

Al Cover
22



Birch Banker

ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE.

A Publication by the Birch Lake Yacht Club

August 29, 1998

Issue 14

COMMODORES' COMMENTS

Saturday saw another attempt at having a "Couples Race" thwarted by lack of wind.

Saturday evening some 75 Birch Lakers enjoyed another fall dinner catered by Bonnie & Clydes. The food was excellent, thanks to Phyllis and crew. Al Cover presented the Commodores Trophy to Rick and Patti Russwurm for all of their efforts and assistance to the Yacht Club. Al then passed the Commodoreship to me.. I am admittedly a bit nervous at this point, but hopefully that will pass. I announced my new Vice Commodore, Bob King. I feel very lucky that Bob accepted, and feel he will be a great asset to me in the coming year. I am looking forward to working with Bob.

As I stated, at the fall dinner, we have a very unique community. To some, it's a weekend or summer get-away, to others it is our home. We are blessed with clear water and the serene beauty of Birch Lake. As we enjoy this great resource, let us take a moment to thank the people who have been here for years, the people who have had the foresight to maintain the Lake we are able to enjoy on a daily basis. Had those people not had the vision to keep the Lake, for the most part "Private", we wouldn't be able to enjoy the Lake as we do today. We have the responsibility to keep the Lake as natural and unspoiled as we possibly can. If we do this now, perhaps 30 or 40 years down the road our children and grandchildren will love it as much as we do.

On a lighter note, I would like to thank everyone who helped with the Fall Dinner, my Wife, Sally, Tom & Vicki Rodgers, Rick Russwurm who managed the bar, Pam Mullins for providing the flowers for the tables, and Liz and Al Cover, Scott and Holly Troeger for taking Reservations and keeping in contact so we could provide Bonnie & Clydes with an accurate "head Count", and to everyone who helped clean up after the dinner. Again, Thanks.

The Sailors were blessed with strong winds Sunday morning. Thank you to my Wife, Sally, Leslie and Calvin King for helping me to man the starting boat. The races were quick and quite exciting to watch. If you've only observed them from shore, you're missing a lot. You should come out and watch them from your boat, and cheer the sailors on. But please give them ample space and keep in mind they have the right of way.

Again, let me say, I'm looking forward to serving as your Commodore for 1999.

Jim Beck, Commodore

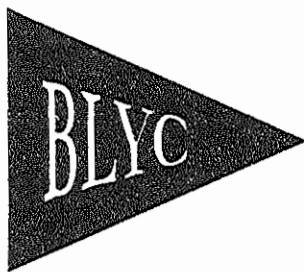
1998 SCHEDULE

Director's meeting	Saturday, September 5, 9:00am	BLYC
Sailing Trophies	Monday, September 7, 11:00am <i>Please note time change</i>	BLYC

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FLEET NEWS

Saturday morning we had a *Learn to Sail* class: rigging a Sunfish, basics of sailing (on shore) & then everyone went out for a short race on the kiddie course. The Scott Troeger clan had a boat-load including Alex Ball, Alice Corey, Lindsey Huang, Michelle Huang, Amy Troeger, Tory Troeger & Neil (the pirate) Troeger. Deb Richwine, son Patrick, Leslie & Cal were also in the group. Thanks to Holly, Dave, Don & Lind for the help.

The 2:00 pm Couples Race 2 went much like the first - no wind. Third time a charm ... ?

The wind Sunday was explosive -- South-west bursting 15-20 knots. Both of the fleets were blasted around the course for two quick races bringing this years season total to 12. Only 2 races remain in the regular season before the third season begins - the Labor Day Regatta. Thanks go to the Beck crew who overcame the post Fall Dinner haze to run the start.

Leslie & I have agreed to help Commodore & First Lady Beck as Vice. I will resign as Fleet Captain at the season end on Labor Day. Sincere thanks to all those who helped these last two years. I hope that we can build our fleet in the years to come. See you on the water.

Cap'n Bob

08/23 - Race Results:

		Season Race #	
		11	12
Sunfish	S. Troeger	1	1
	B. King	3	2
	J. Howard	2	3
	D. Olson.	4	4
	J. Bolinger	dns	dns
	M. Athanas	dns	dns
	M. Machalleck	dns	dns
	D. Weaver	dns	dns
	J. Gableman	dns	dns
	C. Spratt	dns	dns
J. Slaytor	dns	dns	
MCs	T. Howard	1	1
	R. Harmon	4	2
	T. Troeger	3	4
	D. Harmon	5	3
	H. Cranmer	2	dnf
	B. Harian	dns	5
Starters	J. Beck	4	
	S. Plaia	4	
	S. Pitakos	4	
	M. Sante	dns	
	W. King	dns	

Trophy Time

Labor Day Monday at 11:00am we will distribute the Sailing & Starter awards. Come to Bill & Le King's boathouse on the North Shore.

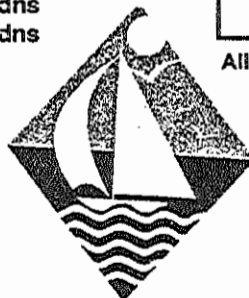
Parking is tight so please walk or come by boat (sail would be nice). Everyone is welcome so please come especially *Regatta Kidz!*

Correction: last weeks race results listed Dave Olson as dns in race 2, he finished, sorry Dave.

Labor Day Regatta:

Saturday 09/05 at 11:00 am
 Sunday 09/06 at 2:00 pm

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



We are sorry to hear of the death of Don Erhardt, a lifelong resident of Birch Lake. Don died on August 20 at Borgess Medical Center in Kalamazoo after a short illness. Don and Mary Alice, have lived at Birch Lake for 45 years. During that time he enjoyed boating, fishing, and just being at "The Lake". Don loved to talk and his stories were not only informative, but interesting. He loved to tell others about simpler times at "the Lake". Don is survived by his wife of 55 years, Mary Alice, and four children; Don Jr. of New Carlisle, Indiana; Cheryl Wilcox and husband, Tom of The Colony, Texas; Lynne Halsted also of The Colony, Texas; and John Erhardt of Birch Lake. Don is also survived by grandchildren; Tracy, Kimberly, and Ryan Wilcox also Josh and Adam Halsted.

The Erhardt family would like to thank all of the friends and neighbors at "the Lake" for the cards, food, and support during this time of sorrow. With Special thanks to Julie and Doug Weaver for being there for Don and Mary Alice, especially during the last few weeks of Don's life when he was so ill. Don was a fixture at Birch Lake and we will miss him.

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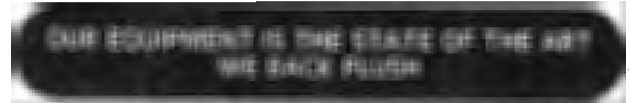
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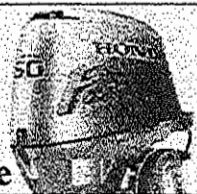
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