



Birch Barker

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

June 5, 1993

ISSUE: 2

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

As I was drinking my first cup of coffee, gazing out the window, watching the damp mist and fog rolling across Birch Lake on Memorial Day, I thought to myself, "A damp, misty, foggy morning at Birch Lake is still better than a sunny day at the office". So much for May and spring, June promises to be warm and sunny... guaranteed.

Thanks to all permanent Michigan residents for voting -Yes- on Proposal A on June 2, 1993. Hopefully, we will have something to celebrate at next Saturday's Annual Commodore's Cocktail Party.

The Cocktail Party will be from 5:30p.m. to 7:30p.m.(IN). Please bring an appetizer/hors d'oeuvre to share. This event kicksoff an action-packed summer of activities. For those of you that haven't attended a Birch Lake Yacht Club event I encourage you to join us. It's a great way to relax and visit with your lake neighbors after a day in the sun. See you there!

There will be a BLYC Director's Meeting Saturday, June 5, 1993 at 9:00a.m.(IN) at the Yacht Club. After the meeting we will clean up the yacht club.

As a final note, I want to thank Barb Zesinger for agreeing to serve as Editor of the Birch Barker again this year. I look forward to reading it every weekend!

Rich Mullin

Commodore, 1993

SUMMER "1993" EVENTS

(all times Indiana)

- June 4th - Teen Night - 8:00 to 10:00p.m. at BLYC
- June 5th - BLYC Board Meeting & clean-up at 9:00a.m.
- June 11th - Teen Night - 8:00 to 10:00p.m. at BLYC
- June 12th - Commodore's Cocktail Party - 5:30p.m.
at BLYC - bring hors d'oeuvre tray
- June 18th - Teen Night - 8:00 to 10:00p.m. at BLYC
- June 20th - or 27th Children's Party - 2:00p.m. BLYC
- July 3rd - Boat Parade - 10:00a.m.
- July 3rd - Fireworks - at dark
- July 4th - Pancake Breakfast - 8:00a.m.
- July 10th - Fireworks raindate
- July 10th - or 24th Luau - 6:00p.m. - BLYC
- July 30th - Birch Lake Golf Open
- Aug. 14th - Triathlon - 9 or 10:00a.m.
- Aug. 14th - Corn & Sausage Roast - 5:30p.m. BLYC
- Aug. 28th - Fall Dinner - 6:00p.m. - BLYC
- Oct. ? - Hayride & Pig Roast

More events will be scheduled - check the Barker for details.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Congratulations to Kelly Troyer. She will graduate from Constantine High School this Sunday.

Kelly will be going to Kalamazoo Valley Community College this fall to study Health Science.

Congratulations to Matt Ross who is graduating from Constantine High School this Sunday. Matt will be starting college in the fall.

FOR SALE

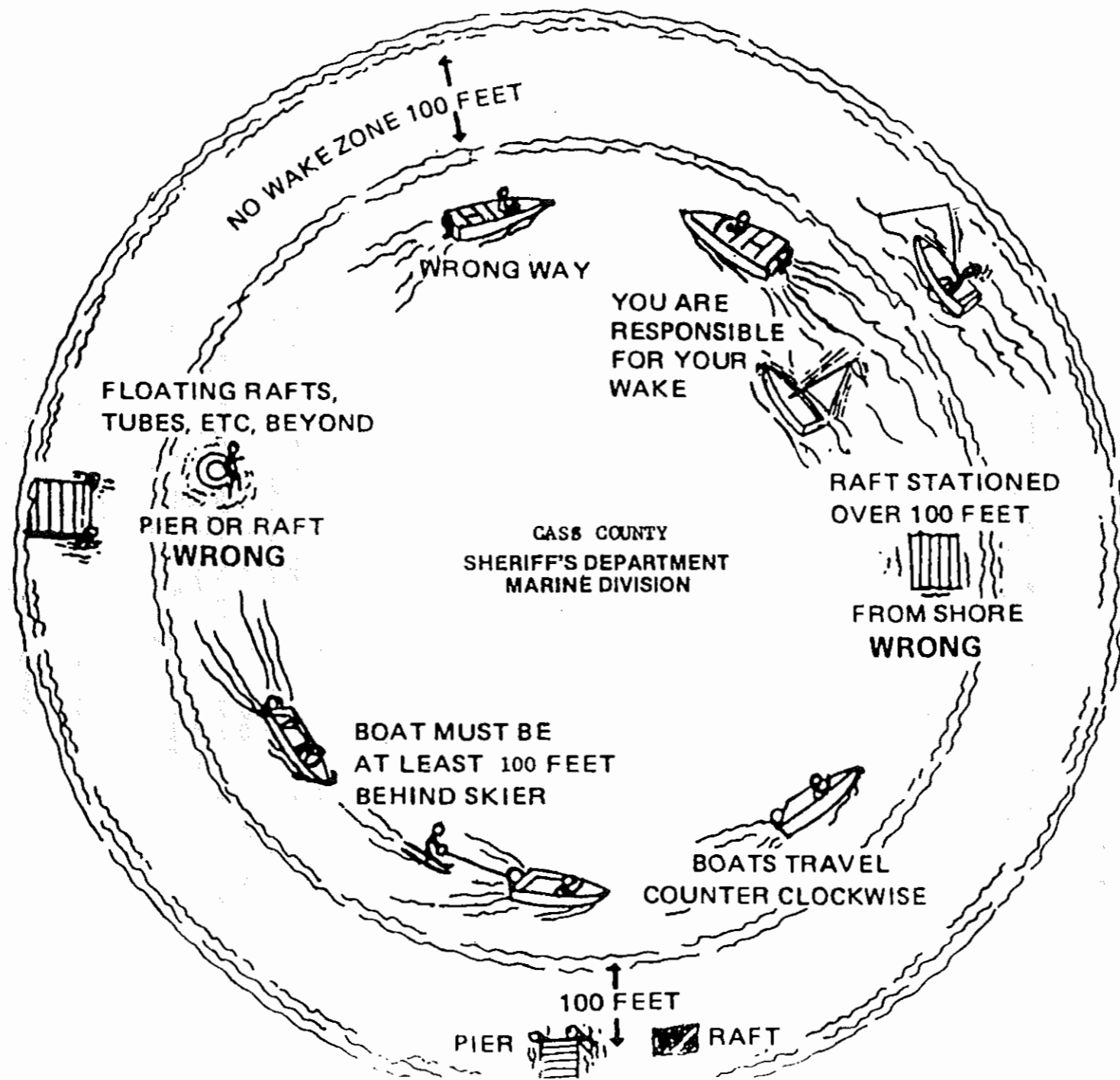
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EDITOR: Barb Zesinger - 476-2526



MICHIGAN WATERCRAFT LAWS

1. **Boats requiring registration** - All motorboats; all sailboats 12' or longer; rowboats (privately owned) over 16'; rental or commercial canoes 12' or longer; rental or commercial vessels propelled by any means that are 12' 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. Running lights are required on all watercraft between sunset and sunrise. (Red and green on front, white on rear).
5. Children between 12 and 16 years of age may operate a motorboat of 6 horsepower or more 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 no more than 6 horsepower without supervision or a boating safety certificate. Young operators under age 12 may not operate a vessel powered by more than a total of 35 horsepower engine(s) even though that young operator is properly supervised.
6. No person shall operate any watercraft while under the influence of alcoholic beverage or narcotic drugs.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. No person shall operate a watercraft in a manner so as to unreasonably interfere with the lawful use by others of any waters.
10. All accidents resulting in personal injury or property damage to exceed \$100 shall be reported to local law authorities.
11. All motorboats must operate in a counterclockwise direction, insofar as it is reasonably possible.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. No person being towed on water skis or other similar contrivance shall be closer than 100' to any swimming area, fishing craft, pier, raft or another watercraft.
15. The only exception to the regulation above is when landing and taking off - then, extreme caution must be used.
16. All persons must be seated in seats provided when the watercraft is underway or in motion, sitting on the desk or gunwale is prohibited.
17. No operator shall allow his watercraft to pass closer than 100' to any anchored fishing craft.
18. No operator shall allow his watercraft to pass closer than 100' from any swimming area except when docking or debarking.
19. A boat shall not be operated within 200' of a bouyed diver's flag (red rectangle with white diagonal strip) unless the boat is tendering the diver(s).

Sec. 63. Operation of Personal Watercraft (effective January 1, 1991). (1) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of the state unless each person riding on or being towed behind the vessel is wearing a type I, II or type III personal flotation device as described in R281.1234 of the Michigan administrative code. (281.1063, Sec. 63, 1)

(2) While operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard type engine cutoff switch on the waters of the state, a person shall have the lanyard attached to his or her person, clothing or personal flotation device as is appropriate for the specific vessel. (281.1063, Sec. 63, 2).

(3) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of the state between the hours from sunset to sunrise (281.1063, Sec. 63, 3).

(4) A personal watercraft shall at all times be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. Maneuvers that unreasonably or unnecessarily endanger life, limb or property, including but not limited to, weaving through congested vessel traffic, jumping the wake or another vessel unreasonably or unnecessarily close to the other vessel or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed, and swerving at the last possible moment to avoid a collision, constitute reckless operation of a vessel, as provided in section 74. (281.1063, Sec. 63, 4)

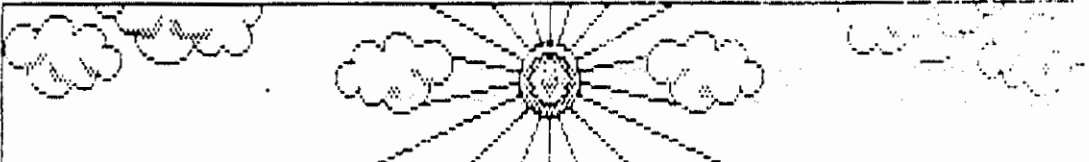
(5) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of the state carrying more persons than the vessel is designed to carry. Carrying more persons than the vessel is designed to carry is prima facie evidence of reckless operation of a watercraft under section 74. (281.1063, Sec. 63, 5).

(6) A person operating a personal watercraft on the waters of the state shall maintain a distance of 100' from any dock, raft, buoyed or occupied bathing area, or shall not cross within 150' behind another vessel, other than a personal watercraft, that is traveling at a speed greater than slow-no wake speed. (281.1063, Sec. 63, 6).

(7) A person under the age of 12 shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of the state. A person 12 through 15 years of age may operate a personal watercraft on the waters of the state only when accompanied by a person 16 years of age or older, or without adult supervision when in possession of a boating safety certificate in compliance with section 62. (281.1063, Sec. 63, 7).

(8) The owner of a personal watercraft or a person having charge over or control of a personal watercraft shall not authorize or knowingly permit the personal watercraft to be operated in violation of subsection (7). (281.1063, Sec. 63, 8).

CASS COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Dep. Dan Covey, Marine Commander



Fridays


will be TEEN NIGHT at Birch
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Thanks to a great committee
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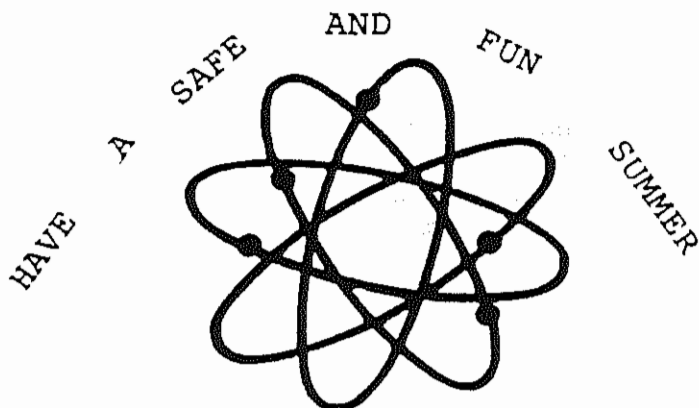
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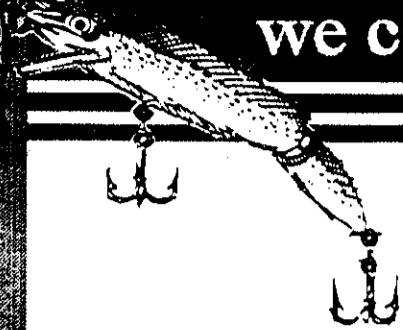
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