



Volume Three, June 12, 1999

COMMODORES COMMENTS

Another GREAT WEEKEND! It looks as though most people have their work done, as there was a lot of activity on the lake. We have had some complaints about boats going inside piers and rafts. Remember, people swim in these areas and you need to stay 100 feet from rafts and buoy markers! Also, as we were cruising, we had several boaters not watching, and they cut in front of us. Everyone needs to be alert, careful, and courteous!

We have been observing the Blue Heron's, and if you haven't noticed, there are Great Blue Heron's this summer. You can tell which ones they are because they are larger and have a black stripe on their head.

Hope to see you all next weekend at the Commodore's Party.

Jim Beck, Commodore

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE NEXT MONTH

- Sat / June 12 - Commodore's Cocktail Party
- Sat / July 3 - Boat Parade (4:00pm)
- Sat / July 3 - Fireworks (after dark, rain-date Sun)
- Sun / July 4 - Tannadoonah Pancake Breakfast
- Sat / July 10 - Birch Lake Garage Sale
- Sat / July 17 - Vice Commodore's Cocktail Party
- Fri / July 30 - Men's Golf Outing

LAST REMINDER! Don't forget the COMMODORE'S cocktail/wine tasting party. Bring a bottle of your favorite and we will have the ice ready to chill it. Bring a snack to share and we look forward to seeing you all there. STARTS AT 7pm (IN)

Sally Beck

Editor's Notes:

Please remember Russ's request for continued support of Camp Tannadoonah. It remains one of the lake treasures.

Also, if you have items for the BARKER, they must reach me by Mon of the week you would like them to appear. Put your information in the special box at the bottom of the hill on Lakeview Drive... Call 476-2840... Or E-Mail EBlackwood@netscape.net.

1999 Yacht Club Officers & Standing Committees:

Commodore – Jim Beck
Vice Commodore – Bob King
Secretary – Sally Beck
Treasurer – Holly Troeger
Fleet Captain – Scott Troeger

Board of Directors:

| North | East | South | West |
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| Pam Mullin | Scott Troeger | Dan Reynolds | Liz Cover |
| Rick Russworm | | Dick Bender | Sally Beck |
| Dean Davis | | Dr. Richard Green | |

Water Quality Committee:

Gert Temple
Dan Reynolds
Terry Curtis

Homeowners Association:

Dean Davis
Scott Troeger
Rick Russworm
Herm Kruggel
Bill King

1999 BLYC MEMBERS

* Indicates Fireworks

| | | |
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| | Pitakos, Stan* | |

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Conley, Kim
Everett, Amy
Vitale, Phil & Sandy

LAKE NOTES

Lake Notes are compiled from local history publications, including Birch Barkers and other newspaper archives.

A distinguishing feature of Porter Township is the Mogador Valley, so named because it was the bed of glacial Lake Mogador thousands of years ago. The creek, which still drains the valley, rises in Birch Lake, passes through Shavehead Lake, falls into Long Lake and from there runs south until it joins the St. Joseph River. The Magador Valley is reported to have been included in a list of "Scenic Wonders of America" in Reader's Digest some years ago and the Valley was also recognized and briefly noted by poet Walt Whitman. (Marcellus News 11/23/72 & misc. Porter Twp. Publications)

In view of the Yacht Club's 1998 project to improve the building, the following historical item seems especially noteworthy:

"To those of you who have not had the opportunity to see the remodeled yacht club--you are in for a surprise...The old outdoor "conveniences" on the club roof have been abandoned and new ones installed inside the club, complete with tiled walls and floors. New wiring has been installed...And, above all, it is now dry and comfortable."(Birch Barker, 6/11/77)

Sandra Krchmar

FOUND: 12 ft Alum. Canoe; off lake Call Pat Stever 476-2578

Birch Lake Club Contributions

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

Send checks to Sally Beck
62815 Birch Lakeveiw Dr.
Vandalia, MI 49095

THE NEW BIRCH LAKE SHIRTS ARE HERE!
THEY WILL BE ON DISPLAY AND AVAILABLE
FOR PURCHASE AT THE COMMODORE'S
COCKTAIL PARTY. IF YOU'RE NOT
ATTENDING THE PARTY, DON'T WORRY,
YOU CAN PURCHASE SHIRTS FROM DAN
REYNOLDS (SOUTH SIDE 476-8877) OR
NATALIE DUDEK WHO WILL BE VISITING
EACH RESIDENCE DIRECTLY. A SMALL
SUPPLY IS AVAILABLE NOW, BUT ORDERS
WILL BE TAKEN UNTIL THE PANCAKE
BREAFAST.

FOUR DESIGNS IN FOUR COLORS.

T-SHIRT \$12.00

LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT \$15.00

SWEATSHIRTS \$22.00

Cash or checks payable to Dan Reynolds with each
order. All profits to the Yacht Club General Fund

NEWS FROM THE WEST SIDE

Shirley and Joe Caenepeel of So. Bend and Birch
Lake will celebrate their 50th anniversary June 27 with
a family dinner at Hickory Inn. They were married in
Mishawaka May 7, 1949. They have three children:
Marc of Ashville NC; Peggy Grcich of So. Bend; and
Joellen Kosmicki of Carbondale, CO. They also have
five grandchildren and have lived in So. Bend for 50
years.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH SIDE

You may have noticed a curly blonde boy on the
WSBT local news this past Friday. Cal King was
interviewed as he and his mother Leslie picked up his
shirt and number for the Kids Sunburst Run on Sat. at
the ND field. Autographs available!

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH SIDE

The south was quiet but I have a hunch they'll be
heard from soon.

NEWS FROM THE EAST SIDE

Nothing reported. Let's hear it next week guys.

NEWS FROM THE COVE by Sunny Waters

Attention, crazed grandparents:

Have any of you set the alarm for 4:00AM and driven
600 miles to watch your precious little ballerina in a
three minute recital? A cove resident mother of 5 and
grandmother to 7, who wishes anonymity, would love
to hear, through the Barker, any experiences from
doting grandparents.

(Cove Cont.)

Loretta Drolet will be back home fairly soon after
touring with the road company of the hit musical,
"Ain't She Sweet". Loretta, of course, is the lead.

From Vol. 31 of Chase's Annual Events: Today is
"Madam Lou Bunch Day" which celebrates madams
and sporting house girls of a by-gone era. How quaint!

Sunny regrets to inform you that Cove Comments will
not appear next week, as she is celebrating a significant
wedding anniversary on Mackinaw Island.

Hope this won't ruin your week. Ta Ta...Sunny

INFORMATION FOR THE NEW DIRECTORY

Please list names, summer and winter address & phone
numbers (e-mail if available)

Name _____

Lake address/phone _____

Winter address/phone _____

e-mail _____

THE BEST OF BECK'S BISTRO

Drink of the Week

"RED DEVIL"

½ oz gin

1/2oz vodka

1/2oz whiskey

1/2oz triple sec

1/2oz Banana liqueur

1 T lime juice

2oz orange juice

Shake with ice and serve in highball glass

Entree of the Week

CREAMY MUSHROOM CHICKEN BREASTS

8 skinless, boneless chicken breasts

1 ½ tsb. Butter or marg

1 pkg dry Italian dressing (Good Seasons Extra Zest)
salt and pepper

½ can cream of chicken soup

½ can cream of mushroom soup

6oz cream cheese

¾ cup dry white wine

6oz mushrooms -drained

1lb pasta cooked

Dip chicken breasts in melted butter. Place in single
layer in casserole dish. Sprinkle half of the dry
dressing over and salt and pepper. Turn over and do
same to other side. Cover and bake at 250 for 30 min.
In Saucepan over medium heat soup, wine, and cream
cheese. Stir until cheese is melted and add mushrooms.
Pour over chicken and bake for 45-60 min. While
chicken is cooking prepare pasta. Serve spooned over
pasta. These breasts come out so tender you can cut
them with a fork.

Sally Beck

**SUBMIT YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES. WE
KNOW THERE ARE GREAT CULINARY
TREASURES BURIED ON THESE SHORES!**

Water Quality Update

Birch Lake is Clean and Beautiful

Once upon a time -

Residents were urged to reduce phosphorus runoff

What did you do for Birch Lake?

You stopped feeding the algae!

You stopped using fertilizers with PHOSPHORUS!!

You raked and removed the leaves from the lawn!

You pulled and removed the weeds from the beach!

now

What can you do for Birch Lake?

If you are planting a lawn, use fescue instead of blue grass

Use the smallest possible amount of soluble form of nitrogen

in the spring and then throughout the summer you can continue

to use your pump to sprinkle your lawn with enriched lake water

BLWC Water Quality Committee

Lake Critters

This past weekend Cal & I spent hours playing in the water & later developed *swimmers itch*, small red raised areas on the skin (resemble mosquito bites). I called Dr. George Plain, St. Joe County Medical Officer, for information on the malady.

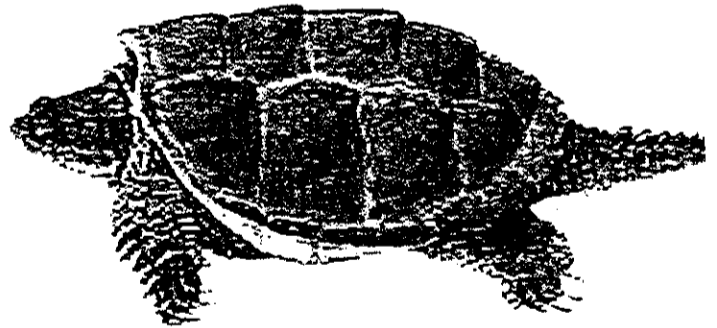
He asked if I was schooled in biology & botany? No. He said the *itch* is from a Fluke related to the dangerous *Schistosoma Mansoni* of Africa. The Trematode responsible for the *itch* attaches to the skin rather than invading a human host internally (thank goodness).

To learn more I went to the Web & did a search entering the word Trematode - 273 matches! An hour later I knew more than I cared to about the various parasites, trematodes, their immediate host (snails) & definitive hosts (man).

Commonly referred to as "duck fluke", the leaf shaped parasites live in snails & during their larval bloom attach to & irritate human skin. The bloom spreads by wind & waves, so portions of Birch may experience the problem while others do not. The bloom may relate to the heat wave.

Dr. Plain suggests that while the bloom is present residents should wash after exiting the lake with soap & water...consult a Dermatologist at need.

Bob King



Have you seen all the turtles in our Lake this year? Perhaps due to water quality, maybe just the slow breeding cycle of a prehistoric animal (or both).

Local species include:
Terrapins (leatherback / soft-shell),
Painted, Mud & Snappers. Snappers may be the Common variety 8 - 18", or the Alligator Snapper (the worlds largest fresh water species at up to 219 lbs).

Turtles are best left alone unless you have the capture skills of local kids like Stewart Spratt. Many consider turtle meat to be a delicacy (soups, etc), but, sometimes you eat the turtle ...

Bob King

HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION NEWS:

A reminder to voters in the Constantine School District (all of Birch, except the West shore & Cove). An election will be held Monday 06/14/99 on a proposed Bond Issue amounting to \$12,500,000 to replace the Middle School & modify the High School locker rooms for handicap access. If approved by the voters, this will increase property taxes by 4.53 mills. The School Board indicated this would be the first in a series of requested Construction Bond Issues & property tax millage requests. All of those eligible should plan to vote June 14th to make their wishes known ...

BLYC SAILING NEWS

The June 6, 1999 Season race results and standings are:

| <u>MC's</u> | <u>1st Race</u> | <u>2nd Race</u> | <u>Cumulative Points Average</u> |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Harold Cranmer | 1 | 2 | 1560.5 |
| Don Harman | 2 | 1 | 1560.5 |
| Bruce Harlan | 3 | 3 | 1444 |
| Sunfish | | | |
| Tom Howard | 3 | 1 | 1522 |
| Bob King | 1 | 4 | 1484 |
| Scott Troeger | 2 | 3 | 1482.5 |
| Dave Olson | 4 | 2 | 1445 |
| Jim Bolinger | 5 | 5 | 1296 |

Next races: Sunday, June 13, 1999 at 11:00 a.m. (Indiana time), 12:00 m. (Michigan time).

The winds were adequate, but stronger at different times on different sides of the course. Both Sunfish races were won by boats that came from behind in the final leg of the race by correctly choosing the windy side of the course and exploiting that choice by skillful sailing. Congratulations to Bob King for a nice victory on his wedding anniversary.

My sincere thanks are extended to the Plaia's, who stood in as starters when the scheduled starter could not make it because of car trouble. This last minute reshuffling contributed to my failure to meet my goal of starting the races on time, for which I apologize to the sailors, all of whom were ready at the appointed time. To compound the troubles, the starter boat (mine) broke down during the second race, so the sailors finished that race on the honor system. Could all these mechanical problems be a sign that sailing is a more dependable form of transportation?

Scott Troeger, Fleet Captain

ANNOUNCEMENT TO MC SAILORS

Two local Regattas coming up, and Eagle Lake is renewing the "round-robin" series that used to be sailed between Birch Lake, Corey Lake, Diamond Lake and Eagle Lake.

1. **Diamond Lake Open Championship**
June 26 and 27, 1999
4 or 5 races
Place: Diamond Lake Yacht Club
Cassopolis, Michigan
Contact: Tom Wurster (616) 445-3227

2. **MC Madness**
July 10, 1999
4 to 5 races in one day
Place: Eagle Lake Sailing Club
Edwardsburg, Michigan
Contact: Dick Booth (219) 875 - 6276

CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale: Franklin Stove. \$50.00 Judy Olson 476-2125

Wanted: Used aluminum swim raft. Call 476-2719

Please check if your all-time favorite windsock is missing. Call 476-2090. Hurry, we're getting attached to it.

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| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Aug. 28 KANSAS | Oct. 16 USC |
| Sept. 4 at Michigan | Oct. 30 NAVY |
| Sept. 11 at Purdue | Nov. 6 at Tennessee |
| Sept. 18 MICHIGAN STATE | Nov. 13 at Pittsburg |
| Oct. 2 OKLAHOMA | Nov. 20 BOSTON COLLEGE |
| Oct. 9 ARIZONA STATE | Nov. 27 at Stanford |



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| | Worship Hour | 10:30 am |
| | Evening Service | 6:30 pm |

| | | |
|------------|------------|---------|
| Wednesday: | Adult | 7:30 pm |
| | Youth | 7:15 pm |
| | Kid's Club | 7:15 pm |

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