

# BIRCH BARKER

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Five, June 24, 2000

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

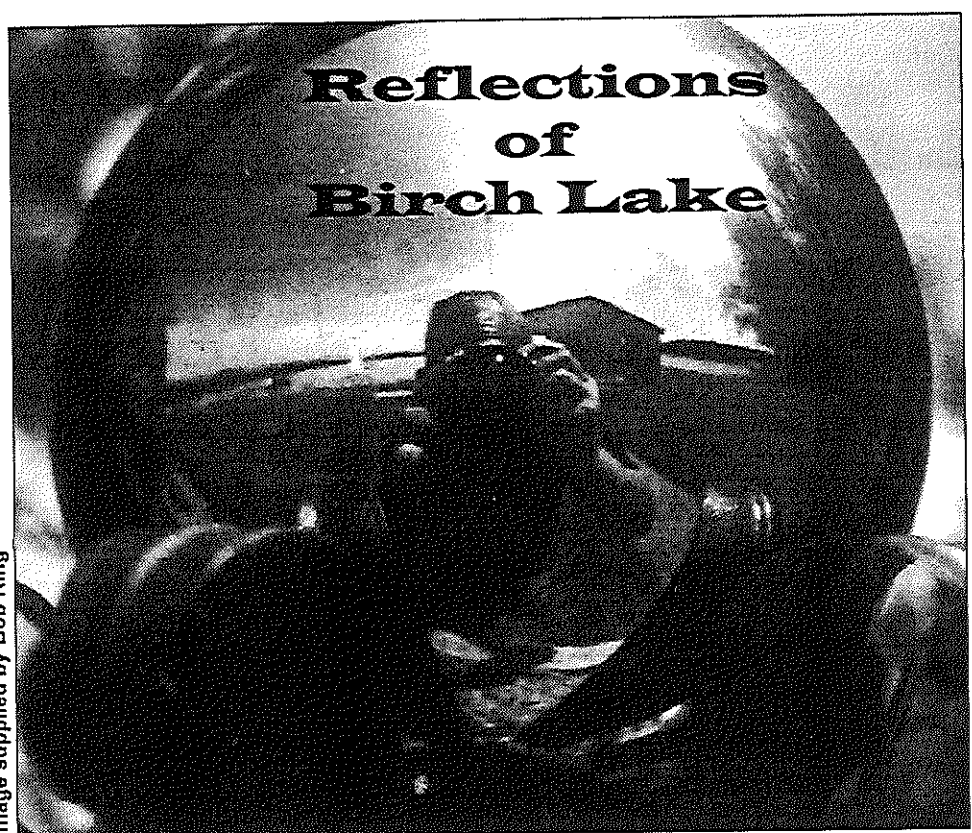
Past Commodores have shared with me that they eventually "hit the wall" with their commentary, being overcome by writers block on Monday morning. Maybe this bug is yet to bite - my problem is which topic to address first. I suppose a liberal dose of thanks are always appropriate, so here goes: tardy appreciation goes out to Don Harman (power-washing & sealing the YC deck), Jim & Sally Beck (for giving us shelves to stuff with books) & all those who helped get our Library off the ground.

On the library: a lending library is filled with donated books to be borrowed by others. There are no rules, checkout procedures, etc. Just help yourself to any on the shelf & add your name to that of the donor before returning it. Now, how to give you access? Somehow, we will try to open the Club weekly, probably on Saturdays starting 07/01 (stay tuned). If anyone has some shelving you can part with, let me know.

The Board met last Saturday & plowed through a plethora of plans to keep our boat speed rolling. There are some darned creative people who give up a Saturday a month to shape the course of our Club. These same folks are often at work doing Birch business all year long. The number of Lakers who attend meetings at various governmental bodies would make for a long list.

Membership & benefits: we have asked for your support both hands-on as well as financial. At this writing over 80 residents have not replied. Please send your dues to Holly Troeger today. \$20 is a small sum versus the benefits you receive. For your convenience, the coupon to be sent with your check is below. Can't recall if you made a contribution? Check the member list on the Barker back page. Non participants will be pestered mercilessly (don't make me come door to door).

Image supplied by Bob King



From a layman's point of view I have to mention the state of the lake - the water that is. Undoubtedly we will stir it up over the holiday, but it is as clear as I have ever seen it. We owe a great debt to all who have labored to preserve our puddle. There are numerous Water Quality initiatives underway. Please eliminate phosphorous runoff by coloring your yards "green" (see Water Quality).

This is an off week for the Club - just catching our breath before the 4th festivities. Rest while you can... See you on the water,

-Bob King, C2k

### Calendar for June 24-July 2\*

- |                                          |                                              |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 07/01 - 11 am - 4th of July Regatta      | 07/02 - Noon - Boat Parade                   |
| 07/01 - dark - Fireworks                 | 07/02 - 2 pm - 4th of July Regatta           |
| 07/02 - dark - Fireworks rain date       | <i>cancelled - Vice Commodore's Cocktail</i> |
| 07/02 - 8 am - Pancake Breakfast         | 7/15 - 7 pm Jimmy Buffett Party              |
| (Adults \$4; 6-10 yrs \$2; Under 5 free) | 07/28 - 11 am - Men's Golf Outing            |

\*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.

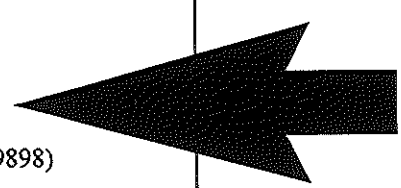


## BLYC Contributions

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Birch Lake Yacht Club

**Mail to:**  
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1516 Ash Drive East  
Elkhart, IN 46514

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63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)



- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Fireworks Display Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL

Note: All times in the Barker are IST ( Indiana Standard Time) unless stated otherwise

## RESIDENTS URGED TO JOIN THE ZEBRA MUSSEL WATCH

### RESIDENTS URGED TO JOIN THE ZEBRA MUSSEL WATCH

#### WHAT IS A ZEBRA MUSSEL?

**A Zebra Mussel is a pain in the neck.**

**A Zebra Mussel is a pain in the foot.**

**A Zebra Mussel is a pain in the hand.**

Zebra Mussels damage boats and motors that are docked.

Zebra Mussels have a negative impact on fish, because they reduce their food source.

Zebra Mussels have a sharp edge and stop YOU from using your beach.

Michigan Lake and Stream Association held their 39th Annual Conference in April, 2000.

Bob and Gert Temple represented the BLYC Water Quality Committee at the Treetops Resort in upper Michigan and attended Mike Klepinger's session on Exotics.

**Mike Klepinger is the Exotic Species Program Coordinator, Michigan Sea Grant Michigan State University, Lansing Michigan.**

#### What is an EXOTIC?

It is an aquatic nuisance species plants and animals. One is the Zebra Mussel.

The Zebra Mussel is not native to our mussel population. They were accidentally introduced into Lakes Erie and St. Clair in the 1980s when one or more transoceanic ships discharged ballast water into the lakes. The ballast, which water ships carry to balance the vessel when they aren't fully loaded, may have contained Zebra Mussel larvae and possibly adult mussels may have been carried on an anchor or chain. They are now a permanent part of the Great Lakes, many major river systems, and inland lakes. They continue to spread rapidly. Research is needed to gain understanding of the natural predators, spawning activity, and pollutant uptake.

#### How are they spread?

Nearly anything that has been in Zebra Mussel infested waters may have the mussels on them. Boaters and anglers are responsible for the spread of the Zebra Mussel. The green and white sign that is posted at the Public Landing was purchased by the water quality committee from Michigan Lake and Stream Associations to educate a boater and an angler on how to take action against the Zebra Mussel. A few adult Zebra Mussels have been found at Birch Lake - mostly at the Public Landing.

**Does this mean that the mussels found have been brought in by boaters and anglers? Or does this mean that mussels are reproducing in Birch Lake?**

A female mussel may produce up to one million eggs per season. Spawning may begin as early as May and end as late as October, but it peaks during July and August.

Larval Zebra Mussels (veligers) drift in the water for three to five weeks. If they are present at Birch Lake they will settle and attach to hard surfaces with their sticky byssal threads and form into adults over the course of the summer.

#### CAN WE SLOW DOWN A ZEBRA MUSSEL INFESTATION AT BIRCH LAKE?

With the help of MDEQ, MLSA, and Sea Grant, the water quality committee will be introducing a monitoring and reporting program for Zebra Mussels. The tools that we will use are a brick and a rope. The money to purchase the tools was donated to the water quality committee by your neighbors. We will be recruiting them and YOU to "hand pick, remove, and kill" the Zebra Mussel.

-g.temple

#### AND NOW A WORD FROM BIRCH LAKE:

**With the help of each and every one of you, WE CAN SLOW THEM DOWN!!!!**

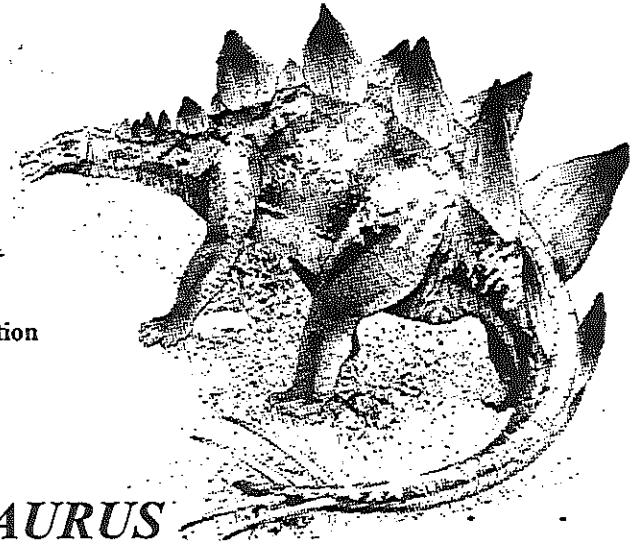
# Kidz' Corner

## THE PLATED DINOSAURS

One group of dinosaurs, which included the **STEGOSAURUS**, were armored and had small pieces of bone in the skin along their necks and had spikes on their tails. Some even had tall plates that ran in rows down their backs. The Stegosaurus, which lived in western North America, had a brain that was only the size of a walnut. These heavy dinosaurs ate plants and walked on four legs.



Stegosaurus in relation to a human



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# Boating safety / PFDs

## Who must wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD)?

- Children less than 6 years of age must wear a Type I or Type II PFD when riding in the open deck area of a boat.
- Each person 12 years of age or older operating, riding on or being towed behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear a Type I, Type II or Type III PFD (that is not an inflatable device).
- Each person less than 12 years of age riding or being towed, behind a personal watercraft (jet ski) must wear a Type I or Type II PFD.

## What type of PFD do I need to carry on my boat in Michigan?

Vessels less than 16 feet (including canoes and kayaks) must be equipped with one Type I, II, III or IV PFD for each person on board. The U.S. Guard requires all vessels less than 16 feet, used on the Great Lakes or connecting waterways, to carry one approved Type I, II, or III device for each person on board.

Vessels 16 feet and longer, in addition to the Type I, II, or III for each person on board must carry one type IV. (Canoes and kayaks over 16 feet are exempt from the Type IV requirement.)

### Types of PFDs

#### TYPE I

(Off-Shore Life Jacket) (22 lbs. Buoyancy) Best for open, rough or remote water, where rescue may be slow in coming.

**Advantages:** Floats you best. Turns most unconscious wearers face-up in water. Highly visible color.

**Disadvantages:** Bulky.

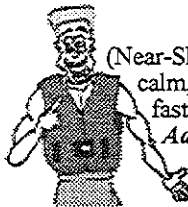
**Sizes:** Two sizes to fit most children and adults.



#### TYPE II

(Near-Shore Buoyant Vest) (15.5 lbs. Buoyancy) Good for calm, inland water, or where there is good chance of fast rescue.

**Advantages:** Turns some unconscious wearers face-up in water. Less bulky, more comfortable than Type I PFD. Inexpensive.



**Disadvantages:** Not for long hours in the water. Will not turn some unconscious wearers face-up in water.

**Sizes:** Infant, Child Small, Child Medium, Adult.

#### TYPE III

(Flotation Aid) (15.5 lbs. Buoyancy) Good for calm, inland water, or where there is a good chance of fast rescue.

**Advantages:** Generally the most comfortable type for continuous wear. Freedom of movement for much active water sports. Available in many styles. Freedom of movement for water-skiing, small boat, sailing, fishing, etc.



**Disadvantages:** Wearer may have to tilt head back to avoid going facedown. In rough water, a wearer's face may often be covered by waves. Not for extended survival in rough water.

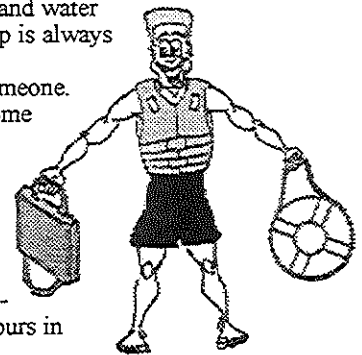
#### TYPE IV

(Throwable Device) For calm, inland water with heavy boat traffic, where help is always nearby.

**Advantages:** Can be thrown to someone. Good back-up wearable PFDs. Some can be used as a seat cushion.

**Kinds:** Cushions, Rings and Horseshoe buoys.

**Disadvantages:** Not for unconscious persons. Nor for non-swimmers or children. Not for many hours in rough water.



### Info from Michigan DNR

To read all about the state laws on PFDs, boating safety, rules underway, skiing, environmental issues, etc., visit the state DNR website at:

<http://www.dnr.state.mi.us/Index.asp>

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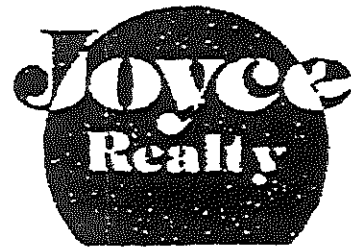
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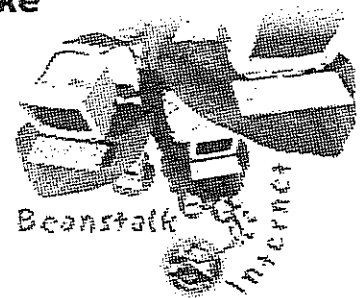
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# Stu's Star Stuff\*

The Moon reaches Last Quarter at 8 p.m. EDT tonight, although don't look for it then. The half-lighted sphere does not rise until after 1 a.m.

It's easiest to look for this phase during morning daylight hours. The half-illuminated orb should be easy to spot in the S and SW long after sunrise.

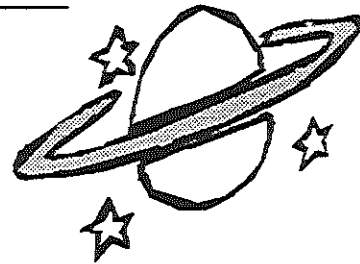
When you look at the Last Quarter Moon, you gaze out the "windshield" of spaceship Earth. This Moon marks the direction we are traveling as our planet orbits the Sun.

Later in the week the waning Crescent Moon approaches and passes Jupiter and Saturn. Tuesday morning, an hour before

sunrise, the Moon is two "fists" to the upper right of the planets.

The Crescent Moon also makes a wonderful target for binoculars and small telescopes. The craters stand out in exaggerated relief along the terminator, that boundary between light and dark.

Before dawn on Wednesday the Moon passes just south of the fourth-magnitude star Gamma in Capricorn. Once the Moon moves out of the way, Uranus can be found 2.1° NW of the star through mid-June. Uranus is two magnitudes fainter than the star, so binoculars and a detailed finder chart will probably be necessary. Such a chart can be found at:



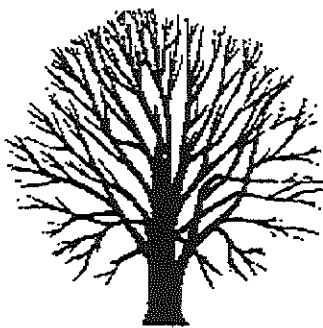
<http://www.skypub.com/sights/moonplanets/urnepplu.html>.

Good luck and enjoy the show. It's free!

-Stewart Spratt

\*NOTE: Stewart lives in a Michigan time zone and the hours he mentions in this column are not IST.

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# Best of Beck's Bistro



## Barbecued Honey Chicken with Sesame Slaw

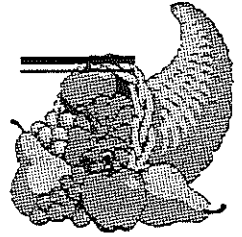
- 1/2 cup honey
- 3 Tlbs Soy Sauce
- 1 Tlbs Worcestershire sauce
- 3 Scallions sliced
- 1/4 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
- 1 whole chicken cut into eighths

- 1 bag (1lb) shredded cabbage
- 1/2 cup shredded carrot
- 1/2 cup fat free mayonnaise
- 2 Tlbs rice wine vinegar
- 1 tsp sesame seeds, toasted
- 1/2 tsp roasted sesame oil
- 3/4 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper

In large zip-top bag, combine honey, soy sauce, worcestershire sauce, scallions, and crushed red pepper flakes. Add chicken: Toss to coat well. Marinate in fridge at least 2 hours. Meanwhile, in

large bowl, combine cabbage, carrot, mayo, vinegar, sesame seeds, oil, salt, and pepper. Preheat grill. Grill chicken until cooked through, about 40-45 minutes, turning once during cooking. Serve slaw with chicken.

Makes 4 servings — 342 calories per serving.



## "21" Club's Whisky Sour

- 1 1/2 tsp sugar (or to taste)
- 1 3/4 ounces of preferred whisky
- Juice of one lemon
- Shake the lemon juice, sugar and whisky with hard, clear ice.
- Strain and serve.

A garnish of a slice of fruit or a cherry could be used.



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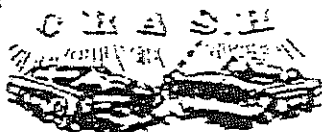
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# A golden moment on the pond

*"You would think that such a day would tremble to begin..."*

Translucent wisps of early morning mist were ghosting in soft curls from the top of the glassy water as the resident Heron and I shared the spectacle of an orange glow that painted the lake as it reflected off the houses from the west shore. Through sleep-crusted eyes still red-roadmapped from a double overserving at Hickory Inn, I read the musical notes formed in the air by the mayflies ping-ponging over the gaping mouths of lunging bass; by pollen motes pirouetting to the lyrical laughter of lapping waves.

We were there for the same prey, that great, graceful, gray bird and I, and across the stillness of the still-sleepy morning, our growling hunger for a breakfast of Birch Lake Bluegill bound us to the mutual pangs of a perch lust in deep trout tremolo.

"He wants the ones you throw back," echoed a cry from three piers down, breaking the surface of our collective concentration and leaving sound ripples in the thin air that dissipated as slowly as splash rings deserting a sunken bobber.

Ignoring the psychic intrusion, I concentrated on shadow casting my speckled fly above

the smooth surface, carefully snapping it over the water until the bright-green line was in position to drop just at the edge of the weed bed I instinctively knew was going to yield the day's first strike.

In an instant I was rewarded. The water under my fly rose in a torrent, surrounding it with a sucking slosh of scales and fins.

Got him, I shrieked wordlessly, gently setting the hook and finger-reeling the line as I pulled against the contretemps vibrato of the fish's watertop frenzy of wet and white-foamed splashes.

A flash of gray-blue; a darkening of the crispness at the periphery of my vision ripped me from the tableau. The Heron had lifted off the raft and was zoning in on the flash of fish I was retrieving.

I pulled faster. He flapped twice.

I lifted the now-disputed prize from the water, hoisting it belt high — within reach of my outstretched hand.

Still he approached, legs trailing and spread wings flailing as wide as I was high. I had a B-grade movie vision, flashing on the swamp-bred pterodactyl about to snatch Faye Wray from Kong's hairy grasp.

Seconds from impact, the Great Blue flared, coming to a

Hummingbird stop just feet from wiping the wan off of my frozen face.

Our eyes locked for an instant, neither of us sure of the protocol, before he wheeled to the left and vanished around the corner toward the cove, leaving me shaken and dangling the limp morsel from my barely bent rod tip.

For a second longer I lin-

gered, savoring the strangeness — and the richness — of our unlikely encounter.

The sun popped over the east shore's trees and the smell of frying bacon was filling my nostrils as I slid the fish back into the shimmering water. It was going to be another good day at Birch Lake.

-B.L. Visitor



Chris Chocola lives, works, and is raising his family in the Third District of Indiana. When he's elected, he won't move to Washington, because his home is in the Third District of Indiana. He's pledged to serve no more than ten years in Congress - he's not going to become one of those people who forgets where he's from and who elected him.

To find out more about our campaign, please visit our web site at: [www.chocola2000.com](http://www.chocola2000.com)

Chris Chocola for Congress, Inc.

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Authorized by Chris for Congress, Inc. John Hiler, Chairman.



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Sat - Steak Sizzler  
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or - Prime Rib with Salad Bar



# Take care when you take Fido along



Say "road trip" in hearing range of Fido and someone is, at a minimum, driving around the block.

Traveling back and forth to beautiful Birch Lake we all know how important it is to wear our seatbelts; it is also important for Fido, too. Most dog owners just allow their dog to roam the car freely or maybe just in the back seat. I recently read how dangerous an unrestrained pet can be. In a 30-mph crash a child that weighs 15 pounds can generate an impact force of more than 300 pounds. This means that a 60-pound dog, in a similar crash, will hit a windshield, seat back, or

another passenger with a force of 1,200 pounds! And even if miraculously uninjured, an unrestrained, frightened pet can hamper efforts of rescue workers at an accident scene.

Even if a pet doesn't directly interfere with the driver, a dog moving about in a car can cause a big distraction. You may remember hearing on the news how novelist Stephen King was struck by a van while walking a country road. King was badly injured, and the driver said it happened because "he was distracted by his dog."

The Humane Society of the United States advises the safest place for traveling pet is either properly restrained in the back seat or cargo area or (in the case of cats and very small dogs) placed in an appro-

priate pet carrier.

Your local pet supply store carries safety harness and carriers for dogs of all sizes. Your Vet would be happy to assist you in deciding to best restraint for your dog.

Restraints also help a pet feel more secure while traveling, especially when you have to make some quick turns or maneuvers.

Now, is everybody buckled up or in their carriers? Let's head for the lake!

Oops, don't forget the leash.



-Fido's friend

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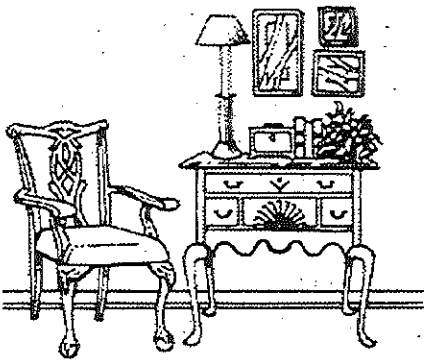
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Ball, John Sr.  
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Beck, Jim & Sally  
Bender, Dick (& Marsha)  
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Bold type = member & fireworks donations. All done on a best efforts basis ... contact editor for corrections

## Barker Classifieds

### FOR SALE

Alpha Sailboard, like new, \$100. Call Dick Bender at 2591.

### 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) are needed.

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 (and 01 is in doubt, as well) so get 'em while they last.

### PROPERTIES FOR SALE/RENT/WANTED

Too many lawns to mow? Overburdened by material possessions? Need to simplify your life? We can help — Now is the time to rid yourself of that bothersome Birch Lake property. Call Phil or Sandy (219) 291-6102 for details.

### HELP WANTED

Commodore needed for 2001 BLYC season.

Inquire to Bob King at [blicking@aol.com](mailto:blicking@aol.com)

Kidz Wanted: to paint mural in Kidz Corner

Help Wanted: Linda Rasmussen has agreed to host a kidz party and needs other parents to help.

### MISC.

Have you seen any zebra muscles when taking out your piers? Ever wonder what kind of hotel a zebra prefers? Watch Water Quality Page for details

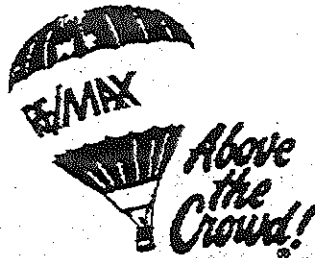
Notice to public: The beatings will continue until morale improves

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