

# THE BIRCH BARKER

15¢

from Beautiful Birch Lake  
#1 - Vandalia, Michigan June 5, 1987

### COMMADORE'S COMMENTS

WELCOME BACK TO BIRCH LAKE FOR A DELIGHTFUL 1987 SUMMER SEASON. Your officers and directors met on Saturday May 23 to plan some of the years activities and take some action on Yacht Club concerns.

Its still early but summer weather is definately upon us so a Calander of Events was necessary business.

13 JUNE (NEXT SATURDAY) Yacht Club Clean-up, not a whole lot of fun but some people will be there if you want to stop by and see our \$3500 worth of improvements.

13 JUNE (NEXT SATURDAY) BIKE-A-THON AT BIRCH LAKE  
Definately a fun time especially if every-one on the EAST shore opens their doors and windows to support their neighbors.  
TO ENTER CONTACT LOUISE RIETH  
476-2174 \*IMMEDIATELY\*

20 JUNE SATURDAY EVENING Director's Cocktail Party  
Yacht Club - 6:30 Indiana Time  
Great time can't say enough about getting together and having a good time.

4TH OF JULY SATURDAY NIGHT FIREWORKS  
No matter what's been said about the past this is going to be a great display. Don't wait to contribute after the event every penny we can collect is going into this.

5 JULY SUNDAY MORNING Pancake Breakfast  
Time to pay off the bets on how good the fireworks were last nite and have a great breakfast besides. They're still talking about this one from last year, all I can say is you missed it, if you missed it.

That's just a sample of what we can think up on a holiday Saturday morning. Ther was much business to take care of also including Water Quality, Yacht Club repairs, and FIREWORKS. Of course all thes things cost money but we have to have them, that's where you all come in ,the Birch Lake family.

With a current balance of \$600 we begin the Summer of 87(sounds like a good movie plot). Anyhow,

WATER QUALITY	\$ 500
YACHT CLUB REPAIRS	3700
FIREWORKS	1800
TOTAL	6000

WOW !! All this heavy stuff in the first Barker, well if the dues roll in you'll never hear it again. I'm going to have a great time at Birch Lake this summer, join the Yacht Club and have some, too. Try this mathematical problem, There was a lake with about 180 cottages and a Yacht Club with an annual budget of \$6000. How much does each cottage pay to make the budget go away? How many different family members will it take to make each share as small as possible.

THINK ABOUT IT!!

KEN TATE

DIRECTORS MEETING \_ MAY 23, 1987

DIRECTORS PRESENT:

KEN TATE - Commadore	HERM KRUEGAL
DAN REYNOLDS - V. Commadore	FRANK HORVATH
LYNNE SCHAAR - Treasurer	BOB TEMPLE
BILL HOLLEMAN	RANDY WELCH
HAROLD CRANMER	EARL TROEGER
MIKE MACHELLAK	ME

The agenda included Water Quality, Yacht Club Improvements, Long Term Improvements, Fireworks, Permits and Insurance, Activities, and Sailing.

The annual dues have been raised to \$20 a year which barely covers the Yacht Club expenses, insurance and taxes, which were raised 40% last year as most of us are well aware.

FIREWORKS ON THE 4TH, Sailing, and Activities are all supported by themselves and are not subsidized with your Yacht Club dues. Your participation is all the response needed to continue these fun Birch Lake activities. Of course you have to pay to play, and the more that play the less we pay, its just that simple.

Mailers were sent out this year for collection of dues. 76 families have already responded getting us off to a good start, but you can be sure your director will be stopping by for a cup of coffee if by chance you misplaced the mailer or perhaps you are a new resident and we don't know you as yet.

Jerry Perry from Princess Fireworks came by to explain what has been happening with our displays over the last 5 years. We have been operating on a fixed budget and not taking into account any inflation factor which translates into reducing our GREAT BALLS OF FIRE from 143 in 1981 to 96 in 1986. After discussing several options with Jerry Perry it was moved and seconded to increase our fireworks expenditure from \$1000 to \$1800, which should give us an excellent display. Of course if we should raise more than \$1800 the extra funds could be added to our display as late as showtime. Soooooo let's talk it up with the neighbors and make this years display one of our best!!!!

\*\*\*\*\*YOU MAY SEND FIREWORKS DONATIONS IN WITH YOUR DUES\*\*\*\*\*  
RAIN DATE SUNDAY JULY 5TH

WATER QUALITY

The Water Quality Committee has been given an operating budget of \$500 for 1987. This is no where near the amount required to protect our natural resource but just enough to keep everyone informed. There will be a mailer sent very soon relating to the daily testing that is taking place around the lake at several hot spots. Please take this information seriously for this is not someone else's problem its OURS.

FLASH \*\*\* A number of dead fish have been floating to the north end of the lake, the State Fish and Game officers were going door to door Monday asking about the numbers of dead fish and if the minnows looked awfully thin this year. Apparently there is some concern at to the capturing of minnows commercially, which is illegal, and that the water temperature has risen so fast this summer that the bluegills trying to return to their beds are over-stressed by the unusually high temps are going belly-up and dying according to GERT TEMPLE by way of the DAN REYNOLDS evening news collection team (FRAN & RANDY WELCH, and DANS WIFE(insert name here)). WATCH FOR THEM IN A BOAT NEAR YOUR PIER\*\*

**BE SURE To drive your BOAT  
COUNTER CLOCKWISE** 

If you have a digital watch with a computer just keep your right shoulder to the shore and don't get the watch wet.

If you don't own a watch make sure you're going the same direction as everyone else and SLOW DOWN ON THE ROADS, TOO.

## SAILING

Tom Howard is this years Fleet Captain and as I recall from starting several sailboat races last year from the Cranmer's launch Tom always puts up a good fight and never misses a race. I've got pictures to prove it. The sailing fees are very reasonable \$25 for a family which includes just about everyone and \$15 for individual. So all you individuals go find a family to sail with and you'll save quite a few bucks.

These dues are used only for sailing trophies (nice ones, too), fees, and permits. None of this money comes from Yacht Club dues, but then again the sailors always have a good party whenever they can.

This could be your year to come on out and sail we're gonna make it as fun as possible, who knows it might even become challenging.

I GUESS THATS WHY THEY CALL IT SAILBOAT RACING.

COMING SOON

ON A BREEZY SUNDAY MORNING IN YOUR FRONT YARD.

## BOAT STORAGE

Those of you that have taken advantage of storing your boat in the Yacht Club in the past know that only the first few people are all we have room for so, RESERVE YOUR SPACE NOW FOR NEXT WINTER it could snow anyday now.

Does anyone know how to contact anyone at Birch Lake?

A new directory is about to be printed, the Machellack's appear to be undertaking this task. If you have any information they might use regarding the location of your cottage, your name and the names of everyone frequenting your cottage, PLEASE get this info to us as soon as possible because I don't know when the directory is coming out,

DO YOU?

## TIPS & TAILS

It seems there were a couple of carpenters named Danny and Tyler. Mind you they weren't just regular guys but finish carpenters. One day Danny stopped by with some of my newly developed pictures of Birch Lake and started casting off the pier. Ten 8 inch bluegills in a few minutes was enough to convince Danny to tell Tyler stories all day at work. There must be millions of fish in Birch Lake nice ones, too. So now I cast a few every nite or so and have caught some pretty nice ones. Danny collects the hammerheads while I check their offspring. Hopefully if I can keep up with my pen we might be able to learn a few tips from Danny and Tyler, of course I'll try everything first.

Wouldn't a fish contest be fun? Watch for Danny and Tyler's frequent TIPS & TAILS in future issues, I hope! By the way these guys never work anymore they spend 8 hours each day thinking about fishing Birch Lake.

FLASH\*\*\*\*\*Just before printing time it was learned that TONY GEORGE and his wife were seen with Danny catching the limit in no time, and big ones, too. I hear that TONY'S WIFE(insert name here) cleans a mean fish, too.

ONCE UPON A TIME AT BIRCH LAKE.....

Have you ever wondered why astronomers locate observatories  
in far off places with no lights,  
I remember when Birch Lake was such a place for watching  
shooting stars and satellites.

Tonight I cannot see,  
the constallations of my past,  
For now the burgler floods,  
will always light my paths.

Editor

## BIRCH BARKER NEWS

Delivery - we will try to deliver the news hot off the presses Friday evening along about sunset. Of course this will be last weeks news with this weeks events, so if you know what's happening next weekend at your cottage let us know so we can have this weeks news and this weeks events with people that are visiting this weekend that we haven't seen for awhile. If you can't understand this that makes two of us. If you've got news get it to cottage 307 Woodland Cove you all know where the cove is, it's got to be legible I've enough trouble with my own spelling.

### BIKE - A - THON 13 JUNE 87

Golly that's just next week what do I need to prepare for the premier event of the Birch Lake bicycling season. Since this is the year to volunteer for something LOUISE RIETH (616) 476-2174 and JOYCE KLIMEK (616) 476-2370 have taken on the Danny Thomas - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital BIKE-A-THON AT BIRCH LAKE.

To ride with us on Saturday the 13th you need a bike or something that peddles like a paddleboat, a sponsor form that allows all your friends to give you money for riding amazing numbers of miles for T-shirts and tote bags, nothing better to do that day but help a bunch of kids at the largest treatment and research center for childhood cancer.

The event will coincide with the annual cleaning of the Yacht Club 9 AM (Indiana time) to 4 PM along the East shore from the public landing to Joyce Realty and back. Traffic will be notified at the top of each hill of the event in order to limit thru cars during this period. The shaded loop course is 1.5 miles in length and will make for an enjoyable stroll, ride, or paddle for a few minutes or hours.

WE'LL ALL BE THERE UNLESS YOU HAVE A NOTE FROM THE YACHT CLUB CLEANING CREW, DON'T FORGET BIKE-A-THON 9 TO 4 JUNE 13TH.

\*\*\*\*\*Inside Scoop\*\*\*\*\*

AMBER HOLLEMAN has already filled one sponser sheet with pledges and will be the proud owner of a new T-shirt after only one lap along the East shore, let's make sure all our kids get a shirt. Be a sponser.

### BIRCH LAKE HISTORY

Everyone seems to have an old story about Birch but no one seems to know them all, so here's your chance to get yourself published. If you have any information please give it to your news collector.

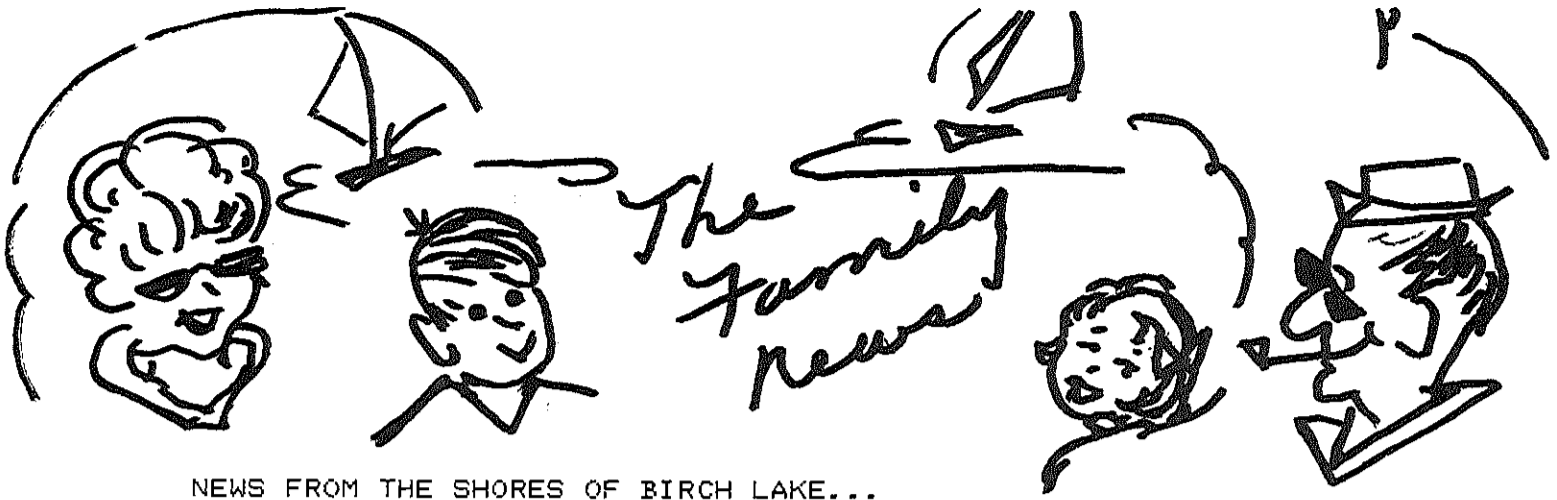
### ADS

FREE - (There's got to be a gimmick here)  
1958 Kelvinator refrigerator - works fine.  
Needs new seal. Yours for the taking.  
HOLLEMAN - Cove Phone 476-2800

### LOST AND FOUND

Lost Monday -- Female Siberian Husky - Black and White  
7 years old answers to KUDA  
Contact: MINGLIN 476-2884

Did you find 2 oars floating in the Cove last fall, they go by the name right and left and belong to JOHN SCOLFIELD apparently his boat flipped over last fall.



NEWS FROM THE SHORES OF BIRCH LAKE...

Rumor has it that ROBERTA MINICK, wife of CISCO will be in or coming out of the hospital this week after a gall bladder operation, hope she's not to gall darn sore afterwards.

HELEN BOWERS, wife of I.T. is scheduled for a new knee during this same time period, so give her a break(pun) when she returns to Birch for it may take a while to get used to this new set of wheels.

LOUISE and BUD REITH are hoping everyone will stop by the BIKE-A-THON next Saturday, she and JOYCE KLIMEK have spent lots of time worrying about all of us having to many other things to do.

The SHIRLEY and JOE CAENEPEEL are anxiously awaiting the next visit of daughter JODI, she had knee surgery recently and needs some of that good clean Birch Lake water to help strengthen her muscles. Daughter PEG is about to bring a new Birch Laker into the world at any time now the kids can't wait for the new baby boy, girl, boy, girl....

MELANIE EVERETT has successfully completed high school and will be attending I.U. this fall, I may have to return to college myself.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO GET YOUR FAMILY NEWS IN EARLY, LATE OR WHENEVER. JUST BE SURE TO GET IT IN.

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June 1, 1987

CASS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BIRCH LAKE SURVEY PROGRAM

Dear Birch Lake Residents:

There is a need for a report to clarify any misunderstandings in regard to the Birch Lake Survey Program. A brief report will be mailed to you individually. From the beginning of the sewage pollution problem at Birch Lake it was and still is a residential problem. The Birch Lake Survey Program was designed by Owen Gordon, Administrator, and Lee Maager, Director Environmental Health. The Health Department was and still is concerned with the overall condition of Birch Lake: bacteriological and nutrient.

The Health Department concentrated their efforts on nutrient contamination:

- At the request of the Health Department the DNR collected nutrient water samples.
- The DNR provided the Health Department with laboratory assistance for sampling nutrients.
- The Health Department collected partial chemical water samples.
- The Health Department took oxygen tests of the lake.

The Health Department concentrated their efforts on bacteriological contamination:

- The Health Department requested and has the permission of 100 per cent of the Birch Lake residents to inspect the sewage disposal system servicing the dwelling to determine if the system is contributing to the contamination of the lake.
- On-site inspections of every lakefront and stream property has been completed, inspections documented - sources of pollution pinpointed.

The Health Department established a water monitoring program as part of a long-term management program with the Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee:

- Nutrient water samples will be tested on instruments furnished by the Health Department upon collection by 9 stations assisting the committee. This testing equipment meets EPA requirements.
- Bacteriological water samples are collected weekly by 9 stations assisting the committee. They are mailed by the Health Department to the Laboratory, MI Department of Public Health - evaluated by the Health Department.

Septic systems at Birch Lake continue to seep phosphorus - residential nutrient loading still exists. Septic systems at Birch Lake continue to emit semi-treated sewage and pathogens to the lake - a health menace still exists. Coliforms are high in the lake and in the stream. Evidence of dumpings continue.

The Cass County Health Department Birch Lake Survey Program will continue under the direction of Mr. Lee Maager. The Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee serves as the liaison with the Health Department. This committee will continue to work with them to correct the residential phosphorus and residential coliform pollution problem. Corrections have been made. More corrections will be made. Criteria has been set to stop the pollution problem for Birch Lake residents - the majority of whom want the destruction of the lake stopped.

Many problems have been faced since the beginning of the history of the residential sewage pollution problem at Birch Lake. Special help has been given to Birch Lake by the Cass County Health Department. We are grateful to them and to their Birch Lake Survey Program. They are giving our lake back to us.

Sincerely,

Birch Lake Yacht Club Water Quality Committee:  
Earl and Connie Troeger  
Randy and Fran Welch  
Bob and Gertie Temple