



Birch Barken

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

July 19, 1997
Issue 8

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

These are the horsefly days of summer, with hazy heat and the drone of insects, when a dip in the Lake provides only a temporary coolness. These are also the summer days that remain forever in memories of childhood.

The garage sale appears to have accomplished a redistribution of property on a scale that politicians only dream about, and probably represented a significant percentage of economic activity in Cass County on that day. What happens to all that property? Is this why cottages are getting bigger?

After a lull this weekend there is a rather heavy schedule of events the next two weekends, including the Men's Golf Outing on Friday, July 25th, the Vice-Commodore's Karaoke Party on Saturday, July 26th, the Ladies' Golf Outing on Friday August 1 and the Caribbean (Jimmy Buffet) Party on Saturday, August 2. Having the Karaoke party and the Caribbean party on the days immediately after the two golf outings may result in some of the party goers being a little subdued at first, but we will assume that is from shouting "fore" too often the previous day.

It's too hot to write any more, except to express thanks for your BLYC dues and fireworks donations. We've tried to keep accurate track and give due credit, but noticed that Kevin and Sherry Barker and Joseph and Helen Toth were inexplicably deprived of the asterisk to which they were entitled, the contribution from Tom's Garage was shown under the Beers and Griffiths names. And last week, the Zesingers and their asterisk were omitted.

1997 CALENDER OF EVENTS *Indiana time*

Men's Golf Outing	Friday, July 25	Park Shore/BLYC
Vice-Commodore's Party (Karaoke)	Saturday, July 26	BLYC
Ladies' Golf Outing	Friday, August 1	Park Shore/BLYC
Caribbean Party (Jimmy Buffet)	Saturday, August 2,	BLYC
Corn & Sausage	Saturday, August 9, 5:30	BLYC
Ladies' Luncheon	Tuesday, August 12	BLYC
Fall Dinner	Saturday, August 23	BLYC
Sailing Trophies	Monday, September 1, 10:00	BLYC

JIMMY BUFFETT, CARIBBEAN NIGHT - Saturday, August 2, at 7:30 - Remember to bring an Hors D'oeuvres to share. We will be serving margaritas, plus beer and other drinks. Special entertainment will start at 8:30, so be there early. There will be a \$3.00 cover charge per person at the door. Come dressed in fun, island attire. We still need help with the bar, decorations and clean-up. Call us at 476-2760, if you would like to help. By Jim and Sally Beck.

Last week at **CAMP TANNADOONAH**, Natalie Dudeck, received highest honor, "Order of the Birch," also, her Brother Phillip, went for his 1st year at camp and came home with a "Golden Arrow." Congratulations!!!!

The Water Quality Committee of the Yacht Club was formed in the early 1980's. The purpose of the committee was to assist the Cass County Health Dept. with projects that affected the quality of the water here at Birch Lake.

One of the most serious problems we had in the mid 80's was faulty septic systems not in compliance with the health code. The committee worked diligently with the health department and inspected every system on the lake. Ninety systems were not in compliance and likely polluting the lake. By 1994 all ninety systems were corrected to meet the standards of the health code: more than 50 feet from the water, at least two feet above the ground water, and 50 feet from the nearest well.

Another issue was the agricultural use of the land surrounding our lake that could potentially contaminate the watershed. Hog waste and dangerous fertilizers and chemicals also threatened the quality of the lake. Working with the health department and the county commissioners, the committee was successful in having the hogs and crops removed from the watershed.

Today the committee works to maintain the quality of our water with frequent testing and by keeping a vigilant eye on potential problems previously mentioned.

What can each resident do to help our lake remain high in quality?

1. Keep your septic system operating at full efficiency by having it pumped & inspected on a regular basis.
2. Do not use harmful or toxic fertilizers on your lawn, as these will enter the ground water and leach into the lake harming swimmers, fish and vegetation. Your local lawn & garden store can recommend safe fertilizers for lake lawns.
3. Do not throw cigarette butts in the lake. Tobacco is highly toxic and dangerous to animal life.
4. If you are contemplating a new shore areas, try to use one that benefits the lake.

The best shoreline is a natural sand shoreline. This allows the nutrients to be absorbed and surface materials such as Mayfly shells, leaves, pollen, etc. to be washed ashore and absorbed.

Field stone sea walls allow some of this to occur, but still not as effectively as a natural waterfront.

Concrete sea walls do not allow any of this absorption to occur and thus wash these materials back into the lake to rot and decay, sometimes creating surface "slicks" that resemble pollution. In 1995 and 1996 we had surface material from a "slick" tested by the Michigan Department of

Environmental Quality, Surface Water Division, and they concluded "that the source of the material sampled was comprised of decaying insect and plant material."

Wolmanized wooden sea walls present the same problems as concrete but add the negative of leaching the chemicals used to treat the wood into the lake.

Railroad ties are no longer legal to use in the state of Michigan because of the extremely toxic chemicals they leach into the water. If you have a railroad tie seawall, it is strongly recommended that it be replaced.

We want to close with a quote from Steve Norton, an environmentalist for the state of Michigan who conducted the study mentioned earlier. "Of all the lakes I have visited, Birch Lake had by far the best water clarity."

Water Quality Committee

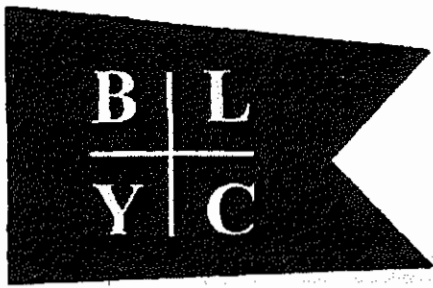
- For sale- Connley Blade wakeboard for sale, \$102. If interested contact Ryan Gableman at 476-2132
-If you have a new or used kneeboard call 2814 and ask for Craig.

85 STINGRAY SUPER SPORT, 17.5 feet with open bow, 140 Mercruiser, Shorelander trailer, \$4,800.00 OBO. Gableman 476-2132

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FLEET NEWS

Last Sunday the breeze filled in by the appointed start time & we sailed two quick races. The uncertain start time may have confused some people resulting in fewer boats on the course. The survey says a majority wants to sail at 11:00 am (IN) for the season. Treat the start time like you would a golf tee-time. You all show up & plan to play. If the weather gets bad you get a rain-check. Present your boat on the course to start on time! If the weather doesn't cooperate get a "wind-check" from the committee boat. Remember we have a scuttle rule this year - if no boat makes the first mark in 30 minutes the race is called & thrown out. This should keep us from having to endure drifters. Thanks go to Marty Sante & Mike Gotstein for starting last weeks races.

		race #		Points	Place
		①	②		
07/13 - Results:					
Sunfish	T. Howard	1	2	3141	1/2
	S. Troeger	2	1	3141	1/2
	B. King	3	5	2760	3
	J. Bolinger	4	4	2758	4
	D. Olson	dns	3	1464	5
	J. Gableman	dns	dns	0	na
	M. Machalleck	dns	dns	0	na
	K. Kruggel	dns	dns	0	na
	T. Athanas	dns	dns	0	na
	D. Weaver	dns	dns	0	na
MCs					
	D. Harmon	1	2	3141	1/2
	H. Cranmer	2	1	3141	1/2
	R. Harmon	3	3	2908	3
	B. Harlan	4	4	2758	4
	T. Troeger	dns	dns	0	na
Starters					
	Plaia			2	1/2
	Pitakas			2	1/2
	Sante			1	3

Season Points Formula:

- 1 - 1600 (square of 40)
- 2 - 1521 (" " 39)
- 3 - 1444 (" " 38)
- 4 - 1369 (" " 37)
- 5 - 1296 (" " 36)
- 6 - 1225 (" " 35)
- 7 - 1156 (" " 34)
- 8 - 1089 (" " 33)
- 9 - 1024 (" " 32)
- 10 - 961 (" " 31)

Bonus Points:

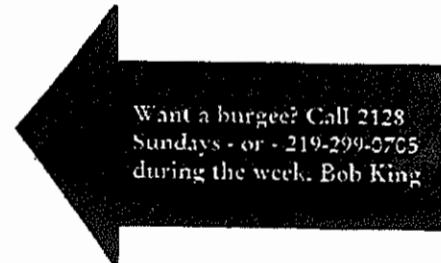
- 10/race finished (max 150)
- 10/finish w kid(s) as crew "

Notes:

- " to promote kids sailing, bring a kid out to crew & earn 10 extra points, no limits, any age, any # kids, & borrowed kids are ok!
- no points for dns / dnf

Most Yacht Clubs have a club flag known as a burgee - once upon a time Birch Lake had one too! We are having a burgee printed. So far, our order totals ten. The expected cost is \$15-25 for a design similar to the flag above.

Final regatta kid? shirts should be in soon ...



Want a burgee? Call 2128 Sundays - or - 219-299-0705 during the week. Bob King

The **MACHALLECK FAMILY** celebrated the marriage of Brian to Kris Raatz of Niles, Michigan on Saturday, July 12th. Marianne and Elizabeth Desmond came from Vancouver, Washington, Hilary Desmond from Phoenix, Arizona and Kathy, Dennis, Sarah and Jeff Wolf of Midland, Michigan were all here for the grand occasion.

BRIAN and **KRIS** were married at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Niles and the reception was held in the upper deck at Coveleski Stadium.

LORI MACHALLECK served as bridesmaid while fellow Birch Lakers Joel Habich and Mark VanHuffel were groomsmen. Chris (C.T.) McElwee, Jeff Wolf (cousin) Dave Boehm (Brian's College roommate) and Drew Johnson also participated.

After Sunday Brunch with their families and opening their gifts, **BRIAN** and **KRIS** left for a honeymoon in Estes Park and Denver Colorado.

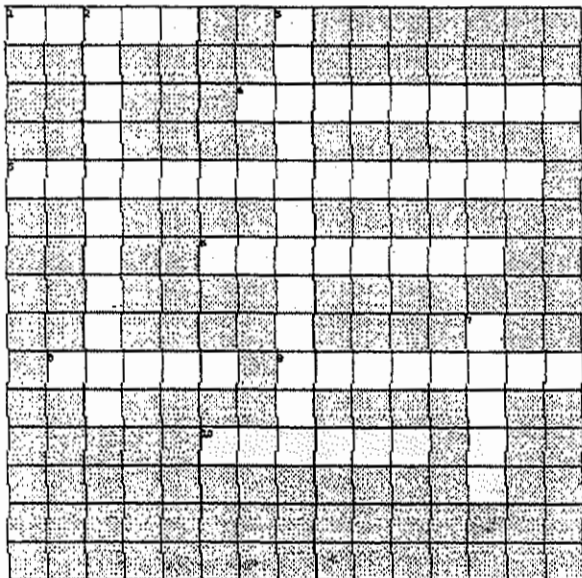
LADIES LUNCHEON-Heavenly Birch Lake is the Theme for the luncheon which will be held Tuesday, August 12th. Plans are being made for decorations, appetizers, main course, dessert, individual favors and door prizes. Those who attended the luncheon last year voiced their enjoyment of the afternoon. This year we are working to make it as nice or nicer. Please mark you calendar and plan on joining us. You can call any member of the committee to place your reservations. Reservations will be accepted no later than Saturday, August 9th. We are working hard to make this a very special afternoon, please come and join us! The tickets this year will be \$7.50. For tickets contact Linda Curtis 2031, Darlene Troyer 2639, Lind Harman 2039, Sue Wagner 2090.

The Birch Lake Barker!! (the Barker with a twist!)

Swim Across The Lake

On Monday evening we swam across the lake. This was not only very fun, but great exercise as well. It hit us that maybe others on the lake would be interested in doing this but never had the opportunity before. So we are organizing a challenging swim across Birch Lake during a weekend that is coming up. We have boats and life jackets with us for safety and it is outstanding exercise for everyone. If you have any ideas on when or how to do this swim give us a call. Kids are invited too!! We were also looking into the idea of a triathlon, like the ones we used to have, but stopped because of liability. Give us feedback on these or others ideas at 2132 or email us at pole3@hotmail.com

The best crossword puzzle in history



A Piece of Birch Lake History

Recently the Rarker Staff visited Bernie and Helen Weesner to discuss the history of Birch lake and how it became the great lake it is today. Back in 1925 there was only about 1 dozen cottages on the lake. From then until now Birch Lake has become more and more populated as the years went by. The Weesners feel that since most of the people on Birch Lake are weekenders and summertime people that transportation was the key in bringing the influx of people to the lake that it did. It is so different than it used to be. One thing lead to another as things like electricity and phone lines came to the lake. Small paths around the lake soon became paved roads as row boats turned into motor boats. We enjoyed our visit with the Weesners and thank them for giving us an opportunity to learn a little about the history of Birch Lake.

ACROSS

1. what makes boats go
4. 12 sided figure
5. the longer of the two intestines
6. something to yell
8. what the lake is made of
9. star of an old tv show who was stuck on an island
10. the best part of the barker

DOWN

2. camp on the lake
3. a commodore who looks like john stockton
7. what the eskimos live in

Word List

Dodecagon
 Geronimo
 Gilligan
 Igloo
 Motor
 Barker
 Scotttroeger
 Smallintestine
 Tamadoonah
 Water

FUN FACTS

- ***THE LONGEST PIECE OF SEAWEED IS 196 FEET AND IS LOCATED IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN
- ***THE LONGEST PIECE OF SEAWEED EVER CONSUMED BY ONE HUMAN IS 39 FEET BY JOE WILLIAMS!!!!!!
- ***THE OLDEST PERSON TO WATERSKI WAS GERTRUDE BROTHERS AT 102 YEARS OLD
- ***THE MOST AMOUNT OF INSECTS EATEN AT ONE SITTING IS 362 BY JOE WILLIAMS
- ***THE FATTEST SPORTS WRITER WAS A MIRACULOUS 850 POUNDS.
- ***THE SHORTEST HUMAN EVER WAS AN ASTOUNDING 7 INCHES!!!
- ***THE MOST FAMOUS ROCK IN THE WORLD IS CRAGGLERS ROCK IN LUDDINGTON SOUTH DAKOTA.

37th Birch Lake Open

Park Shores Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI

Friday, July 25th at 11:00 am (IN), shotgun start !

The \$50 / man entry fee covers golf, cart, favor, door prizes, refreshments & prime rib dinner. While the deadline for registration is July 19th, remember this is on a first-come-first-served basis ... we fill the course with 72 golfers. Thanks again to those who have sponsored holes & provided door prizes in the past, we hope you will support this years event as well.

Contact Rich Mullin at 8820 / 277-8884 -or- Al Cover at 9339

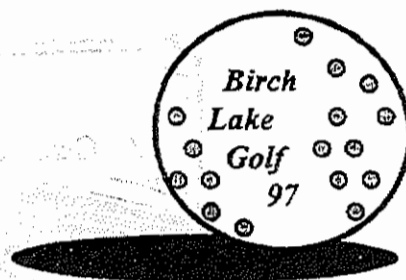
Ladies Golf Outing / 37th Annual Birch Lake Open

I am registering for (circle one above) Payment is enclosed

Name _____
phone _____

Foursome:

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____



Ladies Golf Outing

Park Shores Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI

Friday, August 1st at 9:00 am (Indiana time)

Join us at the next Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing. We will play a "scramble" again, teaming four players of varying abilities ... you needn't be a pro to play. Everyone takes their shot and you all move to the "best ball". It's a great way for both beginners and frequent golfers to go out on the course and have some fun!

After golf in the morning we will share a delicious lunch as well as the awards ceremony at the Yacht Club. The cost is \$25 -- make checks payable to: BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB - LADIES GOLF OUTING. It is always helpful to make your own foursome, otherwise we will assemble groups as best we can. Please submit your entry no later than July 26th.

Call, drop off, or mail your form and payment to:

Pam Mullin
14859 Birch, N. Shore Dr.
476-8820 / 277-8884

Leslie King
1958 E. Denslow Dr.
299-0705

Le King
14877 Birch, N. Shore Dr.
476-2128





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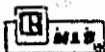
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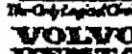
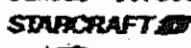
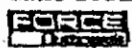
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