

The weekend  
Of

Sept. 4  
2016



# Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the  
**B i r c h   L a k e   Y a c h t   C l u b**



Thanks to Mr. Bob for the pic of the end-of-summer Turtles of the Week!

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**A**nd so it begins and so it ends. It is the end of the summer but the beginning of my term as your new commodore. I will try my best to emulate Sue Williams. I want you to know your past commodore is one of exemplary character, dedicated, organized, and a hard act to follow, but I promise to do my best. Thank you Sue for all of your hard work!

Congratulations to Karen Curtis-Miller on becoming our new Vice Commodore! Karen has been a part of Birch Lake for over 40 years and her mother Linda Curtis is a past commodore. She will be a great addition to our long list of Birch Lakers who have stepped up and taken the helm to support our lake community. Welcome aboard Karen!

Congratulations to Terry Dugan for

receiving the Commodore's Award for 2016! Terry is certainly very deserving of this award. His many years of service including his dedication to the water quality of our lake are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all who attended the fall dinner last Saturday. The black and white theme was great fun. The food from Bacon Hill Kitchen & Pub was a culinary treat and the wine tasting was a sensory experience for the wine enthusiasts. Due to family matters, I almost didn't make the first party I was in charge of as commodore! I must say a big thank you to all of my Birch Lake friends who have supported me through some hard times and who stepped up and made the fall dinner a successful evening. Thank you to Sue Williams, Karen Curtis-Miller, the Birch Lake Book Club, Vickie and Tom Rogers, Mike and Julie Sheffieck, Deb Spratt, Paul Fallon, Lynn Decker, Katha Machalleck, Denny Weesner, Bob and

## 2016 Birch Lake Calendar

Sept 3..... Birch Lake Pet Parade  
Chesters' home, 1030 registration  
Sept 10 .....Final BLYC Board Meeting  
@BLYC, 9 am  
Oct. 7 .....Chili Cookoff, BLYC, 6 pm

**More info as available.; Dates subject to change; Watch the Online Barker for 2017 schedule when available and for updates!**

Sue Waddle, Jim Bolinger, and to all of those I am forgetting! Thank you to Carla Chester, Michelle Seyfarth, Julie Sheffieck, Katha Machalleck, and Vickie Rogers for selling tickets. Last but not least I want to thank everyone who stayed and helped clean up. Many hands make light work. Thank you to all of you!

I also want to thank all the officers and directors of the Yacht Club for their dedication to the lake community. At the fall dinner we elected five directors.

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philviale.com, or put the items in the stone newspaper/mailbox at my home, 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other materials returned. To contact me by phone, call (269) 476-1680, or contact Commodore Claudia Phipps at 476-7073 or email claudia2154@gmail.com. ~Phil V

# — Birch Lake Notes —

Greg Bolin, Terry Dugan, PJ Vandewalle, Scott Troeger, and Fred Freihofer indicated they wish to continue serving and we appreciate their service. Don't forget our last board meeting is September 10.

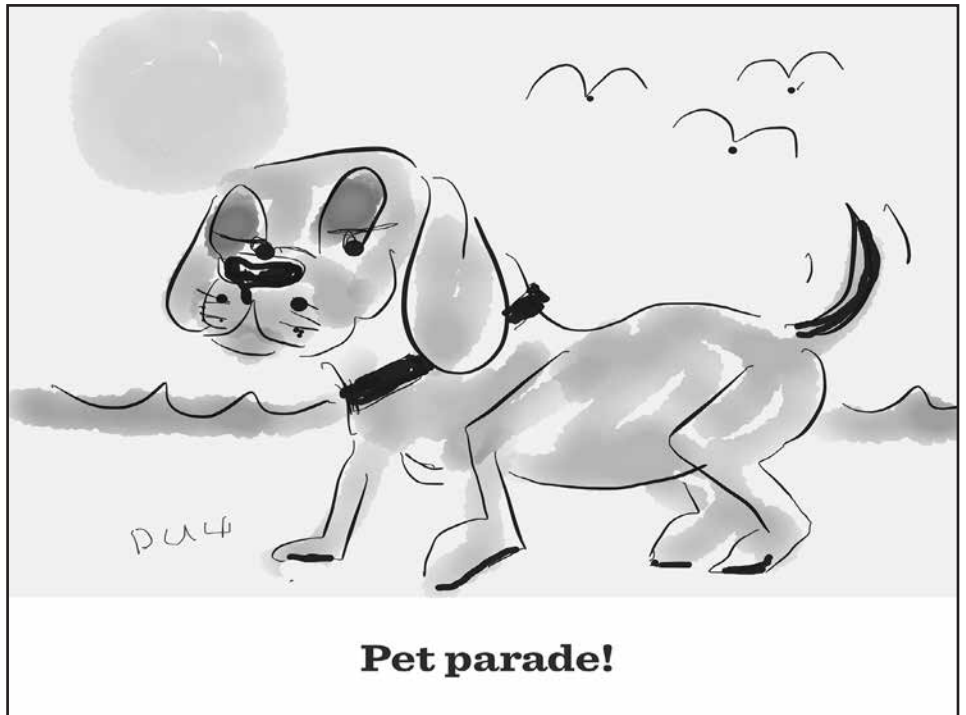
Upcoming events are our Labor Day Regatta (thank you captain Mike!), the Pooch Parade, and the Chili Cookoff on October 7, at 6 pm at the BLYC. A big thank you goes to all of the past and future event chairmen and the volunteers!

There is no doubt in my mind that these lake events and all of those whose efforts result in the Birch Barker publication, including our wonderful editor Phil Vitale, contribute exponentially to the strong friendships and the preservation of our wonderful lake. We are truly blessed!

~Commodore Claudia

## 2016 Commodore's Award

Each year the Commodore's Award is presented to an individual(s) for exemplary service over the years to our lake community. This year the award was given to **Terry Dugan**. Terry has been a BLYC Director for the last nine years. He is also a very active member of our Water Quality Committee. Terry has spent countless hours over the years testing and monitoring our lake water and keeps up to date with issues by regularly attending Michigan Lake and



## Pet parade!

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

Stream Associations' conferences. He is also active in the Porter Township Wetlands Advisory Committee.

Terry's history with Birch Lake goes back to the summer of 1957! Then in 1978, he and Carol bought their first place here. They moved up to the lake full time in 2007, and have been year-round residents ever since. Terry is totally dedicated to protecting the health

of our beautiful lake and very deserving of this award. Congratulations, Terry, and thank you for all that you do for our lake community!

~Past Commodore Sue

## Walk for Life

Last Saturday morning, I sat before my window watching the rain coming down in buckets. All I could think of

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

was the Walk for Life put on by the Cass County Cancer Society, that was supposed to be going on at that moment. I felt so badly for them. Wondering how this would affect their attempts to raise money, I decided to possibly help. First of all I want you to know this is a legitimate, worthwhile organization. They truly do help anyone in Cass County who is suffering from cancer. I know, because I have benefited from their generosity. Patients may receive up to \$600 per year, helping to pay for gasoline costs, unusually high electric bills, etc. Documentation is required for proof of how money is spent. I have received gas cards to help with all my trips to Chicago and Mishawaka. The fact that this organization exists simply amazes me. My point is, if you are ever looking for a *worthy charity* to make a contribution to, I urge you to consider this one. If you feel so inclined, please send a check to Cass County Cancer Service, Inc. P.O. Box 676 Edwardsburg, MI 49112. For more information, call Connie Sue Hulse at 574-333-8838. By the way, I want to thank whomever was kind enough to put the info about the walk into our Barker. I would not have even known about the walk without the Barker.

~Pam VanHuffel

## 2017 Birch Lake calendars

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.

## Thanks for no wake!

A heart-felt "thank-you" is in order for the vast majority of all Birch Lake boaters who have honored the no wake advisory put in place by the Cass County Office of Emergency Management over the last two weeks. The spirit of cooperation and sacrifice for the greater good has been a joy to behold and another feather in the cap of the Birch Lake Community. The lake was almost eerily [some might say peacefully] quiet. Water clarity seems to have improved also.

We do offer our condolences to any short term visitors or renters who didn't get to enjoy the lake at higher speeds.

As this edition of The Barker goes to press, the Office of Emergency Management had indicated it does not plan to extend the advisory over the Labor Day weekend (it officially expired



Jeff and Harold headed making the best of what wind there was.

photo by Mr. Bob

on Thursday, September 1). The Office did suggest that those on lakes still having high water issues consider what is best for their particular lake. Hopefully, since then Birch's water level has not gotten any higher but instead has continued to decline.

Thanks again to all who contributed during this time of need.

## Tree Carving

On Friday, September 9, Sue and Bob Waddle (red house east side) are having a 12' tall, red oak stump carved by a professional wood carver. All are



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# — Birch Lake Notes —

welcome to come and watch his handiwork. The carver is Ron Kane from Wood-n-Creations Chainsaw Carving in Jackson Michigan. His website is Ron@Wood-in-Creations.net where he has an extensive gallery of his creations. The carving will begin at roughly 9 am.

## Do Over at the Kings'

For the second year in a row Karen Horn was unable to attend our 4th of July gathering so ... we invited everyone to come back to Birch for the Labor Day weekend. We expect Ric and Lisa Dwenger (Muncie), Chuck and Karen Horn (Carmel), Liz Kramer (Cal's GF) and ... other Calvin friends to be named later. Please feel free to stop by and say hi to our friends. The King family / ps - apologies in advance re: late night pontoon lights as we go Gar spotting.

## Birch Lake Sailing Awards

The annual prize-giving will be at the King boathouse on Saturday, September 10. Time TBD (probably between 11 am and 1 pm). As is customary, awards will be presented to: Season and Regatta podium finishers. Sailors, their families, friends and all other Birch Lakers are invited to attend.

## Labor Day

A national holiday adopted by Congress in 1984 to be celebrated the first Monday in September. The day is

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dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country.

## 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 vaccina-

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**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."

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tions.

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.

### Sailing Stuff

The last America's Cup heralded a watershed design innovation when boats flew downwind on lifting daggerboard foils. By the end of the 2013 Match Oracle Team USA was foiling upwind. Sailors learned to foiling gybe (turn through the wind without falling off the foils) going downwind. Now, both the Japanese and US teams have reported the ability to complete foiling tacks (staying on the foils through tacks going upwind)! On Birch we race Sunfish and MC Scows which are planing hulls. America's Cup cats literally fly.

### A Como Cabaret Christmas

Before the First Jingle Bells, Turkey carving, or Ho Ho Ho's, "The Company" gets you into the holiday spirit with "A Como Cabaret Christmas," aptly named because it features family of the famous crooner, Perry Como. As of 1985, his daughter, Melanie Como, has been the driving force of "The Company," directing and producing Melanie Como-Dits, Wendy



Como, and Paige Como (granddaughters), with the new introduction of Great-Granddaughter Abigail Wolf.

The group has been in rehearsal since June, and "A Como Cabaret Christmas," highlights new songs, and Soloists. Costuming takes center stage, and "The Company" prides itself in its flashy costumes and lightning-fast costume changes for the entire cast.

This holiday production is as close to Vaudeville as you will find in the Midwest! The performers includes the audience, in little jokes going on stage.

General info:

**Dates:** November 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19

**Place:** Battell Center, Mishawaka, IN 904 North Main street

**Ticket Prices** Seniors \$12, General Admission \$14

There will be reserved seating at Battell Center.

To purchase Tickets in advance, Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope with a check and the night of performance requested to:

"The Company"

50643 Sorrel Drive, Granger, IN 46530

and the tickets will be mailed back to you. There will be hours to purchase tickets at Battell Center, or you can buy

at the door the night of performance.

Box office and doors will open at 6, warmup starts at 7:30 and curtain at 8. For more information call Wendy Como at 574-243-7704 or 574-229-7232  
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### Last Printed Birch Barker

This is the last Printed Birch Barker of the season. Thanks to all the people who contributed articles, photos, recipes, games, columns and kid of the week info. Special thanks to Pat Welch and Alphagraphics for printing this season. Thanks to Stu, the Waddles, all the carriers for the help with distribution.

As now-Past-Commodore Sue Williams said at the Fall Dinner, the Barker is a team effort and the whole lake benefits and appreciates all of your efforts. Thanks to all of you!

And while I'm at it ... thanks to the great people of Birch Lake who read the Barker and who so frequently pass on their comments, suggestions and praise. The Barker is truly a labor of love and the love truly goes around and comes around.

Good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, the Online Barker will be published again this winter and distributed via email to anyone who wants it. If you're not on the list, send me your email address at [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) or at [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com) ... The Barker will be published on the Web whenever it is available. To see it, just go to [www.philvitale.com](http://www.philvitale.com) and follow the links.

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# — BLYC Fall Dinner —

Photos courtesy  
of the  
SparkyCam

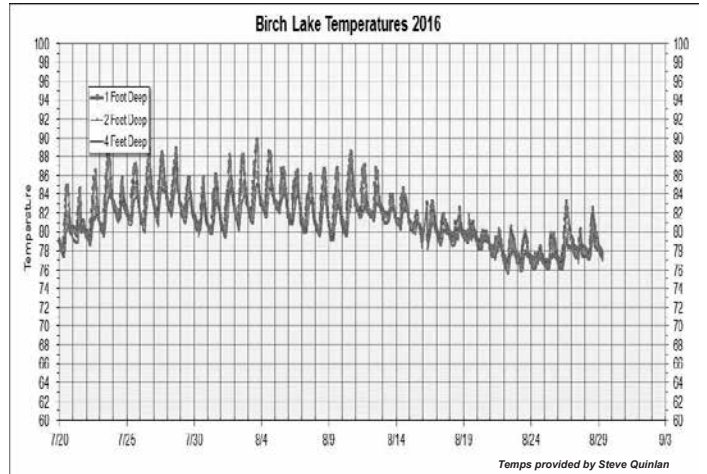
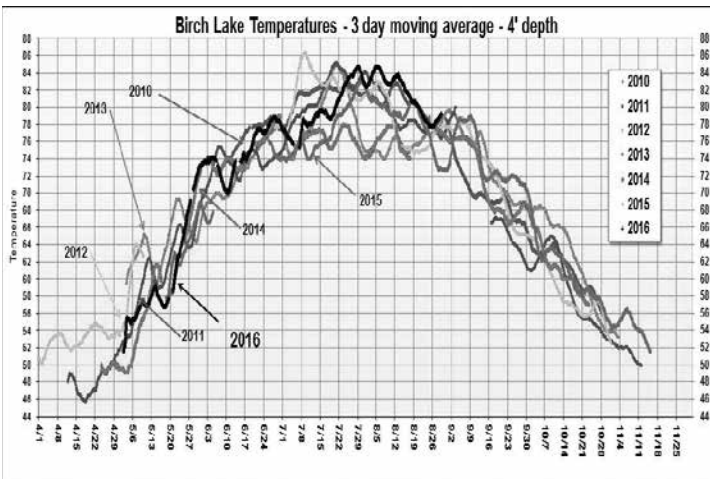






**OVER!** Despite the mast and sails down, two Sunfish got towed over the finish line last weekend ... unfortunately it was after the race was scrubbed for lack of wind .... Thanks to Good Patti for the pic.

# Birch Lake Water Temperature



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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Little to no wind

Last Sunday was a day all of us sailors want to forget! We placed the marks out at 10 with winds around 5 mph, the forecast was for 5 to 10 mph according to the TV. By 11 the winds were down to less than 4 mph and drawing to a close. After an hour of trying to complete just the first race, the committee boat ruled to much time had expired and the races were called due to lack of wind. Thanks to everyone that came out and at least tried to race.

On a brighter note we will be having

our annual Labor Day Regatta this weekend, this will be our last sailing weekend until next year. Races will be on Saturday and Sunday at 11, with Monday being our rain or no-wind makeup day. Thanks to everyone that either sailed, helped on the committee boat or helped behind the scenes. With out all of you our sailing would not be as great as what it is! Thanks again.

Until next time **"SPICE THE MAIN BRACE."**

~Fleet Captain Mike~



## 2016 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date	21Aug	21Aug	21Aug	Total	Season	Races	%
Race	18	19	20	Points	Average	Finished	Finished
<b>MC Scow/Sailor 17</b>							
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	DNS	24974	1561	16	94.1%
Jeff Smitley #2002	4	2	DNS	23971	1498	16	94.1%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	2	DNS	DNS	21800	1363	16	94.1%
Bill Luecht #1579	DNS	DNS	DNS	19977	1332	15	88.2%
Phil Vitale #500	DNS	DNS	DNS	15888	1324	12	70.6%
Barb Cassady #2435	3	3	DNS	11832	1315	9	52.9%
Bob King #1199	5	4	DNS	14430	1312	11	64.7%
Pat McGann #1735	DNS	DNS	DNS	15034	1253	11	64.7%
Gib Eberhart #916	6	5	DNS	13657	1242	10	58.8%
Maggie & Tom Cassady	DNS	DNS	DNS	1024	1024	1	5.9%
<b>Sunfish/Sailor 20</b>							
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	3	1	2	26495	1559	17	85.0%
Peter Soldato	4	2	1	28230	1486	19	95.0%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	DNS	DNS	DNS	22745	1422	16	80.0%
Herb Cleveland	1	4	5	27452	1373	20	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	2	3	4	20467	1364	14	70.0%
Sandy Vitale (White)	DNS	DNS	DNS	10834	1354	8	40.0%
Katie Luecht	DNS	DNS	DNS	3746	1249	3	15.0%
Bob Niezgodski	5	5	6	24190	1210	20	100.0%
Stefan del Rossi	DNS	DNS	DNS	3539	1180	3	15.0%
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	10369	1152	8	40.0%
Camille Butler	6	6	3	19504	1147	17	85.0%
Greg Cowan	DNS	DNS	DNS	3417	1139	3	15.0%
Brad Davis	DNS	DNS	DNS	3334	1111	3	15.0%

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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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Jack Carey (cove) checking out the chickens on an annual trip to the Cass County Fair.



Cove resident Chris Carey with former and long time cove resident Loretta Drolet at her 100th birthday party. "Aunt Loretta" talked fondly of Birch Lake, calling it the "best times of her life." We miss you Aunt Loretta!

**Don't forget that ALL  
boat traffic must travel  
COUNTER-CLOCKWISE  
at all times!**

Message sponsored by the  
BIRCH LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

**And keep in mind that  
ON SAILING DAYS  
at Birch Lake races start at 11 am  
please give 'em a break and stay  
clear of the course.**

**SAILBOATS  
ALWAYS  
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RIGHT-OF-WAY!**

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



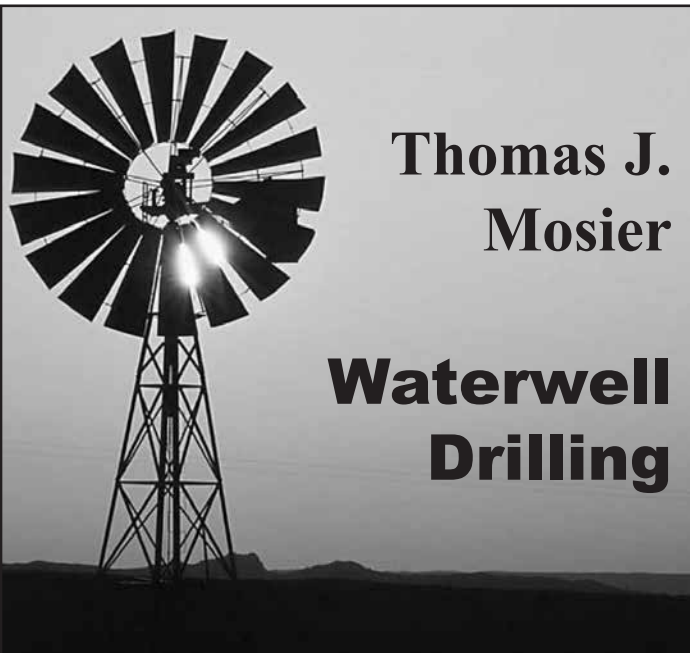
*The Wedding Planners - Karen Curtis-Miller (east side, and new Vice Commodore) and daughter McKenzie counting down to 9/16/16 wedding day.*



*The Witchie family (east side) is looking forward to seeing these nieces and nephews and their families again this year for Labor Day weekend! David Bell from upper Michigan, the Clifford Family from southern Indiana, and the Coate Family (not pictured) from Alaska.*

## **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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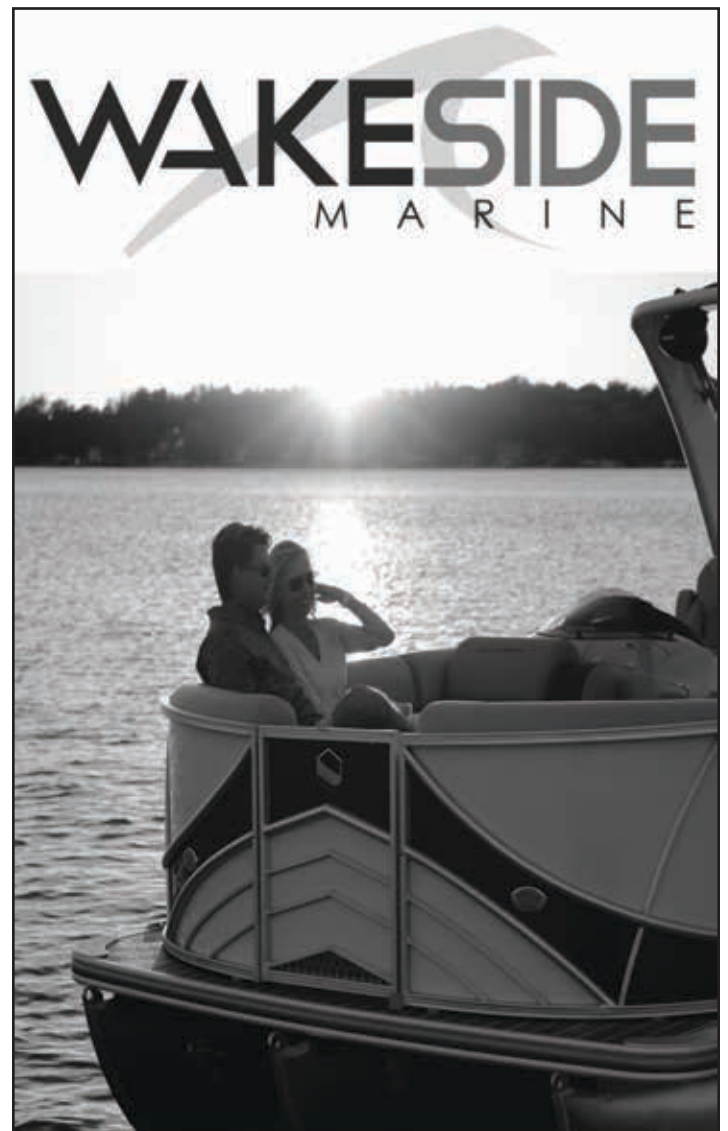
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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Magro Grandkids (north side) make it an even dozen to welcome newest member, Lorenzo Marco Magro Algarotti, to Birch lake. L-R Kate, Peter, Tommy; Alex; Gianna, Sarah, Sophie, Dominic; Vincent, Ben, Lorenzo, Clara.*

*← A new dress code on the East Side? Kid-of-the-week kudos go to Bad Patty and Bill Luecht (east side), who donned (semi) formal attire for the Fall dinner.*



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

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# STU'S STAR STUFF



**T**onight, look for the faint constellation Ophiuchus the Serpent Bearer. It appears in the southwest sky on late August and September evenings, above the bright ruddy star Antares, the brightest in the constellation Scorpius the Scorpion.

Also check out the two planets in the vicinity of Antares, both brighter than Scorpius' brightest star. The brighter of these two planets, Mars, shines in front of Scorpius (though very close to the Scorpius-Ophiuchus border), whereas the golden-colored Saturn shines in front of the constellation Ophiuchus. Mars will pass into Ophiuchus by early September but Saturn will remain in front of Ophiuchus for the rest of this year.

The zodiac or 'pathway of animals' represents the rather narrow band of sky astride the ecliptic, which is the plane of Earth's orbit projected onto the sphere of stars. The signs of the zodiac are familiar to all who read online astrology tripe. There are 12 familiar signs of the zodiac: Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Pisces and so on. Then there are the 13 constellations of the zodiac, which include Ophiuchus. The sun moves in front of Ophiuchus from about November 30 to December 18 each year.

On sky maps, Ophiuchus the Serpent Bearer is depicted as holding Serpens the Serpent, which is considered a separate constellation. According to ancient Greek star lore, Ophiuchus is Asclepius, the physician who concocted a healing potion from the Serpent's venom, mixing it with the Gorgon's blood and an unknown herb. This potion gave humans access to immortality, until the god of the underworld

appealed to Zeus to reconsider the ramifications of the death of death.

Even today, the Staff of Asclepius symbol of the World Health Organization and other medical organizations pays tribute to the constellation Ophiuchus the Serpent Bearer.

Look for Ophiuchus in the southwestern sky after dark. It will appear above of, in ascending order, Antares, Mars and Saturn. Also look for Jupiter and Venus low in the west near sunset. They will be gone not long after sunset and will reappear in the eastern morning sky in a few weeks.

### As an aside -

I have enjoyed writing Stu's Star Stuff for several years. I've not so much enjoyed it for several as well. Not to mention the relentless hounding I get each week from an editor that will remain unnamed. But the occasional kind comments that I've received have often been enough to allow me to put up with Phil's nagging and encourage me to continue to provide what I'm told by some is something that they look forward to reading each week. In addition, I appreciate the freedom I've been allowed by Phil to editorialize at times and occasionally publicly poke fun at some of the people I love.

At the fall dinner last weekend I received some very kind remarks from a new neighbor on the north shore and because of that I'm rethinking retirement. No promises though. In any case, I am so grateful for the kindness, appreciation and encouragement that I have received in the last 15 years of writing Stu's Star Stuff. Have a great fall, winter, spring.

### The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)  
**Illuminated Fraction: 0.139**  
**4.2 days before first quarter**



**Sunrise: 7:12am**  
**Sunset: 8:13pm**  
**Moonrise: 10:19am**  
**Moonset: 10:00pm**  
**Day length: 13h 0m**

And, as always ... well, you know.

**~Stu Spratt**  
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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 agent's represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the MLS.



# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** There's good news and bad news for you. Let's take the bad news first: you will suffer delays and silly errors at work. Communications with customers and coworkers will be mixed up and misunderstood. Paperwork will be misplaced or lost. Fortunately, fair Venus will sit across your sign until late September paving the way for all your closest relationships.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Old flames are back in the lives of many of you. However, you might also deal with unfinished business or previous issues related to your kids. If you plan social outings and fun events, including vacations, expect delays and errors to cause some problems. The good news is that relations with coworkers will be excellent.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** Small appliances might break down or minor breakages could occur. Domestic confusion will be likely because family conversations will be misunderstood. Home repairs and renovations will continue; nevertheless, broken equipment, misplaced tools and frustrating delays are inevitable. Meanwhile, family and friends you haven't seen for a while will be eating out of your fridge and pantry. Good luck!

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** Delays are inevitable. Check cars, bikes and trucks to do damage control because you face engine problems, flat tires and setbacks in your transportation. Likewise, allow extra time to travel on public transportation to avoid delays. Your communications with others will be glitched - for sure. The good news is that family and home will be cozy and fun

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** Check's in the mail will be late. Payments to you will be delayed. However, schemes and ideas for earning money from the past can now be resurrected. This is appropriate because you are focused on money and earnings more than usual right now.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** This continues to be a fortunate time for your sign. Make the most of this and use this to your advantage. And now for the tough news: Mercury retrograde is taking place in Virgo from now until the end of September. This will attract ex-partners and old friends back into your world. But it will also promote misunderstandings, goofy mistakes, misplaced items and maddening little errors. Chill out. Time for your favorite beverage.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** The next four weeks are an excellent time for you, this makes you even more charming and diplomatic than you usually are. It also means that this is an excellent time for you to shop for yourself, especially for wardrobe goodies that make you look more attractive.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** This continues to be a fabulous, popular time for you! At the same time, another astrological influence encourages secret love affairs. This is an interesting combo! Meanwhile, your co-ruler Mars activates your desire to earn more money, which is why you are dreaming up money-making ideas or thinking about a new job. Since Mars is just energy, it will also activate your spending habits, and you will shop more than usual for whatever you want. Why not look great as you encounter so many friends from your past?

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** You have tremendous energy to go after what you want now. This gives you get-up-and-go and activates your initiative. Not only will you want to do more, you will assert yourself in all situations and also defend yourself (and others) if called for. Mostly, this is a good thing that you can use to your advantage.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Grab every chance to travel that comes your way because you need a change of scenery. "I gotta get outta Dodge!" Don't worry about asking your boss for time off. It's a cinch. In fact, you might get a raise, certainly praise. Some will start a secret work-related romance with an authority figure. Let's face it - power and money impress you.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** Travel for pleasure calls to you now. If you have a chance to travel- do it because you will enjoy a change of scenery and a chance to explore adventure, meet new faces and see new places. In fact, a romance with someone of another culture or a different background will spring up for some. Perhaps your competitive spirit with a group (or an individual) sparks someone's admiration for you.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** For the next month, fair Venus will make your intimate relationships particularly affectionate and sweet. This next month is also a good time to ask for a loan or get a mortgage or benefit from the wealth and resources of others. You have a strong focus on partnerships and close friends now. In fact, expect interaction with ex-partners.

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# BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



**500 SHOPPING CARTS IN THE GROCERY STORE AND I KEEP PICKING THE ONE WITH THE WEIRD FRONT WHEEL THAT SOUNDS LIKE A DYING PIG.**



## BRITISH SURVEY

A recent survey in the United Kingdom asked the following question:

Are there too many foreigners in this country now?

Answer:

18% said: **YES**

82% said: معهد الأمن العالمي بواشنطن







# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## ~ Summer Pasta ~

### Ingredients:

- 1 (16 ounce) package linguini pasta
- 6 roma (plum) tomatoes, chopped
- 1 pound shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh basil
- 6 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt
- ground black pepper to taste

### Directions

Ready In 15 minutes

1. Combine tomatoes, cheese, basil, garlic, olive oil, garlic salt, and black pepper in medium bowl. Set aside.
2. Meanwhile, cook pasta according to package directions.
3. Drain pasta, and transfer to a serving bowl. Toss with tomato mixture. Serve.

## Birch Barker Sudoku

## Puzzle of the Week

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

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Thank you from Camp T!

**H**ow is it possible that it's Labor Day weekend already?! This summer went by in a whirlwind! We've only wrapped up camp 3 weeks ago, and yet we're already looking ahead to the summer of 2017 and plan to launch registration on Tuesday morning!

For this last Birch Barker column of the summer, I'd like to say a special thank you to all of the wonderful and generous individuals here at Birch Lake who have helped us at Camp this past year. We are truly grateful for all of the time, energy, and generous contributions we receive from the Birch Lake community.

Thank you to...

Phil and Sandy Vitale, Amy and Mike Lutz, Bill and Patty Luecht, Karen Brovold, Mike and Katha Machalleck, Tom and Vickie Rogers, Paul and Celia Fallon, Katie Luecht, Sam Hass, Cam Butler, Eric Miller, Karen Curtis-Miller, Peter Trybula, Andy Karceski, Bob Bender, Lind Harman, and Steve Butler for volunteering their time to make the Pancake Breakfast successful, and for raising over \$2000 towards new equipment in the dining hall kitchen.

Chas, Avery, and Elyse Grundy, Bill and Sherry Holleman, and the Sandler Family for helping clean up the sports field at camp after the fireworks show.

Jim Bolinger, Tom Rogers, Rick and Patti Russwurm, Tom Mosier, Ron and

Kathy Niezgodski, Bob Waddle, and Bill Holleman for their work on facilities projects to help improve camp.

Tom Kuhn, Amy Lutz, and Sue Williams for serving on the Camp Fire Board. And to Tom Rogers, PJ and Sue Vandewalle, Chas Grundy, Ben Wozniak, Maureen Koscielski, Mike Sheffieck, Patti Russwurm, and Jan Temple for serving on Camp Fire committees.

Phil Vitale, Morgann Applegate, Bill and Sherry Holleman, and Rick and Tish Harman for volunteering their time during camp to run activities and special programs.

To all the homes who handed out treats to our campers when we trick or treated around the lake in July – Bill and Sheryl Magro, Eleanor Thayer, Bill and Le King, Bob and Beth Kenagy, Bill and Sherry Holleman, Tom and Vickie Rogers, Laveta Scofield, Jen and Tom Nevala, Karen and Claire Brovold, Mike and Julie Sheffieck, Helen Toth, Bill and Cam Butler, and Kathy and Ron Niezgodski.

And to Jim and Traci Limes, Tom and Pat Troeger, Marc and Ilene Golden, Bill and Le King, Rita Benjamin, Buzz and Linda Rasmussen, Art and JoAnn Anderson, Ed and Carla Chester, Paul and Celia Fallon, Ben and

Vanessa Wozniak, Jeff and Denise Smitley, Mike and Katha Machalleck, Norma Pence, Rick and Patti Russwurm, Jim Bradfield and Denny Weesner, Joe and Becky O'Connell, John Peddycord and Becky Wiseman, Bill and Sherry Holleman, and everyone who attended the pancake breakfast for their contributions – monetary or otherwise.

And finally, to all of those people whose children and grandchildren attended or worked at Camp T this summer! Bob and Layna Bender, Tom and Vickie Rogers, Lind Harman, Tish and Rick Harman, Ashly Welch, Randy and Fran Welch, Phil and Sandy Vitale, Margie Trybus, Jeff and Linda Myers, Claudia and Dennis Phipps, Bill and Sheryl Magro, Grace Bliler, Bob and Beth Kenagy, Ken and Sarah Petty, Michael and Paula Russell, Ron and Mel Como, Melanie Como Dits and Dave Dits, Mary Como, Rob and Dana Boll, Laveta Scofield, Jen and Tom Nevala, Helen Toth, Dennis and Ruth Kinzler, Tiffany and Keith Kinzler, Ken Kinzler, and Brad and Amanda Sandler.

Thank you to everyone! We are very grateful for everything you do to support Camp Fire and Camp Tannadoonah at Birch Lake.



CAMP TANNADOONAH  
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<http://tannadoonah.org>

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For Sale: **Shore Station**, 3,000 lb aluminum, \$200. Call 708-307-4324, Bill Odenwald.

For Sale: **Paddle Boat with Canopy.** Very good condition. Reduced to \$50. Call 317-752-2184 Gus Eshleman

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**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)

## SERVICES

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## 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

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

Ads are \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance).

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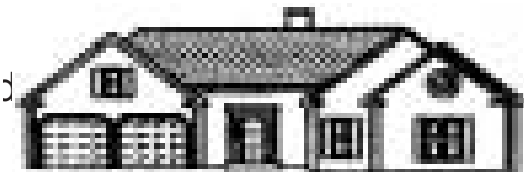
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- \$\_\_\_ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
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