



# The Birch Barker

A Publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

**ALL THE NEWS IN, ON AND AROUND THE LAKE**

COMMODORES COMMENTS

Volume One, May 29, 1999

Welcome back to the lake everyone! It's been a long winter for all of us. As the days continue to get longer, we know summer can't be far off. I see more & more people "opening up" in anticipation of another season. For those of you who were not at the Spring Dinner, here are some things that have happened since last summer. The last sailor on the lake was Bob King who sailed on Thanksgiving Day. The first water-skiers this Spring were Dr. Green's family who hit the lake on March 28<sup>th</sup> – Brave Souls!

Since last summer we have lost some friends. Gone from our shores are: Don Earhardt, Carl Burkett, Cisco Minix, Les Jensen, Avanelle Cowen, Chet Waggoner & Stan Stokel. To the friends, family & neighbors of these people we offer our sincere condolences – they will all be missed.


During the winter Doris Sante resigned as Editor of the Barker. Thanks go to Doris for all the work she put into our paper over the years. Our new Editor is Beth Blackwood. Please drop off articles, ads & items of interest at the Blackwood residence in the Cove.

Welcome to the new residents on the lake. The Parkinson family purchased the Mather place (South side), the DeYoung family now owns the Ward home (West shore), the Calderwoods bought the former Steffen place (West side), the Wos family now own the Ferguson place (next to the Landing) & the Meyers have taken up residence (East side). We look forward to meeting you & hope you will be active members of our community.

Thanks to the volunteers who participated in the Road Cleanup May 15<sup>th</sup>. Our helpers were: Sandra Krchmar, Sally Beck, Bruce Wagner, Dick Bender, Scott & Neil Troeger, & Rick Russworm. It was great of you to help. Last weekend we cleaned the Yacht Club. Again, many thanks to the volunteers including: Bruce & Sue Wagner, John Scofield, Scott, Neil & Amy Troeger, Dick Golden, Sally Beck & Bob King. Things look a lot better – great job folks!

The Commodore's Cocktail Party is in the not too distant future on June 12<sup>th</sup>. We are adding a little twist to it this year with a wine tasting so bring a bottle (or two) of your favorite vintage! We will provide cheese, bread & fruit to cleanse your palates. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share. June 12<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it! Enough for now. Have a safe & fun Memorial Day weekend!

Jim Beck, Commodore

<b>1999 Yacht Club Officers:</b>		<b>Standing Committees:</b>	
Commodore – Jim Beck		<b>Water Quality:</b>	
Vice Commodore – Bob King		Gert & Bob Temple	
Secretary – Sally Beck		Janet & Dan Reynolds	
Treasurer – Holly Troeger		Linda & Terry Curtis	
Fleet Captain – Scott Troeger		<b>Homeowners Association:</b>	
<b>Board of Directors:</b>		Dean Davis	
<b>North Side</b>	<b>South Side</b>	Rick Russworm	
Bill King	Denny Weesner	Scott Troeger	
Pam Mullin	Dan Reynolds	Herm Kruggel	
Rick Russworm	Dick Bender	Bill King	
Dean Davis	Dr. Richard Green		
<b>East Side</b>	<b>West Side</b>	Time spent gazing at Birch is not deducted from one's life span ...	
Judy Olson	Herm Kruggel		
Scott Troeger	Liz Cover		
	Sally Beck		

# 1999 Schedule of Events & Meetings

Sat - 06/12 - Commodore's Cocktail Party  
 Sat - 07/03 - Boat Parade (4:00 pm)  
 Sat - 07/03 - Fireworks (after dark, rain-date Sun)  
 Sun- 07/04 - Tannadoonah Pancake Breakfast  
 Sat - 07/10 - Birch Lake Garage Sale  
 Sat - 07/17 - Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party  
 Fri - 07/30 - Men's Golf Outing \*  
 Fri - 08/06 - Ladie's Golf Outing  
 ? ??/?? - Ladie's Luncheon  
 Sat - 08/07 - Corn & Sausage Roast  
 Sat - 08/21 - Fall Dinner

## BLYC Board:

Sat - 06/05 - Club, 9:00 am  
 Sat - 07/10 - " "  
 Sat - 08/07 - " "  
 Sat - 09/11 - " "

## Homeowners Association:

Sat - 08/07 - after Brd. Mtg. - 10:00

We still need someone to run the Ladie's Outing & Ladie's Luncheon, please contact Sally Beck ...

### \* Note:

due to a change in policy at the Park Shores course, the Men's outing was moved to Spruce Ridge this year.

## Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

Due to the generosity of those who have sent in dues & contributions our treasury is "mostly" solvent (note the building fund deficit). The balances as of 05/21 are:

General Fund .....	\$ 592.80
Homeowners Association .....	1,994.81
Sailing Club .....	138.00
Building Improvements .....	(1,085.79) *
Fireworks .....	3,778.45 **
Water Quality .....	3,599.93
Riparian .....	63.00
NET .....	\$9,081.20 ***

### Notes:

- \* ( ) denotes a negative number
- \*\* within \$500 of the '99 cost
- \*\*\* minus \$4,250 fireworks 07/04

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ - BLYC Member Dues (\$20 / year)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Homeowners Assoc. (\$10 / year)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Fireworks Display Fund  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Water Quality Program  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Other \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ - Riparian (\$7/yr, provide address)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

- TOTAL

Send dues / contributions to Sally Beck  
 62815 Birch, Lakeview Dr.  
 Vandalia, MI 49095

The last printing of the Directory was '97 so there are many outdated listings. Some people are upset that names or addresses are wrong. While we make a best effort to *get it right*, errors are quite possible. We are currently compiling the new database.

**Send corrections now!**

If no changes are requested we assume the old information is ok. Sally Beck is leading this project. Complete the form on the right, mail to her, phone her at 476-2760, or live with bad listings until 2001 ...

Please list names, summer and winter address & phone numbers below:

name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

lake address / phone \_\_\_\_\_

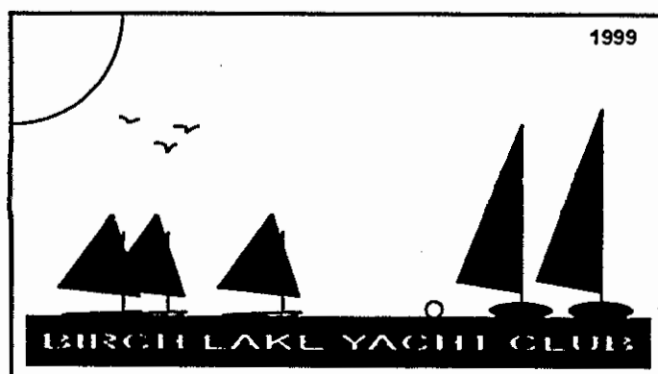
winter address / phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

### Two new fundraisers in progress:

T-shirts (\$12), Long Sleeve T-shirts (\$15) & Sweat-shirts (\$22). New designs (by Coy Jankowski) and colors. Limited number available early June, order for late June. Contact Dan Reynolds at 476-9898.

BLYC coffee mugs (\$8), design similar to that at right wraps around mug, 3-finger handles, blue on bone color. Order is in progress now for 38 sold at the Spring dinner, may break mold at 100 (just kidding). Contact Bob King at 219-299-0705 or Bill & Le King at 476-2128



*Birch Lake is Clean and Beautiful*

*Once upon a time -*

*Septic Systems seeped into Birch Lake*

*What did you do for Birch Lake?*

*You dug out the old - you installed the new!*

*now*

*What can you do for Birch Lake?*

*You can pump your tank and then*

*every two years*

*PUMP your tank again!!!*

*Proper maintenance is important to the health of Birch Lake.*

*BLQC Water Quality Committee*

## Water Quality Update

You have probably noticed that the clarity of Birch Lake is outstanding. Tests this Spring with a Secchi disk revealed readings of 21 & 26 feet. The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) considers 12-15 feet superior.

In addition, bacteria, fecal coliform, nitrogen & phosphorus profiles continue to be excellent. Birch is in the best shape *ever* since testing & water quality work began in the late '70s. Your Water Quality Committee is available to address any specific residential problems.

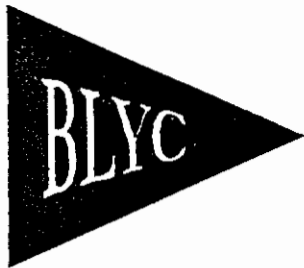
Birch Lake is also a member of the Michigan Lakes & Stream Association (MLSA), which gives us access to all it's programs & conferences. This year Birch became a member of the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program, a cooperative venture between the MLSA, the DEQ & the CLMP. Fewer than fifty lakes belong to this elite program.

The Water Quality Committee continues to monitor on a regular basis both the lake water & surrounding watershed. At this time we are delighted to report that our lake is in excellent condition -- considered by many to be the best in Southern Michigan.

Gertie & Bob Temple  
Linda & Terry Curtis  
Janet & Dan Reynolds

### CAN'T FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET RID OF IT ????????

Porter Township will come to the rescue. On Sat. 06/05, from 8-2 MI, 7-1 IN, Township officers & Sheriffs Dept. Trustees will wait for you at the American Waste facility on Mason St., a block West of Union Rd. to help you get rid of that "stuff" even the trash haulers won't take. Even refrigerators, freezers & air conditioners that need coolants will be taken without charge! Household hazardous wastes like paints & sprays are ok too. The only charge is for tires, wheels & rims. There is help for those who are unable to move an item on their own. No yard waste accepted, compost it please. To arrange help call 10-4 at 641-2375 (M-F)



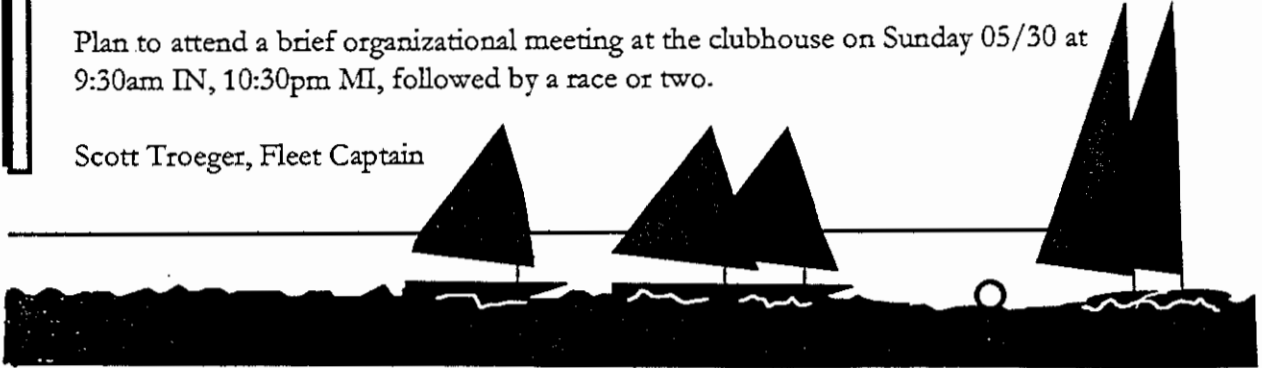
May 1999

## SAILING NEWS

Tune up (or at least locate) your boats for a quick Memorial Day Regatta. No one will have had much opportunity to practice (except of course Bob King who just returned from cruising the Caribbean on a fifty footer), so this will give everyone a chance to refresh their memory of which rope does what ...

Plan to attend a brief organizational meeting at the clubhouse on Sunday 05/30 at 9:30am IN, 10:30pm MI, followed by a race or two.

Scott Troeger, Fleet Captain



### NEW PWC LAWS IN EFFECT FOR '99

**BOATING SEASON.** From our Boating Safety Committee: As the boating season begins, there are a number of new and revised laws concerning PWCs that we need to be aware of so that everyone will be able to enjoy a safe, fun-filled season.

1. No one shall operate a PWC unless each person 12 years of age or older, riding on or being towed behind a PWC is wearing a type I, II or III, Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device. (Always look for that label when you buy.) Anyone born after Dec.31, 1978 must have a boating safety certificate.

2. No one shall operate a PWC unless each person on board or being towed by the PWC who is less than 12 years of age is wearing a Type I or II personal flotation device.

3. No one shall operate a PWC if a child who is under 7 years of age is on board or being towed behind the PWC, unless the child is in the company of his or her parent or guardian or a designee of the parent or guardian.

4. While operating a PWC equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type cutoff switch, the lanyard must be attached to his or her person, clothing, or personal flotation device as is appropriate for the PWC.

5. No one may operate a PWC during the period that begins one hour before sunset and ends at 8 am. "Sunset" means that time determined by the National Weather Service.

6. A PWC operator shall not cross within 150 feet behind another vessel, other than a PWC, unless the person is operating at slow--no-wake speed.

7. A person shall operate a PWC in a reasonable and prudent manner. A maneuver that unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb, or property, including but not limited to all of the following, constitutes reckless operation:

Weaving through congested traffic.

Jumping the wake of another vessel

unreasonably OR unnecessarily close to the other vessel, or when visibility around the other vessel is obstructed.

8. Beginning with March 31, 2000, non-residents of Michigan will be required to obtain a boating safety certificate in order to operate a PWC in this state.

9. The owner of a PWC or the person having charge over or control of a PWC ( renter and or a rentee?) shall not authorize or permit the personal water craft to be operated in violation of these laws.

Please be aware of what is happening all around you and remember to be considerate of the others who also enjoy using our lake. Also all boaters need to remember that you are required to have your licenses with you, even on PWCs. It is suggested that you photocopy and laminate them and keep the real thing at home. Thanks. Your Boating Safety Committee

### CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR RENT:** Lovely 3-bedroom cottage on North Shore, Birch Lake. Call Stewart Spratt at 606-344-1146 (h) or 513-241-4959 ext. 239 (w)

**FOR SALE:** Gently used office set. Walnut veneer on solid wood desk, locking 5 drawer, matching formica top. Three walnut chairs, burgundy button backs with brass button rolled arms, two guest & one swivel. Call Bob King at 219-299-0705, or weekends at 476-2128

**WANTED:** Nice young couple wants Birch Lake cottage / home. We always seem to miss those dream spots as they sell (overnight). Please give us a call if you know of a property coming on to the market - Phil & Sandy Vitale at 219-291-6102, p.s. prefer a firm bottom

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