

The weekend Of **July 23 2016**

# Birch Barker

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



*The next generation! No, this isn't a Star Trek photo ... this is a photo of a group of minnows swimming in Birch Lake (and in case you haven't noticed, there's a bumper crop this year). Thanks to Mr. Bob for the pic.*

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**W**e sure have been blessed with some beautiful weather weekends this summer. We just had that little window of threatening rain last Sunday morning which, unfortunately, interfered with the sailboat races, but other than that, the weekend weather was perfect. Let's hope the trend continues, and the sailors can get their races in this weekend.

Pat and I spent some time last week with friends who live on another lake in the area. As we were discussing our lakes and lake associations, I realized how lucky we are to be on Birch Lake. We have two things that make our community unique: The Birch Barker and our Yacht Club building. Each week as I read the Barker, I think how fortunate we are to have a way to keep us all connected and updated on happenings around the lake. On the other hand, the Yacht Club does not get weekly recognition and, for the most part, sits quietly unnoticed and under appreciated! Most lakes do not have a common building in which they can sponsor events. Let

alone, one that has a kitchen! They must rely on homeowners opening their homes for meetings and social gatherings. Most of our summer events would be near impossible to host without our building. So take a minute to recognize how lucky we are to have our little blue building on the south side! I'm sure you also realize that the building does not take care of itself. Your dues help toward the upkeep of the building (taxes, insurance, electricity, water, maintenance, etc.) Thank you to all who have already paid their dues this year. If you haven't paid yet, it's not too late! Thank you also to the people who quietly donate their time to keep our Yacht Club in good shape. Bob Waddle has already done some minor repairs to the deck and is currently replacing bricks on our outdoor grill. Thank you, Bob! Also, a big thank you to Jim Bolinger, who cleans the Yacht Club before and after each event. Jim volunteered to do this in memory of his good friend, Don Harmon, who had done the job before him. It's a big job, and we sure appreciate Jim's willingness to take it on.

Ladies' golf outing was this weekend, and the men's is next weekend. I

### 2016 Birch Lake Calendar

- July 29..... Men's Golf Outing
- Aug. 6.....Corn & Sausage Roast)
- Aug. 12 .....Friday Night Flotilla
- Aug. 27 .....BLYC Fall Dinner  
(at the Yacht Club)
- Aug. 27 .....Vitales' 46th Anniversary  
(and just 126 days until Sandy retires)

**BLYC Board Meetings (9 am)**  
Aug. 6, Sept. 10 @ BLYC  
*More info as available.; Dates subject to change; Watch the Barker for updates!*

know both events are lots of fun for the participants. Thank you to Patty Luecht, Chas Grundy, and Pete Soldato for organizing. The next big event will be the Corn and Sausage Roast on August 6. Makes me hungry just thinking about it!  
Have a fun weekend and be safe on the water!

*~Commodore Sue*

**Updates on Birch Lake sailing**  
Sailors! Send me your cell phone numbers if you want to be included in text alerts and updates on the status of weekly sailing. 317 605 6421.

*~Bad Patty*

# — Birch Lake Notes —

## **BLYC Welcoming Committee**

We are ready to rock and roll on our Welcoming Committee. If you know of a new neighbor please contact Vicky Rogers at 269-476-2383, Pam VanHuffel 269-244-3487 and Linda Curtis at 574-361-2629.

## **Sailing news**

The (ugh, Pepsi) Tall Ships are coming to Navy Pier, Chicago, IL. <https://navypier.com/tall-ships-chicago-2016/tickets-and-ship-info/>

## **Save the date**

The Birch Lake annual *Friday Night Flotilla* will be August 12. More info to follow later.

## **Fire truck to be on display**

Remembrance Rescue Project's FDNY Rescue 4 Fire Truck will be on display at the Middlebury, Indiana Fire Department during the Middlebury Summer Festival on Aug. 13, 2016 from 10 am to 8 pm. On Sept. 11, 2001, eight FDNY firefighters lost their lives trying to save others at the World Trade Center's South Tower. FDNY Rescue 4 was parked two blocks from the WTC's South Tower when the tower collapsed and destroyed this truck. FDNY Rescue 4 was restored and now is part of the Remembrance Rescue Project which is a 100 percent volunteer program. The exhibit is a mobile memorial and teach-



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

ing tool for Modern American History. For more information, please go to our website at <http://www.remembrance.co/> or contact C. Marc Tjaden (West Side), Remembrance Rescue Project Volunteer at 260-710-3995.

## **Online content**

The full, weekly printed Birch Barker is once again online this season, along with selected additional content ... just go to [www.philvitale.com](http://www.philvitale.com) and follow

the links.

## **Printed Birch Barker**

The Birch Barker is a service of the Birch Lake Yacht Club and provided free of charge every weekend to all the homes on Birch Lake, thanks to our generous advertisers.

The Barker welcomes the submission of editorial and advertising materials for publication (at the discretion of the editor). The deadline for submitting

# Simply STUNNING

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

**This is just one example of the custom concrete services and products available to our friends and neighbors here at Birch Lake.**

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

ads and information for any Barker is by 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before publication (example: the deadline for materials for the July 23 issue is 3 pm on Tuesday, July 19) ... thanks.

I'm at 476-1680 or sailorphil@philvital.com. For questions or problems with delivery please contact Sue Williams (476-8886, email: smwillia@comcast.net) or Bob & Sue Waddle (476-3393 or email: sparkybob220@comcast.net).

~PV

## Walk for Life - "People Who Care"

Come join On August 27 from 9 am to noon and walk for Cancer fighters and survivors! Gather pledges and take a scenic walk is all it takes to make a difference in someone's life. Proceeds will go to the Cass County Cancer Service, Inc. to help people with EVERYDAY EXPENSES this is for residents of Cass County who are fighting cancer and need a helping hand. There will be water stops along the route. A light lunch will be provided at the club after the walk. Bring your friends, family, along with smiles and cash. This could make a difference in someone's life YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE. The walk will start at the Conservation Club, down Birch Road to the "swimming hole" then back.

For more information or to make a donation contact Connie Sue Hulse at (574) 333-8838.

## BIRCH LAKE TOTE BAGS BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

**Royal Blue with White Logo  
Very Sturdy and Large Size  
Limited Number so DON'T Delay**

**\$5 each (same as in 2011!)**

**Available by July 23  
63168 Birch Rd (east side)**

**Line up to get yours  
begins at 10 am!**

**Patty Luecht  
476-2615**



# ATTENTION

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PLEASE DO YOURS



CLEAN UP AFTER  
YOUR PET



## BACK ON TRACK!

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## Visit us again For the First Time!

Frankie's Restaurant in Three Rivers has new owners. Over the past few months we have been working very hard to return the quality of the food and the quality of the dining experience to the levels that so many of us fondly remember from years ago. We hope you'll stop by and learn what we mean when we say that we're "Back on Track!"

**Open M-Th 11-10, Friday & Saturday 11-11 Closed Sunday.**

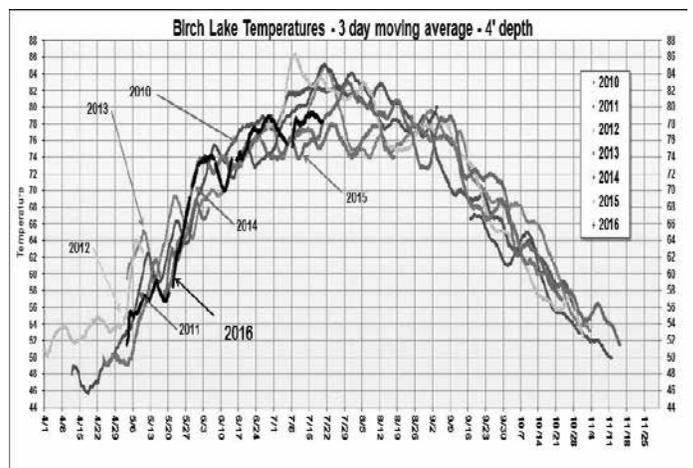
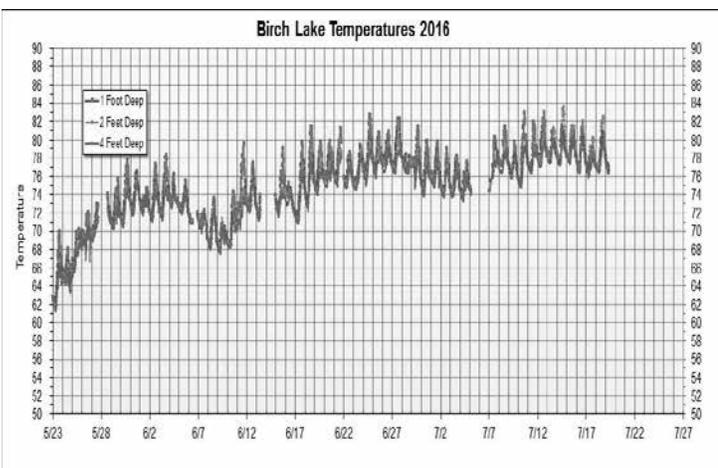
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# — Birch Lake Notes —



## Birch Lake Water Temperature



Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

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## Birch Lakes homes currently for sale



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14965 Birch North Shore Dr. 4 beds, 2 baths, Sandy Beach frontage on the North Shore **\$664,900**



14901 Birch North Shore Dr., Newly Remodeled, 3 Bed, 2 bath, 100 Feet on North Shore **\$535,000**

## Recently sold Birch Lakes homes



**Get a FREE market analysis!**  
Contact Paul DeLano:  
(574) 536-6363  
Paul@TheLakeLife.com

- SOLD 72 LAKE PROPERTIES IN 2015... versus 27 lake properties sold by the #2 agent
- Extensive database of buyers looking to purchase this year
- Lake home website with over 4,000 monthly visitors
- Proven results and experience that close the sale

Explore more online: [MichiganLakesAndLand.com](http://MichiganLakesAndLand.com)



<sup>1</sup> The number of sold lake homes is up 22% from 4/1/15 to 3/31/16 compared to 4/1/14 to 3/31/15. <sup>2</sup> Based on data from the Southwestern Michigan Association of Realtors, Sales of Inland Lake Homes and Properties, from 1/1/12 to 12/31/15 in Berrien, Cass and St. Joseph Counties. Sales of properties where agents represent both the buyer and seller are given 200% credit by the M.L.S.

# — Birch Lake Notes —

Sorry Mr. Turtle ...

*I was still feeling sorry for disrupting the night hunter heron on the Holiday weekend and ... one of the big Masters came flying in with something odd shaped in his beak.*

*Once he landed on the neighbors pier I realized it was a turtle.*

*I no longer feel sorry for the herons. I do feel sorry for the turtle.*

~Mr. Bob



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A TON OF CHILDREN,  
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON  
OUR ROADS  
AND ON THE HILLS  
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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

# New program helps improve shorelines

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership recently launched a program to help lakefront homeowners understand best practices to protect their shoreland and inland lakes. The new Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program will recognize inland lake property owners who are using healthy property management practices to protect their inland lakes and offer tips to further improve the shoreline.

The Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership promotes the use of shoreline best management practices to protect and improve lakeshore habitat and water quality in Michigan's inland lakes. It is a collaboration of state agencies, academia, nonprofit organizations and private industry.

"Many people think owning lakefront property requires installing a seawall and clearing natural vegetation to make way for a lawn," said Julia Kirkwood, chair of the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership and an environmental quality analyst at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality. "But these types of activities change the lake ecosystem in ways that are hard to reverse."

High-impact development activities like seawall and other shoreline structure installation, natural vegetation clearing, and removing aquatic plants and fallen trees from the lake change the ecosystem and allow increased stormwater runoff,



increased shoreline erosion and loss of habitat. As the lakeshore habitat deteriorates, animals such as birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish lose important breeding and feeding areas.

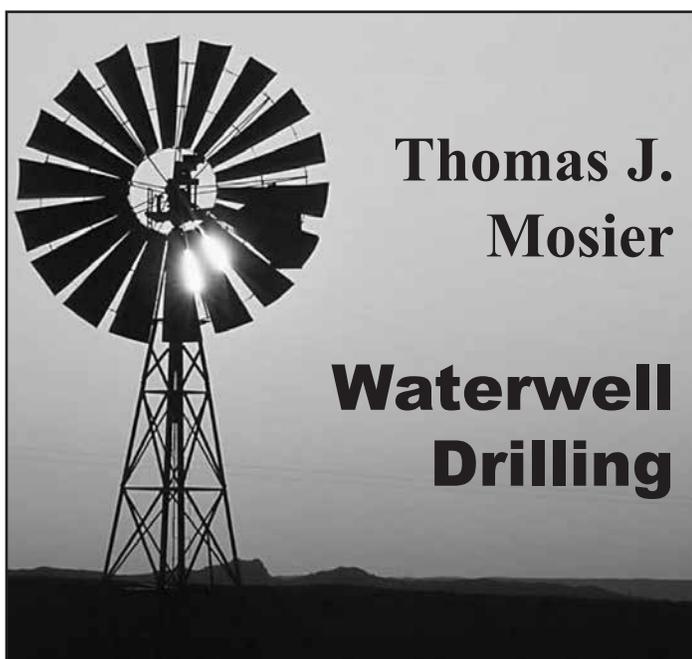
The 2007 National Lake Assessment, conducted by DEQ in conjunction with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, indicates the loss of lakeshore habitat is the biggest threat to the overall health of Michigan's inland lakes. Shoreline and nearshore habitat was shown to be in poor condition in more than 40 percent of Michigan's inland lakes, and in only fair condition in another 20 percent of lakes, according to the survey.

The Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program addresses this problem by providing recognition for property owners who are fostering natural shorelands on their properties. The program uses a web-based survey to ask property owners how they manage their properties to

determine areas for improvement and potentially qualify for a certificate of recognition. Recognized Shoreland Stewards have the option of purchasing a low-cost sign for their properties to promote natural shorelines on their lake.

"We hope property owners will complete the survey to recognize their stewardship potential," said Joe Nohner, a resource analyst with the Department of Natural Resources, Fisheries Division. "And if a property does not meet the standards for a certificate, the property owner will be provided with suggestions to improve. Then we would encourage them to take the survey again once they've implemented changes to their practices."

For more information about the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership, visit [www.mishorelinepartnership.org](http://www.mishorelinepartnership.org). To take the Michigan Shoreland Stewardship Program survey, visit [www.mishorelandstewards.org](http://www.mishorelandstewards.org).



**Thomas J.  
Mosier**

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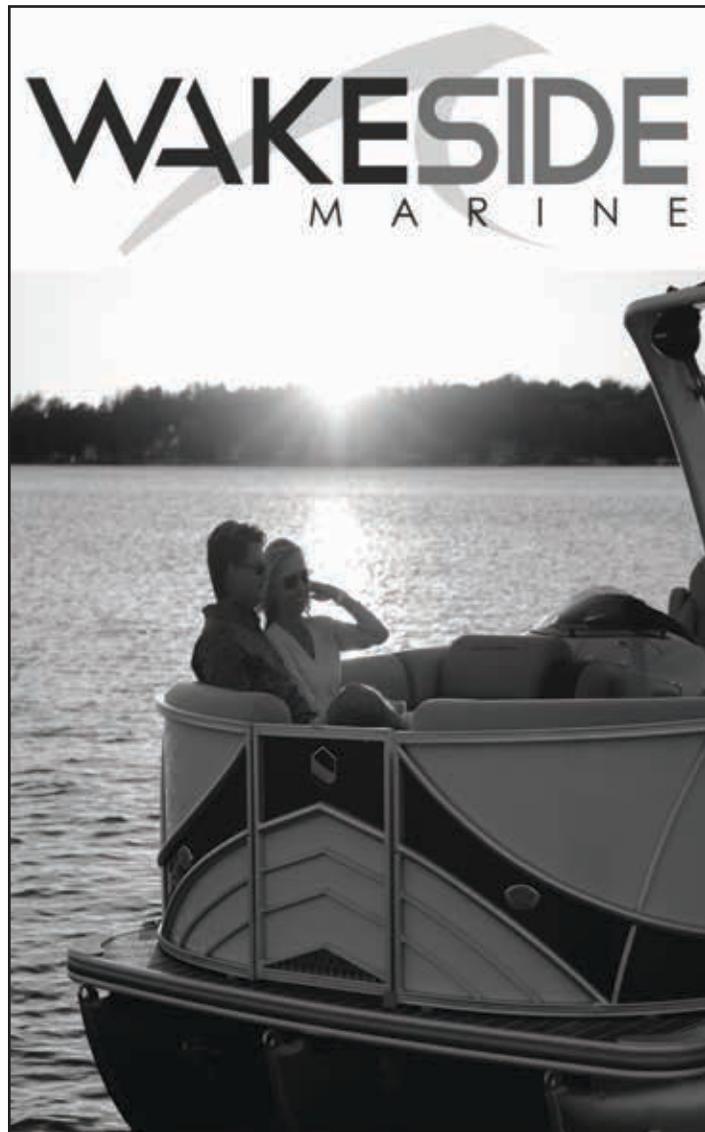
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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## Err on the side of caution

Last Sunday, was a very crazy morning that, I have to explain my actions. Harold and I put the marks out around 10 am as usual. Upon coming back to house, I checked the radar and there was a large band of storms coming across Lake Michigan. Seeing that, I decided to put the races off until noon, going out and telling the boats that were out there of the upcoming storm, by 11:30 the radar was still showing some yellows and reds on the screen, so I decided to cancel the races. To my dismay we only got about 10 drops of rain out of all the color on the radar screen. It is hard to put people in jeopardy when the information of possible storms are out there. There must have been a reason Mother Nature did not want us to sail. So we will try again this Sunday!

Until next week "Splice the main brace"

~Fleet Captain Mike~



## 2016 BLYC Season Sailing Results

Date .....4Jul .....4Jul .....4Jul .....Total .....Season ..... Races .....%  
 Race .....9 .....10 .....11 ..... Points ..... Average ... Finished ...Finished

### MC Scow/Sailor

Scott Troeger #1489	2	2	4	13932	1548	9	100.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	1	1	2	12099	1512	8	88.9%
Phil Vitale #500	3	5	1	8601	1434	6	66.7%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	4	4	3	12487	1387	9	100.0%
Bob King #1199	5	3	7	3896	1299	3	33.3%
Barb Cassady #2435	DNS	DNS	DNS	5186	1297	4	44.4%
Bill Luecht #1579	6	6	6	11601	1289	9	100.0%
Gib Eberhart #916	DNS	DNS	DNS	3833	1278	2	22.2%
Pat McGann #1735	7	7	5	10171	1271	8	88.9%

### Sunfish/Sailor

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	1	12721	1590	8	72.7%
Peter Soldato	5	2	3	14685	1469	10	90.9%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	4	5	14454	1445	10	90.9%
Sandy Vitale (White)	DNS	DNS	DNS	2888	1444	2	18.2%
Herb Cleveland	4	6	7	15020	1365	11	100.0%
Stewart Spratt	2	8	2	12237	1360	8	72.7%
Katie Luecht	6	5	6	3746	1249	3	27.3%
Bob Niezgodski	10	11	10	13486	1226	11	100.0%
Bill Butler	7	3	9	4780	1195	4	36.4%
Camille Butler	11	10	11	9188	1149	8	72.7%
Greg Cowan	9	9	4	3417	1139	3	27.3%
Brad Davis	8	7	8	3334	1111	3	27.3%
Chris Lintner	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	0	0	0.0%

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season.

DNF (Did Not Finish), DSQ (Disqualified) scores as one place worse than last place (if 5 boats finished, you would have finished 6th, will be scored as 7th place).

DNF, DSQ not counted toward minimum number of races needed.

CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.

SEASON POINTS are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)

SEASON PLACE = total season points/number of races attempted

CREW - Counted toward completed races, Points go to skipper of boat.



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When it comes to choosing a Realtor, it's not about claims of having or selling the most listings. Nor is it about the claims of being the "Lake or Waterfront Expert." It's about who will provide you with a quality experience and good results from listing or searching to closing. Read what my clients have to say and then call me when you're ready to sell or buy.

**Elizabeth Carey and Steve Decker -- Sold our home on Indiana Lake**

"Vickie is an extremely dedicated professional who will make you feel like you are her top priority. She can grasp complicated situations easily, explain them to you accurately, and then wisely advise you as to what to do. We found her knowledgeable in many areas and helpful in many ways beyond her obligations as a Realtor. You will enjoy working with this personable, warm, trustworthy lady who will take the stress and strain of buying and selling a home off your shoulders and put them onto hers."

**Amanda North Druckeniller** "Working with Vickie to sell our home was a pleasure! Our home sat on the market for a year with another realtor. We switched to Vickie and had an offer within a month! Vickie is prompt, professional and very knowledgeable in her field. I strongly recommend her for your realty needs!"

**Tom Davidson -- Top qualities: Personable, Expert, High Integrity**

"Vickie did an excellent job in finding a house in Michigan that represented what I was looking for. She also was instrumental in providing detailed information on the history of my property and several adjacent Birch Lake properties which along with her knowledge of building regulations allowed me to obtain a reduction in property taxes. She is dependable, knowledgeable, and follows through. I would highly recommend her."

**Tony Clark -- Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres**

"Vickie is the hardest working and most knowledgeable Realtor I have ever known. I have flipped about 7 properties. She sold my partner's house on Eagle Lake in a couple of weeks. While another Realtor had the listing for 9 months. She helped with taxes, inspections and legal transfers that were outside of her realm of duties."

See more at [www.VickieHall.info](http://www.VickieHall.info) under the "resources" tab

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Paid for by the Committees to Elect Cory Marlow, Honna Gableman and Tom Lutz



**Cory Marlow**

**A candidate for Porter Township Supervisor**, lives with his wife and their son on Shavehead Lake. Cory is Executive Vice President at Financial Partners Inc./Raymond James Financial Services in Elkhart, IN and is a partner with Bacon Hill Kitchen and Pub in Elkhart, IN.

Cory earned his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in 2004 from Valparaiso University and his M.B.A. from Northern Illinois University in 2007.

Professionally, Cory has been awarded the Exemplar Financial Network Rising star award in 2013, The Spirit of Notre Dame Federal Credit Union in 2013, The Jackson National Stars Club in 2014 and 2015, and most recently has been named to the Michiana Forty Under 40 class of 2016.

Cory is active in the community. He serves on the board for Camp Tanadoona on Birch Lake, serves on the board for Cockopalooza, a local cancer fundraiser in Elkhart County, and is a member of the Greater Elkhart Young Professionals, Young Professionals Network of South Bend, and Pillars of Elkhart.

Cory's hobbies include golfing, boating, spending time with his family including his dog Ruby, snowmobiling, fishing, and cooking.

Cory's vision for the Township revolves around fairness, transparency, and fiscal responsibility, and he would be honored to help serve the local businesses and residents as Porter Township Supervisor.



**Honna Gableman**

**A candidate for Porter Township Clerk**, lives with her husband and two daughters on Shavehead Lake. Honna has a restaurant and business management background. She's held several positions in general management, dealing in financial processes, employee oversight, multi-site office operations, and key customer account management. Her industry experience includes a history with West Palm Pizza, Sweet Endings Desserts, and 10 years with Panera Bread.

Honna graduated from Constantine High School. She has 2 Specialized Associates Degrees from the Florida Culinary Institute of West Palm Beach. Her course emphasis included business management, global cuisine, and international baking and pastries.

Honna is active in the community. She has served on the Constantine Public Schools PTO Board for 3 years and was President for 2 years. She has also been a past Member at Large for the IC School Commission in Three Rivers for 2 years.

Honna enjoys spending spare time on the family farm near Elkhart and with family, friends, and neighbors on the lake. She has a commitment to the township where she is raising her two daughters. She is passionate about fairness and efficiency. She will focus on enhancing the township, making it an inviting environment for businesses and residents. Honna would consider it a privilege to serve her neighbors as Porter Township Clerk.



**Tom Lutz**

**A candidate for Porter Township Treasurer**

Owner and President of Barromean Rings, a Michigan Corporation.

Owner and Driver of a Motorsports Team

35 year Management Career in the Recreational Vehicle Industry

University of Illinois - Criminal Justice

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First family home on Baldwin Lake 1963

Founder and 3 time President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association

Current President of Long and Coverdale Lake Association

Military Service - Vietnam

Army Sergeant, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Center Sniper Course Graduate

# — Barker Kids of the Week —



South side "Mako Mermaid" Kiaya Hankins, granddaughter of Doug and Julie Weaver, had a surprise visit from North Carolina cousin Sean Hankins and his parents Kean and Janet Hankins Saturday, July 16 after her Superweek at Camp T.

*MH*  
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**Pat & Tessa McGann, Birch Lake Residents, Eastside**

## **Elect Steve Northrup**

For Porter Township Supervisor



VOTE Aug. 2 to ELECT

**An Experienced Public Servant**

Steve Northrup  
Ph# 269-476-1275  
13562 Harvey Street

I am a lifelong resident of Cass County and my family still resides in this area. I moved to Porter Township with my wife Christine in 2002. I retired after 32 years of service with the Cass County Road Commission and then spent 6 years with Great Lakes Chloride in Michigan Sales.

My two terms as Porter Township Trustee have afforded me the opportunity to address many issues which affected the lives of our residents which included the negotiation of contracts to secure safe and affordable services needed while maintaining a balanced budget.

I created a long-term plan to upgrade all township roads used by our residents. This plan includes directing the dust control, gravel maintenance, and securing cost-effective long-term maintenance for our paved roads.

- **SERVING THE PUBLIC** of Cass County for over 40 years.
- **8 Yrs as Porter Trustee** serving the residents of Porter Township.
- **32 Yrs Experience** with the Cass County Road Commission.
- **Trained And Experienced** to work with County and State agencies.
- **Problem Solving Skills** to negotiate issues on behalf of all residents.
- **Accountable** and courteous to every township resident.
- **Accessible and Available** to listen and consider all views and opinions.

I have also served as liaison to the SEPSA board and as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and have gained extensive knowledge regarding the importance of careful study before making any decisions affecting all township residents.

As a Veteran and life member of the Post #4054 Veterans of Foreign Wars, I promise to uphold and protect those rights and freedoms guaranteed to each of our citizens of Porter Township, State of Michigan, in these United States of America.

- Keep us moving in a **Good Direction.**
- Elect an experienced **Public Servant.**
- Elect a leader you can **TRUST.**

**Elect Steve Northrup**

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Steve Northrup

# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Neighbor Peter Trybula (Eastside) and friend splitting wood ... not the Abe Lincoln way but the new modern way.

photo by Pat McGann (east side)



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

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



David Waxman, nephew of Dan Waxman (east side) checking out northsider Ben Wozniak's beehives.



Greta Boecher granddaughter to Rick and Patti Russwurm (north side) got her braces off the day of her 11th birthday. What a beautiful smile.

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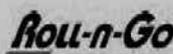
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# STU'S STAR STUFF



## What would happen if the Earth stopped spinning?

**T**he probability for such an event is practically zero in the next few months. If the Earth stopped spinning suddenly, the atmosphere would still be in motion with the Earth's original 1,100 mile per hour rotational speed at the equator. All of the land masses would be scoured clean of anything not attached to bedrock. This means rocks, topsoil, trees, buildings, your cat, and so on, would be swept away into the atmosphere. Oceans and lakes would wash over everything, but eventually find equilibrium.

If the process happened gradually over billions of years, the situation would be very different, and it is this possibility which is the most likely as the constant torquing of the Sun and Moon upon the Earth finally reaches it's conclusion. If the rotation period slowed to 1 rotation every 365 days, a condition called 'sun synchronous,' every spot in the Earth would have permanent daytime or nighttime all year long. This is similar to the situation on the Moon where for 2 weeks the front-side is illuminated by the Sun, and for 2 weeks the back side is illuminated. This situation for the Earth is not the condition of 'stopped' rotation, but it is as close as the laws of physics will let the Earth get.

If it stopped spinning completely...not even once every 365 days, you would get 1/2 year daylight and 1/2 year nighttime. During daytime for 6 months, the surface temperature would depend on your latitude, being far hotter than it is now at the equator than at the poles where the light rays are more slanted and heating efficiency is lower. (We've

talked about this.) This long-term temperature gradient would alter the atmospheric wind circulation pattern so that the air would move from the equator to the poles rather than in wind systems parallel to the equator like they do now. The yearly change in the Sun's position in the sky would then be just its seasonal motion up and down the sky towards the south due to the orbit of the Earth and its axial tilt. As we moved along constant lines of Earth latitude, we would see the elevation of the Sun increase or decrease in the sky just as we now see the elevation of the Sun change from a single point on the Earth due to the Earth's daily rotation.

For example, if we were at a latitude of +24 degrees North in the Summer and at a longitude where the Sun was exactly overhead, it would slide gradually to the horizon as Fall approached, but since the Sun has moved 90 degrees in its orbit, it would now be due west. Then as we approach Winter, we would be located on the dark side of the Earth, and would have to travel in longitude to a location 180 degrees around the Earth to see the Sun 1/2 way up the sky, because in the Winter, the Sun is 48 degrees south of its summer location in the sky. It's a little confusing, but if you use a globe of the Earth and orient it the right way, you can see how all this works out. Get right on that.

As for other effects, presumably the magnetic field of the Earth is generated by a dynamo effect that involves its rotation. If the Earth stopped rotating, it's magnetic field

### The Moon for this Saturday

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

**Illuminated Fraction: 0.784**  
**2.7 days before last quarter**



**Sunrise: 6:29am**

**Sunset: 9:12pm**

**Moonrise: 11:29pm**

**Moonset: 10:30am**

**Day length: 14h 43m**

would no longer be regenerated and it would decay away to some low, residual value due to the very small component which is 'fossilized' in its iron-rich rocks. There would be no more 'northern lights' and the Van Allen radiation belts would probably vanish, as would our protection from cosmic rays and other high-energy particles. A very significant biohazard.

Buckle your seat belts and fasten your chin straps just in case. The ride has to come to an end some time. But for now, tickets are free.

~Stu Spratt

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# YOUR HOROSCOPE

**Aries (March 21-April 19)** Lucky you! This week you will enter a four-week window that might be one of the most fun months of the year! That's because your focus will now shift to parties, social occasions, the arts, movies, sports events, and enjoying yourself with others. Yes, "good times!" will be your motto. This fun month also favors romance, love affairs and new flirtations.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** You love your home. Right now and for the next month, home repairs and home-redecorating projects are tops on your agenda. Family gatherings might prompt frenzied cleaning sprees, ambitious culinary forays and exciting purchases. If you entertain friends and family at home, everyone will enjoy good food and good drink plus lively conversation! (

**Gemini (May 21-June 20)** The next four to five weeks will suit you perfectly because you hate to be bored. You like a fast, exciting pace. Now you will find that suddenly, your attention is on friends, neighbors, siblings and relatives. People want to talk to you. In addition to numerous conversations and errands, you will also take short trips and likely read, write and study more than usual.

**Cancer (June 21-July 22)** You're never casual about money. It doesn't mean you cannot spend it, but you are frugal and you like to get value for your money. These and other thoughts will absorb you for the next four weeks because your focus will be on money, cash flow, earnings and your possessions. However, at a subtle level, you will also ponder what you truly value.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** While it is true that Leos can sometimes be serious, they are always serious about having fun! They do it with drama and style! For the best success, shop for wardrobe treasures before August 5. From now until August 1, you are so empowered and articulate, your odds for success are stellar!

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** The Sun, Mercury and Venus are all hidden in your chart - sending out a completely different vibe. Their placement promotes secret activity (including clandestine trysts and secret love affairs) as well as a desire to play things low key. This is why many of you will enjoy working alone or behind the scenes in the next several weeks.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** As your focus now turns to friends and relationships, you will be more aware of the role they play in your life. Do you hang out with quality people? Remember that the people you befriend are a reflection of who you are. Enjoy fun times and schmoozing with friends; but you can also expect to be more involved in classes, clubs, groups and organizations. Good time to formulate future goals.

**Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** Other people will notice you more than usual; furthermore, they will admire your capabilities and talents. Therefore, it's important to know two things: The next four weeks are the perfect time to ask for permission or approval from a boss, parent or someone in a position of authority, because they will likely comply!

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** Starting this week, all Sagittarians will want to blow town because they need a change of scenery. The allure of new places, new faces and exciting adventure will tempt you; and the boredom of your daily routine will prompt you. Visit exotic places! Travel for pleasure! Make new friends from different cultures. Some will also explore profitable opportunities in publishing, the media, medicine, the law and higher education.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** Whether you know it or not, you are a perfectionist. Others know this; but you are probably self-critical because you're not perfect. In the next four weeks, you will strive to be the best that you can be. You might decide to drop some bad habits.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** The Sun is your source of energy. This may be symbolic; nevertheless, you will need more sleep. Your energy will be flagging either from a busy schedule or inertia. This window of time is also good for forming working units with others because you have a better appreciation of how partnerships work. The next four weeks are also an excellent time to consult experts.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** Life has been good and you've been partying! But good parties have cleanup crews, right? The next four weeks will be like a cleanup time for you because you want to run your life more efficiently. You want to be productive and effective in everything you do. This is why you're keen to pull your act together. You even want to be physically healthier, which is why you might stop a bad habit.

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# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## Jersey Fresh Tomato Soup

### Ingredients:

- 7 cups peeled, seeded, and chopped tomato
- 1 cup finely chopped carrots
- 3/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 (13.75 ounce) can chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon white sugar
- 2 teaspoons sea salt
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 cup 2% milk
- 2 teaspoons dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon celery salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder

### Directions:

Bring the tomatoes, carrots, and onion to a boil over medium-high heat in a stockpot, then reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer for 30 minutes. Stir in the chicken broth, sugar, and salt.

Melt the butter over medium-low heat in a small saucepan. Whisk in the flour, stirring until thick. Slowly whisk in the milk until smooth. Cook and stir, whisking constantly until thickened, about 5 minutes, then stir milk mixture in to the stockpot. Season with basil, celery salt, black pepper, and garlic powder. Continue to simmer the soup on low to reduce and thicken, about 1 hour.

## Birch Barker Sudoku

### Puzzle of the Day

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

# — Camp Tannadoonah —

It's Wild and Wacky week at Camp Tannadoonah this week. The CITs (Counselors in Training) are the "committee" this week and are in charge of planning the evening activities.

Next week is Holidays Week, and on Wednesday evening (July 27) we are celebrating Halloween and will be coming around the lake trick or treating! We'll have approximately 60 campers going each direction – one group along the north and east shorts, and one group along the cove and west side. If you're home, and would like to provide treats to the campers, we'll be leaving camp around 7:15pm.

This week I wanted to do something a little different in our Camp column. In the past year, our board has been working towards developing a new process for recruiting and bringing on new board members. I'd like to explain that process, and invite anyone who may be interested in applying to join the board to do so.

The first step for prospective board members is for them to fill out an application. This can be done online (at [tiny.cc/BoardApp](http://tiny.cc/BoardApp)) or by emailing me to obtain a hard copy. Once we receive an application, it is shared with our Board Development

Committee. The committee is made up of 3 current board members and 2 non board members.

In consultation with the Board of Directors, the Board Development Committee has developed a list of current gaps or needs on the Board. When new applications are received, they are reviewed by members of the committee, and a decision is made on whether the applicant could fill one of those current needs or gaps. If so, the Board Development Committee will contact the applicant to set up time for an interview, to be conducted by at least 3 members of the committee. After an interview with the Board Development Committee, potential applicants are also asked to meet with the Executive Director (that's me, Amber) to talk about Camp Fire, Camp Tannadoonah, and board roles.

If an applicant does not fill a current need or gap on the board, the committee will contact them to see if there is a role that they could fill on a committee or in another volunteer capacity.

Alternatively, they may be asked if they would like their application to be kept on file in case of a future need or gap on the Board that they could fill.

Once applicants have been interviewed by the committee, and had a meeting with me, the Board Development Committee meets to discuss the application. The committee typically meets monthly.

They decide whether or not to recommend the applicant to the board for a board position. The committee contacts the applicant to let them know whether they will be put on the slate at the next board meeting or not.

If an applicant is recommended to the board, at the next board meeting a vote of the Board Members is held to determine if the individual will be approved to become a new member of the Board. Board terms are three years in length, and members may serve up to two consecutive terms, for a total of up to 6 years as a board member.

We are currently looking for new board members, and in particular the gaps we are trying to fill include individuals with legal background, fundraising experience, and grant writing skills. If you are interested in applying to join the Camp Fire River Bend Board, please complete the application at [tiny.cc/BoardApp](http://tiny.cc/BoardApp) or email me at [amber@tannadoonah.org](mailto:amber@tannadoonah.org) and I can get you a hard copy. Thank you!



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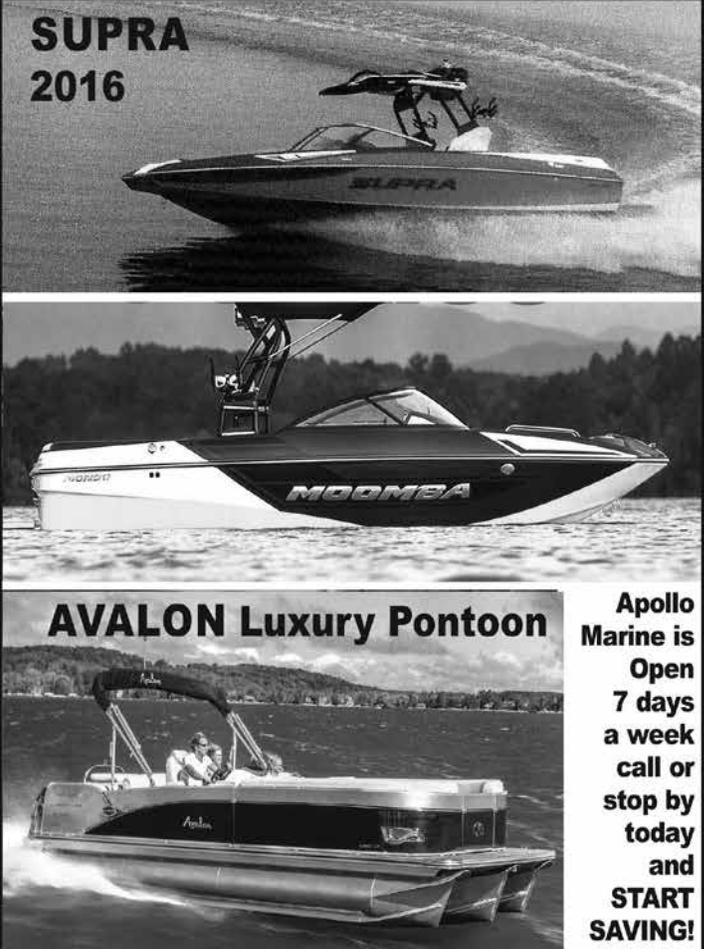
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Camp Tannadoonah is looking to purchase a **pickup truck**. We are hoping for an older 4x4 model for Ranger Bob to use around camp, and for picking up materials for projects. Nothing fancy! If you have a truck you're interested in selling (or donating!), please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

Camp is also looking for a **gas-powered wood splitter**. If you have one that doesn't get much use and you're interested in selling (or donating!) it, please contact Amber at 574-387-6095.

## FOUND



**This floated up on our shore** a month ago. We are on the east side located at 63418 Birch Rd.

Found: **Styrofoam noodle (pink) and boogie board (blue)**. Call Tom Kuhn 708-772-7373/Jan Temple (847-846-8600)

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Chas Grundy (H).....476-7062 Chas.grundy@gmail.com	Rick Russwurm (N).....476-2407 paramountp@aol.com		Paul Fallon, BLYC Water Quality Committee Chairman (E).....476-1467 paulf@hrpconstruction.com
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