

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

June 2, 1990

ISSUE: 1

COMMODORE COMMENTS

Welcome Back To Birch Lake!

Summer 1990 finally showed it's face last Sunday after one wet rainy May! Let the summer officially begin. . . the piers and boats are in the water. . . spring flowers planted. . . the hammock hung between the trees. . . it's now time to enjoy Birch Lake.

As the activities increase on and around the water, please remember to use common sense and courtesy. Hope everyone had a great Memorial Day weekend.

Buzz and Linda Rasmussen

BIRCH LAKE 1990 OFFICERS

COMMODORE: Buzz Rasmussen
VICE COMMODORE: Bud Zesinger
SECRETARY: Linda Rasmussen
TREASURER: Mike Machalleck

DIRECTORS:
Claudia Gableman Earl Troeger Tom Howard
Don Harman Linda Curtis Steve Cranmer
Steve Sante Dave Kinner Steve Horvath
Kevin Kruggel Bob Temple Brad Walker
Anne Abernethy Jane Nagy Harold Cranmer,
Past Commodore

BIRCH BARKER REPORTERS

Collecting news this year will be:
East shore - Linda Curtis 476-2431
South shore - Claudia Gableman 476-2132
Janet Reynolds 476-8877
Cove - Loretta Drolet 476-2706
Editor - Barbara Zesinger 476-2526

All the reporters will be happy to take your family news, ads, information, CRITTER SIGHTINGS, etc.....so please call or give it to one of the reporters. Deadline for news is Monday 7:00 P.M. IN. Anything after that will go in the following Barker.

1990 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<u>TIME</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
All Indiana Times		
9:30 AM	Saturday, June 9	Board Meeting/Yacht Club * Clean-up & Opening
5:30 PM	Saturday, June 16	Commodore's Cocktail Party
To be announced	Saturday, June 23	Ladie's Luncheon/House Walk
To be announced	Saturday, June 30	Children's Party at BLYC
9:00 AM	Monday, July 2	Aerobic Classes by Claudia Gableman begin Monday, July 2 and will be on Monday, Wednesday, Friday at BLYC. Bring own mat. Children welcome.
To be announced	Wednesday, July 4	Boat Parade
9:30 AM	Saturday, July 7	Board Meeting
Darkness	Saturday, July 7	Fireworks Display
Darkness	Sunday, July 8	Rain Date - Fireworks Display
To be announced	Sunday, July 8	Pancake Breakfast at Camp Tanadoonah
5:30 PM	Saturday, July 14	Vice-Commodore's Cocktail Party
To be announced	Friday, July 27	Men's Golf Outing
9:30 AM	Saturday, Aug. 4	Board Meeting
To be announced	Saturday, Aug. 4	Corn & Sausage Roast at BLYC
To be announced	Saturday, Aug. 11	Birch Lake Triathlon
To be announced	Saturday, Aug. 25	Fall Dinner at BLYC

*FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS TO WORKERS

NEW SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Board of Directors of the Yacht Club recently voted and approved the formation of a Safety Committee. This committee will be the eye and ears of Birch Lakers. They will be responsible for arranging for a Certified Boating Safety Course and contributing articles to the Birch Barker on boating and water safety rules. The Safety Director is Anne Abernethy, Northside (476-2559); committee members include Bud Zesinger, Eastside (476-2526); Dan Reynolds, Southside (476-8877); and Brad Walker, Westside (476-2515).

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Safety Committee is publishing a list of the Michigan Boating Rules (attached). Please read these carefully and keep this list handy throughout the year. If you rent your cottage out, please make sure these rules are posted for your renters to see. Also, inform any guests of these rules. If we all use common sense and courtesy, we can make this a safe summer at Birch Lake!

If you see any rules being broken, please inform a member of the Safety Committee. The procedure then followed will be:

- First offense: a committee member will talk with the person committing the infraction.
- Second offense: the name and boat number of the person committing the infraction will be turned in to the Cass County Marine Officer for further possible action.

ATTENTION TEENS!!

The Cass County Sheriff's Department will offer an approved Boating Safety Class at the Birch Lake Yacht Club on Saturday, June 30th, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Indiana time. Any youth age 12 to 16 who wishes to operate a motor boat without being accompanied by an adult must possess a boating safety certificate. This certificate may be earned by attending this class and passing the TEST administered at the end of the class. The class is FREE and you will need to bring a sack lunch. We need 12 kids signed up for the class or it may be moved to Cassopolis. All interested in attending -- call: Buzz Rasmussen (476-2021) or Anne Abernethy (476-2559).

-- CRITTER SIGHTINGS --

New for the Birch Barker this year will be CRITTER SIGHTINGS. This is an opportunity to inform the lake of various types of animals around the area. If you spot a bird, catch a fish or see a critter that might be of interest to everyone please let your Birch Barker Reporter know! CHECK THIS WEEK'S OUT!

CRITTER SIGHTINGS

Dennis Tudor came home one afternoon to discover a hole the size of a basketball in his picture window. Outside on the ground he found a Ruffed Grouse and inside on the living room floor another one. Unfortunately for the birds they were no longer living, but fortunately for Dennis dinner almost landed on the kitchen table. Check your bird books. This is a large gray brown chicken bird, usually not seen until it flushes with a startling whir. It's voice suggests a distant motor starting up. The muffled thumping starts slowly accelerating into a whir: Bup...bup...bup..bup.bup.bup.up.r-rrrrrrr.

Other sightings:

Black Labrador in a canoe.
Poodle on a land rover.
Schnauzer on a sailboat.
Maltese on a ski boat.

BIRCH LAKE TRIATHLON

Don't forget -- the TRIATHLON returns this year. A new revised course will make it fun for everybody, especially relays! So if you don't want to do it as an individual, work on getting your team together and start training now. August 11th will be here before you know it!

BIRCH LAKE COLOR AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

The Birch Lake color aerial photograph announced at the Spring Dinner is available through Bruce Harlan, 14886 Birch Lakeshore Drive, 476-9714.

This project sponsored and photographed by Bruce Harlan is for the benefit of Camp Tanadonah. The color print for those of you who were not at the spring dinner, a color aerial photograph of Birch Lake taken last summer, is available in either 11 x 14 (\$35) or 16 x 20 (\$50) sizes will be on display at the Commodore's Cocktail Party Saturday, June 16th. You may call Bruce Harlan to order and checks should be made payable to Michiana Campfire.

CONGRATULATIONS "1990" GRADUATES

ANN BLACKWOOD - daughter of Howard and Beth of the Cove - graduated from Butler University May 13th. Ann is majoring in Clinical Psychology and will be doing her graduate work in the fall at Central Illinois University.

PAULA TOTH - daughter of Doc and Helen on the Westside - received her M.D. degree from Indiana University.

MIKE REYNOLDS - son of Dan Reynolds of the Southside - graduated from Arizona State. Dan and Janet were out in Phoenix for the graduation.

BETH DAVIS - daughter of Dean and Phyllis of the Northside - graduated from Elkhart Central High School. Beth is planning to attend college in the fall.

AMY EVERETT - daughter of Ken and Sally of the Westside - graduated from Concord High School. Amy is also planning to attend college in the fall.

LORI MACHALLECK - daughter of Mike and Katha of the Southside - graduated from Clay High School, South Bend, IN. Lori plans to attend Indiana University.

SCOTT TROYER - son of Ken and Darlene of the Eastside - graduated from Constantine High School. Scott will be attending college in the fall.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Chet and Vivian Kolber in the Cove welcomed a grandson into their family. He is the son of their daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Dave Barchik of Toledo, Ohio.

SYMPATHY

Our deepest sympathy goes to Minnie Lafferty who lost her husband, Clayton, this past winter.

THANK YOU

Thank you - Thank you - Thank you!! We would like to tell you all who signed the "New Home" card how much that meant to us! It was a wonderful surprise to hear from so many people who meant so much to us -- you made our day! Thank you for your thoughtfulness and your generosity, it was greatly appreciated! We certainly miss Birch Lake!

Bill; Sherry, Amber, Heather, Nicole Holleman

BLUE HERRON POSTER

There is still a limited supply of the Blue Herron/Camp Tannadoonah poster by Coy Jankowski available. The price is \$50. Contact Dan Reynolds 8877.

WALKER

Seen frequently on Birch Road is Anne Torma walking the Torma's new pup, "Miss T". Anne always has a friendly "Hi" and smile for everyone.

APPRECIATION

Thank you Coy Jankowski for designing the heading for this year's Birch Barker.

EDITORS CORNER

I would like to applaud Buzz Rasmussen, Commodore, for the beautiful and moving slide presentation of the 4 seasons of Birch Lake shown at the BLYC Spring Dinner. It was great!!!

Hopefully we will have several contributors to our new feature "Critter Sightings". My family and friends have been enjoying the Ruby-throated Hummingbirds visiting our feeders. I've seen four try to feed at the same time. They look like miniature dive bombers chasing each other and are quite entertaining. So come on folks, let's hear about your sightings.

Also, HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Carol MacLean and Marje Drane who will be celebrating their birthdays June 2nd.

FOR SALE

Sunfish sailboat - good condition - \$600. Contact William Foley (Northside) - phone no. 476-9951 or (219) 233-6387.

1983 Sylvan 17 foot Deck Boat and trailer. (Trailer is Shore Lander and purchased new in 1988) 115 outboard motor, approx. 225 hours. Excellent condition. Asking \$5,500.00 or best offer. Contact John Drolet at 476-2706 to see.

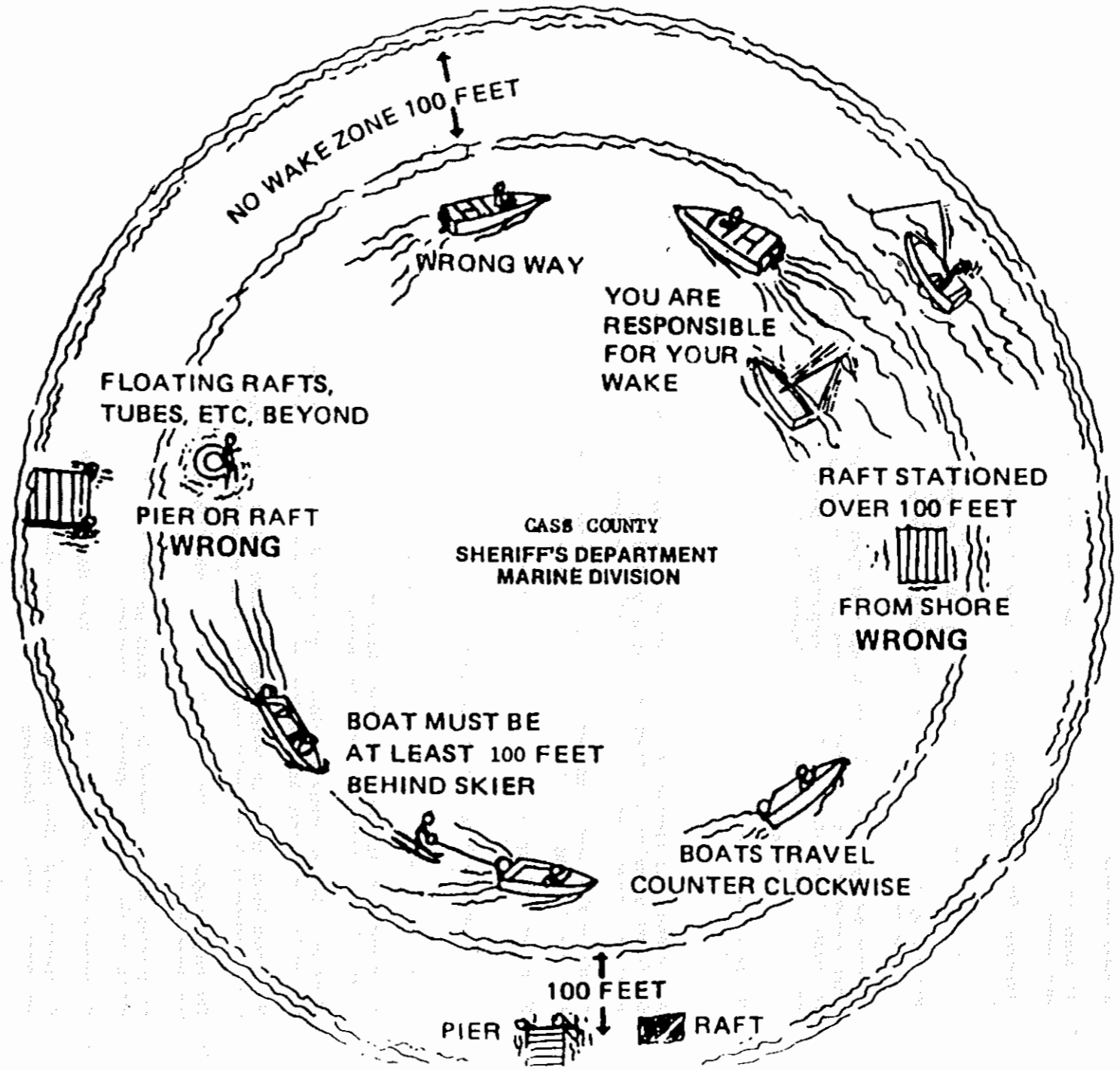
Small catamaran sailboat with inflatable pontoons. Red, white, blue sail with red canvas cloth seating. Was new in 1988 and is in excellent condition. \$250.00 or best offer. Contact John Drolet to see (476-2706).

2 matching recliner chairs in a type of green/brown plaid pattern. Would like \$35.00 a piece or best offer. Very good condition, can see them by calling John Drolet at 476-2706. (Belonged to Hollemans in Cove)

A DIGEST OF THE MICHIGAN WATERCRAFT LAWS

1. **Boats requiring registration** — All motorboats; all sailboats 12 ft. or longer; rowboats (privately owned) over 16 ft.; rental or commercial canoes 12 ft. or longer; rental or commercial vessels propelled by any means that are 12 ft. or longer. The registration numbers must be affixed to the watercraft and the certificate of registration must be carried on board when the watercraft is being operated.
2. All boats are required to have aboard one Coast Guard approved personal flotation device for each person on board.
3. Approved fire extinguishers must be carried on motorboats with closed compartments and should be carried on all motorboats.
4. Vessels 16 ft. and over are required to have on board a whistle or horn.
5. Running lights are required on all watercraft between sunset and sunrise. (Red and green front; white on rear)
6. Children between 12 and 16 years of age may operate a motorboat of 6 or more horsepower only when accompanied by a person 16 years old or older or when in possession of a boating safety certificate issued after satisfactorily completing a Michigan Department of Natural Resources approved course in boating safety. Children less than 12 years old may operate a motorboat of 6 or more horsepower only when accompanied by a person 16 years old or older.
7. No person shall operate any watercraft while under the influence of alcoholic beverage or narcotic drugs.
8. Any person who operates any watercraft in a careless and heedless manner so as to disregard the rights or safety of others, and at a speed that would endanger or likely to endanger any person or property, shall be guilty of reckless operation.
9. No person shall operate any watercraft at a speed greater than will permit him to exercise reasonable care, to bring the watercraft to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.
10. No person shall operate a watercraft in a manner so as to unreasonably interfere with the lawful use by others of any waters.
11. All accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage to exceed \$100 dollars shall be reported to local law authorities. (Sheriff's Dept. in this area.)
12. All motorboats must operate in a counterclockwise direction, insofar as it is reasonably possible.
13. No operator of any watercraft shall have in tow any person on water skis, watersled, surfboard, or any similar contrivance during the period one hour after sunset to one hour prior to sunrise.
14. There must be one competent observer plus the driver in any watercraft towing water skis, or any similar contrivance and the boat must be equipped with a 170 degree mirror.
15. No person being towed on water skis or other similar contrivance shall be closer than 100 feet to any swimming area, fishing craft, pier, raft, or another watercraft.
16. The only exception to the regulation above is when landing and taking off — then, extreme caution must be used.
17. All persons must be seated in the seats provided when the watercraft is underway or in motion, sitting on the decks or gunwale is prohibited.
18. No operator shall allow his watercraft to pass closer than 100 feet to any fishing craft.
19. No operator shall allow his watercraft to pass closer than 100 feet from any swimming area except when docking or debarking.
20. A boat shall not be operated within 100 feet of a bouyed diver's flag (red rectangle with white diagonal stripe) unless the boat is tendering the diver(s).
21. Any organized and properly supervised race (authority from State Waterways Commission) has the right-of-way over waters designated as raceway during the period of the race.

CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Marine Division





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