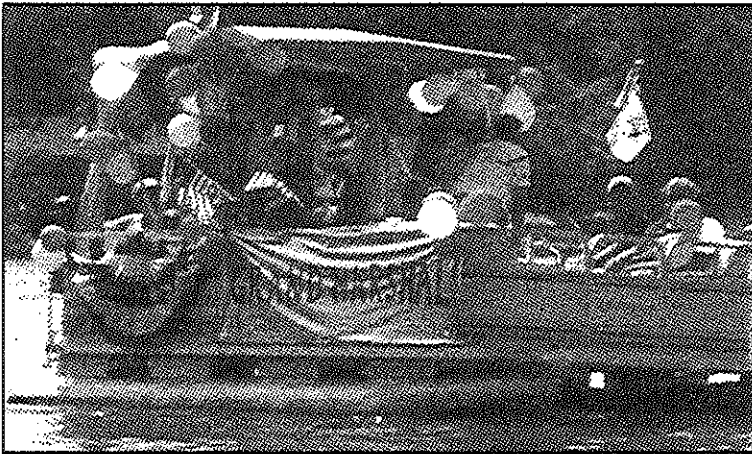
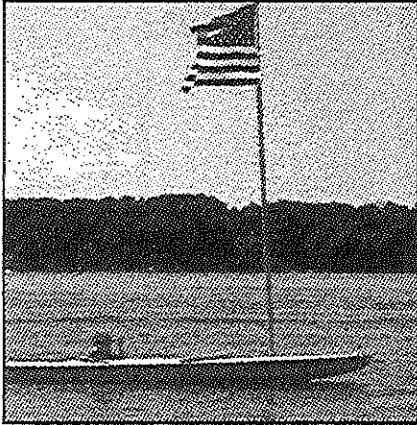


BIRCH BARKER

A Publication for the Members of Birch Lake Yacht Club

Volume Eight, July 13, 2002



Barker photos by Tim Steffen

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Dear Birch Lakers,

Welcome to July 13th, middle of summer. What a fabulous 4th of July weekend! Sun, friends, food, fireworks, and family combined perfectly (if not exhaustingly), and what can we say about the temperature of the lake?

We must give our most heartfelt thanks to John Gableman, Dan Reynolds and their team for the great parade, and Earl Troeger for being a regal Grand Marshall. We had 14 inspiring entries including the adorable "Birch Barker," our first individual waverunner entry.

Thanks to Camp Tanoanah for the use of the lakefront on the 5th, RKM Fireworks for their perfect work (our fireworks are obviously the best around) and to the Newburg Fire Dept. for being on hand "in case."

And finally, thanks to Don and Lind Harman, our best friends for 29 years, and their staff too numerous to mention, for their superb orchestration of the pancake breakfast once again. Thanks to them and you good lake folks who came up to participate, we were able to give the camp a check for \$1,806.

I am sorry to say that the sail racers curse persisted with no wind on the scheduled regatta days.

While watching the activity on and around the lake this weekend, I found myself shaking my head more than once (and not just because of Patty's punch.) I can not believe some of the behavior that I saw or heard of on and around

the lake. I have to think it is from naivete and not lack of common sense, but in case it IS, I'm going to throw out a few simple ideas for consideration, which I will call MR. OBVIOUS' RULES for the LAKE. (if you have never heard of Mr. Obvious, it is a comedy routine on the radio where a naive caller asks for advice on really stupid problems) I'm sure there are many more that should be included, but space is limited.

MR. OBVIOUS' RULES FOR THE LAKE

BOATING RULES

- When all the other boats are going counter-clockwise, so should you be too.
- When the lake is full of skiers and sailors, don't serpentine around them pulling inner tubes or on waverunners.
- Don't drive standing up or let others ride standing up.
- Face forward and glance to the sides and back while driving -- do not sit on the siderail facing backwards (this may seem too obvious to include, but it is very common).
- Stay out away from piers and rafts -- there may be swimmers.
- Do donuts and stunt waverunning in the middle -- not in front of piers where there should be "no wake" courtesy.

LANDSIDE GOOD-NEIGHBOR RULES

- Drive slowly on our narrow roads -- the speed limit is 15mph.
- Respect others' property -- ask permission before using something of someone else's.
- Be conscious of when and where you are shooting off fireworks.

- Do not practice your golf swing by chucking balls at the boats going by (especially when the commodore is in one! Missed us by 10 feet.)
- Keep plenty of pop/beer on hand for unexpected guests. Cashews are a nice touch (I just threw that in, in case I stop at your house!)

I know that we all want to stay safe and be good neighbors, so the best advice is, use common sense.

Don't forget the BLYC Directors meeting this morning at 9 a.m. Put on your calendar July 20 at 7 pm (IN) BLYC, the Tropical Beach Party featuring Jimmy Buffett music and a Margarita machine! Feel free to dress in your favorite beach attire and bring a tropical appetizer (or any other!) to share. Can't Wait!!

-Commodore Jim

BLYC Calendar

- July 13BLYC Board meeting 9 am
- July 13Scoop and Sprinkle kid's day event; 10 am
- July 20Beach Party
- July 26Men's Golf Outing
- July 27Garage Sale 8 am - 2 pm
- Aug. 7Women's Luncheon
- Aug. 9Women's Golf Outing
- Aug 10Com and Sausage Roast
- Aug. 24Fall Dinner

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



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 sailphil@philvitale.com by Tuesday 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 by phone, call 476-1680 or (574) 232-3735.

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

Birch Lake Notes

Garage Sale planned

Annual Birch Lake Garage Sale will take place on July 27th 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. IND time.

Anyone interested in being a part of the Garage Sale should contact Lisa Dudeck 476-2395.

Paradise on Parade

The Green family boat parade entry was inspired by their recent trip to the South Pacific. All 18 members of the family visited Tahiti, Moorea, Bora Bora, and Huahine on a trip celebrating Dick and Barb's 50th wedding anniversary, which is in September. They celebrated Barb's 70th birthday in Bora Bora. Both Sandy and

Geoff Lamb and David and Diana Green celebrate their 20th wedding anniversaries this Summer. A wonderful time was had by all three generations. Leaving Paradise was made easier knowing we would be returning to our paradise here at Birch Lake.

Pancake Breakfast

Don and I, once again, want to thank all the great help we had for the Pancake Breakfast last Sunday.

Jim & Deb Bolinger, Bill & Mary Ann O'Neill, Joe and Terry Sankey, Terry & Linda Curtis, Dave & Judy Olson, Mike & Katha Machalleck,

Bruce & Sue Wagner, Bob Waddle, Marty Sante, Rick Harman, Barb Rondot, Abby Rondot, Conner Stigner, Carrie & Michael Curtis and Brooke Strukel.

A big thanks to all of you for a great job as always.

-Don and Lind Harman

Baskets, pottery, wrought iron

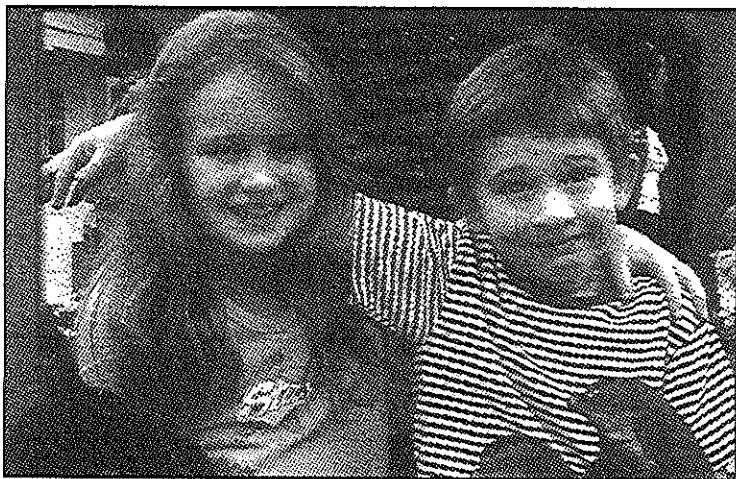
"Mark your Calendar" for a July 27th Open House Party from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. with Longaberger Baskets, Pottery and Wrought Iron. Come relax, enjoy and register for free door prizes. Contact Vicki Rogers (Cove) 62712 Woodland Cove 476-2383.

New cousin welcomed

Grandsons, Jack O'Neill of Wauwatosa, WI, and Sean and Liam O'Neill of Elkhart welcomed their new cousin Grace Bentkowski of Lansing, IL at Grandparent Bill and Maryann O'Neill's home over the 4th.



The O'Neill kids



Barker Kids of the Week

Katie and John Luecht had a lot of fun in the off season when their parents Bill and Patty (East Shore) took them on a trip to SeaWorld in Florida where they got to play with a friendly dolphin and then had this great photo taken.



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

I love a parade!

What a great boat parade!! There were 14 entries and each one of them was a WINNER. A big thank you to the families who took the time to decorate their boats for everyone's enjoyment on the glorious 4th of July weekend.

I want to thank the other judges: Nancy DeCoker and Charlene Sheetz; they were a delight to work with. Also, thank yous go to Dan Reynolds who registered the boats and to John Gableman who made all of the arrangements. A thank you goes to Don Harman for providing the Grand Marshall pontoon.

This year we also had the first decorated waverunner entered the parade — the **Birch Barker Dog**.

Put on your thinking caps for next year. Ski boats, fishing boats, pontoons, or waverunners can all become floats in the parade. And remember, the judges CAN be bribed.
-Judy Olson

This year's Boat Parade award winners

Grand Marshalls: **Connie and Earl Troeger**
 Best TV Theme Award (S.S. Minnow): **The Doba Family**
 Most Original (The Birch Barker): **The Foos Family**
 Best Hawaiian Island Boat: **The Fillenwarth Family**
 Best Oscar Award (Gone Like the Wind): **The Lysek and Scott Troeger Families**
 Best Decorated Holiday Theme Boat (Christmas in July): **Troeger Families**
 Best Vacation Idea Theme (Polynesian Holiday): **The Green Family**
 Big Bang Award (Little Birch Fireworks): **The Horvath Family**
 Best Stars and Stripes Award: **The Lindzy and Krueggel Families**
 Best Movie Theme (Weekend at Bernie's): **The Garceau and Weesner Families**
 Best Tribute to 9/11 (New York, New York): **The Carpenter Family**
 Best A-1 Uncle Sam Award (God Bless Birch Lake): **The Woz Family**
 Best Historical Award (Medieval Times): **The Russell Family**
 Best Birch Lake Theme (Wild About Birch Lake): **The Rinehart, Bernaciak, King, and Rondo Families**
 Best Buccaneer Theme (Pirates): **The Witchie Family**

Zebra Hunt Continues

The zebra hunt continues through July (See page 8 for more details) when we will announce who collected the most critters.

It would be nice if Lakers would individually "match" the bounty and pay kids directly. Then the ambitious hunters would receive both immediate

and deferred gratification. Rather than try to organize something Lake-wide, let the kids know if you want help cleaning your beach.

Later this month we will announce a kids party to spend the proceeds.

Note: I have had several people give me a *Pollyanna* look about

the zebra hunt & bounty. I do not think we can stem the tide of this invasion. On the other hand, err foot, I just want fewer cuts from these exotics and hope to save some indigenous clams in the process. Be aware that if you let the scourge bloom you may end up with more mussels than beach.

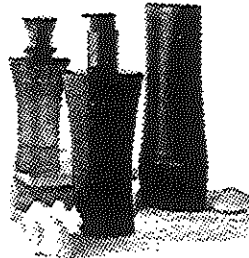
-Bob King

Partial list of Zebra collectors
 Carly & Wade Troeger 1,600;
 Ryan, Jared & Jordan Rader 12,817; Austin & Blake Witchie 521; Alex Ball & Tory & Neil Troeger 574; Neil Troeger 461); Abby, Grayson and Mary Como 3,000; Phillip Dudeck, Nicholas Sobczak, Ethan Maack, Olivia Mack 649. If we missed anyone, we apologize...

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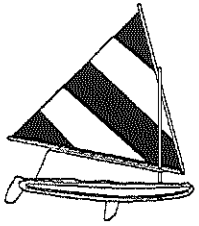
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BLYC Sailing News

Last Saturday and Sunday was supposed to be the 4th of July Regatta, but what seems to



be happening a lot this year the races on both days were scuttled. This was due to the absence of

an element necessary for a sail boat race – WIND.
Hoping not to let Mother

Nature get the best of us, the 4th of July Regatta is rescheduled for next Saturday, July 20 at 2 p.m. Indiana time, and Sunday, July 21st at 11 am Indiana time.

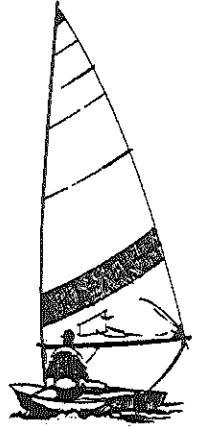
I guess this is what you would call better late than never. This Sunday, July 14th, we will have our regularly scheduled races at 11 am Indiana time.

See you on the water.

Don Harman
Fleet Captain

Come Sail with us!

Next Races:
Tomorrow,
Sunday, July 14
beginning at 11 am



Sailing Results

Season standings

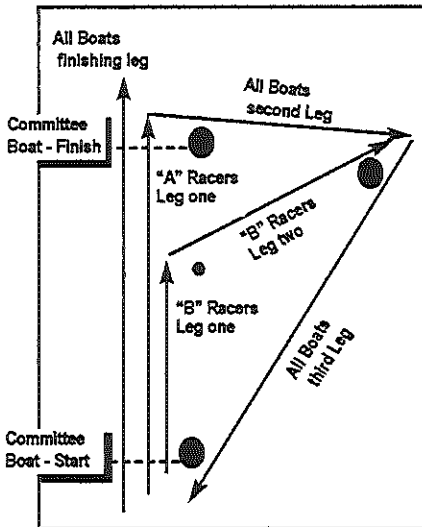
Sailing Made Simpler

The race course:

A sailboat race course consists of 4 "legs" raced around orange buoys set up over a triangle course. The first and final leg are raced into the wind.

This year, a special Sunfish "B" buoy is being set up to shorten the course for less-experienced sailors, so all of the boats finish closer together.

Also, to encourage newbies, special "bonus" points are being awarded to regular sailors who take along "crew."



The Birch Lake Yacht Club's
Fourth of July Regatta
was scrubbed due to lack of wind...
No change in standings

Tune-a-Fish Kit

Want to get your Sunfish back in sailing shape for the season? Bob King has found a new Sunfish tuning kit that can help you do just that. The kit is featured in a reusable cooler with a Sunfish logo, and it contains the following items: mainsheet, halyard, out-hauls, set of sail clips, tiller extension universal, hiking strap, rebate coupon for \$25 off a new Seitech dolly or rack, rebate coupon for \$25 off a new Sunfish sail or blade, a rigging guide, and a parts list. The entire Tune-a-Fish kit is a \$175 value that is being offered at \$99. This kit is the perfect beginning for you to get your Sunfish back on the water. Item # V20020. For more info, go to the Web site: <http://www.apsltd.com/depts/dept2487.asp>

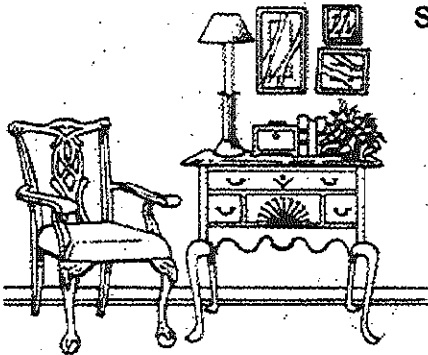
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Sheryl Papandria

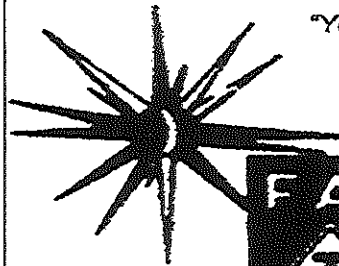
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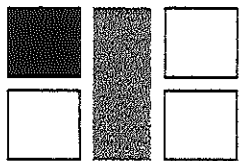
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We wish everyone a safe and enjoyable
summer at Birch Lake!

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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The legend of the Beer Scooter

How many times have you awakened in the morning after a hard night of drinking and thought 'How did I get home?' As hard as you try, you cannot piece together your return journey from the bar to your home. The answer to this puzzle is that you used a beer scooter.

The beer scooter is a mythical form of transport, owned and leased out to the drunk by Bacchus the Roman god of wine. Bacchus has branched out since the decrease in the worship of the Roman pantheon and bought a large batch of these magical devices. The beer scooter works in the following fashion:

The passenger reaches a certain level of drunkenness and the "slurring gland" begins to give off a pheromone. Bacchus or one of his many sub-contractors detects the

pheromone and sends down a winged beer scooter. The scooter scoops up the passenger and deposits them in their bedroom via a trans-dimensional portal. It is not cheap to run a beer scooter franchise, so a large portion of the passenger's in-pocket cash is taken as payment. This generates the second question after a night out 'How did I spend so much money?'

Beer scooters have a poor safety record and are thought to be responsible for 90 percent of all UDI (Unidentified Drinking Injuries). An undocumented feature of the beer scooter is the destruction of time segments during the trip. The nature of trans-dimensional portals dictates that time will be lost, seemingly unaccounted for. This generates the third question after a night out, 'What happened?'

With good intentions, Bacchus opted for the EMIT (Embarrassing Moments in Time) add on, that automatically removes, in descending order, those parts in time regretted most. Unfortunately one person's EMIT is not necessarily the EMIT of another, and quite often lost time is regained over a suitable period.

Independent studies have also shown that Beer Goggles cause the scooter's navigation system to malfunction thus sending the passenger to the wrong bedroom often with horrific consequences.

With recent models including a GPS, Bacchus made an investment in a scooter drive-thru chain specializing in half-eaten kebabs and pizza crusts. Another question answered!!

For the family man, beer

scooters come equipped with flowers picked from other people's garden and Thump-A-Lot Boots. These boots are designed in such a way that no matter how quietly you tip-toe, you are sure to wake up your other half. Special anti-gravity springs ensure that you bump into every wall and the CTSGS (Coffee Table Seeking Guidance System) explains the ring-barked shins.

The final add-in Bacchus saw fit to invest in for some scooters is TAS (Tobacco Absorption System). This explains how one person can apparently get through 260 Marlboro Lights in a single night.

PS: Don't forget the on-board heater, which allows you to get home from the bar in sub-zero temperatures wearing just a t-shirt.

-Submitted by Bob King

Men's Golf Outing update

There is still time to register for the 42nd Annual Men's Golf Outing. Get your foursome together, complete the registration form and drop it off with your check(s) to Rich Mullin or Bill King — and we are still soliciting hole sponsorships at \$50 to \$100/hole. It would be nice to see some new sponsors in addition to our perennial supporters.

The following is a partial list of hole sponsors for this year's outing: Dan Reynolds, Transamerica; Dick Bender, Bender Plastics & Bender Mold; Brian and Mike Machalleck, Claey's Candy Inc.; Jack Miller, Tim Steffen, Rich Mullin and Vic Jones.

Ladies Golf Outing date changed

Join the Birch Lake ladies on Friday, August 9, for the annual Golf and/or Lunch. Experienced and novice golfers are welcome. We play a best-ball scramble.

Arrange your foursome or be grouped with some new friends.

The cost is \$25, which includes 9 holes of golf and half a cart at Park Shore Golf Course in Cassopolis, and lunch at Lindy's.

Golf will begin at 9 am (IN); the luncheon will be at Noon. Prizes will be awarded at the luncheon.

Please send reservation and check to Mardy Miller, 63255 Storey Hill, Vandalia, MI 49095. If you have questions, call Mardy at 476-9226, or Betsy Custard at 476-9835.

Non golfers are welcome to join us for the lunch at Lindy's. Select from an open menu with individual checks. Please call Mardy or Betsy so we can reserve a space for you.

BIRCH LAKE OPEN

Join us for the 42nd Annual Men's Golf Outing
Friday, July 26

Park Shore Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI
11 am shotgun start

\$55/man entry fee
covers golf, cart, favor, door prizes, refreshments
and prime rib dinner

Registration deadline is July 22

First 72 golfers are in

Contact Rich Mullin at 476-8820

or drop entry at Mullin or King home on north shore

Dinner at 5:30 pm (\$20 to attend the dinner only)

Name/phone _____

Name _____

Name _____

Name _____

Ladies Golf Outing

and Luncheon

Friday, August 9

Park Shore Golf Course, Cassopolis, MI
9 am golfing; Noon Lunch (at Lindy's)

\$25 entry fee

covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's
Contact Mardy at 476-9226 or Betsy at 476-9835

Name	Golf	Lunch
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Opinion ~ Forum

No letters of personal opinion were received for this week's Barker

Future letters will be printed on an available time and space basis provided they meet the requirements below

SPECIAL NOTICE

The issue of waste water treatment and a potential Birch Lake sewer system has generated considerable interest and controversy over the past few weeks.

Several requests have been received from Lakers to publish information and individual letters of opinion. While officers and board of directors of the Birch Lake Yacht Club, and the editor of the Barker WILL NOT ENDORSE ANY opinion

on the issue, the Baker will publish opinion letters that meet the following stipulations:

- All letters must be signed and the writers must allow their names to be published with the article.
- Letters must be submitted by deadlines listed.
- All letters must be submitted via e-mail, or on computer disk in a text format.
- All letters must be no more than 500 words; if letters are over 500 words, they will only be published on an available time/space basis, and pro-

viding the author agrees to cover all additional costs incurred because of the letter.

DEADLINE FOR THIS WEEK

Deadline for all items submitted to the Birch Barker this week is Noon on
TUESDAY, JULY 16.

SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS OR EXTENSIONS CAN BE GRANTED



The Best of Beck's Bistro



Cola Chicken
 1/2 chopped onion
 2 Tlb vegetable oil
 4 chicken breasts
 1 can (12 oz) cola
 1 cup ketchup
 1/8 tsp garlic powder
 1/8 tsp salt
 1/8 tsp pepper
 4 1/2 tsp cornstarch
 3 Tlb cold water

In a skillet, saute onion in oil until tender.
 Add chicken, brown on all sides. Carefully

add cola, ketchup, garlic powder, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for 25-30 minutes or until juices run clear.

Remove chicken and keep warm. Combine the cornstarch and cold water until smooth, and add to the skillet. Bring to a boil, cover and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.

Return chicken to pan, and heat through.
 Yield: 4 servings.

Caramelized Sweet Onions

(To ensure proper caramelization, avoid salting the onions before they have finished cooking)

4 Tlb unsalted butter
 6 sweet onions (medium), peeled and cut into 1/4 inch rounds
 1/2 tsp coarse salt
 1/4 tsp freshly ground pepper

Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add onions; cook, stirring occasionally, until all juices have evaporated, about 20 minutes.

Reduce heat to medium-low, and cook, stirring occasionally, until onions are very tender, and golden brown. 1 hour to 1 1/2 hours.
 Season with salt and pepper and serve.

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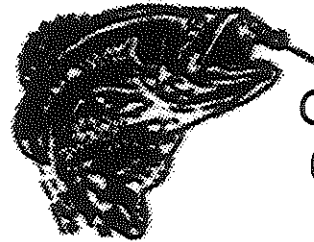
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 Kid's Club 7:30 pm

Come worship with us

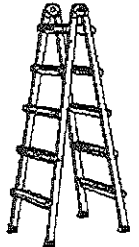
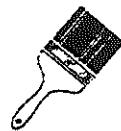
Mark The Painter

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.

I have references on Birch Lake, why not give Mark a call today!!!

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Happy and Healthy

Your dog is more like you than you may realize! Like us most dogs love the relaxation you feel when you're at the lake. They love to take long naps in the middle of the day, sleep in Sunday morning, snack on pop corn and junk food while watching their people watching some noisy box with moving color, etc. Well, just like us the K9 family is also suffering from obesity.

Sixty percent of genetic disorders in dogs correspond to

genetic diseases in humans such as congenital heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Many of these can be prevented by a healthy diet and fitness program.

Owners love their dogs and believe that one way to show their affection is by constantly giving their dogs treats and/or table scraps. This can easily cause pudgy pooches. Instead, stick to feeding them just their food. When you sit down to eat first feed Fido —

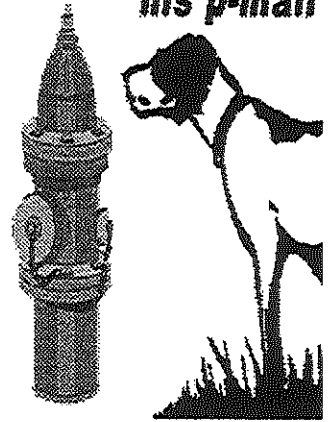
this should keep them busy. And for treats, try ice cubes.

They really know they're loved when they see you pick up that leash. Wow! A walk. This is Fido's favorite thing and is so good for both you and them. Remember, in real hot temperatures you will want to shorten the distance and let them stop at the shore line for a quick dip or just a drink.

Have a tail wagging kind of week!

-Fido's Friend

Checking his p-mail



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Wednesday-Saturday
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Update/The war on Zebra Mussels

Zebra mussels were first found in the Great Lakes in the mid-1980s, after a European cargo ship expelled its ballast water into Lake St. Clair. They have since spread into nearly 150 inland lakes.

Mike Klepinger, a specialist in aquatic nuisance species, says monitoring for zebra mussels in inland lakes is difficult to keep up with.

Established in 1991, The Aquatic Nuisance Species Office is a branch of the Michigan Sea Grant Inland Lakes Monitoring Program through Michigan State University. It is the central source of zebra mussel information in Michigan.

"Michigan has over 11,000 lakes that are over five acres," he said. "With so many lakes, it is impossible to set up a sample program."

Mussel damage

Klepinger says zebra mussels fundamentally change the water system forever.

They do two types of damage: socioeconomic and ecologi-

cal.

Socioeconomic damage takes the form of clogged intake lines, rows of dead zebra mussel shells on beaches, sharp shells on lake bottoms and mussels attached to boat motors, propellers and docks.

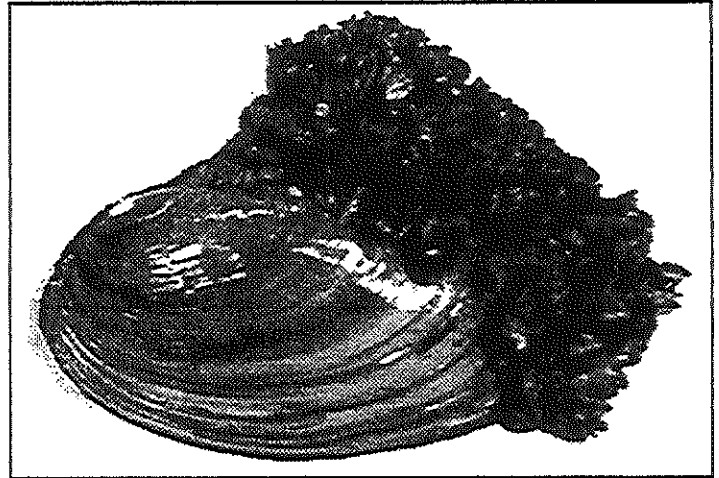
Zebra mussels impact the ecosystem by filtering nutrients from the water.

"Each zebra mussel can filter a liter of water per day," Klepinger said. "Each female zebra mussel can put out up to one million spawn a season and they sometimes grow into huge clumps several inches thick."

Because they filter the water so effectively, it looks clearer. But the pollution hasn't been removed — it's concentrated in the tissue of the zebra mussels. When they die it is released again. And because the water is clearer, increased light causes more plants to grow. That changes fish habitat.

No predators:

Zebra mussels have been associated with causing a musty taste and odor in drinking water.



Zebra mussels clustered on a Papershell Clam

It's not like they cover the whole bottom, but on a clear day you can look down and see black spots. If you reach down and pick one up, you will see it is not a rock, but a clump of zebra mussels.

They have no natural predators and there's no way to get rid of them once they're established.

Rick Bakka has lived on Strawberry Lake for 15 years. In 1997, he was one of the first residents to report zebra mussels

in that lake. "People started noticing them on docks and rocks," he said. "The main problem is the shells are sharp and they cut your feet," Bakka said. "And as they spread it is getting worse and worse."

Busted...Comos caught red handed by neighbors

That's right; their good deed did not go unnoticed ... It took place at 6:30 pm on June 26. The Comos were finding Zebra mussels to help the kids ear their party (not to mention the benefit to the lake).

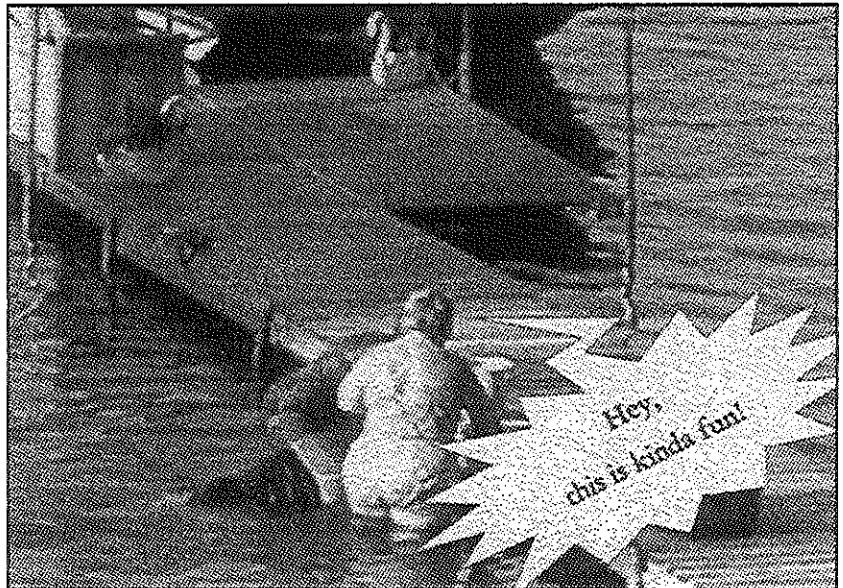
They collected a total of 3,000 (give credit where it is due). It's alleged that they got rather excited after seeing the neighborhood kids putting forth the effort to clean the lake and earn a party at the club.

I believe that these ladies have earned the right to join the party with Abby, Grayson and Mary, the youngsters of the Como clan.

It's my guess that they would be the life of the party.

Your neighbor up on the south hill

-Tammy Sobczak-Barbour



Zebra Mussel bounty continued

We are still mad as heck and we are not gonna take this any more!

The zebra mussels invading beautiful Birch Lake are fast infesting our beaches. So far this year thousands have been removed by diligent and hard working kids who wade in after the ferocious beasties ...

Birch Lake Yacht Club and the Water Quality Committee have decided ton continue the bounty on these invaders.

Kids who remove zebras from the

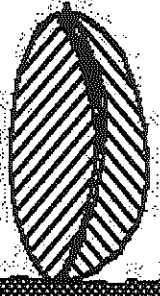
Birch beaches will earn a penny apiece. The money will be used to fund Kid functions at the Yacht Club this year. Please ask before you go wading on other peoples property (bet it will be OK), and remember to wear water shoes to protect your feet.

Count out the zebras you remove and then fill out the coupon below. Give the coupon to any BLYC Director during the month of July. As we receive the reports, we will try to 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 a 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 _____ X

(kid's signature) (parent's signature)

Lake life economics

The economics of owning lake property has been turned upside down since Shirley Anne and I bought our place at Birch on a land contract in 1973. If we were coming here today in the same financial circumstances, we wouldn't be able to make a purchase. Sylvia Bright was open, helpful, and a touch sentimental, but she was no fool, and she wouldn't have "given her place away," just because we looked like a "nice couple."

There are few "old" houses and even fewer "fixer-uppers" left on these shores. There are no more inexpensive buys. At \$1,100 a running foot or more, the lakefront land makes even "bargain" properties too pricey for young families on tight budgets.

Our place was "fancier" than many others on Birch 30 years ago. It was a year-round home with two bedrooms, two baths and an attached garage. It had been put together in pieces through handyman remodeling, but it looked presentable and it served us well when we drove in from Chicago to spend the weekends. Over a ten year period we paid about \$85,000 for the acre-and-a-third with 50 feet of frontage we own now, but the original house had only a 10-foot shared easement and we bought it with no down payment for \$30,000.

Imagine trying to do that today.

Looking back further to the days when my in-laws came to Birch makes the contrast even greater. Starr and Millie Wentworth bought a lot in the cove in 1946 (which ran up the hill behind them for at least 100 feet) for \$3,000. They had a one-room fishing shanty moved in and their friends helped them put in a well and septic

system. They were depression-hardened buyers and they waited until they could pay cash for their "extravagant" purchase.

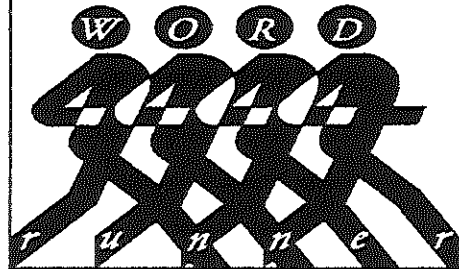
Today, this is an upscale enclave by Michiana lake community standards, not quite as pricey as Diamond, but much too salty for the average working family in search of the "lake cottage" of their youth. We've become exclusive without meaning to do so, and while there are very nice property value benefits for those of us who are here, the price of admission has become prohibitive for people whose circumstances mirror the ones many of us brought to these shores.

Norm and Nancy Monroe have lived beside us for 29 years, and they and their children could serve as the poster family for "good neighbors." They are friendly and considerate and I've never heard either of them say an unkind word about anyone.

Nevertheless, when we were building our new home 12 years ago, I remember feeling that Norm was almost as sad as our daughters were to see our old place go. He was happy for us and he said very complimentary things about the new home, but I thought he had mixed feelings about the idea of "re-doing" the lake. I remember him saying rather wistfully one day, "It won't be very long before all the old places are gone and the only kids playing around here will be somebody's grandkids."

He wasn't far off the mark. We have far more year-round and seven-month residents than we used to have at Birch, and I'm sure the average age of a Birch Lake homeowner has gone up by a decade in the time we've been here. Many of us are

By The WordRunner



retired or we've decided to give up the house in town and make this our only place of residence. We have homes as large as 4,000 or 5,000 square feet, and it is not unusual to hear of a half million dollar price tag on a Birch Lake property.

Shirley Anne and I have certainly been part of the problem, if it is a problem. We've upgraded regularly to get to the look and the comfort we wanted from our Birch Lake home. We've even had strangers pull up in our roadside parking area and stroll down the sidewalk toward the lake, because they mistakenly believed our yard was a public park.

I like the lake the way it is today. I love to look at the beautiful homes and to visit with friends in what is clearly a vacation paradise, but I understand what Norm Monroe was probably mourning as he watched our new house go up. This is no longer an affordable place for working class families who want their children to enjoy a lakeside summertime experience. We've all stayed the same, but our neighborhood has moved uptown.

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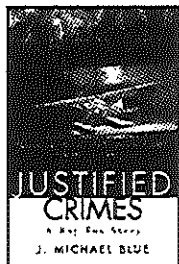
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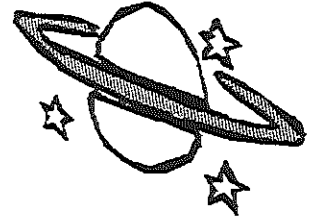
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Stu's Star Stuff



Sunrises and sunsets

The Sun blazes with all its fury as we head into the hottest part of the year. But because of Earth's lopsided orbit, today we're actually farthest from the Sun for the year — about 1.5 million miles farther than the average distance of 93 million miles.

Astronomers refer to this event as "aphelion," derived from Greek meaning "from the sun." Just after midnight the sun and Earth were 94,506,950 miles apart. This figure varies by about 3 percent from the closest approach of these two bodies

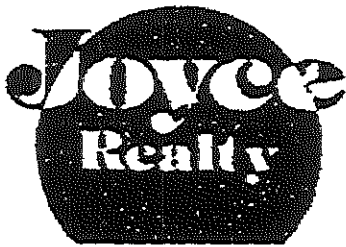
(perihelion) that occurs in early January. Take note that today is not the coldest day of 2002, so the annual temperature swings we endure must have a cause other than how far away the sun is.

That cause is the tilt of earth's axis of rotation. Instead of being perpendicular to the orbital plane, earth's axis is tilted about 23 and a half degrees. As Earth travels through it's orbit, the point where the sun's energy is focused changes from north to south. When the focus is most northerly, as we had last week, we have the longest day and the official start of summer. When it's

farthest south, we begin winter with the shortest day of the year. In spring and fall our orbit positions the sun directly over the equator at noon. These times mark the vernal and autumnal equinoxes - the time of equal day and night.

It doesn't have to be dark to enjoy the show. Sunrises and sunsets can be quite spectacular. And they're free.

-Stewart Spratt



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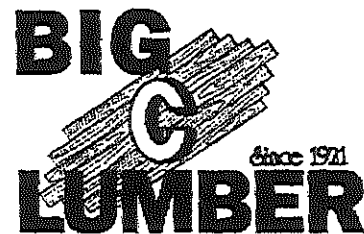
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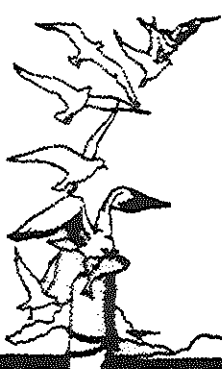
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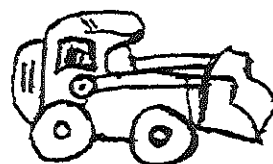


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A letter from Camp...

Well another Fourth of July has come and gone. The fireworks display was amazing even though I was watching through the trees. And thanks to the lack of wind this year I have yet to find one shell casing up in Main Camp.

I really enjoyed the wonderful pancake breakfast. A special thanks to all those who worked and also those who came to eat. We sold so many Tannadoonah shirts and talked to so many people.

Also we were happy to receive even more campership donations, this year we are

going to be able to host around a dozen special needs kids at Camp.

If you were at the pancake breakfast you may have noticed in the corner of the Dining Hall one of our newest additions the Camp Tannadoonah Library. We are always taking book donations for childrens books. If you have childrens books or books about nature and the outdoors that are in good condition please contact us at 476-2177. You may not get an answer because our answering machine is not always working properly, so please bear with us.

Speaking of broken things, our camp store is having problems with the refrigerator in the heat. I have been told that a non frost free refrigerator would work better — so if anyone is getting rid of a working non-frost free fridge, please let us know.

With summer flying by it is time to start thinking about fall. Camp Tannadoonah is available for rental. Please contact Dug Miller at Camp (or at the Camp Fire office once camp is over) if you are interested.

-Dug Miller, Camp Director

Red Hot Summer Ladies Tea

Tickets for the "Red Hot Summer" Ladies Tea, are still available for purchase in advance (tickets will not be sold at the door on the day of the event).

Contact anyone on the "Red Hot Summer Ladies Tea Committee: Darlene Troyer, MaryAnn O'Neil, Helen Toth and Denny Weesner.



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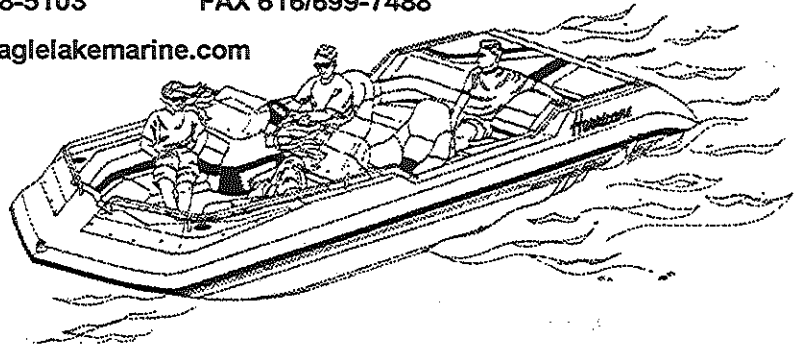
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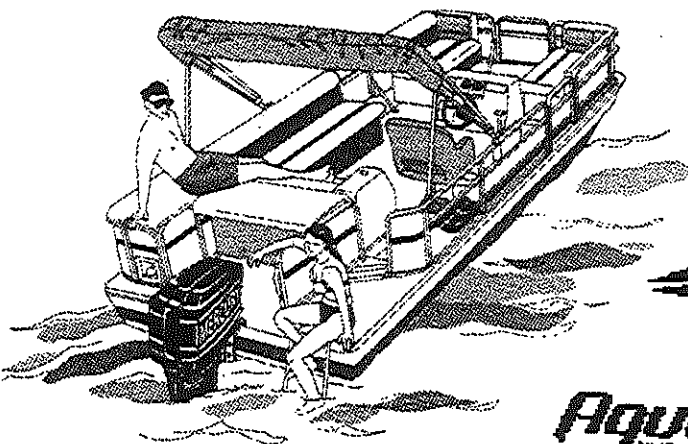
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Lost Dog — Yellow Lab; 3-4 yrs. old; 80-100 lbs. Red collar and blue & white flea collar. Named Harley. Call 476-2669

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Found — One "Shock Doctor" mouth guard retainer, clear with black inserts. Appears to be for a youth-sized mouth. Can be picked up any weekend at the

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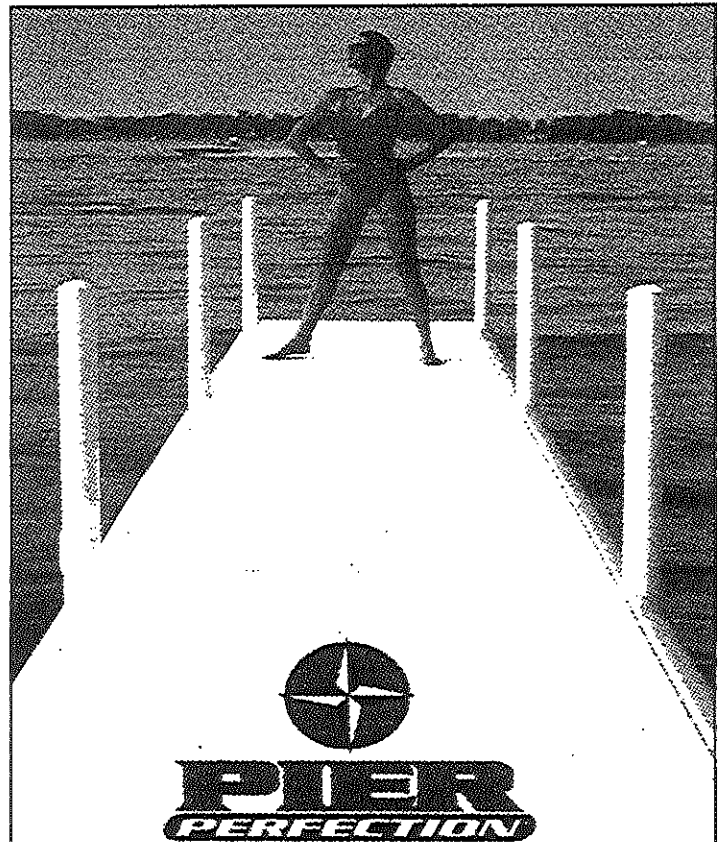
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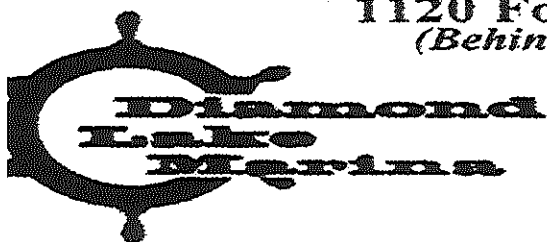
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Eberhart, Gib & Barbara
 Eichorst, Doug & Judie
 Falk, Roger & Suzanna
 Fillenwarth, Steven & Vicki
 Flora, Larry & Margy (F)
 Foley, Bill & Gladys
 Foos, James & Carole
 Freihofer, Fred & Carol (D)
 Gableman, John
 Gaik, Ray & Judy (D)
 Garceau, Bernie & Blair
 Golden, Marc & Ileen
 Goodin, Betty (F)
 Gotstein, Michael & Margaret
 Green, Dick & Barb
 Greenig, Bob & Kay
 Groszek, John & Lois
 Groszek, John (D)
 Harlan, Bruce and Juanita
 Harman, Don & Lind
 Harris, Gwen
 Hayes, Clyde & Nancy
 Herms, Bob & Eileen
 Hornbeck, Jack & Marianne
 Horvath/VanHuffel
 Jones, Vic & Leslie
 Katz, Larry & Carrie (AD & FW)
 Kelly, Mike & Lu
 Keim, Terry & Patricia
 King, Bill, Le & Suzy
 King, Bob & Leslie (AD)

Kinner, Dave & Marge
 Klappauf, Raymond, Lee, Carl
 and Sandie
 Klimek, Matt & Joyce
 Kolber, Chet & Vivian
 Kolber, Chris & Barb
 Kruggel, Herm & Bev
 Kuhn/Temple
 Lacy, Tom & Julie
 LaPierre, Chuck & Cheri
 Leach, Norma
 Leatherman, Dennis, Phyllis &
 Judy
 Lindenfeld, Frederick &
 Marylynn (F)
 Lindzy, Dick & Judy
 Luecht, Bill & Patty
 Lyzen, Bill & Rita (F)
 Machalleck, Mike & Katha
 McCay, Larry & Deb
 McNamee, Kathleen
 Meyers, John & Jody
 Minix/Bergan
 Miller, Jack & Mardy
 Molho, Manny & Mary Lu
 Monroe, Norm & Nancy
 Morrison, Bob
 Mullin, Rich & Pam
 O'Brien, Joe & Elizabeth
 O'Brien, Major & Kemi
 Olson, Dave & Judy

Olson, Jeff & Beth
 O'Neill, Bill & Maryann
 Papendria, Sheryl & Covey,
 Dan
 Parkinson, Frank & Elizabeth
 Parnell, Dorothy & Niezgodski,
 Ron & Kathy
 Petit, Claude
 Pitakos, Stan
 Pletcher, Ruth (F)
 Price, Eileen
 Quinlan, Steve & Vicki
 Rasmussen, Buzz & Linda
 Reynolds, Dan & Janet
 Rieth, Bud & Louise
 Rogers, Tom & Shelly
 Rogers, Tom & Vicki
 Russell, Mike & Paula
 Russwurm, Rick & Patti
 Sacco, Tony & Debbie
 Sanders, Ray & Sonia
 Sankey, Joe & Teri
 Santee, Marty & Doris
 Scofield, John & Laveta
 Sheetz, Harold & Charlene
 Sikorski/Manor
 Smitley, Jeffrey & Denise
 Spratt, Stewart & Kim
 Steffen, Tim & Irene
 Stevens, Pat
 Thayer, Jim & Eleanor

Tjaden, Jim & Juani (F)
 Tom's Garage
 Toth, Joe & Helen
 Troeger, Earl & Connie
 Troeger, Scott & Holly
 Troeger, Tom & Pat
 Troyer, Scott & Dawn (D)
 Trybus, Dennis & Margie
 Tudor, Dennis & Rita (F)
 Tunncliffe, Bill & Joanne
 Valentijn, Nico & Lynnette
 Vath, Helen
 Vitale, Phil & Sandy
 Waddie, Bob & Sue
 Waggoner, Monty & Kris
 Wagner, Bruce & Sue
 Walker, Brad & Nancy
 Weaver, Doug & Julie
 Weesner, Keith & Denny
 Went, John & Roma (F)
 White, Phyllis
 Sankey, Joe & Teri
 Santee, Marty & Doris
 Scofield, John & Laveta
 Sheetz, Harold & Charlene
 Sikorski/Manor
 Smitley, Jeffrey & Denise
 Spratt, Stewart & Kim
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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:
 Holly Troeger, Treasurer
 1516 Ash Drive East
 Elkhart, IN 46514
 Drop off at:
 63696 Birch Road
 (call 476-9898)

Make checks payable to: *Birch Lake Yacht Club*

"The Lake Expert"



Nancy Walker
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