



Volume Four, June 19, 1999

COMMODORES COMMENTS

Well, we survived the first function of the summer! The Commodore's Cocktail and Wine Tasting Party seemed to be a success! If the number of empty wine bottles is any indication of how the party went, it was a huge success!! I hope everyone had a good time... I know we certainly did.

Thank all of you for coming. Also, thanks to our team of bartenders who actually seemed bored at times, as nearly everyone helped themselves to the many varieties of wine. They were Rick and Patti Russworm, Scott and Holly Troeger, Dean Davis and Bob Herms. The food was great and the camaraderie was even better!

Hope everyone enjoyed the music. Another thank you to Rick Russworm for helping Sally and me clean up on Sunday.

Sorry for the delay in delivering the Barker to part of the South shore. It's all fixed and shouldn't be problem in the future.

Wish the weather could have been better on Sunday, but I sure don't have a handle on changing that. It was a good "recovery" day!!

Be thinking about your boat parade decorations. July 3rd will be here before you know it.
Have great week!

Jim Beck, Commodore

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE NEXT MONTH

- 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

Editor's Notes:

We need more news from different parts of the lake. We can't make you famous if we don't hear from you. If you have items for the BARKER, they should 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:

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Pam Mullin	Scott Troeger	Dan Reynolds	Liz Cover
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Water Quality Committee:

Bob and Gertie Temple
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* Indicates Fireworks

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Curtis, Steven & Deborah*	Kruggel Kevin*(Fireworks Only)	Wagner, Bruce & Sue*
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LAKE NOTES

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

Birch Lake Bert says: It's not what you do for your children that counts...it's what you do with them. All the money you may leave them, they may lose, but the memories of summers spent with you at Birch Lake will live with them forever. (Birch Barker, 7/27/50)

Most people have heard of wormwood, but very few have seen it growing. Visitors to Birch Lake are mystified that this area produces wormwood. This is easily understandable because this is the only section in the United States that produces wormwood oil in saleable quantities. There are about 500 acres of wormwood under cultivation in the Birch Lake area. Four distilleries are operated by four wormwood farmers: J.M. Carter, T.C. Carter, Tom White and Robert Wood.

Oil of wormwood finds its use in the medical profession, principally confined to liniment. Before being outlawed in the U.S., wormwood was used in absinthe, a drink very popular in the Old French Quarter of New Orleans.

Don't forget to show your visitors to the Birch Lake wormwood farms. They will be seeing something that cannot be seen anywhere else in the U.S. (Birch Barker, 7/27/50)

Sandra Krchmar

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

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

NEWS FROM THE WEST SIDE

As the turtle story said last week, they are best left alone unless you have capture skills. Brogan Cover and his mother can attest to that. When they stopped on Harvey St. to get a closer look at a VERY BIG turtle, it took a bite of Brogan's leg. Liz immediately checked with the doctor and was told turtle's do not carry disease in their bites. However, they do leave scars, as Brogan showed at Mass last Sunday.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH SIDE

No news to report from this area this week.

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH SIDE

No news from the south again this week. If we don't start getting some soon, we will be forced to start looking in windows!

NEWS FROM THE EAST SIDE

Linda and Ron Witchie are proud to announce the birth of their son BLAKE RAY. He arrived Tuesday, May 18, at 6:51pm (in time for a late dinner). Although, it probably wasn't necessary, as he weighed in at 8lbs. 9ozs. He measured 21 1/2 inches. Welcome to the Lake...Blake.

NEWS FROM THE COVE

By the editor (Sunny is off having fun)

Nick Bergan has completed his first year at St. Louis University with a 3.8 GPA. He'll be leaving again this week to go back to tutor students this summer. We're proud of him and will see him July 4th.

Not embarrass Lauren McKay, but her father has a long way to go. When discussing her school dance, he asked "How was the sock hop?". Does that date him or what?

We have some bad news to report. As Tish and Bill Hayden were traveling to the airport for the return trip to Birch Lake, they were involved in a serious auto accident. Bill and their son Tom were shaken up but okay. Tish, however, suffered a neck injury and will be in traction for a while. Travel will not be an option for some time. We will update this as we know more. Please keep her in your prayers.

We would like to wish all the fathers a VERY HAPPY FATHERS DAY. We appreciate you every day of the year but we may even mention it today.

INFORMATION FOR THE NEW DIRECTORY MUST BE INTO SALLY BECK BY JUNE 20th OR THE INFORMATION IN THE OLD DIRECTORY WILL BE USED! Send any changes to: Sally Beck

62815 Birch Lakeview Dr.
Vandalia, MI 49095

BEST OF BECK'S BISTRO

Drink of the Week

Chocolate Raspberry Truffle

1oz. Chocolate Liqueur

1oz. Raspberry Liqueur

1oz. Irish Cream

Fill with milk, shake and pour over ice.

Recipe of the Week

Black/Diamond Marinade

8T Worcestershire Sauce

4T molasses

4T soy sauce

6T MSG or 3T Accent

1/2 tsp. Salt

1tsp pepper

3/4 C water

Mix all ingredients; marinate steak or chicken for 1 1/2 hours in fridge.

Boat Parade

Now is the time to start thinking about decorating your boat for the annual BOAT PARADE, Sat. July 3rd at 4:00 pm IN time. Any theme is OK but be creative. This year we will have a Grand Marshall to lead the parade. We have chosen Loretta Drolet and she will be escorted around the Lake by Bruce and Sue Wagner. Numbers can be picked up at Reynold's pier and then proceed by Gableman's pier where the judges will be waiting. Plan to join in. Fireworks will follow later that evening. Rain date for both is Sunday.

BLYC Associate Members

The notion grew from a conversation with my neighbors Phil and Sandy Vitale, who are frequent guests at Birch. They love the Lake, attend many of our Yacht Club events & wanted to be part of the Club. Do you have guests who want to join? Associate dues are \$10/year. While Associate Members have no voting rights, they are invited to all Yacht Club functions, pay a low member price for refreshments, & are entitled to lots of fun. We have room for more. Call Jim & Sally 476-2760

Bob King

SUBMIT YOUR FAVORITE RECIPES.

Birch Lake Watershed

The major physical characteristics of Birch Lake and land uses of the watershed are given below:

Surface Area:	296 Acres
Volume:	12,743 Acre Feet
Maximum Depth:	95 Feet
Mean Depth:	43 Feet
Shoreline Length:	15,800 Feet
Immediate Drainage Area: (including the lake) (The lake drains to the southwest)	975 Acres
Estimated Water Renewal Time:	15.2 Years
Land Use in Watershed:	Agriculture 28%
	Urban/Residential 33%
	Forest 29%
	Other 10%

The mean depth of Birch Lake (43 feet), steep bottom slope, and regular shoreline are favorable for retarding eutrophication. However, these factors are off-set to some extent by the relatively long water renewal period (15.2 years).

An increase in phosphorus loadings would deteriorate water quality to the eutrophic threshold.

Any phosphorus entering Birch Lake would remain there for a long time. It is very deep and has a small watershed. Because of the 619 acre watershed area and the 296 acre lake's volume of water, its water retention time is estimated at 15 years; therefore, reduction of phosphorus runoff will lessen phosphorus buildup.

Birch Lake is spring fed. The compactly shaped watershed is relatively small. There are no streams to carry large amounts of pollution from other lakes; therefore, pollution comes from the negative effects that residents have on the water quality of the lake.

However, this negative effect on Birch Lake's fragile environment can be substantially controlled by proper planning and water quality lake management.

The Birch Lake Water Quality Committee is the lake preservation committee.

* Inland Lakes Study prepared by National Biocentric and the Cass County Health Department Birch Lake Survey Program continues to provide data helpful to us.

When Birch Lake had a residential sewage pollution problem, the total watershed was examined, not merely those areas that lie adjacent to the lake's edge. A watershed is simply the area around a lake from which the lake gains its water. Birch Lake is a 296 acre lake which is surrounded by a 619 acre watershed.

- 1) A 398 acre Shoreland area drains directly into the lake.
- 2) A 221 acre Sub area drains first into the stream that then flows into the Northeast Bay of Birch Lake from the shrub marsh.

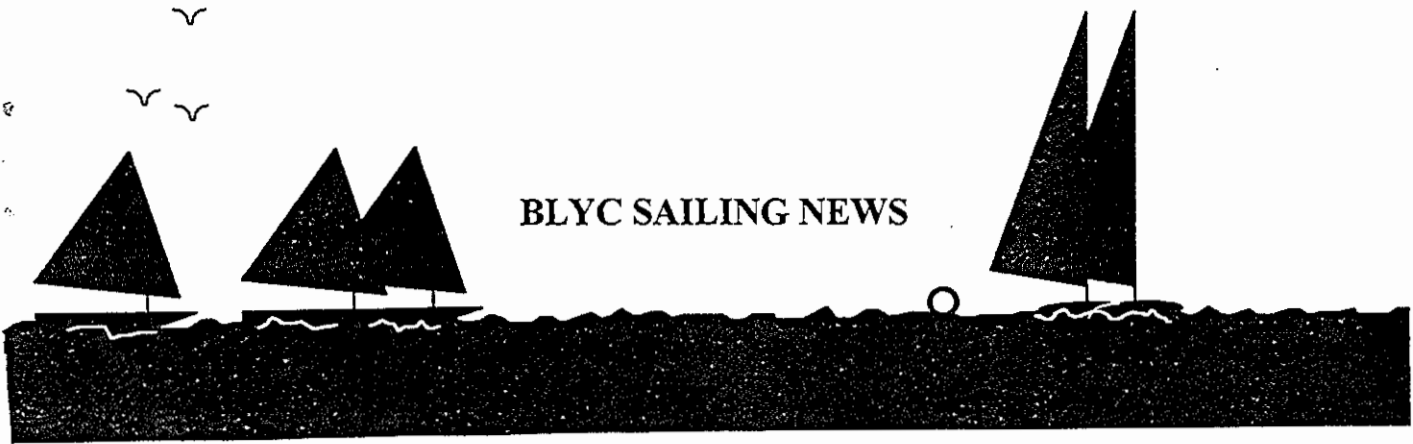
The faulty sewage systems in the Shoreland area were identified and corrected.

A hog feed lot in the Shoreland area was identified and eliminated.

Pastured livestock in a possible watershed area on Harvey Street was identified and eliminated. Water which flows into the Sub area continues to be monitored for fecal bacteria along with 10 lake monitoring stations.

In addition to monitoring for bacteria, the water quality committee has enrolled in Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program which measures transparency, phosphorus and chlorophyll a. In the weeks ahead we will give you information on CLMP.

BLYC Water Quality Committee



June 13 Races scuttled. Too much rain, not enough wind.
 We'll try again next Sunday at 11 a.m. (Ind. time), 12 p.m. (Mich. time).

There being nothing to report about sailing, an explanation of the scoring system may be in order. For the season races, we use a method only a mathematician could love, called the "square of 40" system. The first place boat receives 1600 points (40 X 40, or 40 squared), second place 1521 points (39 X 39 or 39 squared), third place 1444 points (38 X 38 or 38 squared), and so on. Each sailor's cumulative race points are averaged (and 10 additional points given for boats with kids as skippers or crew), so the standings may contain bizarre numbers like 1482.5. Why such a cumbersome system for such a simple thing as sailing? A good example would be a series in which Billy Bones got a 1st and a 3rd, and Sinbad got two 2nds. If you just added up their finishing places, both would have a total of 4 points and an average of 2 points, and would tie. The square of 40 system gives more weight to better finishes, and Billie Bones' first place race would make him the winner with an average of 1522 to Sinbad's 1521. Simpler systems exist for reaching the same result, but perhaps because this one is so fiendishly complex no one argues over the standings. Instead, everyone concentrates on sailing well and having fun, which is as it should be. (All sailors are welcome to audit the scores at any time, but bring your own calculator.)

Scott Troeger, Fleet Captain.

EARLY NOTICE: BOAT INSPECTION AND SAFETY COURSE AT BIRCH LAKE

Plan to take advantage of these opportunities:

1. To have your boat officially inspected by the Cass County Marine Department (and get the decal if it passes) at Birch Lake on July 10.
2. To attend a boating safety certification course (and get your certificate if you pass) at the BLYC clubhouse on July 24.

Look for details in upcoming Birch Barkers, but mark your calendars now.

NOTICE: KIDGATTA SCHEDULE CHANGE

The Kidgatta is traditionally a late June event, but to accommodate some contenders and to provide more opportunity for practice, this year's Kidgatta will take place on Sunday, August 15. Look to upcoming Birch Barkers for details. In the meantime, younger sailors are welcome and encouraged to use the regular season races for practice for the Kidgatta. Newer sailors, of whatever vintage, are also welcome. If enough (say 3 or more) younger or newer sailors take part in the season races (or the regular regattas), I'll be happy to keep a separate set of scores and award a separate series of trophies for them as a distinct fleet. If you'd like to sail but need a boat, give Scott Troeger a call at 476-9898 and it should be possible to line up a seaworthy craft for your use.

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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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