



The
weekend
Of

June 6
2015

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Mr. Bob King for the great Heron by the Hammock photo ...

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Four plus inches of rain was in our rain gauge when we returned home on Sunday, May 31st. The gauge was empty when we left Saturday morning. I'd call that a lot of rain in 36 hours. I suppose all of you that were at the lake last weekend had time to catch up on indoor to do's, reading, sleep or whatever. Now that our year to date precipitation deficit has been wiped out, let's get back to outdoor activities.

Speaking of activities, have you taken pictures around the lake that you can submit for consideration for the 2016 Birch Lake calendar? This a big project that has been very popular in the past and profits from sales benefit the BLYC. Linda Yoshizawa is leading the charge for producing the calendar and Vickie Rogers, Sue Williams and Carla Chester are helping. Hats off to all of them for taking this project on again. The Birch Lake calendar is not produced every year and without the hard work of Linda, Vickie, Sue and Carla, we don't have a calendar. Without your pictures, we don't have a calendar either. This is

a project near and dear to my heart because everyone can participate. Winter pictures have been in short supply for past editions of the calendar. Please look around for your favorite shots and follow the instructions in Birch Lake Notes for submitting your pictures.

Have you gotten your tickets for the Spaghetti Dinner on June 20th? Tickets need to be purchased in advance from Denny Weesner, Di Wozny or Sue Williams. By purchasing tickets in advance, you help the people doing all the work make sure they have the right amount of food. Carry out will be available if you can't eat in.

Profits from past calendars and the spaghetti dinner have been used to improve the yacht club. For example, the landscaping timbers under the deck were rotting and were replaced with landscaping blocks. At the same time the work under the deck was done, landscaping blocks were used to shore up the hill on the south side of the building and the gutter on the southeast side of the building was buried.

This project stopped erosion that could have caused damage to the yacht

2015 Birch Lake Calendar

June 13.....	Porter Township Cleanup Day, 8 am to noon, American Waste, Union
June 13.....	Commodore and Vice Commodore's Party
June 20.....	Spaghetti Dinner
June 27.....	People's Regatta
July 4.....	Boat Parade
July 5.....	Fireworks
July 5.....	Pancake Breakfast
July 11.....	House Walk/Art Fair
July 17.....	Ladies' Golf Outing
TBA.....	Poker Run 2015
July 31.....	BLYC Men's Golf Outing (Pete Soldato & Chas Grundy chairmen)
Aug 8.....	Corn & Sausage Roast
Aug. 29.....	Fall Dinner
FRIDAY, Oct. 9.....	Chili Cookoff

2015 Board Meetings

June 6, July 11, August 1, September 5
at BLYC -- Meetings start at 9 am

Dates subject to change.

Watch the Barker for updates!

club. In addition, the door to the yacht club was replaced with a new steel door and a new storm door was also installed.

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. Please E-mail your materials to sailorphil@philvitale.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 BLYC Commodore Fred Freihofer at (269) 476-2615 or cdfreihof@aol.com. --Phil V

— Birch Lake Notes —



Tom Kuhn (west side) sent a pic of their boat lift after the big blow last weekend.

These projects really improved the appearance of our building. Thanks to all of you who have supported the yacht club by buying calendars and coming to the spaghetti dinner as your participation has been key to making these improvements.

Don't forget the Commodore/ Vice Commodore party on June 13. Sue and I look forward to seeing you there for a relaxing evening catching up with your neighbors. Bring an appetizer and join

the fun as we begin at 6:30. There is no theme for this year's party.

That is going to do it for this week ... I look forward to seeing you at Birch Lake ... where every day is an adventure.

~Commodore Fry

2015 Boat Parade

Another week has passed, one week closer to this year's Birch Lake Boat Parade. Have all of you chosen your

favorite movie theme for your "boat float" for this year's event? Better get busy. We hope to have a huge flotilla of boats this year. Stay tuned for more info in upcoming Barkers.

Spaghetti Dinner info

The Southside is busy planning this year's Yacht Club Spaghetti Dinner. Bring your family and friends and enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner which includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad, garlic bread, dessert and tea or lemonade. Tickets are just \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 4-10 and children 3 and under are free. All proceeds will benefit the Yacht Club. Tickets can be purchased from the following people: Southside — Denny Weesner, Northside — Claudia Phipps, Westside — Jan Temple, Eastside — Celia Fallon. The deadline to purchase tickets is Thursday, June 18th. If you would like to donate a dessert, contact Di Wozny 574-315-4915 (text or call) Southsiders! If you would like to volunteer, contact Sue Williams at 476-8886. Don't miss all the fun!

Porter Township Cleanup Day

Porter Township will host it's annual Cleanup Day on Saturday, June 13 from 8 am-Noon at American Waste, 15621 Mason St., Union.

For most items there is no charge (donations are gladly accepted); minimal charges apply for refrigerator-type appli-

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— Birch Lake Notes —

ances, car, tractor and truck tires. No yard waste, garbage or construction materials, no hazardous waste and no TVs. E-waste (monitors, VCRs, DVDs, computers, etc) and waste oil will be accepted. Pickup service is available for handicapped and senior citizens. For info call 641-2375.

Suggestion (aka: complaint) box:

Apparently when Past Commodore (bad) Patty Luecht handed over the mantle of power she neglected to explain one job on which every Commodore is judged. It can storm a tempest on the weekdays but ... needs to be nice on weekends. Please (bad) Patty, be good enough to share your secret with Fry!

~From an Anonymous Griper

It's Calendar Time!

Time to submit your pictures for the 2016 Birch Lake Calendar. We need horizontal color photos from all seasons. Since the pictures need to be enlarged, camera photos usually work better than cell phone photos. Please e-mail your best pictures (no more than five) to lin-dal1008@comcast.net or give them to Linda Yoshizawa, Vickie Rogers, Sue Williams, or Carla Chester by July 13.

Name the Eagle!

Birch Lake is home to several bald



The Commodore's Garden

Summer is on the way. Really it is. Time to toil. Another Commodore grows his garden. Weary work to plan, plot, prep the soil, plant, fertilize, water and do the weeding ... endless weeding, all alone. If everyone will pitch in, plant something, water a bit, weed a little... the load is less and bounty better.

Let's do it together, shall we?

~Chrys A. Lis

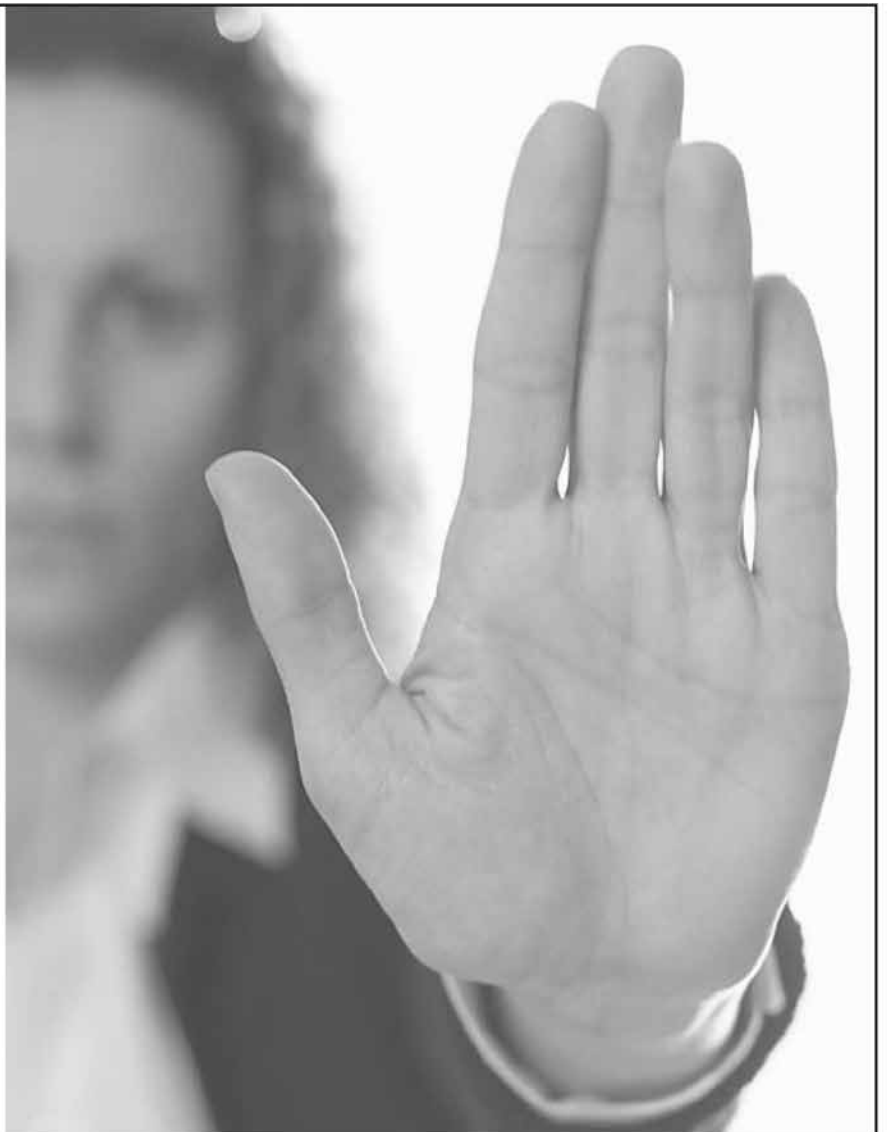
SLOW DOWN

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GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

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

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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 Bob King (north shore) for the nice flower pics ...

eagles, and this is your chance to name one of them. The BLYC is sponsoring a Name the Eagle contest to benefit the water quality fund. You can submit names online until June 30. Voting will begin July 1. For more details or to submit your idea for a name, visit bitly.com/nametheeagle.

If you have any questions, please contact Chas Grundy at 574-315-0217 or chas@grundyhome.com.

Sewer issues

The Porter Township Board has alerted us to a sewer problem we have with the pipes coming out of Birch Lake. There seems to be a plug occurring when it is headed down the pipe around the Rainbow Road area. The township has spent a lot of money getting it unplugged. This time, during the month of May and continuing even now, it's cost approximately \$20,000 to get it cleaned up. The township is working really hard not to have to increase sewer bills, but when things like this happen, they get behind financially.

They are urging all of us to be very careful what is being flushed down the toilets. Even if the package says it can be flushed, that isn't always true. Diapers, sanitary products, wipes, etc. do not dissolve and begin to plug up the pipes. If people would be more careful it would be very much appreciated. None of us want our bill raised.

Eyesores and a sight hazard

I couldn't help but smile upon reading that American Waste (Systems) was the firm officially associated with our Porter Township Cleanup Day.

In a phone conversation of last week with our Township Clerk, Marti Russell, she:

- 1) Agreed that American Waste now had in place eyesores for folks traveling on both Mason Street and U.S. 12 in Union
- 2) Acknowledged that the more recent

eyesore on U.S. 12 also was a hazard to vehicles when both on that road and in and out of the gas station

3) Requested that as many residents as possible call in to the Township Hall to register their complaints over these matters.

Perhaps a certain number of complaints allows and/or improves the odds that our Township officials will take successful action. The phone number at Porter Township Hall is 269-641-2375.

~P. Fallon

BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB



Saturday, June 20

5:30-8:00 PM

Enjoy a great dinner with friends and support the yacht club too! This year's dinner is sponsored by the south side and promises to be a great event. Dinner includes spaghetti with two sauces, salad, dessert and ice tea or lemonade.

Take outs are also available.

Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling Denny Weesner 476-2569 Di Wozny 574-315-4915 or Sue Williams at 476-8886

Children 3 and under are free

Ages 4-10 are \$5.00

Ages 11-Adult are \$8.00



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— Birch Lake House Walk —

House No. 2: Matt and Maureen Koscielski 62758 Woodland Dr.

Matt and Maureen Koscielski purchased their lot from Camp Tannadoonah in 2012.

While that was only 3 years ago, the Koscielskis are not new to Birch Lake. For several years before, each of their 4 children enjoyed their camper experiences at Camp Tannadoonah. Maureen served on the Board of the Camp, and their relatives, Tony and Peg Laskowski, are still avid volunteers. Matt and Maureen also rented a cottage on Birch Lake during the summer of 2010.

The Koscielskis were excited about their plans for a log cabin, so in 2013 they started the building process. And before the year was out, they were able to move into their new home.

The cabin is unique in many ways. As an example, while the foundation was being laid, the western red cedar log shell was being constructed in Canada. Each log was individually hand-crafted (not milled) in Chilliwack, British Columbia. When that process was complete, the shell was disassembled and

The featured homes on the tour this year will be; the Phipp's on the North side, the Koscielski's in the cove, the Petit's on the South side, the Vandewalle's and the Curtis/ Miller on the East side.



loaded on to trucks bound for Michigan.

After they arrived at Birch Lake, with the help of cranes, it took only 3 days to reassemble the shell! The roof, made of prefabricated insulated panels, was then added.

The finishes in the Koscielski's cabin

are also a tribute to craftsmanship, and include hand-scraped teak floors. Even the front door is special as it welcomes family and friends, and sets the stage for log home living at its finest.

Needless to say, they love their home on Birch Lake!

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2015
Birch Lake House Walk & Art Fair
July 11th
9:30am - 2:30pm

This year we have 5 families who have graciously offered to open their homes for the **Birch Lake House Walk** on July 11. Along with the house walk, we will also have an art fair at the Wozniak barn, with local artists displaying their pottery, jewelry, paintings and photography from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. Camp Tannadoonah will also be selling refreshments for a nominal fee. All the proceeds from the event are going to Camp Tannadoonah for camp scholarships.

The event will start at the Wozniak barn where everyone must check in to go on the tour. From there, you will walk 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 tours by 2 pm.** A limited amount of parking will be available at the barn, so please carpool or walk if possible. It truly is a fun day and a great way to see old friends and meet new ones!

Tickets will be \$15 pre-sale, and \$20 at the door. Tickets can be bought through Denny Weesner on the South side, Vickie Rogers and Denise Smitley on the West side and Cove, Carla Chester and Linda Yoshizawa on the East side, and Sandy Baucus on the North side.

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Great Blue Heron of the week (in flight) ... thanks Mr. Bob (north shore) ... we know that sometimes looking up at the bottom of a heron in flight can be fraught with peril ...

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— Barker Kittens of the Week —



Ok, I don't care who you are but if you don't like kittens ... you're just wrong ... Here's a couple of cute kitten shots that someone sent me off the Internet ... and since we didn't have any other kid-of-the-week photos, well, here ya go.



BARKER KID-OF-THE- WEEK PHOTOS!

Everyone loves to see their kid in the paper ... and one picture is worth a thousand words! Send your kid of the week to me (or grandpa of the week or neighbor of the week or dog of the week ... we even print weeds of the week!) and be sure to include the names and other details via email at SAILORPHIL@PHILVITALE.COM

(Please make sure the files are 6 MB OR LESS ... huge email attachments bog down my email server!)

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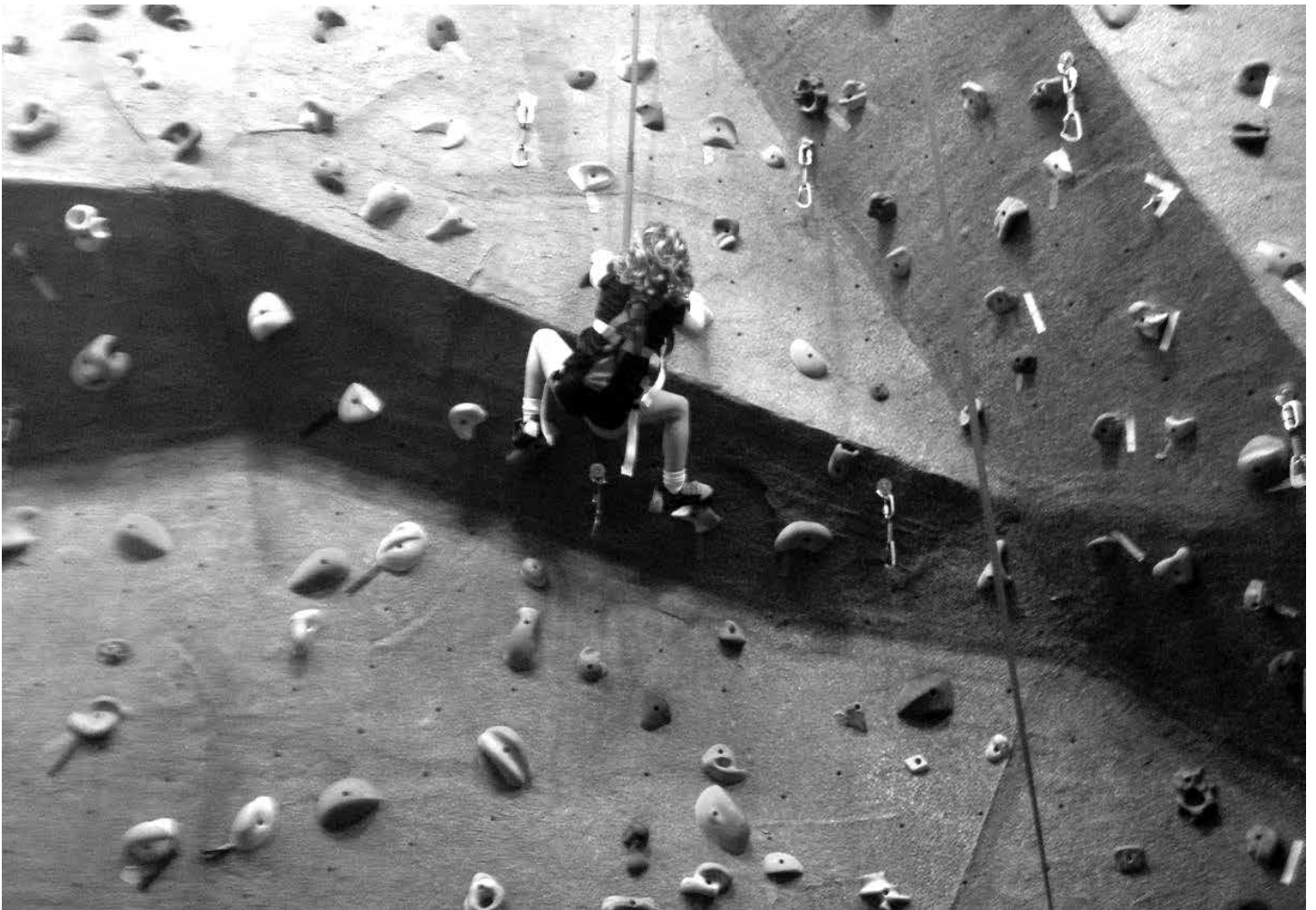
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



That's our 6-year-old granddaughter Spider Aley conquering the advanced rock climbing wall at the Kroc Center in So. Bend.

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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Cold, cold and colder!

As you may have felt, the weather was not in our favor last Sunday, when I see a wind chill in the local forecast, I think twice about sailing or not sailing! I hope, I did not offend anyone by not sailing last weekend, but the temperature and wind was not conducive to a great sailing experience. Anytime you need two sweatshirts and winter gloves it is not a good sailing day!

As of this printing this weekend looks great to start our 2015

sailing season. Hope to see everyone out there.

In closing, we have several opening for our fabulous committee boat, please call me if you have any free time on Sunday's, you will regret or forget the great experiences of running the committee boat!

Thanks again, for all the help people around the lake do to make these races go on every Sunday!

To all "Splice the main brace"
~*Fleet Captain Mike*



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— Dana on Drugs —

How NSAIDs cause ulcers

By *Dana Soldato, PharmD*

Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxen (Aleve), and aspirin belong to a large class of medications called NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). NSAIDs reduce inflammation, fever, and pain by blocking a chemical found all over our body, called prostaglandin. Well, what is prostaglandin, and what does it have to do with ulcers?

Prostaglandins are located throughout our entire body. How they function, and what their role is, differs depending on what tissue they're located in.

Prostaglandins located in the stomach work to produce mucous. The mucous that is produced coats the lining of our stomach to protect against acid. Without a layer of thick mucus coating, the acid in our stomachs would damage our stomach walls.

By taking meds like ibuprofen, you temporarily block prostaglandin and you temporarily block mucous production in your stomach. This is not a problem for a short period of time.

However, if you continually take ibuprofen over time, you continually block the production of mucous in your stomach. If the mucous layer is thinning (or missing!), the stomach loses its protection against acid. This enables the acid to damage your stomach and form an ulcer.

It is important to mention that while aspirin increases

your risk of stomach ulcers, the strong cardiovascular benefits that you obtain from a small 81mg dose, is worth the risk. Aspirin prevents blood clots that lead to heart attack or stroke. Ulcers are treatable, so please continue to take your aspirin!

While these drugs are great at reducing inflammation, pain, and fever, they can take a serious toll on your digestive system! While short term use of these medications is generally safe, please talk to your doctor before you start regularly taking NSAIDs.

— Birch Lake Notes —

Free Fishing weekend June 13-14

The best things in life are free, and June 13-14 is proof! That's because it's Free Fishing weekend, meaning you and your family can enjoy fishing Michigan's waters without a license (though all other rules are in place).

Do you need to update your Birch Lake Directory listing?

New to Birch Lake? Family dynamics change? Want to update your info for the Birch Lake Directory? You can email your changes to BLYC, c/o Deb Spratt at 18100 Farmington Hills Drive, South Bend, IN 46637, or email them to deb-spratt@cressyandeverett.com ...

Barker Deadlines

The deadline for submitting information for any Barker is the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the May 31 issue is Tuesday, May 26) ... thanks.

Online content

The printed Birch Barker will be online this season, as well as additional content ... go to www.philvitale.com and follow the links.



Welcome to Jaywalker



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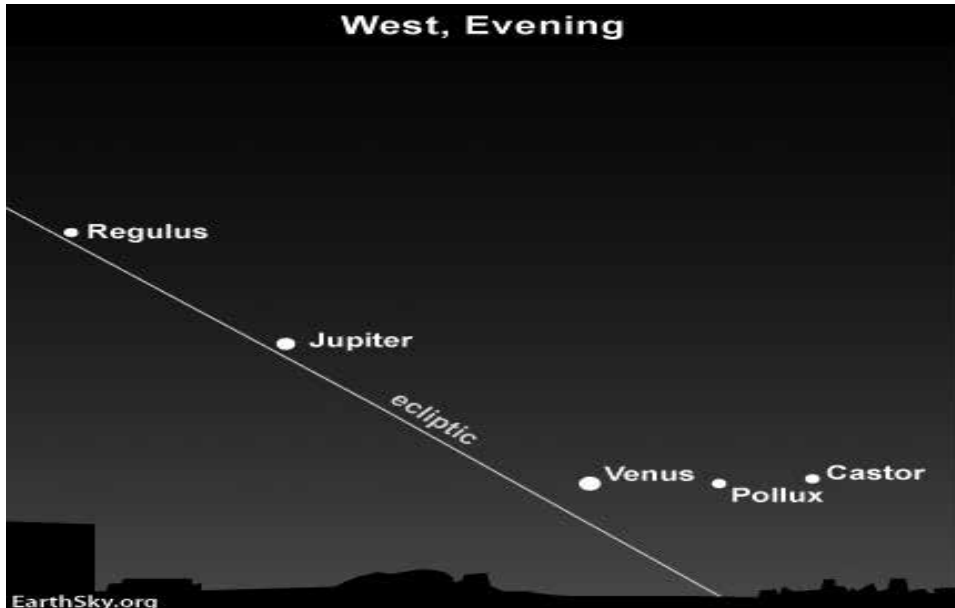
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STU'S STAR STUFF

Get ready for the Venus-Jupiter show



On any night in June, look for the queen and king of planets — dazzling Venus and bold Jupiter, as these two worlds appear in our western sky first thing every nightfall. They'll appear in our evening sky throughout June and they'll be drawing closer together each evening!

Venus will pass Jupiter in late June/early July. At that time, especially on the nights of June 30 and July 1, you can witness the closest Venus-Jupiter conjunction until Aug. 27, 2016.

These very bright worlds will be hard to miss (unless it's cloudy!) because Venus and Jupiter rank as the third-brightest and fourth-brightest celestial bodies, respectively, after the sun and moon.

As dusk turns into darkness, note the star Regulus above Jupiter, on line with Venus and Jupiter. Day by day, watch as Venus and Jupiter race toward Regulus, the brightest star in the constellation Leo the Lion. In fact, using your mind's eye, you can use these three luminaries, Regulus, Jupiter and Venus, to imagine the ecliptic crossing the sky. The ecliptic is the Earth's orbital plane projected onto the sky's dome. Because the planets orbit the sun on nearly the same plane that Earth does, the solar system planets are always found on or near the ecliptic.

At present, the planets Venus and Jupiter are both heading eastward (upward) along the ecliptic, toward the star Regulus. You might think Jupiter should get to Regulus first, since the king planet lodges so much closer to Regulus, the only first-magnitude star to sit almost squarely on the ecliptic. However, the closer that a planet resides to the sun, the faster that the planet travels in its smaller orbit. Venus, the second planet outward from the sun, races along at 22 miles per second whereas Jupiter, the fifth planet outward, plods along at a mere 8 miles per second.

But that's not all. Jupiter's orbital path is a solid seven times longer than that traveled by Venus. For that reason, Venus will zoom toward Regulus day by day, whereas Jupiter will travel at a snail's pace.

Be sure to circle July 18 on your calendar as well. Venus will be almost in conjunction with Regulus, a slight bit ahead of Jupiter in the great race to Leo's brightest star. On July 18, the crescent moon, Venus and Jupiter will all fit within a circle sporting a diameter of less than four degrees. (Four degrees of sky approximates two finger-widths at an arms length.) Don't miss out on this close-knit celestial grouping on July 18, featuring the moon, Venus and Jupiter, the brightest, sec-

ond-brightest and third-brightest orbs of nighttime.

~*Stu Spratt*
Celebrating 51
Years at Birch
Lake ...

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time,
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.753
2.4 days before last quarter



Sunrise: 6:09am
Sunset: 9:15pm
Moonrise: none
Moonset: 10:17am
Day length: 15h 6m

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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) You are guaranteed a summer full of fun, entertainment and romance. It will also bring good times with children. Enjoy vacations and social occasions with others. Your summer will be liberating because you will have the courage to be exactly who you are without fear or apology.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) In the next four months, one of the things you will be doing is redecorating where you live. You enjoy beautiful things and fine antiques; and from June to October, your focus will be on redecorating your home as well as entertaining at home. And possibly, for some, moving into a new home will happen because a real-estate opportunity is irresistible. You'll also enjoy peaceful, quiet hours where you live.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) For the next four months, you will be impossibly charming, diplomatic and articulate. In addition, you discover how attractive your daily surroundings are - almost as if you hadn't noticed before. Likewise, you will be warmed by the realization of how much love there is in your daily life.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Well, there is certainly good news for your sign because this summer, you will attract wonderful things to you, and one of them is money. This means you will benefit from financial transactions. You might get a better job. You might get a raise. You can borrow money. The only downside is you will also want to spend money on beautiful things and fun times. Oh yes - now you see it, now you don't. If you have money to burn - stay away from people with matches!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Starting this week, Venus will be in your sign until October 8. Yes, spring,

summer and fall! This is a fantastic blessing for you. It will affect your whole manner of expressing yourself to others. For starters, you will have a desire to relate to others, and you will see ways to make peace with others, as well. You will enjoy the company of friends and lovers this summer and will be highly social and active. You will definitely spend more money on your wardrobe and jewelry than you have in years!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Virgo is just who you are. You truly appreciate the saying, "It's a joy to labor for those you love." In the next four months, be the best you can be - the most generous, the most giving, the most selfless. And because of this, you will help others who need a hand or a sympathetic ear. In turn, you will feel more self respect and a rewarding sense of satisfaction because you are able to offer this to others.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) For the next four months, you will have a fabulous time with others whether playing golf, enjoying picnics, barbecues, parties or attending meetings and conferences. Your dealings with others will be agreeable and warmhearted. In fact, a casual friend might become a lover. One thing is certain: Beyond your enjoyment of the company of others - you will benefit by your association with others.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You will create a great impression on others, especially VIPs and bosses. People will open doors for you in every sense of the word. Not only will others admire you, they will seek out your input about design, layout, redecorating and PR. You might strike up a new relationship with someone who is older, richer or a mentor figure. Ah yes, a marriage to someone rich is a wonderful labor-saving device. But remember: If you marry for money, you will work for every dollar.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You have an amazing summer ahead. Count on opportunities to explore the world. Many of you will have a long, pleasurable trip. In addition, you can make money from writing, publishing and exploring avenues in medicine and the law. You will also enjoy studying and doing anything that expands your mind and your experience of life. Romance with someone from another country or a different background is also likely. What a fun way to learn a new language!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Sexual relationships will have greater intensity and become a vehicle for self-transformation. In addition, you will attract money to you through your spouse or your business partner. Obviously, it will be easy for you to get a loan or a mortgage this summer. (Up until mid October.) In addition, you will learn more about yourself, especially how you relate to others.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) This is certainly a year where your closest relationships and partnerships have fabulous opportunities to improve. It means you will naturally feel yourself in balance and in tune with others. It will be easy for you to express your affection and make your feelings clear. Even your relations with your enemies, as well as the general public, will improve. You will be loved and appreciated for who you are. (It's all smoke and mirrors.)

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) The good news for you for the next four months is that your health will improve. You will also be in the perfect position to deal with important negotiations with others whether they are personal or professional. You will enjoy your job much more, and possibly get praise, a raise or a better job. Expect financial favors from employers and bosses. (And you can take that to the bank.)

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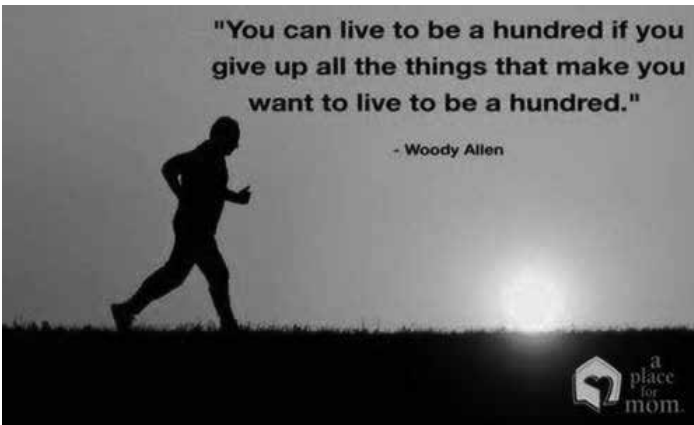
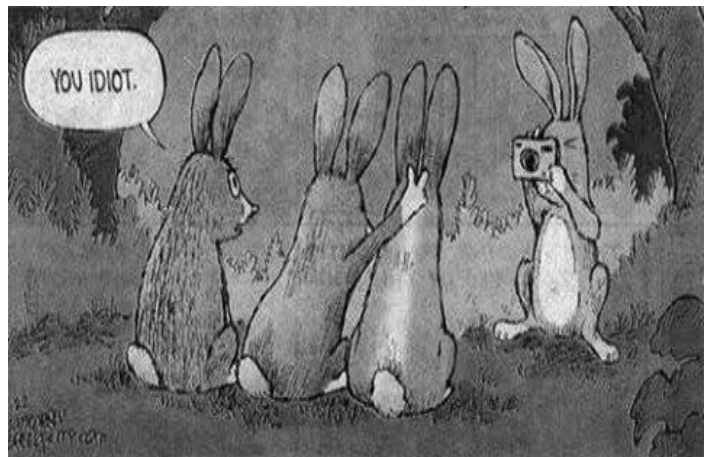
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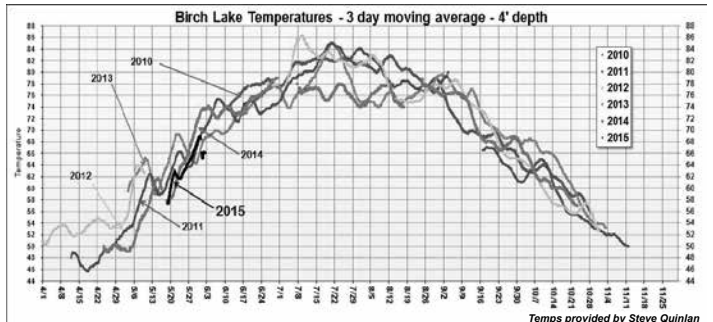
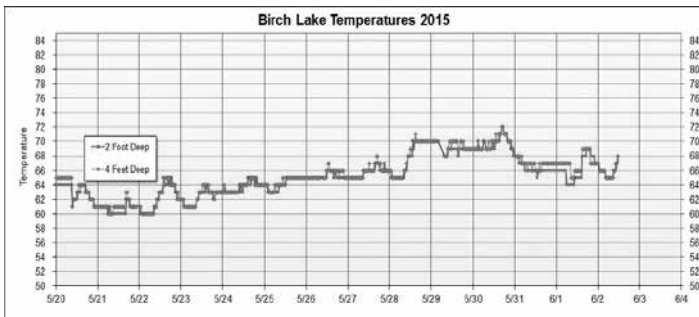
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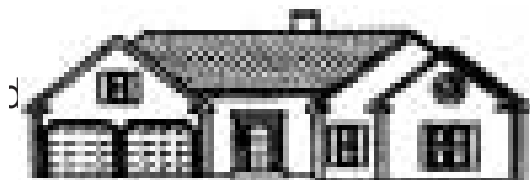
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Birch Lake Water Temperature



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~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Caramel And Root Beer Float

Pour in the root beer slowly, allowing it to cascade over the ice cream, then top off until the glass is full. SERVINGS: MAKES 1

Ingredients

- 1 cinnamon stick
- 3 scoops caramel ice cream
- Root beer
- 1 ounce Averna or other Italian amaro (optional)

Preparation

Lightly char cinnamon stick over a gas burner. Place ice cream in a chilled tall glass. Top with root beer and Averna, if desired, and garnish with burned cinnamon stick.

Vanilla Float With Bitters And Cherries

To guarantee perfect scoops, temper your ice cream on the counter for 5-10 minutes. SERVINGS: MAKES 1

Ingredients

- 3 scoops vanilla ice cream
- Seltzer
- 1 tablespoon Angostura bitters
- 1 ounce cherry brandy or kirsch (optional)
- Luxardo maraschino cherries (for serving)

Preparation

Place ice cream in a chilled tall glass. Top with seltzer, bitters, and cherry brandy or kirsch, if desired, and garnish with cherries.

Birch Barker Word Search

DOG BREEDS

Find each of the following words.

- WELSH
- YORKY
- POODLE
- CHIHUAHUA
- SHIH TZU
- TOY SPANIEL
- TIBETAN
- SPITZ
- AUSTRALIAN SHEPPHERD
- AFFENPINSCHER

- PUG
- NORFOLK
- JACK RUSSEL
- GREYHOUND
- MALTESE
- LHASA APSO
- POMERANIAN
- FOX
- PIT BULL
- BICHON

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— Camp Tannadoonah —

We're getting closer to the start of camp! By the time you get your Barkers on Friday night our lifeguards will be finishing up their lifeguard training, and Saturday morning the other waterfront staff members will be arriving to set up all of our equipment down at the lake! Wave to us as you go by on your boats!

All of the other camp staff and counselors arrive for staff training on Sunday afternoon. They will spend the whole next week setting up cabins and activities, learning about camp traditions, planning for the summer, and getting to know each other and learning to work together as a team. Plus lots of training sessions on best practices, policies, procedures, and getting ready for campers to arrive. It's hard to believe that the first group of campers will be here in just over a week!

It's been a busy few weeks up at camp, finishing up the last details and projects. If you've been out on the lake at all, you've noticed that our new camp dock is in! We are so excited about it! The old one was originally built in the 1940s and was really starting to fall apart. The one thing we will miss about the old dock is the diving board. Unfortunately we're not

able to install it on the new dock for safety reasons. However, we are thinking of new "adventure" options for the new dock, including the possibility of an AquaClimb. It's a climbing wall that would arc out over the water! We won't be able to do it this year, though.

I've had a number of requests from former campers and staff for a piece of the old dock. As a way of fundraising for a new "adventure" feature on the new dock, we will be making boards from the old dock available as a memento for individuals who make a donation towards the project. More details will be available once we have it all settled.

Another question I have been getting this week, since the new dock went in, is about the free-standing section of dock over towards the cove. It's there for a reason! As our waterfront activities have grown, we've run out of good places for our campers to fish. This year we had O'Donnell install a fishing platform specifically for those campers. That way they'll be far away from our boaters and swimmers.

The store porch project is getting wrapped up, too. They're installing benches around the whole outside

edge of the porch so that campers will have lots of places to sit during store time and crafts activities.

Our camp numbers are still looking spectacular! As of Tuesday (June 2) I have 776 official registrations, compared to just 711 on June 2 of last year. Our goal for the summer is 800 total campers, so we're just 24 campers away! We have also awarded more than 65 camperships to help kids who need financial assistance to come to camp.

This year is an American Camp Association Accreditation year, which means that we have a review of all of our policies and procedures by a visitor from the ACA. They look over all of our documentation on nearly 500 different standards, encompassing 7 areas (Site & Food Service, Transportation, Health & Wellness, Operational Management, Human Resources, Program Design, and Aquatics). We've been busy preparing for our ACA visit!

Have a great weekend!

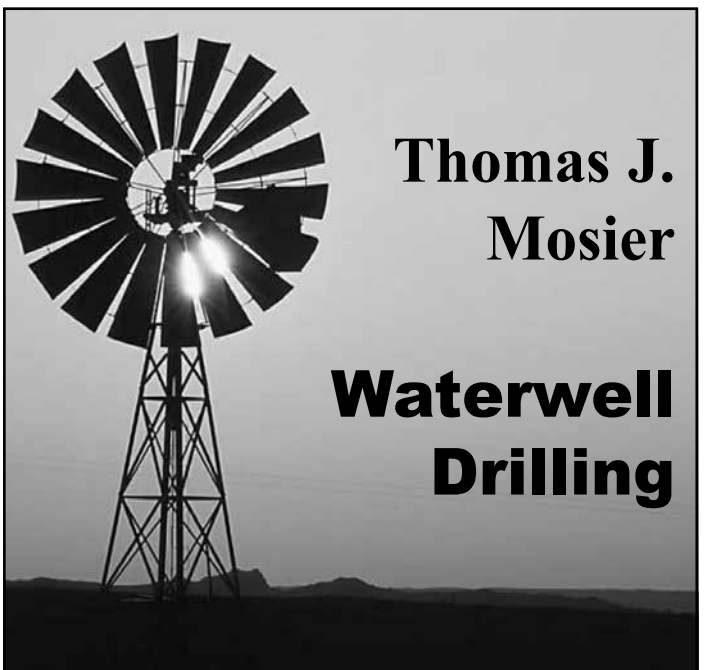
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Classified ads in the Birch Barker (including the Printed and the Online Barker) are free to members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club (subject to the approval of the editor and the BLYC Board of directors), and \$5 per ad for non-members (please pay in advance). To submit an ad, email it to Sailorphil@philvital.com



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