

**The
Weekend
Of**

**June 2
2018**



Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Wasn't much wind for sailing over the Memorial Day weekend, but the sailors gave it the old Birch Lake TRY! Thanks to Bad Patty Luecht and Good Patti Russwurm for manning the committee boat on a "scorcher" of a day.

photo courtesy of the PattiCam

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Well, I think last weekend was one for the record books ... nothing like going straight into summer heat! The weather may not have been conducive to getting all of the sailing races in, but it sure was ideal for water activities.

I can't believe that I was actually in the water in May (I thought that activity was only for the young ones who never think the water is cold)! I saw lots of swimming, floating, skiing and tubing going on, with a fair share of lake cruising. I noticed a few new boats out on the lake ... we'll have to figure out who they belong to! I hope you all enjoyed doing whatever it is that you do to celebrate Memorial Day, whether it was attending a parade, putting out flags, remembering a veteran, or gathering with your family and friends.

Hopefully you marked your calendars for the Commodore/Vice Commodore party tonight (June 2).

Angela and I are looking forward to it! The party begins at 5:30 pm at the Yacht Club. We will have beverages for you to enjoy as you catch up with your lake friends. Please bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. Don't forget, the Birch Lake t-shirts will be there, so bring your money if you're interested in purchasing any. Short sleeve t-shirts (white) are \$12.50 and long sleeve t-shirts (gray) are \$20. And no worries if you can't buy one at the party, just swing by the cottage when you see us on the pier to pick one up.

I end my Commodore comments with lake news that makes me run through many emotions ... mostly dismay, but I'm also angry, sad and worst of all, distrustful. At some time late Sunday night/early Monday morning, Justin and Tabby Bratt (South Side) had their vehicle stolen from their parking area. I share this so that everyone is aware of what has happened and can take whatever precautionary measures they feel appropriate. Regardless what you choose to do about your personal property, let's all use this as a reminder to watch out for each other and if you

2018 Birch Lake Calendar

June 2 - Commodore/Vice Commodore Party @ BLYC
June 9 - Porter Twp Cleanup Day 8-Noon
June 10 - Celebration of Life Janet Barr (Reynolds), 11 am, BLYC
June 16 - Spaghetti dinner, 5:30 - 7:30
June 30 - House Walk, 10 am - 2 pm
July 7 - Fireworks, dark
July 8 - Camp T Pancake Breakfast
July 20 - Ladies Golf
July 27 - Men's Golf, Noon, Park Shore
Aug 4 - Corn & Sausage
Aug 18 - Fall Dinner (tba)
TBA- Soup/Chili Challenge
2018 BLYC Board Meetings
(all meetings start at 9 am)
June 9, July 14, August 11, Sept - TBA
More info as available. Dates subject to change. Watch the Barker for updates!

notice unusual activity, report it ... and definitely share so that we're all aware of what's happening within our lake community.

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Deadline is 3 pm on Tuesday. E-mail sailorphil@philvitale.com, or put the items in the stone/mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want photos or other material returned. To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680, or to contact Commodore Karen Curtis-Miller, call 574-261-6712 or email karen.curtis-miller@bayer.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

Enjoy your weekend ... hope to see you tonight at the Yacht Club!

~Cheers! Commodore Karen

Celebration of Life

On November 10, 2017 former Birch Lake Southsider, Janet Barr (Reynolds), lost her valiant sixteen month battle with Glioblastoma, a brain cancer. She passed away peacefully in Hospice in Jupiter, Florida.

A Celebration of Her Life will take place at the Birch Lake Yacht Club on Sunday, June 10 at 11 am. A light brunch will be served. All who knew and loved her are welcome to attend.

Congratulations Amanda!

Amanda Butler's high school graduation party is going to be on June 9 from 2-6 at the yacht club.

Michigan Boating Laws and Regulations

You need education if you were born after June 30, 1996, and will be operating a vessel in Michigan. Most PWC operators also need education.

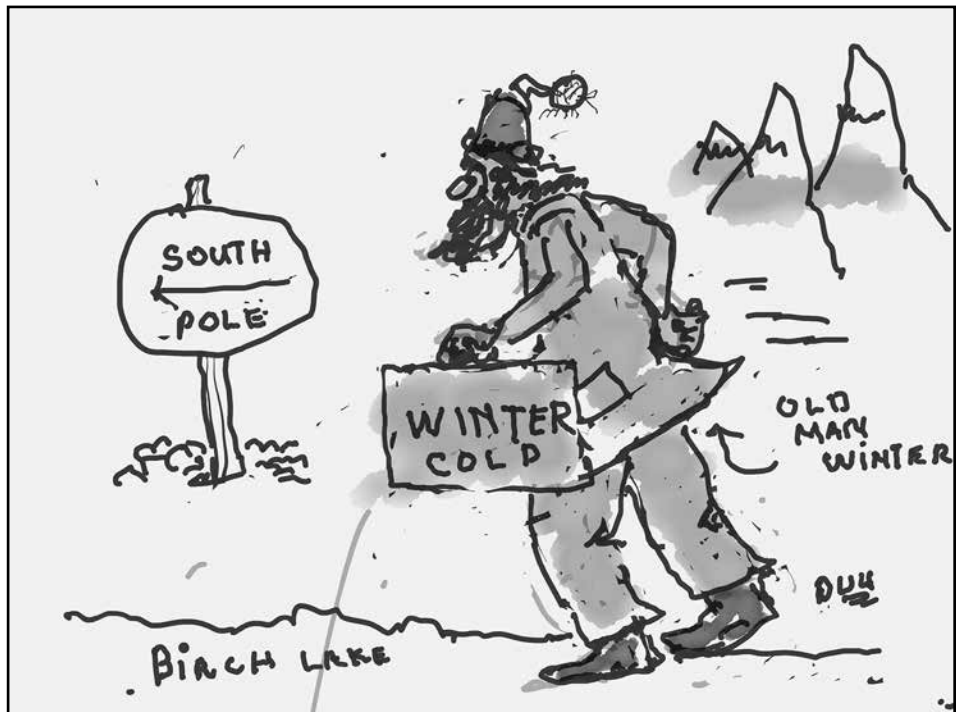
There is no minimum age requirement to take this online course.

You do not have to be a resident of Michigan to take this online course.

Age and Operator Restrictions

Persons less than 12 years of age:

May operate a boat powered by a



Thanks to our artist in residence Duffy Dufor for the great Birch Lake art.

motor of no more than 6 hp legally without restrictions.

May operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 6 hp but no more than 35 hp legally only if they:

Have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat and ...

Are directly supervised on board by a person at least 16 years of age.

May not operate a boat powered by a motor of more than 35 hp legally under any conditions.

Those born on or after July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally only if they have been issued a boating safety certificate and have it on board the boat.

Those born before July 1, 1996, may operate a boat legally without restrictions.

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Birch Lake Notes

Personal Watercraft (Jet skis)

Those less than 14 years of age may not legally operate a PWC.

Those 14 and 15 years of age may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate and...

He or she is accompanied on board by his or her parent or legal guardian or by a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian or...

He or she is operating or riding the PWC at a distance of not more than 100 feet from his or her parent or legal guardian or from a person at least 21 years of age who has been designated by the parent or legal guardian.

Those at least 16 years of age and born after December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally only if they have obtained a boating safety certificate.

Those born on or before December 31, 1978, may operate a PWC legally without restrictions.

Michigan law enforcement officers patrol the waterways to make your boating experience safe and pleasant. Cooperate with them by following the laws and guidelines.

Vessel operators who are required to have a Boater Education Card must carry the card on board the vessel and have it available for inspection by an enforcement officer. Not carrying your Boater Education Card when one is required can result in a fine.



NO POOP ZONE -- In an effort to keep pet poop out of their yards, two east-side residents have erected "no poop" signs and one has installed a pet waste station.





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— Birch Lake Notes —

Porter Township Residents—Clean Up Day!!!

June 9, 2018

8:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

DONATIONS GLADLY ACCEPTED!!!

**American Waste Yard
15621 Mason Street
Union MI 49130**

**Pick Up Service Provided for Handicapped
and Senior Citizen**

Accepting For Drop Off:

Refrigerator Type Appliances—\$35.00

Batteries—\$1.00

Car Tire Prices

With Rims—\$6.00

Without Rims—\$3.00

**Other Appliances and Items Not Picked Up
By Your Waste Removal Company**

Tires Will Be Accepted For a Fee

Not Accepting at Drop Off:

Yard Waste, Garbage, or Construction Materials

*****NO HAZARDOUS WASTE*****

NO ELECTRONICS

Tractor Tire Prices

Under 48" With Rims—\$16.00

Under 48" Without Rims—\$8.00

Over 48" With Rims—\$60.00

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Off Road On Rim—\$100.00

Any questions? Call the Township @ 641-2375

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Birch Lake Notes



A sure sign
of summer!
Thanks to
Pat McGann
(east side) for
the pic of his
family's tub of
sunscreens ...
guess those
Irish descen-
dants have
to protect all
that pale flesh
from burning
...

General Handyman Services



Need something repaired replaced or
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BLYC 58th ANNUAL Birch Lake Yacht Club

MEN'S GOLF OUTING

FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

FRIDAY, JULY 27 2018 - \$75/MAN*

PARK SHORE GOLF CLUB

610 Park Shore Dr., Cassopolis

Shotgun start at noon

Dinner to follow at BLYC

Cocktail hour at 6 pm; Dinner at 7 pm; Winners announced and prizes awarded

****Golf prize, dinner at BLYC, Food & Drink coupons included in the price of registration***

Please submit your foursome and registration to Chas Grundy, 63250 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

Make checks payable to Birch Lake Yacht Club.

Individual registrations accepted. If you don't have a team, I can match you up.

Must have completed registrations by July 16

2018 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

Team prizes and contests

Prizes awarded at dinner

Catered dinner at BLYC included

Donations of door & team prizes needed*

*If you have access to logo or golf or lake related merchandise that could be donated, please

Contact Chas Grundy at chas@grundyhome.com

2018 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

TEAM CAPTAIN:

PLEASE PRINT NAMES

Please make checks payable to BLYC and send to Chas Grundy, 63250 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

Birch Lake Notes

Birch Lake House Walk is June 30

Welcome once again to the Birch Lake House Walk - hard to believe it has been 3 years! We are very excited to have 6 families who have graciously offered to open their homes on Saturday, June 30, from 10 am - 2 pm. As always, some charming lake cottages as well as some newly constructed and remodeled homes are included in the tour.

This year we are featuring the following homes: Petty's and Karceski's on the North side, Koscielski's in the cove, and Cassidy's, Stitz's and Seyfarth's on the East side. As always, the event is a great way to connect with old friends, make new ones, and invite your friends from off the lake as well as to see the inside of some of your favorite homes. All proceeds from the event are going for camp Tannadoonah scholarships for underprivileged children.

As usual, the event will start at the beautiful Wozniak barn at 63016 Birch Rd, where everyone must check in to go on the tour. From there, you will walk across the street to the first home and then be whisked away by pontoon for your tour. The first boats leave at 10 am and run continuously. Please note ... the last boat tour leaves at 12:30 pm so that everyone completes the tour by 2 pm. A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn, so please carpool or walk if possible. Truly a fun day with the pontoon boats adding a special touch that make it a charming event for a great cause!

Tickets are priced the same as in years past and will be \$15 pre-sale, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be bought through Denny Weesner and Sue Williams on the South side, Vickie Rogers and Julie Sheffieck on the West side and Cove, and Carla Chester and Linda Yoshizawa on the East side. Hope to see you there!

Feature House #1, Petty



Before



After

Sarah Petty's grandparents, John and Nancy O'Brien, bought their cottage on Birch Lake in 1956 for \$13,500. This price included the house, the land and a fully furnished home, which also consisted of booze in the cabinet, swimsuits in the drawers, and fishing gear.

They were the second owners, buying from the original owners who owned

a steel company, so the floor is concrete with steel beams. The house is mostly cinder block that is covered in cedar.

In 1975, the O'Brien's added a master suite, which made the cottage a five-bedroom home, and a second screen porch. During this remodel, they also re-tiled the main bathroom using tiles from Camp Eberhart. At the end of the summer the counselors had a ceremony in which each counselor was given a porcelain tile, painted and glazed, usually poking fun at something dumb they had done that summer. The tiles tell stories of another time entirely, including many shenanigans had by the group of then 14-22 year olds in the late 1960's, early 1770's. Visitors still come by to see the tiles.

Around 1984, Sarah's parents, Spike and Anne Abernethy, bought the Echols home four doors to the west of the O'Brien's. Sarah and her sisters enjoyed that cottage for 10 years, and were often seen running back and forth to Grandma's for dinners and sleepovers.

After both of Sarah's grandparents were gone, her uncle lived in the cottage while building his home at the top of the hill. The house was listed, then the market crashed. It sat vacant for about five years. In 2011, Sarah's mother asked if Sarah, and her husband Ken, were interested in buying the cottage. Their honest answer was yes, however, they were hesitant because they weren't sure they could physically manage two homes. Her mother and her siblings offered to let the Petty's try it for a summer and see how it went. The Petty's sons were ages four, six and eight at the time. They fell in love with the cottage, purchased it in the fall, and the rest is history.

They knew they had many improvements to make, and have strived to do one project a year. These include a new roof, a new well, repairing the cedar exterior and adding stone to the bottom facade, replacing the cabinets and flooring in the kitchen, replacing all of the flooring and painting every wall. They replaced the bathroom vanity, but preserved the Eberhart tiles. They constructed a laundry room, a new master bath, and even added Eberhart tiles that were found to the new master shower. This year, they paved the parking area.

The Petty's love being at the lake and spending time as a family. Sarah likes to joke that, WiFi aside, being at the lake is like traveling back in time. The kids are outside all day, swimming, fishing, hunting turtles, playing games... actually being kids. They are now a family of six, adopting their daughter this winter. They can't wait to spend the summer with her at the lake and watch her fall in love with the place they love so much.

Feature House #2, Karceski

Mary and Andy Karceski began their lake-house search looking for a clean lake with a firm bottom that was within a 2-1/2 hour drive from their suburban Chicago home. They searched



the internet and came upon a couple of listings on Birch Lake. They hired a local realtor who knew the area and she kept stressing that Birch Lake was a "quality" lake. They fell in love.

The Karceski's are from Shorewood, Illinois. In fact, they live two streets over from the Kinzler's who, in the summer, live on the west side of Birch Lake. Andy works for the ATF as a special agent and Mary is a prosecuting attorney. They have two children. Their son, Chris, is 14 and is finishing his freshman year. He is into scholastic bowl, marching band, technology club and video games. Rachel is 13 and will be starting the 8th grade. She runs track and cross country and loves playing club volleyball.

Real estate records don't clearly show when their house was built, but it was sometime in the 1910's. The previous owners remodeled the home in 1995 and took it "down to the studs." They left the original hardwood floors, but updated a lot of the other features. The Karceski's have done some remodeling, as well. They added windows in the interior front of the house so that they could get a better view of the lake from the living area. They also remodeled the kitchen. They moved it from a galley space in the back of the home to an open space in the front. They added some built-in bunk beds in the anterior bedroom along with siding to the exterior. They say that it's definitely been a work in progress!

One of their favorite features of the home is the wrap around screen porch. They spend much of their time there and enhanced it with a sleeping area — which is a great place for naps. They also love the location! The Petty's live just to the east, and the Slanders live behind them on the top of the hill. Mary says they have been the best neighbors you could have, and their families have become good friends. They spend many evenings hanging out on their dock together or relaxing inside on the screen porch. It's made owning a lake home better than they could have imagined.



Karceski

Birch Lake Notes

It's duck itch season

Swimmer's itch, also known as lake itch, duck itch, cercarial dermatitis, and Schistosoma cercarial dermatitis, is a short-term, immune reaction occurring in the skin of humans that have been infected by water-borne schistosomatidae. Symptoms, which include itchy, raised papules, commonly occur within hours of infection and do not generally last more than a week.

A number of different flatworm parasites in the family Schistosomatidae are what cause swimmer's itch. These parasites use both freshwater snails and vertebrates as hosts in their parasitic life cycles. Mostly waterfowl are used as the vertebrate host. During one of their life stages, the larvae of the parasite, cercaria, leave the water snails and swim freely in the freshwater, attempting to encounter water birds. These larvae can accidentally come into contact with the skin of a swimmer. The cercaria penetrates the skin and dies in the skin immediately. The cercaria larvae cannot infect humans, but they cause an inflammatory immune reaction. This reaction causes initially mildly itchy spots on the skin. Within hours, these spots become raised papules which are intensely itchy. Each papule corresponds to the penetration site of a single para-

site.

The schistosomatidae that give rise to swimmer's itch should not to be confused with those of the genus *Schistosoma*, which infect humans and cause the serious human disease schistosomiasis, or with larval stages of thimble jellyfish (*Linuche unguiculata*), which give rise to seabather's eruption. Seabather's eruption mostly occurs in salt water, on skin covered by clothing or hair, whereas swimmer's itch mostly occurs in freshwater, on uncovered skin.

Since it was first described in Michigan in 1928, swimmer's itch has been reported from around the world. Some suggest incidence may be on the rise, although this may also be attributed to better monitoring.

Children may become infected more frequently and more intensely than adults but this probably reflects their tendency to swim for longer periods inshore, where cercariae also concentrate.

To prevent it, don't stand around in shallow, warm lake water. Staying out in somewhat deeper water and/or keeping moving such as when swimming, will usually prevent the parasites from getting you. When you or the kids get out of the water, towel off immediately



with a strong rubbing motion and then shower with soap and hot water.

Swimmer's itch typically clears up on its own within a few days, though in some cases the rash can last up to a week. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter antihistamines or anti-itch creams, such as those that contain calamine lotion. If the itching is severe, your doctor may recommend a prescription medication.

Orally administered hydroxyzine, an antihistamine, is sometimes prescribed to treat swimmer's itch and similar dermal allergic reactions.

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



At last we've started racing again

At last we started sailing again. It was a beautiful Memorial Day weekend on Birch Lake, hot and sunny but not very windy. We had a hard time getting in all five of the planned races, so we only had one MC Fleet race on Sunday, but the more gutsy Sunfish sailors managed to get in two races. Fun was had by all I think, and hopefully those of you who are not sailors enjoyed see all the boats out there? We had a new Sunfish sailor this weekend WELCOME JEFF WALTZ to the Sunfish Fleet.

It was exciting and hopes were high in this Memorial Day Regatta because in a twist this year to encourage people to get their boats in the water we awarded double points for these races. The race results are listed below.

To sign up for the sailing lessons to be held on birch later starting later in June send me an email at: Pat@McGannHay.com. Or text me at 574-632-5377.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes...

~JPM



2018 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date	27-May	27-May	Race	Captain's	Total	Season	Races	%
Race #	1	2	Score	Bonus	Points	Average	Finished	Finished

MC Scow/Sailor

Scott Troeger #1489	1	-	1600	1600	3200	1600	1	100
Barb Cassady #2506	2	-	1521	1521	3042	1521	1	100
Phil Vitale #500	3	-	1444	1444	2888	1444	1	100
Bill Luecht #1579	4	-	1369	1369	2738	1369	1	100

Sunfish/Sailor

Pat McGann	1	2	3121	3121	6242	1560.5	2	100
Peter Soldato	4	1	2969	2969	5938	1484.5	2	100
Rick Russwurm	2	4	2890	2890	5780	1445	2	100
Herb Cleveland	3	3	2888	2888	5776	1444	2	100
Bob Niezgodski	5	5	2592	2592	5184	1296	2	100
Jeff Walls	6	6	2450	2450	4900	1225	2	100

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.

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

**SUNDAY IS SAILING DAY
AT BIRCH LAKE, and
ON SAILING DAYS
races start at 11 am!**

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STAY CLEAR OF THE COURSE**

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— Water Quality Report —

Regularly, members of the Water Quality Committee receive, typically via the internet, numerous pieces of information, publications, and/or blogs that supposedly are in the realm of water quality. Many of the issues presented could or do affect us directly. Even more are related to conditions we do have or may encounter, or are simply of interest to us.

Many of the articles recommend full or partial solutions to the problems described. Some request membership in, or donations to, their organizations or causes. A few even ask for timely, direct action by their readers (us) to influence those in the halls of power to act in accordance with our wishes.

In most cases this means contacting your federal or state legislators to ask them to vote certain ways on specific issues. Three examples that have come to light over the last few months are:

1.) A bill up for consideration in Washington D.C. was going to weaken Michigan's standards on ballast water discharges within the Great Lakes basin.

2.) A bill in Lansing sought to give an appointed board of industry representatives control over the enforcement (or non-enforcement) of current and future DEQ regulations.

3.) Again in Lansing, (only \$150,000/annually of) new funding must be appropriated in order to continue Michigan's Cooperative Lakes Management Program, which is regularly used by our beloved Birch and some 300 other lakes

in our state.

The "direct action" requested is typically an email to your legislators. While a few on your Water Quality Committee often follow up on these requests, we think (and hope) that many of you would also so respond if advised and requested to do so. Obviously the more contacts received by our legislators, the more likely we are to be successful and to get our issues handled in the manner we desire.

To this end, we'd like to establish a list of names and email addresses of those who might also be inclined to contact their legislators (or whomever) when requested and deemed important. Volunteering for this list doesn't mean you are obligated to follow up on (or even agree with) the position expressed and action requested. While we hope you will, we understand that you might not respond to every request.

To utilize the broad list currently used by the Barker to announce its new issues, obituaries, and other timely information of common interest, seems a stretch; likely more than most of those who requested inclusion on the Barker circulation list had ever envisioned. Further, our request for action on issues or positions could be considered to be too political for the Barker or the Board.

For these reasons, we are asking you to register for inclusion on our lists of those who have requested information and/or opportunities to take action, should they desire to do so, in accordance with the opinions of certain members of

the Water Quality Committee. Please register for this "BLWQ Action" list by emailing Peter Soldato at psoldao86@gmail.com, providing your name and email. Please include the phrase "BLWQ Information" in the subject line of the email.

Thank you. We will try to keep the requests for action to a minimum.

If your appetite for things to do with Water Quality hasn't yet been sated, you may also sign up for a second list and we will then forward to you some articles which we have received and think you may find interesting. You will not be tested on the material and again are free to delete any or all of it (even before reading.) The volume at times could seem overwhelming (and maybe even redundant.) Please register for this "BLWQ Information" list by emailing Peter Soldato at psoldao86@gmail.com, providing your name and email. Please include the phrase

"BLWQ Information" in the subject line of the email. Our ability to best protect valuable resources requires that we get and stay educated and share our opinions with those that matter whenever appropriate.

Thank you for your time and consideration in these matters. We hope to see your names on one, or both, of the lists. Spouses, significant others, adult children, in-laws, etc. are welcome to register (and later contact their legislators) individually. After all, the more the merrier. Thanks again.



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Holiday guests of the Bud and Debbie Hall house in the cove were Quinn and Ryne Howard from Mishawaka. Their mother Sarah Viscik-Howard spent many summer days here at Birch Lake when growing up.

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Working in conjunction with Birch Lake resident Rick Doolittle

— Barker Kids of the Week —

Guess who? —————>

Even this his wife apparently posted this photo of a past commodore on Bookface, a lot of us (who don't frequent that site) missed it ... and it's just too good to not make a Barker Kid of the Week out of it ... Obviously this was a long time ago. If you can guess who this is we'll run your name in next week's Barker!



KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Want your kid to be a Birch Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be Lawnmower of the Week? Just mail your photo (with a SASE if you want them back) 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 them to me at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

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Birch Lake homes for sale



14866 Lake Shore Dr
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TODAY

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Paul@TheLakeLife.com

— Barker Turtles of the Week —



Cal and Liz discovered this tiny tot on Sunday and ... Leslie found it's twin on Monday



Thanks to Mr. Bob King (north shore) for the turtle pix

Welcome to Jaywalker



Conveniently located close to Birch Lake!
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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Starting now, pay attention to everything you say and do because you are under an accident-prone influence. This could be a mild physical accident. It could easily involve a verbal gaffe where you suddenly spit something out and then later regret it. Later in the week, you're laughing! Good times at home (and for real-estate deals) will please you.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - You are the financial wizard of the zodiac. In the next few days, you might have some financial angst, or some kind of financial arrangement will build up and come to a head. The good news is that following that, everything will settle down and you will be back in control. Your ability to negotiate by the end of the week is superb. By Friday, your moneymaking ideas will fly!

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - Do not chafe if relations with partners and close friends are dicey at the moment. They might continue this way until Tuesday, at which time there will be some kind of breakthrough or a decision. By Friday, you're enthusiastic about travel plans or something to do with publishing and the media. In fact, the weekend looks financially promising! You might want to do some serious shopping Friday and Saturday.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Because the Moon is your ruler, you feel the heightened vibes of the Full Moon each month. No doubt you notice each month is different. The Full Moon last Tuesday was relatively mild. After Tuesday, these problems became less worrisome. (Whew!) The good news is that by this weekend, fair Venus in your sign is dancing with Jupiter, and activating your House of romance, parties, sports events, fun times with children and artistic activities. Yay - it's fun city! Plan on good times ahead! (Behind-the-scenes research and homework will work will pay off financially.)

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Your relationships or your concerns about your kids (and a romantic

partner) might be on your mind now. If so, these concerns will diminish by Friday, and you might have an invigorating conversation with someone, could be a partner, could be a friend, could be a group. Whatever the case, others will sit up and listen! On the whole, this is a positive, fun-loving week that gets better and better as it wears on. Plan to socialize with others.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - You have challenges in your life in how you handle the demands of home and family in your personal life versus the demands of your job, career and your public world. It looks like you can't keep everyone happy. And that's the truth. You can't. For your sign, you cannot ignore your job and your public reputation. But everything will work out fine. In fact, by Friday, you will be running the world. Furthermore, Friday and Saturday are marvelous days to schmooze with friends and groups because everyone is attracted to your upbeat energy.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Be careful and be aware of everything you say. It's that simple. When jogging, driving or biking, do not be distracted. Likewise, think before you speak. Aside from this, it's a wonderful week for your sign! It looks like you're excited about travel plans or something to do with publishing and the media, especially by Friday. Meanwhile, by the time the weekend rolls by, bosses, parents and VIPs are impressed with you! (The lead dog always has the clearest view.)

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Keep an eye on your finances at this time. This includes cash flow. It also includes matters related to inheritances, shared property and insurance issues. It could even involve your own possessions or something you own. By Friday, you have strong opinions about shared property and how this impacts your home and family. Meanwhile, by the weekend, travel plans look thrilling! You might actually travel or you might be making travel plans - hard to say.

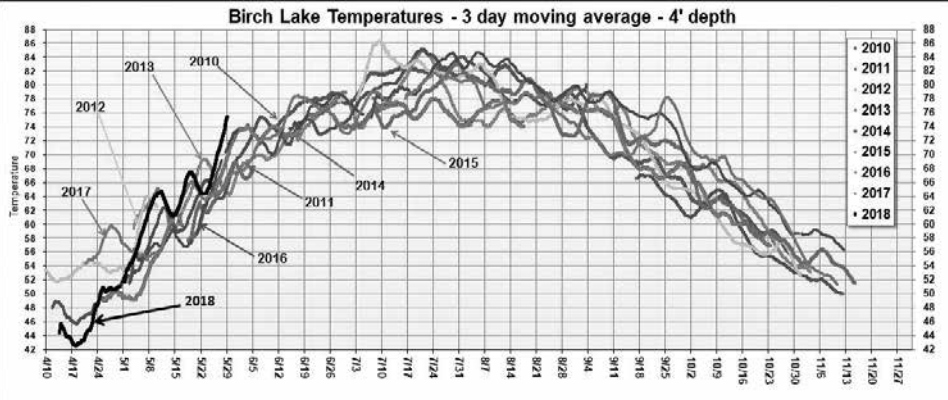
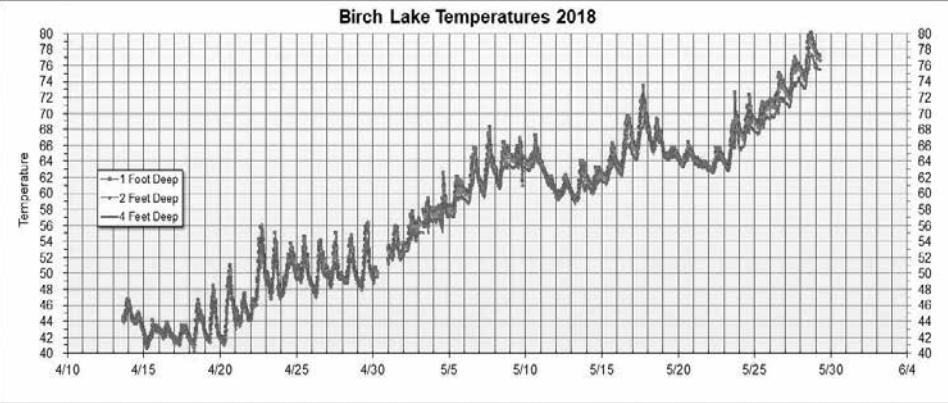
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Hello sunshine! You might feel impatient or annoyed with partners and close friends right now. (Or you might not.) If this is the case, patience is your best ally because patience is the antidote to anger. By Wednesday, you're in the clear and by Friday, you're keenly involved with someone - probably a partner or close friend. Money, favors, inheritances, gifts and goodies will come your way this weekend because you will benefit from the wealth and resources of someone. Keep your pockets open! Remember to grin and say thank you!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - You might have feelings of self-doubt or second-guessing yourself. You might have some irritations at work - problems or perhaps with a coworker but it's basically small stuff. By Wednesday, you are over the hump. Meanwhile, relations with others are strong and supportive! By Friday, your ability to schmooze with partners, close friends and members of the general public is stellar. Enjoy this popularity!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - You might feel some stress with a romantic relationship at this time or your dealings with your kids. You are strong (even aggressive) at this time because Mars is in your sign. (Remember diplomacy. And never underestimate the power of courtesy.) Your health will improve by the weekend along with your job. Many of you are also active in sports, clubs, organizations and children's activities this coming weekend as well because you look busy! Furthermore, your interaction with younger people will rev your engines!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - You feel pulled between the demands of home and family versus the demands of your job or career. Whatever problems you feel will become easier or more obvious by Wednesday. In fact, by the weekend, social situations, romantic trysts, fun times with kids and opportunities in the arts or sports will please you.

Birch Lake Environmental Data



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time,
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.806
3.5 days before last quarter



Sunrise: 06:18:11 AM

Sunset: 21:07:12 PM

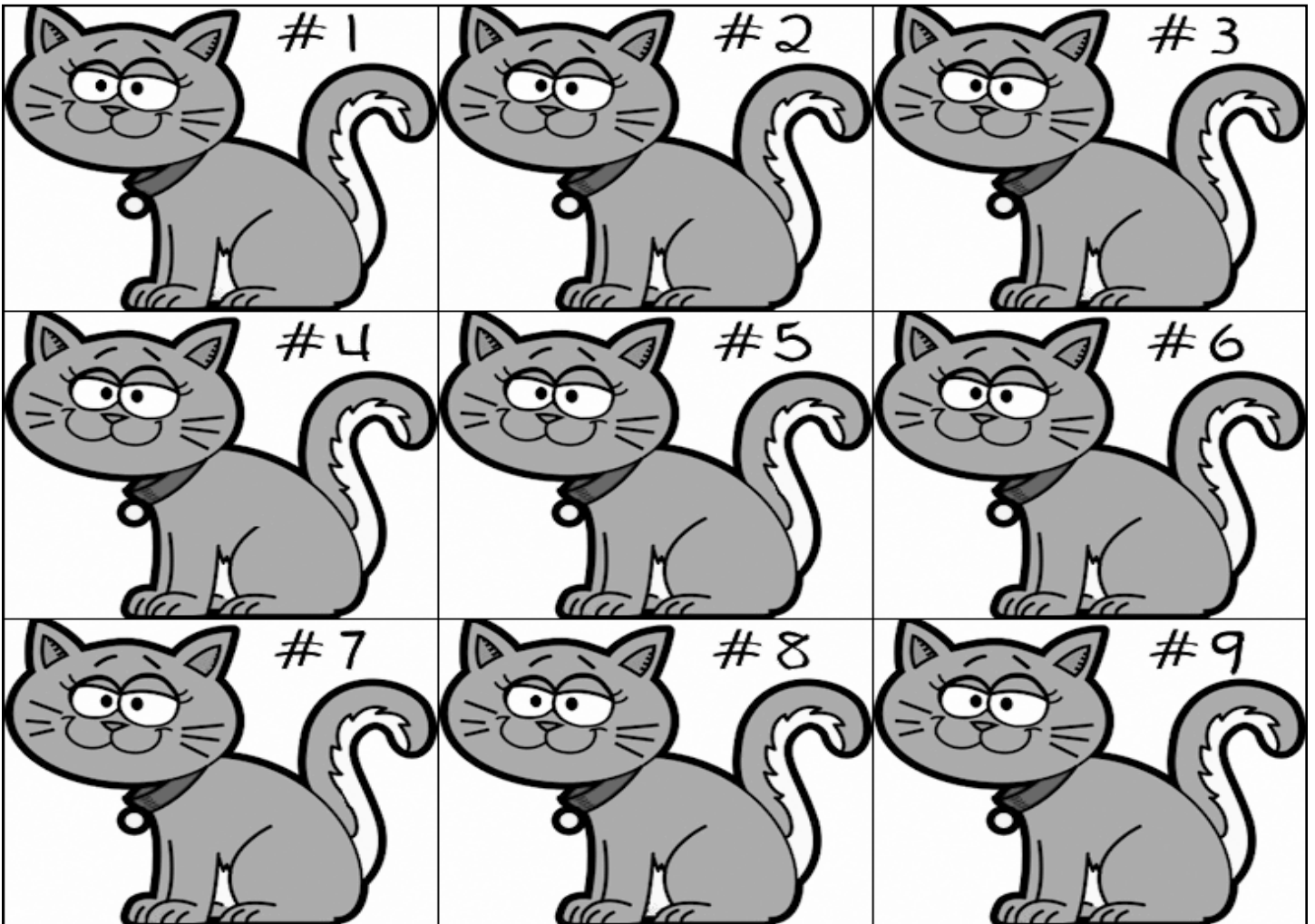
Moonrise: NO MoonRise

Moonset: 09:40:37 AM

Daylight: 14 Hr 49 Min 00 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

There are two identical cats below. Can you find them? The answer is at the end of the Classified ads in today's Barker.



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IDEAS.**



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THE BEST MEDICINE.**

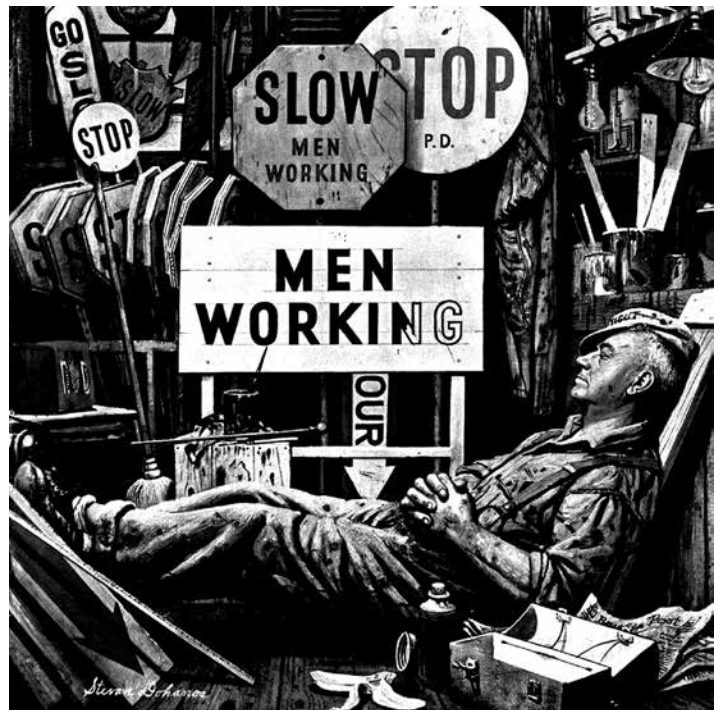
**THAT'S A LIE.
IT'S BROWNIES.**



**I WANT TO BE LIKE A
CATERPILLAR. EAT A LOT,
SLEEP FOR A WHILE, AND
WAKE UP BEAUTIFUL.**



**I CARE DEEPLY ABOUT LIKE
5 PEOPLE IN MY LIFE, AND
ABOUT 400-600 DOGS ON
THE INTERNET THAT I'VE
NEVER MET.**



**ONCE YOU REALIZE
THAT YOU DON'T NEED
A SPECIAL OCCASION
TO BUY A CAKE, THE
SECOND PART OF YOUR
LIFE BEGINS.**

**FINE, WE'LL COMPROMISE. I'LL
GET MY WAY, AND YOU'LL FIND A
WAY TO BE OKAY WITH THAT.**



**I ALWAYS CARRY A KNIFE
IN MY PURSE. YOU KNOW,
IN CASE OF CHEESECAKE
OR SOMETHING.**





~Birch Lake Recipes~

Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge



Root Beer Pork Chops

These are great for outdoor grilling. Simple and very tasty. The glaze at the end gives them a lot of concentrated flavor.

Ingredients:

- 4 (1-inch thick) pork chops
- 3 (12 fluid ounce) cans or bottles root beer
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 cup beef stock
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon chipotle-flavored hot sauce
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 pinch salt, to taste

Directions:

1. Place the pork chops in a dish; pour 2 cans of the root beer over the chops. Place in refrigerator to marinate at least 2 hours. Remove the pork chops from the root beer; season with salt and pepper.

2. Combine the remaining can of root beer, the beef stock, brown sugar,



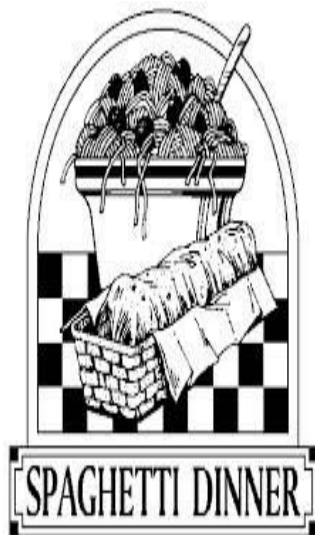
hot sauce, and Worcestershire sauce in a saucepan over medium heat; simmer the mixture until it reduces to about 3/4 cup. Set aside.

3. Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat, and lightly oil the grate.

4. Grill the pork chops on the preheated grill until the no longer pink in the center, about 8 minutes per side. An

instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read 145 degrees F (63 degrees C). Brush the chops generously with the reduction sauce and continue cooking for about 2 minutes more per side. Remove from grill and brush with any remaining sauce. Season with salt to taste before serving

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



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Saturday, June 16

5:30 - 7:30 PM

Enjoy a great evening with friends!

Dinner includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad, dessert, and ice tea or lemonade. Take outs available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance

Children 3 and under - Free Ages 4-10 - \$5.00 Ages 11-Adult - \$8.00

Contact: Buzz and Linda Rasmussen, Cam Butler, Vickie Rogers, Patti Russwurm, Angela Bergan, Lynn DeCocker, Katha and Mike Machalleck, or Sue Williams



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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Staff arriving for training

Here we go! It's hard to believe, but our staff start arriving for staff training this week!

We start waterfront staff training on Thursday (May 31), and the rest of the staff will arrive next week for the full staff training.

Our waterfront staff come early every year to do their lifeguard training, clean up and set up all the waterfront equipment, and learn how to teach our waterfront classes. We go through each class (canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing, swimming lessons, waterskiing, and wakeboarding), and make sure they understand the lesson plans and goals of each class, and most importantly, the safety rules for teaching each class.

This year our lifeguard crew will be led by Miss Audrey Macsuga, who will be the waterfront director for the summer. Miss Audrey was on the waterfront staff two summers ago as a lifeguard, and will now return this year to be the waterfront director. She is from Palm Beach, Florida, and will be a senior at Saint Mary's College in the fall. Miss Audrey is a 2nd Genera-

tion Tannadoonah staff member – her mom, Kara, was on the camp staff in the early 90s!

Also on the lifeguarding staff are Miss Katie (Hartford, MI), Miss Olivia (Eaton Rapids, MI), Miss Alica (Irapuato, Mexico), Miss Mapi (Asuncion, Paraguay), Miss Mia (South Bend, IN), Miss Mary (Jackson, MI), Miss Hannah (Niles, MI), Mr. Tyler (South Bend, IN), Mr. Harvind (London, England), Mr. Tales (Belo Horizonte, Brazil), Mr. Zizo (Cairo, Egypt), and Mr. David (Popayan, Columbia). Plus Mr. Bill (my dad!) who helps drive the boat during the summer.

We are very excited about having such a diverse staff (not just at the waterfront – but in all of camp, too!). We will have counselors from 5 different US states, and 7 different countries this year. Not quite as many countries as we had last year, but it's still a lot of interesting backgrounds and experiences to learn about. It's great for the campers to be introduced to so many cultures and experiences, and fun for the rest of the staff, too.

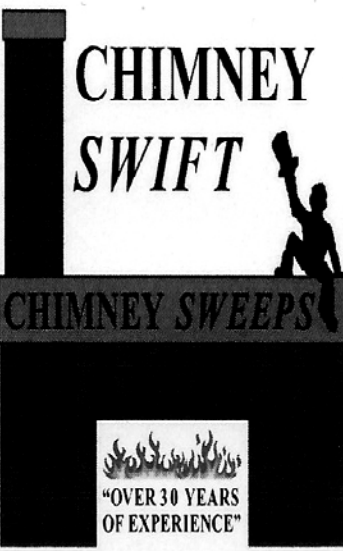
We're currently at 840 campers, so

we're exactly 150 away from our goal for this year. Last year on this same date (May 29) we had 834 registered campers, so we are on track for similar numbers as last year, though our goal for this year is slightly higher.

We're still a few staff members short for this year – if you know anyone who is looking for a summer job, we have some cabin counselor positions available (must be at least 18, or can be 17 if they've graduated from HS), and a maintenance assistant position (must be at least 16). The maintenance assistant can live at camp, or at home if they choose.

We've gotten so much done at camp this spring. We'd like to offer a special THANK YOU to Tom Mosier, who has donated quite a bit of his time to help us with some projects at camp. He's helped us move the well tank outside of Main Lodge, and also helped move the tank and set up the well at the new Welcome Center. Thank you, Tom!!

Thank you to everyone around the lake who gives their time and efforts to help camp be successful!



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4-seater pedal boat for sale. As-is (though we will get her down from the pole barn for test rides). Contact the Kings at 476-2128.

FOR SALE or Best Offer: Double Vanity white Carrara marble Top, White Wood cabinets soft close, Brand new but slightly damaged. Contact Angela

Bergan 561-603-5522.

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

FOUND

Wooden boat stand (for Sunfish, kayak or other) floated up in northeast corner during a wind storm a couple weeks ago. Come get it in front of Klappauf/Gaik homes.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5 for everyone else. Send your ads to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com

We found a kayak floating free in the middle of the lake Monday night. Call or text Pat McGann at 574-532-5477 with a description to claim it.

LOST

Missing: Blue plastic paddle boat seat back. Contact Grundys on East Side if found. 574-315-0217.

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —

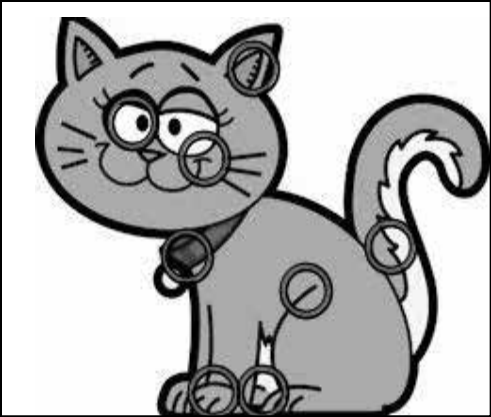
ANSWER:

#2 and #4 are a perfect match.

EXPLANATION:

See the areas circled on the cat at the right?

#2 and #4 are the only cats with all 8 areas matching.



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

It's time to pay your 2018 dues

IT'S A NEW YEAR!



Support the BLYC, support our Birch Lake Community!

\$____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)

\$____ - BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)

*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC

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

\$____ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)

\$____ - Building Improvement Fund

\$____ - Fireworks Fund

\$____ - Water Quality Program

\$____ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$____ - Safety Committee

\$____ - Other non-party related expenses

\$____ - BLYC Roof Fund

\$____ - BLYC AED Fund

\$____ - Misc.

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\$_____

Name_____

Address_____

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Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee

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paulf@hrpconstruction.com

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake



**FOR
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CALL 9-1-1
**ALARM WILL
SOUND**



There are currently four (4) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake.

The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

1. West Shore, Sheffieck home, 62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr. 15046
3. East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
4. South Shore, Eberhart home, 15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

1. Call 911 and report the emergency and the location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, take it to the patient and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow the instructions as they are given.
3. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.



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