



Happy Fourth of July

ey there, hi there, ho there...

And welcome to the busiest weekend of the summer on Birch Lake. This year's Independence Day extravaganza promises three days of fireboomers, belly-bombs and boats galore. For a lot of people, this is as good as it gets; summer, sun and even some suds ...

But let's all make it a point to celebrate responsibly — with the increased traffic and activity, there is a tremendous increase in the danger. Please don't let the heat of the moment fry your brain! Watch out for other people. Watch out for yourself. Watch out for danger.

So here's the *haps* of the weekend? Tonight (Friday, July 4) at dark we'll have fireworks (weather permitting — if it rains, we'll have them Saturday).

Saturday at 11 am is the first day of the Fourth of July Regatta, followed at 3 pm by the annual Boat Parade (line up at Benders' pier on the South Side behind

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Parade Royalty Bill and Le King).

Sunday from 8 am to 11 am is the annual Camp Tannadoonah Pancake Breakfast — come join Don, Lind and their crack crew for the best darn breakfast in Cass County — and it's just \$4 (or less). Proceeds from the breakfast go to the camp.

While you're there, be sure to say "hi" to the camp director, our good friend and summertime neighbor, Mr. Dug, and be sure to check out all the neat-o shirts, towels and such that are for sale from the Camp and from the BLYC.

I haven't talked to Treasurer Holly lately to see how many wonderful people have paid their dues and contributed to the various events and activities, but I'd like to extend a heartfelt "thanks" on behalf of all of us who enjoy the fireworks ... and everyone who gets to swim

and play in our clean, beautiful lake ... and everyone who receives the benefits (in many cases, benefits they don't even realize have been hard won) of the committees, groups and individuals on the Homeowners Association, the Safety Committee and all of the volunteers who work behind the scenes to make our community safe and clean and fun ...

And to those of you who haven't yet made your contribution, I urge you to look around this weekend and make a conscious choice to be a part of our community. This place didn't just happen — but it takes a lot of hard work, a lot of good people, and just a few bucks from each of us. What better way to reaffirm our independence and our way of life than by being a positive part of America's best community, Birch Lake!

So, one more time ... pay your dues, BE SAFE, and have fun ...

Happy Fourth of July!

-Commodore Phil



We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore) or e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com. If you must, mail 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.

Birch Lake Notes

Kids Fishing Lesson

Tom DeCocker will present a "teach a kid to fish" lesson on Saturday, July 12 beginning at 9 am at the Yacht Club.

Tom will show and tell us how to rig a rod and reel, how to safely handle hooks, how to tie and bait a hook, and how to land, handle and release a fish.

Kids of all ages (even if they are in their 40s) who would like to learn the basics of freshwater fishing are encouraged to attend.

There is a very limited supply of poles available, so kids are encouraged to bring their own equipment.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Don't forget the Fourth of July pancake breakfast at Camp Tannadoonah this Sunday, July 6th. Breakfast from 8 - 11 Indiana time.

Three good reasons to attend:
1. Visit with friends and neighbors.
2. All proceeds go to Camp Tannadoonah
3. All you can eat for \$4 adults ...\$2 for kids 6 to 10 ... free 6 and under

Shirts galore, and towels, too.

See you there!

We'll have a pretty good assortment of Birch Lake merchandise on display at the Pancake breakfast Sunday morning at Camp Tannadoonah. Denise Smitley (west side), 476-9000 has denim and golf shirts, as well as towels; Bud Zesinger

BLYC Calendar

July 4	Fireworks (dark)	July 25	Men's Golf Outing
July 5	Firework Cleanup	July 26	Board Meeting 9 am
July 5	Boat Parade 3 p.m.	July 26	Garage Sale
July 6	Pancake Breakfast	Aug. 8	Women's Golf
July 12	Kids' Fishing 9 am BLYC	Aug. 9	Corn and Sausage Roast
July 19	Bad Patty Punch Party and	Aug.16	Board Meeting 9 am
- Control of the Control	Marc's Fancy Pants Dance	Aug. 23	Fall Dinner

PLEASE NOTE: All parties at the yacht club will begin at 7 pm Indiana time ... unless otherwise noted.

(east side), 476-2526 is handling the Tank Tops, T-shirts and sweat shirts.

Thanks Sarge!

Thanks to Sgt. Dan Covey and his crew for the boat check last Sunday morning. A lot of our neighbors made it over for safety and certification inspections. If your boat failed and you've since corrected the problems, or if you'd just like to get a boat check, contact Covey at the Cass County Sheriff's Dept., 445-8644, to arrange an appointment.

Congratulations Sheetz!

Jack Allen Sheetz, newest grandson of Harold and Charlene Sheetz, was born at 1:09 am on Saturday, June 28, in Three Rivers Hospital.

Jack is the son of John and Dionne Sheetz of Marcellus.

Kevin,
John's brother,
traveled from
Chicago to
provide support and
encouragement (Dionne
was in labor
for 56 hours!).



Jack weighted 8 lbs., 12 oz., and is 21-1/4 inches in length. Vincent, Jack's older brother, couldn't believe how big he is for a newborn ... and so heavy to hold.



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Have A Safe and Fun Summer!

Birch Lake Notes

Thanks Jimmy

Thanks to Jim Thayer, who cut up the tree that fell across the road on the north side during last Saturday's storm.

The "handsomest" baby in Texas

Congratulations to parents Tim and Jill Blackwood, and to Howard and Beth Blackwood, the proud grandparents of Thomas Michael Blackwood, who was dubbed (by an impartial group of hospital employees) "the handsomest baby in the hospital upon his arrival.

Thomas was born on June 11 at 7 lbs., 20.5" in Austin, Texas, just 1/2 hour after mom arrived at the hospital. Thomas (and his parents) are currently visiting Birch Lake, and will be in attendance this weekend at the turtle races.

Rumor has it that the young Blackwood will join the family in singing the National Anthem at the start of the races ... however, family members were quick to dismiss the rumor that Thomas might saddle and ride one of the turtle-steeds.



News from the Cove

by SUNNY WATERS she of shapely toes and a loved husband, B.S.

If you're a new resident, that means Beloved Spouse ... and a few other things. B.S. has a passion on, not me, Dr. Atkins' diet. He does look debonair, I have to admit.

Speaking of a diet, we both blew ours and enjoyed the luscious hors d'oeuvres at the BLYC. Please, friends, come to the fun gatherings at the club. It's good to chat with old friend and meet new ones ... Lindsay Weesner, for example. What a delightful young man.

July has a plethora of events. Of course the Fourth of July is the most celebrated. Also a joyous time in July 1-31 is national baked beans month. What a blast!

Another fun time is the Wild Ass Hunters Ass'n Conference. I'd love to attend but haven't an idea what to wear if at all.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!
-Your loving Sunny,





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

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

BLYC Sailing News

From small boats to U-boats

What a weekend; the wind was gusty and shifty and more than one captain turned their Sunfish into a U-boat...

The highlight of the day was Jim's amazing second-place finish — UNDER WATER!

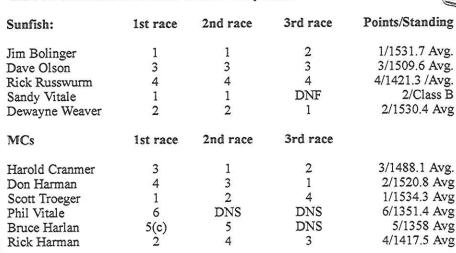
Thanks to Bruce Wagner and his committee boat crew (including Tom Rogers, who jumped in the water and turned boatsaver...

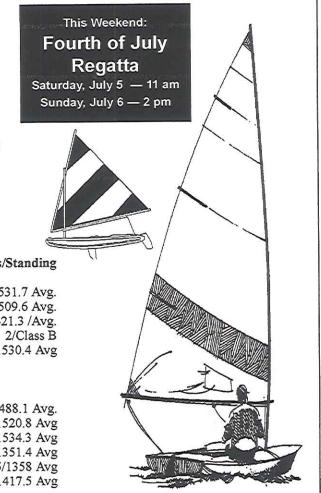
This weekend we will have the Fourth of July Regatta, with races at 11 on Saturday (so we'll be off the water before the Boat Parade), and at 2 on Sunday (so we can all attend the Pancake Breakfast). We hope the "feast-or-famine" winds cooperate.

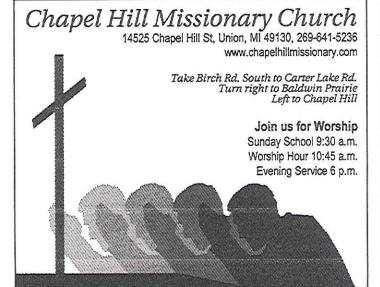
Hope to see you all out on the water.

-Harold Cranmer, Fleet Captain

Here are the results of the third week of competition:









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Birch Lake Recipe of the Week

Flag Cake a holiday treat!

This flag cake will earn a salute when you serve a red, white and blue dessert for the Fourth of July.

Start with pound cake, add a layer of canned blueberries or strawberry pie filling, and then add a layer of whipped topping. Place strawberry halves and fresh blueberries on he whipped topping to create a flag design.

INGREDIENTS:

10-3/4 ounce pkg frozen pound cake,

thawed, cut into 10 slices 21 ounce can blueberry or strawberry pie filling

12 ounce tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed

2 pints fresh strawberries, halved 1/3 cup fresh blueberries

Line the bottom of a 12 x 8 inch baking dish with cake slices. Top with pie filing and whipped topping. Place strawberry halves and fresh blueberries on whipped topping to create a flag design. Refrigerate until read to serve.

Makes 15 servings.

NOTE: Got a favorite recipe to share with your neighbors. We'd love to print Birch Lakers' favorite recipes in the Barker ... to contribute, contact Vickie Rogers (in the Cove) at 2383, or e-mail them to her at tvrogers@aol.com

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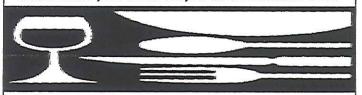


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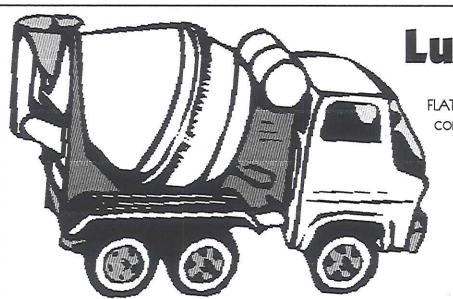
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Dear Grandchildren ... NGUOYD

This is a letter to my Grandchildren, and by extension to all kids of whatever ages who long for adventures they have yet to experience, who yearn for knowledge they haven't attained, and who dare to imagine themselves accomplishing something that seems well beyond their reach.

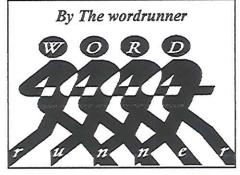
My message is an ancient one, hokey and cliched. It is a homily and a truism. It is easy to grasp, but difficult to hold onto, and it is quintessentially American, because we have honed it to near perfection in this country.

The message is simply this, if you have a dream, don't ever give up on it.

By the age of nine I had fallen in love with books and I knew I wanted to become a writer, and most of all I wanted to become a mystery writer. I loved the Hardy Boy mysteries and created my own teenage crime busters in an endless series of handwritten, illustrated stories that I forced into the hands of my friends, relatives and neighbors. I told my parents that I was going to live in California and write books when I grew up, and they said "that would be nice, but you'd better learn to do something else too so that you can make a living."

After high school, I served in the Army, and then attended a writer's workshop in suburban Los Angeles. I was right on schedule. Then a funny thing happened. Very few people wanted to buy my articles and stories, and none of the teachers I had at the workshop seemed particularly impressed with my talent.

I became discouraged, moved back to



the Midwest, got a serious job, and quit writing. The beat went on. I still loved to read, and I kind of, sort of, wished I could find a way to write something worthy of publication, but I had work to do, and a wife and children and yadda, yadda, yadda.

The feeling of disappointment and personal failure you get when you walk away from your dream is strong and bitter, and it doesn't go away with time. Working hard and being fortunate may bring success in other venues, as it did for me, but no amount of alternative recognition and compensation allows you to let yourself off the hook. You punked out. You quit the team. You traded in the pearl of great piece for a reward of lesser value.

It is something you can live with, but it never feels good. A social philosopher named Eric Hoffer had a theory that most tragedies, great and small, have been brought about by the frustration and lashing out done by "the failed man of letters." Adolph Hitler was his prime example, a man who longed to be a great writer and who had the ability to recognize great

work when he saw it, but who couldn't produce it himself. Maybe so. I know that reading Hemingway's "The Short Happy Life of Francis McCumber", or Fitzgerald's "A Diamond As Big As The Ritz," or the opening pages of Raymond Chandler's "The Long Good-Bye" was enough to put me in a terrible funk after I quit writing. They were so good, and I wanted so much to try to produce something of that quality.

And then at about the age of 50, I began to dream again, and Shirley Anne blew on the flames of my small fire, to help me keep it burning. I would work hard, make enough money to retire, and begin to write.

At 57, I was ready. I hung up my businessman's hat for the last time and turned to my new part-time career. And that's when the next big test arrived. I wasn't very good at writing fiction and what skills I'd had had grown rusty. Consequently, nobody wanted my stuff.

I wrote 25 short stories and a novel and sent them out again and again, and every time I sent them, they came back. Over a period of two years I got 133 rejections without a single sale. Usually, the Editors involved didn't bother to offer a suggestion or an explanation; they just said "no"

But eventually, I found an editor who became my teacher and a writer's workshop that provided worthwhile instruction, and I started to place my work. Today I sell pretty much everything I write, my

continued on next page

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WordRunner

novels and short stories have gotten great reviews, and last week, the Private Eye Writers of America nominated one of my stories for a Shamus Award. (A comparable movie business nomination would be The Golden Globes not the Oscars.)

At this moment, I'm the happiest guy in the world. I'd hate to try to make a living at this business, (my parents were right about that) but I never wanted to do it for money or for notoriety. I wanted to do it for the reward it delivers while I'm doing it, and I wanted to get good enough to do it well.

I'll say it again, Stephanie, Kimberly, and Madison. NEVER, NEVER, NEVER, give up on your dream. N. G. U. O. Y. D.

Women's Golf Outing Update

The Women's Golf Outing and luncheon is off to a great start, thanks to th many generous Birch Lakers who have donated prizes.

This year' outing is for any level of expertise. It is a best-ball scramble, and you don't have to have foursome (you'll be teamed with other golfers).

The luncheon is open to all Birch Lake women (not just the golfers.)

Thanks to these generous neighbors who have already donated prizes:
Dick Bender, Jack Miller, Nancy Walker,
Bill Doba, Bruce Wagner, Tom Rogers,

Bernie Garceau, Phil Vitale, Mike Machalleck, Denise Smitley, Le king, Jim Beck, John Erhardt, Patty Luecht, Stu Spratt, Charlene Sheetz, Bob King, Gert Temple, Debbie Bolinger.

Please call a committee member to donate (we'll even pick up): Peg Cowan, W308, 476-2786; Pam Mullin, N259, 476-1430; Judy Olson, E127, 476-2125; Becky Wiseman, S46, 476-9560.

Use the reservation form for golf and lunch (checks must accompany form) or call Katha Machalleck or Peg Cowan for lunch reservations.

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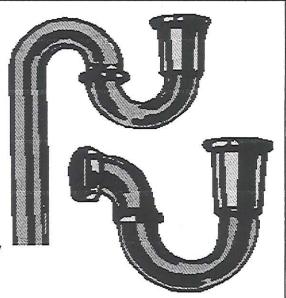
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Stu's Star Stuff



No heat relief in the stars...

Coinciding with the country's birthday, Earth reached aphelion yesterday, its farthest point from the sun. While our Independence Day celebration is locked on the same calendar date, aphelion can vary up to a couple of days either side of this date. At aphelion we sat 94,510,779 miles away from the sun. That's 3,105,431 miles or 3.4 percent farther than last January 4, when we stood closest to Sol. But don't expect today's more distant sun to provide any relief from summertime temperatures, however. The Earth's tilted axis is the primary cause of our seasonal temperature shifts.

Earth's orbit isn't a perfect circle. Instead, it's an ellipse a stretched-out circle. On average, we're about 93 million miles from the Sun. But because of Earth's lopsided orbit, the distance varies by about three percent. So right now, we're about a mil-

lion and a half miles farther than average.

If it seems unusual that the hottest days of the year come when we're farthest from the Sun, it's because the distance between Earth and Sun has very little to do with our planet's seasons. For one thing, the change in distance isn't all that great. For another, our planet's oceans and atmosphere store and distribute heat around the globe.

The seasons are caused not by any change in distance to the Sun, but by Earth's tilt on its axis. During summer, the north polar axis aims more directly at the Sun, so the days are longer and it gets hotter. During winter, the SOUTH polar axis points at the Sun, so it's COLD in the northern hemisphere.

And since Earth travels slowest when it's farthest from the Sun — as it is right now — summer is the longest season in the northern hemisphere. It stretches about five days longer than winter.

So get out there and enjoy the heat. It won't last forever. Next week, where has the time gone?

-Stewart Spratt



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LADIES GOLF/LUNCH

Friday, August 8

Park Shore Golf Course
9 am golfing
Noon Lunch (at Lindy's,
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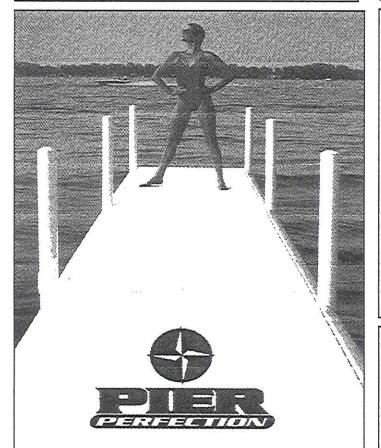
\$25 entry fee

Fee covers golf, half a cart, and lunch at Lindy's

Send check and reservation for **golf and/or lunch** to Peggy Cowen 62803 Birch Lakeview Dr. Vandalia, 49095

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Friday, July 25

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Contact Rich Mullin at 476-1430 or drop entry at Mullin home (north shore) or Vitale home (east shore) Dinner at 5:30 pm (\$20 to attend the dinner only)

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your taste buds. When added to food, honey can slow the growth of some of the bacteria that caus-

es food poisoning. It also lowers levels of cancer-causing chemicals that form when you cook meat or fish. FYI, dark honey has more antioxidants than light honey. However, all varieties contain an impressive array of antioxidants.

Honey shows promise for your heart as well. It contains high levels of antioxidants and may prevent oxidation in

your body which may lead to heart disease.

Because it's high in calories, honey shouldn't be eaten in excess, but do use a teaspoon or two in marinades or salad dressings or instead of sugar

Kale — All hail kale! This leafy green has the second-highest antioxidant concentration in the vegetable



kingdom. Kale offers plenty of lutein, an antioxidant carotenoid that protects your eyes and fights heart disease.

Like its cousin broccoli, kale is rich in cancer fighting sulfur compounds.

Kale is particularly energizing, perhaps because it's so high in nutrients like beta carotene, vit C, and fiber. If you aren't accustomed to kale's slightly bitter flavor, add strong seasonings like garlic or soy sauce, or chop kale finely and add it to soups.

Kiwifruit - These ugly little green fussy fruits are the best at providing spectacular amounts of vita-



Well, what'll it be, Anabelle? Minced mice or chopped chickadee?

min C, plus phytochemicals that help to boost your immune system. With such a high power of vitamin C, they are good for preventing cataracts as well as heart disease and certain types of cancer. They maybe ugly but they have personality plus. If anything your guest will consider them a conversation piece.

Hope your spending your fourth wowing your guests and serving them all the wonderful power foods you now know about.

Have a healthy one.

Ima Foodnudge is a Birch Lake resident who wants her neighbors to be healthy



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FOR SALE BY OWNERS (Bud & Louise Rieth): Year-round home on Northwest side of Birch Lake (Cove). Large 2-story house, 4400 sq. ft., 3 Bedrooms, 2-I/2 Baths, Large Living Room, Family Room, Kitchen, & lots of closets. 69 feet frontage. Separate Guest House with 3-Stall Garage, 2 Bedrooms, Living Room, Kitchen, & Bath. I-I/2 acre lot. Price: \$695,000. Call Louise or Bud for appt. 269-476-2174

LAKEFRONT HOME FOR SALE — 75' frontage, 2,500 sq ft, 3 BR, 2 BA, 2 great rooms, sunroom, laundry, floor to ceiling windows facing lake. Large deck, oversized garage, many extras. Call Dean and Phyllis Davis 476-2396.

Aqua-Step, a spring-loaded heavy-duty stainless steel padded step to mount to the rear of a wave runner to make in-water boarding easy. Step remains in the up position (out of water) until needed, then pulls down to make an underwater step at the rear of the boat for boarding. This unit will fit all wave runners and is new with all parts and full easy installation instructions. \$35. Call Bruce Harlan 476-9714.

Starcraft speedboat with ski pole, Johnson 100 hp motor, and trailer. Also, an aluminum swim raft, older Sunfish sailboat, and a vintage pontoon with a 9.9 Mercury motor. Call Harold or Charlene at 476-2604.

For Sale: Fiberglass sailboat with trailer. 2 Main Sails. Length: 16'. Mast: Wood Call: 574-273-5367 after 5 pm.

Small microwave oven. Perfect for the lake. \$20. Large microwave oven. Perfect for the lake. \$45 OBO on either. Call Stewart Spratt at 476-2113.

For sale: Swim raft with ladder. 6 yr. old. 1/3 of new cost (\$1,200) = \$400. Has <u>small</u> leak. Contact Bob Morrison, 14860 S. Shore. or call 574-250-4945

Selling quality WATKINS products --Tried and true Medicinals Worlds Best Vanilla and worlds best Spices Heritage products and more for the Pantry Medicine chest and beyond. See Becky at Tom's Garage or call at 476-2272 or at home evening 476-1062

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used wakeboard preferably a beginners board, with bindings included. (574) 272-3683

We are looking for a recreational (ski) type boat. If you are thinking of upgrading or selling your boat, please contact the Carmen Soldato Family

RENTALS

North Shore cottage for rent, June-September. Sleeps six. \$850 per week. Contact Fred Freihofer at (574) 272-3683 or send e-mail to ffreihofer@aol.com.

3 BR cottage on north shore. \$650/week. Discounts available. Call Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227 or 269.476.2113.

MISC

FREE — Beautiful kittens, FREE to good homes only. These kittens have been held and fed formula by 2 adults since they were 3 weeks old. They love people and like attention. They are litter trained and eat kitten food now. Please call 476-2604.

WANTED

Wanted: 16+ foot Jon Boat needed for Porter Twp Fire Dept. Lake Rescue Squad. Contact Mike Holdeman at chief@ptfd.org.

SERVICES

Housecleaning: Call Shanna at (269) 501-9379. I'm located on the south side and I am available to clean your home weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or seasonally.

Babysitting: Call Shanna on the south side of Birch Lake at (269)501-9379.

Babysitting: Please call Amanda Lacy at 476-2102.

Classified ads are free to BLYC members and their families; \$5/week for non-members.







2003 BLYC Officers and Board of Directors

OFFICERS	Fred F
Commodore Phil Vitale476-1680	Bob He
Vice Comm Stewart Spratt476-2113	Jack M
Secretary - Sandy Vitale476-1680	Judy C
Treasurer - Holly Troeger476-9898	Maryar
Fleet Captain Harold Cranmer476-2170	Vicki R
	Paula
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BOARD OF DIK	
Dick Bender	476-2591
Howard Blackwood	476-2840
Jim Bolinger	476-9737
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Harold Cranmer	476-2170
Roger Falk	

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Jack Miller	
Judy Olson	476-2125
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Paula Russell	476-1880
Rick Russwurm	
Charlene Sheetz	476-2604
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Holly Troeger	476-9898
Scott Troeger	476-9898
Sandy Vitale	476-1680
Bob Waddle	476-2293
505 11000.0	

Bruce Wagner	476-2090
Denny Weesner	476-2569

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman	476-8877
Terry Dugan	476-2814
Rick Russwurm	476-2407
Gertie Temple	476-2773
Bob Temple	476-2773

HOMEOWNER'S ASSOCIATION

There are dozens of members of the Homeowner's Assocation; contact a board member for more information.

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 _

Total \$

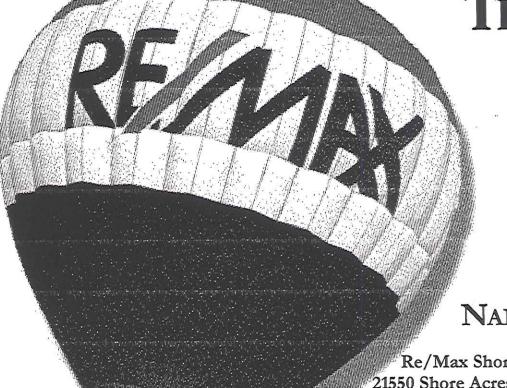


Holly Troeger, Treasurer 1516 Ash Drive East Elkhart, IN 46514

Drop off at:

63696 Birch Road (call 476-9898)

Make checks payable to: Birch Lake Yacht Club



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