

The Birch Barker

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume One, June 2, 2001



Memorial Day Weekend Weather was for the Dogs!

West shore residents Little Stu (left), and Big Stu (right), spent much of the Memorial Day weekend indoors (as did most of the Birch Lake people), avoiding the rain, wind and cold weather that plagued the Midwest. Despite wind chills and the memory of a freak hail storm, most Lakers were able to get out in Monday's intermittent sunshine to enjoy the sailboat races, lakeshore walks (with their dogs) and visits with friends and neighbors.



Ten Birch Lakers celebrated Valentines Day at Denny & Keith Weesner's condo on Hutchinson Island in Ft. Pierce, Florida. Pictured are, front row, from left, Bud Zesinger, Bill King, Keith Weesner, Jack Miller and Herm Kruggel; back row, Bev Kruggel, Barb Zesinger, Denny Weesner, Marty Miller and Le King.

photo provided by Denny Weesner

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It was nice to see the sailboats out on Monday. The weather finally gave us a break after a damp and cool start of the Memorial weekend. Hopefully, we will have nicer weather in the next few months!

Your commodore and vice commodore made a goodwill visit to Camp Tannadoonah after their open house on Sunday. We met with Toody and Doug to finalize the Saturday, June 30 fireworks and Sunday, July 1 pancake breakfast. They had over 200 people attend the open house and are quickly filling up their summer camp schedule. If you have children or grandchildren interested in camp, please call Toody. Camping is a great experience and will provide lifelong memories.

If you haven't sent in your dues and fireworks contribution, please send them to Holly Troeger. Remember, our dues cover the taxes, insurance and utilities. In order to keep them small, we need everyone to participate.

Next week, Saturday, June 9, plan to attend the Commodore/Vice Commodore wine party. This will be the first activity at the Yacht Club. Come to socialize with your friends and neighbors. There will be some exotic wines and scrumptious appetizers!

Have a safe and fun week.

Your Commodore
-Mike Machalleck

The Birch Lake Yacht Club Calendar for 2001

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 6/9 - Boating Safety Class 7am-2pm
Boat inspections 10 am-Noon
Comm/Vice Comm Party | 6/21, 22 - Camp Field Days 9:30am-4pm | 8/11 - Ladies Day Activity |
| 6/9 - Porter Township Clean Up Day,
8am-1pm (Michigan Time)
American Waste Systems, 15621
Mason St., Union. | 6/22 - All (Diamond) Lake Sale 9am-2pm | 8/18 - Com & Sausage Roast
BLYC Board Meeting
Homeowners Assn. Meeting |
| 6/14 - Open meeting on Porter Alliance of
Lakes Sewer Study, Baldwin
Prairie School, 7 pm | 6/30 - Boat Parade, Fireworks
Fourth of July Regatta | 8/19 - House Walk |
| 6/16 - BLYC Board Meeting | 7/1 - Pancake Breakfast | 8/25 - Fall Dinner |
| | 7/14 - Jimmy Buffett Party | 9/3 - Labor Day Regatta |
| | 7/20 - Ladies Golf & Lunch | 11/22 - Turkey Day Regatta |
| | 7/21 - BLYC Board Meeting | |
| | 7/27 - Men's Golf & Dinner
Birch Lake Garage Sale | TBA - Get Kidz Hooked on Fishing 2
TBA - Birch Lake Craft Sale |



If you have items for the BARKER, please put the materials in the Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) by 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com by Monday at Noon. If you must, mail (10 days prior to desired publication date) to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, or fax your items to (219) 232-3853. To contact me, call Phil at 476-1680 or (219) 232-3735 or (219) 232-3735.

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

Birch Lake Notes

Porter Township's Annual Clean-Up-Day

It's that time of year! Take advantage of Porter's annual Clean Up Day on Saturday, June 9 from 8 am to 1 pm (Michigan Time) at American Waste Systems, 15621 Mason St. in

Union.

This is your chance to get rid of all of those things you wanted to dump but didn't know where to take them. If you are a senior citizen, disabled or need help, call 616-641-2375. The group will not be taking

any hazardous waste products or building materials. Tires will be taken for a fee of \$2 without rim; \$4 with rim; \$6 for tractor and large truck tires.

Camp's open house successful

The open house last Sunday at Camp Tannadoonah was a success. Around 200 adults and children attended. The weather was cold and damp, but the smiles and laughter of the children attending certainly brightened the day. Thanks to all of the Birch Lake people who attended.

Just a reminder about our new "field days" program: On June 21 and 22 from 9:30am-

4pm (Indiana time), children can sign up to come to camp for two days at a cost of only \$50. They will participate in activities similar to what is offered during our regular camping season. Lunch is provided each day as well as a Camp Tannadoonah t-shirt. Please call our South Bend office at 219-234-4145 for more information. Camp Tannadoonah is in need of a dishwasher for part of the summer. If there is a high school student interested, please call the South Bend office or call camp at 476-2177 on weekends.

-Miss Toody

BLYC Sailing News

The Memorial Day Regatta was limited to one day of racing due to the terrible weather on Sunday the 27th. On Monday, three hardy sunfish skippers, and one MC were poised on the starting line at 11 am. The sailors were greeted by good but changing winds. The committee boat, skippered by Bruce Wagner, and crewed by Phil and Sandy Vitale and myself, were in good spirits, and started the races promptly at 11 am.

Scott Troeger (former fleet captain) squeaked to a 1st race victory over Tom Howard by a matter of inches, with Dave Olson finishing 3rd. In the second race, Tom won convincingly over Scott, again Dave Olson jogged around the course finishing third. In the third race, Scott again was the winner with Dave Olson 2nd and Tom Howard 3rd. Harold Cranmer, the only MC to come out

Monday, paced the sunfish around the course for all 3 races. Thanks for coming out. The rest of you sailors, get your

crafts ready as our regular season races will begin Sunday, June 3.

The following is the season schedule:

June 3—season race—11am
 June 10—season race—11am
 June 17—season race—11am
 June 24—season race—11am
 June 30—4th of July regatta—1pm
 July 1—4th of July regatta—1pm
 July 8—season race—11am
 July 14—Kidzatta—TBA
 July 15—season race—11am
 July 22—season race—11am
 July 29—season race—11am
 Aug 5—season race—11am
 Aug 12—season race—11am
 Aug 19—season race—11am
 Aug 26—season race—11am
 Sept 1—Labor Day Regatta—1pm
 Sept 2—Labor Day Regatta—1pm
 Sept 3—Sailing Awards—TBA

As I stated in the last Barker, we are in need of starters, so please let me hear from you if you are interested.

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 -Jim Beck-2001
 Fleet Captain

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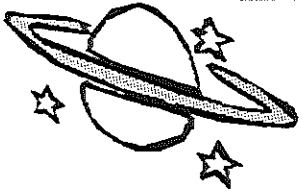
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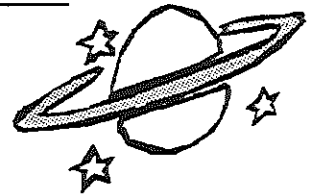
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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!



Stu's Star Stuff

Warp speed, Mr. Sulu...



In popular space operas such as "Star Wars" and "Star Trek," spaceships zip around the galaxy at many times the speed of light by warping the space around them or by traveling through some vaguely defined "hyperspace."

Unfortunately, that's all just fantasy. Scientists have found almost no evidence that any object can travel faster than light. In fact, the speed of light is sometimes described as the universal speed limit. (In addition, travel at speeds even approaching the speed of light is fraught with danger. More on quantum physics, relativity and

space/time later.

Now the speed of light is pretty peppy as speed limits go: 186,282 miles per SECOND in a vacuum. Notice that we said miles per SECOND, not hour. At that speed, the Moon is only one-and-a-third seconds away; the Sun, just over eight minutes. But even at the speed of light, the next-nearest STAR is more than four years away.

The speed of light defines one of astronomy's most important units of distance: the light-year. The distances between stars are incredibly vast. Proxima Centauri, the star nearest our Sun, is more than 25 TRILLION

miles away.

Astronomers need a unit of measurement that's a little easier to handle than miles or kilometers. So they use the distance that light travels in one year: almost six trillion miles — a light-year.

There's no guarantee that the speed of light really is the universal speed limit. The history of science is full of surprising discoveries. But until someone finds evidence to the contrary, the faster-than-light voyages of the Starship Enterprise will remain pure fantasy. For now though, enjoy the show. It's free!

-Stewart Spratt



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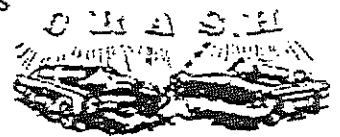
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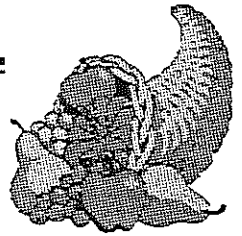
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Week-End Reservations Suggested



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Almond-Crusted Salmon with Capers and Lemon

- 2 Tlbs vegetable oil
- 2 cups sliced almonds
- 2 large eggs
- 3 10-ounce salmon filets (about 1 inch thick), each sliced in half horizontally

- 3/4 cup fresh lemon juice
- 4 Tlbs capers
- 6 Tlbs (3/4 stick) butter, chilled
- 6 lemon slices
- chopped fresh parsley

Preheat oven to 200 degrees. Heat oil in heavy skillet over medium heat. Place almonds in shallow baking dish. Beat eggs to blend in medium bowl. Dip salmon into eggs, turning to coat; dip salmon into almonds, turning to coat and pressing firmly so that almonds adhere. Place salmon in skillet and cook until opaque in center, turning once, about 5 minutes. Transfer salmon to rimmed baking sheet; keep warm in oven.

Add lemon juice and capers to skillet. Increase heat to medium-high boil until reduced slightly, 1 minute. Add butter, whisking just until melted. Transfer each salmon half to plate. Top with sauce. Garnish with lemon slice and parsley.

Peppermint Chocolate Smoothie

- 6 cups chocolate fat-free skim milk
- 1 4-serving size package instant vanilla or chocolate pudding mix (regular or sugar free)
- 1/4 tsp peppermint extract
- Peppermint sticks

In a blender container, combine half of the fat-free skim milk and the pudding mix. Cover and blend until smooth. Pour into a pitcher; stir in the remaining chocolate fat free skim milk and peppermint extract. Refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

To serve, stir mixture; pour into glasses. Garnish each serving with a peppermint stick stirrer. Makes 8 (6 ounce) servings



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First - A word from Birch Lake

*If just outside your lake front door
Your lawn is like a beach,
Just remember, my front shore
Is just within its reach.*

*When I see your "grassy green"
I know it's phosphorus fed.
Phosphorus is good for lawns.
Please think of me instead.*

*Phosphorus trickles down into my shore.
Phosphorus builds up in my deep.
It stays there for a long long time.
Send no more to me to keep.*

*Only you control my fate.
Your phosphorus feeds my weeds. It contaminates.
Phosphorus takes away my oxygen and
Increases chlorophyll,
Adding phosphorus to a spring-fed diet makes me very ill.*

*I WISH
I wish upon first stars at night
That with each rising sun
You'll awake and at first sight
Make me your Number One.
Forget the "grassy green" you hold so dear.
Make me the reason why you're here.*

*I WISH
I wish that you could ease my fear
Like my Secchi tries to do.
When readings are so very clear,
They bring you into view.*

*YOU
You..... you can STOP a downward trend
How?
Decrease.
Decrease the phosphorus run off. Bring it to an end.
When?
NOW*

*Forever yours,
Birch Lake*

And now a word from the Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee:

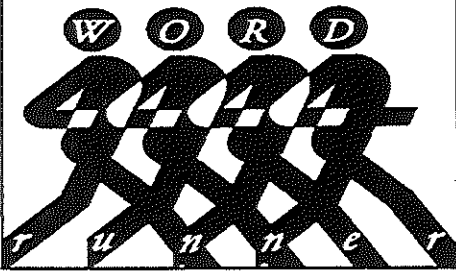
We have developed a long-term program to eliminate phosphorus run off at Birch Lake. Fertilizer containing phosphorus is the single most significant nutrient entering the lake. If you are an owner who fertilizes, LAKESIDE LAWN FERTILIZER is available to you at a wholesale price of \$15 per 50-pound bag.

Rick Russwurm, Dan Reynolds, and Bob Temple are your friendly distributors and will be happy to serve you and your lake.

-G. Temple

Permanent Connections

By The WordRunner



I saw an old friend last week. We had not moved in for the season, but we'd driven up from town to cut the grass, and to enjoy the "kick-start" reawakening that springtime at the lake delivers each year. I parked the car and walked down to the water, and there he stood, hands in pockets, hair blown by the wind, looking exactly as he did when he was alive.

We all delight in the "reconnections" we experience each year here in our warm weather oasis. Summer people like us come back to Birch to open our houses, and year round residents like our younger daughter and her family step outside to talk and to give somebody a hand with a pier or a lift.

Next door neighbors who haven't seen each other in eight or nine months lean on their rakes, and catch up on winter vacation news and child development challenges.

We've all returned to (or remained in) a place we love, and there is comfort in discovering that the things and the people of Birch look pretty much as they did when we left them. "That's good," we say to ourselves.

"It's going to be another great year."

I've "lived" here twice as long as I've lived anyplace else. I disconnect each autumn, packing up and going back to another, less tranquil, home, but through-out a square-dance series of moves to Columbus, Ohio and Chicago and Boston and Mission Viejo and Rancho Mirage, California, and finally, back to South Bend, Birch Lake remained the one geographic constant in my life.

The continuity and the sense of celebration that sit at the heart of the "lake life" experience has tied me to Birch Lake people in a way that I have never experienced elsewhere. These are folks who were around when our children were infants, and who now know the names of our children's children.

My neighbors have watched me grow older and slower in my runs around the lake, and they've witnessed my wife's ability to defy her age and maintain the pace of her flower tending. Perhaps that is why I'm reluctant to turn loose of old friends at Birch just because they have died.

For me a shirtless Jack Hartranft, a cigarette in his mouth, and a lawn mower in his hands will always be a part of life at Birch. I look at Jack today and he still asks me if I'm ever going to "cut down that dirty damn Catalpa tree" that spreads its flowers and leaves everywhere.

Genevieve Lagoni will forever tend her roses here, and Mary Olson will fight off her strokes by riding her bike every day. Leo Zelasko and Harry Price will come sailing in after the morning races while Harry's son Kim does a loop in his speedboat as he drops his daughters into shallow water. I hear Kate Kensill and Nadine Brown laughing and talking many times each summer, and I always see John Brown fiddling with his sprinklers or hold-

ing court with Jack Kensill by the side of the road.

My father-in-law, Starr Wentworth, comes to stand on the end of our pier, and Mrs. Carpenter still gives treats to our daughters as she did when they were little children. Annie Torma calls to me as I run past the place where she lived, and Clem Haines, his white hair brilliant in the afternoon sun, waves me along my way.

I see these folks and many, many, others as surely, and at times, as easily and unexpectedly, as I did when they were living. I turn a corner, or the wind shifts, or I look up at a familiar sound or aroma, and there one of them stands, as vital and as interesting as they were in life.

This "revisiting" is a blessing that is tied to this wonderful place, where people become real and constant to you in a manner and to a degree that is rarely possible in a faster paced, more transient locale. Thank the Lord for Birch Lake and for good people who can stay with you forever.

The Four Seasons of Birch Lake

"The Four Seasons of Birch Lake" video (VCR tape) is now available.

We are also taking orders for the next distribution.

Contact Mike Machallack
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Buzz Rasmussen
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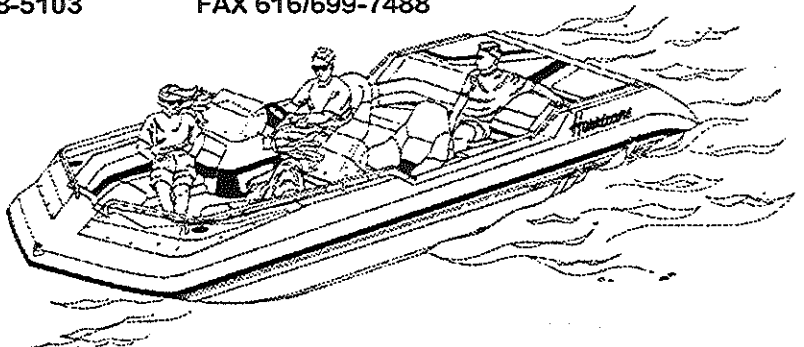


Eagle Lake Marine

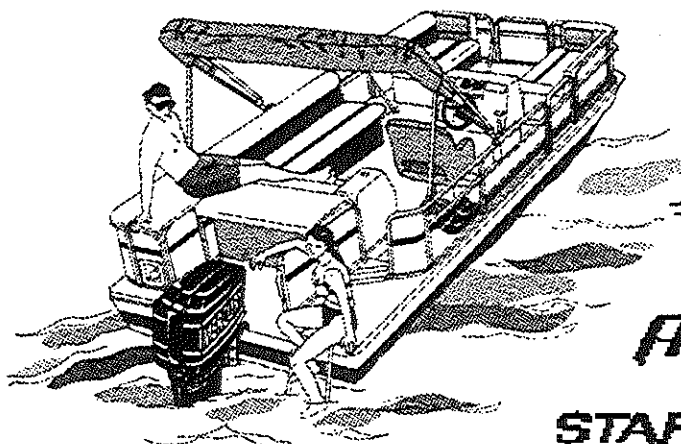
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Know the Personal Water Craft laws!

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

Many lake families are scrambling to take a water safety class so the adults can ride the jet skis too (most kids already took the class).

Unless you are up to date — with the required certification — you run the risk of being ticketed and fined.

In addition to classes like the one planned for June 9 at the yacht club, there are web-based safety classes that can help get you up to speed.

Go to: <http://www.boatsafe.com>

Boatsafe has a course which appears to meet the Michigan & Indiana requirements. The website is user-friendly. The course is recognized / promoted by NASBLA (National Association of State Boating Law Administrators) and recognized by the U.S. Coast Guard. Successful completion of this course may qualify you for marine insurance discounts and meets many states' mandatory boating education requirements.

Should you want further information / clarification contact: IN DNR Law Enforcement Division at 317-232-4010; or the MI DNR at 517-335-3414.

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

Michigan boating laws online:

To view the up-to-date state boating laws, visit the Michigan DNR website at:

<http://www.midnr.com/SubIndex.asp?LinkID=405&sec=boat>

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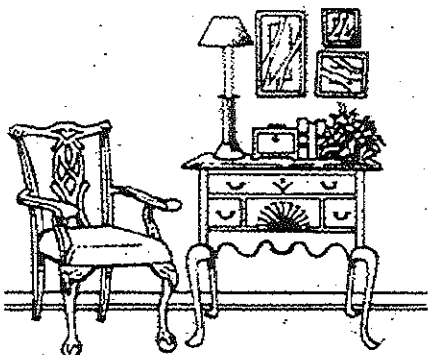
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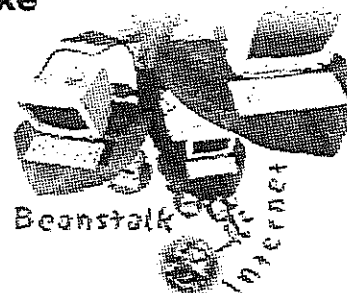
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Watch out for these nuisance species

An aquatic nuisance species is a waterborne, non-native species that threatens the diversity or abundance of native species, the ecological stability of infested waters, or a commercial, agricultural, aquacultural, or recreational activity.

In recent years, numerous new non-indigenous species have been introduced in the Great Lakes region creating additional concerns for their cumulative impacts.

Here are a few important tips regarding nuisance species:

■ It is extremely important that anglers be aware of these species and take all possible precautions to prevent their spread.

■ Remove all visible aquatic plants and animals from your boat, motor, trailer, and accessory equipment before leaving the access area.

■ Drain live wells and transom wells thoroughly before leaving the water access area.

■ Never dump live bait or fish into any water body.

The illustrations on this page



Eurasian Watermilfoil

they cause, please contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Great Lakes (517-335-4056) or

show two of the most serious aquatic nuisance species in Michigan. For more information on these species and the problems

Michigan Sea Grant, Zebra Mussel/Aquatic Nuisance Species Office (517-353-5508).



Zebra Mussel
Approx. 1/4" - 1" in length

For more information about Aquatic Nuisance Species, visit the Department of Environmental Quality Web site at www.deq.state.mi.us

Lutz Concrete

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Select Michigan fishing records

Bluegill Weight: 2.75; Length: 13.75; Year: 1983; Water Body: Vaughn Lake
County: Alcona; Angler: Gary Saylor

Black Crappie Weight: 4.12; Length: N/A; Year: 1947; Water Body: Lincoln
Lake; County: Kent; Angler: Frank Lee

Largemouth Bass Weight: 11.94; Length: 27.00; Year: 1934; Water Body:
Big Pine Island; Lake County: Kent; Angler: William Maloney

Largemouth Bass Weight: 11.94; Length: 26.00; Year: 1959; Water Body:
Bamfield; Dam County: Oscoda; Angler: Jack Rorex

Pumpkinseed Sunfish Weight: 1.32; Length: 9.5; Year: 1993; Water Body:
Wabasis; Lake County: Kent; Angler: Robert Howard

Rainbow Trout Weight: 26.5; Length: 39.5; Year: 1975; Water Body: Lake
Michigan; County: St. Joseph; Angler: Mark Johnson

Rock Bass Weight: 3.62; Length: 20; Year: 1965; Water Body: Holoway
Reservoir; County: Genesee; Angler: Edward Arnold

Smallmouth Bass Weight: 9.25; Length: 27.25; Year: 1906; Water Body:
Long Lake; County: Cheboygan; Angler: W. F. Shoemaker

Yellow Perch Weight: 3.75; Length: 21; Year: 1947; Water Body: Lk.
Independence; County: Marquette; Angler: Eugene Jezinski

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2 lb. \$14.95
Sat - Steak Sizzler (all you can eat)
or - Prime Rib with Salad Bar

BLYC members for 2001 season

Below are the folks who have sent their annual Yacht Club dues. Please notify Phil Vitale, Holly Troeger or Mike Machalleck for correction.

Dues and Fireworks:

Andriano, Fred & Stacia
Asire, Marty
Ball, John & Jennifer
Beck, Jim & Sally
Bender, Dick & Stack, Marsha
Benjamin, Ritacarl
Bergan, Jim & Linda
Bliler, Wm & Grace
Blue, Jim & Shirley
Blue, Richard & Krchmar, Sandra
Bolinger, Jim & Deborah
Brovold, Gary & Karen
Caldenwood, Jim & Nancy
Coan, Jim
Curtis, Steve & Deborah
Curtis, Terry & Linda

Dennert, Larry & Kay
DeYoung, Richard & Beth
DiRutigliano, Dominic & Joyce
Doba, Bill & Judy
Doolittle, Rick & Cathy
DuFour, Duffy & Sue
Eberhart, Gilbert & Barbara
Falk, Roger & Suzanna
Flora, Larry & Marge
Foley, William
Freihofer, Fred & Carol
Gabieman, John
Garceau, Bernie & Blair
Golden, Mark & Ilene
Gotstein, Mike & Marge
Green, Dick & Barb
Greenig, Bob & Kay
Groszek, John C. and Lois
Harlan, Bruce & JJ
Harman, Don & Lind
Harris, Gwen
Herms, Bob & Kohnke, Eileen
Hombeck, Jack & MaryAnne
Howard, Tom & Colleen

King, Bill & Le
King, Bob & Leslie
Kolber, Chet & Vivian
Krueger, Lorene
Krugger, Herm & Bev
LaPierre, Chuck & Cheri
Leach, Norma
Leatheman, Dennis & Phyllis
Lindzy, Dick & Judy
Machalleck, Mike & Katha
McCay, Larry & Deb
McNamee, Kathleen
Miller, Jack & Mardy
Monroe, Norman & Nancy
Mullin, Rich & Pam
O'Brien, Betty & Joe
Odenwald, Bill & Lynette
O'Neill, Bill & Maryann
Olson, Dave & Judy
Papandria, Sheryl & Covey, Dan
Rasmussen, Buzz & Linda
Reynolds, Dan & Janet
Richwine, Mike & Debbie

Rieth, Bud & Louise
Rogers, Tom & Vicki
Russell, Michael & Paula
Russwurm, Rick & Patti
Sanders, Ray & Sonia
Sankey, Joe & Teri
Scofield, John & Laveta
Stevens, Pat
Thayer, James & Eleanor
Troeger, Holly & Scott
Troeger, Tom & Pat
Tunnidiffe, Bill & Joanne
Vath, Helen
Vitale, Phil & Sandy
Waddle, Bob & Sue
Waggoner, Monty and Kristina
Wagner, Bruce & Sue
Walker, Brad & Nancy
Waterbury, Marciel
Weesner, Bernie & Helen
Weesner, Keith & Denny
White, Phyllis
Williams, Jerry & Mattie
Williams, Patrick & Sue

Witchie, Ron & Linda
Wos, Stan and Doreen
Wozniak, Ben & Vanessa
Zelasko, Millie
Zesinger, Bud & Barb

Dues only

Cota, Adrian & Judith
Groszek, John
Klimek, Matt & Joyce
Morrison, Bob
Temple, Bob & Gert
Weaver, Doug & Julie

Fireworks only

Athanas, Thomas & Martha
Cranmer, Steve

Spring Dinner only

Cranmer, Harold & Donna
Drolet, Loretta
Toth, Joe & Helen
Troeger, Earl & Connie

Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

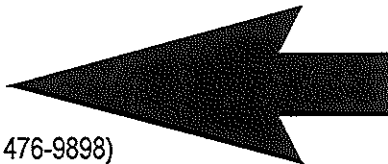
Make checks payable to:
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Mail to:

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)
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\$ ___ - Other _____
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