

# Birch Barken

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

August 23, 1997  
Issue 13

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Last Saturday's storm was a fierce reminder of how close we are to Nature at Birch Lake. Thankfully no one was hurt, though many suffered extensive property damage. Among those hardest hit were the Harmon's, Sanders and Brown's. I'm sure everyone on the lake senses the sufferings of our friends and neighbors.

On a more tranquil note, the Ladies' Luncheon was an unqualified success, with more than 60 attendees. Linda Curtis, Lind Harmon, Sue Wagner, Darlene Troyer, Blair Garceau and Maryann O'Neill are to be thanked for continuing this fine lake tradition.

I will turn over the Commodoreship to Al Cover at this Saturday's Fall Dinner, so this is my last authorship of Commodore's Comments. Al will be an excellent Commodore. Serving you this year has been a wonderful experience for me, and I was particularly impressed by the way in which everyone took initiative and volunteered with all the events. That spirit of helpfulness and community, which used to be a national characteristic, is all too rare these days. We're fortunate that it remains a hallmark of Birch Lake. I appreciate everyone's help and patience as I tried to learn my way as Commodore this Summer.

*The people of the Lake would like to thank you, Scott and Holly, you were both great. We all enjoyed reading your comments, the work you did to keep the Yacht Club looking good, the great parties, etc.*

## 1997 CALENDER OF EVENTS

*Indiana time*

Fall Dinner	Saturday, August 23	BLYC
Sailing Trophies	Monday, September 1-10am	BLYC

## LADIES LUNCHEON

The Heavenly Birch Lake Ladies Luncheon was a huge success and enjoyed by 64 ladies, including the angel who watched over everyone from the back wall. The lunch was delicious and the angel wind chimes, angel sachets, and angel book marks were the favors each lady got to take home.

Nineteen ladies' names were pulled for the nineteen door prizes. Thanks to Blair Garceau, Staci Whiteman, Darlene Troyer, Maryann O'Neill and Becky of Tom's Garage for donating some of the door prizes. Sue Wagner said she donated a Mercedes but the winner was never able to find it in the parking lot.

Eight lucky ladies found angel pictures under their chairs and were able to take the center piece at their table, done so beautifully by Becky of Village Florist in Cassopolis, home.

Darlene Troyer was given a special angel of her own by the committee for doing all the catering and not accepting any reimbursement for the job.

There has been talk among the committee of doing it again next year. Hope you'll join us, it wouldn't be any fun without you !!!!!!!



Linda  
Curtis



Darlene  
Troyer



Lind  
Harman



Sue  
Wagner



Blair  
Garceau



Maryann  
O'Neill

## CAMP TANNADOONAH WORK DAYS

**September 13** - Painting of cabins, removal (tear-down) old shed are the main items on the agenda

**November 9** - Leaf raking, please bring a rake!

**THE JONES & OLSON'S** want to thank all who offered help and support last weekend. It's great to have such a community.

**THE YACHT CLUB** is in dire need of a new sound system, as the present one, "took a dump," this summer. If anyone has any components they aren't using and would be willing to donate, that would be greatly appreciated. We basically need an amplifier/tuner, tape deck and CD player. Please contact Jim Beck at 476-2760.

**ANOTHER SLALOM SKIER** has been added to the lake. With the promise of a trip to Tom's for a bagful of candy, Errsa Asire made it up on one ski. We don't know which she liked better - skiing on one or the trip to Tom's.

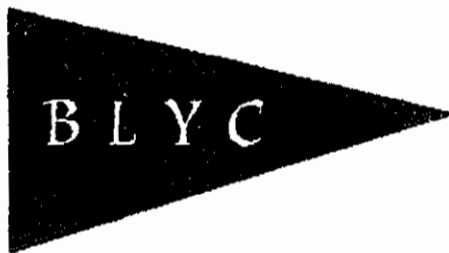
Does anyone know that there really is a post office in Vandalia? In a one block town, it should be easy to find but Christopher and Brett Asire managed to drive through twice without ever seeing it. In typically male fashion they refused to stop and ask for directions. Instead, they came back to the Lake and announced that Vandalia doesn't have a post office. But it does - just ask a woman.

**FOUND - Kneeboard.** Call 9898 to reclaim.

## HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

The 1997 annual meeting of the Birch Lake Homeowners' Association took place on Saturday, August 16, 1997 at the Birch Lake Yacht Club clubhouse. An overview of the development and purposes of the Homeowners' Association was presented, emphasizing its nonpartisan informational role as to matters (such as school millage issues) on which Birch Lake homeowners may have differing views. Reports were given on the activities of the board, including attending Porter Township and Constantine School Board meetings, and information was provided about the 7.75 mill thirty-five year construction bond issue requested by Constantine Public Schools, the Porter Township/Newberg Township dispute over the provision of fire and ambulance service to Birch Lake, and various other matters. A vote on the Constantine Public Schools millage request is scheduled for September 23, so those entitled to vote should plan to do so to make sure their position on the matter is counted. A board of five directors was elected to serve for three year terms ending with the annual meeting in the Summer of 2000: Dean Davis, Bill King, Herm Kruggel, Rick Russwurm and Scott Troeger.

Enclosed with this issue of the Birch Barker is a form for providing precise directions to your home to the Cass County 911 information center. If you provide this information it will be entered into the 911 computer system and will appear automatically on the operator's screen when "911" is dialed. This is designed to improve response time in the event of an emergency. If you wish to take advantage of this, please fill out the form and deliver or mail it to 9-1-1 Information Center, 321 M-62 North, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031.



August 1997

## FLEET NEWS

Last Saturday the South side of South Bend was on the dividing line 'tween storms & sun. We worried over the reports of golf ball sized hail in Edwardsburg & hoped the best for Birch Lakers. Weather alert sirens wailed & TV said take cover. Leslie, Cal & I huddled with emergency supplies in an interior hallway while the tornado swept past. It reminded me of retreating to the crawl space with my family as a little boy.

Sunday, on arrival at Birch it pained me to see the damage & hear stories of the wild weather from the day & night before. Our hearts go out to those who suffered the brunt of the blow. We were glad to know that the loss was to property - not people we love.

It's cruel irony that mother nature spent her wind on Saturday leaving not even a whisper for racing Sunday. Maybe the calm was needed for everyone's nerves (& cleanup efforts). There is only one weekend left for the regular season, then we conclude with the Labor Day Regatta. Having had to cancel (5) races (too much or too little wind), I want to make sure we get the season finished. For the remaining races we will *plan* to sail at 11:00 am as usual. In the event of bad weather we will *try again* at 1:00 pm. Do *not* wait on shore -- do rig your boat & see if we postpone (watch my sail as an indicator). We will add a make-up Sunday if possible.

To follow up on last weeks mention, the season is scored by average. I have audited the score sheets of this season & discovered some minor math errors & a glaring mistake on my part. I thought the standings would remain the same comparing aggregate total to average. With one exception that is true, but, that sneaky Dave Olson has one less race & 10 extra bonus points (for bringing a kid on board a season race). Scored by average Tom Howard is in first, Scott Troeger is second & Dave is third! My apologies Dave ...

The remaining schedule is:

Sunday 08/24 - 11:00 / 1:00 - final season races  
Saturday 08/30 - 11:00 / 1:00 - Labor Day Regatta  
Sunday 08/31 - 11:00 / 1:00 - Labor Day Regatta  
Monday 09/01 - 10:00 Awards Presentation

The regatta kid shirts were at the last two parties & we tried to deliver the remaining orders last Sunday. I still hope to complete this over the weekend. Feel free to see me at the Fall Dinner or call 2128. People continue to add-on to order a BLYC burgee. This is a custom order, so contact me before it's too late!

See you on the water ... Cap'n Bob

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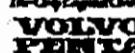
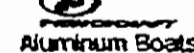
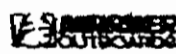
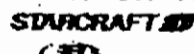
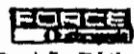
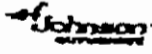
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