

# Birch Barker

FREE

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Six, July 1, 2000

## Bursting into the holiday weekend

### COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

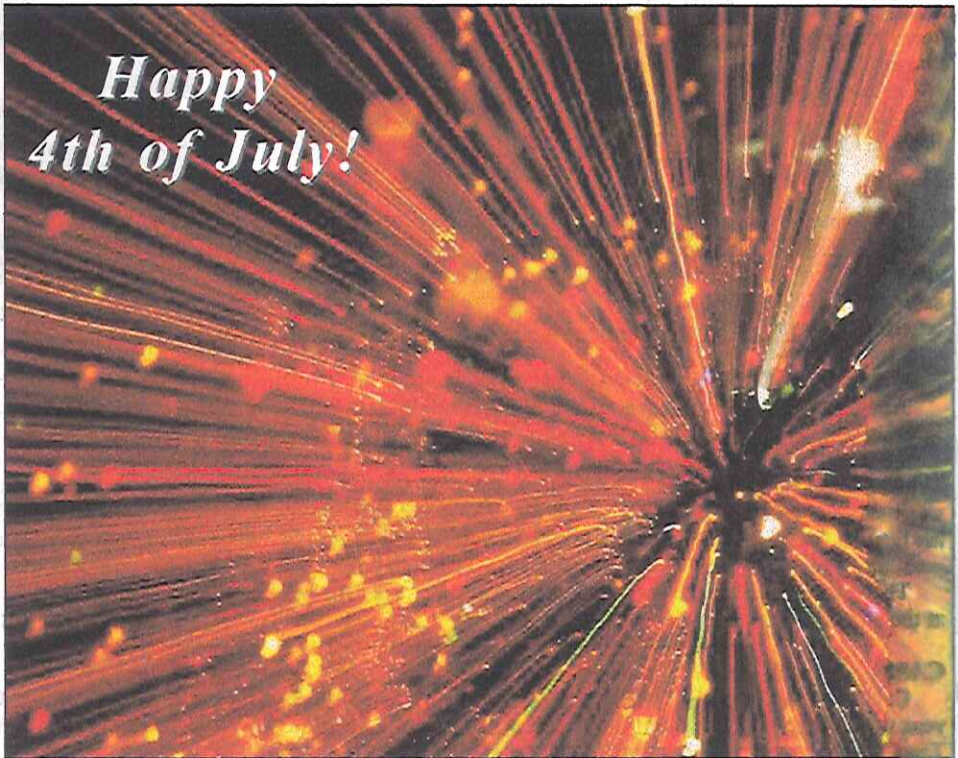
Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend at beautiful Birch Lake! To celebrate our Independence, I'd like to relate a policy my Mom has espoused in our years at Birch. Work on projects through June, then put away the tools come Independence Day. Think about it – give yourselves a break and enjoy the big blue wet thing out front.

I will open the Club this Saturday morning around 9 am for anyone who has books to donate or wants to browse and/or borrow. Starting July 6, Julie Ball Lacy has agreed to open the club from 1-2 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Children and grownups are welcome to browse the library or play a game in the Kidz Corner.

I need volunteers for teen functions on Friday evenings. We can offer wholesome alternatives if some parents will get involved (see Kidz Corner). Music, soft drinks, ping pong and pool – yes rack 'em up Virginia – John Gableman donated a full size billiards set to the Club!

This weekend starts hopping Saturday with the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Regatta (11 am). Mid afternoon (between 3-5 pm) there will be a boat that circles the Lake for last minute fireworks donations. We are not trying to pester you or your guests – however, if you have not had a chance and would still like to make a donation, just wave the boat in. Me thinks you'll know which boat it is...

The fireworks show will rock and rumble after dark Saturday from the Camp Tannadoonah waterfront. We appreciate this annual favor from Camp. While hesitant to mention the "R" word, you should know that the R-date is Sunday after dark. Should



R cause dealy, the show will be fired off from the fields above old Kiloqua, thanks to the offer from neighbor Dave Kring and my Dad. The show would be adapted to delete low displays and to shoot works that should be visible above the tree line. But enough about that, lets have no reason to use the R-site (anti-R juju welcomed).

Sunday the Tannadoonah Pancake Breakfast runs from 8-11 am, hosted by Don and Lind Harman and staffed by the usual helpful suspects. All-you-can-eat pancakes are just \$4 (\$2 for kidz age 6-10, free for the little ones). Don't cook, come up and pancake with us!

The Boat Parade is at noon. Leading the parade will be Grand Marshalls Bernie and Helen Weesner. Like last year, form up your entry at Reynolds' to get a number and proceed to Gableman's for judging by our expert panel of float-enthusiasts.

Later that day, round two of the Holiday Regatta will sail at 2 pm.

Finally, I like fireworks as much as any one but every year I cringe when safety experts predict how many Americans will be injured over the Holiday. Myself, I'm ok with giving kidz sparklers and lighting snakes on the neighbors' concrete or decks – but leave the big stuff to the pros. If you must mess with pyro-techniques, *please be careful!* Ditto, be careful with your water toys and cars around the puddle.

Have fun, but let's be careful out there.

See you on the water,



-Bob King, C2k

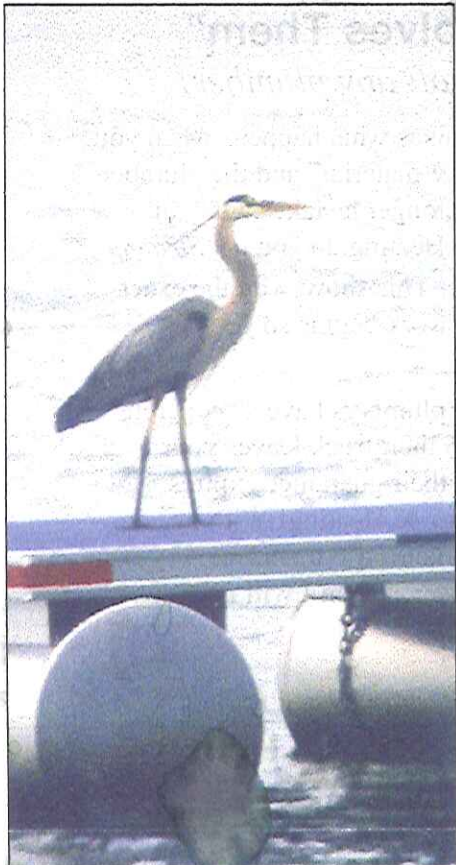


Image supplied by Phil Vitale

### Birch Lake calendar \*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 07/01 - 10 am (11 MI) - Newberg Ambulance Dept. Chicken/Rib Tip Dinner; Corner M-60 & M-40 (Chicken \$5; Rib Tips \$6) | 07/02 - Noon - Boat Parade   |
| 07/01 - 11 am - 4th of July Regatta  | 07/02 - 2 pm - 4th of July Regatta   |
| 07/01 - Dark - Fireworks   | 07/02 - Dark - Fireworks R-date  |
| 07/02 - 8-11 am - Tannadoonah Pancake Breakfast (All you can eat; Adults \$4; 6-10 yrs \$2; Tykes free)                | 07/15 - 5-7 pm - Buffett Kidz  |
|  | 07/15 - 7 pm - Jimmy Buffett Buffet <i>cancelled</i> - Vice Commodore's Cocktail <i>pending</i> - Mark's Fancy Pants Dance |
|  | 07/28 - 11 am - Men's Golf Outing  |
|  | 08/04 - 11 am - Ladies Golf & Luncheon   |

\*See <http://www.hometown.aol.com/blcking/bllyc.html> for the full calendar of events  
NOTE: be sure to use all lower case letters when typing the website name

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

## LIKE THE LOOK?

Odds are this is the one and only color-cover Barker! It would have doubled the cost, but thanks to Phil Vitale Publishing, page 1 is a color delight (and at very low cost, too).  
-Bob King

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us Saturday for the annual all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 11 am (Indiana time) at Camp Tannadoonah. Cost is \$4 for adults; \$2 for kids 6-10 (young 'uns eat free). Proceeds will be donated to the camp.

## NEWBERG AMBULANCE BARBECUE

The Newberg Ambulance Department is sponsoring a take-out or eat-in Chicken or Rib Tip barbecue dinner to raise money for a new defibrillator. Dinner includes baked beans, potato salad and dinner roll. **Date:** Saturday July 1; **Time:** 11 a.m. MI time (10 a.m. IN) till gone; **Where:** Stop by at the Newberg Fire Department on the corner of M-60 & M-40 in Jones, MI; **Cost:** Chicken Dinner \$5; Rib Tip Dinner \$6. For More Information Call Darlene at 2639

## BOAT PARADE

The annual 4th of July Boat Parade will begin at Noon on Friday, July 2. Participants are invited to pick up their numbers at the Kids' pier then proceed to Gableman's where the judges will be assembled. There is no particular theme this year, but paraders are urged to be creative. Fireworks will be later in the evening.

## JIM BLUE COMPLETES FIRST NOVEL

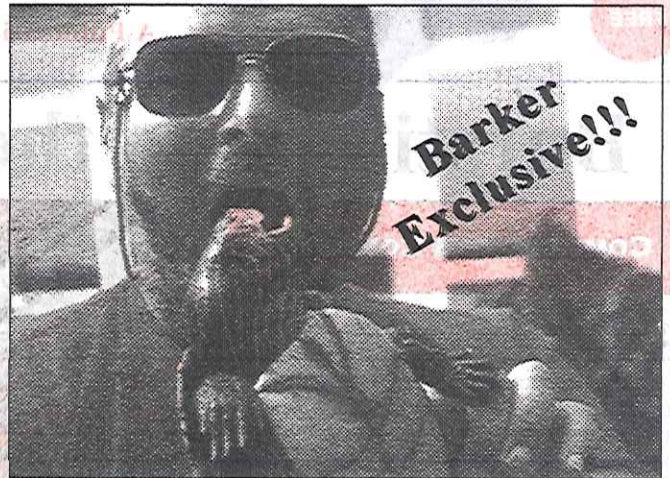
Jim Blue's novel, Justified Crimes, will be published in mid-July. Although it will not be available through Borders, Barnes & Noble, Amazon etc. until some time in early August. Since he has been writing fiction five years ago, Jim has published about 50 short stories as well as 30 essays and articles, but Justified Crimes is his first book. Blue Murder Press of Portland, Oregon has built a web site to promote him and his book at [www.jmblue.com](http://www.jmblue.com).

Those who enjoy crime and suspense novels can order the book at the web-site after July 15th.

## CAMP IS UNDERWAY

Camp Tannadoonah has just completed the first week of its 79th year with 98 campers attending. On Friday night, June 30, Princess Tannadoonah came to light the first council fire of the season at the waterfront. We look forward to seeing many of you at the pancake

## Commodore implicated in plot to fix Turtle Races



Admits eating competition prior to Cove Event  
"Ok, I ate it. It was him or me... besides, he bit me first!"

breakfast this Sunday, July 2.

## PARROTHEAD ALERT!!!!

Join us for the 4th annual Jimmy Buffett/Caribbean night, Saturday July 15, at 7 pm (following Buffett Kidz from 5-7). This year we will feature a hog roast, rum drinks, and open bar. Please bring a dish or snack to pass. This evening is provided thanks to the Yacht club activity fund. We need donations to cover expenses. They will be accepted at the door. Hope to see you all there.

-Jim & Sally Beck

## INDIAN LAKE REGATTA

The Indian Lake Yacht Club will host a Sat., July 8 invitational regatta for MC and C class boats — beginning with a 9 am skipper's meeting. Call BJ Hague at 782-9280 for details.



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# Birch Lake Notes

## TOTHS EXPECTING VISITOR

Karen Toth Evans, from Portland, Oregon, daughter of Joseph and Helen Toth, will be visiting Birch Lake for two weeks in July. The family is anxious for her arrival. Karen is always such a delight because of her wit and humor.

## MEN'S GOLF OUTING

Playing? Make up your foursome now and contact John Ball Jr. Watch for application forms in coming Barkers.

## HOUSEWALK

On Sunday, August 13, the Yacht Club will sponsor a "House Walk" from 1-4 pm. The houses that will be featured are:

1. Herm & Beverly Kruggel #390 on the West side
2. Jim & Shirley Blue #131 on the East side
3. Sheryl Papandria #105 on the East side
4. Keith & Denny Weesner #32 on the South side.

More information and a profile of each house will follow in future Barkers

-Denny Weesner

## NEWS FROM A "LITTLE CORNER OF HEAVEN"

Kay (Jenson) and Bob Greening arrived several weeks ago from California. Leslie should be here this week. Kay and Julie Weaver and Mary Erhardt are waiting for a date for the yard sale. Even the Machallecks have extras to go, as Arlene and John are here and still cleaning out.

Mary Erhardt had a very full and exciting winter in "The Colony," the town in Texas where she winters with daughter Cheryl. There were two weddings with lots of showers and fun. Several birthdays were also celebrated, with Cheryl's being held at the Rangers' stadium. Since Mary didn't

## News from the Cove (and outlying areas)

By Sunny Waters  
*Pulitzer Prize winner (as far as we're concerned — if those deadbeat judges don't agree, they're itchin' for a fight!!)*

From Chase's Annual Events:

1. July 1st — Battle of Gettysburg observance
2. Hittchiking month observed
3. National anti-boredom month
4. Sauerkraut salad and sandwich month (sponsored by the National Kraut Packers)
5. Wild ass hunters annual conference for the preservation of the world's wild ass herds (comment reserved).

Hooray! We can always count on Loretta Drolet to liven things up. Fun loving flapper Loretta has bobbed her hair, rouged her knees and is heading south to enter a Charleston contest. Good Luck, Loretta — and don't forget your chartreuse feather boa.

— Sunny

care to go, she stayed home with Nike, Pudge, Sandy and two other dogs. Unfortunately, Mary locked herself out the front door and found herself in a quandary. Being unwilling to sit in 90-100 degree heat for the day, she decided to go into the alley and onto the patio where she got down on all fours and crawled in the doggie door with Pudge pushing from behind. Now we all know from past experience that Mary has a will to live and have fun, but going to the dogs for that day's fun is a real winner!


We have all enjoyed the Parkinsons with

their three beautiful daughters. Especially Dakota Olgrin, Riley Weaver and Vincent Sheetz. I don't think there will ever be lonesome days in the Parkinson yard.

Speaking of the three local boys, bicycling seems to be the hot thing to do. Even 2-1/2 year-old Riley follows cousin Dakota and neighbor Vincent with mom Allyson or grandma Julie taking up the rear.

We're all having a fun 2000 year.

-Julie Weaver



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## Have A Safe and Fun Summer!



# Birch Lake Notes

## WEB SITE PATCH

The webpage is still quirky. From the number of people who are e-mailing, I can tell there is ample interest. Neither the repairman nor I have had the time of late, but we will get it running 24/7 soon.

Meanwhile, all you have to do is type the name in all lower case letters (no capitals) — despite the way it appears on the business cards and other references. Sorry for the hassle.

-Bob King

## MEA CULPA LORENE KRUEGER et al

It has come to my attention that some of the names on the Member's List (see page 16) have been spelled incorrectly (I think we've even invented some brand new ways to spell Lorene Krueger's name) and/or not up to date in regards to the status of dues and donations for fireworks. While we could site a thousand reasons for the errors, the truth is that our system ain't perfect and from time to time, WE SCREW UP. We apologize for any embarrassment this may have caused and hope to do better — please let us know if we are continuing to butcher your name or status so we can correct it.

-Ed Itor

## STATE BOATING LAWS, INFO

The Michigan DNR is maintaining a website filled with useful info on owning and operating a boat (or any other kind of watercraft) on state waters and about various safety and certification classes in the area.

If you are interested, visit:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mi.us>

## Swimmers' Itch alert

Several Lakelanders have reported the return of the dreaded *swimmers' itch*, a rash of small, raised bumps on the skin (resembling mosquito bites).

Dr. George Plain, the Medical Officer for the St. Joseph County (Indiana) Health Dept., says *Swimmers' Itch* is caused by a *Trematode* (parasite) and is related to the more-dangerous *Schistosoma Mansoni*, a fluke usually found in only in Africa.

Commonly referred to as "duck fluke," the leaf-shaped parasites live in snails. During their larval bloom, which is often related to a heat wave or warming trend, the little nasties attach themselves to the skin of unsuspecting humans and irritate the heck out of our skin.

Fortunately, they don't get any farther than the skin (which differentiates them

from their often-fatal African cousins); unfortunately, there is little you can do once they get you except treat the skin topically with your favorite anti-itch remedy (scratching only makes it itch worse and adds the danger of infection if your bacteria-laden fingernails break the skin).

During the period of the bloom (which is commonly spread by wind and waves so certain areas of the lake may experience problems while remain fluke-free). Dr. Plain suggests that you wash off with soapy water when you get out of the lake, and that if the problem becomes severe, you should visit a dermatologist.

Common preventive measures from lakelanders include liberal doses of oily products like suntan oils, baby oil and Avon's Skin So Soft before you get wet.

## FUTURE FISHERMAN'S CODE

- **I ALWAYS PRACTICE SAFE FISHING.** I am careful when casting. I handle all fish hooks carefully. I wear a life jacket when I am in a boat or when I am near deep or running water
- **I AM A COURTEOUS FISHERMAN.** I don't litter. I pick up all extra line, leftover bait, candy wrappers and other trash. I don't get too close to someone else who is fishing.
- **I OBEY FISHING LAWS.** I have a fishing license when required. I know the size, kind and number of fish I'm allowed to keep.
- **I RESPECT THE OUTDOORS.** I observe but do not disturb other wildlife that live around the water. I release fish right away if I don't plan to eat them.
- **I INVITE MY FRIENDS TO GO FISHING WITH ME, AND HELP OTHERS LEARN TO FISH**



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# Birch Lake Notes

## Fleet News

Glorious wind dispelled the foggy mists for Sunday's races. The MC's had a one-on-one match like the America's Cup races, and from the vantage point of a Sunfish the MC's seem like 12-meter ocean sailors. The MC's second match was a photo-finish.

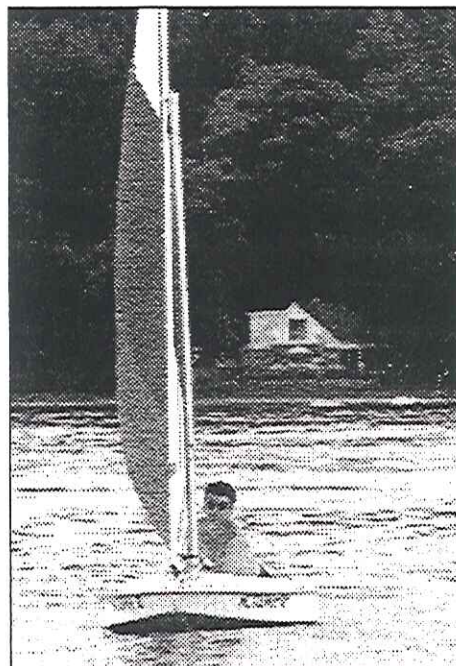
The Sunfish fleet had two new competitors: Rick Russwurm, whose dazzling new boat was eyed enviously by the other skippers in their battered old tubs; and "Lt. Cmdr." Neil Troeger, who crewed for his dad the first race before his 40 pounds of expertise and 5½ years of experience were transferred to the committee boat. Tom Howard, steady as always, pulled off two first place finishes in the Sunfish fleet, putting him more than 50 points ahead. (In contrast, there is only a fraction of a point separating the second and third place Sunfish and the first and second place MC's.) Jim Bolinger's stellar performance promises to shake up the Sunfish fleet.

The Commodore was reminded the hard way to duck when the boom swings across (that's why it's called a "boom", Bob). The Fleet Captain needs to learn to rig his boat properly and not to foul a starboard tack boat near the finish line.

Bruce Wagner again joined the committee boat as S.O.B.'s (Senior Office on Board). His stalwart crew included Jim and Sally Beck (who owned the boat, Phil and Sandy Vitale and silent Neil Troeger.

This weekend is the 4th of July Regatta. The first day's races begin at 11 am (Indiana time) Noon (Michigan time) on Saturday, July 1. The second day's races will begin at 2 pm (Indiana time) 3 pm (Michigan time) on Sunday, July 2, but if the boat parade scheduled for Noon on Sunday runs longer than expected, Sunday's races will be delayed accordingly.

-Scott Troeger



### THE RESULTS OF THE JUNE 25, 2000 RACES ARE:

MC's	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Harold Cranmer	1	1	1561	
Rick Harman	DNS	DNS	1560.50	
Don Harman	2	2	1501.75	

Sunfish	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Tom Howard	1	1	1548	
Scott Troeger	4	3	1496	
Bob King	3	2	1495.66	
Jim Bolinger	2	4	1407	
Rick Russwurm	5	5	1296	

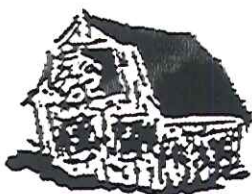
## SPECIAL EVENT REGATTAKIDZ 2000

Saturday, August 5  
2 pm

(rain date will be  
Sunday, August 6, same time)  
Pre-regatta refreshments at 1 pm

See today's Barker  
**KIDZ PAGE**  
(Page 7)  
For details

**the HAYLOFT**  
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Sep. 9 NEBRASKA	Oct. 28 AIR FORCE
Sep. 16 PURDUE	Nov. 11 BOSTON
Sep. 23 at Michigan State	COLLEGE
Oct. 7 STANFORD	Nov. 18 at Rutgers
Oct. 14 Navy (Orlando, Fla.)	Nov. 25 at USC

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## FIRST - A WORD FROM BIRCH LAKE

" I AM the reason why you're here  
It's NOT your grass you hold so dear"

Many of you continue to use a fertilizer bag that reads O-O-O and many of you continue to use a pump to sprinkle my already enriched water on your lawn.

And many of you who needed a safe alternative fertilizer asked your friendly distributors, Rick Russwurm, Dan Reynolds, and Bob Temple for a bag or two of

## LAKESIDE LAWN FERTILIZER

The bag reads: 16% Nitrogen - 0 PHOSPHORUS - 8% Potash

"I am outside your lakefront door  
Phosphorus trickles down into my shore  
If you still do not have your bag or two;  
and you think you need to fertilize??"

WELL,

Well, before you do  
Please, please look at me.  
Just Look at Me!!!!!!!

*and please  
please*

Please be wise.

*If you are an owner and you fertilize.*

*Become involved - Be concerned  
Give Dan a call, give Bob a call, go see Rick.*

*Buy a bag or two*

*They have the stuff*

*The STUFF that's RIGHT for me.*

*The STUFF that's RIGHT for you.*

WATER QUALITY BLYC Water Quality Committee June 2000, Report #5

## COOPERATIVE LAKES MONITORING PROGRAM

Under the guidelines and directions of Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, and Department Environmental Quality, Birch Lake is enrolled in FULL CLMP:

PHOSPHORUS

CHLOROPHYLL

SECCHI DISK TRANSPARENCY

DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND TEMPERATURE

Bob Temple reports to Ralph Bednarz, Limologist, DEQ. The spring phosphorus sample date was April 6. The turn-in date was April 10 at the DEQ Plainwell, Mi. office. Chlorophyll was sampled on May 15 and June 16. Turn-in date is July 20 in Plainwell after the July 15th sampling. Secchi Disk Transparency readings are weekly and began May 7. The latest reading: 23.5 feet is in the Oligotrophic range.

Testing for Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature was introduced as a pilot program to a very *limited* number of lakes and only with FULL CLMP. The electronic equipment costs approximately \$1,100 and is *loaned* to Birch Lake and *shared* with Diamond, Corey, and Christiana. Readings were taken on May 5, and 20, June 6, and 23. Birch Lake still has oxygen at 90 feet deep!!!!!!

**KEEP BIRCH LAKE FREE OF PHOSPHORUS FROM FERTILIZER RUN-OFF  
AND BIRCH LAKE WILL REMAIN A HIGH QUALITY LAKE!!!!!!!**

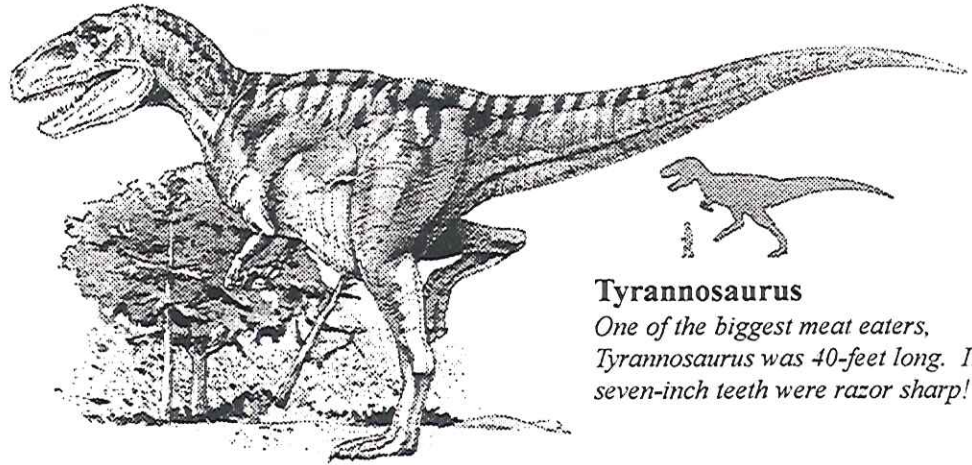
-g.temple



# Kidz' Corner

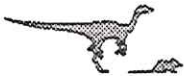
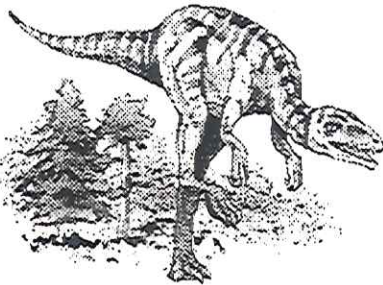
## Meat eating dinosaurs

Hundreds of different kinds of dinosaurs evolved in the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. One group is the theropods, also known as meat eaters. Theropods came in various shapes and sizes. Many had sharp teeth and long hind legs.



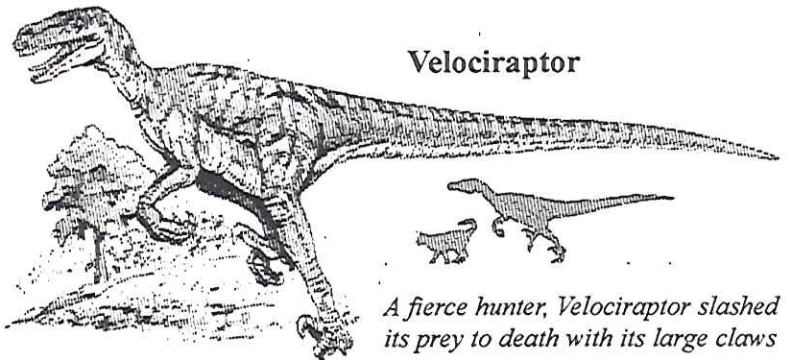
### Tyrannosaurus

One of the biggest meat eaters, Tyrannosaurus was 40-feet long. Its seven-inch teeth were razor sharp!



### Compsognathus

The smallest known meat eating dinosaur was about the size of a modern day chicken



### Velociraptor

A fierce hunter, Velociraptor slashed its prey to death with its large claws

■ **First discovery** The first recorded dinosaur remains were found in England in 1822 by Dr. Gideon Mantell. He named it Iguanodon, which means "terrible lizard" in Greek.

■ **Longest name** The dinosaur

with the longest name, Micropachycephalosaurus, was also one of the smallest, measuring about 20 inches long.

■ **Giganotosaurus** The skeleton of the largest meat eating dinosaur was found in 1955.

this monster lived in South America 97 million years ago. It was 41 feet long and weighed almost 8 tons!

■ **Living dinosaurs** Most scientists now agree that birds are actually living dinosaurs



## Calling all Kidz

Birch Lake calendar activities and items of interest

### Calendar of events

Sat., July 15 — Buffett Kidz 5-7 pm

Sat., July 22 — Kidz club day 9-noon  
Car wash, lemonade stand, paint the Club, playground work (come in old bathing attire, we'll hose ya off when we're done)

Sat. August 12 — Kidz Phun Phair Games & prizes (funds raised at the car wash will be spent on this party)

**Teen nights** — we want to start opening the Club on Friday evenings for teen music, pool, ping-pong, whatever— need 4 parents to each help once monthly.

### REGATTAKIDZ 2000

RegattaKidz 2000 will be on Saturday, August 5 at 2:00 p.m. Indiana time (3 p.m. Michigan) (rain date, Sunday, August 6, same time). The Harmans are hosting pre-regatta refreshments this year at their place on the East Side beginning at 1 p.m. They will string a mooring line for boats to tie on. If you'd like to borrow a boat for the occasion or would like to sail with someone, call or e-mail Don Harman, 476-2039, dlharman@hotmail.com or Scott Troeger, 476-9898, amvine@aol.com, and we'll try to line things up. Let us know if you plan to participate, so we can order and have available some commemorative caps.

## A trio of Birch Lake "tang tounglers"

It doesn't take much to trip on a word and no matter how hard you try, most tongue twisters are absurd. Try these...

"How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood? He would chuck, he would, as much as he could, and chuck as much wood as a woodchuck would, if a woodchuck could chuck wood."

"Needy Noodle nipped his neighbor's nutmegs. Did Needy Noodle nip his neighbor's nutmegs? If Needy Noodle nipped his neighbor's nutmegs, where are the neighbor's nutmegs that Needy Noodle nipped?"

"He sighed, she sighed, they both sighed, side by side, down by the riverside."

## Pulsars, Quasars & Super Novas — Oh my!

Last month the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) celebrated its tenth birthday. HST had orbited planet earth 58,400 times by its anniversary date. In celebration, the scientists who manage HST have launched a new website where one can learn about this marvelous flying machine & see some of the images it has captured.

Go to <http://www.hubble.stsci.edu>



# From the Birch Barker archives

## Birch Lake & the Underground Railroad

One of the principal grievances of the southern slave owners before the Civil War was the Underground Railroad.

Quakers from Pennsylvania came into Michigan and purchased sections of land around Birch Lake and Calvin Center... The Underground railway was a route over which the black men and their families were carried on horseback or by wagon, at night from one station to another. These stations were usually about twenty miles apart. Two principal routes were used, one coming up from Cincinnati through Indiana and the other from St. Louis through Illinois. These two routes converged just east of Cassopolis at the home of Stephen Bogue. A monument now marks this spot on Route M-60. This was the Michigan terminal of the Underground Railroad. Bogue and Josiah Osborne were the principal operators and the most important men in this undertaking.

Osborne was located on the farm that is known as Hilrings Lakeland Gardens. He operated a nursery here as far back as 1850, furnishing shade and fruit trees for the surrounding country.

In 1847, slave owners from Bourbon Co., Kentucky organized an expedition to come to Michigan to recover some of their runaway slaves. They arrived in the month of August and camped near Shavehead Lake. They knew exactly where the runaways were living as they

had sent a spy up the previous winter. The spy had made maps and reported their location to the slave owners.

The Kentuckians captured several men, women, and a baby living on the Odell farm. The alarm spread and from all over the Birch Lake area angry farmers gathered, armed with guns, scythes, and clubs. The Kentuckians were stopped and surrounded at the Osborne farm. Their wagons were overturned and later dumped into Birch Lake.

The black people were again free and the slave owners left to return to their homes the best way they could. After returning to Kentucky, they wrote many threatening letters to the farmers around Birch Lake, which fanned the flames of the coming Civil War.

The wagons that were dumped in Birch Lake were visible for many years on the east side of the Lake. In more recent years, pieces of these wagons have been sighted and brought up from the soft marl bottom. (Birch Barker 7/2/77)

\*\*\*\*\*

In case any of you noticed some strange goings-on around the water in front of Camp Tannadoonah, here's what is happening! The Cass Co. Historical has been diving for the sunken wagon that may have been there since 1848 when the slaves escaped to this area and were being protected and hidden from the owners. They say that they have located the "buck board" but it may take many more hours to remove all the mud

before they attempt to raise it from the Lake and treat it. (Birch Barker 7/27/85)

\*\*\*\*\*

Three skin divers who fished some wagon parts out of Birch Lake, near Vandalia, have turned their find over to the State Historical Commission.

Commission experts will attempt to determine if the divers located a relic of pre-Civil War days that figures in stories about the slave traffic of more than a century ago.

Three Lansing men were prepared to go back after the rest of the wagon if study shows their weekend recovery has historical value.

Ervin Morris, Ira Cooper and Merritt Nevins brought from the bottom of Birch Lake, two metal rear wagon wheels, a connecting axle and a reach apparently broken off between the rear and front wheel assemblies. The rusty objects appeared to first observers to be hand forged.

Tales handed down in the Vandalia-Cassopolis area had it that a group of Kentucky slave-owners seeking runaways left the wagon hidden in the woods while they searched. Local abolitionists then were supposed to have dragged the vehicle to Birch Lake and sunk it about 100 ft. off shore. (From a newspaper clipping that appears in "A Scrapbook History of Early Decatur, MI" on a page dated 1957.)

-Sandy Krehmar

## ST. EVANS FIREWORKS

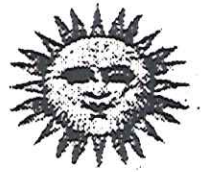
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# Emergency Services for Birch Lake

Welcome back to Birch Lake! The summer is into full swing and now that the children are out of school the summer cottages are busting at the seams with company, and everyone is enjoying the beauty of the lake. We hope that your summer is filled with fun and wonderful memories. However, if an emergency should arise, do you know who to call and what to do?

Many Birch Lake property owners know very little about the emergency services provided to the lake if and when the need should arise.

The Newberg Fire and Ambulance Departments serve Birch Lake. Newberg Fire Department is located on the corner of M-40 & M-60 in Jones, Michigan. If you should need their services for an EMERGENCY, call 911.

Cass County Michigan has an enhanced 911 system that shows the name of the caller and address of call when you activate 911. These calls go into the Sheriffs Department offices in Cassopolis. They then activate the fire or ambulance. Your address is shown on their screen, but they will still ask you for your address to confirm the location to help avoid mistakes. There are several Lakeshore, Northshore and Lakeview Drives on other lakes in Cass County — and that can lead to confusion.

When you call 911, state the emergency you have, fire or medical, as calmly as you can so that you can be understood. If it is a medical emergency, state the type of emergency (heart attack, diabetic, injury, etc.), and give as much information to the dispatcher as possible to enable them to understand the nature of your specific emergency. Give the age of the person, the type of illness, your five-digit address and any specific information that would help the EMS personnel who are trying to locate your home. Many Birch Lake homeowners do not have their five-digit address posted on their mail-

## EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency Only: 911

Cass County Sheriff Department  
Non-Emergency: 445-2481

Newberg Fire Chief Mike Bowersox:  
(616) 244-8335

Newberg Ambulance Director  
Sue Forrester  
(616) 244-5923

box or their home. Take time to get your numbers up and easily visible now!

911 dispatchers are trained to help you with life saving techniques if needed. Stay on the line till they tell you to hang up.

If an individual in your home has a specific medical problem or other need, these can be added to the 911 system by filling out the form located on the last page of your GTE telephone book for Cass County. All changes must be submitted in writing. Residents can mail this form that will be used in advising the dispatcher of any special conditions or instructions you may provide to police, fire or ambulance services dispatched to your location. All information is provided directly to central dispatch and will be held in strict confidence. Send the form to: **Cass County Central Dispatch Attn: Special Instruction Coordinator 321 M-62 North, Cassopolis, MI 49031.**

If you have any further questions about the 911 system, you can call Sgt. Behnke of the Cass County Sheriffs Department at 445-1206.

There have been several problems with incorrect addresses of summer residents in the 911 system. The phone company reports these addresses. If you have had a phone line installed and you have not given the correct information (five digit street address, full street name, city, county and township) your address may not be correct

in the system.

Members of the Newberg Fire and Ambulance Departments are all volunteers. Birch Lake has two Emergency Medical Technicians (EMT) living on the lake: **Julie Weaver** and **Darlene Troyer**. They are both willing to help you with a medical emergency if they are home. Always activate the 911 system prior to calling one of these EMT's. Time is critical in treatment.

Newberg Ambulance Department has two Basic Life Support Units (BLS). These ambulances are staffed with an EMT and a Medical First Responder on each run. The ambulance is equipped with equipment to care for most medical emergencies. BLS units are not licensed to carry drugs. If a patient is in need of advanced services, the EMT in charge may call for an Advanced Life Saving unit for an intercept.

If you need to be transported to a hospital by the ambulance service, you will be taken to the *nearest* hospital! It is important for you to know that as of this year, emergency protocols for Cass County mandate that patients be transported to the *nearest* hospital for treatment. Three Rivers Hospital is the nearest hospital to Birch Lake. The EMT in charge may ask Medical Control in Dowagiac to grant them permission to divert to a different hospital, but it is not guaranteed that the permission will be given.

We hope that you have a safe and enjoyable summer. But if you have an emergency, you can be assured that the members of the Newberg Fire and Ambulance Department of Jones will have your best interest in mind.

If you have any other questions that you would like answered, call: Darlene Troyer at 476-2639 and she will help with your inquiry.

-Darlene Troyer

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# Birch Lake Facts and Fancies

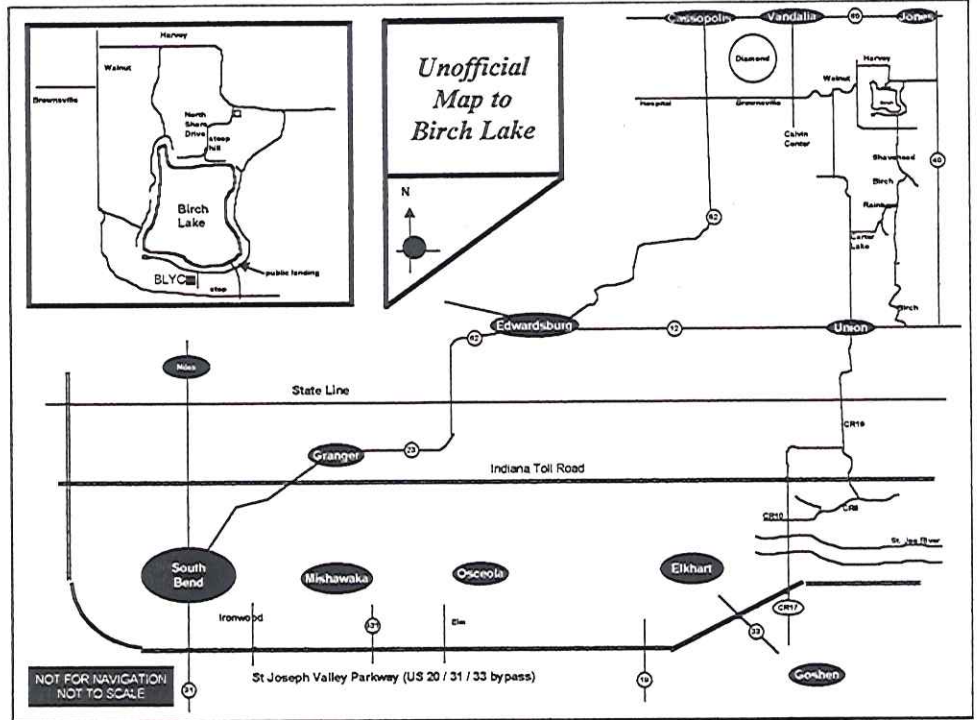
## About Birch Lake

Beautiful Birch Lake is located in south-western lower Michigan at Latitude 41.878366 - Longitude 85.85586 (approximately).

Birch is a deep spring-fed body roughly 300 surface acres in size. The lake has steep surrounding hills which minimized "keyholing." There are 220 (or so) cottages on the shore — many being converted to year-round homes.

Birch Lake Yacht Club is a 501(c)7 organization; the last filing with the Michigan Department of Commerce being August 28, 1980. The Club is more than a social organ. The Club Articles specify our intent as:

- \* to promote sailing & water sports
- \* to preserve & improve the water quality
- \* to foster fellowship amongst the members & their families



### Officers, Directors & Standing Committees:

#### Officers

Commodore - Bob King  
 Vice Commodore - TBA  
 Fleet Captain - Scott Troeger  
 Secretary - Sally Beck  
 Treasurer - Holly Troeger  
 Commodore Retired - Jim Beck

#### 1999 Directors

N. Shore - Bill King - Pam Mullin - Rick Russwurm - Dean Davis  
 E. Shore - Judy Olson - Scott Troeger  
 S. Shore - Denny Weesner - Dan Reynolds - Dick Bender - Dr. Richard Green  
 W. Shore - Herm Kruggel - Liz Cover - Sally Beck

#### Water Quality Committee

Gert & Bob Temple - Janet & Dan Reynolds - Linda & Terry Curtis - Rick Russwurm

#### Homeowner's Association Board

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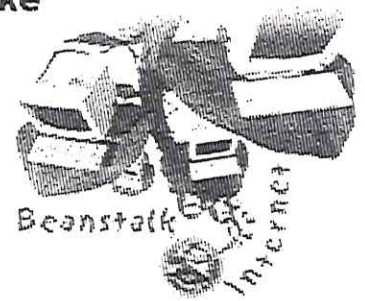
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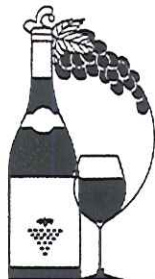
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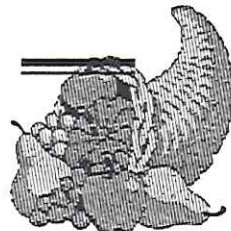
# Best of Beck's Bistro



## Grilled Spiced Rib-Eye Steaks

8 1-inch thick bone-in the rib-eye steaks (1 lb each)  
 1/4 tsp ground allspice  
 1 tsp ground cumin  
 2 Tlbs kosher salt

Prepare grill for cooking.  
 Let steaks stand at room temperature for 30 minutes.  
 Stir together allspice, cumin, and salt.  
 Pat steaks dry, and sprinkle spice mixture onto both sides of steaks to lightly coat, pressing to adhere.  
 Grill steaks in two batches on an oiled rack set 5 to 6 inches over glowing coals 4 to 5 minutes on each side, or until an instant read thermometer inserted horizontally 2 inches into thickest part of meat



registers 130 degrees for medium rare.  
 Transfer steaks to a platter and let stand 10 minutes.  
 Serves 8.

## Irish Coffee (official formula)

Warm a stemmed glass. Put in a generous jigger of Irish Whiskey, sugar to taste and hot strong black coffee. Stir well. Pour pure fresh cream gently on the top.

To insure the cream floats gently on top of the coffee, it is advisable to place a turned over spoon at the edge of the glass, just above the coffee line. Then pour the cream very gently over the back of the spoon until it rests lightly on top of the coffee mixture.

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## Stu's Star Stuff\*

By guest columnist  
Stuart Roonie

Did you ever wonder why we have Daylight Saving Time? I know I have. It all seems so confusing; springing ahead, falling back. Why bother? Well, it seems that the idea for Daylight Saving (not Savings) Time came about in England in the early 1900s. The intent was to save energy. And it does.

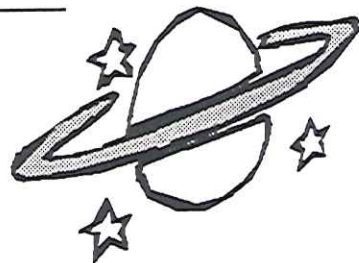
During World War II, the United States observed year-round Daylight Saving Time (from February 2nd, 1942 to September 30th, 1945). But what seems so confusing is that everywhere you go, everyone is on a different time.

Someone should set down some standards.

Actually, there are standards. In 1883 the US was divided into 4 time zones.

Eastern Standard Time and Central Standard Time are the two time zones closest to the lake. A friend keeps talking about Indiana Standard Time. I don't think there's any such thing. First of all, it isn't one of the time zones recognized by the Uniform Time Act of 1966. That's the law defining Daylight Saving Time in the US. Secondly, there's nothing standard about the time of day in Indiana. In fact, there are no less than 5 separate and distinct pockets of time in Indiana. No wonder we're all confused.

But I decided to give my friend the benefit of the doubt. I was in Akron the other day and a young lady asked me the time. When I replied that it was 12:44 pm *IST*, she asked, "How does the time in Indiana have any bearing on the time in Akron?"



I didn't know. Maybe we should all just go by what time it is wherever we happen to be? And maybe if Indiana wants to become Standard, they should follow the rules like everyone else. That's what I think anyway.

*\*EDITOR'S NOTE: Stewart Spratt is either on vacation again or the time zone he lives in is out of sync with the rest of us — either way, he sent us this guest column from a friend that he claims lives in a Michigan-like time zone.*

## Have a heart — protect your pooch



We have all read about (and felt) the number of nasty mosquitoes this year. Due to the amount of rain we have recently

experienced, mosquitoes are taking over. While we are simply annoyed by the scratching of a mosquito bite, Fido has an added risk during these seasons: Heartworms.

Heartworms are the most life-threaten-

ing of all canine parasites. These worms, which can reach a length of 14 inches, live in an animal's heart, restricting blood to the organs and potentially causing organ failure which can lead to death.

Heartworms are transmitted from dog to dog by mosquitoes, so virtually all dogs are at risk, especially during the warm weather season.

To prevent your dog from getting Heartworms and other internal parasites, a routine of ongoing protection is necessary. There are now many products available

from your vet that protect dogs against these parasites.

These preventive medications are given daily or monthly, usually in the form of tablets. Fido gets hers monthly and she thinks it is a treat.

Did I mention leash this week?

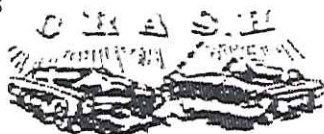


-Fido's friend

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# Boating 'rules of the road'

## Boating Rules

You will probably never be expected to quote the navigation rules, but no matter where you boat, other's have a right to assume that you know what you are doing.

## Rules of the road

To help everyone avoid collisions, the following rules of the road were set up. On the water, the stand-on boat has the right of way. The give-way boat must keep out of the stand-on boat's way.

## Crossing situation

In a crossing situation, the boat to starboard is the stand-on boat and has the right of way. It must hold course and speed; the give-way boat keeps clear and passes behind the stand-on boat.

## Overtaking

A boat being overtaken is the stand-on boat and has the right of way. It must hold course and speed. The passing boat must keep a sufficient distance to avoid collision or endangering the other boat with its wake.

If the course ahead is not safe for passing, the stand-on vessel shall indicate by sounding five or more short, rapid blasts.

## Meeting head-on (or nearly so)

When two boats approach each other head on, either vessel shall signal its intention with one short blast which the other vessel

shall answer. Each vessel shall then alter course to the right to avoid collision

## Starboard to starboard passing

When a starboard to starboard passing situation is desired for convenience or safety, either vessel shall signal two short blasts (which the other vessel shall answer with two short blasts) before passing.

## Powerboats yield

Powerboats should give less maneuverable boats such as sailboats, rowboats and canoes the right-of-way except in an overtaking situation.

## Proper look out

All boats at all times must maintain a proper look out for danger. The person should be experienced enough to recognize lights, markers, boats and other hazards.

## Safe speed

Every boat must maintain a safe speed at all times to avoid collision. Safe speed takes into consideration such factors as visibility, traffic, weather conditions and maneuverability.

## Speed regulations

In Michigan, there is a statewide speed limit of 55 MPH. You may not operate a motorboat at a speed above slow no-wake speeds when the water depth is less than 3 feet deep.

## Riding on decks or gunwales

A person shall not operate a motorboat at more than slow no-wake if any of the fol-

lowing circumstances exist:

1. A person is located on or in the bow of the motorboat and the vessel is not manufactured to provide bow seating
2. A person or portion of a person's body extends beyond the exterior port or starboard walls of the hulls of the motorboat. This does not apply to those operating a sailboat that is not being powered by a motor or a person attempting to anchor, moor, dock or otherwise secure a vessel.

## Reckless boat operation

Did you know that dropping water skiers off close to swimmers, or rocking another boat with your boat's wake can be considered either reckless or unsafe boating operation?

Michigan law provides that a person commits the crime of reckless operation when a boat is operated carelessly in willful disregard of the rights, safety or property of others. Violation of this law carries a stiff penalty if convicted.

Unsafe operation of a boat occurs when a person operates a boat in a manner that endangers or would be likely to endanger a person or property.

Other provisions require the operator maintain a proper lookout, to be able to stop within the assured clear distance ahead and to obey all speed limitations.

A boat operator is responsible for the safety of everyone aboard.

INFO FROM MICHIGAN DNR

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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



# Boats and booze: Unsafe at any speed

## Alcohol and boating

Drinking and operating a boat is as dangerous as drinking and operating a car. Operating a boat under the influence of intoxicants is against the law. A blood alcohol content level of .10 or more is considered to be under the influence. There is no open-container law for boaters but conservation officers strongly advise boat operators to wait until they get back to shore before consuming alcohol.

A conservation officer who has reason to suspect that a boat operator is under the influence may require the operator to undergo sobriety tests. Anyone who operates a boat on Michigan's waterways has given implied consent to a field sobriety test. Refusal to submit to a chemical test can result in loss of operating privileges for one year.

The penalty for conviction of operating while intoxicated can be very severe. It may include the loss of a person's motorboat operating privileges.

### WHEN DRINKING ALCOHOL, BOATING IS UNSAFE

1. Alcohol affects your sense of balance, which is critical when boating.
2. Boating requires good vision and alcohol can seriously restrict your vision. It reduces peripheral vision, night vision and your ability to focus.

## BOATING ACCIDENT WHAT DO YOU DO?

Operators involved in a boating accident shall stop their boat immediately at the scene of the accident and:

1. Give assistance to any person injured in the accident unless in danger themselves.
2. Show their Certification of Registration and give such information as their name, address, and identifying number of their boat as well as the name and address of any occupants to the other boat's operator and/or occupants.

Any witness to the accident shall give their names and address to the operator, occupant or injured person.

Persons offering help at an accident with the approval of the victim are not liable for civil damages resulting from their assistance. This is on condition that the help is offered in good faith and is reasonable and prudent.

### Report Required

Boat operators or owners must make a written report of a boating accident to any peace officer when:

1. Any person dies, disappears or is injured and receives medical treatment
2. Damage to property is in excess of \$100.

This report must be made within 48 hours of the accident.

### 3. Alcohol affects your judgment.

Operators under the influence are likely to take risks they normally wouldn't and less likely to make the right choices in life-threatening situations.

4. Alcohol slows your reaction time and in the case of a hazardous situation, seconds may be all you have to take the correct action.

5. Even without alcohol, reaction time is slowed in normal boating by stressors.

Stressors include motion, sun, wind and noise. Include alcohol and the stressors' fatiguing effects are multiplied.

### ALCOHOL FACTS AND MYTHS

*Myth: Beer is less intoxicating than other alcoholic beverages.*

**Fact:** One 12-ounce can of beer, one 5-ounce glass of wine or one shot of 80-proof liquor all contain about the same amount of alcohol and have the same effect.

*Myth: A cold shower, a walk in the fresh air, or black coffee will sober you up.*

**Fact:** Once you have consumed alcohol, nothing will sober you up except time. Your body will burn about one ounce of alcohol per hour. If you are legally drunk it will take about seven hours to sober up.

*Myth: It's easy to tell if someone is too drunk to drive.*

**Fact:** Many experienced drinkers have learned to compensate for alcohol's outwardly visual effects and can hide their intoxicated condition.

*Myth: You are the best person to judge whether you are fit to drive.*

**Fact:** One of the first things you lose when drinking is your judgment.

## Accents & Images

Interior Design



Sheryl Papandria

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219-272-7000



# Barker Classifieds Advertising

## FOR SALE

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

Paddle boat — Sea Ryder, 2-passenger, 375 lb. capacity, fiberglass with pontoon. Asking \$300. Call Lu Kelly at 2652

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Beginning July 6, the Birch Lake Yacht Club Lending Library for members (and associate members) will be open for browsing, borrowing or dropping off books from 1-2 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (Thanks to Julie Ball Lacy).

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

Legitimate offspring of former Mafia don wants to make an offer on your property. You know you can't refuse — be safe and call today! Philippo Alberto Vitale (219) 291-6102.

## HELP WANTED

Commodore needed for 2001 — 50% off. Contact Bob King at [blcking@aol.com](mailto:blcking@aol.com)

Kidz Wanted: to paint mural in and do general painting/cleanup outside the

yacht club — Saturday, July 12

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

## LAKESIDE SERVICE

Turtle Waxing. Think you are ready for the big races? If you haven't had your turtle waxed, someone else's amphibian is going streak away from the herd. Brightens the shine, increases efficiency. Call Cal King for details

## FOUND

Small male cat or young kitten - Orange and White tiger with some spots. Very friendly, has not been declawed and weighs approx. 7-8 lbs.

No ID tags. Found roaming Camp Tannadoonah. They are taking good care of it and will make it a counselor's pet if not claimed, but wanted to try to return to owner as it might be a child's pet. If this might be your kitty, call Bruce Harlan 476-9714 (leave message) to identify, and I will relay the info to Camp.

## BLYC NOTES

Many members of the board felt that the residents who have not sent dues are just tardy. I thought some might have never intended to send them at all (& hope to convince you to help). Many dues were received by Holly over the last couple of weeks. Please continue to prove me wrong.

-BK, C2k

## BLYC Contributions

Make checks payable to:  
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)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Fireworks Display Fund
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address)

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



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**GREAT**  
Lakes

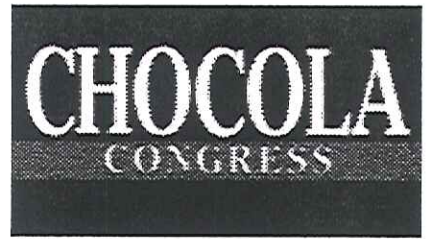
# NEW

Birch Lake Millennium Mugs and Shirts  
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# GREAT LAKE!

Order/pay now to take delivery at Buffett Buffet



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)

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Fax: (219) 271-8492  
E-mail: [chocola@maplenet.net](mailto:chocola@maplenet.net)  
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**Bold type = members who made fireworks donations.**  
 Contact editor for corrections

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