

Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Three, June 10, 2000

Commodore's prized racing turtle lost — reward offered

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Another weekend is in the books. On Saturday morning Sgt. Dan Covey, Marine Division Commander & Deputy Ron Carlisle conducted the MI Boating Safety Class at our Yacht Club. Forty five students reviewed the rules of the road. Later that same morning Deputies Tom Mize & Jim Luxemburger performed Boat Safety gear checks off Sheryl Papandria's pier. Seventeen watercraft were presented for inspection.

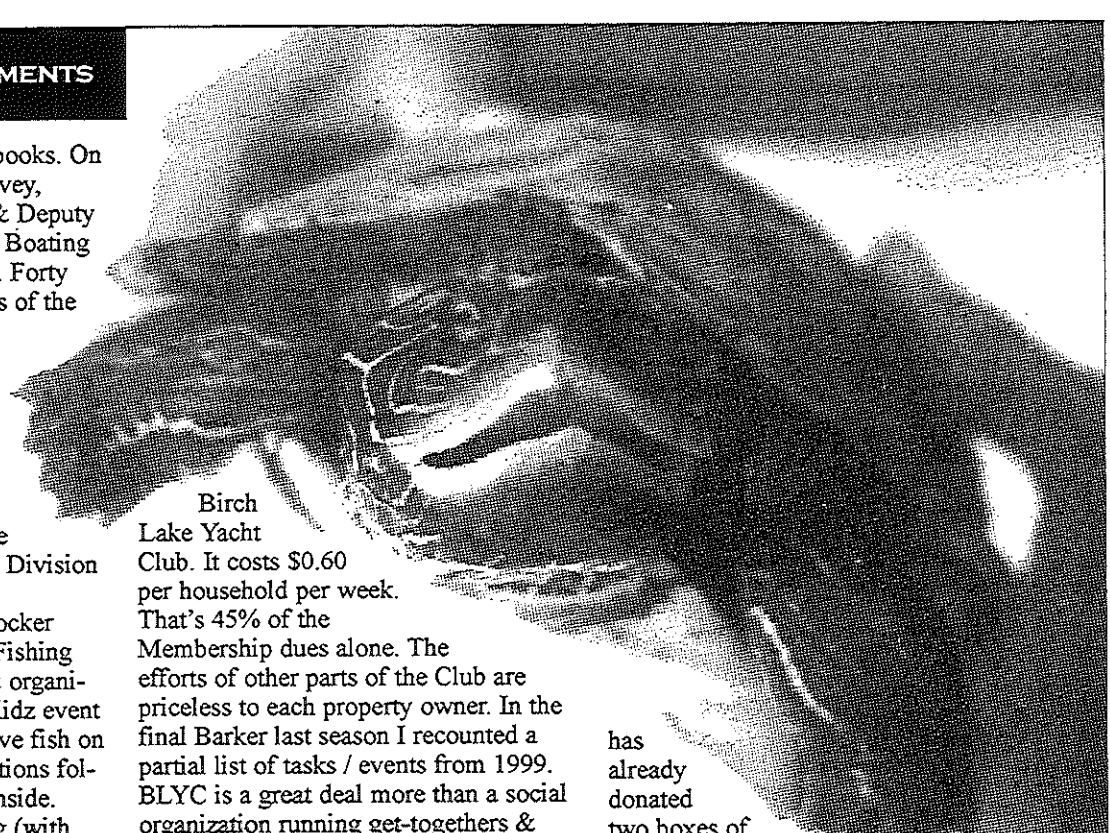
We are fortunate to have the assistance of our Local Marine Division to help keep Birch safe.

Sunday morning Tom DeCocker held the Get Kidz Hooked on Fishing Class at the Club. The effort & organization Tom put into this first Kidz event was exceptional. There were live fish on display & hands-on demonstrations followed by classroom learning inside. Later the kidz practiced casting (with gear they brought or which was supplied by Tom from a number of tackle vendors). In attendance were: J. R. Majewski, Alex Wilson, Parker Durham, Tory Troeger, Neil Troeger, Amanda Lacy, Greg Andriano, Aris Voorde, Nicholas Sobeczek & Junior Commodore Cal King. I know one little boy who was thrilled with the whole affair & even caught a nice blue-gill with his new Zebco later Sunday afternoon.

Our delivery team is in place to send around your Barkers though I still need someone to divide up the lot & distribute to the girls (Friday evening). I should also recognize Phil & Sandy Vitale & my wife Leslie who continue to help set up, tear down & organize the Yacht Club.

Mem' ber – (n) 1. Distinctive part, as an arm 2. Person in an organization
– Webster's New World Dictionary.

I'll confess to being rather determined that everyone renew their status as Members of BLYC. I can accept that some are tardy but am dumfounded that others never participate in a Club that benefits them all. The Barker you are reading is published for the Members of



Birch Lake Yacht Club. It costs \$0.60 per household per week. That's 45% of the Membership dues alone. The efforts of other parts of the Club are priceless to each property owner. In the final Barker last season I recounted a partial list of tasks / events from 1999. BLYC is a great deal more than a social organization running get-togethers & sail races. The *public good* efforts are too numerous to mention without spilling over to page 2. Thank you all who have sent in your dues & contributions. To those who have not joined the list within YET, please do so today. I'd prefer to have your help & financial backing ... but will accept the latter if you can not offer both.

Saturday is the Junior Commodore's Fizz (5-7pm), followed by the Commodore's Cocktail (7pm-late). Kidz will have snacks & fun – adults are welcome. The Cocktail is wine & cheese so please bring both to pass. A benefactor

has already donated two boxes of books to establish a lending library, feel free to add books to the shelves for both little & big people (bring to the yacht club Saturday night.

See you on the water,



Bob King, C2k

Image supplied by Bob King; Turtle supplied by Stewart Spratt

Calendar for June 10-17*

06/10 5 - 7 pm - Junior Commodore's Fizz
06/10 7 pm-late - Commodore's Cocktail
06/17 - 7 pm - Marc's Fancy Pants Dance
06/17 - 9 am - Board Meeting

Saturday June 10 is Porter Township Cleanup Day. Drop off unwanted items at 15621 Mason Street from 8-2

*See <http://www.hometown.aol.com/blcking/BLYC.html> for the full calendar of events.

If you have items for the BARKER, please put all materials in the Barker box (at the Yacht Club) by 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@webcraftarts.com. If you must, mail (10 days prior to desired publication date) to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, call Phil at (219) 232-3735, or fax your items to (219) 232-3853.

Birch Lake Notes

Commodore's Cocktail Parking

As parking is always close, if you can walk or arrive by boat it leaves room for those who must drive. Auxiliary parking is available a short walk away at the Landing.

Correction

The last Barker listed an incorrect time for the Pancake Breakfast. The correct time is 8-11 am (IST) Sunday 07/02 - Camp Tannadoonah Dining Hall.

Goose Relocation Project

Last week we published information about a Canadian Goose relocation that will take place during mid June (when the geese are in a flightless period). We need residents to help with the "hunt" & a fundraiser is needed to pay for the expected cost. To help in either way contact the

Barker at (219) 232-3735.

Camp ready for season

Camp Tannadoonah is getting ready for the 2000 camping season. Flowers have been planted, the pier has been painted, trees trimmed, cabins cleaned and painted and numerous other tasks have been undertaken.

On Sunday, Camp Tannadoonah will

be hearing the voices and laughter of 100 children as a church group is renting our facilities for a week.

The regular resident camp season begins on June 25, 2000.

-Miss Toody

Got News?

No news was received from any other portion of the lake . . .

News from the cove (and outlying areas)

I take Mont Blanc in hand to inform you that, according to Chase's Annual Events, today is the birthday of Marquis de Sade. Born in 1740, he spent much of his life in prison because of his acts of cruelty and violence, outrageous behavior and inflicting pain. What a coincidence that this is also the birthday of Robert Montgomery Knight.

Happy 21st birthday, Nicholas Bergan. Our boy Nick, of golfing fame, has expanded his prowess to academic excellence at St. Louis University with high honors, maintaining a 4.0 grade point average. In addition, he is a tutor for the Summer Enrichment Program and a peer mentor as well. Kudos to you, Nick, and don't forget to vote.

Babies. Babies. Babies.

Tom and Vicki Rogers spent a

weekend cuddling new grandson Peyton Thomas, son of daughter Angie. Tom quickly forfeited his cuddle time when Peyton deposited "cottage cheese" all over his grandfather.

Get a grip, Tom, it's just a part of earning your stripes as grandfather — and they rarely spit up past 16.

This past December B.S. and I were blessed with two new additions to our grandchild collection, bringing the total to nine. Grace Catherine Gourley and Michael Phillip Long will be coming to Michigan this summer for Grandpa Bruce's traditional Birch Lake "baptism."

Have a great week, eat green leafy veggies and floss.

-Sunny

P.S. All right, so it's not Bobby Knight's birthday. Forgive this chagrined alumna for the cheap shot.

Fleet News

There isn't much to report. The races were scuttled due to the absence of an element necessary for a sailboat race - wind. Tom Howard practiced anyway, honing his skills even sharper. Everyone else stayed ashore, some of us even learning more about fishing from Tom DeCocker with the kids at the clubhouse. There always seems to be plenty of wind during the week, but never on Sunday when it's needed. Ever optimistic, the next races are scheduled for Sunday, June 11, 2000 at 11 a.m. (Indiana time), 12 m. (Michigan time).



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WATER QUALITY BLYC Water Quality Committee June, 2000 Report #2

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is a member of Michigan Lake & Stream Associations (ML&SA). As members of the water quality committee, Bob and Gert Temple attended the Regional Lake Representative Meetings, the ML&SA Fall Regional Seminar and the ML&SA 38th Annual Conference in 1999.

The BLYC water quality committee applied for CLMP 1999 and ML&SA provided our name as a participant in the summer Chlorophyll, spring and summer phosphorus and Secchi Disk monitoring program. Each sampling duty was assigned to Bob Temple. In 1999, Bob took 5 Chlorophyll samples and a spring and summer phosphorus sample. Each was taken to the DEQ office in Plainwell for delivery to Ralph Bednarz, DEQ, Lansing. Bob took 21 Secchi measurements and took the readings to Don Winne, ML&SA Three Rivers office, for state recording.

2000 Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program to have new testing.

In October, 1999 ML&SA representatives met with the Inland Lake Division of MDEQ in Lansing to format the 2000 program for all lakes in Michigan. March 28, 2000 - Ralph Bednarz called Bob to tell him that Birch Lake had been selected for the new Pilot Program which features *Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature*.

Bob and I attended the ML&SA 39th Annual Conference in Gaylord, Mi. and the Training Programs on 2000 testing which, for Birch Lake, included Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature. They are measured as surface-to-bottom profiles, with measurements of both parameters collected at regular intervals. The monitoring equipment has been loaned to our monitoring group. Birch Lake shares the expensive, electronic dissolved oxygen/temperature meter with Corey Lake, Diamond Lake and the Painter, Juno, Christiana Lakes.

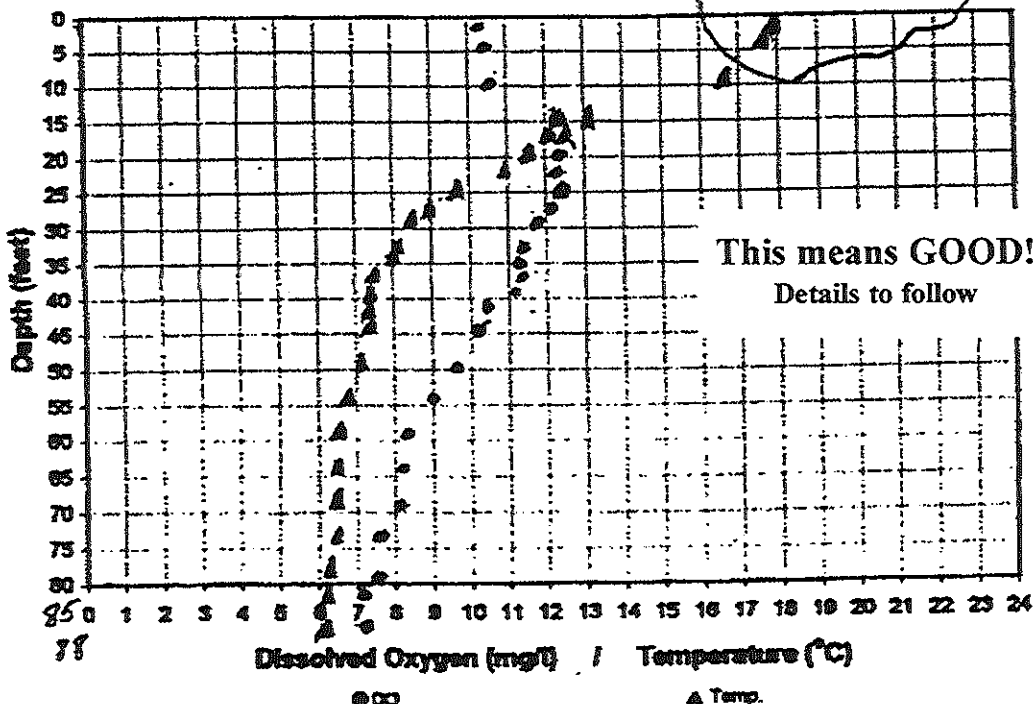
g.temple

And now a word from Birch Lake:

I want to thank Bob King, Commodore and the Yacht Club Board and all the members for the funding it takes to keep me in the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program and the Birch Lake Monitoring Program. How do you like my first Dissolved Oxygen Temperature test of 2000? I have improved since my first analysis study in 1978, thanks to Lee Maager and his Health Department staff. And thanks to Don Winne, for recommending CLMP and for always (since 1978) knowing what is good for me.

Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature Profiles

Lake Name BIRCH Date 5-5-00

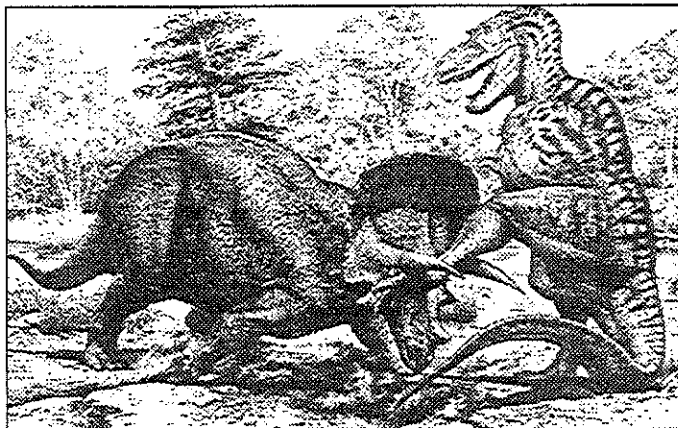


Kidz' Corner

The Horned Dinos

The most common horned dinosaurs is the Triceratops (tri – sar – a – tops), the massive beast that looks like a cross ‘tween a rhino & Texas longhorn. This fella was often seen fighting a T-Rex in old movies (real old afore many of our Kidz were hatched). Triceratops was the biggest sporting horns, about 30 feet long with a nose horn, a horn over each eye, large frill & elephantine body.

This group of Dinosaurs were called Ceratopsians. All had bony frills (a plate that protected their neck from meat eating predators) & most had some combination of horns. Ceratopsians were beaked (like BIG birds) plant-eaters who had specialized teeth for slicing fir needles & leaves into pieces they were able to digest in their massive gut (like a huge prehistoric cow). The horned dinos formed herds for their mutual protection.



Styracosaurus

This guy took the prize for horns. He had only one massive horn on his snout but his frill had many spikes.



Tri in his name?

Einiosaurus

The horn on his snout curved down instead of up & his frill had horns like a cow.



Chasmosaurus

He had the longest frill. The frill may have blushed bright colors to confuse an enemy or impress a lovely lady he was courting.



Pachyrhinosaurus

Instead of a horn, this fella had a battering ram on his nose.



Diceratops

Similar to Triceratops but one horn short, which horn is missing? Why Di instead of



Kome to the Kidz Phizz

Hey guys, remember this Saturday afternoon is another kidz day at The Yacht Club. Come over from 5-7pm for some fun. We will serve soft drinks & snacks. Remember to bring some toys to share & any books you'd like to donate. Your parents are welcome too (but we will try to keep 'em out of the way).

-Cal, Junior Commodore 2k



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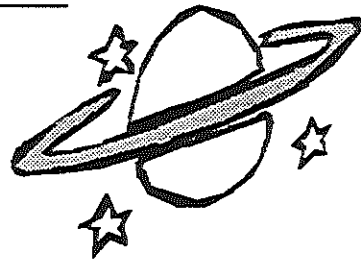
Stu's Star Stuff

Besides planets and stars there's a lot of other stuff flying through space near and around Earth. Sometimes there are even collisions. Most commonly we think of meteors. Meteors are pieces of cometary debris, usually as small as a grain of sand. When they strike Earth's atmosphere, in excess of 150,000 mph, they ignite and create a brilliant streak of light across the sky. Occasionally a piece will be big enough to reach the ground. Some large ones have been recorded. June is the best time of the year to listen for meteors. Meteors occur during day-time too, and they are impossible to see, but you can hear them with your radio. Tune to a weak station at the low end of

the FM band. When a meteor passes close by, the station's signal should become momentarily louder.

There are thousands of satellites orbiting the earth. Many can be seen as a bright light moving quickly across the dome of the sky in a straight line. They can be distinguished from an airplane because they move very fast, they don't blink, and they make no noise. The space shuttle can sometimes be seen as a small white dot moving rapidly across the sky.

Another object recently given publicity is an asteroid. These are large chunks of rock, perhaps parts of a planet that never quite formed, that can be found in the orbit between Mars and Jupiter. One



such asteroid, Vesta, can be seen with binoculars, though it is tricky to find. On July 13 it will be a mere 109 million miles from Earth, a close call in the realm of things. This is not the Armageddon asteroid, but there are several groups dedicated to watching for it. More on asteroids later.

Enjoy the show. It's free!

-Stewart Spratt



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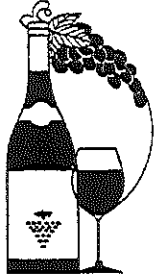
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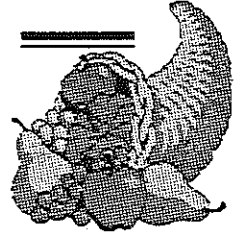
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Mushroom Asparagus Casserole

- 4 cups fresh mushrooms, halved
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 4 Tlbs butter
- 2 Tlbs flour
- 1 tsp chicken bouillon granules
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup milk
- 2 8oz packages cut asparagus cooked and drained
- 1/4 cup pimiento

TOPPING:

- 1 1/2 tsp lemon juice
- 3/4 cup soft bread crumbs
- 1 Tlbs butter

Cook mushrooms and onions covered with 4 Tlbs butter. Remove, leaving butter in skillet. Blend in flour, granules, salt, pepper, nutmeg.

Add milk, cook until bubbly. Stir in mushrooms, onions, asparagus, pimiento, and lemon juice. Turn into 1 1/2 quart casserole (double recipe for large casserole). Combine juice, butter and crumbs, sprinkle over top. Bake at 350 for 35 to 40 minutes.

Serves 8 to 10

Mexican Drink SANGRITA

- 1 32 oz can Tomato Juice
- Juice of 3 Oranges
- Juice of 2 Limes
- 1 small onion chopped
- 1 tsp sugar

4 to 6 hot chilies, seeded and chopped
Tabasco sauce to

taste
salt and pepper to taste

Combine all ingredients in blender until smooth — chill well. Serve in tall glasses accompanied by a shot of Tequila and slices of fresh lime.

Put the Tequila into the drink if desired Vodka is also good!!!!

* Instead of chilies you can use Jalapeno's

These are both excellent recipes, especially the drink!!!!!!
Tried and tested.

Has your dog been skunked



For many dog owners one of life's most unpleasant experiences is that of your pet's being sprayed by a skunk. In our area the skunk population is relatively high, therefore skunk spraying is not an uncommon occurrence.

In the event that your pet has been sprayed by a skunk, your first course of action will probably be to eliminate the odor asap.

There are several commercial products on the market to eliminate your pet's odor.

Many people rely on tomato juice. This remedy may be old fashioned - but it works.

First bathe the dog with soap (shampoo) and water. Rinse thoroughly. Squeeze out the excess water. Next pour on tomato juice, straight out of the can. Let the juice soak the dog's coat for about ten minutes. Follow up the soak with a complete rinse.

Prevention in many cases is a matter of minimizing the skunk contact risks, but

nothing is 100% fool proof. When outdoors keep your dog leashed. Do not allow your dog to roam free. (Don't mean to dwell). Keep your garbage cans covered to reduce their attracting Skunks into your yard. Finally, be sure that your dog's vaccinations are current. Skunks are common carriers of rabies and have a stinky temper.

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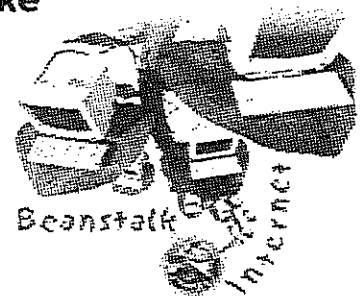
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New PWC laws in effect this summer

Effective March 31 of this year, the Personal Water Craft (PWC) rules were changed in an effort to mitigate the danger of these high powered vehicles. The combination of pollution & accident statistics caused the state to take action.

Many lake families are scrambling to take a water safety class so the adults can ride the jet skis too (most kids already took the class). Unless you are up to date — with the required certification — you run the risk of being ticketed and fined.

In addition to classes like the one Sgt. Dan Covey held last weekend at the yacht club, there are web-based safety classes that can help get you up to speed.

Go to: <http://www.boatsafe.com>
Boatsafe has a course which appears to meet the Michigan & Indiana requirements. The website is user-friendly. The course is recognized / promoted by NAS-BLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators). Should you want further information / clarification contact: IN DNR Law Enforcement Division at 317-232-4010; or the MI DNR at 517-335-3414.

Once you have completed your boating safety class, consider contacting your marine insurance carrier to see if there is a discount available.

New boating laws:

To view the up-to-date state boating laws, download the booklet (with Adobe Acrobat) at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/www/law/ledhomep.html>

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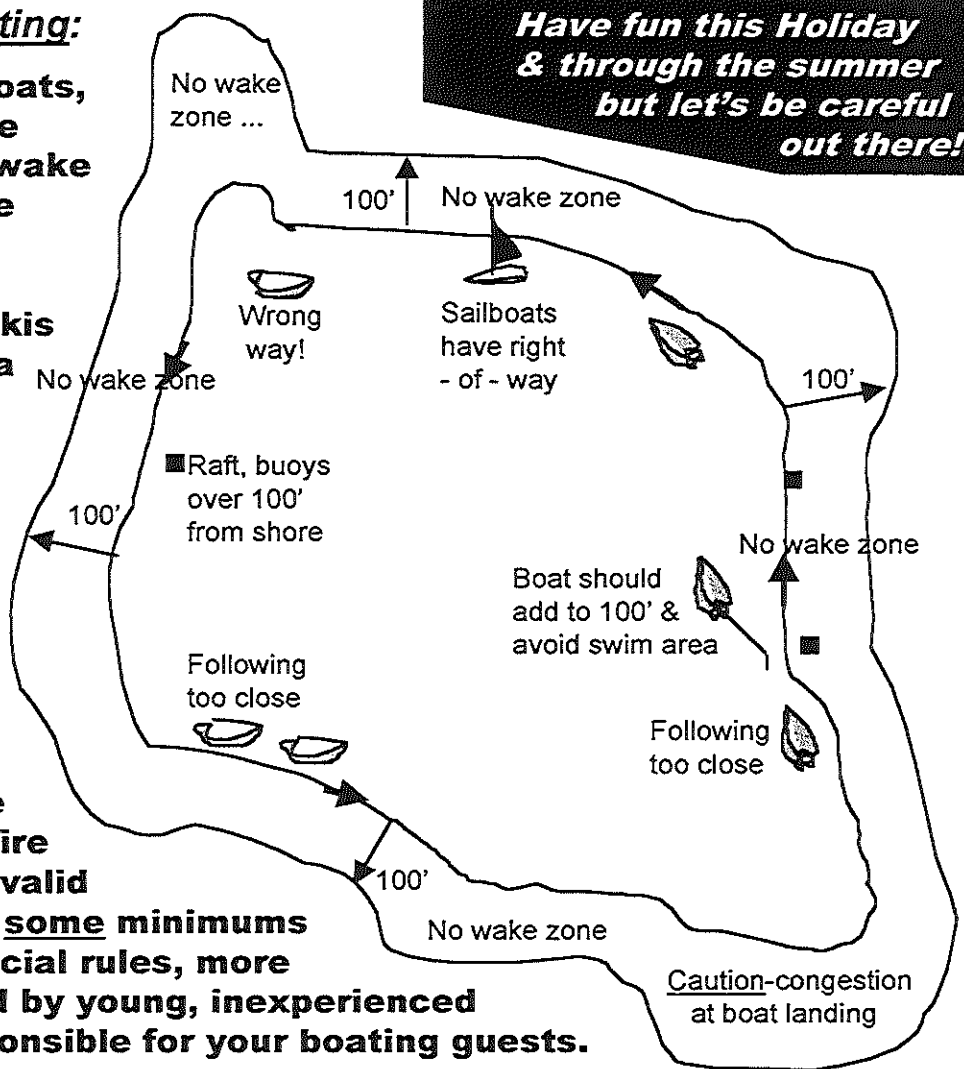
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- * Go slow near other boats, rafts & shore. You are responsible for your wake
- * Take your time & give room - stay 100' from boats, rafts & shore
- * Pulling someone on skis or tube requires extra caution, an observer & add the length of your tow line to the 100' rule
- * Drive only in the counter-clock-wise direction (flow)
- * One wearable USCG life jacket must be available for each person on board! One throwable device, a fire extinguisher, horn & valid boat registration are some minimums
- * PWCs have many special rules, more caution must be used by young, inexperienced drivers. You are responsible for your boating guests.



Have fun this Holiday & through the summer but let's be careful out there!

Contact the Cass County Sheriff's Department for more information — or visit <http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/www/law/ledhomep.html>



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Sunday Services:	Sunday School	9:30 am
	Worship Hour	10:30 am
	Evening Service	6:00 pm
Wednesday:	Adult	7:30 pm
	Youth	7:15 pm
	Kid's Club	7:15 pm

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 Friday & Saturday 11 am - 11 pm

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~ Evening Specials ~
 Mon - Going fishing
 Tue - Chicken (all you can eat)
 Wed - Prime Rib or Crab Legs
 Thur - Shrimp (All you can eat)
 Fri - Cod (all you can eat)
 Crab Legs - 1 lb. \$9.95;
 2 lb. \$14.95
 Sat - Steak Sizzler
 (all you can eat)
 or - Prime Rib with Salad Bar

From the Birch Barker Archives...

Lake Notes

Lake Notes are compiled from past issues of the Birch Barker. Below are examples of Yacht Club activities through the years including a couple of "firsts."

Friday, Aug. 15: Bingo at the Yacht Club; let's join the Machallecks and make this a rip-roaring evening. (Birch Barker 8/9/75)

Sunday afternoon, July 3 was a very successful affair for the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Over 150 people were served at a cooling Ice Cream Social on a warm summer day. People from all over the lake came to enjoy home baked goodies and

burgers, tasty ice cream, lemonade and coffee... (Birch Barker 7/9/77)

This past week was a busy one at the Yacht Club; it is through your generous donations and dues that these activities are able to occur. The craft days, teen dance, euchre, bingo, and game nights as well as the ice cream social and adult mixer have involved a large number of Birch Lakers... (Birch Barker 7/16/77)

1st annual pancake & sausage breakfast served by the Yacht Club board on Sunday, July 6... This will be an all-you-can-eat breakfast. It will be \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for 4-12 yrs. with under 4 yrs. free, PAY AT THE DOOR! Hope to make this a "looked forward to" annual event!

Nancy Walker, Chairwoman. (Birch Barker 6/28/86)

Plans are now being made for the FIRST ANNUAL BIRCH LAKE CORN & SAUSAGE ROAST August 6, 1988... BILL HOLLEMAN chairman for the event will be giving us additional info soon. (Birch Barker 7/16/88)

This year, instead of a luncheon, the ladies will be offered a "House Walk" of three of Birch Lake's most interesting homes. The Reynolds, Zesingers and Curtises have graciously agreed to open their homes (and BARN) for our viewing pleasure... (Birch Barker 6/3/89)

-Sandy Krchmar



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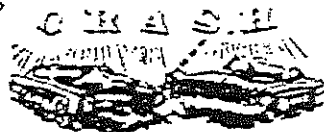
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Birch Lake Yacht Club is in the process of establishing a Lending Library for members (and associate members). Any books you want to donate (both children's and adult literature - sign your name on the inside cover) should be brought to the Commodore's Cocktail Party on 6/10.

A limited number of 1999 Birch Lake Directories are available for sale, \$2 each just like last year. There will be no 2000 Directory published so get 'em while they last (Commodore's Cocktail - 06/10)

HELP WANTED

Commodore needed for 2001 BLYC season. Inquire to Bob King at blicking@aol.com

Kidz Wanted: to paint mural in Kidz Corner - TBA

Help Wanted: Loving Parents to chaperone Kidz functions, date = you pick

Seamstress wanted - I need someone for a patriotic project - No pay but salutes aplenty.

FOR SALE

For sale: 14' Lund fishing boat. Call Klappauf's (616) 476-2663

MISC.

Have you seen any zebra muscles when taking out your piers? We need kidz to help with a zebra monitoring program this summer. Ever wonder what kind of hotel a zebra prefers? Watch this space for details ...

Wanted: Long ago we had road signs that were set up & taken down annually. We have the signs but

need a sharp fella who remembers where they went ... contact Bob King

PROPERTIES FOR SALE/RENT/WANTED

Young couple wants to sleep around - We are looking for Birch property and would like to try all of the cottages before we buy; call Phil or Sandy (219) 291-6102.

Place your Barker Classified Ad

Want to reach all of the Lakelanders with your message? Put your ad info in the Barker Box at the Yacht Club or e-mail to: sailorphil@webcraftarts.com

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 Ball, John Sr.
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 Bergan, Jim & Linda
 Bernaciak, Ken & Mary Ellen
 Blackwood, Howard & Beth
 Blifer, William & Grace
 Blue, Jim & Shirley
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 Cote, Adrian & Judith
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Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

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 Birch Lake Yacht Club

Mail to:
 Holly Troeger, Treasurer
 1516 Ash Drive East
 Elkhart, IN 46514

Drop off:
 63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

- \$_____ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
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