



THE BIRCH BARKER

Words cannot express my gratitude to all the wonderful people who worked so hard and cooperated so perfectly to make the Regatta a success.

THANKS SO MUCH,
Floyd H. Fulmer, Commodore

On behalf of all the Lake Sailors I want to express our heartfelt gratitude for all the help, backbreaking labor, food, housing, and general good will shown us and all the visiting sailors for the DISTRICT III JUNIOR SAILING CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA.

For the first time, we've ever seen at a Regatta, a visitor stood up at the trophy presentation and publicly thanked all the Birch Lakers for the wonderful time given them. It is heartwarming to see such cooperation among lake people.

You certainly deserve a Great Big THANK YOU!

Don Holtz, Regatta Chairman

As Chairman of Food I wish to thank my dining room Chairman, Lucy Forbes and "Pat" and all the girls who helped her. Also my kitchen Chairman, Esther Troeger and her committee, Jackie Luxenburg, Mildred Carpenter, Dorothy G. [unclear], Buddy Asire, Margaret Jensen, Elnor Schrock and all the girls who helped serve. I personally want to thank all the "gals" who donated food; it was GREAT! Pans with names will be returned, others can be picked up at the Yacht Club, or call me later this week. Thank you all so much.

Doris Howard, Food Chairman

Jean Foote and daughter are great kitchen help in case anyone is interested! The Scofield's selling tickets at the dance did a fine job. Did you see them dance?



Edith Zanker

The Birch Lake Michigan Snipe Fleet hosted the District III Junior Snipe Championship Regatta this past weekend. This regatta takes in 8 states from Ohio to the Dakotas. Thirty-three boats entered and with the help of favorable winds and good weather, five races were sailed. Jim Bingham and John Keller from Cowan Lake, Ohio, sailed well under all wind conditions and finished first closely followed by Tom Townsend and John Wood from Indianapolis. Steve and Todd Heller from Grand Rapids finished third, rallying in the last two races. Jeff Troeger and Kevin Conran from Birch Lake finished fourth. Paul Dovey and John Meisinger from Peoria, Ill., finished fifth.

The competition was extremely tough this year with last year's champion finishing 14th and the current Junior National Champion finishing 19th.

The following is the complete listing of the results: ..Races..Finish

16114	-Jim Bingham..Skipper.....Cowan Lake.....	1-2-2-6-7.....	1
	John Kelley..Crew.....		
16156	-Tom Townsend.....Indianapolis.....	2-1-1-18-2.....	2
	John Wood.....		
17515	-Steve Heller.....Grand Rapids,Mich..	18-3-6-1-1....	3
	Todd Heller.....		
16953	-Jeff Troeger.....Birch Lake.....	5-11-4-4-4....	4
	Kevin Conran.....		
13020	-Paul Dovey.....Peoria, Ill.....	3-10-9-15-6...	5
	John Meisinger.....		
17780	-Tim Nichols.....Wolf Lake.....	4-16-5-9-10...	6
	John Towlen.....		
16023	-Phil Tomlinson.....Boyne City.....	8-13-14-7-3...	7
	Jim Rens.....		
16977	-Woody Cox.....Detroit, Mich.....	16-6-8-11-9...	8
	S. Hedrie.....		
14009	-Jon Holtz.....Birch Lake.....	14-5-20-3-12..	9
	Cece Holtz.....		
15221	-Scott Maddox.....Diamond Lake.....	7-12-11-5-19..	10
	Sue Hanson.....		
16730	-Donna Leber.....Peoria, Ill.....	6-22-7-19-5...	11
	Abbie Bettinghans.....		
15215	-Dale Keltner.....Decatur, Ill.....	11-9-10-13-13..	12
	T. Keltner.....		
7999	-Bill Fehsenfeld.....Grand Rapids.....	DNF-8-12-2-11..	13
	Rick Weller.....		
17513	-John Johns.....Ann Arbor.....	12-4-3-DNF-DNS..	14
	Pam Raymond.....		
13666	-Steve Graebert.....Cowan Lake.....	9-17-18-12-16...	15
	Erik Foster.....		
17331	-Roy Guthrie.....Richmond, Ind.....	28-31-13-10-8...	16
	Gary Guthrie.....		
14603	-Linda Crandall.....Grosse Point.....	25-18-14-16-15..	17
	Sandy Cox.....		

	Results	Finish
9871-Bill Reid.....Peoria, Ill.....	24-14-26-14-18..	18
Jim Butler.....		
13349-Mark Hesselschwerdt.....Grand Rapids.....	10-7-28-DNS-Dns..	19
Bill Hesselschwerdt.....		
13836-Don Holtz.....Birch Lake.....	17-21-25-17-20..	20
Steve Tunnicliff.....		
9432-Tom Troeger.....Birch Lake.....	29-29-21-8-22..	21
Bill Carpenter.....		
13835-Mary Milne.....Birch Lake.....	13-19-27-22-25..	22
Gail De Courdres.....		
16600-Jill Gore.....Diamond Lake.....	DNF-15-24-21-17..	23
Janeen Gore.....		
14375-Chris Holtz.....Birch Lake.....	27-20-15-25-27..	24
Steve Cox.....		
15710-Scott Flora.....Peoria, Ill.....	19-23-23-24-24..	25
Sara Dallmeyer.....		
16790-Michael Harvey.....Utica, Mich.....	15-26-31-20-26..	26
Don Pousha.....		
17805-Keith Claro.....Birch Lake.....	20-15-17-26-28..	27
Keven Kruggel.....		
15500-Barry Hague.....Birch Lake.....	21-27-22-23-23..	28
Steve Echols.....		
17202-Bill Foss.....Ann Arbor.....	23-28-29-28-14..	29
Anny Ford.....		
12537-Rita Seelig.....Peoria, Ill.....	26-24-30-27-21..	30
Mary Pula.....		
16414-Paul Richards.....Grand Rapids.....	22-30-16-DNF-DNS	31
Bucky Waltrour.....		
15218-Randy Morrical.....Birch Lake.....	30-32-32-29-DNF..	32
D. Scofield.....		
7378-Tim Messner.....Birch Lake.....	DNF-DNF-33-30-DNS	33
Tim Burchell.....		

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Weygand from Fort Wayne, Indiana visited with Joe Crammers over the weekend.

Mrs. Edith Blair of Aurora, Ill., sister of Mrs. Carl Hillring, visited all week. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blair, Julie and Steven of Aurora, Ill., visited over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Tunstall from Panama City, Florida, were visiting the Don Claro's this past week. A good time was enjoyed by all.

Keith Claro entertained Judy Troyer at supper before the big dance at the Yacht Club.

For three weeks the Harold Holderman cottage has been bulging with all of their grandchildren here most of the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Warnes (Nancy), Bill and Linda of Los Alamos, New Mexico; Mr. and Mrs. James Holderman, Terri Sue and Nancy of Merrillville, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. Alan DePoy (Mary Ann), Dave, Deane and Doug of Battle Creek and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Weaver, (Nina) and little Matthew of Chanhassen, Minn. The latter spending part of their time with Larry's parents, the Hubert Weavers.

Nina and Larry are moving to Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada where Larry will teach in the new Lethbridge University.

The Ralph Vances of Mishawaka spent last weekend with the Holdermans.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Robert Johnson of Dearborn, Michigan and Mrs. Don Stellingwerf of Granger, Indiana were Monday guests of the Cowens #308. The Johnsons were hoping to find a cottage for sale here at Birch Lake. Frank and Helen Duncan of Mishawaka were Sunday guests of the Cowens.

We are real happy to know that Frances Bowers Holder is coming along fine after her surgery Saturday.

Fran (Olson) and Henry Roddinger, 2408 Burchard Dr., St. Louis, Mo., 63136, are (July 2) parents of red-haired Eric William. Mommie and Daddy-and Grandma and Grandpa Olson, to say nothing of Uncle Don-think their 8 lb., 7 oz. little charmer is very much all right.

Mrs. S. Szymanski from Chicago will spend a few weeks with her sister and brother-in-law the Everett Kaczmareks at cottage 201. We are hoping to have a wonderful time here on our beautiful Birch Lake, Laura.

Mrs. Allan Ayers of Akron, Ohio was the house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Anderson over the last weekend. Howie Jr. and Hazel Anderson also arrived to take Howie III and Tracey home.

PATROL OFFICER TED PEAK SAYS:

You are all reminded to be at the Birch Lake Yacht Club on Tuesday, July 23rd at 2:00 P.M. (Michigan time) for the demonstration of Mouth to Mouth Respiration given by Sherrif Robert Dool with the aid of Rescue Anne.

Rescue Anne is a life size manikin made of rubber and plastic. She is the exact size of the daughter of her inventor. She drowned several years ago in Norway.

Also, the following week, the 25th, 26th, and 29th, the pleasure boating course will be offered again. This will be held at the Birch Lake Yacht Club at 2:00 P.M. (Michigan time). All kids between the ages of 12 and 16, who have not completed the course, must do so before they can operate a boat with more than a 6 horsepower motor.

THE BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB WILL HAVE THEIR BUSINESS MEETING
AT THE CLUBHOUSE AT 8:00 EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT . . . EVERYBODY
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HISTORY OF BIRCH LAKE

Long ages ago, million of years in the past, the region where Birch Lake now lies was deep under a tropical sea. After the sea receded, the land which emerged was the home of the reptilian and mammal age. Some 2500 years or more ago great sheets of ice a mile in thickness swept down from the northeast, plowing and gouging the surface of the land.

Probably primitive man lived here before the ice came. He may have been the Folsom man as Folsom points, believed to be spearheads have been picked up in Cass County. Shortly after the ice left, man came again, the forefathers of the Indians.

The first Indians in this section as found by the early French explorers were Miamis. Through a war council treaty the Miami Indians who were not a war-like tribe, were replaced by the Chippewas, Potawatomes, and Ottowas, who with the exception of occasional wars lived in relative peace.

The area around Birch Lake was held by the Potawatomie Indians, who were headed by Big Chief Pokagon and under Chiefs Weesaw and Shavehead. While Pokagon was a very brilliant man, making friends of the white man, accepting the white man's ways and teachings, Shavehead was the opposite. He was a large man for an Indian, very ugly and very mean, gaining his name by keeping his head shaved, which did not make for an improvement in his appearance. Shavehead's winter quarters were around Shavehead Lake and in the summer he migrated to what is now Morrsville where there was a ford across the St. Joe River. This ford was on the Saud Trail which is now modern U.S. highway 112. Shavehead would camp at the ford and extract a fee from the white settlers for use of the crossing. It is reported that he discontinued this practice only after a young burly settler had taken his ox whip and thrashed Shavehead within an inch of his life.

Shavehead was responsible for the death of many white settler. He would promise to secure game for the white man but no one returned from the hunting trips but Chief Shavehead. Strangely enough, Shavehead met his death the same way. He was at the Trading Post, which is now Cassopolis, drunk and making his brags about participation in the Fort Dearborn massacre. He was overheard by a young trapper who had lost his wife and child in the debauchery. The young trapper was then living on the Island in Diamond Lake. He asked Shavehead to go home with him. A shot was heard and Shavehead was never seen again.

The Indians under Chief Weesaw, whose winter quarters were in the vicinity of Newton's Woods joined Chief Shavehead's band in the early spring around Birch Lake, where they bathed in the lake and drank of its water, claiming the water had great healing power. It is recorded that Chief Pokagon, who was ill, made the journey from his home near Summerville for this purpose.

Settlement in Cass County was very slow, in 1840 the population was only 5,710. Early settlers around Birch were the Harveys, Merritts and O'Dells.

The decade previous to the Civil War was very exciting in the Birch Lake area. Sections of land in South Cass County had been purchased by Quakers for the purpose of setting up small farms for runaway slaves and negroes brought up through the underground railroad. Periodically there would be a raid by Southern slave owners to recover their property.

As the pure, clear water of Birch Lake was known to the Indian it was destined to be known by the whites. Before there were any cottages, it was a popular fishing and camping lake. The quality of fish taken from its waters was superb. The scenery magnificent and as roads became passable, cottages began to be built on its shore. One of the first, if not the first, was the Smith cottage. Today the lake has over 200 cottages with a summer population of about 650 people enjoying its sky-blue waters.

After looking over many locations the officials in charge of selection of sites for the summer camps of the South Bend and Mishawaka Camp Fire Girls chose Birch Lake with Camp Tannadoona and Camp Kiloqua results of their vision and foresight.

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