



# Birch Banker

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

June 13, 1998  
Issue 3

## COMMODORES' COMMENTS

My mere thought of all of you reading my prediction of Hot and sunny weather, bundled in warm clothes, made me to decide two things. First of them being to never again make weather forecasts this summer. Secondly, to flee the Lake for at least the weekend.

My family and I spent the weekend in Iowa, at a family reunion, and spent much of the time talking and celebrating while overlooking the beautiful rolling hills, and fields. This struck me as being very similar to what most of us do, instead of look out over the waters of Birch Lake.

My Dad grew up on the farm and he has often told me how calming it is for him to visit friends or family farms or even just drive through farmland. For my self, many of my best memories, as a child, were around the water. Nothing lowers my blood pressure quicker than sitting at the end of the pier, cruising the Lake at "no wake" speed or taking a late night swim under the stars.

While chatting with people, I have been amazed at how many families have been on the Lake for generations. Doris or I would love to receive any information on how or why you were drawn to Birch Lake.

I would like to update you on the improvements at the Yacht Club. The deck project has had an unforeseen hurdle placed in it's way. Unknown to the BLYC Board, our humble Road leading up to the Club is on record as being a County Road, and we now must appeal for a permit because of it's close proximity to the busy County thoroughfare. Not to worry though, thanks to Rick Russwurms continued work and the help of Dean Davis and Jim Beck we are confident that the deck will be bearing weight soon.

Also, the new air conditioner has been purchased, and as soon as a hole is created and trimmed out by the contractor, Don Harman will be hooking it up to power. Please come out next Saturday for the Cocktail Party and find out about the plans and progress at the Yacht Club.

### Commodores Notes -

BLYC Board meeting this Saturday, 6/13, 9am

Still no takers for help on the Boat Parade or clean up the downed tree at the club.

Towels, towels, towels, towels - do you feel drawn subliminally to purchase something for \$25?

## 1998 SCHEDULE

*Indiana time*

Director's Meeting	Today, June 13, 9am	BLYC
Commodore Cocktail Party	Today, 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
Ladies Luncheon	Thursday, July 23, 11:30	BLYC

1998 Schedule - Continued

Mens' Golf	Friday, July 31	Park Shore/BLYC
Ladies' Golf	Friday, August 7	Park Shore/BLYC
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 13</u> , July 11, August 15, September 5	BLYC

LADIES LUNCHEON

When: July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 11:30

Where: Yacht Club

Catered by: Darlene Troyer

Theme: For the Birds

Donated door prizes greatly needed, please contact Darlene 2639, Lynn 2039, Linda 2431

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

**As of June 5 the following fireworks contributions have been received from the following families:**

Asire, J.	Garceau	Leatherman	Scofield
Ball	Gotstein	Linderfeld	Sikorski
Barker	Green	Lindzy	Slayter/
Beck	Greenig	Machalleck J	Herms
Bender	Harlan	Machalleck	Troeger, E.
Benjamin	Harman	Monroe	Troeger, T.
Bernaciak	Harris, B.	Mumaw	Troeger, S.
Blackwood	Hayden	Olson	Tunncliffe
Bliler	Hogoboom	O'Brien, J.	Vath
Blue	Harris, G.	O'Brien, N.	Waddle
Budcinski	Hettmansperger	Papandria	Wagner
Burket	Jones	Price	Walker
Cowen	King, Bob	Rasmussen	Weesner, K.
Dennert	Kolber	Reynolds	Weesner, B.
Doba	Koontz	Richwine	White
Emory	Kruggel	Richmond	Williams, J.
Ferguson	LaPierre	Rogers, T&S	Witchie
Foley	Landsman	Russworm	Wozniak
Funk	Leach	Sante	Zesinger

If you have paid and your name is missing you need to contact Holly Troeger.

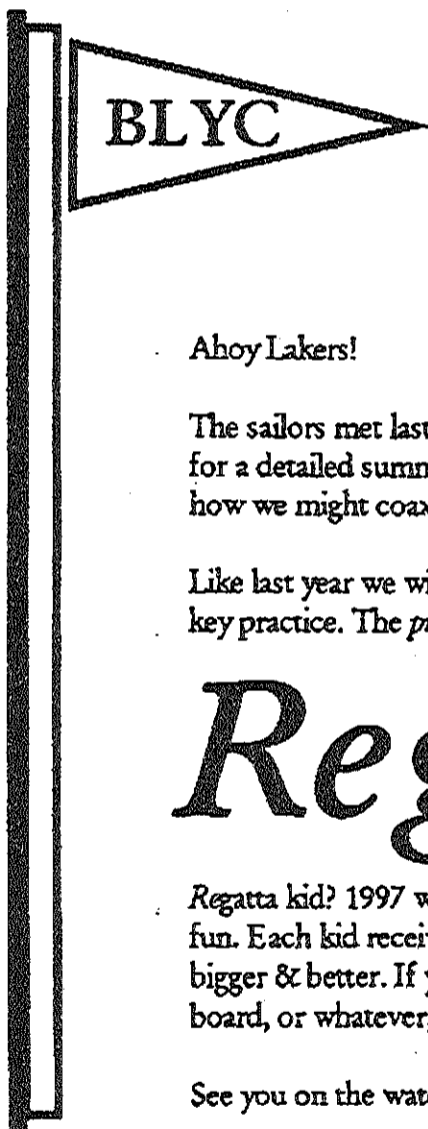
Bev and Herm Kruggel are happy to report the birth of another Grandson on Sept 21 1997. Colorado James Kruggel is the Son of Kurt and Kristy and Brother of Sydney. The count is now 7 Grandson's and 4 Granddaughters!

For the few who may not have heard, we have another Birch Lake romance to report. Beth Davis, North Shore, and Jeff Olson, East Shore, are planning an October wedding. Jeff, who is an architect, designed the engagement ring.

### A SPECIAL BIRCH LAKER

Last weekend the American Cancer Society held a charity fund raiser. Robert Goulet attended to accept "The Fighting Spirit Award". Of special interest to the Birch Lakers was the award presented to Dr. Tom Troeger for his commitment to patient care. Thanks Tom from those of us who have experienced your care and those who may need treatment in the future.

TOM'S GARAGE now has the Elkhart Truth for sale.



June 1998

## FLEET NEWS

Ahoy Lakers!

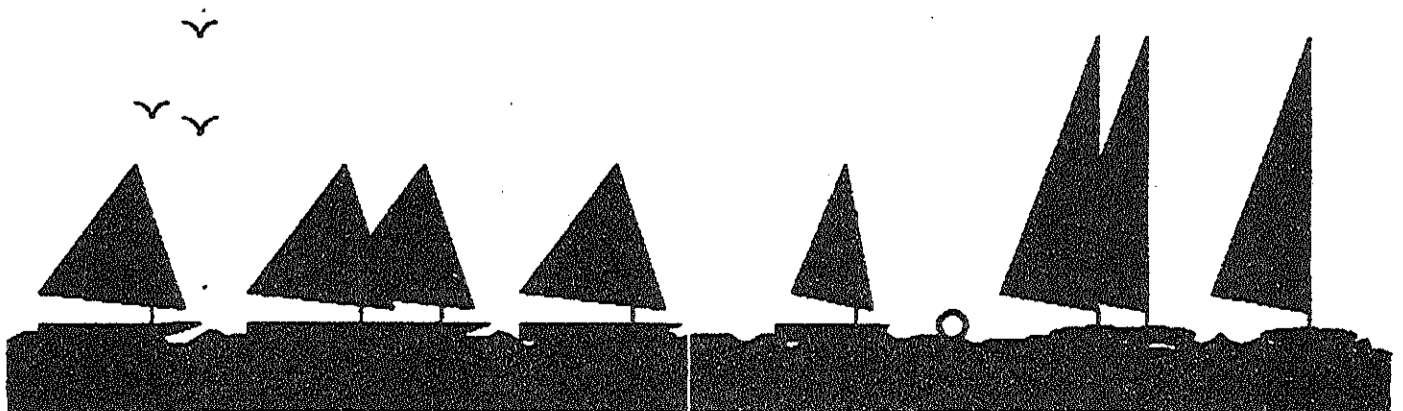
The sailors met last weekend to discuss the upcoming season. Watch the next Barker for a detailed summary & schedule for this year. The main topic of conversation was how we might coax more people out sailing.

Like last year we will have informal races in June. This is a great way to get some low-key practice. The *preseason* culminates with another Regatta for kids - Sunday June 28th.

# Regatta Kidz<sup>98</sup>

Regatta kid? 1997 was well attended with over 20 kids joining the sailors for some fun. Each kid received a memorial T-shirt. We hope to make this year's event even bigger & better. If you can help, have a kid who wants to sail, need a kid to take on board, or whatever, let me know!

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



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

*Today's*

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.

## EARLY WILLIAMSVILLE

To all of us here on Birch Lake, Williamsville and "Lanky's" has become synonymous since it is the friendly stopping place for food, refreshments, ice, gas or just news.

But we'd like to turn back the pages of history just a few years and give you a glimpse of Williamsville seventy years ago. Where Breece's Store now stands was a large two story brick building, The William Merritt Store. This store has changed hands many times since it was first established back as far as 1860 by Josiah Williams, the gentlemen who laid out the village in March 1848 that bears his name. Some of these people are: Wm. Merritt, William Merritt, Jr., J. Fred Merritt, Milo Merritt, Oscar Loupee, Tom White, Albert Snyder, Hyton Jones and the present owner, G. W. Breece.

The General Store has played a very important part in the history of this community because it was the center of all business transactions in the early days. Part of the time it housed the post office and most of the time had the only telephone in the vicinity.

The earliest records in this township are the entries of land in 1829 by John White (who was probably the first settler in North Porter), John East and Nathan Williams. At this time Josiah Williams build the great mill just south of the main streets of Main and Mill and it was operated by W. W. Camp.

The old mill by the creek has also played an important part in the history of Williamsville. Many sacks of feed, and flour have been ground by the great stone run by the water power coming down the mill race from Birch Lake and the Mill Pond. Austin Searer is the present owner of the mill. His father, Christian Searer came here in 1880, bought the mill and ground feed, made cider and sorghum.

Down on the corner of Main and Mill streets in the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. William Franklin was an Inn operated by a man by the name of Austin. No doubt many weary traveler spent the night in this haven. Directly across the street was a grocery or general store, as they most all were in those days, operated by Rhuben Weikle, later by Tom White. In the center of the block was a telephone exchange installed by Perry Storey.

There were two physicians in the village, a Dr. Moore who lived at the southwest corner of Main Street and a Dr. Fort.

Zacky Brown started a barber shop in this same block and operated a feed store and livery in connection with the barber shop. Other ventures were a saw mill run by Albert Reck and Jerome Cousins, a cabinet and paint shop operated by Will Rhinehart, and a cooperage by Hardy McCally.

Mail was carried at this time on horse back or by horse and cart; the route running from Bristol through Williamsville and to Vandalia. The carrier was James W. East.

There was a Methodist Church erected on the northeast corner of Pine Tree Toad intersection on land donated by William R. Merritt. Cost of the Church was \$5000. The Quaker or Friends church was erected back in 1850. These people have left their imprint on the section through these many years.

Now when we go to Lanky's for our groceries or refreshments, let's think a few kind thoughts of the people who many years ago were part of a thriving little village on Birch Lake.

--taken from an earlier Barker

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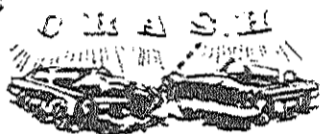
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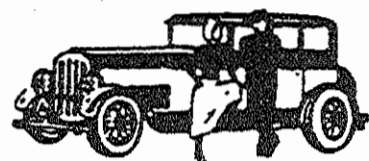
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