camp T. Ten years ago, in 2006, we finished the summer with 351 campers. This is the first time we've hit 900 ever!

Friday night the weather held out for our council fire, Order of the Birch, and Legend Tree Ceremonies. Then we lined up the campers and started towards the waterfront for the annual candlelight serenade.

Unfortunately, by the time we all got down the stairs, it was a full down-pour and we were all drenched!

We weren't able to sing to those gathered on their boats, and our candles went out as soon as we set them in the lake!

Saturday all of the campers headed home in the morning, and our staff started working on cleaning up and closing up camp. They cleaned their cabins, inventoried all the equipment at their activities, brought all the equipment to Main and Morris to store for the winter, and hauled all the boats, paddles, life-jackets, and other gear up from the waterfront. It's a long day for sure!

Once everything was cleaned up, we had a staff celebration dinner of Chipotle, followed by a slideshow of staff photos from the summer. Some staff members, especially those who live far away, spent one last night at camp, and by noon on Sunday everyone was headed out. Some of our counselors even had flights home on Sunday morning!

It's always exciting to know we've made it to the end of another summer, but a bit sad to say goodbye to the last group of campers and the staff. It seems like we work so hard in the spring and early summer to get ready, and then the summer just flies by and suddenly it's over!

This fall we have many events booked at camp, and projects planned. There is a wedding this coming Saturday (August 20), and another wedding the following weekend (August 27). Then we have a Notre Dame student group coming in for a retreat on Friday, September 2, a family reunion on Saturday, September 3, and another wedding on September 10.

The week of September 12, we will have the roofs replaced on the Shower House, Dining Hall, and Morris Lodge — all will be getting new green metal roofs

to match the store! Then we have a Girl Scout troop camping out the weekend of September 24, and finally our Fall Camp and Family Camp the weekend of October 1. Then we head into the closing up portion of the fall, when we start cleaning out buildings, turning off the water, and of course, raking lots of leaves!

This fall, Michelle and I will also be working hard on getting a new after-school program started. We are still working out the details, but hope to have a program up and running by the start of the 2nd semester in January.

This is a new direction for our Camp Fire council, but something that Camp Fire councils across the county have been offering for some time. We will provide after school supervision, homework help, activities, snacks, and educational programs from the end of the school day until about 6 pm. We just don't know where it's going to take place yet! We're excited to get working out all the details now that camp has wrapped up for the summer.

Hope to see everyone out on the lake now that I have a little more time to be at home and enjoying the water!

~Miss Amber

### ATTENTION

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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.

**Lost: Light blue and gray life jacket.** Has Butler written on the inside. If found please call 476-9905 or 574-304-1799 or return to the butlers on the west side

## BIRCH BARKER CLASSIFIEDS

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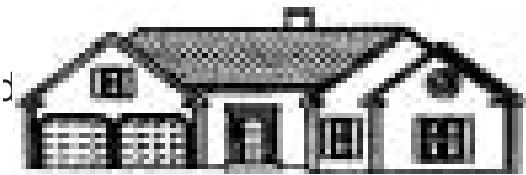
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