

September 2, 1989




BIRCH BARKER

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS


Summer '89 has quickly slipped away from us . . . The Fall season begins with the usual projects: taking out the piers, boat lifts, boats, and raking large quantities of leaves. (I'm tired already) However, Autumn is always one of the most peaceful and beautiful times of the year at Birch Lake. Don't miss those harvest moons!

The Fall Dinner at the Yacht Club had a sell out crowd in attendance, and a good time was had by all! Ernie and Jane Nagy were presented with the "Appreciation Award" for their continued effort and support of the Yacht Club and Birch Lake. Congratulations Nagy's !

Linda and I would like to thank Bill and Sherry Holleman for their assistance with the Fall Dinner. A special thanks to all the folks too numerous to name who pitched in after dinner with the clean up chores. Congratulations to all new and present B.L.Y.C. directors. Have a Fun and Safe Labor Day weekend.



Commodore
Buzz Rasmussen



AUGUST 27, 1989
sailing news

Last Sunday, with barely enough wind for sailing, we concluded the regular 1989 racing season. Only one race was held due to the light wind with Harold Crammer drifting to a first place finish just ahead of Rick Harman.

Twenty races were held during the summer and the sailors had to compete in thirteen to qualify for a trophy.

This weekend we will have the Labor Day Regatta with 3 races Saturday and 2 on Sunday for both Sunfish and M.C. sailboats. The trophy presentation will be Monday at 10:00 Indiana time.

I would like to take this time to thank all the people who helped start the races this summer. Steve and Julie Plaia, Earl Troeger, Bob Crammer, and Marty Sante. A special thanks goes to my wife Lind, for doing all the scoring through out the summer. Last, but not least, I would like to thank all the sailors who came out every weekend and joined in the races.

Don Harman

THE 12 & UNDER Yacht Club party was a huge success with over 30 kids attending. Activities included sack races, shoe kick, money search, clothes pin drop, water drop race, etc. Special thanks to Margie Trybus for an excellent job face painting. A tasty cookout included hot dogs, chips, pop. Kids toasted their own marshmallows for some more. Thanks kids for your boundless energy - see you next year!

Claudia Gableman and
Barb Pence (co-sponsors)

A FEW FRIENDS AND RELATIVES will help Frank Horvath celebrate his 80th Birthday Sunday at the Yacht Club. Almost fifty of those years have been here at Birch Lake! Fantastic! Here's to many more Birch Lake summers, and years of good fishing! Happy Birthday Frank!!!

ON AUGUST 26th Valerie Scofield, Amanda Hill, and Rachel Hill went TRIPLE on the HYDRO-SLIDE!!! Rachel learned how to stand up on it and Valerie "tried" to stand!! Hurray for those brave girls!!!

MARGARET (BLACKWOOD) BOWKAMP celebrated her Birthday (not telling which one!) last weekend! Congratulations Margaret!

NANCY AND TOM NAGY celebrated their Birthdays this weekend at the lake, starting the celebration Friday night and continuing on through the Holiday!!! Stretch it out huh Tom??

HOWARD AND BETH BLACKWOOD, in the Cove, are having a "mini-reunionLL", as all their children will return to Birch Lake for the Labor Day holiday weekend. Their son Tim will come from Houston Texas, their daughter Joanie from Chicago, son Chris and his wife Julie with their son Zackary from South Bend, daughter Margaret and her husband Dave and their sons Scott and Spencer from Cincinnati Ohio, and daughter Annie will come from Butler Univ in Indianapolis. Their cottage will be bursting at the seams with fun and activities!!

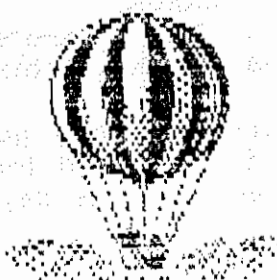
BECKY PIERCE, grand daughter of Al and Norma Courtney, (The Hill), received the "Order of the Birch" in the final ceremonies at Camp Tannadoonah. Becky is from Barrington Il. Her mother Jeanne and her sister Laurel are visiting for the Labor Day weekend with the Courtney's. Congratulations Becky!!

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS TIDBIT - in the August 30, Wednesday, issue of the South Bend Tribune Marty Carey of the Cove had yet another of her stories published!! Look under COMMENTARY, Michiana Point of View.

THE UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of Cassopolis is sponsoring a Style Show at the Lyons Building at Southwestern Mi College on September 23, Saturday, at 2 pm Mi time. Clothes from Jacobson's will be modeled.

ANYONE INTERESTED in helping with the Birch Lake Birch Barker for the 1990 summer season please contact Sherry Holleman, 476-2800. This is a fun job and not hard at all, we would like to split up the work and give a little to more people to lessen the load for the few who do work on the Barker each week so think about it and call Sherry if you would like to give a hand!! All is greatly appreciated!!

DID YOU SEE THIS?! Last Friday, August 25th, a hot air balloon took flight off of the open field next door to the Prindle home on the corner of Storey Hill Rd and Walnut. This was the 50th Wedding Anniversary present to Jack and Evelyn Asire from their daughter Marty Carey!! Not only did they enjoy an hour on this beautiful balloon but they also enjoyed some Bubbly & Pate' with crackers to celebrate this awesome occasion!



TRIATHLON NEWS

The triathlon is alive and well for 1990: we guarantee it will not be cancelled regardless of the number of entrants.

The course has been changed so that the spectators will have a better chance to see all of the competition. Distances have been shortened slightly (mostly on the biking portion) to encourage more participation especially relays. New relay categories should make it interesting for all age groups: i.e. youngest and oldest age total; family (mother, father, son, or daughter).

The course for the ten and unders will be short and totally on the lake, so no more biking on country roads for the youngsters.

1. The swim will be out and back rather than along the shore. It will be somewhat shorter and there will be plenty of supervision and lifeguards. The out and back will allow spectators and team members to see the entire swim - 75 yds shorter.

2. Pending final approval from the county Sheriff, the biking portion will include the lake road and circle the lake through Williamsville (lake only for ten and under) The bike portion will be approximately 1.5 miles shorter - 5 3/4 miles.

3. The run will be .5 miles shorter and circle the shore of the lake rather than being out and back as in the past. (approx. 2. miles)

The new thrust will be to encourage more individuals and relays and to provide a much better view of the action for spectators.

No early sign-up will be necessary. The Date is August 11th, starting time 9:00 am. Anyone interested in helping please contact Dan Reynolds.

TOM'S GARAGE is willing to take off your hands: old lawnmowers, pontoon boats, any boat, old cars - and does not have to run but needs a Title.

MATT & CHAD KRING will do Snowblowing jobs this winter for anyone interested. Call 476-353.

FOR SALE: A complete kitchen consisting of refrigerator (self defrosting) with ice maker; dishwasher; oven and range in countertop; sink; faucets; instant-hot-water-dispenser; and all cabinets completely matching. Top of dishwasher is hardwood chopping block. Could be used in cottage or apartment.

Also for Sale - old good lawnmower. Contact Dick Bender 476-2142.

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Teresa J. Caffrey
Director

NEWS FROM AROUND THE SHORES

DONNA AND HAROLD CRANMER celebrated their 34th Wedding Anniversary on August 14th. Their son Bob celebrated a birthday on August 3rd and son-in-law Steve Plaia celebrated his birthday on September 3rd.

TOM & BETTY GRIFFITH finally got to go on vacation!! On August 18th they took a trip to South Haven for a "day-trip" of Perch fishing. Tom caught the biggest perch of the day and between them they caught 39 fish!

THE BIRCH LAKE AEROBICALLY fit women enjoyed a great afternoon of Mexican delicacies, yummy Margarittas, and energetic conversation as a conclusion to their summer fitness program. Thanks to all who participated & a special thanks from Claudia for the "Alligator Alley" gift certificate. See you next year with new leotards & tights.

Claudia Gableman

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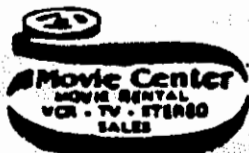
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August 25, 1989

Commodore H. Crammer
Birch Lake Yacht Club
Vandalia, MI 49095

Dear Harold,

I was very glad to see that you commented about the fertilizer usage on the lawns.

Several of us have discussed the future usage of fertilizer and its effect on the lake. Every week there seems to be another lake association or group having to address the problem of nitrates. Just yesterday the Garver, Juno & Painter Lake Group had a nice write-up in the Elkhart Truth, basically alerting the homeowners about the lawn fertilizer.

I have discussed the Birch Lake situation with people at Purdue, a local Garden Store Owner and the DNR Bulletins and I want to say that my comments are just my interpretation, I am not an expert & any comments will be welcomed.

First, most everyone agrees that our lake is showing more signs of algae growth this year than last. The cause is probably many-fold, however; we can control the lawn problems.

Secondly, we should not use any slow-release products, they are plastic coated and if they wash into the lake they will melt in the lake bottom.

Thirdly, we should not use any analysis which has any Phosphate or Phosphorus, use only nitrogen or urea - the first number on any analysis.

Fourth, a liquid fertilizer will be the best because it will absorb into the grass quickly and not wash into the lake. This is very important.

Fifth, do not spray close to the lake, stay back 2 or 3 feet.

Sixth, do not put on any weed killer except in the Fall after swimming since most of them are toxic.

Seventh, the DNR says to plant a flower bed along the water's edge to filter the run-off, if any.

Eighth, any professional service should be quizzed throughly about their products, remember they don't have your investment.

In summary, it appears that if you want a pretty lawn we probably are going to contribute to the already deteriorating water quality. I have been watering from the lake and think this might give some nutrients, not sure however.

The lake is our only reason for being on Birch Lake, therefore; we must protect our most valuable asset.

I would appreciate your comments.

Sincerely,



Charles Fortino

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