



BIRCH BARKER

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Four, June 15, 2002



Once again the rain has been a factor for Birch Lakers' plans for the seeks as thundershowers moved across the lake nearly every afternoon.

Barker photo by Phil Vitale

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

It looks like summer is planning to make an appearance after all. Last weekend was truly a promise of better things to come. Now, if it's not asking too much, a trifle more wind would be appreciated by the sailors!

As you may notice on the schedule of events, tonight is the Vice Commodore's "Ribs and Blues" Party. I hope all of you will be able to stop around and join us for, what I'm sure will prove to be, a great time. What could be better than a little music, good ribs and the wonderful company of your lake neighbors. I would like to extend a special invitation to all of you that have never attended one of the summer parties. We would love to meet you!

Also, this weekend brings us Father's Day. I hope all of the fathers out there have a beautiful day. Please be careful if you are traveling today. If you will be staying to celebrate with your families here on the lake, also take care. It could be a busy one.

Reminders: 4th of July Fireworks will be on Friday, the 5th, Boat Parade on the 6th 3 p.m. (IN time) and TODAY, at 9 a.m. (IN) is the Yacht Club Board Meeting. Bye for this week.

See you on the lake.

-Commodore Jim

BLYC Calendar

- June 15....Board Meeting 9 am
Sewer Meeting, 11 am
Vice Commodore's Party
-(Blues & Ribs) 7 pm
- July 5.....Fireworks (at dark)
(Rain Day Saturday, 7/6)
- July 6.....Boat Parade 3 pm
- July 7.....Pancake Breakfast
- TBA.....Beach Party
- July 26.....Men's Golf Outing
- Aug. 3.....Women's Golf Outing
- Aug. 7.....Women's Luncheon
- Aug 10.....Corn and Sausage Roast
- Aug. 24.....Fall Dinner

NOTE: All parties at the Yacht Club start at 7 pm unless otherwise noted



Important Meeting on Sewers

The Wightman Petrie Engineering Firm will conduct "informational" meeting today, Saturday June 15, at 11 am at the Yacht Club to discuss the issue of a proposed wastewater disposal (sewer) project for our area.

This will be a joint meeting with residents of Shavehead Lake.

Blues & Ribs Fest Tonight

The Birch Lake Yacht Club will be the scene of a Blues & Ribs Fest tonight, beginning at 7 p.m. Please join us for some hot ribs (not a full meal, but some way-good snacks) and some sizzling hot blues (bring an hors d'oeuvre) ... And, ribs are on the house!



Blues & Ribs 7pm



If you have articles or photos for the BARKER, please put the materials in the Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) by 3 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com by Monday at Noon. If you must, mail (10 days prior to desired publication date) to Phil Vitale, 122 So. Michigan, So. Bend, IN 46601, or fax your items to (574) 232-3853. To contact me, call Phil at 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735.

Note: All times in the Barker are IST (Indiana Standard Time) unless stated otherwise



The Best of Beck's Bistro



Chocolate Raspberry Crumb Bars

1 cup (2 sticks) butter or margarine, softened.
 2 cups all purpose flour
 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
 1/4 tsp salt
 2 cups (12 oz. pkg) Nestle Tollhouse semi-sweet chocolate chips, divided
 1 can (14 oz) Carnation sweetened condensed milk

1/3 cup seedless Raspberry jam

Preheat oven to 350.
 Grease 13x9 inch baking pan. Beat butter in large bowl until creamy. Beat in flour, sugar, and salt until crumbly.
 With floured fingers, press 1 3/4 cup crumb mixture onto bottom of prepared baking pan; reserve remaining mixture. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until edges are golden

brown.
 Combine 1 cup morsels and sweetened condensed milk in small, heavy-duty saucepan. Warm over low heat, stirring until smooth. Spread over hot crust. Stir nuts into reserved crumb mixture; sprinkle over chocolate filling.
 Drop teaspoonfuls of raspberry jam over crumb mixture.
 Sprinkle with remaining morsels.

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until center is set. Cool in pan on wire rack.

Grilled Lime Chicken

8 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
 1/2 cup lime juice
 1/3 cup olive or vegetable oil
 4 green onions chopped
 4 cloves garlic, minced
 3 Tbs chopped fresh dill, divided
 1/4 tsp pepper

Pound chicken breasts to flatten.
 Combine lime juice, oil, onions, garlic, 2 Tbs dill, and pepper in a resealable plastic bag. Add chicken, seal and refrigerate 2-4 hrs. Drain, discard marinade. Grill chicken, uncovered over medium to hot heat for 12-15 minutes, until tender and juices run clear.
 Turn after 6 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining dill before serving.

Inner Strength

If you can start the day without caffeine or pep pills,
 if you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
 if you can resist complaining and boring people with your troubles,
 if you can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,
 if you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time,

if you can overlook when people take things out on you,
 if you can conquer tension without medical help,
 if you can relax without liquor,
 if you can sleep without the aid of drugs,
 if you can do all these things,
THEN YOU ARE PROBABLY THE FAMILY DOG!

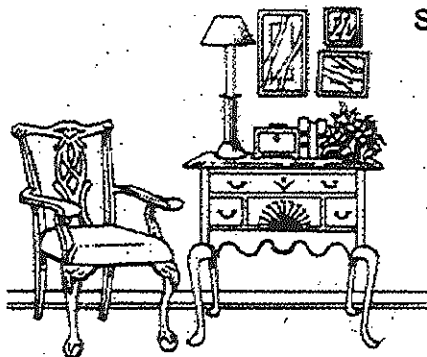
Checking his p-mail



Have a tail wagging kind of day!
 -Fido's Friend

Accents & Images

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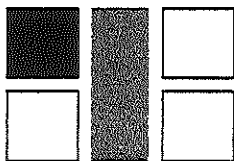
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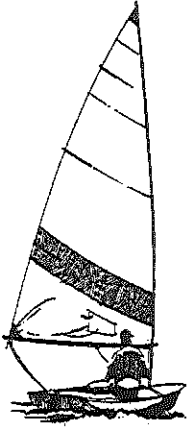
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We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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Birch Lake Yacht Club Sailing News



Steve Plaia, Sandy Vitale and Jody

Wind still missing...

For the second Sunday in a row the winds varied from light to nothing. Even though the wind was light we had a good turnout, also we had three Sunfish from the "B" fleet come out for the inaugural race — they were Chad and

Come Sail with us!

Sunday, June 16, 11 am

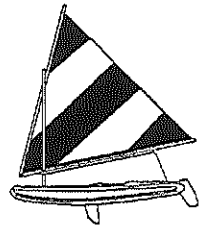
Newcomers, novices and first-timers welcome!

Meyer. Now lets see many more this week.

Thanks to Jim and Sally Beck, Sanya

Applegate, Morgann Applegate and Erica Vitale for manning the committee boat.

Next race 6-16-2002 11 am Indiana time.



-Don Harman, Fleet Captain
476-2039

Results from the first week of sailing races appear on the next page

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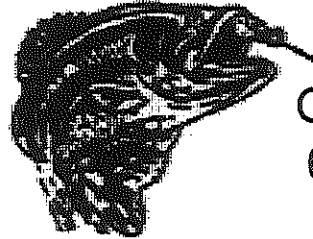
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	Youth	7:30 pm
	Kid's Club	7:30 pm

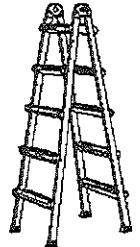
Come worship with us

Mark The Painter

Greetings Birch Lake Campers! Do you need, want or desire a quality painter this summer?



Does your home or cottage have a need for some fixing up? I am now booking jobs for the summer of 2002...dates will go fast.



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BLYC Sailing Results from Week 1

Sailor	Finish Race 1	Race 2	Season Average	Place to date
MC's				
H. Cranmer	1st	1st	1610	1st
D. Harman	DNS	3rd	1454	4th
R. Harman	DNS	2nd	1531	2nd
Phil Vitale	2nd	4th	1455	3rd

Sunfish "A"				
J. Bolinger	2nd	DNS	1531	2nd tie
T. Howard	1st	1st	1610	1st
D. Olson	DNS	5th	1306	5th
R. Russwurm	4th	4th	1379	4th
S. Troeger	DNS	2nd	1531	2nd tie
D. Weaver	3rd	3rd	1454	3rd

Sunfish "B"				
J. Meyer	DNS	1st	1610	1st
S. Vitale	DNF	3rd	1454	3rd
C. Plaia	DNF			
S. Plaia	DNS	2nd	1531	2nd

"CATS"				
B. King	1st	1st	1610	1st
D. Weaver	2nd	2nd	1531	2nd

Hobie2! — There are more than enough Cats around the lake to form a fleet. Anyone wanting to race their Hobie please join the Sunfish & MCs on Sundays!

-Bob King



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First a word from the Water Quality Committee

Birch Lake participated in the Zebra Mussel Watch Program, a partnership between ML&SA, Sea Grant, MSU and MDEQ.

A brick hung from each of the appropriate 181 lakefront piers. Thank you group leaders and neighbors. Birch Lake was alerted to the fact that we could no longer escape having Birch Lake's name on the State of Michigan Zebra Mussel Distribution Map.

Unfortunately, Cass County lakes host more zebra mussels than any other county in the state of Michigan. It was just a matter of time before the larvae would be introduced into Birch Lake.

Mike Klepinger, Exotic Species Program Coordinator Mi Sea Grant, MSU, recommends a program for boat inspections and cleanings at the Public Landing, which Dan Reynolds, Water Quality Committee Chairman is exploring.

In the meantime, Mike Klepinger asked our water quality committee to continue to recruit neighbors to do hand picking. It will slow them down. You know the experience of hand picking zebra mussels from your beach. It is a pain in the neck and a pain in the back. But if they are not picked, they become a pain in the foot and a real eye-sore on our sandy bottomed lake.

Bob King has volunteered to assist the Water Quality Committee with a Hand Picking Program. Beware zebras — Bob and the Birch Lake kids have a surprise in store for you.

Thanks, Bob — you're great!

-Gert Temple

A now a word from Bob King

Zebra Mussel bounty announced

We are mad as heck & not gonna take this any more!

The zebra mussels invading beautiful Birch are fast infesting our beaches. Last year at Cal's birthday party the kids removed more than 1,000 from our swim area, but they're back ...

Birch Lake Yacht Club and the Water Quality Committee have announced a bounty on these invaders. Granted, we may not win the war, but let's begin the battle!

Kids who remove zebras from the Birch beaches will earn a penny apiece. The money will be used to fund Kid functions at the Yacht Club this year. Please ask before you go wading on other peoples property (bet it will be OK), and remember to wear water shoes to protect your feet.

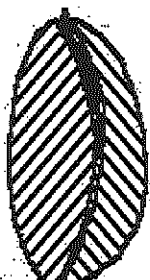
Count out the zebras you remove and then fill out the coupon below. Give the coupon to any BLYC Director during the month of June. At the end of the month we

will publish the tally and list who removed the most mussels.

-Bob King

ps: make sure to put the zebras in a plastic bag & put them in the garbage. So far no one has come up with ma good recipe and they stink after removal from the water. Do not take indigenous clams from Birch, just pop off the zebra mussels & return the clams to the lake.

Official Birch Lake Yacht Club Zebra Mussel Bounty Form



Kid(s): _____

Collected and removed _____ zebra mussels from Birch Lake on ___/___/02

The Mussels came from (describe the area where you cleaned the beach): _____

X _____
(kid's signature)

X _____
(parent's signature)

The Eye of the Beholder

Like many of you I'm a Midwesterner, both by history and inclination. I was born two states west of Indiana, and I grew up a hundred miles south of Chicago in the thoroughly Midwestern twin cities of Champaign-Urbana, Illinois.

When I was in high school, I couldn't wait until adulthood would allow me to trade the flat land and cold winters of the heartland for the ocean breezes and perpetual sunshine of Southern California. Surfing with movie stars, that was going to be my future.

I've lived on the West Coast twice now, and each time I've felt as unsettled and out of place as if I had moved to a foreign country. The LA megaplex is not just another big city, it's the Land of Oz, and San Francisco is as unlike the Midwest as is Caracas. I met a few movie stars and learned to love the ocean, but I walked away from La-La-Land with a thorough understanding of why all those Iowa farm folks felt cheated when they gave up their homes and migrated to Long Beach, in Nathaniel West's, The Day of the Locusts.

Shirley Anne and I have lived on the East Coast as well. We spent a year at the mouth of Cape Cod in a south-shore suburb of Boston, and it felt as though we had journeyed to Katmandu. It's fun to tour the historic sites, and there is no better collection of eateries than can be

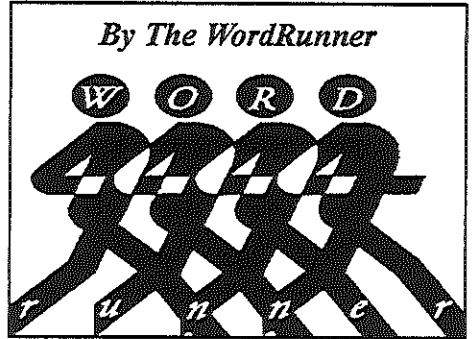
found in the Italian North End of Boston, but the folkways of Easterners can seem bizarre to a native of the Midwest, and the rudeness of the folks we encountered during our year in Massachusetts rivals any tales we've heard about the bad manners of the French.

We go to Florida or California for a month each year, and there are few states where we haven't spent time, but we're like dogs on a long leash when we leave Michiana. We're free to wander as far as we care to, but we're tethered to a place we know is our home.

The weather around here has been unbelievably lousy this spring, the worst I can remember for May and June. I've complained and ground my teeth and stewed about the manner in which our short lake season was being cut even shorter by the stupidity of this "endless November." The unfairness of it seems beyond question, and my misery is enhanced by the fact that my options are few.

During our stay in Boston, I worked for a company that owned a small distribution business in Des Moines, Iowa. During my first trip to check on the health of that business, a young woman executive met me at the airport and brought me into the city to my hotel.

Des Moines had suffered through a blizzard the day before I arrived, and as we drove through the countryside I stared out the car window at snow covered fields



laid out under a slate gray sky. It looked cold and lonely out there. We crossed a small bridge and a frozen stream that snaked toward barren oak trees along the horizon. "That is beautiful, isn't it?" I said.

"You have to be from the Midwest," the young woman answered. "None of the Boston people who come here would see anything pretty about a day like this one."

"Then beauty must be in the eye of the beholder," I said.

Therein lies my problem. I'm a Midwesterner. This lousy weather is a feature of my birthright. I love this place and I celebrate the kinds of breathtaking glory Buzz Rasmussen captured in his Seasons of Birch Lake. It's all here, the good and the bad of it, and if I want to experience another marvelous springtime, I guess I'll have to cross my fingers and wait till next year.

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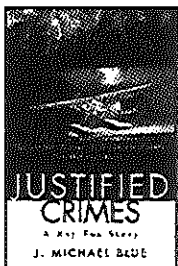
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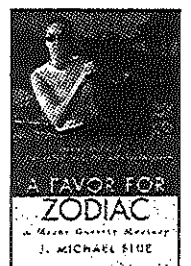
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Stu's Star Stuff

The planets Venus and Jupiter still blaze in the west this evening. Mars is there too but much lower and much fainter. Here at the lake we usually get an excellent view of the ultimate art gallery just above us. But that's not the case everywhere. In town, finding Venus, Jupiter and many bright stars is easy, but *most* skywatchers won't notice the nearby glow of the Milky Way. And most of us will miss the frequent meteor showers, too.

These subtle sights are victims of light pollution — light that's beamed into the heavens and not onto the ground where it's intended.

The moon is a big offender, though not

currently, as it is just now approaching first quarter. Streetlamps, lights in parking lots, and even lights around the shore or in our own back yards are necessary for safety and security. But most light fixtures send much of their light UP, or out onto the lake, not down. When this light strikes particles in the air, it creates a pervasive glow that overpowers faint stars, meteors, and other objects.

What's more, polluting light fixtures waste money and natural resources.

According to the International Dark-Sky Association, wasted light in the United States costs at least 1.5 billion dollars a year, and consumes the equivalent of six

million tons of coal.

Over the last one hundred years, the increase of artificial light reflected from city streets and buildings has eroded our ability to see the night sky. Scientists say nearly two-thirds of the United States population can no longer see the Milky Way.

Outdoor lights with hoods or reflectors keep this light out of the sky without affecting safety on the ground. Some cities and counties have passed light-pollution laws. That includes Tucson, which is close to a major observatory, and Jeff Davis County in West Texas, the home of McDonald Observatory. Here at the lake we should all do our part to keep our exterior lighting from becoming invasive or annoying. That way we can all enjoy the free show to it's fullest.

-Stewart Spratt



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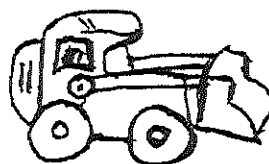


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News (not) from the Cove

A reply To Miss Nomer
(aka the highly intellectual Sunny
Waters):

Last week we learned that SW and BS are vacationing at Big Mac. It's a closely kept secret that this zany couple are horse-shoe fans — not the game, but the art of the Smithy. Every year they journey to Mackinac and apply fresh clompers to the draft horses as they arrive on island. No fee is accepted, just bunks in the barn and an annual trunk-full of fresh fudge.

But, I digress. The Lady of the Cove has posited once too often (for this reader) about not catching turtles nor froggies. The hunt has been on since kids first came to Birch. Our lake-land beasties can be

caught and handled, none the worse for wear. Mom always suggests washing hands after handling, sage advice.

Wild turtles belong in Birch, so be gentle with the critters — catch and release please. Inspect turtles to remove leaches (look closely around the legs & tail). And yes Virginia, we have even found and removed a zebra mussel from a turtle this year!

We are loaded with painted (the official state reptile), map, snapper & (reportedly) leatherback turtles, so enjoy!

-Not Sunny

Next week, fun with frogs

The Painted Turtle *Chrysemys picta* — Painted Turtle

Painted turtles are brightly marked. They have a smooth shell about 10 to 18 cm long. The turtle has a relatively flat upper shell with red and yellow markings on a black or greenish brown background. The male and female grow at a similar rate to become 85mm long (female) and 130 mm long (male). The growth rate, for both male and female, is rapid during the first several years of the of their lives. These turtles are described as a small to medium sized reptile. At ages 7 years, for the female, and 3 years, for the male, the painted turtles are expected to be at their maturity levels. Their shell acts as protection, but since the ribs are fused to the

Continued on next page

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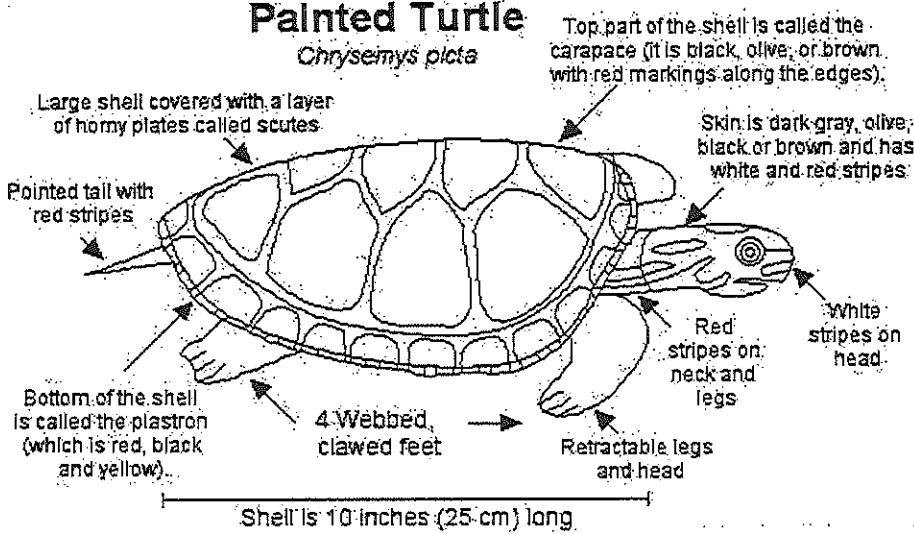
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Painted Turtle
Chrysemys picta



shell, the turtle cannot expand its chest to breathe but must force air in and out of the lungs by alternately contracting the flank and shoulder muscles.

Painted turtles feed mainly on plants, small animals, and some carrion. They also feed on insects. Lacking teeth, the turtle jaw has tough, horny plates for gripping food.

Painted turtles are the commonest ... turtles in the North America. They are also the most commonly studied freshwater turtles. Painted turtles lack the insulated body covering, internally regulated body temperature, and some other features of birds and mammals.

Painted turtles are used very often in physiological studies for education in the classroom. Information from [http://animal-diversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/chrysemys/c._picta\\$ narrative.html](http://animal-diversity.ummz.umich.edu/accounts/chrysemys/c._picta$ narrative.html)

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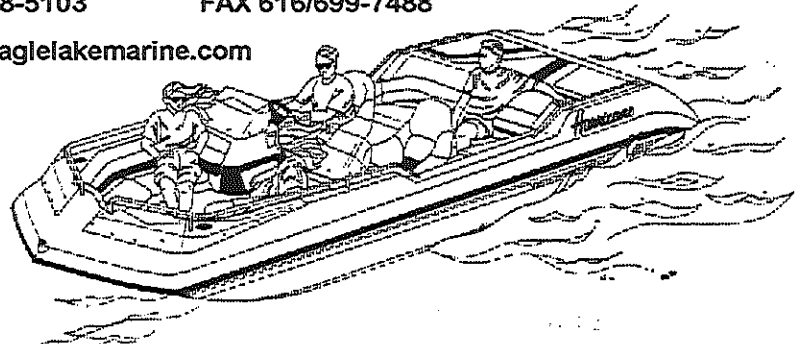
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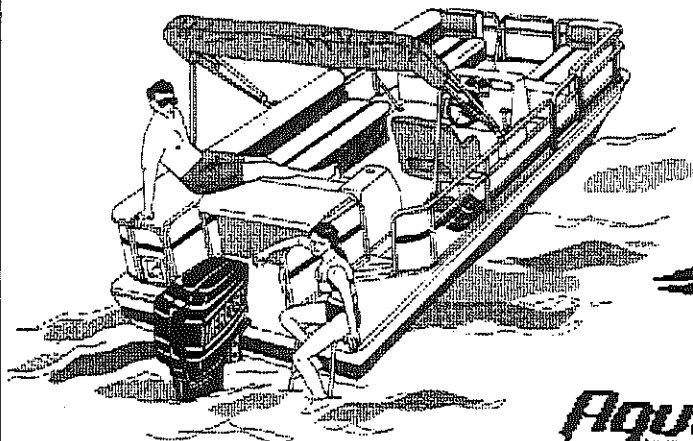
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FOUND

Yellow Lab, male, approx. 8-9 yrs. old. Call Jim at 476-9810.

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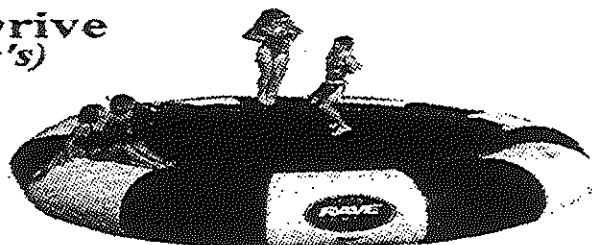
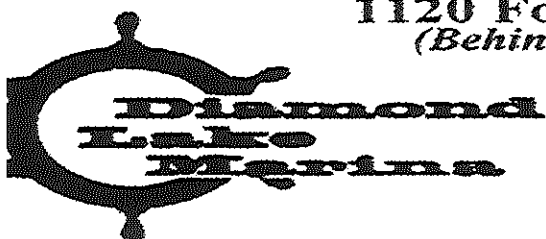
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 Barnaby, Dave & Lynn
 Beck, Jim & Sally
 Bender, Dick
 Benjamin, Ritacarl
 Bergan, James & Linda
 Bernaciak, Ken & Mary Ellen
 Blackwood, Howard & Beth
 Bliler, William & Grace
 Blue, Jim & Shirley Anne
 Blue, Richard/Krchmar, Sandy
 Bolinger, Jim & Debbie
 Brovold, Gary & Karen
 Brown, Brad
 Caenepeel, Shirley
 Calderwood, James & Nancy
 Carpenter, Bill & Ann (AD)
 Carpenter, Dik & Val (AD)
 Carpenter, Mildred (D)
 Coan, James
 Cote, Adrian & Judith
 Cowen, Dick & Peggy
 Cranmer, Harold & Donna
 Cranmer, Steve (F)
 Curtis, Terry & Linda
 Davis, Dean & Phyllis
 DeCocker, Tom & Nancy
 Dennert, Larry & Kay
 DeYoung, Rich & Beth
 DiRutigliano, Dominic & Joyce
 Doba, William and Judith
 Dobosiewicz, Kevin & Sandra
 Drolet, Loretta (D)
 Dugan, Terry & Carol
 Eberhart, Gib & Barbara
 Eichorst, Doug & Judie
 Fillenwarth, Steven & Vicki
 Flora, Larry & Margy (F)
 Foley, Bill & Gladys
 Foss, James & Carole
 Garceau, Bernie & Blair
 Golden, Marc & Eileen
 Goodin, Betty (F)
 Green, Dick & Barb

Greenig, Bob & Kay
 Groszek, John & Lois
 Groszek, John (D)
 Harlan, Bruce and Juanita
 Harman, Don & Lind
 Harris, Gwen
 Herms, Bob & Eileen
 Hornbeck, Jack & Marianne
 Jones, Vic & Leslie
 King, Bill, Le & Suzy
 King, Bob & Leslie (AD)
 Kinner, Dave & Marge
 Klappauf, Raymond, Lee, Carl and
 Sandie
 Klimek, Matt & Joyce (D)
 Kolber, Chet & Vivian
 Kolber, Chris & Barb
 Kruggel, Herm & Bev
 Lacy, Tom & Julie
 LaPierre, Chuck & Cheri
 Leach, Norma
 Lindenfeld, Frederick & Marylynn (F)
 Lindzy, Dick & Judy
 McCay, Larry & Deb
 McNamee, Kathleen
 Miller, Jack & Maray
 Molho, Manny & Mary Lu

Monroe, Norm & Nancy
 Morrison, Bob
 Mullin, Rich & Pam
 Olson, Dave & Judy
 Olson, Jeff & Beth (F)
 O'Neill, Bill & Maryann
 Papendria, Sheryl & Covey, Dan
 Parkinson, Frank & Elizabeth
 Parnell, Dorothy & Niezgodski, Ron &
 Kathy
 Pletcher, Ruth (F)
 Price, Eileen
 Quinlan, Steve & Vicki
 Reynolds, Dan & Janet
 Rieth, Bud & Louise
 Rogers, Tom & Vicki
 Russell, Mike & Paula
 Russwurm, Rick & Patti
 Sankey, Joe & Teri
 Santee, Marty & Doris
 Scofield, John & Laveta
 Sheetz, Harold & Charlene
 Sikorski/Manor
 Smitley, Jeffrey & Denise
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 Thayer, Jim & Elenore
 Troeger, Earl & Connie

Troeger, Scott & Holly
 Troeger, Tom & Pat
 Vath, Helen
 Vitale, Phil & Sandy
 Waddle, Bob & Sue
 Waggoner, Monty & Kris
 Wagner, Bruce & Sue
 Weaver, Doug & Julie
 Weesner, Keith & Denny
 White, Phyllis
 Williams, Jerry & Mattie
 Williams, Pat & Sue
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 Wos, Stan & Doreen
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 Yoshizawa, Jim & Linda
 Zelasko, Millie
 Zesinger, Bud & Barb

Note: These Lakers have paid their dues — if your name is incorrectly spelled or if it has been incorrectly omitted, please contact Phil Vitale at 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735 for correction.
 All members listed have paid their dues and donated for fireworks unless noted as follows: (D)=dues only; (F)=Fireworks only; (AD)=Associate Dues.

Birch Lake Yacht Club Contributions

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

Mail to:
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 Elkhart, IN 46514
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 (call 476-9898)

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