

THE BIRCH BARKER

No. 7

Aug. 7, 1971



The Fishing Club's motives are to improve fishing on Birch Lake, to see that laws and regulations concerning fishing are enforced, and to stimulate new fishing enthusiasts.

The Fishing Club had its first meeting last Saturday, July 31st, at the Yacht Club. The meeting mainly dealt with organizing the club. The following are notes taken from the meeting:

Fred Ebeling reported on his trip to Plainwell, Michigan last fall, but he wasn't able to get a commitment to plant any fish in Birch Lake. Apparently, money is the reason. No bass were recently stocked anywhere in the state. Mr. Ebeling asked about placing Northern and Walleye in Birch and was told that this lake is not conducive to propagation for these fish. The members did report a small catch of smallmouth this year again.

The members present were: E. J. Gotstein, Cottage #5; Walter Gardner, Cottage #30; Carlyle Decker, Cottage #145; Donald Erhardt, Cottage #4; James F. West, Cottage #3; Dominic DiRutigliano, Cottage #9; Steve Bodza, Cottage #137; Fred Ebeling, Cottage #48; M. G. Eberhart, Cottage #27; R. L. Weaver, Cottage #16.

The next topic of discussion was the netting of cisco. There is some thinking that the conservation department should supervise the cisco netters, in order to prevent taking game fish. The supervisor should make sure the stakes used are removed as they present a hazard to skiers. The conservation department will be asked for copies of the regulations applying to cisco netting. Russ Weaver will handle the contacts with the conservation officer.

The Club decided to get a cost from a private hatchery for planting approximately 5000 smallmouth bass (4" to 5" size). Mr. W. R. Gardner will investigate the matter.

One member reported that he picked up about one bushel of beer and whiskey bottles (some broken) and beer cans on the ice about 150 feet from shore last January. Such a practice is extremely dangerous to swimmers, skiers, and all who use the lake.

The next meeting date is Saturday, August 21st at 2:00 p.m. at the Club House. The members hope to have a large turnout at the meetings so come and bring a friend.

Russ Weaver, President
Fred Ebeling, Secretary

Greetings from your friendly Marine Deputy. In this issue of the Birch Barker you will find some of the basic rules of safe boating and a few basic laws. If everyone would keep these and post them some place in the house so they can be seen by other members of the family and by any visitors you might have, it would help keep Birch Lake the safe place it is.

Recently there have been several larcenies of boats, motors, boating equipment, and fishing tackle in the county. These have been taking place at various times during the summer, but the last two weeks of July activity of this sort picked up. To date there have been 10 boats and 17 motors stolen. As of now Birch Lake is not on the list of lakes that has been hit. But this is not saying that it won't be. The only way to be sure that you won't have anything stolen is to not leave it in your boat overnight. Fire extinguishers, boat cushions, and fishing tackle are often left in the boat overnight and are very easy to take. All of the motors that have been stolen have been small fishing motors, 10 HP or less. Most of these have been locked on the boat, but bolt cutters were used to cut the locks.

Just recently there was an explosion on Diamond Lake of an inboard. Eight people were BLOWN out of the boat and into the water. Fortunately they were close to shore and in shallow water. No one was seriously injured, which is a miracle in itself. The only reason there was not a fire resulting from the explosion is there was a fire extinguisher on board and several others nearby that were used. This proves that fire extinguishers are a necessary part of your safe boating equipment.

Parents are again reminded that mini-bikes are not to be driven on county roads if they are not licensed or the operator is not licensed.

Ted Peak
Cass County Marine Deputy

OLD TIMERS' SUNFISH SERIES

Boat No.	Name	Race 1 7/25	Race 2 8/1	Race 3 8/1
14766	Green, Dick	1	1	3
10580	Troeger, Jack	2	4	5
29079	Courtney, Al	3	5	4
17992	Harlan, Bruce	4	8	7
25165	Echols, Bill	5	6	DNS
22429	Knoop, Max	6	10	6
Wh. Sail	O'Brien, John	7	11	DNS
14310	Troeger, Earl	DNS	2	7
20909	Cowen, Dick	DNS	3	2
25075	Tunnicliff, Bill	DNS	8	9
24252	Kruggel, Herm	DNS	DNS	1
--	Troeger, Tom	DNS	9	DNS

Twelve aching backs on Monday morning attested to the success of the Old Timers' Sunfish races on August 1. At the request of the race committee, a long-range telescope has been requisitioned to scan the seas for lost or late sailors in any future events. John O'Brien, please take note.

A large spectator gallery is expected at 4:00 on August 8 as the "Better Halves" pilot the ships at the command of their crews. Several collisions highlighted last year's spectacle, and since the "skippers" are still more familiar with bedsheets and "sales" than mainsheets and "sails", this year's event should highlight the sailing season. Get your boats rigged, ladies!!

SUNFISH STANDINGS AS OF AUGUST 1

Place	Boat No.	Name	No. of Races	7/25		8/1		Avg. & Bonus
				Race 1	2	Race 1	2	
1	14310	Troeger	12	1	4	6	1	1 1631
2	21923	Carpenter	14	2	1	1	3	4 1608
3	130	Machalleck	6	DNS	DNS	2	2	DNS 1414
4	20909	Cowen	14	3	7	8	11	DNS 1395
5	30352	Hagve	9	DNS	DNS	4	5	DNS 1383
6	29392	Doolittle	12	8	2	7	6	3 1376
7	24252	Kruggel	11	DNS	DNS	10	8	5 1367
8	22898	Foote	5	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS 1364
9	25075	Tunncliffe	14	9	9	3	4	2 1314
10	26161	Burchell	9	5	6	9	7	7 1257
11	14580	Troeger	14	6	8	5	9	DNS 1256
12	17992	Harlan	7	7	5	DNS	DNS	DNS 1230
13	29079	Courney	14	4	3	12	10	6 1187
14	25131	Spratt	7	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS	DNS 1092
15	21351	King	7	10	DNS	11	DNS	DNS 1043

LAKE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. James Wolters and their children, Pat, Jim, Todd and Jeff, from Michigan City spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hillring.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd H. Fulmer and their daughter, Mrs. Jack Asire, attended the Houston reunion in Mishawaka last Saturday.

Its been a busy summer at the Echols, #264. Their oldest son, Len, and wife, Karen, spent 10 days at Birch with another couple from Youngstown, Ohio. This was Karen and Len's last fling before parenthood. Yes, Gussie will be a grandma in October, and Charlie will have to wait and see if he will be an Aunt or Uncle! No. 2 son, John, and his Carolyn also spent weekends at Birch. The 8-9th of August they will stop by with an old van they and friends have fixed up for a trip to Yellowstone. John is still on call for the service in the fall. The really big news is the trip. Bill, Gussie, Steve, and Charlie went to Sweden, Norway, and Denmark - to the land of the Vikings and Gussie's relatives. Had a great time - ate lots of herring - even tasted eel and reindeer.

If you wonder why the lake is so quiet lately, we left Steve with backpack and railpass. Steve King met Steve Echols in Copenhagen and will spend a month roaming Europe. Yes, a great summer, but where does the time go? They're never long enough at beautiful Birch.

Jane Ebeling had her cast taken off. She had a sprained ankle. The only problem she has now is that she bumps her chin.

The John Scofield family are spending the next two weeks at their cottage vacationing. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Leath and their two children from Tennessee are staying the first week with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Jensen from Gary, Indiana were guests of the L. A. Jensens Monday through Thursday of this week. Mr. and Mrs. Abe Cohen were supper guests of the Jensens Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Cranmer and children just returned from a three weeks vacation trip to the Northwest.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Cranmer visited Mr. and Mrs. Howard Meygand in Fort Wayne, Indiana this week.

Monday and Tuesday, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Cowen visited with Mrs. T. W. Howe at Winamac, Indiana.

Mrs. Edith Blair, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Blair, Julie and Steve from Aurora, Illinois will spend the week with Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hillring. Mrs. Blair is a sister of Mrs. Hillring. By the way, Carl caught a 9-1/2 inch blue gull in Birch Lake.

Peggy and Dick Cowen vacationed in Stratford, Ontario, at The Shakespearean Festival. It was all theater was meant to be! They came back to visit Carolyn (Cowen) and John McCoy and boys in Hamburg, New York. The only better vacation would be perfect weather at Birch Lake.

The 4 Connecticut Yankees have arrived to vacation at the Bowers' cottage #307. Son, Paul, his wife, Betty, and Teri and Mike are enjoying every minute of it. His sisters, Margie and Fran and their families of South Bend plus their many friends and other members of the families are having a splashing good time. Grandson, Mike, learned to ski. Paul and family were transferred to Naugatuck, Conn. last June. They are building a new home in Terryville, a very historic site in Connecticut and have just received word that it has been completed and will be ready for them to move into when they return.

* * * *

FPFE Kittens--on West Side of Lake. Greensides residence. Phone 476-2587.

FOR SALE--50 Gal. gasoline barrel and stand, Cottage #308. Phone 476-2182.

* * * *

LATE NEWS

Fifty young (?) stags enjoyed the Birch Lake Annual Golf Outing at Park Shores last Friday afternoon, kicking golf balls, killing snakes, and all of those things that golfers do, and then retired to the Yacht Club for refreshments and a dinner that was superb. John Brown and Joe Myers share the blame for the good times had by all of the golfers, as they were Co-chairmen, but they could not have completed the evening without the help of the "cooks", Dan Claro and Herm Kruggel and many others including the wives of many who must share the glory even tho this was a stag event. Our thanks to one and all for a VERY successful day and evening. Next year...John and Joe??

As promised.....the Annual Fall Yacht Club Dinner will be held at Camp Tannadoonah's Dining Hall. Vice-Commodore Jay Beehler has completed the negotiations with Mr. and Mrs. Murphy (Camp Directors of Tannadoonah) and I think I speak for all members of the Yacht Club in expressing our appreciation for this wonderful gesture from Camp Tannadoonah. By being able to keep this event on the lake we feel that many more families will be able to attend. The price for tickets will remain the same as last year, \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children. The Directors or their wives will be calling on you soon with tickets, so make your plans now to attend the dinner August 21st. Dinner will be served from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with a square dance from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. We hope to see you all there.

Bruce Harlan
Commodore-BLYC

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Roberson of Mooresville, Indiana were weekend guests of the John Balls'. Everyone enjoyed Uncle Wade's barbecued chicken on Sunday.

Kathy Nance of Lowell, Indiana was the guest of Cindy Gard at Cottage #99. She enjoyed swimming, walking to the turn-around every night and

most of all eating us out of house and home. She wants to return as soon as possible.

David Sargent of Crown Point, Indiana visited his cousins at Cottage #99. David and cousin, Cindy, went fishing every day. They caught several large fish. His cousins hope that he will be able to come back soon.

Lt. William O'Connor was dinner and overnite guest of the Mike Machalleck family at his parents home Wednesday. Mike and Bill served together at the Naval Station in Yorktown. Bill is currently stationed at Honolulu, Hawaii. Dinner guests of John and Arline Machalleck Friday were Mae and Joe Sherrick of Niles.

Welcome to the Lyon family from Mt. Prospect, Illinois who are enjoying the Gattman cottage for two weeks. Don, Katy, Terri, Drew, Dawn, Troy and even the dog, Brutus, are enjoying it, even tho the weather has been less than perfect.

***** EDITOR'S SCOUND-CFF *****

ALL boat operators--whether they are residents on the lake, visitors, renters or guests--are subject to the same marine laws, rules and regulations SO--in travel around the lake go counter-clockwise. SO--don't go behind rafts or floats when swimmers are out. Drop your skiers OUTSIDE and not INSIDE swimming areas. SO--if you are swimming outside floats or rafts watch your step (or strokes)--boats have a legal right to be in the lake too and a big prop can shred you up nicely. A word to parents too-- your kids floating and swimming outside swim areas aren't "prop-proof" either. So far, we have been lucky at Birch Lake but there's always a First Time and you wouldn't want it to be Your Youngster, would you?? SO--if you Scuba or Snorkel, use a flag, warning craft, etc. SO--its about time that property owners, their renters, guests, and all lake visitors get the idea that Birch Lake is for USE - NOT ABUSE and that property rights are still in existence and can and will be enforced. As illustrated in a recent issue of the Barker the riparian rights of the owners of lake property includes the exclusive right to moor his boat, to personally limit the use of his pier, raft, or float to those to whom he gives permission where the pier, raft, or float is located in front of the owner's lot. In other words, your pier, float, boat, etc. "ain't public property and there is NO EASEMENT FOR PUBLIC USE ALONG THE SHORELINE OF THE LAKE either. Being a "Liberal" gives no license to use the other guy's property unless he consents and it is advisable to get that consent first.



Recently a boat operator has been doing his/her level best to get attention from the Sheriff's Dept by running behind floats and rafts and in swimming areas when swimmers were out and two or three observers are ready and willing to see that he/she gets that attention and/or a trip to the local "clink". Our Marine Deputy is courteous, cooperative and friendly --but--this does not mean that "wise guys" can get by indefinitely.

SUGGESTION--- That Marine Rules and Regulations in force at Birch Lake be posted at the public beach to inform and warn boat owners bringing in their craft relative to use on the lake. This will nullify the excuse " I didn't know about any such regulation" which is always a convenient alibi --particularly for visitors and renters.

PRAEMONS, PRAEMONITUS EST

(Forewarned is Forearmed.)

D&D-Editors

CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR OPERATION OF WATERCRAFT
ON ALL STATE CONTROLLED WATERWAYS

1. All watercraft with motors must be registered and registration numbers affixed to watercraft.
2. No person shall operate any watercraft while under the influence of alcoholic beverage or narcotic drug, nor shall the operator consume any alcoholic beverage while in the process of operating any watercraft.
3. Any person who operates any watercraft in a careless and heedless manner so as to disregard the rights or safety of others, and at a speed that would endanger or likely to endanger any person or property shall be guilty of reckless operation.
4. No person shall operate any watercraft at a speed greater than will permit him to exercise of reasonable care, to bring the watercraft to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.
5. No person shall operate a watercraft in a manner so as to unreasonably interfere with the lawful use by others of any waters.
6. All motor boats must operate in a counterclockwise direction.
7. No operator of any watercraft shall have in tow any person on water skis, watersled, surfboard, or any similar contrivance during the period 1 hour after sunset to 1 hour prior to sunrise.
8. All accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage to exceed 100 dollars shall be reported to local law authorities. (Sheriff's Department in this area).
9. There must be 1 competent observer plus the driver in any watercraft towing water skis, or any similar contrivance and the boat must be equipped with a 170° mirror.
10. All persons must be seated in the seats provided when the watercraft is underway or in motion; sitting on the decks or gunwale is prohibited.
11. No operator shall allow his watercraft to pass closer than one hundred (100) feet to any fishing craft.
12. No operator shall allow his watercraft to pass closer than one hundred (100) feet from any swimming area except when docking or debarking.
13. No person being towed on water skis or other similar contrivance shall be closer than one hundred (100) feet to any swimming area, fishing craft, pier, raft, or another watercraft.
14. The only exception to regulation above is when landing and taking off - then, extreme caution must be used.
15. Running lights are required on all watercraft between sunset and sunrise. (Red and Green front; white on rear).
16. Any organized and properly supervised race (authority from State Waterways Commission) has the right-of-way over waters designated as raceway during the period of the race.

Sheriff James Northrop
Cass County, Michigan

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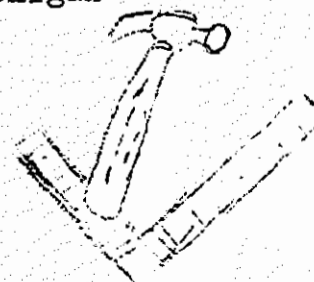
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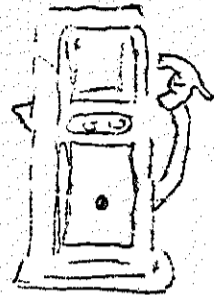


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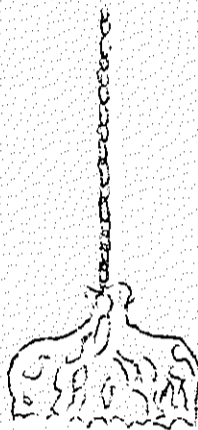
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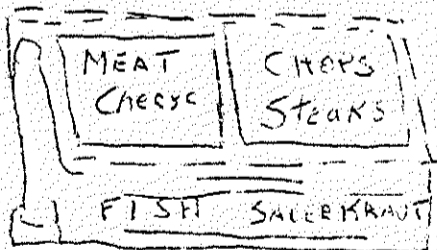
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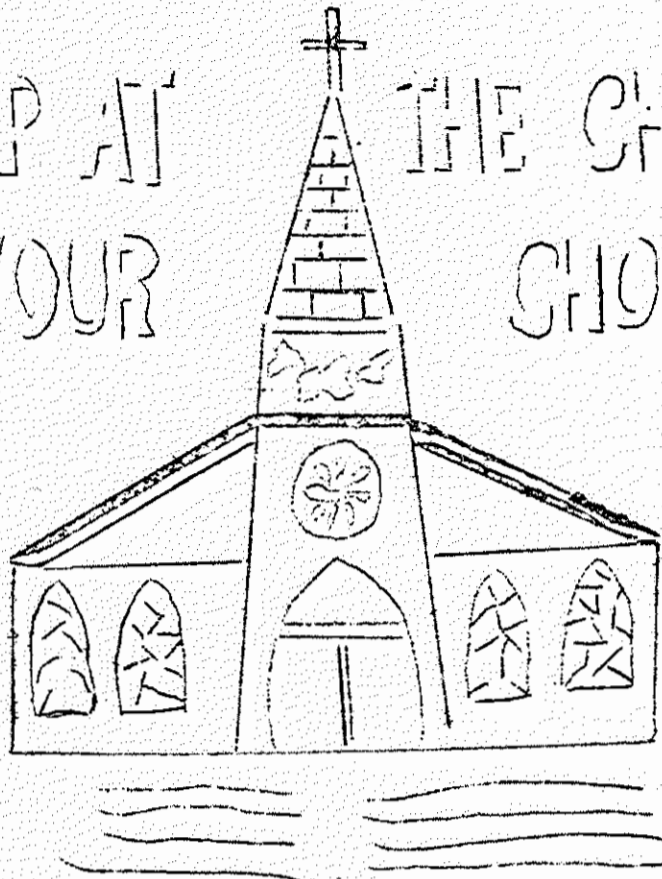
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