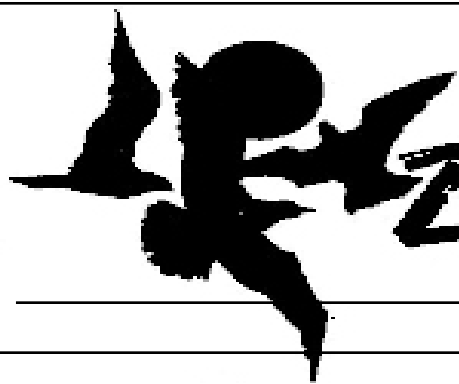


The
Weekend
Of

July 13
2019



Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



No, that's not an ad for Sweetwater pontoon boats, that's a pic Mr. Bob (King, north side) sent in of a Great Blue Heron taking a break from fishing atop the Bimini of his boat last weekend. Hope he didn't leave a nasty surprise for you to clean up, Bob!

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello Birch Lake Patriots,
I hope you enjoyed this weekend and all of the festivities.

What a beautiful weekend with a short rain break but maybe it was needed to re-group. The boat parade was delayed until 8 pm, but it still was a success with many great floats. The leader of the parade was our Grand Marshall Mrs. Vivian Kolber. She was a wonderful introduction to the parade, and her family decorated their boat in such a patriotic theme. The first prize winner was the Groszek family who decorated their boat with red solo cups and the Toby Keith song to match.

The second place was a tie between Baby Shark from the Garceau family and Don't Worry Be Happy from the Wozniak family. The cuteness was too hard to compete with the little ones adorned in costumes and singing along. The fourth place winner was the Kinzey family who were singing the Little Big Town Song, "Pontoon," which is a great summer song for lake cruising.

Boats included:

Grand Marshall - Vivian Kolber
Wozniak - Don't Worry Bee Happy (Tied for Second)

Dugan - Somewhere Over the Rainbow
Fredlake/ Wonzy - Yeti
Bad Patti - Just Another Saturday Night

Groszek - Red Solo Cup (First Prize)
Kinzey - Pontoon (Fourth Prize)
Garceau Family - Baby Shark (Tied for Second)
McGann - Hamilton

Thank you for each and every one of you who attended, and hope next year the weather cooperates so we can have the Boat Parade a bit earlier and a bit more organized. I also hope next year we can get a bit more detailed for registration. Thank you to our judges and number provider, we appreciate the Stitz family, including John, Trish, Claire and Lauren.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the fireworks this year. What an excellent show on display. We also got lucky with some surrounding lakes that had their show at the same time. Thank you to Chas Grundy for assisting with the contract for the fireworks, and

2019 Birch Lake Calendar

July 14 - Sailing Meeting, McGann's, 9 am
July 19 - Ladies Golf, 9 am, Diamond Lake Golf Course
July 20 - Hogoboom family reunion, BLYC
July 26 - Men's Golf Outing, Pine View, 1:30
July 27 - Celebration of Life for LaVeta Scofield, west side, 1-5 pm
August 10 - Corn & Sausage Roast, TBA
August 17 - Homeowners Association annual meeting following board mtg.
August 17 - Fall Dinner, BLYC
October 19 - Crockpot Challenge, BLYC

BLYC Board Meetings: July 20, August 17;
at BLYC beginning at 9 am
More info as available. Watch for updates!

thank you to the Newberg Fire Department for being on hand. I hope you had the chance to attend the pancake breakfast for the Camp, please see Amber's article.

Lastly, just a reminder, there is no swimming at the landing, so if you see something, feel free to call Michigan

The Birch Barker is always accepting materials for publication. E-mail materials to sailorphil@philvitale.com, mail them to me or put the items in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). **DEADLINE** for any issue is 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

To contact Editor Phil by phone, call (269) 476-1680. To contact Commodore Angela Bergan, call 561-603-5522 or email berganfsu@aol.com.

— Birch Lake Notes —

DNR 517-284-6000 or 517-284-PARK.
The more people who call, the more likely they will address the issue.

Looking forward to many more gorgeous sunsets and beautiful days.

Be kind to one another,

~Commodore Angela

Sailing meeting Sunday morning

ATTENTION all sailors! The fleet captain has called a sailing meeting on Sunday morning, July 14, at 9 am at his house on the East side. Please attend.

~JP McGann

BL Yacht Club online payments

The Birch Lake Yacht Club has added a new secure website for residents to pay dues, donate to various causes, buy merchandise and pay to attend events. Please note that all fees are slightly higher when paying online. To check it out (or pay your dues), go to: [HTTP://WWW.BIRCHLAKEYACHT-CLUB.COM](http://www.birchlakeyachtclub.com)

Birch Lake Book Club change

The July Birch Lake Book Club meeting has been changed to July 23.

Claudia Phipps will host at 7 pm, and we'll discuss *Educated* by Tara Westover. Everyone is welcome.

Our next book is *Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan. Jeannie Welch will host.

Men's golf outing is July 26

Vice Commodore Pat McGann has confirmed that the men's golf outing will be held on Friday, July 26, with a shotgun start at 1:30 pm at the Hemlock Course of Pine View Golf Club in Three Rivers. Full dinner with Chateaubriand



Mackenzi Dobosiewicz (Hill) takes a shot at hydroflying. A few of her friends started Big Wave Water Sports and brought their gear out to Birch Lake on Sunday. photo by Chas Grundy



2019 Birch Lake BOAT PARADE



Birch Lake Notes

steak will follow at the course after golfing. Cost \$60, with a cash bar.

Deadline is July 16 to register with the form in this week's Barker.

The Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to your Birch Lake home every weekend through Labor Day - FREE of charge! It is also posted online every week at <http://www.philvitale.com>.

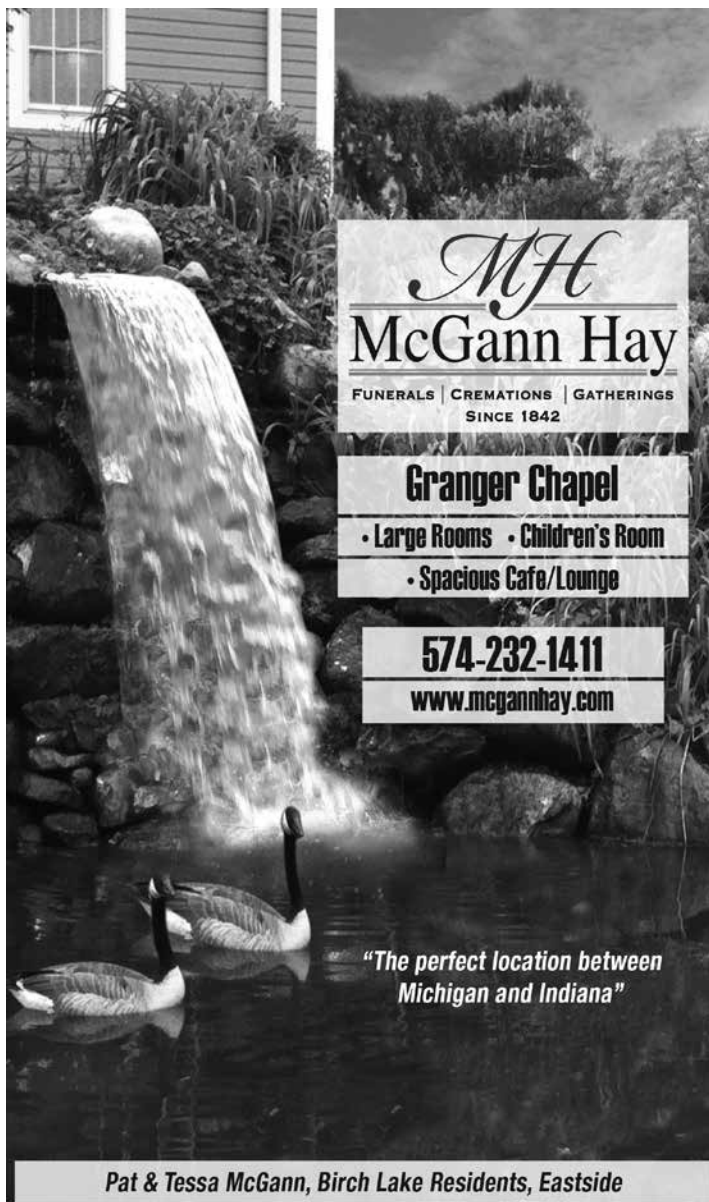
The Birch Barker is one of the many things for which your Birch Lake Yacht Club membership dues are used to benefit to the citizens of our lake. If you haven't paid your 2019 membership dues (just \$30 for full members, \$15 for associate members), you can do so with the handy form in every week's Barker or online at www.birchlakeyachtclub.com.

The Barker welcomes (reasonable) content (remember that this is a family publication and don't send things you wouldn't want your own kids to see). Deadline for submitting items for publication is always at 3 pm on the Tuesday of the week



celebration of life
- IN LOVING MEMORY AND CELEBRATION OF -
LaVeta Scofield
MARCH 11, 1928 - December 22, 2018
SATURDAY, July 27, 2019 - 1:00 - 5:00 PM
Birch Lake
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678.427.7784

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— Birch Lake Notes —

before publication.

If you would like to submit an ad or editorial item for consideration, see note at bottom of page 1. Please send high resolution photos (we prefer 300 dpi); cell phone photos will work (sometimes) but can't be enlarged without blurring. If you want your materials back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

~Editor Phil

New Birch Lake Directory

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is planning a new Birch Lake Directory to be published later this year, and we need

your input! If you have had changes in your family or if you are new to the lake (since the 2017/2018 Directory was published), we need you to provide your information (**DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING INFO IS TOMORROW, SUNDAY JULY 14**) so we can include the new information ...

The info we publish is: Cottage number (if you know it); Last name(s) of owner(s); First name(s) of owner(s); Lake address; Other address; Lake phone number; Other phone number(s); Children's names.

Please send your information to Deb

Spratt via email at debspratt@comcast.net as soon as possible so we can get started. We are also looking for advertisers for the Directory ... If you are interested in advertising or know someone who is, please contact Phil Vitale at (269) 476-1680 or email me at onlinebarker@gmail.com.



A few friends dropped by the Kings' (north side) over the 4th weekend ... at top left are Karen and Chuck Horn, Ric and Lisa Dwenger and Les King; top right are Mowgli, Camellia Cornelius, Sarah-Elizabeth Horn and Lisa Dwenger, and at left are Cal King and Elizabeth Cramer and a few of their buds from college.

photos by **Chuck Horn**

In memory

Birch Lake lost a friend on the 4th of July. Judge Sarah Singleton (north side) lost her battle to cancer, but remains loved by hundreds of friends and the blue heron on her deck. Our deepest sympathies.

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— Water Quality Report —

‘Thou shalt minimize the effects of waves’

Waves and wakes (man made waves) not only threaten smaller boats and swimmers but also tend to erode shorelines and scour nearby and other shallow lake bottoms. The maintenance and protection of all shorelines (preferably natural) is critically important and further discussed in another article.

While we cannot control the waves made by God, we can hopefully limit some of the wave damages caused by us. Boat waves are deeper and have far

more energy than surface waves.

When we stir up the lake bottom we free up and raise into the water column one of its most undesirable possessions – phosphorus – that was previously attached to decaying organic material at the bottom. That newly suspended phosphorus enhances turbidity (makes the water more cloudy) and increases the phosphorus loading in the lake. Phosphorus is also further discussed in a different article. Stirring up the lake bottom can also cause the destruction of

native aquatic plants by breaking them off at, or pulling them out by, their roots.

So please refrain from making large waves and/or accelerating or going fast wherever your prop wash will result in disturbance of the lake bottom. This applies to both shoreline, and any other shallow, areas of the lake.

Particularly when water levels are high (as they are now), consider trying to make no waves (wakes). If you must make waves, please try to minimize their effect by limiting their



height and keeping them to the center, deeper part of the lake.

Always drive your power boat in a counter-clockwise rotation, and constantly plot your course to assure you stay the required 100' (Reminding boaters that "You are responsible for your wake," the Water Sports Industry Association recommends at least 200') minimum from all shorelines and other objects on the water, allowing for where any upcoming craft may be headed and for each vessel's towed skiers, tubes, etc. (which are typically 60' – 75' or more behind and/or along side of the boats towing them).

PLEASE PASS THE WORD

THE "SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY"

I. THOU SHALT PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS).

II. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE SURFACE RUNOFF.

III. THOU SHALT MINIMIZE THE EFFECTS OF WAVES.

IV. THOU SHALT PROTECT AND EXPAND NATURAL SHORELINES.

V. THOU SHALT NOT ALLOW PHOSPHORUS, NUTRIENTS, AND OTHER UNDESIRABLE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS TO ENTER OUR LAKE.

VI. THOU SHALT REMAIN INFORMED AND ACTIVE ABOUT OTHER WATER QUALITY ISSUES.

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_{MPH}**





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Fleet Captain's Jibe #8, July 13

By J. Patrick McGann

The rich tradition of the sailing Troeger family continued this week with in the Fourth of July Firecracker Regatta. In the five races the family Troeger accounted for six first places, yes six. Third-generation (third that I know of anyway) and newcomer Amy Troeger broke into the winners circle in the Sunfish fleet for the first time. I don't know if is quite a passing of the torch yet, but she maybe a force to be reckoned with in the future! Go Amy we are so glad you are sailing.

That leaves father Scott with all five MC Fleet wins; two second places finishes goes to Phil Vitale, and yours truly, and one second to Jeff Smitley; three third places go to Bill Leucht, one to Jeff and one to Barb Cassady. The clear winner of the Firecracker Regatta is Scott in the MC Class.

In the Sunfish class, with the really beautiful sails, besides Amy's win, Rick Russwurm had two wins and Peter Soldato had two. Sailing into second place finishes were newbie Tom Cassady (another person from a legendary Eagle Lake sailing dynasty), Rick (2) and Steve Frew (1) and Peter (1); thirds were captured by Amy (2), Rick (2) and immediate past Fleet Captain Michael

OTHER IMPORTANT SAILING RULES, ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES

Competitive sailors are their own umpires. If we want our sport to stay healthy and enjoyable, every one of us has an interest in taking a penalty when we ourselves break a rule and protesting when someone else does and fails to take a penalty. Otherwise, anarchy ensues.

Lutz (1). The clear winner of the Firecracker Regatta in the SUNFISH Class is Rick Russwurm.

GOLFERS: We are accepting registrations now online at the bottom of www.birchlakeyachtclub.com \$63 or give me a check or cash for \$60. We are scheduled for Pine View Golf Course on Friday July 26, with a 1:30 pm Shotgun start. A nice dinner to follow at the course. Cash Bar cart on the course.

Also, the Fall Dinner is set for



Saturday August 17 before everyone leaves to give us one last chance to say goodbye and talk about your fall and winter plans.

Sail on Dudes and Dudettes!
~Fleet Captain Pat

Attn: ALL SAILORS: THERE WILL BE AN ALL-SAILORS AND race committee-boat meeting at 9 am Sunday 7-14 in my front yard rain or shine, 63164 Birch Rd, East side A-frame.

~J. Patrick McGann

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2019 Birch Lake Sailing Results

2019 BLYC Season Standings

Date4-Jul4-Jul.....7-Jul7-Jul.....7-Jul..... TotalPoint..... Races.....%
 Race 7..... 8..... 9..... 10..... 11..... Points ..Average . Finished ...Finished

MC SCOW/SAILOR

Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	1	1	12644	1581	8	100.0%
Jeff Smitley #2002	DNS	DNS	7	3	2	5721	1430	4	50.0%
Barb Cassady #2506	5	5	4	4	3	11337	1417	8	100.0%
Phil Vitale #500	2	4	5	2	4	8445	1408	6	75.0%
Bill Luecht #1579	3	3	3	5	5	11033	1379	8	100.0%
Pat McGann #1735	4	2	2	7	6	10830	1354	8	100.0%
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	DNS	DNS	6	6	DNS	2450	1225	2	25.0%
Sandy Vitale	6	6	8	8	7	5784	1157	5	62.5%

SUNFISH/SAILOR

Tom Cassady	2	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	1521	1521	1	9.1%
Peter Soldato	8	2	1	2	1	11900	1488	8	72.7%
Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	2	3	4	10280	1469	7	63.6%
Pat McGann	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	4259	1420	3	27.3%
Amy Troeger	6	5	3	1	3	7009	1402	5	45.5%
Steve Frew	4	3	DNS	5	2	13872	1387	10	90.9%
Stewart Spratt	7	4	DNS	4	5	9524	1361	7	63.6%
Bob Niezgodski	9	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	9329	1333	7	63.6%
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	DNF	5	6	7	14604	1328	10	90.9%
Herb Cleveland	5	7	4	DSQ	6	14460	1315	10	90.9%
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	6	7	DNS	2381	1191	2	18.2%
Camille Butler	10	6	DNS	DNS	DNS	8039	1148	7	63.6%
Bob Cassady	DNS	8	DNS	DNS	DNS	1089	1089	1	9.1%

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

2019 Firecracker Regatta Results

Date4-Jul4-Jul.....7-Jul7-Jul.....7-Jul.....Total
 Race # 1..... 2..... 3..... 4..... 5.....Points

MC SCOW/SAILOR

Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	1	1	1	5
Phil Vitale #500 Green	2	4	5	2	4	17
Bill Luecht #1579	3	3	3	5	5	19
Barb Cassady #2506	5	5	4	4	3	21
Pat McGann #1735	4	2	2	7	6	21
Jeff Smitley #2002	9 (DNS)	9 (DNS)	7	3	2	30
Sandy Vitale#500 Blue	6	6	8	8	7	35
Harold Cranmer #1991/2550	9 (DNS)	9 (DNS)	6	6	9 (DNS)	39

SUNFISH/SAILOR

Rick Russwurm (Green/Blue)	1	1	2	3	4	11
Peter Soldato	8	2	1	2	1	14
Amy Troeger	6	5	3	1	3	18
Steve Frew	4	3	13 (DNS)	5	2	27
Stewart Spratt	7	4	13 (DNS)	4	5	33
Mike Lutz (Blue/Red/Yellow)	3	13 (DNF)	5	6	7	34
Herb Cleveland	5	7	4	13 (DSQ)	6	35
Bill Butler	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	6	7	13 (DNS)	52
Tom Cassady	2	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	54
Camille Butler	10	6	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	55
Bob Cassady	13 (DNS)	8	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	60
Bob Niezgodski	9	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	13 (DNS)	61



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



— Barker Kids of the Week —



Fourth generation Birch Lakers, first cousins Asher Springfield from Seattle and Aria Frew from Hong Kong, both one year old, were among the big crowd gathered at Steve and Jackie Frew's house on the East Side the week of the Fourth of July. Here waiting out a thunder storm before getting back on the lake.



Sue and Duffy Dufour, east side, have four great-grandkids at the lake this year. From left, Claire Noneman (age 5), Harvey Reckelhoff (age 1), Duke Dufour (four months and enjoying his first Birch Lake summer) and Anya Noneman (age 9).

Birch Lake's very own Vice-Commodore Pat McGann (east side) on the golf course getting ready to celebrate the 4th of July! (Photo courtesy of Bud Hall).



Dezi Ward, granddaughter of Tom and Julie Lacy (south side), enjoys chilling on the pier when not swimming in the lake!

LAST CALL FOR GOLFERS - YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP!

TURN IN YOUR REGISTRATION FORM / CHECK THIS WEEKEND. DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TEAM BASKET FOR THE BASKET RAFFLE TO THE LUNCHEON

Ladies' FUN!!!! Golf Outing - JULY 19

Diamond Lake Golf Course, Cassopolis

9 AM Tee Off - \$35 per golfer (fee includes cart and lunch)

Lunch at BLYC following the Outing / Games, Prizes, 50/50 Raffle

Teams are encouraged to donate a basket for the basket raffle not to exceed \$50/\$12.50 per team member

If you don't golf but would like to join us at noon for lunch, please register and pay \$12

If you'd like to volunteer to help serve lunch or be a hole sponsor please contact either:

Barb Cassady 574-303-2831 or Jeannie Welch 574-286-2890

Net proceeds to benefit Camp Tannadoonah

Registration Form

Team Members (list captain first with phone no.)

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

OR FOR LUNCH ONLY:

1. _____

Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to Barb Cassady at 63486 Birch Road, Vandalia, MI 49095

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS THIS WEEKEND

— Barker Kids of the Week —



McGann's (east side) Boat Parade, with the grand kids - Nathan, Maggie, Matthew and Nolan Laneman.



We had brides on the East Side! Claire and Nathalie Riordan put on a fashion show between rain showers. The girls are the great granddaughters of Joe O'Brien and granddaughters of Sue Davis, east side.

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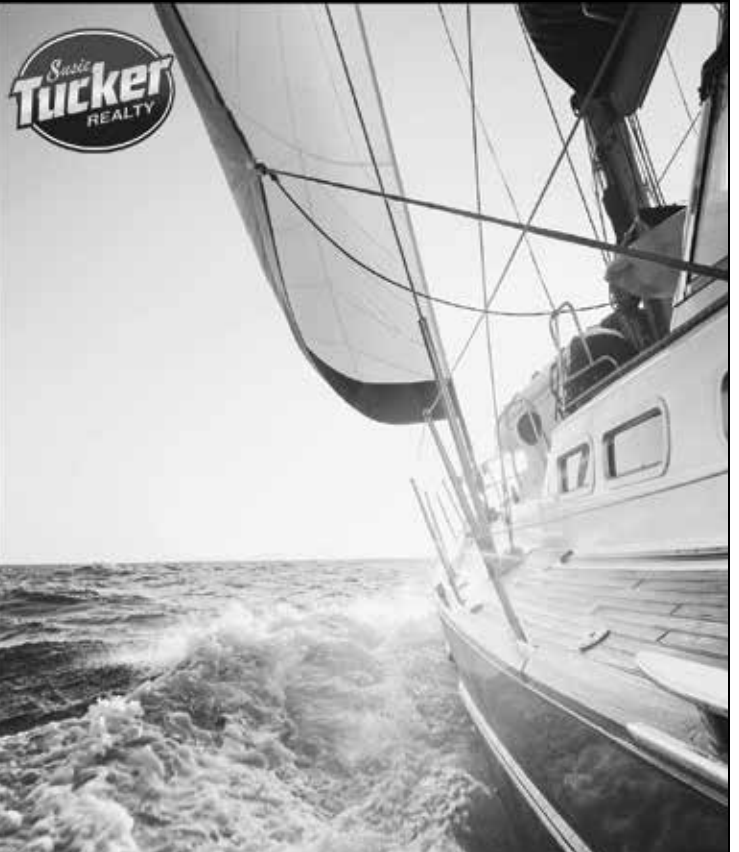
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



“Grammy and Grampa Soldato (West Side) along with all the Soldato Family welcomed their newest member, Marlee, daughter of Dana and Pete (The Hill), to their 2019 Birch Lake 4th of July Family Celebration.”



Ed and Carla Chester’s (east side) two year old grandson, Elliot French, and the whole family had a fabulous 4th of July with Elliot, his parents, his aunt and uncle, and various cousins visiting.



Dominic Magro Algarotti with his 17” bass caught from the Magro (North side) dock over the 4th

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Birch Lake homes for sale



62930 Birch Road

3-bedroom, 2.5-bath, 2,200-sq-ft lodge-style home on a 1.2-acre lot. Sale of furniture, furnishings, and decorations will be negotiable. On the main level, a foyer with a soaring ceiling opens to the living room with

fireplace, a bar, a formal dining room, and a family room with lake views and a knotty pine ceiling. The kitchen has an island with breakfast bar seating, stainless appliances, and a casual dining area that leads to a covered patio with a new hot tub and a 19x33-ft saltwater pool and a deck with panoramic lake views. The master suite, with walk-in closet, also has access to the covered

patio. A laundry and mud room, with access to garage as well as outdoors, has a powder room. Upstairs, a landing affords lake views for two bedrooms. On the lakeside lot, a matching hut has a bath, kitchenette, and covered porch next to a stone patio with fire circle. The property includes a 3-car garage and plenty of off-street parking. An adjacent lot is also available.



15176 Birch

Lake Shore Dr.

3 BD 2 BA 2,698-sq-ft home on double lot w/ 128 ft waterfront, fenced tennis court, large backlot w/ 1,200-sq-ft heated Morton Building. House has large windows, broad upper deck, covered lower patio, 3-season room, brick patio w/ custom-built

chimneyed fireplace near water. Upper level: large living room w/ vaulted ceiling, exposed natural beams, Midcentury Modern fireplace designed by Wendell Lovett, deck access, panoramic lake views; dining area w/ lake views; sink for wet bar; 3 BD; 1 BA; outside access. Spiral staircase down to sitting room w/ 3-season room and patio access, dining room, kitchen w/ bar seating and casual dining, 1 BA. Street-side lawn has wrought iron fence and brick path to the home.



63126 Birch Road

TURNKEY - 3 Bed, 2 bath, Year-round cottage on 60 ft of sandy frontage. Updated kitchen and open concept living & dining with great sunset views and access to a large lakeside low-maintenance deck with awning and lots of storage below. Ample parking for 6 vehicles. \$415,000

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: The Mac-Donalds, also known as the "honeybees," all the way from Idaho Falls, Idaho, visiting their Aunt Vanessa & Uncle Ben Wozniak (north side). Molly (5) Grace (7) Sadie (3). A good time was had by all!



Left: Baucus' (east shore) grandson Mason and granddaughter Sadie, children of Ashlee, daughter Bob and Sandy Baucus.

Above; Karen Curtis-Miller (east side) enjoying grandkid time with Thia, Gavin and Rory Andis



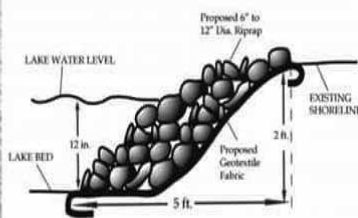
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— Barker Critters of the Week —

Snake of the Week? Thanks to Vic Jones (east side) for the great pic of a famed Birch Lake pier snake



Did you know a Box turtle only roams 1 mile its whole life? If it is removed from its area/home then for the rest of its life it will roam aimlessly stressed out... trying to find "home" until it dies a very sad death.

Please do not remove turtles. Do not take them home as pets. If one is injured please mark the exact spot found for the wildlife center. If a turtle is in the road you can help by moving it directly across the street in the direction it was heading. Thank you!

I post this every few month because it's not really known. Many people think it is harmless to let their children take home a docile turtle to play with and release it someplace they see appropriate. Please share the knowledge.



Ok, It's not a Snakebite but I bet it would cure one ... Cocktail of the Week honors to the strawberry moscato lemonade ready for holiday guests in the cove. Submitted by Deb Hall.



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BLYC 59th ANNUAL Birch Lake Yacht Club MEN'S GOLF OUTING

1:30 SHOTGUN START; FOUR MAN FLORIDA SCRAMBLE

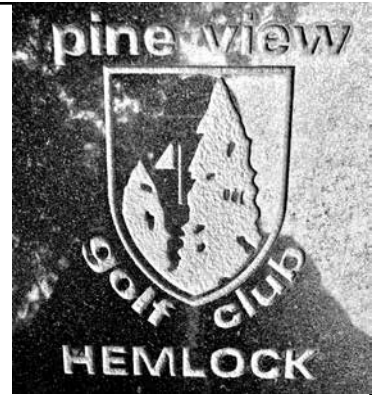
FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2019 - \$60/MAN*

PINE VIEW GOLF COURSE, THREE RIVERS

DINNER TO FOLLOW (5:30 pm) AT THE COURSE

**\$63 if you pay online at WWW.BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM*

Cost includes dinner (Chateaubriand steak); cash bar



2019 BLYC Men's Golf Outing Foursome Information

TEAM CAPTAIN

Please submit your foursome and registration to Pat McGann, 63164 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095

Make checks payable to: BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

or go online at WWW.BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM to pay (\$63 online; \$60 by check/cash).

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

Must have completed registrations by July 16



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YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Old flames are back in your life again, which can be disconcerting or thrilling depending on how things ended. A pleasant surprise that is related to home, family and real estate will occur at the beginning of the week. You might buy something modern or high-tech for your home. You might spontaneously entertain at home. However, later in the week, you might find yourself at odds with your kids.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - It's old home week for you because this particular Mercury retrograde draws relatives and family members you haven't seen for a while back into your life. Be smart and stock the fridge because you don't know who will be sleeping on your sofa! Early in the week, life will be fast-paced and fun because you will experience unexpected surprises, pleasant encounters, new ideas and lovely sharings with others. You might revolt! You will definitely want to assert your rights - no question. And why not?

Gemini (May 21-June 20) - This is a particularly difficult Mercury retrograde for you. Naturally, because Mercury is your ruler, you always feel the frustrations of Mercury retrograde with silly errors, confused communications, misplaced items and whatnot. Expect delays and car problems. Fortunately, at the beginning of the week, you might get money or a raise. You might buy yourself something really cool. But by the end of the week, accidents and entanglements with others might frustrate you. Oh dear, easy does it.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) - Basically, things are excellent for you this week. This makes you diplomatic and charming with everyone. But this Mercury retrograde will delay financial matters for you. Checks in the mail will be late. People will be slow to pay you. On the upside, you can finally bring certain financial deals to a close. Meanwhile, at the beginning of the week something will surprise and delight you!

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - You will suffer from silly delays with paperwork, computers, texting, emails, phones and messaging. Just grin and bear it. Remember that the upside is this is the perfect time for you to finish old projects. (And you will.) The beginning of the week is quite pleasant. You have lots of energy and something rather personal will please you. It might even be spiritual or discovering a deeper understanding or conviction about something. However, later in the week, you might be at odds with an authority figure.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - This particular Mercury retrograde will put you in touch with past memories and personal moments you might not even share with others. (They're just for you.) But they will pop up in your mind and be meaningful for you. A pleasant encounter with a friend, perhaps someone creative and artistic, will take place early in the week. Or you might meet someone new who is charming and delightful. By contrast, later in the week you might be at odds with someone about politics, religion or racial matters.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Friends from the past or news about old friends are back in your world. This will be interesting and informative. It's fun to trade lies and talk about the bad old days. Early in the week, you might have a pleasant surprise dealing with bosses, parents and VIPs. You might be singled out for an award or praise or kudos of some sort. People will applaud and admire you!

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Many of you are dealing with old issues related to bosses and parents. Either memories of them or they themselves are suddenly back in your world. This is always thought-provoking because when it comes to dealing with authority figures, later, we always have ideas about how we might have handled things better but that's based on 20/20 hindsight. An unexpected chance to travel or to get further training or education might fall in your lap.

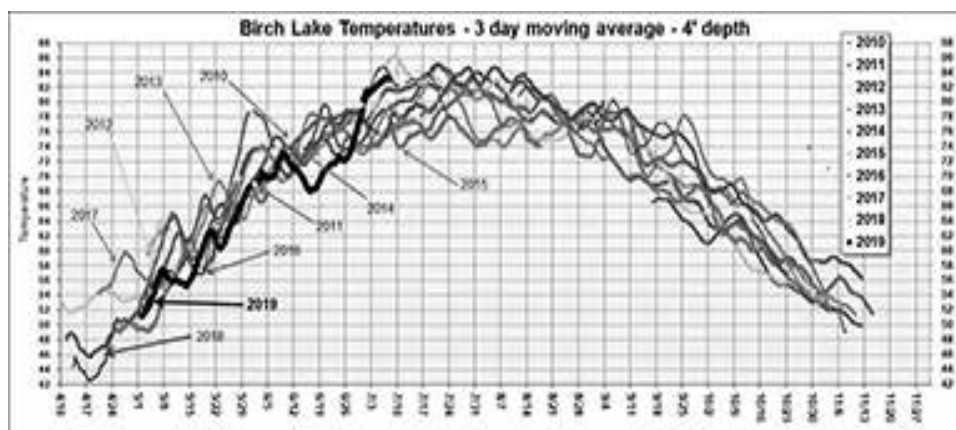
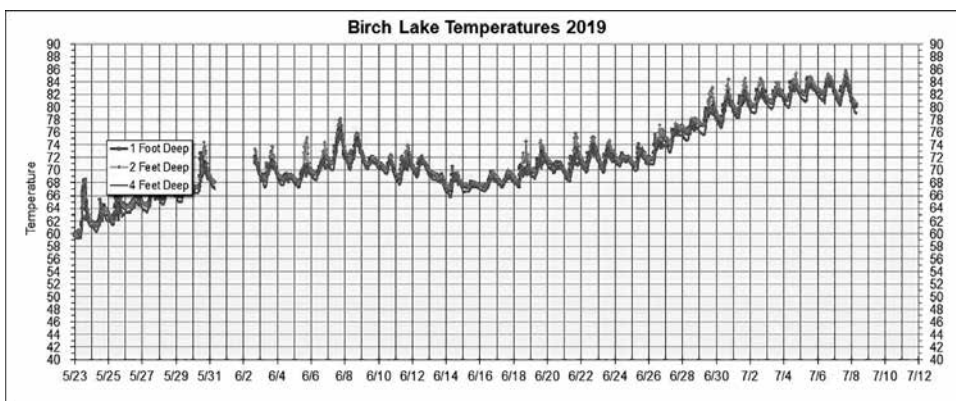
Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - You are the traveler of the zodiac, and unfortunately, this particular Mercury retrograde is taking place in the part of your chart related to travel. Therefore, expect delays, mixups and confusion in reservations, bookings, schedules and itineraries. Double check everything! At the beginning of the week, a surprise gift, boon or favor will come to you. Act quickly and accept it. Just say, "Thank you!" Don't delay or the opportunity will be gone.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - This particular Mercury retrograde will resurrect old matters from the past related to inheritances, shared property and insurance issues. It could cause delays in these areas or bring them back into your world again. Naturally, this is an opportunity for you to wrap them up once and for all. Relations with members of the general public plus partners and old friends are very warm, even surprising at the beginning of the week. Later in the week, disputes about shared property, inheritances and insurance matters might arise.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Like last August, this year, once again you are dealing with old issues with partners and close friends. It might even be the same issue! Obviously, this is your chance to deal with it with wisdom and skillful means. Many of you will also hear from ex-partners at this time. You won't mind this because you like to stay friends. Look for good news on the job at the beginning of the week.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Once again, matters related to your job are topsy-turvy and full of delays, confusions and mixed-up communications. The bright side is that this is the perfect time for you to pull everything together that is job-related. Strive to make everything organized and tickety-boo. You'll love it when it's finished. Early in the week, an unexpected invitation will delight you. It might be romantic.

Birch Lake Environmental Data



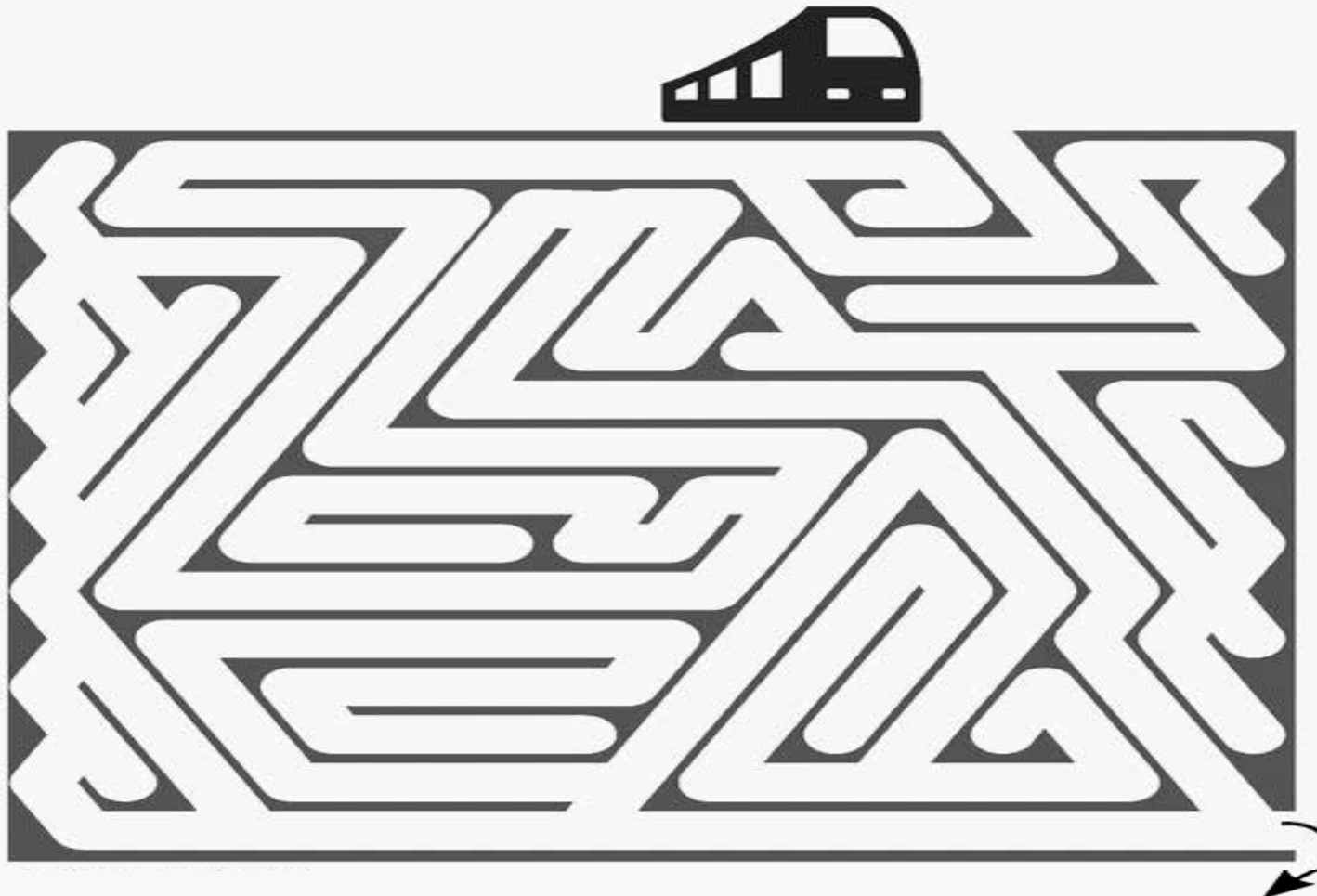
Temps provided by Steve Quinlan

The Moon for this Saturday
(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.931
2.6 days until full moon



Sunrise: 06:17:16 AM
Sunset: 21:18:27 PM
Moonrise: 18:40:27 PM
Moonset: 03:38:53 AM
Daylight: 15 Hr 01 Min 11 Sec

— Barker Weekly Puzzle —



It's rush hour and the subway is full of people trying to get to work on time. Can you find the way out of the maze without getting lost in the tunnels?

Talk With A Live Person



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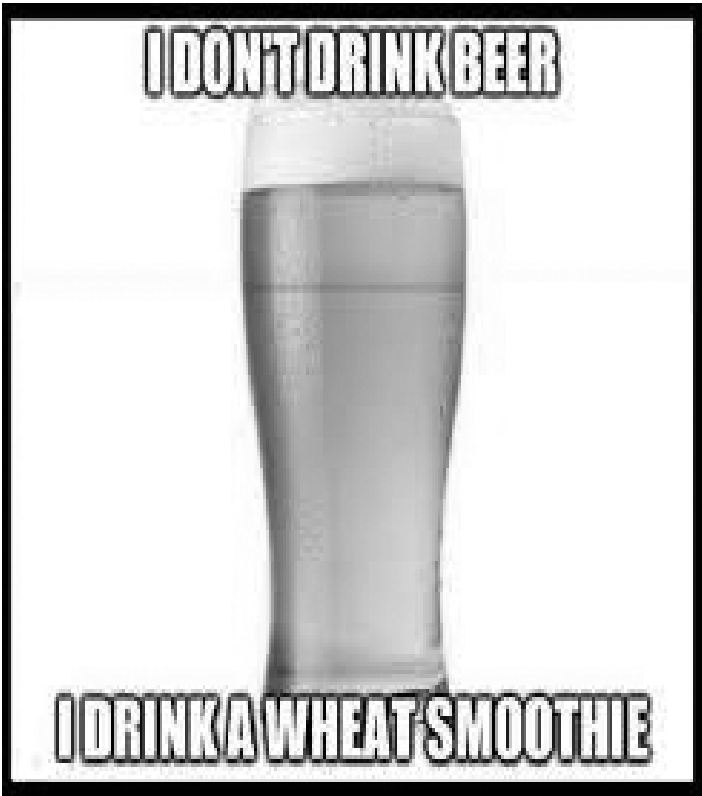
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BIRCH BARKER FUNNIES



What did our parents do to kill boredom before the internet?

I asked my 10 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.



I was visiting my DAUGHTER last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century" she said. "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad."

I can tell you this... that fly never knew what hit him...



Are you involved in any dangerous sports?





~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Beef BBQ

From the 2004 Birch Lake Ladies Luncheon Recipe Collection*

by Le King - Northside

- 6 lbs chuck roast
- 2 medium onions chopped
- 1 large green pepper chopped
- 28 oz Heinz Ketchup
- 2 bottles Heinz chili sauce
- 2 teas. dried mustard
- 4 teas. sugar
- 4 teas. vinegar
- 1 bag pickling spice (about 2 Tbls. wrapped in cheese cloth and tied)

Cook the roast as usual. After it's cool, remove the fat and cut the meat into small pieces. Mix all the other ingredients in a pot and add beef. Simmer 1 hour or more until onions and peppers are tender and flavors are blended. Remove the spice packet and serve on hamburger buns.

This recipe is from the late 30's and early 40's and her mother made it for the Lincoln School Fall Festival in South Bend.

**Thanks to Denny and Ronnie for the recipes ...*



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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Flashback to 12 years ago ...

I have a Birch Barker Flashback this week! Last week when I was writing my Barker article, I accidentally clicked on an old Barker article I had written years ago. I was so amazed by how different things are now from how they were 12 years ago that I decided to share part of that old article this week. This Barker article was written on July 31, 2007, which was the second summer that I was Camp Director.

It's the last week of camp already. Can't believe how fast this summer has flown by! On Friday night around 9 to 9:15 pm we will be having our annual end-of-the-summer candlelight serenade down on the pier. Come on out in your boats to hear us serenade the lake and see the beautiful candles floating on the water!

This week's theme is On the Loose Week (also known as Wilderness Week). Each of the cabins will be camping out in tents at least one night this week. We only have 35 kids this week, so it's a very small group. In total we ended up with 370 kids for the summer, 8 short of our total from 2006, and well short of our goal of 450 kids. Next year we need to get more kids up here!

This was a really great summer up here at camp. We had a fantastic group of staff members who all got along very well together, and had a great time up here at Tannadoonah. It was a huge staff in comparison to last year (we had 23 cabin staff this year, compared to only 11 last year!). We added a lot of great new programs, and had lots of kids trying new things at camp. It was also a young camp this year (camper-wise), which bodes well for next year. More than 90 percent of the kids up at camp this summer were going into the seventh grade or younger! I don't think Morris Lodge has ever been so empty! So hopefully next year many of those kids will return, and bring lots of friends with them.

To contrast that with this year.... We currently have 985 campers registered for camp this year, and I'm still hoping we will get to 1000 before the end of the summer. That's a 615 camper increase! And we have 303 NEW campers this year – so nearly as many kids coming to camp for the first time this year as we had total campers the entire summer in 2007. Unlike 2007, Morris Lodge has been completely full every week, and we have had

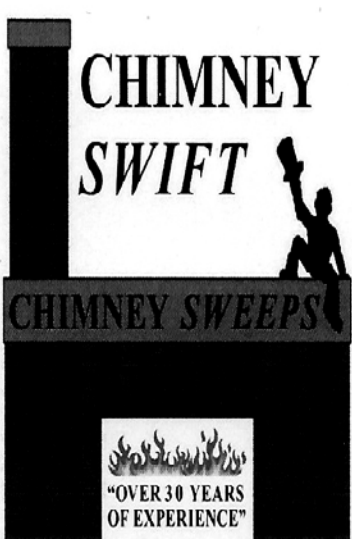
13 and 14 year olds in other cabins as well, because there are so many older campers.

This year we have 30 cabin counselors, 5 program volunteers, 5 kitchen staff, a nurse, a photographer, a CIT director, a facilities manager, and 5 admin staff, for a total of 49 staff here all the time, plus other volunteers and staff who are here for certain big weeks.

In other news, we'd like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who came out for the Pancake Breakfast this weekend. We had 406 total guests at the breakfast, and a great group of volunteers helping make pancakes, serve food, and clean up. Thank you to board members Sharon Hayward, Andrew Roche, Patrick Welch, John Michel, Michael Lacognato, Karen Delledonne, Lauren Wills, and Cindy Krupp for volunteering. And to spouses Maggie Michel, Yoli Roche, Chas Grundy, Jeannie Welch, and Rich Krupp. And to Corrinne Roche, Avery Grundy, and Elyse Grundy for being runners and extra helpers!

~Miss Amber

amber@tannadoonah.org



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Schecter Diamond Series "Black Widow" electric guitar with case and Line 6, Spider III 30 Amp, used maybe 6x's. \$200 for both, negotiable. Call Deb at 476-7226.



For sale: the **former Misch Mfg building** located at 14111 Esther Ave., Mishawaka, IN 46545. Location 3/10 of a mile west of Capital Avenue between Jefferson and McKinley. Contact Jill Celie-Brenay, REMAX, or Bob King.

For sale: **Full size bed frame with Maple headboard and footboard.** Make offer. Bob Groszek. 219-384-9291.

For sale: **2010 Bennington pontoon with 50 hp Yamaha & 2013 lake-shore lift** with canopy and motorized wheel assist. \$15,000. Call PJ or Sue Vandewalle at 476-7086

For sale **2007 Cadillac DTS 120K**

Mi. Looks great and everything works. \$5500.00 OBO. Bob Waddle 269-365-7696

2014 Toyota Prius sedan, excellent condition, 87,000 miles. \$11,500 Call Sue or PJ Vandewalle @269-476-7086



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FOUND

Found: **small red and black Attwood buoy** found in the Cove Sunday, June 23, Call 476-2090

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For **Sprinkler service**, please call SOS Irrigation @ (574) 534-9150

THANKS

Thank you all for your donations of plastic bags and toilet paper / paper towel tubes! We have enough now to last us the entire summer for tie dye and crafts at camp, so we don't need any more at this time. Thank you from Camp Tannadoonah!

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
- \$___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$___ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$___ - Fireworks Fund
- \$___ - Water Quality Program
- \$___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
- \$___ - Safety Committee
- \$___ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$___ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$___ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$___ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to
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18100 Farmington Hills Dr.
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NEW

now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues

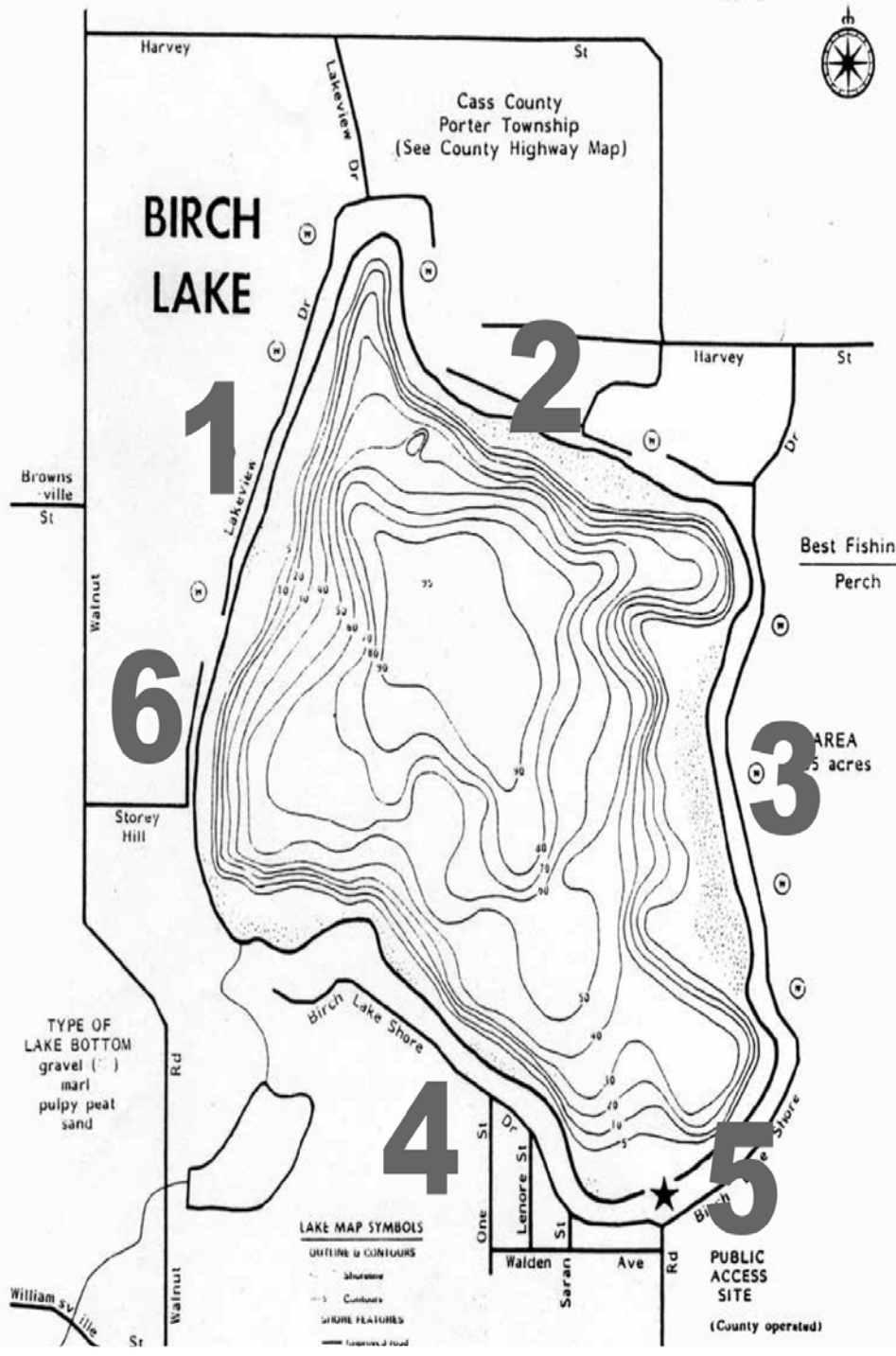
NEW

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

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There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

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2. **North Shore, Smitley home,**
14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. **East Shore, Vitale home,**
63174 Birch Rd.
4. **South Shore, Eberhart home,**
15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. **South/East Shore, Troeger home,**
63696 Birch Rd.
6. **Southwest Shore, DeYoung home,**
63255 Storey Hill St.

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

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4. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.

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