



Birch Barker

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club August 22, 1998
Issue 13

COMMODORES' COMMENTS

This is the last weekend before most schools ring their bells, calling children back to class, and signaling the emotional close to summer for anyone who has ever been a parent.

This Saturday is the Fall Dinner, and the last event of the season. I offer up two optional names for this dinner. The event can more precisely be named, the End of Summer Dinner, or more optimistically, The August Dinner.

I have many people to thank for their assistance this Yacht Club season, and I feel it necessary to briefly mention why:

Scott & Holly Troeger - for questions answered.

Bill King, Herm Kruggel, Dean Davis & Earl Troeger - for your experience, wisdom.
Bill, Dean and Herm for selling advertisements for the Barker.

Jim Beck, Rick Russworm & Bob King for being there when needed. Bob for leading the fleet and writing the weekly fleet articles.

John Gableman - for your commitment to Yacht Club events.

Linda & Terry Curtis - for your work behind the scene.

Doris Sante - for your "Herculean" summer commitment to the Barker *and Marty for giving a couple hours each week driving the Barker to the Printer, counting and delivering papers.*

The Barker Delivery people who trudged through rain and sleet to do their jobs. Those brave people include: Louise Rieth, the Mullins Family, Linda Curtis, Judy Olson, Nancy DeCocker, Holly Troeger, Natalie Dudeck, Sue, Terri, & Terry Montague and Bev Kruggel.

The directors and talented people planning and working at outings, luncheons, dinners, the breakfast...

My Wife, Liz - you were always there getting it done when I couldn't.

Many of us on the Lake enjoy the work of the Yacht Club, but there are a consistent few who do so much for us all.

Bob King asked me last week what was the best thing I can take from the experience of being commodore. My answer was swift and sincere that it was getting to know so many people that I otherwise might not have contact with on the Lake.

With confidence I will turn over the position of Commodore to a great fellow Westsider - Jim Beck.

Thanks again to all Birch Lakers for a great Summer of '98. -

Your Commodore
Al Cover

1998 SCHEDULE

Fall Dinner

Director's meeting

Sailing Trophies

Saturday, August 22, 5:30

Saturday, September 5, 9:00am

Monday, September 7, 10:00am

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If you are looking for a **BABYSITTER** please call Natalie Dudeck at 2395.

I would like to purchase a **SEAWORTHY 10-12 foot ALUMINUM ROW BOAT**. Bud Zesinger - *Looks like Barb and Bud* are headed for Europe.

The last three weeks have been very busy at the Wozniak Cottage. Vanessa's Sister, Debbie, her Husband Ted, and Daughter Kerri were in from Southern California. Kerri spent 2 full weeks enjoying Birch Lake after her parents left. She has done this for the past seven summers. Carrie took the Boating Safety Course this summer and Capt. Carlisle was happy to see someone all the way from California. She passed with flying colors.

The party continued this weekend with Ben's college room mate, wife, three sons and niece from Cedar Rapids, Iowa enjoyed all Birch Lake has to offer. Perhaps you saw them tubing endlessly. Ben & Vanessa will need at least three weeks to recover from all the excitement.

FOUND - Cypress Gardens Life Jacket floated in - Identify and claim - Sante 476-2227

The Birch Lake Ladies Golf Outing was played under cloudy skies but the rain held off. There were 20 golfers plus Staci Whiteman driving the beverage cart keeping us from getting too dry. The luncheon was held at the Yacht Club and was catered by Kathy Haney. We enjoyed appetizers of crab filled phyllo cups and crostini with roasted garlic and brie; and for lunch there was smoke chicken walnut salad with rolls, raspberry tea or wine and assorted sorbets for dessert. We greatly appreciate all of the contributions from the following:

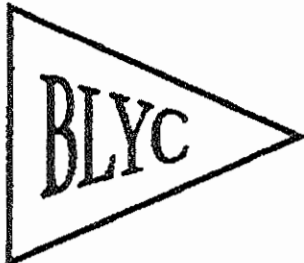
Dick Bender Bill King Kevin Kruggel Dan Reynolds Bob King Irene Steffen Tom Rogers

Rich Mullin Al Cover Liz Conran Mike Richwine Cindy Bernaciak Le King Bev Kruggel

Linda Rasmussen Mike Machalleck Toms Garage Park Shore Golf Course

Homeowners' Association Meeting

The annual meeting of the Homeowners' Association took place Saturday, August 15, 1998 at the clubhouse. Rick Russwurm called the meeting to order and reported on the membership and finances, and on the public vote declining Constantine Schools' request for a property tax increase to finance new construction. Dean Davis reported on the meetings of local governmental and other boards attended on behalf of the Homeowners' Association, including the Porter Township Board of Trustees, Constantine School Board, Board of Public Works, Board of Zoning Appeals and Community Policing Association. Dean also discussed his investigations into the possibility of inviting, in conjunction with the water quality committee and the board of the BLYC, a professional to conduct an updated comprehensive water quality analysis of the lake. He will try to make arrangements for that professional to attend a meeting open to all lake residents to discuss the proposed analysis, after which a decision would be made whether to hire the professional to conduct the analysis. Scott Troeger discussed the proposed new Michigan legislation on waverunners. He also reported on the extent and type of usage of the boat launch, and (as reported earlier this year in local newspapers), that the county along with the DNR seems interested in paving the land behind the boat launch to add more parking spaces for the boat launch and Lake Park. The membership considers additional parking at the boat launch to be extremely undesirable, with adverse consequences for water quality, safety and quality of life for the lake homeowners. Dean Davis reported on local political changes and their implications for the lake, and Bill King reported on the status of the dispute between Porter and Newberg townships over providing fire and emergency services to the lake. During the discussion period, it was learned that some lake residents had observed the dumping of sewage from the new intensive hog sheds onto the field directly South of the lake. The membership considers this activity absolutely unacceptable and action will be taken to stop it. Members also discussed the desirability of coordinating efforts with other local lake associations on matters of mutual interest, and this will be investigated. The meeting was then adjourned by Rick Russwurm.



FLEET NEWS

The article in last weeks Barker listing race results for 08/09 was just a "dig" at the sailors for not coming out to play. Though I claimed two first place finishes, it was only practice. Races number nine & ten were held 08/16 in light & variable winds. Two weekends remain in the season, followed by the Labor Day Regatta. Thanks go to the Plaia Race Committee crew.

There were a couple items of note in the September issue of *Sail* magazine on youth sailing. The first was an editorial by Patience Wales on "winning & losing well". Beyond the theme of teaching young people a skippers code of conduct, she related how junior fleets are growing. The 1989 Optimist class had 1,000 competitors, today there are over 9,000. An article titled *The Bailer A te My Homework* discussed sailing as a High School sport. There were only 67 sailing teams in 1989, today there are 230! Contact the Inter Scholastic Sailing Association at 1 (800) 739-3253. So, what does this mean? Well, I hope we can promote young sailors on Birch Lake. There has been some interest in starting a Sunfish Junior League (there certainly are enough boats available). Contact me if you are interested in providing a kid or boat.

Bring a young sailor out on Saturday to introduce them to the sport (free lessons, see below).

08/16 - Race Results:

		Season Race #	
		9	10
Sunfish	B. King	1	2
	S. Troeger	2	3
	J. Howard	3	1
	J. Bolinger	4	4
	D. Olson.	5	dns
	M. Athanas	dns	dns
	M. Machalbeck	dns	dns
	D. Weaver	dns	dns
	J. Gableman	dns	dns
	C. Spratt	dns	dns
J. Slaytor	dns	dns	
MCs	R. Harmon	1	5
	D. Harmon	2	2
	T. Troeger	3	3
	T. Howard	4	6
	H. Craumer	5	1
	B. Harlan	6	4
Starters	S. Plain	4	
	S. Pitakos	4	
	J. Beck	2	
	M. Sante	dns	
	W. King	dns	

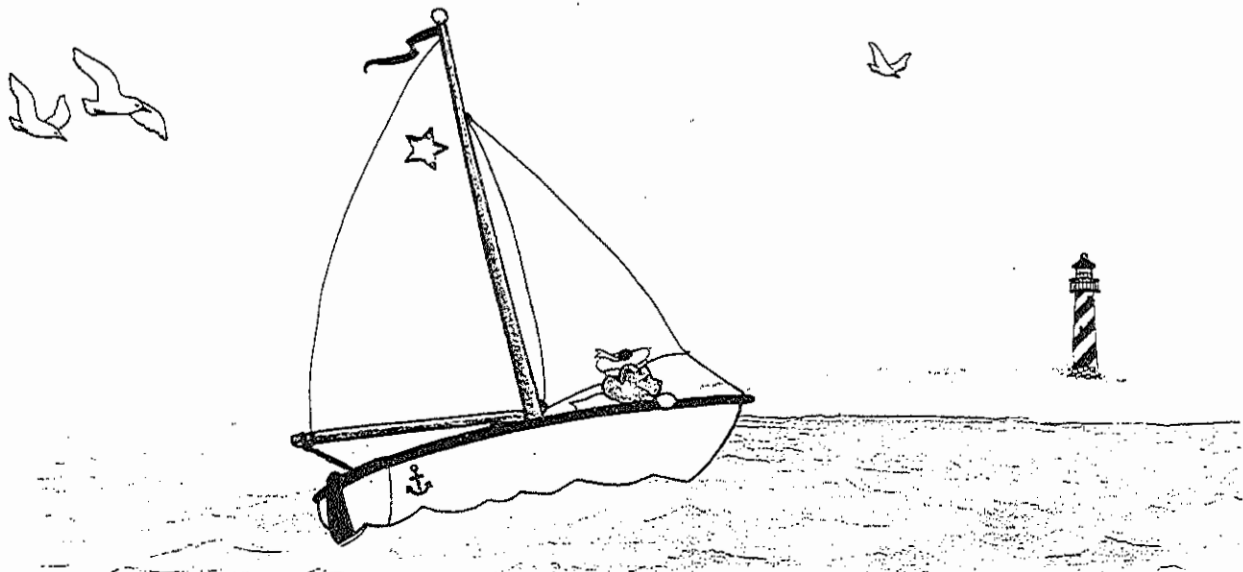
To Day Sailin'

Saturday, August 22nd
9:30 am - Sailing 100 - rigging, repairing your boat
10:00 am - Sailing 101 - on shore class on how to sail
10:30 am - Sailing 102 - on water class with coaches ...
11:00 am - Pleasure Sail
2:00 pm - Couples Race*

Season Races every Sunday at 11:00am

Labor Day Regatta:
Saturday 09/05 at 11:00 am
Sunday 09/06 at 2:00 pm
Awards 09/07 at 11:00 am

All times are IN standard time ... we never change



BLYC Finances

If you have ever wondered about the BLYC finances, here is a summary of the Treasurer's Report to the BLYC board on August 15, 1998. This report covers receipts and disbursements from the July 11, 1998 board meeting to the August 15, 1998 board meeting. The General Fund includes social events and activities such as the Commodore's Party, Vice Commodore's Party, Men's Golf, Ladies Golf, Ladies Luncheon, Corn & Sausage, Boat Parade trophies, etc. The deficit in the Building Fund results from the expenditures on the new deck and air conditioning unit.

Treasurer's Report July 11, 1998 to August 15, 1998

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>Disbursements</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
General Fund	\$4,975.55	\$6,043.75	(\$8,685.19)	\$2,334.11
Sailing	120.00	0	0	120.00
Fireworks	4,982.45	85.00	(4,000.00)	1,067.45
Building Fund	(685.45)	0	(1,582.54)	(2,267.99)
Water Quality	3,760.37	0	0	3,760.37
Riparian	49	0	0	49
Totals	\$13,201.92	\$6,128.75	(\$14,267.73)	\$5,062.94

Homeowners' Association	\$1,560.00	\$60.00	(\$167.57)	\$1,452.43
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ELDS01 JST 73250

Don't mess with Mother Nature ...

We all grump when water foul leave presents on our piers. Paleontologists now believe dinosaurs were closely related to birds. By their appearance, Great Blue Herons must be ancestors of Pterodactyls. Herons were here first.

We foul the environment with gas and oil, churning the surface in motorized contraptions. We replace the natural shoreline with concrete walls. We pull those darned weeds (which are indigenous ingredients of the natural habitat). Many of the frogs and turtles are gone. Thankfully, the minnows (food for most critters) were given a chance to rebound when commercial trapping ceased.

Long before descendants of man emerged from the primordial soup, these creatures and their kind were here. Remember who was here first and who is an interloper.

Be gentle with Lady Birch.

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Lake Residents References upon request.

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