

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 Spatt 266
 Fleet Captain Bill Carpenter 12

August 2, 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 Caenepeel 310
 Bob Axelberg 355
 Herm Kruggel 388

Sunday, August 10: Couples Sailboat Race--is everyone practicing up for this one? Lots of fun!

Tuesday, August 12: Ladies Golf Outing

The date is drawing near and its time to get reservations for a fun day of golf and lunch--or just lunch if you prefer not to hit(?) that little white ball around in front of you for a couple of hours.

This year's golf is going to be "Shotgun Start" with all groups meeting at the clubhouse to draw for tee start. Coffee and donuts or bloody marys will be available. The drawing will be at 8:30-8:45 an Indiana time. Please be prompt since all will be starting and finishing at the same time--dubbers, too.

Lunch is at K-Tap in Vandalia following the outing. Prizes for golf and door prizes will be given at that time.

Golf is \$2 and lunch is \$5.50 for a total of \$7.50. This year we would prefer advance payment; see Lynee Scharr, 476-2302 or Jane Nagy, 476-2612 or Jean Axelberg, 476-2479 no later than Saturday, Aug. 9.

Prizes--prizes--prizes--everyone likes to win something (even if it's for "Most Putts" or "Newest Outfit"! In order to give prizes and to enjoy them, we must have donations! It makes it easier if you'll contact Bert Myers, 476-2494, the prize chairwoman.

Friday, August 15: Bingo at the Yacht Club

Saturday, August 16; Monte Carlo Night

Saturday, August 23: Fall Dinner

Water Quality Update Favorable

Mr. Keith Harrison, environmentalist of the Cass Co. Health Dept., called last week to report the results of the analysis of our latest water samples. These samples were sent to Grand Rapids for testing. We are pleased to report that all 6 samples taken at various locations around the lake were of excellent quality. Harrison stated also that his department conducted a second sampling and this too proved to be well within acceptable standards for water quality.

Although we are pleased with this turn of events, we must be mindful of how quickly conditions change. The County still must

conduct further water quality surveys this season. We must continue to be vigilant concerning potential sources of lake pollution.

Yacht Club Events Cancelled

Due to minimal interest in the pot-luck dinner and the 6 to 12 yr. olds party, both events have been cancelled. Rose Klappauf and Virginia Gard are to be thanked for their efforts; unfortunately it is us and the children who are the losers.

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

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



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

Sailing Results for July 27, 1975

Good winds greeted the sailors last Sunday morning. Besides the two regular races, one make-up race was sailed. Kevin Kruggel regained his season lead while Tim Troeger closed in on second place Bill Carpenter.

boat #	Skipper	races			total points	average	bonus	total
		1	2	3				
24542	Kevin Kruggel	1	2	2	19633	1510.2	130	1640.2
21923	Bill Carpenter	5	4	4	19485	1495.8	130	1628.8
14580	Tim Troeger	2	1	1	16433	1493.9	110	1603.9
38228	Tim Burchell	3	3	6	12612	1260.2	100	1360.2
14766	Kurt Kruggel	11	8	9	15392	1184.0	130	1314.0
Varga	George Varga	7	9	8	14985	1152.7	130	1280.7
34152	Dave Lovejoy	7	5	2	13778	1252.5	110	1262.5
39996	Leo Zelasko	8	11	5	14134	1087.2	130	1217.2
29079	Al Courtney	9	10	11	11678	1061.6	110	1171.6
7377	Clem Haines	10	7	10	8141	1017.6	80	1097.6
Haines	Howard Haines	4	6	7	3750	1250.0	30	1280.0
29392	Rick Doolittle	D	N	S	2813	1406.5	20	1426.5
130	Mike Machalleck	D	N	S	1369	1369.0	10	1379.0

Phase Two of Lake Self-Help Project Approved

At a meeting of the Yacht Club officers, trustees, and directors on Sat., July 26, it was unanimously agreed that we proceed on the second phase of our lake self-help program, the voluntary dye testing of septic systems. Plans are now being formulated to conduct this project. Property owners will be advised directly of the project and their voluntary participation will be solicited.

We have established this year our own water quality monitoring program in cooperation with the County Health Dept. This represented a significant step toward the preservation of our lake environment. Now we must follow up with the dye testing project if we are to locate the sources of potential lake pollution.

From all reports, the interest in participation in the lake self-help project is running extremely high. Most all property owners will want to be informed as to the efficiency of their septic systems and they will take steps to eliminate failures if they do exist.

Our life style and social systems place innumerable demands on our natural resources as well as our financial resources. We make our own lake problems. However, there are solutions to lake problems but they require intelligent, unemotional choices of action. Your officers have chosen the Lake Self-Help approach. We think that this choice is both responsible and prudent. The cooperation of all property owners is now all that is required if we are to preserve the waters of our lake.

Do You Know- - - -

- that there are other public parks on Birch Lake besides those on the South Side?
- that public means just that--for everyone BUT--there goes along with this a responsibility to leave it clean, respect others rights and abide by rules of Cass County.
- that 51% of a lake's population can restrict skiing and fast power boating to certain hours?
- that all boats must be licensed except for rowboats under 14'?
- that Coast Guard approved life saving devices must be on board for each passenger and skier, though skiers should wear one?
- that swimming at all parks close at 10 pm Michigan time?

Taken from a 1959 Barker: Howard Anderson and Clem Haines met with the County Commissioners Mon., Aug 24 and found them receptive to the idea that the public access sites on the lake be open for the use of individual families only. It was pointed out that it was "beyond th call of duty" that these sites be used to provide bathing facilities for organized camps or groups who would logically be providing their own recreational facilities. They will check with their attorney, Carroll Jones of Marcellus to see if our proposed limitation of publ beach use can legally be used. It was pointed out to the board also, that our public beach sites were not adequate in size or sanitary facilities. . . .

(Anyone with issues of the Bark prior to 1959 or for 1960 and 1961 please leave at #48 or #16. They will be greatly appreciated and if you wish, returned. Thank you.)

Lake News

The annual candlelighting ceremony will be held at Camp Tannadoonah's waterfront on Fri., August 8. This beautiful tradition will take place sometime between 9-11pm Michigan time and is gorgeous when viewed from the water as many of you know.

* * * * *

Happy 20th Birthday on July 31 to Chuck Cealka from Craig, Tim and Craig Cole, Omnaleah, John, Rona, Rene and John Went, Brian and Barb.

Surprized we knew the right date!

* * * * *

Lisa Lynn and Holly Kathleen are back for a vacation with Granny Klappauf, and Mommie, too. Granny sure is enjoying them.

Hugh, Arlene and daughter Colleen Cannon also are vacationing at the Klappauf's. Cannons are from Hoffman Estates, Ill. They love our beautiful Birch Lake.

* * * * *

Joyce and Mac Klimck should be congratulated for hosting a fine "grass polka party" on their turf last Saturday night. Their good friend Tony, with his fantastic music making apparatus, filled the air with melodies, Joyce soloed a few numbers and everyone joined in the dancing and refreshments. We must say that there were some real sights to see--Bill bug spraying while two-stepping, Joe feeding the chickens in the gazebo coop and Helen's mean hula. A good time was had by all who attended. Those that didn't missed a rare treat. Again thanks to Joyce and Mac.

* * * * *

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bowers, Teri and Mike from Terryville, Conn. are vacationing with Paul's parents, Mr. and Mrs. I.T. Bowers at cottage 307. Mrs. Margie Kinner and family and Mrs. Fran Holder and family from South Bend are enjoying a lot of water fun with their brother and his family.

Grandson Greg Kinner from Chicago enjoyed a weekend at the lake.

Granddaughter July Raus paid a high price for entering the volleyball game. She lost her diamond and wedding ring in the lake. The game quickly turned into a treasure

hunt. We may not have oysters with pearls in our lake but we do have a fish with diamonds. Anyone catching such a fish can claim a reward at cottage 307.

* * * * *

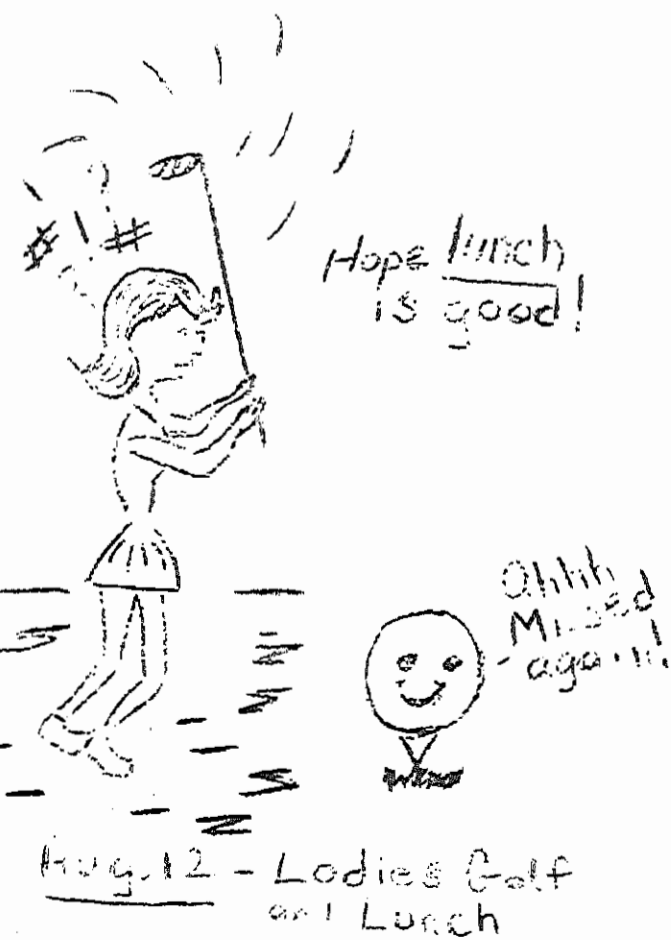
Men's Golf Outing a Success.

Congratulations to Bud Reith and his fine committee for an outstanding day of golf, dinner, refreshments and fun. The weather man provided a gorgeous day, the scores were decent, the dinner was delicious and the prizes were top notch. Everyone who participated had a great time. This popular annual lake even continues to be one of our best activities; thanks once again to Bud and his crew.

HILLTOP LAUNDRY AND CARWASH
US 12 East of Union

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

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



Pollution

Property owners on Birch Lake rely on septic tanks to remove their wastes and some garbage, but how many of you know the exact location of your tank and its capacity? It is wise to know the relationship of your water well (depth and location) to your septic tank; during periods of high water or if the drainage around your property is not adequate, you and your family could be drinking sewage water that has not been properly cleaned. Even if you have proper distance between your well and tank, do the contents of your neighbor's tank seep into your well? Different soil structures have very different drainage patterns, and some are not adequate at all for sewage. Contact the Soil Conservation officer if you are in doubt. Many major and minor diseases can be contracted from impure water.

On the subject of drainage, does your septic tank drain into the lake due to underground water movement? The bubbles and foam that form on the lake from time to time could be due to inadequate drainage--drainage toward instead of away from the lake.

Is your septic tank big enough for the number of people you have living in or visiting your cottage or home? The number of guests you invite should be limited by the amount of water and wastes that your tank can handle if you care about the lake and surrounding area.

Do: clean tank regularly
use white toilet tissue
flush only toilet tissue--
use plastic trash can liners,
to hold disposable diapers,
facial tissue, sanitary pads,
etc.

Do plan to participate in the dye test

Do route your washing machine through a dry well.

You who don't do the above are in violation of my health rights.

An Interested Birch Laker

Editor's Corner

By the usual indicator (an empty beer truck), the Men's Golf Outing was a success. All those who helped on committees should be thanked. I heard that the tape measures that were handed out were quite a success--at least Walt Schaar thought so.

The Ladies Golf Outing should be real great. The "Shotgun Start" is a new innovation that should be fun. For those of you who don't have foursomes, come a little early and you will be placed in a group; no one will be left out! I'm now trying for third year in a row at the "High Score" prize so of course I haven't been doing much practicing.

I was asked to give a reminder to those Birch Lakers who might be fertilizing their lawns. The same nitrogen and phosphorus that makes the grass grow green and thick does the same to the algae in the lake. The run-off water carries the fertilizer to the algae. Remember every little bit adds up to a lot of algae.

We should all be aware of the time and effort that Commodore Joe has spent with Cass Co. officials about our Birch Lake. Things are happening, people are aware, and progress will be made--if everyone cooperates.

Some birds that are common to the Michiana area include the following:

great blue heron
American bittern
Canada goose
black duck
American widgeon
wood duck
common merganser
marsh hawk
common nighthawk
chimney swift
common crow
bluejay
robin
redwinged blackbird
common grackle
American coot
barn and cliff swallows
purple martin
spotted sandpiper

Can you find any of the above?
The So. Bend Audubon Society
says that you should be able to.