



Birch Barken

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

June 27, 1998
Issue 5

COMMODORES' COMMENTS

Wow, whoever has Mother Natures telephone number or E-Mail address, call her and order a few more weekends like that!

The 4th of July is just around the corner, and it doesn't seem possible. Do you have your ideas for the BOAT PARADE? I am confident that the Arnolds, of the Western Shore, are already well into the design process on their float.

It requires very little effort to participate in the firework's display, however, please help by donating for this tremendous show. It is never too late to get your money in.

The Harmans, of the East side, have been busy at BLYC work. First of all, Don and Lind accepted the position as managers of the Birch Lake IHOP (that's International House of Pancakes for you bagel and coffee types), and at this point they are happy the location is open annually for only one day. Drive, or better yet, walk and then climb the camp stairs. It is always a good meal, and a good way to see a little how the Camp is doing.

Also, thanks to Don Harman and Jim Bolinger for their time and donated electrical supplies in hooking our new, high-output, air conditioner at the Yacht Club.

The University of Notre Dame has asked me if they could use an experience that I had this weekend on the Lake. The study is on the effect of price on human behavior and the market. Seriously now, I couldn't believe the response we had on the towel clearance sale. The phone of the Troeger's and Cover's was "ringing off the hooks" and I can gladly say all towels have been sold and accounted for.

Al Cover, Commodore

1998 SCHEDULE-June and July

Indiana time

Fireworks	Saturday, July 4, Dark <i>Sunday, July 5, rain date</i>	TANNADOONAH
Boat Parade	Saturday, July 4, 2:00	
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
Mens' Golf	Friday, July 31	Park Shore/BLYC
Director's meetings, 9am Saturday, July 11, August 15, September 5		

BOAT PARADE - The annual 4th of July Boat Parade will be held Saturday, July 4 at 2:00pm. Decorate your boat in any style! Be fancy like these past entries - Cleopatra's Barge, the Giant Supersoaker, Pirate ship, Gilligan's Island, etc. or just put a few flags and balloons and join in the fun! There is no entry fee and all boats receive a prize. At 2:00 pick up your entry number at the Reynold's two story natural cedar home on the South side and proceed past the judges on the Gableman's pier a few houses from the Reynolds. All boats then parade around the Lake for all the see. Back at the Gableman's, awards will be presented. Let's keep this wonderful Birch Lake tradition going! Participate and become part of the fun. If you have any questions, Call John or Brittany Gableman at #2132.

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

FYI - Michigan has passed new laws, effective next spring, regarding personal water craft (wave runners). Minimum age to operate a runner will be 14, those under 19 will be required to pass safety courses and be licensed before hitting the water. Reckless riding will be not be permitted. Those over 19 who are caught operating personal water craft recklessly, under the influence or ignore other bill provisions will be required to go through the education program and be certified for future rides. Reckless operation carries misdemeanor penalties of 30 days in jail and up to a \$1000 fine on the first offense. Three or more violations in a five year period carries a 90 day jail sentence and up to \$2000 in fines. For additional information, see article published in the Elkhart Truth, June 13.

As of June 20 the following fireworks contributions have been received from the following families:

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

If you have paid in the past week or so, your name will appear on the next list.

BLYC

Regatta Kidz ⁹⁸

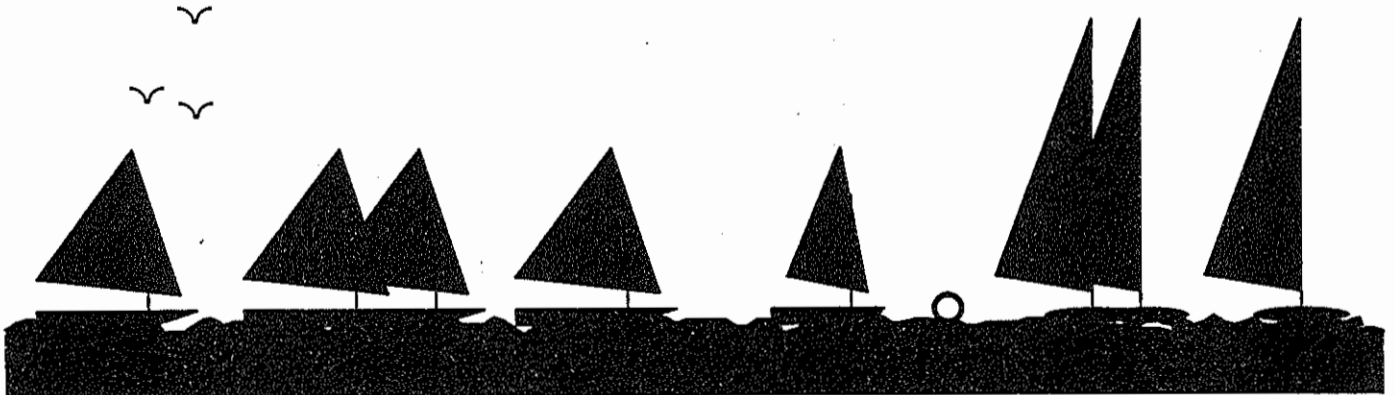
The *preseason* culminates with another Regatta for kids - Sunday June 28th. We will have a pre-race gathering at 1:00 pm (rules & refreshments), then hit the water for a 2:00 pm start. The course will be set short for the race(s). Everyone is welcome, any boat class with one request -- you've *gatta* have a kid on board. Last year there were several kids who took the initiative to talk a sailor into dragging his boat off the shore to come out & sail. If you have a boat, find a kid (ask them to help you get your boat in the water). If you are a kid looking for a ride, pester someone who has a boat to enter & help them rig their boat.

The rules are few, but let's be careful out there & have the right life saving devices on board. I love the way the Scott Troeger family refers to a PFD as a "boat coat", kind of makes a life jacket sound more fun! Another item of note is the change in rules pertaining to Sunfish Registration. The prior rules left the Sunfish in the class which did not require Registration (by size & method of propulsion). Per the new Michigan Boating Guide, page 2, *a sailboat of any size* must be registered. Let's send the state \$16.75 (3 year, 12-16 foot) & comply with the new rules ...

A bit of boating history:

Sunfish.

In 1945, Alex Bryan & Cortland Heyniger, boyhood friends & World War II vets, founded the Alcott Company to build iceboats for their native New England lakes. In pursuit of summer business, they installed a sail on what became known as a boardboat to create the Sailfish, which was featured in a 1948 *Life* magazine spread. In the early '50s, with a broader beam (for stability) & the addition of a cockpit (for comfort), the craft became the Sunfish, one of the worlds most popular sailboats. The original wooden Sunfish could be purchased as a kit, or pre-built. No one can remember when, but the boat soon was made of fiberglass, an out-of-the-box boat that could be rigged & ready in an hour. With an estimated 250,000 sold over the last four decades, the Sunfish has introduced several generations to the pure joy of sailing. Drag those hulls down to the shore & come out on the water!



Mildred (Wentworth) Gollatz, formerly of the Cove, died May 23rd of this year. Mildred and her husband Starr Wentworth began coming to Birch Lake in 1946 when there were only a handful of cottages in the Cove. They loved spending their summers here, and didn't sell their cottage until 1984 when Starr's failing health made it necessary for them to do so. Mildred was the mother of Shirley (Wentworth) Blue (Birch Lake E. Side), and Dennis Wentworth of Las Vegas, as well as the grandmother of Dawn (Blue) Troyer (Birch Lake E. Side), and Lisa (Blue) Sychowski of Palatine, IL.

HISTORY OF BIRCH LAKE

Long ages ago, millions 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 emerges 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, was replaced by the Chippewas, Potawatomes and the Ottowas, closely related, 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 sub-chiefs Weesaw and Shavehead. The section of Birch Lake was under the rule of Chief Shavehead. While Pokagon was a very brilliant man, making friends of the white man, accepting his ways and teachings, Shavehead was the opposite. He was a large man for an Indian, very ugly and very mean, gaining his name by keeping his head shaved, which in no way improved his appearance. Shavehead's winter quarters were around Shavehead Lake and in the summer, he immigrated to what is now Mottsville where there was a ford across the St. Joe 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 the 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 deaths 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 in 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 this 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 were 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 the water of the lake, 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 5710. Early settlers around the Birch Lake area 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 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 Indians, it was destined to be known to the whites - before having any cottages, it was a popular fishing and camping lake. The quality of the fish caught in its waters was superb. The scenery was magnificent and as roads became passable, cottages began to be built on its shore. One of the first cottages, if not the first, was the Smith cottage. Today the lake has over 200 cottages with a summer population of over 650 people enjoying its sky-blue waters.

The people in charge of the selection of a site for the summer camp of South Bend Campfire Girls, after looking over many locations, chose Birch Lake as did the Elkhart YMCA for their summer camps. These camps are Camp Ki-Lo-Qu'a and Taunadoona.

People who have traveled near and far return with the statement that although there are many beauty spots in these United States, none surpass the charm and setting of our own beautiful Birch Lake.



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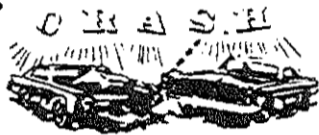
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Lake Residents References upon request.

This weekend there's more to do than wait for the fireworks to start!



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