



Birch Barken

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

June 1, 1998

Issue 2

COMMODORES' COMMENTS

We certainly deserve a long, hot, and sunny summer, and don't date call me a meteorologist, but I think we are in for one!

Please notice the corrections made on the list of Officers and Directors. I was remiss in getting the publisher an updated list. And, speaking of update, next week I would like to add a complete listing of all new lake residents, and their family information. Please call me at 9339 with news of newcomers.

You may want to pay attention to some legislation coming out of Lansing, and Washington that could have an effect on "lake life". Michigan is serious about tightening requirements and restrictions on personal water craft (wave runners). Bill King has been monitoring this state action, and we will try and keep you updated.

On the same subject, I was made aware that the Coast Guard may try and change rules to require anyone and everyone in any type of boat, to wear a life-vest at all times. 700+ people drown annually due to boating accidents, and our benevolent federal government abhors the loss of even one taxpayer. Boaters, with less fair skin than myself, could have very odd tan lines, if this life-vest requirement is passed.

Be aware that the lake chiggers are out. If you or your children are spending a substantial amount of time swimming near the shore you may have noticed this weekend what we call the "early summer measles". The chiggers, as we say, seem to be coming every year for a couple weeks in June. Remedy or cure? I find it helps to shower and wash off very well after swimming. Some people suggest swabbing with rubbing alcohol to prevent this unattractive scourge. *One might try Vaseline or waterproof bug repellent.* Anyone with more in-depth, scientific facts of this seasonal nuisance? *This problem is caused by the ducks. We should not encourage or feed the ducks...*

No takers yet on the job to cut up the tree - that puts a heavy burden on our humble Yacht Club. Any donations of time or effort?

Still in need of July 4th Boat Parade organizer.

Birch Lake towels are a great gift for visitors, grandchildren, customers - \$25 per towel. Dry off in style.

1998 SCHEDULE

Indiana time

Director's Meeting	Today, June 6, 9am	BLYC
Sailors Meeting	Sunday, June 7, 11am	BLYC
Commodore Cocktail Party	Saturday, June 13, 5:30	BLYC
Fireworks	Saturday, July 4, Dark <i>Sunday, July 5, rain date</i>	TANNADOONAH
Boat Parade	Saturday, July 4, 4:00	
Pancake Breakfast	Sunday, July 5, 8:00	TANNADOONAH
Garage Sale	Saturday, July 11, 8:00am	
Vice-Commodore Party	Saturday, July 18, 5:30	BLYC

1998 Schedule - Continued

Mens' Golf	Friday, July 31	Park Shore/BLYC
Ladies' Golf	Friday, August 7	Park Shore/BLYC
Ladies' Luncheon	To be announced	
Corn & Sausage	Saturday, August 8, 5:30	BLYC
Homeowner's Association	Saturday, August 15, 10am	BLYC
Fall Dinner	Saturday, August 22	BLYC
Sailing Trophies	Monday, September 7, 10:00am	BLYC
Director's meetings, 9am Saturday, <u>June 6</u> , July 11, August 15, September 5		BLYC

BLYC OFFICERS

Commodore:	Al Cover
Vice Commodore:	Jim Beck
Fleet Captain:	Bob King
Secretary:	Sally Beck
Treasurer:	Holly Troeger

DIRECTORS:

North:	East:	South:	West:
Dean Davis	Judy Olson	Earl Troeger	Herm Kruggel
Bill King	Terry Curtis	Dick Green	Liz Cover
Pam Mullin		Scott Troeger	
Rick Russwurm		Denny Weesner	

Birch Barker deliver's: NW/ Cove, Louise Rieth; North Shore, Mullin Family; North/NE, Linda Curtis; East, Judy Olson & Nancy DeCocker; South, Holly Troeger, Natalie Dudeck, Sue Montague; SW, Bev Kruggel. We wish the thank them for their contribution to the Barker's success.

Please save, schedule, officers, directors and delivery, information will not will not be included every week.

Place your ad in the Barker - With about twelve weekly deliveries to every home on Birch Lake, during the summer months, your ad in the Barker will reach all Lake residents and many of their friends. Assuming 225 copies of each issue, your ad will have appeared 2,700 times. That's a lot of impact for less than 2 cents a "hit". An ad approximately 3X4 inches, ideal for business cards, costs \$50 per season while a 3X8 inch ad costs \$100. Large ads are due Monday, June 8th, and will begin running June 13. Our small "unclassified" ads will cost \$1 per issue. What a deal. Please deliver ads to Doris Sante or call 2227, small ads may be left in the Barker Box at 15222 Birch Shore (South Side). All ads must be paid prior to publication. **News and unclassified ad deadline - Monday prior to publication.**

We are sorry to report the deaths of the following Birch Lake residents: John Brown, I.T. Bower, John Drolet, Leo Koontz and Ruth Brown.

To all the kind people of Birch Lake who sent me cards, messages of condolence and sympathy when my husband, John, passed away. I want to express a heartfelt thank you.

If I haven't contacted each of you individually, my thanks are no less sincere, Loretta Drolet.

TODAY IS PORTER TOWNSHIP RESIDENTS CLEAN UP DAY! Accepting drop off of refrigerator type appliances. For freon gas removal service and disposal, all other larger appliances and trash not picked up by your waste removal company (No garbage or yard waste). There will be a charge for tires-\$1 per tire, \$2 with rims. **NO HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE THIS YEAR.**

SATURDAY JUNE 6, 1998, 8am to 1pm (Michigan time) at AMERICAN WASTE YARD on Mason Street just West of Union Road, Union

Pick up service for qualified Senior Citizens: Call 641-2375

92 YAMAHA 650 WAVE RUNNER for sale - \$1900 - Looks and runs great - Driven by little ole lady - Tom and Nancy DeCocker 674-9821 or 291-7649

FOR RENT-LAKEFRONT on Westside - \$550 weekly - Please call Brad Walker 2515

HISTORY OF BIRCH LAKE

Long ages ago, million of years in the past, the region where Birch Lake now lies was deep under a tropical sea. After the sea receded the land which emerged was the home of the reptilian and mammal age. Some 2500 years or more ago, great sheets of ice a mile in thickness swept down from the northeast, plowing and gouging the surface of the land.

Probably primitive man lived here before the ice came. He may have been the Folsom man as Folsom points, believed to be spearheads have been picked up in Cass County. Shortly after the ice left, man came again, the forefathers of the Indians.

The first Indians in this section as found by the early French explorers were Miamis. Through a war council treaty, the Miami Indians, who were not a war-like tribe, were replaced by the Chipewas, Potawatomes, and Ottowas, who with the exception of occasional wars, lived in relative peace.

The area around Birch Lake was held by the Potawatomie Indians who were headed by Big Chief Pokagon and under Chiefs Weesaw and Shavehead. While Pokagon was a very brilliant man, making friends of the white man, accepting the white man's ways and teachings, Shavehead was the opposite. He was large man for an Indian, very ugly and very mean, gaining his name by keeping his head shaved, which did not make for an improvement in his appearance. Shavehead's winter quarters was around Shavehead Lake and in the summer he migrated to what is now Mottville where there was a ford across the St. Joseph River. This ford was on the Sauk Trail which is now modern U.S. Highway 112. Shavehead would camp at the ford and extract a fee from the white settlers for use of the crossing. It is reported that he discontinued this practice only after a young burly settler had taken his ox whip and thrashed Shavehead within an inch of his life.

Shavehead was responsible for the death of many white settlers. He would promise to secure game for the white man but no one returned from the hunting trips but Chief Shavehead. Strangely enough, Shavehead met his death the same way. He was at the Trading Post, which is now Cassopolis, drunk and making his brags about participating in the Fort Dearborn massacre. He was overheard by a young trapper who had lost his wife and child in the debauchery. The young trapper was then living on the Island in Diamond Lake. He asked Shavehead to go home with him. A shot was heard and Shavehead was never seen again.

The Indians under Chief Weesaw, whose winter quarters was in the vicinity of Newton's Woods, joined Chief Shavehead's band in the early spring around Birch Lake, where they bathed in the lake and drank of its water, claiming the water had great healing power. It is recorded that Chief Pokagon, who was ill, made the journey from his home near Summerville for this purpose.

Settlement in Cass County was very slow; in 1840 the population was only 5,710. Early settlers around Birch were the Harveys, Merritts and O'Dells.

The decade previous to the Civil War was very exciting in the Birch Lake area. Sections of land in South Cass County had been purchased by Quakers for the purpose of setting up small farms for runaway slaves and negroes brought up through the underground railroad. Periodically there would be a raid by Southern slave owners to recover their property.

As the pure, clear water of Birch Lake was known to the Indian, it was destined to be known by the whites. Before there were any cottages, it was a popular fishing and camping lake. The quality of fish taken from its waters was superb. The scenery magnificent and as roads became passable, cottages began to be built on its shores. One of the first, if not the first, was the Smith Cottage. Today the lake has over 225 cottages with a summer population of about 700 people enjoying it's sky-blue waters.

CAMPFIRE: Before too long Camp Tannadoonah will be open for the season. If you haven't met the new Director, Cindy McCray and husband Skip, go up and visit them. They attended the Spring Dinner and do want to get to know Birch Lakers.

While you're at Camp, look around. Lots of improvements have been made. Many Birch Lakers are responsible for the face-lift of the Camp including Bruce Harlan, John Scholfield, and the whole Lindzy bunch! Al Choitz, a former South Bend businessman, supervised the projects and became the angel of Tannadoonah.

Many Lake residents have expressed interest in helping and you will have a chance this weekend, June 6 and 7 from 10 until 5. Help is needed in cleaning up debris from a torn-down cabin. There are also smaller jobs in need of completion before Camp opens June 28. **If you can give 15 minutes or all day, it would be appreciated.**

Port-A-Pit Chicken Dinner
June 13, 1998 - From 11:00 to 2:00 (Mi. Time)

At Newberg - Porter Fire Dept.

\$5.00 per dinner

Let's support the Newberg-Porter Fire and Ambulance Departments. They are who responds to our calls, you know, and they are pretty important to us! We have tickets and will be happy to deliver them to you. Just call 476-2128, the Kings.

A reminder . . . As the summer swim season begins, the area between the shore and rafts is to be considered swimming area even if no swimmers are visible. In the past few summers, I have noticed an increasing number of boats cruising through these spaces. Maybe a review of all boating rules would be in order at the beginning of each season and placed so all our guests could have access to these regulations. Beth Blackwood



BLYC

FLEET NEWS

Ahoy Lakers! A new summer is here & we hope that everyone is ready to Regatta.

The Sailors plan to gather at the Yacht Club on Sunday 06/07/98 at 11:00 am (IN). If you sailed last year, wished you sailed last year, or ran the start boat we hope you will join us for a short meeting of the minds.

I have always meant to circle the lake & count the number of old Sunfish hulls lying around on the shore. My guess is we could field a fleet of 20-25 boats if we got *half* of those boats in the water. If you need help making your boat lake-worthy, are just missing some parts, or want to learn to sail - contact a sailor!

The emphasis this year remains the same as last::

- * help more people experience the joy of sailing
- * find ways to build the racing fleet
- * get kids sailing

See you on the water ..

Cap'n Bob

