



The weekend of **Aug. 29 2015**

# Birch Barker

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



*Thanks to the Lacys (south side) for having such an adorable granddaughter ... Dezi, enjoys her weekend boat rides.*

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

I hope you were able to spend time at Birch Lake this past weekend. Some of the best weather and overall conditions of the year prevailed, in my opinion. It was especially great to see our sailors back out competing on Sunday.

Friday evening was beautiful for the flotilla in the middle of the lake and all occupants sharing food, laughs and the beautiful surroundings of Birch Lake in late summer. Last count I heard was 11 or so different boats joined in.

Thank you again to all of you that purchased 2016 Birch Lake calendars. By now there are only a handful or less left. Linda Yoshizawa will bring what she has to the Fall Dinner or give her a call.

The Fall Dinner brings Sue Williams to announce our new Vice Commodore this Saturday night. I look

forward to Saturday night's news. I am also looking forward to welcoming Sue as Commodore. She is well liked and will do a great job.

Something else we want to share with you at the dinner is the names of all the people who volunteered in some way at a Birch Lake event in 2015. The list of all the different events and activities, some sponsored by the BLYC and some not, is pretty big when you see them all written down. The list of names of the volunteers is equally large and without you, the volunteers, the events don't happen.

Sue and I want to thank all of you for your help and we will recognize you at the Fall Dinner.

That will do it for this week and my last Commodore Comments, I look forward to seeing you at Birch Lake ... where every day is an adventure.

*~Commodore Fry.*

## 2015\16 Birch Lake Calendar

Aug. 29 .....Fall Dinner, 5:30 Camp T  
FRIDAY, Oct. 9 ..... Chili Cookoff

### 2016

May 14 .....Spring Dinner, Matterhorn  
July 2..... Fireworks  
July 3.....Fireworks rain date  
July 22..... BL Ladies' Golf Outing  
Aug. 6..... 2019 Corn & Sausage Roast

### 2015 Remaining Board Meeting

September 5  
at BLYC -- Meetings start at 9 am

**Dates subject to change.**  
Watch the Barker for updates!

### Edwardsburg Food Pantry Fundraising Opportunity

Meijer on Grape Road, Mishawaka "Simply Give Program" has assisted the Edwardsburg Food Pantry (EFP) to stretch its money further through their generous program over the past several

# — Birch Lake Notes —

years. Meijer does this three times a year for local pantries. Edwardsburg Food Pantry is one of those fortunate pantries and will receive this generous contribution only at the Meijer located at 5020 Grape Road, Mishawaka; no other Meijer Store will be contributing to the EFP. This drive will be ongoing through Sept. 12. Meijer will also match the pantry's contribution during this time. In addition, they have a special "Double Match Days" from Sept. 3-5, honoring "Hunger Action Month" in September. This allows for your \$10 donation to be doubled, with Meijer contributing an additional \$20 (for a total donation of \$30) to EFP. You can pick up these 4 X 4 inch card board cards in an upright display identifying the Simply Give Program and the EFP, located in front of the check-out area at the front of the store. You may scan this \$10 card as many times as you wish when you check out, with whatever other items you are purchasing, and then pay through the check-out person or automatic check-out. Your Donation with this match from Meijer will go into the EFP account with Meijer and allows the pantry to buy food in bulk at a reduced rate, making your donated money go even further.

#### **BLYC parking area**

The BLYC board of directors approved a quote to do the work to



## **Friday Flotilla a lot of fun**

*The recent Friday Night Flotilla was a huge success! Walking from boat to boat eating, conversing, and dancing was great fun. At one point they had 11 boats!*

reclaim parking spaces at BLYC.

The work is to commence the week of August 10 and will include removing overgrown brush, small and large trees, dead trees, stump removal and planting of a shade variety of grass seed. All of this work is in the north, east and south perimeter of the existing parking area. Prime Properties is doing the work.

The grass seed will be covered with straw to retain moisture for good germination and minimize erosion. We need 400 ft of garden hose and 3 additional

volunteers to do the watering of the grass seed to help insure getting a good stand of grass in the reclaimed areas. New grass seed needs to be kept moist and this will require watering twice a day for at least 3 weeks.

If you have been looking for a sucker to take that old garden hose off your hands because you did not have the courage to put a non-biodegradable item in landfill, this is your opportunity. I'll do everything I can to recycle them when we are done. Or, if you have hose

# Simply STUNNING

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

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

you want back after the work is done, I'll commit to getting the hose back to you.

Now, let me be very clear. I don't want junk. I need hoses with good couplers including good rubber washers in the coupling (female) end. The male end should not be bent or damaged either so that it does not seat completely and correctly when connected to another hose. I don't want leaky hoses, either.

Candidates should be a hose in good working order that you have been wanting to replace for various reasons. I bet garages around here are full of them.

I thought we would work in two teams of two people. We can work out a schedule when we get closer to the seeding time expected to be the week of August 17 or 24.

Volunteers to water and donate or lend us hoses should contact Fred Freihofer on our house phone 269-476-9823 or email me at [cdfreihofer@aol.com](mailto:cdfreihofer@aol.com) as soon as possible. Volunteers will be put through a rigorous physical test and background check (JK). Leave a message if we don't answer with a good time to reach you, and I'll get back to you.

## **Singin' and Dancin' into the Holidays, A Merry Como Christmas"**

Before the First Jingle Bells, Turkey carving, or Ho Ho Ho's, The Company



gets you into the holiday spirit with their annual Singin' and Dancin' into the Holidays 2014, aptly named A Merry Como Christmas, because it features family of the famous crooner, Perry Como. Since 1985, his daughter, Melanie Como, has been the Driving force of The Company, directing and producing these productions. Melanie Como-Dits, Wendy Como, and Paige Como are granddaughters, with the new introduction of Great-Granddaughter Abigail Wolf.

They have been in rehearsal since



June, and Singin' and Dancin' into the holidays, 2015 is a new production, with new songs, and soloists.

Costuming takes center stage, as The Company prides itself in its flashy costumes and lightning fast costume

# SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS  
NARROW ROADS,  
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,  
A TON OF CHILDREN,  
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON  
OUR ROADS  
AND ON THE HILLS  
TO AND FROM  
THE LAKE!**

**SPEED LIMIT**

# 15<sub>MPH</sub>



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

Message sponsored by the BIRCH LAKE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

# — Birch Lake Notes —



Thanks to Nina Frurip (east side) for the pic of one of Gordon Seyfarth's (east side) Monarch butterflies emerging from its chrysalis and a chrysalis getting ready to open.

changes for the entire cast. This holiday production is as close to Vaudeville (with a touch of the spirit of cabaret) as you will find in the Midwest!

### Want to attend?

Dates : November 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21. Place : Century Center, Recital Hall, 120 S St. Joseph street, south bend, IN

Ticket Information :There are only 200 seats so seating is extremely limited,

Ticket Prices : Seniors \$12, General Admission \$14. The only way to purchase Tickets in advance is thru the mail. 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. Or you can buy at the door the night of performance.

Box office and doors will open at 6:30, warmup starts at 7:30 and curtain at 8.

For information call Wendy Como at 574-243-7704 or 574-229-7232

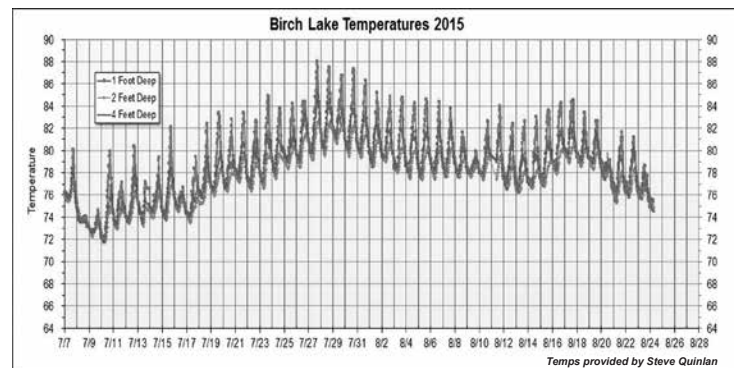
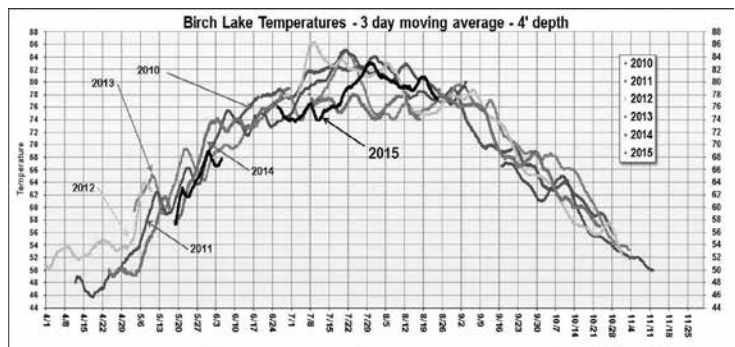
[www.thecompanyplayers.com](http://www.thecompanyplayers.com)

facebook page: The Company Players

### Directories available

The new directories will be distributed to dues paying members of the BLYC free of charge at the fall dinner. If you are unable to attend the dinner your copy will be delivered to your home.

## Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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# — Water Quality Report —

## Purple Loosestrife Management Program

The Birch Lake Water Quality Committee started the Purple Loosestrife Management Program in 2000. The program has been very effective. In 2000 we had 10 sites located on all shores of the lake, some of which were very dense. We continue to monitor for Purple Loosestrife each year and remove the plants that we find. The Plants bloom toward the end of July and into September. If you see, or suspect you see, the plant, please call a Water Quality Committee member to have it checked out. So far this year Bruce Wagner has removed small amounts at a couple of the usual sites and also at a couple of new sites.

### What is it?

Purple Loosestrife is a plant that was accidentally introduced to the United States and distributed as an ornamental. It is most easily identified during the flowering season. This spiked-shaped purple pinkish flower can be seen above the water level in ditches, streams, rivers, lakes, and other moist shallow water

sites. This plant is an upright hardy perennial four to eight feet tall and most often found in groups.

### Effects:

Purple Loosestrife invades marshes, ditches and lakeshores quickly replacing native wetland plants. These plants form dense stands that wildlife can not use for food or cover.

### Spread:

Purple Loosestrife will grow from the roots of an established plant, however the plants spread mainly by seed. Having up to 300,000 per stalk, these tiny seeds can live in the soil and water for many years and can be transported great distances by humans, animals and water.

To see what it looks like, visit: <http://www.miseagrant.umich.edu/wp-content/blogs.dir/1/files/purple-loosestrife/purple-loosestrife-along-shore.jpg>

## Calling all BIRCH LAKE Dogs To the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual **POOCH PARADE!**

SATURDAY, September 5th

Raindate, September 6th

Registration 10:30 A.m.

Parade 11:00 A.m.

Grand Marshall: Our own local Veterinarian  
Duffy DUF0UR

All Birch Lake Dogs and their owners are invited to meet at the Sears Memorial Park boat landing for a Labor Day dog parade celebration. Parking for spectators and participants will be available at designated marked areas on Birch Road and at the landing. After the 10:30 a.m. registration, the parade commences at the boat landing at 11:00 a.m. and proceeds north on Birch Road, ending for the award ceremony at the home of Dennis and Claudia Phipps.

*Costumes are encouraged.*

*All are invited to stay for an after celebration where food and drink will be provided for pooches and pooch parents.*

Prizes will be awarded in these categories:

BEST COSTUME  
LARGEST DOG  
SMALLEST  
CUTEST  
Owner-PET look alike  
Bushiest Tail  
Longest Ears  
& more

All participants will receive doggy AND human treats!  
Participants and spectators are encouraged to donate to the Cass County Humane Society and to the cost of the event. Donation boxes will be along the parade route and at registration.  
Spectators are greatly encouraged and may provide water for the dogs.  
Bring lawn chairs!

### PARADE RULES:

Animals must be current on vaccinations

No aggressive animals or females that are in season

Animals must be on a leash and in control by their owner at ALL times

Pet owners must pooper scoop after their dogs

### Parade organizers:

Carla Chester, Linda Curtis,  
Claudia Phipps

Note from organizers: Last year we had 19 dogs for the first year! We are hoping to have more this year. We have made changes/improvements. There will be music and all participants will be in single file for the viewing pleasure of the spectators. There will be a celebration after the awards ceremony and complimentary rides back to the landing. For those who are unsure of their dog's behavior, last year the dogs were lively at registration, completely calm during the parade, and in love with each other by the awards ceremony!



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Last weekend - The Lord Stanley's cup showed up at Birch Lake as just part of the Gorski family attended an impromptu reunion at the lake. David/Lynn and kids from Indy along with the kids, and Aunt Cathy from Chicago froliced in Birch Lake and had a great time. It had been 13 years since the last time they were here*

*~John C. Groszek*



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Ok, so Sandy hates it when I put her picture in the Barker so in order to commemorate the unlikely fact that last week we passed the day that we got married on 45 years ago (on Aug. 27, 1970) ... I put in a picture of me and some of the fish I caught on a recent trip to Wisconsin ... but all that aside, happy anniversary Sandy.



Magro grandkids (north side) showing off their Birch Lake T-Shirts  
Back row: Sophie, Peter, Sarah, Kate, Alex; Front: Dominic, Vin-

## KID-OF-THE-WEEK PHOTOS

Send your kid of the week to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; put them in a ziplock and stick them in my stone mailbox at my home (east side), email at [SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM](mailto:SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM)

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*This week's "Barker Kids of the Week" includes Jack (aged 2.5) and twins Lily & Luke (born 6/3 to Chris & Brynn Carey of the West Side). Jack has thoroughly enjoyed kayaking, paddle boating, jet skiing & swimming out deep. Lily & Luke love gazing at the leaves and taking in all the beautiful scenery that Birch Lake has to offer. They are all fifth generation Birch Lake babies!*

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# STU'S STAR STUFF



## Popular misconceptions in astronomy

**T**he night sky tonight and on any clear night offers an ever-changing display of fascinating objects you can see, from stars and constellations to bright planets, often the moon, and sometimes special events like meteor showers. Observing the night sky can be done with no special equipment, although a sky map can be very useful, and a good beginner telescope or binoculars will enhance some experiences and bring some otherwise invisible objects into view.

Which reminds me of a story...

One night, during a public viewing night at the Brooklyn College Observatory in New York, the telescope was pointed right at Venus, which was displaying a delicate crescent shape at the time. Yet, one student gazing through the telescope eyepiece stubbornly insisted that he was really looking at the moon. When it was pointed out that the moon wasn't even in the sky, the student replied, "So what? Doesn't a telescope show you things you can't see without it?"

That makes me think about a number of popular misconceptions in astronomy. Here's a couple of my own personal favorites:

IST. I'm not going to say any more on that.

Can artificial satellites really be seen with the unaided eye?

Most definitely! In fact, many people are surprised that an object orbiting hundreds of miles above our heads can be readily seen without the use of binoculars or a telescope. From the launch of the first satellite, Sputnik, in 1957 to the present, the number of satellites in space has grown at a spectacular rate. There are now over 10,000 satellites orbiting the Earth.

British astronomer Desmond King-Hele once noted that a satellite, "looks like a star that has taken leave of its senses and decided to move off to another part of the sky."

If you go out and carefully study the sky near dusk or dawn, the odds are that you should not have to wait more than 15 minutes before you see a satellite now in orbit. Most are too faint to be seen with the unaided eye, but a few hundred are large enough and low enough (100 to 400 miles above Earth) to be seen.

Satellites are seen at night because they are illuminated by the sun. A satellite entering the Earth's shadow immediately vanishes from view and pursues an unseen path until it again emerges into full sunlight.

The International Space Station is by far the brightest man-made object traveling around the planet. Orbiting the Earth at an average altitude of 220 miles, it can appear to move as fast as a high-flying airliner, taking about two to five minutes to cross the sky. It can easily be confused with aircraft lights, though at its brightest the space station can sometimes appear to rival even Venus in brilliance.

Why isn't the North Star the brightest star?

When I was a young, I remember an uncle who took me out on a balmy summer evening, pointed to a brilliant blue-white star directly overhead and said: "See that? That's the North Star" (I later would learn that it was actually Vega, the fifth brightest star in the entire sky).

Polaris, the North Star is probably the most important star visible in the northern sky, but many people are under the mistaken impression that it's also the brightest. It actually ranks only 49th in brightness. But, Polaris just also happens to be the closest bright star relative to the north celestial

pole.

Only the apparent width of about 1.5 full moons separate Polaris from the pivot point directly in the north, around which the stars go daily. Interestingly, because of the wobbling motion of the Earth's axis (called "precession" as we all know) the celestial pole will draw even closer to Polaris (closest on Mar. 24, 2100 AD). Then, as time wears on, it will gradually draw away from it. In fact, in about 12,000 years, our descendants will have Vega as the North Star. My uncle would have been happy to hear that.

Must I wait almost 400 years to see a total eclipse of the sun?

Not unless you don't mind doing some traveling. On average, a total solar eclipse is visible about every 18 months somewhere on the Earth's surface. That's an average of two total eclipses every three years.

Unfortunately, the tracks of total solar eclipses seem to have this perverse habit of occurring over sparsely populated regions of the Earth, or out over the open oceans. Furthermore, even though a typical eclipse track can run for several thousand miles or more, the width of that track is likely to be less than 100 miles.

So, the odds are that any one particular spot on the Earth will have to wait a very long time, nearly 400 years (or 375, to be precise) between total solar eclipses. But, that nearly four-century wait is merely a statistical average.

Indeed, the paths of different eclipses will sometimes crisscross over a specific place, so in some cases the wait isn't so long after all. For example: the totality paths of the eclipses of Aug. 21, 2017 and Apr. 8, 2024 will intersect in a zone that will encompass portions of southeast Missouri, southern Illinois and western Kentucky.

So, if you're lucky enough to be living within this region, you'll be able to see two total solar eclipses over a time span of just under seven years! Cities within this zone include Marion and Anna, Ill., Cape Girardeau, Mo., and Paducah, Ky.

On the opposite extreme, we can cite the case of the islands of Bermuda. Their last total eclipse was on August 30, 1532 with the next one scheduled for February 16, 2352!

More another time. Maybe.

*~Stu Spratt  
Celebrating more  
than 51 Years at  
Birch Lake*

### The Moon for this Saturday

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

**Illuminated Fraction: 0.996**  
**0.5 days after full moon**



**Sunrise: 7:06am**

**Sunset: 8:24pm**

**Moonrise: 8:18pm**

**Moonset: 6:52am**

**Full Moon: 2:36pm**

**Day length: 13h 19m**

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## FEATURED BIRCH LAKE LISTINGS



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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Great weekend for sailors!

What a Sunday for sailing! Winds were out of the southeast at about 5 to 10 mph, with some gusts that took one sailor over on his side, in watching he made a great recovery and started the next race on time. Don't forget we only have two weeks of sailing left on our calendar, we have this week and our final regatta for the year on Labor Day weekend. I would like to thank our great committee boat team of "Bad Patty", "Questionable Patti", Blair Garceau and my wife Amy for their great enthusiasm and support they give to all of us sailors. Hope for two good weeks of sailing!

Until next week... splice the mainbrace.

~"Fleet Captain Mike"



## 2015 BLYC Season Sailing to date

Date .....	23-Aug.....	23-Aug.....	23-Aug.....	Total .....	Season.....	Races .....	%
Race .....	18.....	19.....	20.....	Points.....	Average.....	Finished.....	Finished

MC Scow/Sailor .....				Total .....	Season.....	Races .....	%
Scott Troeger #1489.....	2.....	2.....	1.....	29561.....	1556.....	19.....	95.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002.....	1.....	3.....	5.....	29394.....	1470.....	19.....	95.0%
Bill Luecht #1579.....	6.....	5.....	3.....	26980.....	1349.....	20.....	100.0%
Phil Vitale #500.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	22885.....	1346.....	17.....	85.0%
Bob King #1199.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	13424.....	1342.....	10.....	50.0%
Barb Cassady #2435.....	4.....	1.....	4.....	24810.....	1306.....	19.....	95.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2412.....	3.....	6.....	2.....	26055.....	1303.....	19.....	95.0%
Gib Eberhart #916.....	5.....	4.....	6.....	16683.....	1283.....	13.....	65.0%
Pat McGann.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	1225.....	1225.....	1.....	5.0%

Sunfish/Sailor .....				Total .....	Season.....	Races .....	%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	21245.....	1518.....	14.....	73.7%
Stewart Spratt.....	1.....	1.....	2.....	23397.....	1462.....	16.....	84.2%
Chris Spratt (Blue/Green).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	4334.....	1445.....	3.....	15.8%
Brad Davis.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	2888.....	1444.....	2.....	10.5%
Peter Soldato.....	2.....	4.....	1.....	21655.....	1444.....	14.....	73.7%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow).....	4.....	3.....	3.....	25722.....	1429.....	18.....	94.7%
Bob Cassady.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	12349.....	1372.....	9.....	47.4%
Sandy Vitale (White).....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	11966.....	1330.....	10.....	52.6%
Herb Cleveland.....	3.....	2.....	4.....	22386.....	1317.....	17.....	89.5%
Chris Lintner.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	1225.....	1225.....	1.....	5.3%
Bill Butler.....	5.....	6.....	6.....	16827.....	1202.....	14.....	73.7%
Camille Butler.....	7.....	7.....	7.....	22197.....	1168.....	19.....	100.0%
Bob Niezgodski.....	6.....	5.....	5.....	20446.....	1136.....	18.....	94.7%

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.

**Welcome to Jaywalker**

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# — Dana on Drugs —

## Muscle pain with cholesterol drugs

By **DANA SOLDATO**, PharmD

**C**holesterol is a waxy substance that is produced by the liver and consumed when we eat most of our food. Despite what you have heard, cholesterol is not all bad. In fact, our body relies on cholesterol — it is used to form the outside layer of every cell in our body. For this reason, cholesterol is a necessity. That said, when cholesterol levels in your blood are higher than necessary, the excess cholesterol sticks to the sides of your blood vessels, forming a “plaque.” If this plaque breaks loose, it can block the blood flow in your heart or brain. So, while cholesterol is a vital substance for our survival, having too much cholesterol in your body can lead to heart disease, heart attack, or stroke.

Medications that considerably lower cholesterol levels in your blood are known as “statins.” Statins work by blocking your body’s production of cholesterol, which occurs in your liver. Examples of statins include lovastatin

(Mevacor), fluvastatin (Lescol), simvastatin (Zocor), pravastatin (Pravachol), atorvastatin (Lipitor), rosuvastatin (Crestor), and pitavastatin (Livalo).

One of the most common side effects of statin therapy is muscle pain. Not everyone who starts a statin experiences muscle pain, but those who do are quick to quit therapy. This is not muscle pain resulting from exercise, this is unusual muscle pain felt in your muscles with no explained cause. Your legs are cramping, they’re sore, they’re uncomfortable — all for no apparent reason!

Before you quit taking your statin, consider a few things: What statin does the doctor have you on? What dosage are you taking? What other medications are you taking?

Not all statins are created equal. Muscle pain is more likely to occur with simvastatin and atorvastatin, and least likely to occur with pravastatin, Crestor, and Livalo. This is due to the solubility of these drugs. Crestor, Livalo, and pravastatin, for example, are water-solu-

ble, while the other statins are fat-soluble. Fat-soluble statins can easily accumulate in the body, making them harder for your body to eliminate, and more likely to cause muscle pain.

Another factor to consider is the dose of your statin. Muscle pain is more likely to occur with higher doses.

Lastly, consider what other medications you are taking. Drug interactions that occur during metabolism can result in higher than anticipated levels of the drug in your blood stream. If you are taking amlodipine (Norvasc) for blood pressure, or gemfibrozil (Lopid) for cholesterol, this combination will put you at increased risk of muscle pain.

Statins can be extremely beneficial to those who truly need them. If your doctor has you on a statin and you experience muscle pain, do not quit taking the medication. Talk to your doctor to see if your therapy can be altered to reduce muscle pain.

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** In many ways, the next four weeks are a preview of coming attractions because your year ahead is the best time in over a decade for you to be able to improve your job or get a better job. In the next four weeks, your focus on your job will be magnified. These same comments will apply to your health. No matter what your age, you don't look a day over adorable.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** Things are certainly starting to heat up for your sign because so many opportunities to have a good time are beginning to appear on your horizon. The phrase "good time" covers a lot of territory. For starters, it certainly includes romance and love affairs. Existing partnerships will become a romantic and fun-loving.

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** In the month ahead, your focus turns to home, family and your private life. Some of you might become more involved with a parent. All of you will become more focused on the enjoyment of family and how you spend your private time. Some of you will see ways to improve your home by expanding it or move into bigger digs. Others will contemplate renovations and redecorating projects.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** There are many reasons, depending on the details of your personal life, that the daily pace of your days is beginning to accelerate. Short trips, increased reading and writing plus more involvement with siblings, relatives and neighbors are some of the reasons your schedule will be jam-packed in the month ahead.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** This is a lovely time for you because all kinds of social occasions are coming to you, while, at the same time, making you charming and appealing to everyone. This will be a thoughtful month in some ways because not only are you thinking about your wealth, at a deeper level, you will ponder your core values.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** There is always room for "better" in life, isn't there? That's what makes contentment so elusive. It's also why contentment has an aspect of intelligence. You are pumped because this is your turn to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. This is the one time of year where it is totally appropriate to put yourself first.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** Because your birthday is just one month away, you are definitely aware that your personal year is coming to an end. This means that the next month is the best time for you to strategize and plan what you want your new year to be all about. For starters, how do you want it to be different from this last year? Think about this because if you define some goals, you will find that they are more easily achieved simply because you have named them to yourself.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** You are entering a popular year, and this particular month will kick it off beautifully. That's why you feel a stronger need to join clubs, groups and associations. You will also become more involved with your friends, as well as make new friends. This is the perfect month to define your future goals.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** This month others are so impressed with you — especially bosses, parents and VIPs. This is the time to make your pitch or ask for something that you want, perhaps a promotion or the endorsement of an idea or the approval for something you want to do.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** The month ahead will be quite exciting for you because it will offer you chances to travel, as well as explore new ideas and learn more about politics, religion, philosophy, racial issues, and possibly, even medicine and the law. Many of you will also discover opportunities opening up in publishing and the media. Basically, it's time for you to expand your world.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** You're entering quite an intense month, and everything will take on more of a black-and-white quality, sort of life-or-death overtone. Along with it will be a strong desire on your part to become a better person — to really pull your act together so you can take it on the road. This will trigger some soul-searching self inquiry on the part of many of you.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** For the next month, you will need more sleep. Go to bed. You will be focused on friendships and partnerships more than usual. Fortunately, it will give you a chance to learn more about yourself through your intimate one-to-one relationships. This is not the month to go it alone. Be involved with others. It's also a good time to consult experts - counselors, doctors or an astrologer.

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# BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES

I would introduce you to my family but I'm serious about keeping this relationship going.



someecards

**Google turned 12 this year. This means we only have one more year to use it before it turns into a teenager and won't answer anything!**



**Customer Service:**  
**"Is it plugged in?"**



**Customer:**  
**"DUH...YES! Do you think I'm a idiot?"**

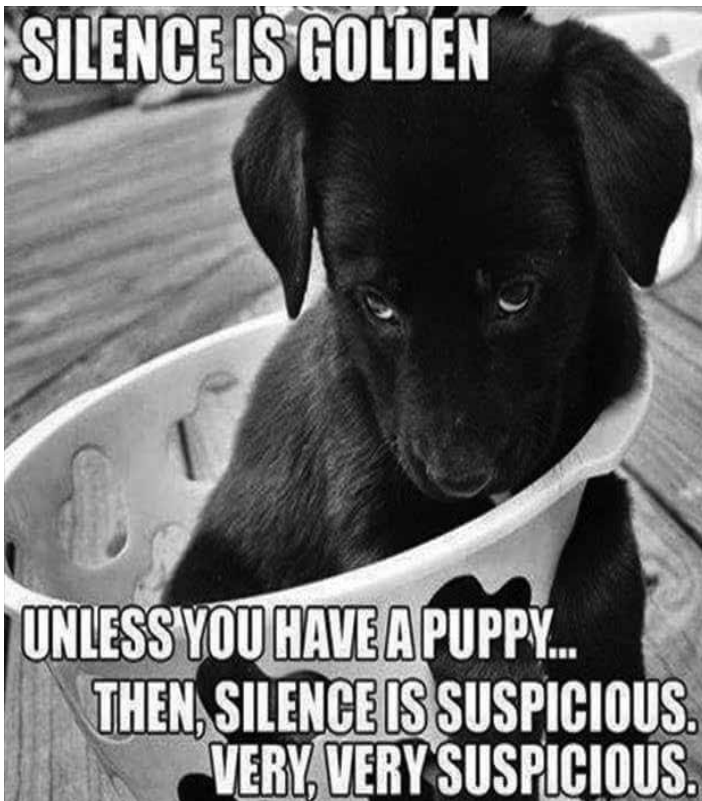
**How To Stop Snoring:**

-Place pillow tightly over partner's face

-Hold til snoring stops

-Delete this message

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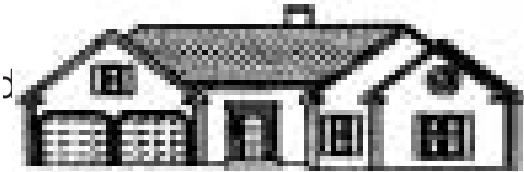
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# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## Stuffed eggplant with shrimp and basil

**Basil and shrimp stuffed eggplant is out of this world! Beautiful flavor. Serve as a filling main dish accompanied by orzo and a green salad.**

Makes 3 servings

### Ingredients:

- 1 eggplant, halved lengthwise
- 1/2 cup olive oil, divided
- salt and pepper to taste
- 8 medium shrimp - peeled, deveined and chopped
- 1/8 cup chopped fresh basil

- 2 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1/2 cup white wine
- 1 cup Italian seasoned bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese, divided

### Directions

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Scoop out the flesh of the eggplant, chop, and reserve. Coat shells with olive oil, and season with salt and pepper; set aside.
- Heat 1/4 cup olive oil in a large, deep skillet over

medium high heat. Saute shrimp, basil and garlic until shrimp turns pink, about 1 minute. Stir in the reserved chopped eggplant. Season with salt and pepper. Pour in wine, and cook 5 minutes.

Transfer to a large bowl, and mix in the bread crumbs and 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. If mixture is dry, stir in more olive oil. Stuff mixture into eggplant shells, and sprinkle top with remaining Parmesan cheese.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 to 40 minutes, or until eggplant is tender.

## Birch Barker Word Search

### SOME BLYC PAST COMMODORES

Find each of the following words.

HENDERSON  
OBRIEN  
FULMER  
MACHALLECK  
COWEN  
OLSON  
BRATCHER

HAYDEN  
KING  
FORTINO  
BEEHLER  
WHITEMAN  
WELCH  
FOOT

TATE  
ROSS  
ANTHONY  
TROEGER  
MONTAGUE  
BALL  
REYNOLDS

HARLAN  
PURDY  
MESSNER  
KRUGGEL

M T L M K O N M A T Y U E E I M L A C T T S O I I H D B D L R A S S B U  
T I A R E Y N O L D B D N Y L S L A L G H E N D O H S Y E R T M I L L O  
U R N M C L L I A C N N O A N D A E L I F E L S B A L R K U O M E A T N  
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R E W E L C H G S T L R C N E A L M G A R O Y T M N T P C O L N R N N B  
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O C C R O M O I B O K R E N E O R L K R U G G I L T H E T B N A K S A D  
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O I E N N M T Y W E O E C E R T L E B R L N C O G T S E N M B S S N W R  
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E C T E F N F O O T R T N N H L A R E M G N R C R D O L M C E H R N R E  
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T O H R E N O N N S G R I E R O F R H L L N H R T H E E E E E L B E L D  
B L L M G L O O E B G S F H R R S R A G R E G T A N A T M L E E W R L W  
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R F A R L O D O O E Y L A U C G T E O U C R A E E C L O H E E K N Y E B  
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A N H H I E N K W W E G L A R H G K D G W S I H R N N O N B M R D F O M

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

For this week's Barker I wanted to share some camper's words about their experiences at camp. A couple weeks ago I described the Order of the Birch Award that is a really special honor for a camper at Tannadoonah. One of the requirements for earning that award is that the camper must write a poem, song, or speech about what camp means to them. Here are some of those poems / songs / speeches from this year.

## From Tommy Oppman:

Camp Tannadoonah. These two words are enough to excite me and make my heart race. That's how much I love this place. The first time I came to camp about 7 years ago, I did the mini week. When my parents came to pick me up, I hid under a picnic table and refused to move.

So what makes me love Camp Tannadoonah so much? Everything. Old friends, new friends, counselors. Hilarious jokes, banana goodness, Chippers. Camp songs that lift your spirits and make you laugh, and others that make you stop and think. That moment when you look around and just think, "wow."

I've noticed that when someone asks me to describe Camp T, I can't. How could one describe the excitement of winning a game of E.R.S., or the amazing moment when all of camp circles up for Green Trees? In this speech, I was asked to describe what Camp Tannadoonah means to me. The truth is that Camp Tannadoonah means Home.

## From Eleanor White:

You wake up early to the sound of reveille  
You rush to flag, no running but walking quickly

We say the pledge of allegiance with our right hand on our heart

Then we are dismissed to breakfast, that's my favorite part

After we are done, we clean up our cabin and go to our classes  
It's amazing how time passes

Then we go to free swim down at the water front  
We splash and we play, it's so much fun!

After that we eat lunch and have fun with our friends  
But when Miss Amber starts announcements we know that lunch as come to an end

Then it's rest hour and we play a couple card games  
Then it's store but we only get one piece of candy, so that's a shame

After that it's third and fourth period, then free swim of course  
Then flag, then dinner, but make sure you don't go in the "out" door

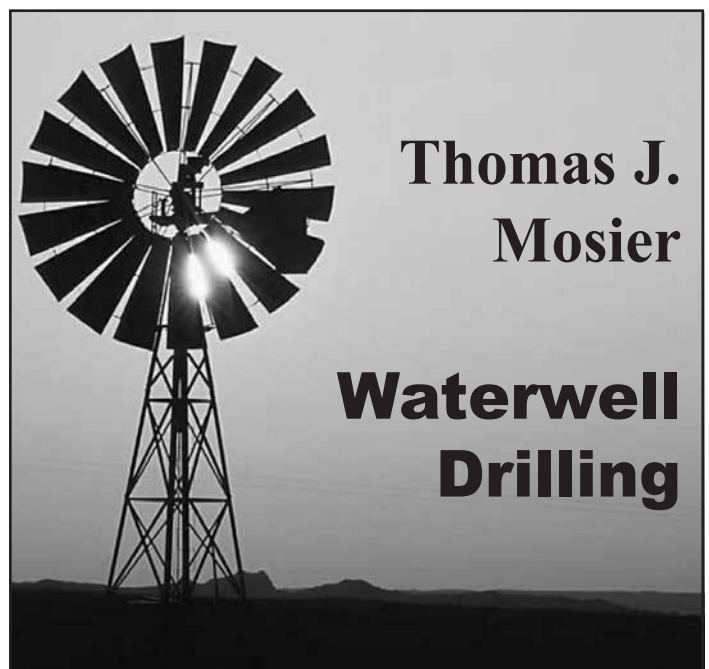
Evening activity is where we can be super crazy  
But then it's cabin time where we are usually pretty lazy

And that's it, the end of our day  
But hey, we still have tomorrow

So whether or not you're happy or in tears  
Camp is the best time of the year!

~Miss Amber

[Amber@tannadoonah.org](mailto:Amber@tannadoonah.org)



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Lost: **Pair of Ladies Glasses.** Please contact Mel Como at 574-850-7964.

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## MISC.

As an entry in the 2000, 2001 or 2002 (we can't recall which one) July 4th boat parade we paired up with Bernie and Helen Weesner. Our boat was titled "**Weekend at Bernie's.**" It was a memorable trip around the lake. Does anyone have a photograph of this? We'd love to have a copy for our new house. Thanks, Bernie and Blair Garceau 476-9862

## BARKER CLASSIFIEDS

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club and \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance). To submit an ad, email it to [Sailorphil@philvitale](mailto:Sailorphil@philvitale)



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\$\_\_\_ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication

\$\_\_\_ - Safety Committee

\$\_\_\_ - Other non-party related expenses

\$\_\_\_ - BLYC Roof Fund

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