



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

July 26, 1975

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 Caenpeel 310  
 Bob Axelberg 355  
 Herm Kruggel 388

Saturday, July 26: Officers, Trustees, and Director's Meeting TODAY at the Yacht Club at 2:00/3:00 o'clock pm (Ind/Mi). The Lake Self-Help project will be the subject of the meeting.  
**PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!**

Responses due for the pot-luck dinner dance to be held either August 2 or 9; please use the form in last week's Barker and give to Rose Klappauf, #197.

Saturday, August 2: Junior Yacht Club Night

Sunday, August 10: Couples Sailboat Race

Tuesday, August 12: Ladies Golf Outing  
 Tee off time is 9/10 am (Ind/Mi) at Park Shore Golf Course in Cassopolis. Lunch following golf will be at the K-Tap in Vandalia with prizes for golfers and door prizes for everyone.  
 Prize chairwoman is Bert Myers. Please contact her at 476-2494 or Jean Axelberg, 476-2479 or Lynne Schaar, 476-2302 for prize donations.  
 Mark your calendar now to join in the fun. Watch for more info next week.

Friday, August 15: Bingo at the Yacht Club

Saturday, August 16: Monte Carlo Night

Saturday, August 23: Fall Dinner

### Sailing Results for July 20, 1975

The start of the first race was the kind all sailors hate. No wind at all saw 8 sailors sit at the starting line. Finally, half way up the leg a wind came up for the rest of the day. George Varga was in the lead early in the first race, as did Leo Zelasko in the second race. Dave Lovejoy had his best weekend of sailing. Bill Carpenter took the lead back from Kevin Kruggel while Tim Troeger held on to third.

boat	skipper	results	av. points	position	av. plus bonus pts.
21923	Bill Carpenter	1--1	1545.1	1	1645.1
24252	Kevin Kruggel	4--3	1506.8	2	1606.8
14580	Tim Troeger	2--4	1439.0	3	1519.0
14766	Kurt Kruggel	5--8	1237.9	4	1337.9
	George Varga	8--9	1164.7	7	1264.7
34152	Dave Lovejoy	3--2	1225.6	5	1305.6
39996	Leo Zelasko	6--7	1084.9	8	1184.9
	7377 Clem Haines	7--5	1075.0	9	1155.0
38228	Tim Burchell	DNS-6	1212.7	6	1282.7
29079	Al Courtney	DNS	1051.2	10	1101.2
	Ric Doolittle	DNS	1406.5	11	1426.5
130	Mike Machelleck	DNS	1369.0	12	1379.0

SERVICE OIL CO.

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distributor of Sunoco products for Cass Co.  
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WAYSIDE BEAUTY SALON  
Sears Street 476-2276  
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Paula Seager, beautician

gasoline LP gas  
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free delivery to fill 55 gal. gas barrels



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

Co. Parks Commission Alerted to Public Access Health Hazards

After bouncing our suspicious water quality conditions at Sears Park off the Co. Dept. of Health and the Dept. of Natural Resources we finally made contact with the County Park Commission which has jurisdiction over the park. We made a single recommendation: if swimming is to be permitted at Sears Park then the County must provide restroom facilities. Otherwise, swimming at this site should be stopped by Commission notice. We asked for prompt attention to our suggestion. Our Township Supervisor was also alerted to the situation. As a member of the Park Commission, he assured us that the Commission would give consideration to our problem.

Dogs--Man's Best Friend?

The owners of dogs, and their guests who have dogs should make sure their dogs do not annoy neighbors. Barking dogs can be very annoying to neighbors, particularly those who do not have dogs.

The owners of a cottage should accept the responsibility of their dogs and those of their guests.

You can help by--

- 1. controlling barking
- 2. do not let dogs run loose
- 3. put dogs inside when away from your cottage

The Cass County dog ordinance has 10 dog violations, which can be the cause for a summons, with a fine of \$100 or imprisonment of not over 90 days.

Be kind to your neighbor.

The Cass County dog ordinance states that dogs must be confined to their own property at all times. A summons can be given for barking, yelping, or howling, dogs running at large, dogs not licensed, destruction of property, annoyance to pedestrians. For any dog problem call the Sheriff's Dept. at 445-2481 or 782-5968.

Birch Lake -- or -- Dead Lake?

There have been articles in the Barker and meetings at the Yacht Club and much shore talk about the quality of lake water, septic tank drainage, red algae, and land erosion. Many feelings are involved, some feel their rights are being violated. Some wish to keep the lake level raised for various reasons. Others think they should have the right to drain washing machines on open land instead of thru dry well systems. Some would have the lake at the lowest possible level and others keep it high. But we had better all sit down and take a look at the whole picture, before the lake is contaminated beyond use--fishing, swimming or any use at all.

Before anyone chooses sides and draws even a verbal bead on his or her Birch Lake neighbor, we had better realize that there are some steps we can take, as a concerned community to straighten things out before they get worse. It would seem that an exceptionally high water table causing problems in septic systems that usually never have troubles could add to the water quality problem. Yards with a fairly stable beach front all of a sudden have no beach and over several years have lost a few feet of front yard. Some people's piers are touching the water when they never did before. Some people can't flush toilets, run kitchen water or put anything thru their usually good drainage systems.

Instead of fighting, we must make use of our Yacht Club--and come to the solution for the GOOD of the LAKE. Let's all remember-- the LAKE is the prime reason we live here, whether permanently or for the summer.

This article is not written to say we have to do this or that, but we must do something. To throw out some suggestions and invite more. To request more meetings with Drs. Green and Ross and Mr. Henderson of Lansing.

In past years, between 1900 and 1960, there were several different controls on Birch Lake, first, involving the headgate for the old mill in Williamsville and the mill pond created by it. Then in 1927 a Wier Dam installed after proper survey of the lake determined an average lake level.

So it would seem to a person not a professional in the field, but one who cares for Birch Lake, that part of our answer would lie in the creek and its depth, rate of flow and the fact that there is much debris having accumulated over the past 20 or so years since the last cleaning of it.

contd.

HILLTOP LAUNDRY AND CARWASH  
US 12 East of Union

Mon to Fri. 7am to 10pm  
Saturday 7am to 6pm  
Sunday 8am to 4pm (Mich. time)  
--- laundry closed holidays ---

IMPORTANT MEETING AT YACHT CLUB  
TODAY

Could it help to get the creek cleared? See that the surveyed level is restored? Could people who have thought only of their own problems care about listening to those of their neighbors? Could we all make that little extra effort to stop the pollution whether it means a program of flushing dye, or changing detergents to non-phosphate ones, or seeing that trash, leaves, grass, etc. are cleaned out of the lake?

Let's start working together toward keeping Birch Lake the sparkling clear enjoyable lake many of us remember from our childhoods. Instead of coming up with extreme remedies, find a common goal. SAVE BIRCH LAKE--LOVE BIRCH LAKE

Birch Lake Family who wish to see the lake live

FREE: three 8 week old kittens free to good home--1 long haired male, 1 short haired grey tiger male and 1 medium short haired black female 476-2769 #182

FOR SALE: double bed--bookcase headboard with frame and double dresser with large mirror in lined oak finish. Excellent condition. \$45.00 476-2769 #182

FOR SALE: fresh vegetables at the Hain farm in Williamsville--stay on Walnut, continue on gravel road, right & first house on right. 476-2443

LAKE NEWS

Weekend guests of the John Ball were Marty's sister Dorothy and her husband Wade. On Sunday, John and Sue Ball, Brian, Cindy and Matthew Hague joined the rest of the family for a roast turkey dinner. Since the weather cooperated, everyone enjoyed swimming and boating. Gail Emerson and Debbie Miers from Elkhart were afternoon guests of Julie's and there were included in the family dinner. Why doesn't the work week fly by as fast as the weekends?

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The Pine Row Home Extension Group is having a rummage and bake sale at Hillring's, #378 July 26 at 9am Michigan time.

\* \* \* \* \*

PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS

Jeff Olson of cottage 126, age 5, caught a 17 inch large mouth bass Monday, July 21 off the end of his Grandpa Brown's pier. Needless to say, he was a bit overwhelmed and excited--as was everyone else!

\* \* \* \* \*

Karen Bernaciak and fiance Earl Wachter and Kevin Bernaciak visited Gram Bernaciak last weekend. Karen and Earl will be married on Aug. 10 in Chicago. Congratulations and my best wishes to the happy couple. Gram "B"

It's Birthday time for Mary Ellen Bernaciak, July 27 and Kenneth Bernaciak on July 31. My best wishes and a very Happy Birthday to both of you. Mom Bernaciak

Denise Wachter and fiance Rich Kapec of Chicago enjoyed Sat. at the lake and visiting with Gram Bernaciak. They hope to come back to Birch Lake soon.

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Come to our grass (barefoot) Polka Party next Saturday afternoon--5 to ? Bring your own beer and pretzels or whatever. We'll have live music at Mac and Joyce Klimek's across from Lazy Lodge. You all come!

\* \* \* \* \*

For their first visit to Birch Lake from Carlisle, Pa, Curtis 2½ and sister Christy, 1½, will be welcomed by their grandparents at the Pennsylvanian. This will also be their first plane trip with Mother and Dad, Dr. and Mrs. Bruce Harris who are old Birch Lakers having spent their honeymoon at the lake 8 years ago.

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If Birch Lake residents saw flying objects last weekend, it was not the Astronauts or Cosmonauts. Through a joint effort by residents of Woodland Cove several skiers took to the air. Bud Rieth loaned his parachute which he used in the 82nd Division, WW II. His son Bob Rieth, Chris Blackwood, Wes Spratt, and Greg Rieth were the paratroopers. Using the Drolet-Blackwood launching pad, all systems were declared A-OK by assistants, Margaret Blackwood, Sally Hayden, Nancy Nagy, Tom Nagy, Joannie Blackwood, Nina Scofield and others whose names we didn't learn.

With the parachute strapped to them, they took off from shallow contd.

water and pulled by the Hayden aircraft carrier, the skiers were airborne in seconds and rose as high as 50 feet.

Sally Hayden almost became the first woman in space but changed her mind just before takeoff.

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### Nothing Personal

Boy, am I glad to be here at Birch Lake. It's taken such a long time for me to get here; you know. After all I just missed the season last year and couldn't seem to find a way to get here over the winter. You see, it's a long way from California and I'm a little too young to do it all by myself.

(Though there are some things I insist on doing "All By Myself")

However, from the time grandma and grandpa got here in September until they left in May, I heard nothing but Birch Lake, Birch Lake, Birch Lake. Well, Now! There would be nothing else but to get up there and see for myself. But just how does one do that when one is "confined"? Somehow, I'd have to work it out--Poppa Bob did.

Finally the big day came and I was carried onto an airplane, lovingly cared for thru the big trip to Chicago and on to South Bend. Now--I thought! But first we had to spend the night on 32nd Street. Another delay! The car was loaded and another ride was in the offing. Yes, it really was true. This one would end at Birch Lake! The car stopped, we got out and what's this? Mommy went right past the door, thru the yard and here it is at last. On July 1, I Leslie Ann Greenig have been "Birched". It's the greatest! (Told thru Grandma Margaret and Mamma Kay to Julie Weaver. If you would like to meet Leslie, she can be found at #42 or walking (riding) in her stroller!)

### EDITOR'S CORNER

Believe it or not, this is the seventh week of the Barker --only five more left and only five more weeks of summer. This sure has been a great summer; even June was warm. I haven't minded to rainy days at all; they gave me a chance to get something done inside the cottage!

The Nothing Personal article was contributed by Julie Weaver and she hopes that other people will contribute similar articles. It might be a way to learn about old and new Birch Lakers.

Remember to get your comments to Rose Klappauf, #197 today concerning the dinner-dance.

I've heard some comments of people finding paper cups, plastic bags, fish heads, etc. floating in the lake. Remember that if things are thrown into the lake, you may not see them but others soon will as they float ashore.

Support our Self Help program to help clean our lake! If you can't make the meetings, try to go to Commodore Joe's Saturday morning coffees at his cottage.