

Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Fifteen, September 2, 2000

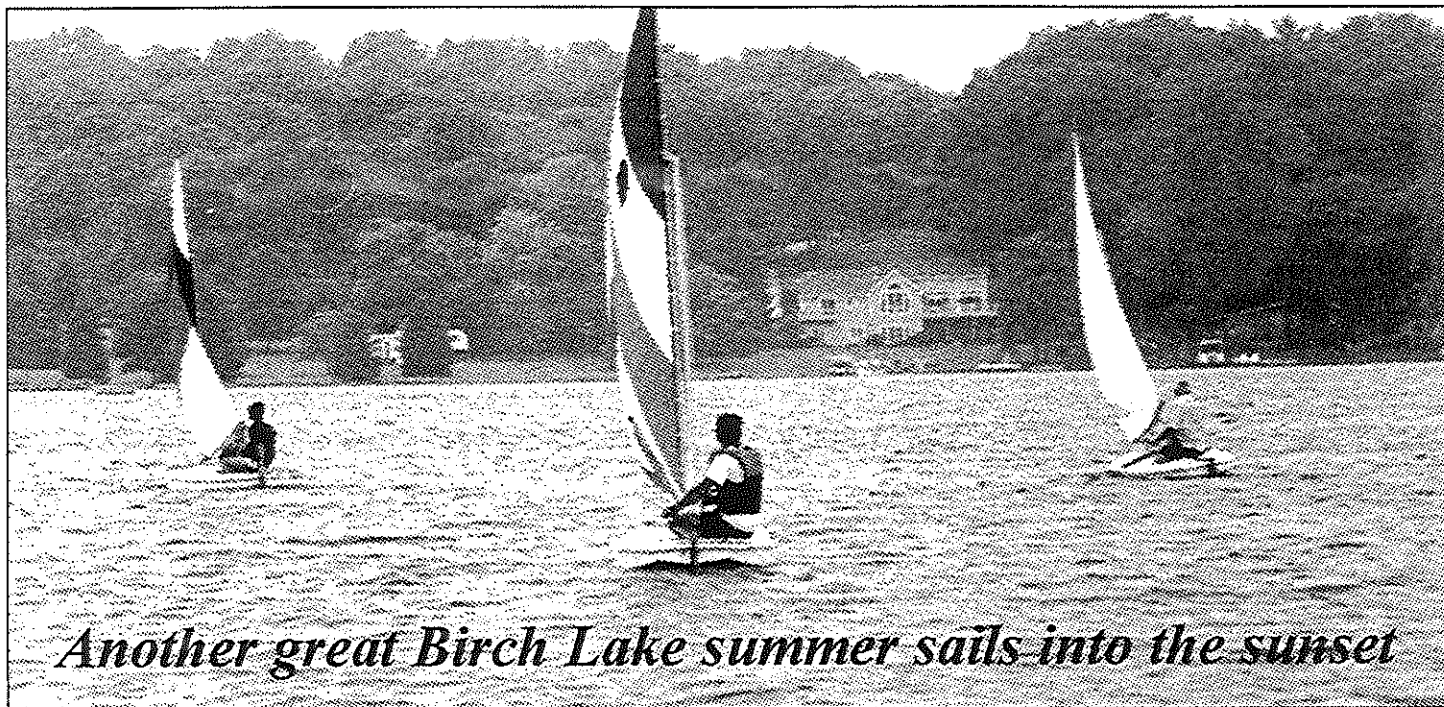


Image supplied by Jim Beck

Another great Birch Lake summer sails into the sunset

The Birch Barker: The story of how it all began

By Denny Weesner & Gib Eberhart

The year was 1943. It was one of those dreary, rainy days at the lake, and four young kids, ages eight to eleven, had nothing to do.

The kids were myself, Denny Horvath Weesner, age 9; Gib Eberhart, age 9; Jane Cox (small cottage behind Reynolds), age 8; and Chuck Schott (Sikorski cottage), age 11. We were all at Jane's cottage and complaining to her dad that we had nothing to do and we were bored (this was even before TV).

So he suggested that we produce a lake newspaper. We loved the idea and wanted to call it the "Birch Lake News," but Mr. Cox thought that was too mundane and suggested the "Birch Barker."

Chuck was the oldest (and therefore the wisest), so he was made editor. I was the secretary/treasurer (of nothing) and Gib and Jane were reporters.

We went from cottage to cottage gathering news. We even got an advertisement from Lanky's General Store (Lanky sold ice from his ice truck, and we got to ride around the lake, perched on top of the covered ice — he gave us ice chips to chew on). There was also a reminder to buy War Bonds & Stamps. Mr. Cox took our news to

his secretary, and I'm sure she did a lot of editing, then typed it on a stencil and ran it off. We then sold the paper for ten cents a copy.

Our venture was so successful that we did 3 or 4 more that year, branching out on the advertisements to include Reliable Dairy (the milk man came around twice a week) and Holsum Bread (the bread man came around once a week with bread and "stuff"). We never dreamed that we had started a tradition that would be continued for almost 60 years.

Gib and Chuck continued the paper for several years. Chuck had a mimeograph machine at his cottage and ran them off. It was a messy job, with ink all over both of them many times. Chuck and Gib also put out the first Birch Lake Directory in 1949. Gib still has his copy. He and Chuck got numbers from Mr. Bright (cottage #175), who managed the Kresge store in South Bend. They assigned and sold numbers to everyone they could contact. It was fun for Gib and me to look through the old directory and read the names of the people that are long gone, but so many of their children and grand children have come back to the lake, which only reaffirms what we all know — this is a very special place, with very special memories.

NOTE: Both Chuck and Jane died in their early 40s. Chuck had a heart attack somewhere in Florida, and Jane died of breast cancer in Indianapolis. As you know, Gib and I are still here, enjoying the lake as much as we did when we were growing up, and so are our children and grand children. I still have a copy of the first Barker. If you came through our home on the House Walk, you probably saw it framed and hanging on the wall in the guest bathroom.

COMMODORE UPDATE

New Officers for 2001

The Birch Barker is pleased to announce the following people are slated to serve as officers of the Birch Lake Yacht Club for 2001:

Commodore.....Mike Machalleck
 Vice Commodore.....Lynn Peters
 Fleet Captain.....Jim Beck
 Secretary.....Sally Beck
 Treasurer.....Holly Troeger
 Barker Editor.....Phil Vitale

EDITOR'S NOTE

THANKS, BIRCH LAKE!

Special thanks Barker columnists Sunny Waters, Stewart Spratt, Jim & Sally Beck, Sandy Krchmar and Fido's Friend, to all of the news contributors, and to the crack delivery crew, Barb Zesinger, Elaine Lochmandy, Louise Rieth, Peggy Cowen, Phyllis Rasmussen, Sue Montague, Linda Curtis, Katha Machalleck, Holly Troeger, Judy Olson (and everyone else who carried and tossed papers onto the doorsteps every Saturday)!

Calendar for September*

9/2 - 11 am - Labor Day Regatta
 9/3 - 11 am - Labor Day Regatta
 9/4 - 10 am - Sailing Trophies
 9/16 - 9 am - Board Meeting
 9/16 - 10 am - Noon - Club Shutdown
 9/17 - 5/30 - Have a great off season

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

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

Thank you, Birch Lake, for permitting me to be the editor of the Birch Barker for the 2000 season. Apologies to all who have had their names misspelled, to everyone who felt insulted by the "members" list, and for all of the great encouragement and support you have given me this year.

-Phil Vitale, E2k



Birch Lake Notes

News from the East Side (a.k.a. News from the Golden's)

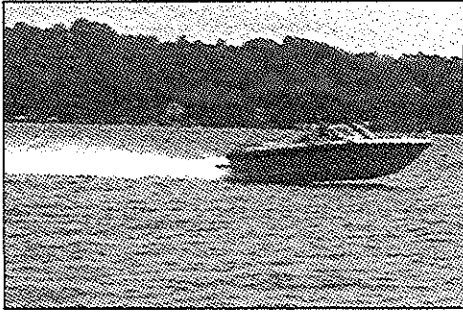
Those of you who were at the Fall Dinner noticed that Marc is recovering nicely. He has lost a lot of weight, which I have managed to find. If you know Marc really well and understand what a "great patient" he is, you will understand my weight gain (of course not smoking and eating everything within my reach has nothing to do with it).

We were not the only Birch Lakers in Rochester — Jim and Linda Bergan made the long 8-9 hour drive to be with us before and after Marc's surgery. Friends like them are 2 in a million, and we're VERY lucky.

And speaking of friends, Marc and I thank everyone for your concern and well wishes. We also thank Bob for the GREAT job he did as commodore.

We don't see many of you over the dreaded W-word (Winter). We are always ready for a night out on the town (I'll sacrifice and won't cook). Give us a call.

When we return next summer, I'll be very happy to show you pictures of our 2nd grandchild (those of you who know me know how obnoxious I am with 1 grandson. Can you imagine me with 2? — it's not a pretty picture).



News from the Cove (and outlying areas)

By Sunny Waters

(and this is the very last column because I have yet to receive a paycheck)

It was our pleasure to have the Vitales for houseguests recently. Things went smoothly except when it came time to turn in and Phil discovered he'd forgotten to bring his teddy bear. A mad dash to Family Dollar was futile but Phil settled on cuddling with B.S.'s tackle box. An unusual lad, our editor, but what a sweetie and from all of Birch Lake, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for an excellent Barker 2000.

For the many of you who may require wisdom and guidance, I apologize for being unavailable this winter. B.S. and I will be wintering at our villa in Cote d'Azur. If you find yourselves in dire straits (a condition not a waterway in the U.P.), you might

resort to Ann Landers second-rate though she may be.

Well, dears, this brings us to the part where we reminisce about the crazy hazy lazy days of summer. However, we'll not trot out heavy duty nostalgia about the cookouts with good friends, lashing boats together and swimming in the middle of the lake, telling tall tales around a campfire and fun times at the Yacht Club. Nor will there be mention of the Sunday races, happy splashing children, the Fourth of July, etc. That sort of retrospect only creates eye moisture and throat lumps.

So, all you good people, "The good Lord willin' and the creek don't rise," au revoir for now and we'll see you next Spring.

God bless,

— B.S. and Sunny

Again, thank for all your good wishes, have a healthy "W" and see you next year (hopefully sooner).

-Ilene Golden

tasy woven into a wonderful story (no worse than Harry Potter ...).

-Bob King XC2k

In defense of Camp

Although I have not had contact with anyone from Camp, and I have not seen the book referred to in last week's Barker, it sounds to me like NERO, the drama group that was here recently was enacting bits and pieces of tales similar to those created by JRR Tolkien. If this is the case, let me assure the lakelanders who are unaware of Tolkien's works, that there is no evil motive or message involved, just good, healthy fan-

A Little something to brighten your day

An international chess tournament was being held in a hotel of a large city. Taking a break, two of the contestants adjourned to the lobby where they discussed their prowess. After a short while, the hotel manager walked over to them and asked that they resume their discussion elsewhere. "But why?" they asked. Replied the manager, "because this hotel doesn't appreciate chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

-a good friend of the editor



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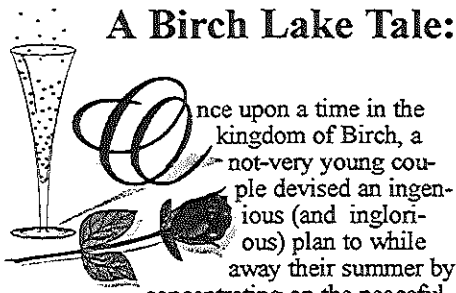
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A Birch Lake Tale:

Once upon a time in the kingdom of Birch, a not-very young couple devised an ingenious (and inglorious) plan to while away their summer by concentrating on the peaceful, healing waters of a beautiful lake instead of worrying about slaving in the pits of their city-side salt mines.

Invited to this magical kingdom years before to join friends and neighbors in a weekend-long "tent city" getaway festival, this storybook couple had developed a great love of the kingdom's lake, thanks in part to the benevolence of Good King Bill and his lovely lady, Le, whose hospitality, acceptance and friendship (not to mention their fridge-ful of gold cans) the young couple will always treasure beyond words.

As they became familiar with the people and the activities of the kingdom, the couple often thought of forsaking their city hovel and casting their lot with the lakelanders — but alas, search though they might, there were no homes available for them to move into (at least, none that their meager holding would allow). So the couple threw themselves onto the mercy of the lakelanders, shamelessly soliciting for a champion to help slay the dragons of poverty and want.

Much to their surprise, their pleas were heard — and heeded!

The first of the noble knights to lend some nights (actually weeks) of accommodation was Sir Stu, the royal astronomer, who graciously opened his home (and the mouse-house's cache of MGD) so the couple could commute between their two worlds. The couple accepted, greatly enjoying their second north-shore stay — they even managed to befriend Imp Stanley, and were grateful to break bread with him and enjoy his unique wit on several occasions.

Later, at a warm summer night's feast

honoring the great troubadour Buffett, up stepped the Golden Lord and Lady, who offered their east side castle to the young vagabonds for a fortnight's stay, a selfless gift for which the couple offers thanks and sincere prayers for health and happiness.

One night not long after, our couple was approached by the lake's resident scribe, a "sunny" beauty belovedly espoused to a kind and gentle wagoner. In return for but a Snickers bar, the young couple was treated to a great weekend at the beautiful Cove Castle, a lavish brunch, fine wine and the warmth of unqualified friendship.

Already stunned by the acceptance and

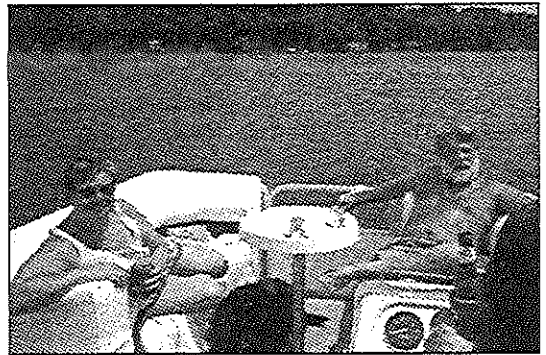
warmth of the lakelanders, the young couple was granted even more good fortune when they were allowed to share the 30th anniversary of their own marriage with the lake's Beckmeisters, Jim, Sally and Stewart, the purveyors of the lake's west-shore Bistro.

If there is to be a moral to this story, you must be satisfied with this: though the couple has still not been able to permanently move to the kingdom, they are pleased that the friendships they found allowed them to spend a glorious summer here, and for that...

...they are happy, ever after.

EDITOR'S NOTE — THANKS ONE MORE TIME

On behalf of myself and my beloved wife, Sandy (the lady voted most-deserving of sainthood for not killing me in the last 30 years), we would like to thank the BLYC board for naming us the recipients of the Commodore's Trophy for 2000 (Sandy really deserves it, I've just been hanging out for the beer).



I would also like to thank the board for the beautifully framed cover of the July 4 edition of this year's Barker — it now lives on a wall in my office with the most esteemed awards and assorted samples of my career.

Thanks, also, to the great people around the lake who put us up (and who put up with us) this summer, and thanks to the many lakers who "toodled" around in their boats, plied us with assorted beverages and hors d'oeuvres, and who accepted and befriended us both on and off the lake — you have made us feel that even without a lake home, we are truly at home here.

Special thanks to Bob and Les for our many years of friendship and for introducing us to Birch Lake in the first place.

-Phil Vitale, E2k

*P.S. I will now answer the age-old riddle of which side of the lake is best — it is whichever side Sandy and I happen to find ourselves on at any given time
See you next summer!*

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Birch Lake Notes

The final Season races demonstrated that "shifty winds" is redundant when used in the same sentence as "Birch Lake." Winds from the Northeast corner of the lake seem to produce the trickiest sailing, with puffs appearing at random times and places; if you're not exactly where the puff is when it hits, you may have the pleasure of watching a nearby competitor sail merrily away. Bruce Wagner exuded dignity and authority as he chaired the committee boat, how will Sunny Waters keep him raking leaves out of the cove now that he's tasted raw power? The triangular course for both races began at the outlet, proceeded to Kiloqua, then to Tannadoonah, back to the outlet and finished at Kiloqua. A dozen boats raced - eight Sunfish and four MC's.

I will take down my flag as Fleet Captain content with the year (if there is wind for the Labor Day Regatta). We had a

Memorial Day Regatta plus 24 Season races, including 5 races for the 4th of July Regatta. The competition is increasingly keen, making all of us better sailors. Jim Bolinger has definitely arrived, and it's lucky for me the Season ended when it did. I predict it won't be long before new sailors like Rick Russwurm and Amy Troeger also displace some of the old salts, which is as it should be. The level of participation in the Kidgatta may indicate we're about ready to have a separate Junior BLYC series of races, so parents should start making room for more trophies.

Finally, being able to rely on the race committee of Jim and Sally Beck, Steve, Julie and Chad Plaia, Bruce and Sue Wagner and Stan Pitakos (before the demise of "The Grateful Lady") has made my tenure as Fleet Captain a pleasure.

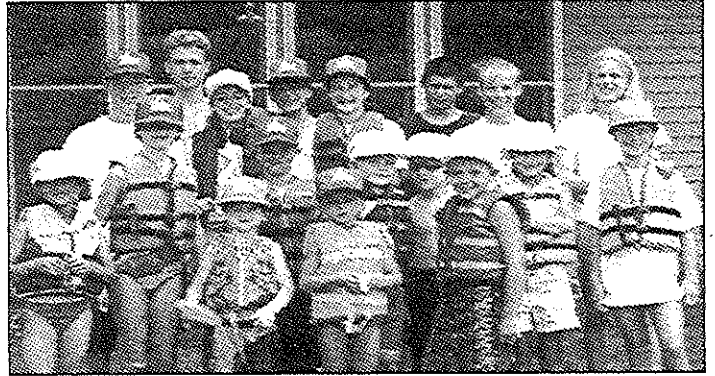
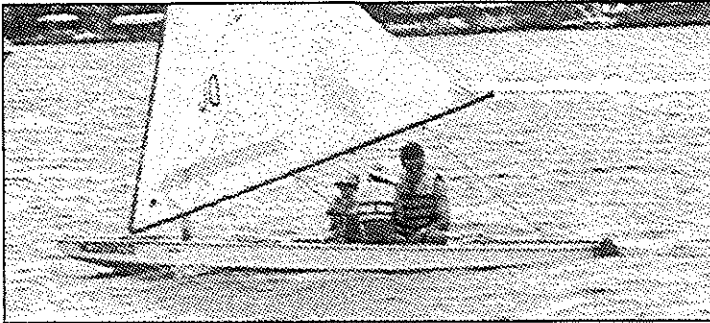
-Scott Troeger, Fleet Captain

The results of the August 27 races and the season standings at the end of the regular racing season are:

MC's	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Harold Cranmer	3	1	1560.86	
Don Harman	1	3	1514.54	
Rick Harman	4	2	1497.76	
Earl Troeger	2	4	1419.44	

Sunfish	Race 1	Race 2	Cumulative Points	Average
Tom Howard	3	2	1518.87	
Bob King	1	5	1501.27	
Scott Troeger	5	1	1485.37	
crew: Neil Troeger				
Jim Bolinger	2	3	1401.90	
Dave Olson	4	4	1365.06	
Rick Russwurm	6	7	1258.73	
Mike Machallack	7	6	1198.50	
Amy Troeger	8	DNS	1117	
crew: Amanda Ball				

The Labor Day Regatta will be Saturday and Sunday, Sept 2 and 3, at 11 a.m. (12 Michigan time), with Monday, September 4 (Labor Day) as a possible make-up day. Trophies will be awarded on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, at 10:30 a.m. (11:30 Michigan time) at the BLYC clubhouse, and the new Fleet Captain for 2001 will be formally introduced.



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ZEBRA MUSSEL MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM

1. Lakeside friends and neighbors are reporting presence of mussels on their bricks to their Group Leader.
2. The Group Leaders will give their report form to Gertie Temple.
3. Results will be sent to Michigan Lake & Stream Associations. MLSA is working with the Sea Grant people, a cooperative program of Michigan State University and University of Michigan - the "Mussel Brick" concept.

Zebra Mussel reports from the discovery of colonies found in the beaches on rocks, clams, boats, etc. are not a part of the official Zebra Mussel Watch Program.

Denny Weesner, Group Leader, Reports

"I am sorry to report that Zebra Mussels are here and reproducing on the south side. A few babies were discovered on our bricks and several adult mussels were clinging to rocks and clam shells. I would suggest getting rid of as many dead clam shells as you can. Besides being a danger to cutting your feet, they are a home for the baby Zebra Mussels. Julie Weaver is checking the Mill Pond to see if they have filtered through the creek bed. If we find any, we know that this is the first year for them, because there was no water in the creek last summer. *Lets all work hard to keep our beaches free of these "critters" After all We are bigger than they are!!"*

Phil Davis, Group Leader, Reports

"From the North Shore: We too have zebra mussels reported this week. There were well over 100 very small mussels on two concrete blocks sitting in the water."

Anna, Group Leader's Helper, Reports

(Gertie & Bob Temple's grand-daughter calls herself a Group Leader's Helper)

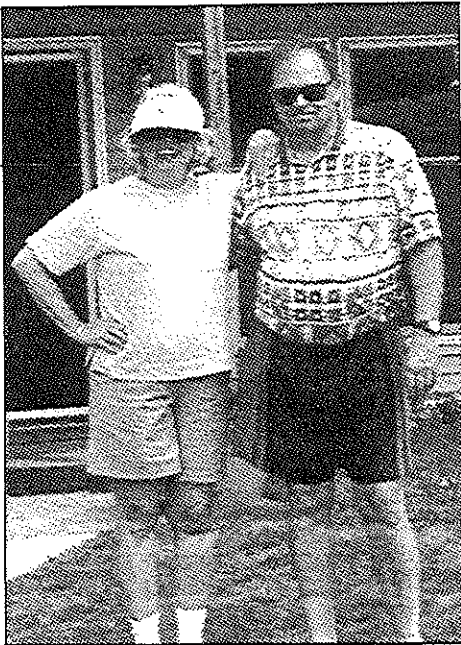
"My name is Anna. I'm from Chicago and I'm 10 years old. My Gra-ma and Gram-pa live at Birch Lake. Gra-ma told me about Zebra Mussels. I saw some she had found that were in a bucket. I knew what a nuisance they were. I looked all morning for Zebra Mussels and I found a bucket full -and *there are still some left.* I found them on her neighbor's beach (Rick and Patti). The clams had little shells on them. Gra-ma said, "These are juvenile zebra mussels."

We all went for a pontoon ride and I saw a row boat standing on its side by the lake in another neighbor's yard. It had Little Zebra Mussels all over the bottom of it. *I had been seeing them all morning so I could spot them a mile away. There were TONS of them.* Immediately, when I got home from the boat ride - my big brother, Scott, went with me to Mrs. Bliler's yard to look at the boat to make sure that they *were* Zebra Mussels. **THEY WERE.** Scott, Brett, Jan, and Tom moved the boat away from the water and we crushed the mussels later. I told Mrs. Bliler I am going to look on her beach tomorrow. I'd do it right now, but my foot got caught in the railing of the pontoon boat when we got back from Scott's swim across the lake.

MY MESSAGE TO YOU: Check your beach - **NOW** - this very *second* to make sure there are no Zebra Mussels on *your* clams or rocks. And look on the bottom of *your* boat. Check for what looks like little teenie shells. **IF YOU DO IT NOW, YOU WILL SAVE BIRCH LAKE!** If you wait even a *minute*, you'll have to work harder. I know, because I worked for 2 hours this morning."



-G. Temple



Blowin' in the wind

Have you ever wondered why it is that if you blow in a dogs face it makes them mad, but they like to hang their heads out the car window? Puzzling!

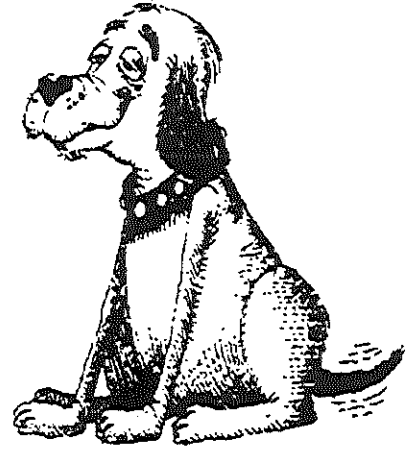
I have learned a lot and enjoyed writing about our favorite friends this year.

There is a kennel full of information on the web to assist you with good animal parenting skills.

I hope all of you animal lovers learned and enjoyed too, and I certainly hope my leash nagging was effective and not too harsh.

-Fido's Friend

*(Do you know who I am?)
No, it's not H.C.*



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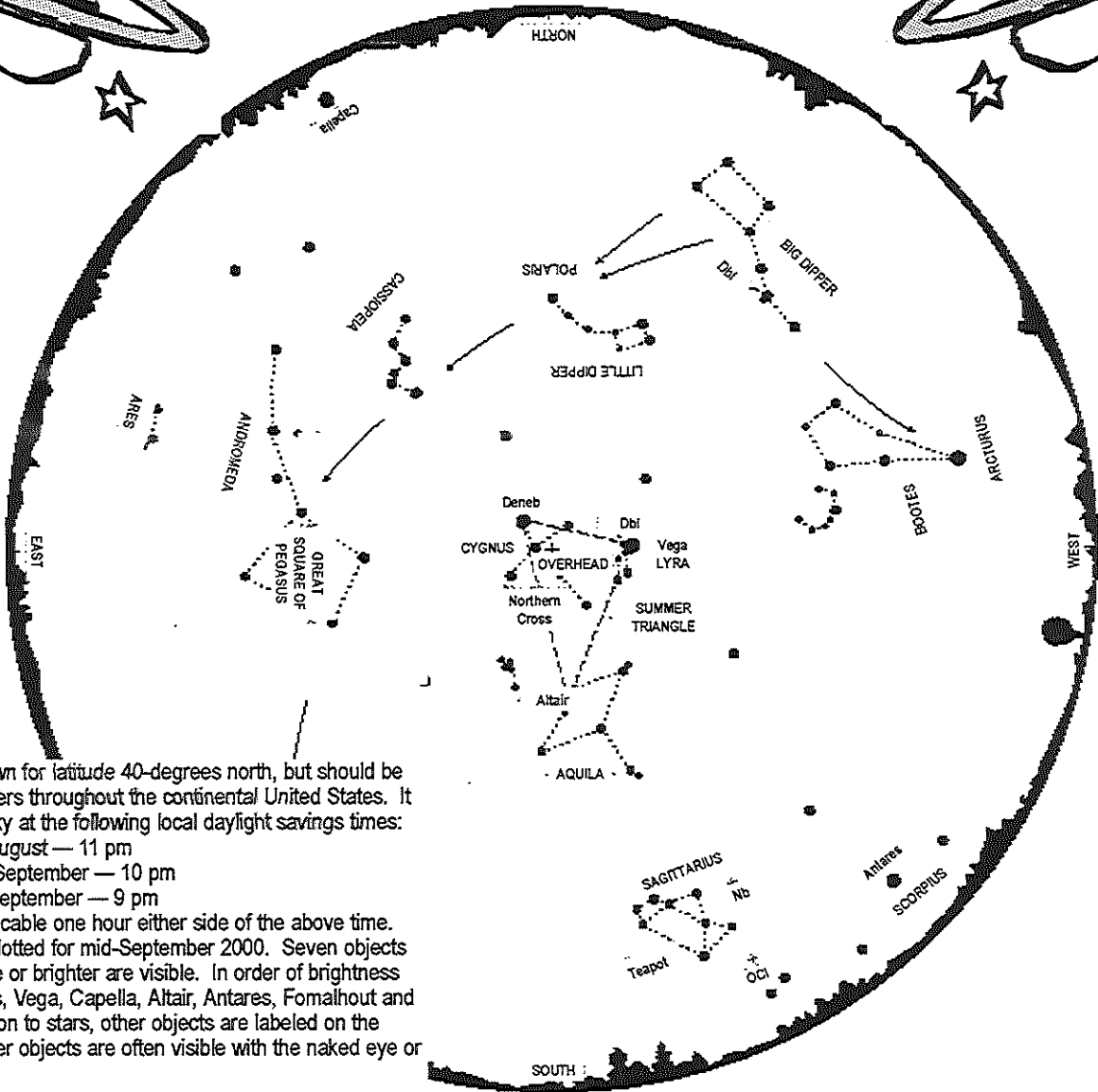
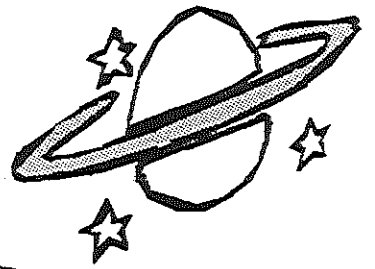
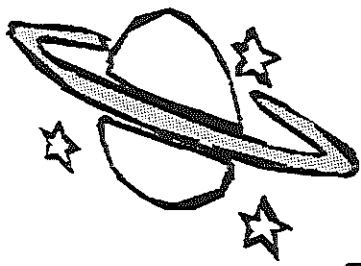
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Stu's Star Stuff



This chart is drawn for latitude 40-degrees north, but should be useful to stargazers throughout the continental United States. It represents the sky at the following local daylight savings times:

- Late August — 11 pm
- Early September — 10 pm
- Late September — 9 pm

This map is applicable one hour either side of the above time. No planets are plotted for mid-September 2000. Seven objects of first magnitude or brighter are visible. In order of brightness they are Arcturus, Vega, Capella, Altair, Antares, Fomalhaut and Deneb. In addition to stars, other objects are labeled on the map. These other objects are often visible with the naked eye or binoculars.

Stewart Spratt sent us this nifty star map this week ... and his buddy Bob volunteered to write something astronomical ... even though he knew Stu would hate it.

Watch for his rebuttal next year.

Enjoy the show. It's free!

Does anybody really know what time it is?
Does anybody really care...?

I have taken guff all summer from Stewart (the resident Astronomer) for listing IST (Indiana Standard Time). Granted, there is no such zone. It is just irksome to cross a border to the north and change time. I have

no problem with time zones - I am aghast that we humans figure it's ok to mess with them! This phenomena is due to a peculiar notion espoused by most of the US that originated when kids needed to arrive home from school in time to help with farm chores. Now farm population wanes, but the tradition continues.

So, you'd think a person inclined to study the stars would realize that changing the setting on your clock does not change time. The sun rises and sets at it's pleasure regardless of the number you assign to it. Under no circumstances would any but a moron expect to save daylight by this practice. Myself, when Greenwich starts mess-

ing with their clocks, I'll change mine.

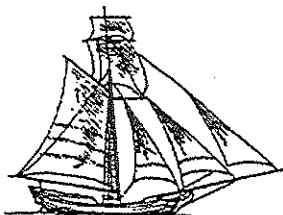
However to any of you who profess Eastern Daylight Saving time as valid, let me ask this favor. Summer has plenty of daylight. If you are saving daylight by virtue of your Eastern daylight made-up time, please save it a while longer and release it during the gray days of February when some more daylight might be particularly useful.

Meanwhile, all who delude themselves through the summer will be welcomed back to IST when they feel the urge to fall back.

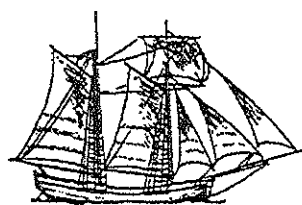
-Bob King, XC2k

Pirates'

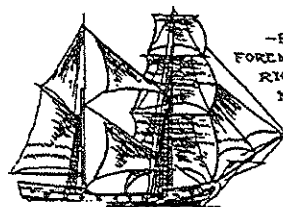
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FORE-AND-AFT SAILS.



-BRIGANTINE -
FOREMAST WAS SQUARE
RIGGED. THE MAIN-
MAST WAS FORE-
AND-AFT RIGGED.



-BRIG -
TWO MASTS AND
SQUARE RIGGED.

Homeowner's Association News

Nearby sewer projects have frequently been in the news. Since 1996 Donnell Lake, the Village of Vandalia and Eagle Lake have either had sewers installed or are in the process of having them installed. It seems obvious that sooner or later Birch Lake will have to deal with the issue of sewers.

Sewers are usually controversial because of the costs they impose. Sewers may be a particularly controversial subject at Birch Lake, because of the expenses many people have incurred fairly recently in upgrading their septic systems.

The Homeowners' Association is neither for nor against sewers. The purpose of this article is to inform property owners on Birch Lake about the recent nearby sewer projects, about the known governmental plans regarding future sewer development, and about the procedures involved.

Known Governmental Plans

The Cass County Commissioners adopted in 1999 a Water and Sewer Master Plan setting forth the county government's goals regarding future sewer developments. Pages 140 and 141 of that

Recent Nearby Sewer Projects

	Diamond	Indian	Barron	Donnell	Vandalia*
Date Begun	1989	1989	1993	1996	1997
Amount of Bond Issue	5,750,000	2,595,000	1,725,000	2,860,000	449,000
Tap-In Fee	4,600	4,200	4,500	6,900	900
Front Foot Assessment Monthly	10	10	20	10	5
User Fee	17	15	19.90	20	19

*Vandalia's costs were kept low by a \$1.5 million federal grant

Water and Sewer Master Plan provide as follows regarding sewers at Birch Lake:

Service to the Birch Lake area could either be provided by the CAUA (Cassopolis Area Utilities Authority, consisting of Diamond Lake, Decatur Road and M-60 industrial and commercial areas, Village of Vandalia, Donnell Lake, Lewis Lake, and Paradise Lake) or the southeast (Porter Township) Cass County area. . . . Costs have been included in the CAUA area. The actual timing of construction will determine the service district for Birch Lake. A sewer system to serve Birch Lake would include an 8" and possibly a 10" gravity sewer with three to four lift stations. The main lift station would be located on the westerly side of Birch Lake and would pump through a 6" forcemain to the main lift station on Paradise Lake. Flow equalization would be required at Birch Lake to reduce the impact on the Donnell to Diamond Lake forcemain. There are 266 homes on Birch Lake having an estimated population of 745 people. Treatment plant capacity of approximately 60,000 gpd would be required from the City of Dowagiac to service this area.

The estimated cost, in 1999 dollars, for the above described improvements is:

Lewis Lake Service Area.....	\$ 200,000.00
Paradise Lake Service Area.....	1,050,000.00
Birch Lake Service Area.....	1,900,000.00
Pump Replacement on Cassopolis/Dowagiac Interceptor.....	90,000.00
SUBTOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST	\$3,240,000.00
Dowagiac Capacity Purchase.....	260,000.00
Projected Costs (25%).....	800,000.00
TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	\$4,300,000.00

The Porter Township Trustees are considering commissioning an engineering study of the feasibility and costs of sewers for the lake areas including Baldwin, Long, Indiana, Shavehead and Birch.

Procedures

There are several ways in which sewer projects are initiated. Under Michigan Public Act 188 of 1954 (MCLA 41.721 et seq.), a Township can pursue a sewer project, but a majority of the people being assessed may block the process:

Sec. 1. The township board has the power to make an improvement named in this act, to provide for the payment of an improvement by the issuance of bonds . . . and to determine that the whole or any part of the cost of an improvement shall be defrayed by special assessments against the property especially benefited by the improvement.

Sec. 2. (1) The following improvements may be made under this act:

(a) The construction, improvement, and maintenance of storm or sanitary sewers or combined storm and sanitary sewer systems.

Sec. 3. (1) The township board may proceed to carry out an improvement as provided in this act unless written objections to the improvements are filed with the township board at or before the hearing provided in section 4 by property owners as follows:

(a) For an improvement under section 2(1)(a) [i.e., sewers], by the record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the total land area in the proposed special assessment district.

(2) A township board may require the filing of a petition meeting the requirements of subsection (3) before proceeding with an improvement under this act.

(3) If written objections are filed as provided in subsection (1), or if the township board requires a petition before proceeding, the township board shall not proceed with the improvement until a petition is filed with the board which is signed as follows:

(a) For an improvement under section 2(1)(a) [i.e., sewers], by the record owners of land constituting more than 50% of the total land area in the special assessment district as finally established by the township board.

Under Michigan Public Act 185 of 1957 (MCLA 223.731 et seq.), the county can create a special sewer assessment district under procedures involving two public hearings, but which cannot be blocked by a majority of affected property owners.

ELDS01 JST 105411

-Scott Troeger

Directors of the Homeowners' Association
for 2000 have been:

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Don Harman
Bill King
Rick Russwurm
Scott Troeger

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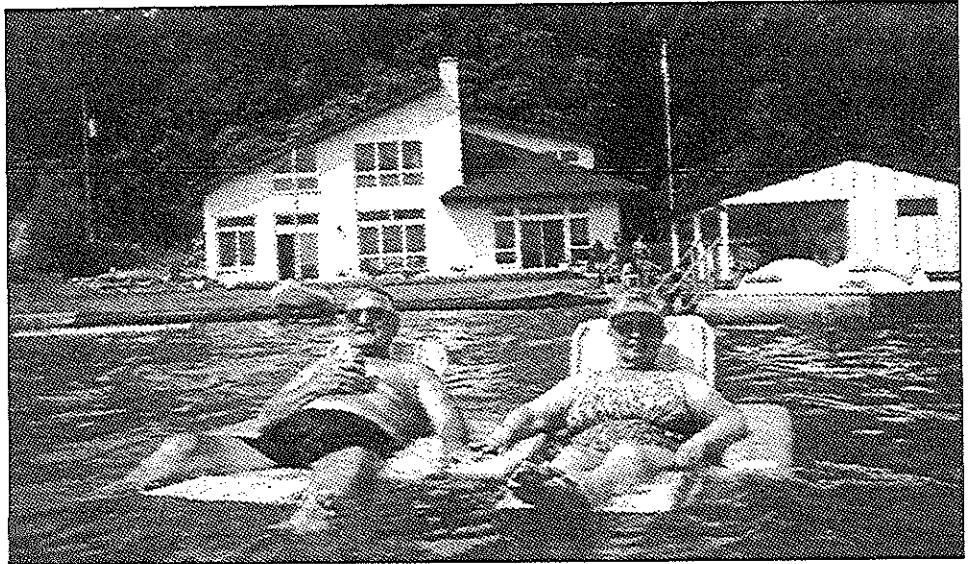
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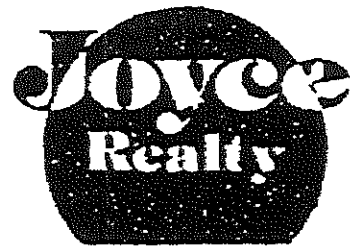
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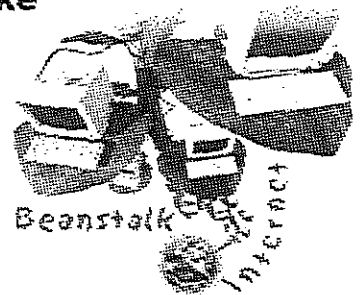
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Grilled Pork Chops with Corn Bread-Bacon Stuffing 2 servings—can be doubled

- 2 6 oz bone-in rib pork chops
- 1 Tlbs dried sage leaves crumbled
- 3 bacon slices chopped
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1-1/2 cups corn bread stuffing mix

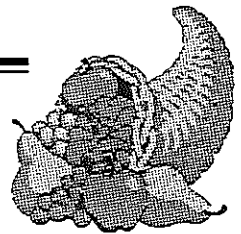
3/4 cup canned low-salt chicken broth

Prepare grill, medium high heat. Sprinkle chops with salt, pepper, and half of sage. Grill chops until just cooked through, about 4 minutes per side.

Meanwhile, saute bacon in heavy medium skillet over medium-high heat until crisp, about 5 minutes. Transfer bacon to paper towel, drain.

Add onion and remaining sage to skillet, saute 4 minutes. Stir in stuffing mix and broth. Cover, and simmer until stuffing is heated through, about 4 minutes.

Mix in bacon, season with pepper. Serve with pork chops.



Tiki Bar Bushwacker

- 1 oz dark rum
- 1 oz creme de cacao
- 1 oz kahlua (or coffee liqueur)
- 2 oz Coco Lopez (or cream of coconut)
- 2 scoops vanilla ice cream
- 1 cup crushed ice

Combine all ingredients in a blender with ice and process until smooth.

Add more ice cream to thicken if necessary.

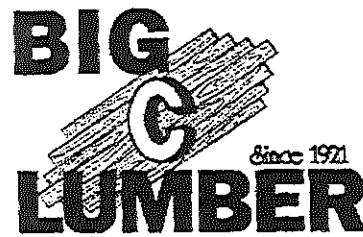


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From the Birch Lake Archives...

-Compiled by Sandy Krchmar

Lake Notes

Lake Notes are compiled from past issues of the Birch Barker. The following is from a series of historic pieces, "Gems from Birch Lake," written by Arline Machalleck. It appeared in the July 23, 1988 Barker.

The West side of Birch Lake was populated by many families who worked for the Ball Band Plant in Mishawaka. Among these were the Cowens (W350) who were good friends of Irvin, called I.T., and Helen Bowers who lived on a farm on Kern Rd. in South Bend. Along with farming, they had a business of taking groups on hayrides.

Learning of Birch Lake from the Cowens, the Bowers first rented and then bought their cottage in 1951 when it was put on the market (W307). The first thing they did was take down the big fence that enclosed the property. Then it became the weekend and summer place to be enjoyed by I.T., Helen and their three children; Marge, Frances and Paul and their many friends.

I.T. served as Vice Commodore in 1963, becoming Commodore the next year and is fondly remembered for fireworks display being started that year. The public beach was filled with cars loaded with people from the area and the Lake was alive with boats to watch the display. Oh, the honking and clapping and yelling was tremendous and that first display became an annual event. This year, because of the severe drought and a proclamation from the state, all fireworks were prohibited and the Lake residents missed the beautiful display for the first time.

The Bowers had their 60th wedding anniversary in 1987. The celebration included friends and neighbors, Clifford and Avanelle Cowen who stood up for them at their wedding. In April of this year, their daughter Marge and husband

Dave Kinner, bought the cottage. They are renovating it, and with their four children the lifestyle of the cottage continues with another generation doing the work with the elder Bowers still able to join in the festivities at any time, remembering their own children's antics through the fun their grandchildren and great grandchildren are having there now.

Editor's note: Ok, so I screwed up last week and published the wrong Archive notes — but hey, I made it right this week, with a double dose — see Page 13.



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.

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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 Lake Archives...

-Compiled by Sandy Krchmar

Lake Notes are compiled from past issues of the Birch Barker. The following was written by Earl Troeger and appeared in the September 3, 1994 Barker.

The Troeger Clan

Fifty years ago Dr. Carlisle Parker suggested to Earl and Esther Troeger that they consider renting at Birch Lake. They did rent the Lott cottage (E109) on the East side for a month next door to the Parkers (E110). Their three boys enjoyed the time at the Lake so much that in the fall Earl Sr. gave them a choice of a boat on Lake Michigan or a cottage on Birch Lake. The family all agreed that the cottage would be more fun because of the range of activities it would provide.

They purchased the land where the Tom Troeger family now resides (S023) and in the Spring of '45 Earl Sr. with sons, Earl, Jack and Tom, started to build their log cabin. The logs were delivered by a logging truck on a rainy Saturday and from there on the fun began.

In the meantime the family purchased a Snipe sailboat and moored it out front. The three boys would go sailing while taking a break from building the cottage.

The Troegers moved in in 1946 and have been very much a part of Birch Lake ever since. Some of the other young people around the Lake showed some interest in sailing and the first races were held in 1948.

In the meantime, Ken and Peg Lamont built a log cabin next door (S022) and moved in with Connie (Mrs. Earl Troeger)

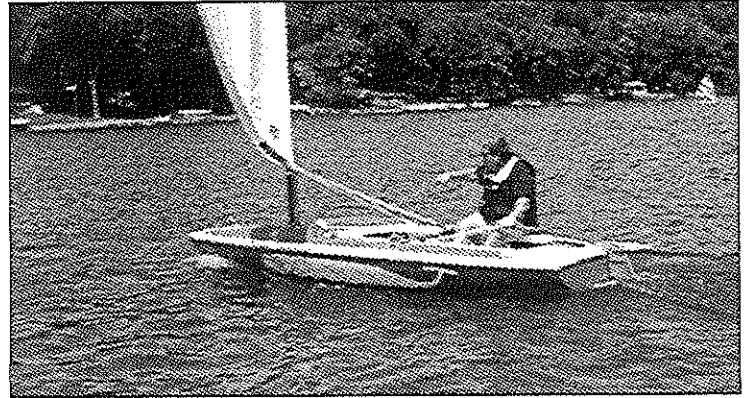
and Dennis.

With the encouragement and backing of our parents the Birch Lake Yacht Club was formed. Howie Anderson, John Bright, Joan and Mike Meyers, Joyce and Barbara Bovik, the Carey boys, Carl and Bruce Parker, Connie Lamont, Earl, Jace and Tom Troeger, Denny Horvath, the Ebeling girls, and the Haines girls were some of the early organizers. They were backed by others, including Tom Howard, Jim Howard, Chuck Schott, the Eberharts including Gib, the Zesingers (yes- you too Bud), Kay Jensen, Mary Reed, Ann Doolittle and others.

Races were held every Sunday on a handicap basis. Some sailors would wait an hour to start because the boat speeds varied so much. There was everything from kayaks to a small homemade cabin boat.

After the races everyone would meet at Lazy Lodge for some snacks and more fun with canoe fights and such. Potluck suppers were held periodically for all the families to get together. Thus evolved our Yacht Club as you know it today.

The Troeger boys after college and time in the service of their country all came back to Good Ole Birch with families of their



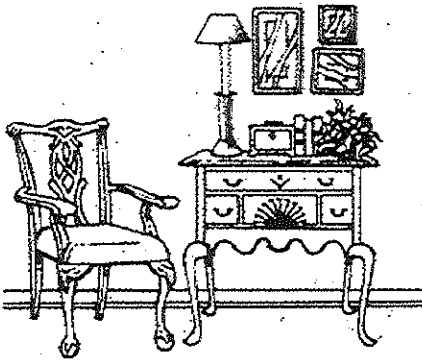
own. Earl and Connie bought the former Lamont cottage and sons, Jeff, Tom and Dave then came along too. Jack and Janet with sons, Scott, Tim, and Steve came back. Dr. Tom and Pat came with Tracie, Troy, Tammy and Todd. Now Scott and Holly, the third generation, are here with Amy and Tory (and Neil). We have seen this same thing happen many times over with others at Birch and other lakes too.

Sailing grew to a point where there were 15 snipes and up to 30 sunfish competing each week. Birch Lake built the Yacht Club on land donated by the Howard family. We hosted several regattas then including the Champagne Regattas and the Snipe Jr. District Championship. Participation comes and goes and right now we are trying to build it up again.

In the meantime, the Troegers will be here for a long time and plan to watch all the grandchildren enjoy our beautiful Lake.

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Large styrofoam 'Elk Rapids' surfboard- red on top. Please call Tom Troeger 476-2319

Floating thermometer (it floated away). Call Jim and Sally at 2760

FOUND

Found: Young, calico, female (?) cat. Very friendly and determined to move into the Molho cottage S072. Please call 476-9899 or 219-223-6498

Gray male cat, Persian looking, stubby tail, approx. 2 years old; very friendly. Hanging around Parnellis' about 1-1/2 weeks. Call 476-9317.

BLYC NOTES

A limited number of 1999 Birch Lake Directories are still available for sale; \$2 each (just like last year). There will be no 2001 Directory, so get 'em while they last. Call Mike Machalleck next spring to order.

PROPERTIES FOR SALE / RENT / WANTED

Under great duress, I have agreed to edit the Barker again next year — with the stipulation that if I don't get a house, someone will put us up every weekend ... Sign ups start today!

HELP WANTED

Junior Birch Barker Reporters wanted — Kids, were you bored this summer? Here's your chance to have a lot of fun next year while you learn how to make a newspaper! Must be able to read and write (computer and photo skills a plus). Call Phil at (219) 232-3735 for details.

Final BLYC membership roster for the 2000 season — thanks!

Printed in a manner that we didn't think would insult a soul . . .

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Aster, Betty
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Harris, Carol
Hendrix, Bill & Nancy
Hoyes, Clyde & Loretta
Horn, Bob
Horn, Betty
Hutzsamerger, Jim
Hugobon, David & Patricia
Humbert, Jack & Barbara
Hummel, Tom & Colleen
Irwin, Louise
Janes, Victor & Leola
Kane, Terry & Patricia
Kaly, Michael & Lucretia
King, Bill & Liz
Krause, David & Margie
Krauss, Carl & Sandra
Krauss, Roy & Lee
Krohn, Mark & Joyce
Kulzer, Chet & Wren
Kowalski, Thomas

Kramer, Sandra
Krause, Robert & Kay
Krause, Mary & Don
Lafrenz, Chuck & Cheryl
Lamb, Norma
Lambert, Dennis & Phyllis
Lambert, Marilyn
Lindsay, Dick & Judy
Lindquist, Jennifer & Steve
Lundin, Bill & Patty
Lutz, Mike
Lynn, Bill & Rita
Machaleck, Arnie & John
Machaleck, Mike & Kathleen
Mason, Steve & Wynne
McGraw, Larry & Don
McNees, Kathleen
McNees, James
Meyer, John & Judy
Miller, Jack & Shirley
Mills, Richard
Mills, James & Betty
Mills, Shirley & Mary Lou
Morse, Herman & Nancy
Mouton, Terry & Sue
Mullin, Robert
Mullin, Rick & Pam
Nagy, Ernie & Jane
Nagy, Tom & Julie

Neugebauer, Ron & Kathy
O'Hair, Bill & Maryann
Olsen, Joe
Olsen, Nancy
Olsen, Dave & Judy
Olsen, Jack & Beth
Oswald, Sheryl
Parsons, Frank & Elizabeth
Parrell, Dorothy
Peters, Lynn
Petro, Diane
Reasman, Bob & Linda
Reasman, Dan & Janet
Reasman, Margaret
Reasman, Mike & Debbie
Reich, Don & Leola
Rogers, Tom & Shirley
Rogers, Tom & Vicki
Russett, Michael and Phyllis
Russett, Rick & Patty
Sacco, Tom & Deb
Sander, Roy & Sylvia
Sander, Joseph & Thelma
Saris, Henry & Doris
Scahill, John & Leola
Shaw, Harold & Charlene
Spreng, Stewart

Shelton, Tom & Irene
Shover, Charles
Tang, Dan & Curt
Thayer, James & Eleanor
Tjaden, James & Joanne
Tob, Joseph & Helen
Trapper, Carl & Corine
Trapper, Dr. Tom & Pat
Trapper, Scott & Holly
Trayer, Ken & Darlene
Trybala, Dorota & Berge
Tymoczko, Bill & Jeanne
Valentine, Nick & Lynnette
Vick, Tom
Wade, Bob & Sue
Wagner, Leonard & Kathleen
Walker, Bruce & Sue
Walker, Fred & Nancy
Walt, Jeffrey
Walters, Michael
Wasson, Doug & Julie
Wasson, Doris & Helen
Wasson, Gail & Dorey
Went, John & Neen
White, Phyllis
Williams, James & Mable
Williams, Pat & Sue
Wissman, Terry & Betty
Witch, Linda & Pam

Wiss, Sam & Doreen
Wolcott, Ben & Verlene
Zhang, Bud & Beth

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS:
DeCoster, James & Tammy
King, Bob & Lisa
Lutz, Tom & Julie
Peters, Phil
Reasman, Bill & Cindy
Vick, Phil & Sandy

FIREWORKS ONLY:
Cameron, Jim & Shirley
Dorsett, Louise
Goodin, Robert and Betty
Hart, Jean
Kraeger, Kevin & Sue
Mull, Stephen & Elizabeth
Pfeiffer, Ruth
Sain, Herman & Carolyn
Yachman, Jim & Linda
Zuhars, Richard

Bill Hyde is member & Doreen Gordon. Come on a boat with us!
Contact the editor for members

And here's the list of homeowners we hope will join next year

Homeowner Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number

Homeowner Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number

Homeowner Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number

Homeowner Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number

Homeowner Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Phone Number

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Phone Number



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Cassopolis, Michigan 49031
Office: (800) 385-2763
Residence: (616) 476-2515
Email: nancywalker@realtor.com

In today's competitive real estate market, you need fresh and creative ways to sell and buy homes. That's why it's a good idea to use a real estate agent who fully understands the latest techniques that get results . . . fast!

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Nancy Walker