



SUMMER 1975

# BIRCH BARKER

CIRCULATION MANAGER, JUDY CURTIS 182

EDITOR, JUDY OLSON 126

## BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB

BIRCH LAKE, VANDALIA, MICHIGAN

Commodore Joe O'Brien 177  
 Vice-Commodore Bill Hayden 300  
 Secretary Shirley Ross 101  
 Treasurer Ginny Spratt 266  
 Fleet Captain Bill Carpenter 12

Trustees  
 Dick Cowen 308  
 Terry Montague 1  
 Bob Ross 101

Directors  
 SOUTH SIDE  
 Don Erhardt 27  
 Frank Horvath 34  
 Chuck Stevens 46A  
 Virginia Gard 99

EAST SIDE  
 Bud Lovejoy 102  
 Dave Olson 126  
 Harry Price 136  
 Bill Humphrey 146  
 Mort Hunt 200-8

NORTH SIDE  
 Bud Zesinger 268

WEST SIDE  
 Joe Carnepeel 310  
 Bob Axelberg 355  
 Herm Kruggel 388

#1 June 14, 1975

The 1975 version of the S. S. Yacht Club has been brought out of mothballs, the winter barnacles have been scraped, new deck hands have been recruited, provisions have been stowed, the course charted, now get set for a fantastic cruise on beautiful Birch Lake. So welcome aboard everyone we're about to weigh anchor and shove off for another exciting summer season.

But first our ship's company has a few items to tack in your staterooms.

Over the next few weeks your area directors will be calling on you to collect the annual Yacht Club dues (your passage) and solicit your assistance and suggestions for this summer's events. We are certain that, as always, you will receive them well and pledge your support of the Club and its activities. The dues will continue at the \$12 per family level. All monies must be collected and turned in to our Purser, Ginny Spratt, by July 1.

Financial support is vital, however, participation in Club endeavors both as crew and passengers is just as important. We urge you to become involved this season and take advantage of the fun and friendship we have tentatively scheduled for your entertainment. There's no question about it - you make the Club go - what you can afford to invest in the Club in time, talent and dues will provide the dividends you seek in a full summer of the special enjoyment Birch Lakers have come to expect and prize.

We plan, too, to have a Directory (our log) updated again this season; if your information has not been turned in or if you have changes, please advise your area directors.

So pipe all hands on deck - you'll see in '75 that Sailors have more fun especially on our ship. We are truly blessed with the finest of lakes, Birch, the sturdiest of craft, our Yacht Club, the ablest of hands, you all. Let's get underway!

Joe O'Brien  
 Commodore

### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS, 1975

- |                                                                                           |                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday, June 14: Director's meeting at the Yacht; 2In/3Mi                               | Fri., July 18: Men's Golf Stag; Park Shores Golf Course   |
| Sunday, June 15: First Sunfish Race; all boats <u>must</u> be removed from the Yacht Club | Women's Golf Outing to be scheduled                       |
| Sat., June 21: Open Hours, Yacht Club                                                     | Friday, July 25: Bingo, Yacht Club                        |
| Friday, June 27: Bingo, Yacht Club                                                        | Sat., July 26: Progressive Shore Dinner                   |
| Sat., July 5: Champagne Card Party                                                        | Sat., August 2: Junior Yacht Club Night at the Yacht Club |
| Fri., July 11: Lake & Stream Assoc. presentation, Yacht Club                              | Sat., Aug 9: Monte Carlo Night                            |
| Sun., July 13: Family Softball Outing                                                     | Sun., Aug 10: Couples Sailboat Race                       |
|                                                                                           | Friday, Aug. 15: Bingo, Yacht Club                        |
|                                                                                           | Saturday, Aug. 23: Fall Dinner                            |

SERVICE OIL CO.

604 Water St.  
Cassopolis, Michigan 49031



distributor of Sunoco products for Cass Co.  
heating oil



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LOCHMANDY BUICK SALES, INC.  
Buick Opel  
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K TAP ROOM  
Vandalia, Michigan

open seven days a week  
5 pm to 11 pm



GOOD FOOD COCKTAILS

HARTRANFT CHEVROLET, INC.



201 East State Street  
Cassopolis, Michigan 49031

SPORTSMEN'S CENTER OF VANDALIA  
Virginia & Richard DeLong 476-9610

License Fishing Tackle  
Ammunition Live Bait

Mon thru Thurs - - - 5am to 8pm  
Fri and Sat - - - 5am to 9pm  
Sunday - - - 4am to 6pm



COUNTRYSIDE BEAUTY SHOP  
Pat Swiatkowski, operator  
Bair Lake on old M-60  
9am to 5pm closed Monday  
244-5186

RESIDENTIAL SPEED LIMIT IS 25 mph

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Cass County Sheriff - - - 445-2481  
Fire & Ambulance  
Newberg-Porter - - - 244-5235  
Fire (Vandalia) - - - 476-2440  
Hospital (Three Rivers) - - - 287-1145  
Mich. State Police - - - 120-483-7611

LOCAL CHURCHES

Diamond Lake Baptist Church  
Decatur Road  
Cassopolis 445-2591

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
W. State Street  
Cassopolis 445-3950

St. Ann's Social Hall  
421 N. Broadway 445-2248  
Cassopolis Rectory 445-3140

United Presbyterian Church of Cass.  
E. State Street  
Cassopolis 445-2664

First Church of God  
Spencer Road  
Cassopolis 445-8500

Cassopolis United Methodist Church  
South Rowland  
Cassopolis 445-3107

Porter Baptist Church  
5 mi. So. of Jones on Rte. 40  
Constantine 435-7493

Union Protestant Church  
R. F. D. 2  
Cassopolis 445-2066

## What is the Michigan Lake and Stream Association, Inc. ?

The Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc. has been organized for 14 years. It has as its goal the preservation, protection and improvement of Michigan's waterways and Great Lakes. The Association is made up of, and supported by, 111 association members representing some 150 lakes and streams and over 20,000 lake residents. Birch Lake through the Yacht Club is a member of the Association.

The Association publishes a quarterly journal, "The Michigan Riparian". It is devoted exclusively to the resolution of problems and the protection of the rights of waterfront property owners. The journal has a circulation of over 9200.

The Association is geared for organized action in many areas including--

- lake levels                      pollution
- weeds                              silt or sediment
- conflicts between lake users
- overdevelopment
- zoning and building restrictions
- snowmobiles                      rubbish
- public access                      fishing
- marsh draining or filling
- non-returnable bottles and cans

It is quick to institute legal proceedings where laws are violated, strike favorable compromises with developers, obtain formal hearings, lobby, and in general maintain its position before all interested parties. It encourages the removal of poor laws, amending of others' and support of new laws. The Assoc. represents its members in hearings before the Dept. of Natural Resources. It educates and promotes understanding of water related problems among its members as well as responsible State and Federal legislators.

The Association does all this with five Directors in each of five regions. These dedicated people are available to each member association for meetings and for the dissemination of information. Our local Director is Mr. Don Winne of Corey Lake. Your Yacht Club Officers are extremely impressed with the philosophy, zeal and expertise of the Association. It is our voice in water affairs and it deserves our fullest support.

### Garden Corner

Warm weather plus spring rains equal lots of green growing plants--if the rabbits, cutworms, etc. are kept away.

Nadine Brown and Betty Jane Hartranft on the east side have chairs set up to watch their garden grow.

Let's hear about other gardens!

## To Have or Not to Have Fireworks-- Is the Question

It is becoming more of a problem every year for the BLYC to spend dues money needed for maintenance, repairs, conservation and ecology on a fireworks display. Unfortunately after insurance and postage costs are paid what is left for fireworks doesn't buy what it used to and the weather changes along with Michigan's late Daylight Savings Time couple to make a cold late night of it for 5 minutes of bangs.

It is understandable that some wish to continue fireworks as a "patriotic" celebration and also understandable that people who are not in favor of them object to having part of their annual dues go to this project when there are drainage problems, rising taxes, and other concerns on their minds. What to do? Can't some common solution be found such as individual fund raising projects (progressive bridge, carry-in suppers, a double cost bingo night) by those who wish to continue the fireworks. These monies could be placed in a continuing fund. Possibly having no fireworks this year in order that a larger, more attractive display be held on our 1976 Bi-Centennial celebration. Instead of a sit down and watch Fourth, let Birch Lake have a get out and meet your neighbor, bring your company, fun-loving, people-loving across the lake type celebration. Everyone carry in a dish, each side provide a meat, or the Yacht Club buy a hog, etc. and charge \$2.00 or so per family to pay for the meat, and beverages available, coffee and soft drinks. Before we let another year go by, tell your Directors your views and let's work out a solution everyone can live with.

An interested Birch Laker

### Cass Readies for Boaters--taken from a So. Bend Tribune article

Most residents think of the summer with pleasure but the Cass Co. Sheriff's Marine Deputy Richard Parrish also thinks of tragedy. Parrish has 198 lakes and streams to cover in Cass Co. and does not have a good feeling about the upcoming summer. Few problems arise when everyone respects the wishes of others.

Youngsters between the ages of 12 and 16 must have a boat operating certificate; about 1000 will have been taught boating safety this year.

Last year, more than \$10,000 worth of motors and fishing equipment were lost through theft. There were 3 drownings in 1974 compared to 12 in 1973.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1974

<u>Receipts:</u>		<u>Expenses</u>	
Spring Dinner	\$ 742.00	Spring Dinner	\$ 781.00
Barker Advertising	55.00	Taxes	172.08
Boat Storage	325.00	Electricity	84.24
Fireworks	525.00	Fireworks	530.84
Membership	556.00	Barker	40.77
Building & Roof fund	1298.00	YC Parties (Bingo, Champagne, H/W Sailing, Open House)	130.79
Barker Subscriptions	307.00	Club Maintenance (Inc. roof repair)	1817.58
Jr. Y. C.	87.25	Insurance	125.00
sailing Dues	60.00	Float Boat Maintenance	17.52
Parties (Bingo & Champagne)	77.30	Jr. Y. C.	64.35
Mens Golf Outing	573.24	Memorials	30.85
Ladies Golf Outing	173.75	Miscellaneous	50.50
Fall Dinner	405.00	Mens Golf Outing	562.24
Miscellaneous	25.99	Ladies Golf Outing	196.54
Directories	148.00	Sailing Expense	137.01
	<u>5358.58</u>	Printing (Inc. all tickets, Memb. Cards, Directory & Announcements)	192.85
		Fall Dinner	<u>431.00</u>
			5365.21
Balance January 1, 1974		\$2319.97	
Income 1974		<u>5358.58</u>	
		\$7678.55	
Less Expense 1974		<u>\$5365.21</u>	
Balance January 1, 1975		\$2313.34	

Donations for Roof Fund \$886.00

Virginia Spratt  
Treasurer

Yacht Club Officers Attend Lake & Stream Conference

On Saturday, April 12, 1975, Shirley and Bob Ross and Joe O'Brien represented Birch Lake, at the Region IV Conference, of the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc. The meeting held at the Kalamazoo Valley Community College featured presentations by State Authorities on the subjects of septic systems and pollution, water use problems, township authority, land use planning, problems and enforcement regulations of public access sites. The Conference was both lively and informative as various factions, educational, law enforcement, agricultural, natural resources and lake residents clashed and challenged each other on provocative and sensitive topics.

One theme came through loud and clear. The collective voices of lake and stream residents can be effectively heard throughout the state through the efforts of the Association. Your officers plan to take greater advantage of our membership in the Association to obtain expert assistance in the resolution of lake problems as they develop.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Fred Ebeling  
Mr. James Kelly  
Mr. Lester Milne  
Grandpa Purdy

Boat operators must give first priority to the safety of all persons using the waters. In addition, they should at all times respect and cooperate with the lawful activities of other water users.

## A letter of Support

The Birch Lake Invitational has a semi-pro as its chairman this year. All of the men look forward to a great outing under the direction, inspiration, and leadership of Bud Reith. Supporters are listed below:

Bernie Weesner	Betty O'Brien
A. L. Spratt	Juanita Harlan
Joe Myers	Shirley Ross
Chuck Stevens	Dan Claro
Pat Stevens	Earl Troeger
Joe O'Brien	Herm Kruggel
Robert Ross	A. Budzinski
Bruce Harlan	

Repeated by popular demand!?!--

Did you hear about the Indian who had only one tooth? His name was Ree but everyone called him One-Tooth--Ree.

Be sure your boat carries enough Coast Guard Approved life jackets, flotation cushions, or life preservers to equip each person on board.

If you use your boat after sunset or before sunrise, it must be equipped with workable navigation lights.

To Tow water skiers, your boat must have a 170 degree wide-angle rear view mirror located so the boat driver has a clear view of the skiers. At least one competent person must be on board to observe and, if needed, to assist the skiers.

Always drive at a speed slow enough to be able to stop within the assured clear distance ahead of you.

When you overtake and pass another boat, you must pass on the left side of the other boat. The boat being passed has the right-of-way.

Motorboats must always give sailboats, canoes, or rowboats the right-of-way. And when the motoboat gives way, the other boat must not change direction or speed until after any risk of contact has passed.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

Gee, with all the activities that Commodore O'Brien has planned, it looks like it's going to be a great summer. Those of you that missed the Spring Dinner missed good food and a good time; many thanks to those who planned the event.

I'm sure that interesting things happened to many of you over the winter so let's get the news into my mailbox or basket on the back door by Monday evenings. I have a new 7 mo. old helper who may or may not be a help on the Barker. Please print names to appear in the Barker--typing is even better.

Birch Lake Directories are still available for \$1 at cottage 126.

## PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

The sixth sick sheik's sixth sheep's sick. Repeat 5 times.

Sailing Schedule on the back.

BLYC SUNFISH SAILING SCHEDULE, 1975

Sun., June 15	11:00am	2 races	
Sun., June 22	11:00am	2 races	
Sun., June 29	11:00am	2 races	
Sat., July 5*	11:00am	2 races	*denotes 4th of July Regatta
Sun., July 6*	11:00am	1 race	
Sun., July 13	11:00am	2 races	
Sun., July 20	11:am	2 races	
Sun., July 27	11:00am	2 races	
Sun., August 2	11:00am	2 races	
August 4-9	Sunfish Nationals, Russells Point, Ohio		
Sun., August 10	11:00am	2 races	
Sun., August 17	11:00am	2 races	
Sun., August 24	11:00am	2 races	
Sat., August 30**	11:00am	2 races	**denotes Labor Day Regatta
Sun., August 31**	11:00am	1 race	

Special Notes

1. Starting time for the first race will always be at 11:00 Michigan/10 Indiana time. The second race will follow the first with notice from the committee.
2. We will be sailing with the latest NAYRU rules including the 720° rule. Descriptions of rules will be given in a later Barker edition.
3. Boats must sail a minimum of 16 races to be eligible for season standing trophies.
4. The 4th of July Regatta series will count toward the season standings but the Labor Day Regatta series will not.
5. The sailing fees will continue at \$5.00. Fees must be paid by July 4.
6. All boats are required to have APPROVED life preservers aboard. This will be enforced.
7. There will be no make-up races. A listing of all finishes will be kept at the Yacht Club.
8. The protest procedure and the scoring will continue the same as last year.

Bill Carpenter  
Fleet Captain

-----  
Detach and return to Bill Carpenter, Cottage #12

Owner's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Boat # \_\_\_\_\_

Cottage # \_\_\_\_\_ Color of deck \_\_\_\_\_ color of sails \_\_\_\_\_

Skipper \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to BLYC and return by the 4th of July.