

Birch Barker

Weekend of June 26, 2004



Turtle chooses Bender's driveway as nursery

A large leatherback turtle recently chose Dick Bender's driveway (on the south side) to lay a clutch of eggs. Bender has set up a protected area for the duration of the incubation. He's promised to keep us informed and provide photos of the young when they hatch.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Roll out those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. Woo hoo, it's here. What a nice weekend we had. It could have been a touch warmer, but I got plenty of sun. The water is warming up noticeably and, the swimmers itch seems to be gone. So let's get things rolling.

We can start this evening with the Vice-Commodore's cocktail party. John Erhardt and his lovely bride Nyla will be our hosts. John has asked that we all bring our singing voice. I don't know if that means that we will be forming a glee club or auditioning for American Idol, but all are welcome. If you can, please bring a snack to share. Also, tropical shirts are

in order. The fun starts around 7 pm (unless you're living on Michigan time, then it would be 8 pm).

A new event is about to be added to the summer lake calendar ... get ready to Spike it Up!. Ben Wozniak has agreed to provide space for a lake volleyball tournament. A plan is being thought of as I type. More details will be forthcoming but for now, plan on two groupings — co-ed fours and co-ed sixes. I'm thinking maybe the weekend after the Corn and Sausage Roast. Stay tuned for more.

What else do we have to look forward to? Next weekend is the fireworks display. The show will start around 9-ish on Saturday evening, weather permitting. Sunday will be the annual Pancake Breakfast at the camp. I understand there

will be some new lake souvenirs for sale at the breakfast. Items will include new visors, aprons and canvas totes all emblazoned with the new Birch Lake logo. There will also be a lovely embroidered throw for the couch or midnight star gazing.

Stay tuned for The Great Tube Float. I'm rethinking this idea and maybe instead of trying to tow everyone around the lake it might be better to simple form a large flotilla in the middle of the lake. It would be fun to see a hundred people floating together on all manner of devices.

OK. That's it. Have a swell weekend everybody. Let's get out there and have some fun.

-Stewart Spratt
Commodore 2004

For the full Calendar of Events, see the back page of today's Birch Barker

We are always soliciting and accepting materials for future publication. Just e-mail the info to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com, or, if you must, put the materials in the red Barker box at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore), mail to Phil Vitale, 120 So. Broadway, Cassopolis, MI 49031, or fax your items to (269) 445-9200. To contact me by phone, call 476-1680 or (269) 445-9200.

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

Birch Lake Notes

Pancake Breakfast

Bring your family and friends up to Camp Tannadoonah for the annual *All-You-Can-Eat Pancake Breakfast*, July 4 from 8 to 11 (Indiana time). \$4 for Adults; \$2 Children 5 to 10; Children under 5 free

Niezgodski graduates

Bobby Niezgodski (in photo at right) graduated (with

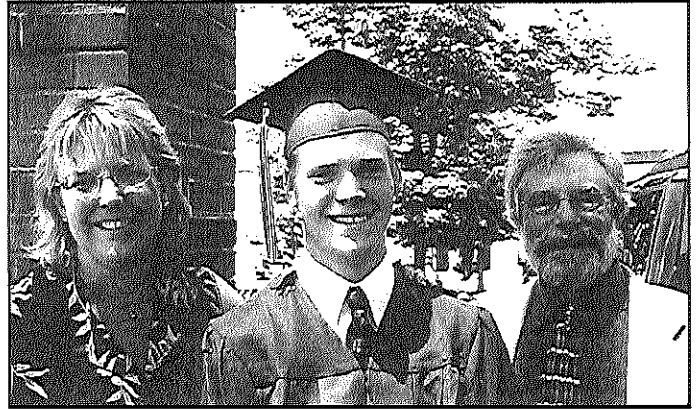
honors) from Washington High School in South Bend on June 13.

Congratulations Bobby!

He is the son of Kathy and Ron Niezgodski (pictured with Bobby), and the grandson of Dorothy Parnell (west side). We are all very proud of him.

Parties will be going on the next couple of weekends, please excuse and extra noise.

-Kathy Niezgodski



Men's Golf Outing

Friday, July 30 ~ Park Shore ~ 11 am

4-man scramble ~ Shotgun start

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Birch Lake Notes

FROM THE COVE

Loretta Drolet and Lavita Scofield, recently attended a bridal shower for Amber Holleman. Bill and Sherry Holleman, parents of Amber, were long-time residents of the cove for many years. Amber is a recent graduate of Notre Dame, and is now working on her PHD in childhood psychology. Many will also remember Amber as "Miss Amber" a counsel with Camp Tannadoonah during her summers away from Notre Dame.

Amber will be married on July 3rd, 2004 at her parent's hometown of Ortonville, Michigan, with a reception at their home. She is a wonderful person who we wish only the best of life to, and have a feeling she will always return to Birch Lake whenever possible.

McCay Graduates

Lauren McCay, daughter of Larry and Deb, graduated from Marian High School, Friday, June 4, 2004. The ceremonies

took place at the Morris Performing Arts Center. They were preceded Thursday evening with a beautiful baccalaureate mass. A wonderful graduation party followed on Saturday.

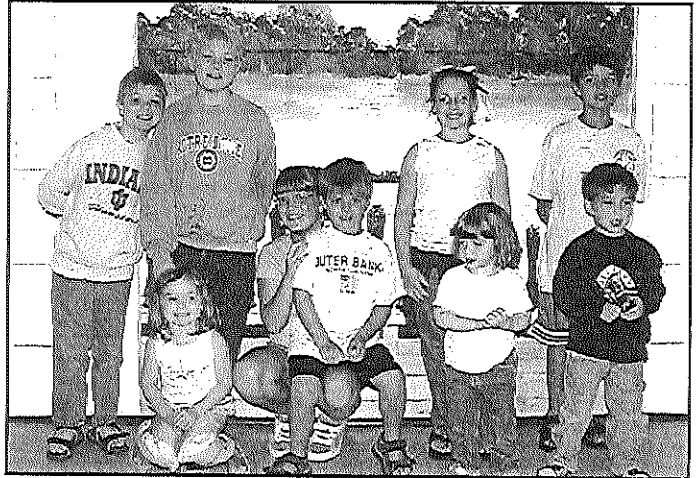
Lauren has enjoyed her summers on Birch Lake her entire life; The 4th of July Turtle Races and Fireworks, Camp Tannadoonah, and trips to "Tom's" for candy are just a few of the wonderful childhood memories she carries with her from our "Summers at Birch Lake."

Lauren is attending the University of Dayton this fall, but will always return to our wonderful neighbors, friends and special treasures that we share here during our Summers at Birch Lake.

Barker deliverers

This year, the Birch Barker is being delivered by the following: Charlene Sheetz - South; Margaret Bouwkamp - South/Hill; Holly Troeger - East; Judy Olson -East; Linda Curtis

**Year's first
KIDS' event a
hit with dads!**



Thanks to all the kids and parents who joined us for the Kids Craft event at the Yacht Club last Saturday. We hope that many Dads and Grandfathers were pleasantly surprised with their keychains and framed pictures made by their crafty kids. We hope to see even more kids at the next event. Details will be coming soon!

-Paula Russell

- East; Elaine Lochmandy
- North ; Vickie Rogers -
Cove; and Buzz and Linda

Rasmussen - West
Thanks to all of our
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Birch Lake Notes

Boating Safety Course

The next boating safety course will be held July 24 at the Diamond Lake Yacht Club. You can sign up by calling the Cass County Sheriff, Marine Division at (269) 445-1225.

When you call you may get voice mail and you should be ready to provide the following information for the student: full name, date of birth, social security number and your contact numbers.

Higher Waters at Birch

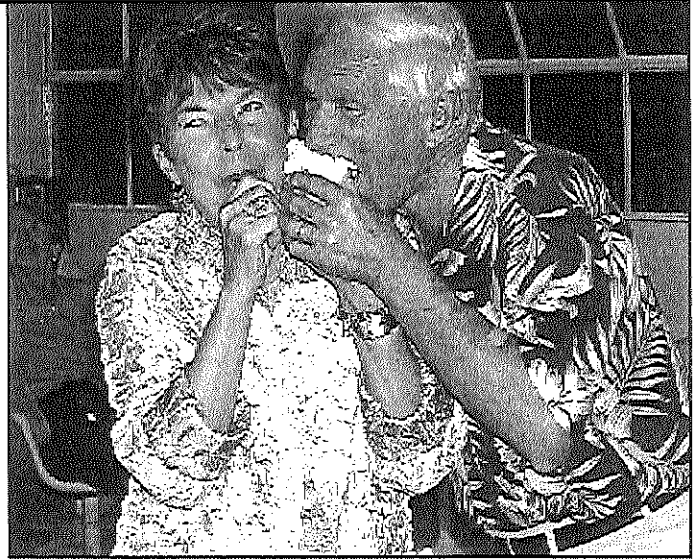
We are up to our necks with high water. All right, maybe not our necks, but our docks, boats, water toys and sea walls.

Please be especially careful with your boat wake while the water is high. The Michigan boating laws require that you are at least 100 feet from any structure or shore when operating at wake speed. You may want to give a little more space from docks and shoreline to protect property and the shoreline from damage.

Congrats Keith & Denny

If you heard lots of laughing and talking at the Yacht Club last Saturday night, it was Denny and Keith Weesner, celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Their daughter Ronda and her husband, Gary, planned the entire evening which included "story telling" and a video depicting 50 years of memories. Connie Troeger, was the Matron of Honor, way back in 1954. Lots of other people were who were at the wedding on that very hot day, were at the party. A great time was had by all and we hope there will be many more to come.

photos by the PattiCam



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Birch Lake Notes

Free Boat Inspections

On July 10th the Cass County Sheriff, Marine Division will conduct voluntary boat inspections here at Birch Lake.

Though Dan Covey has retired from the Sheriff's office, he will again be coordinating this years boat inspection.

Bring your boat to Dan Reynold's dock (4th house East of the landing) any

time from 10 am to 1 pm (IN Time).

Items that will be inspected include: PFD's (personal floatation device), fire extinguisher, navigation lights, horn/whistle, ventilation system, backfire flame arrestor (on carburetor) & registration numbers.

For additional information you can review the Michigan Boating

Handbook or go to the Michigan DNR website at <http://boat-ed.com/mi/handbook/>

Mcgatta

According to the MC page at: <http://www.mscow.org/> the MC Nationals will be held Aug 19 - 22 at the Lake Maxinkuckee YC in Culver, IN.

Also, I have talked to

some at Birch looking for a scow. Besides resources locally and at Melges.com the MC page has (19) boats listed in the classified section.

There is also a series of excellent articles under the heading About the MC

Last: the ILYA (Inland Lake Yacht Association also has good stuff ...

-Bob King

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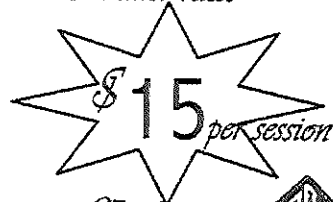
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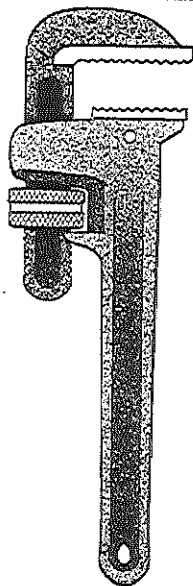
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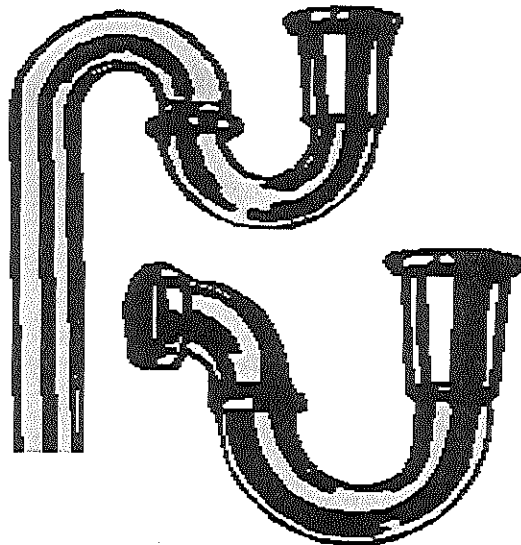
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Stu's Star Stuff

The earliest sunrise of the year occurred on June 14th for us at the lake, latitude 42 degrees north. The longest day, the first day of summer, was Sunday. And the latest sunset for us here at the lake will be tomorrow. Contrary to intuition, the earliest sunrise, latest sunset, and longest day of the year do not coincide. The reason for this seeming inconsistency is not straightforward to visualize. It stems from the fact that the Earth's orbit is oval rather than circular and our planet's rotational axis is tilted relative to its orbit instead of perpendicular.

If you don't recall the discussion in previous issues regarding the off-

set of earliest sunrise and latest sunset from the solstice date (longest day), you may be surprised to learn that the latest sunset occurs tomorrow. Most people find that puzzling. Several places on the web provide a thorough explanation, including www.analemma.com. But let me save you the trouble. If you were able to take a picture of the sun at the same time, say noon, each day from the same place and superimpose all the images together you would see the position of the sun shift throughout the year in a pattern that looks like a stretched out figure-8. This figure-8 is called an analemma. You've probably seen it on a globe

and wondered what it was. And what is it doing out there in the Pacific Ocean? That part's easy. It's a good place because there's nothing else on the globe to get in the way.

But why an eight? Because the Earth's axis is tilted, in late June the sun is 23.5 degrees north of the equator and in late December 23.5 degrees south of it. This annual north-south oscillation of the sun's angle above the horizon is responsible for the lengthwise extension of this figure-8 pattern.

Because the sun's path is tilted to the equator, it's motion relative to the stars is due east only in late June and late December. Hence the sun's eastward advance per day is greatest at those times, and least in March and September when the ecliptic crosses the equator slantingly. This

means that when the sun is photographed at noon on different dates of the year, it generally is some minutes ahead of or behind clock time. The effect of this is to give an east-west spread to the pattern of solar images, not a straight line.

So why is it stretched out? If Earth's orbit was circular, it wouldn't be. But actually, the earth's orbit is somewhat elliptical, and the effect is to distort the figure-8 such that the bottom part is longer than the top.

So now you know what that figure-8 thing is on the globe. Summer is the best time to be outside to see the show. And it's always free.

-Stu Spratt

The moon for June 26, 2004 (at Midnight); 1.5 days since first quarter; Illuminated Fraction: 0.656

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Off the page

by *Marian* (the librarian)

Where did the week go? I spent most of the week working on spending money, lots of money for books. I was given \$25,000 to update my collection and it took some late night hours to make sure I was buying exactly what I needed. Guess how many books I could get with that kind of money (actually \$23,000)? I'll give you the answer at the end of the column.

Kids and Teens: Don't forget to send in your favorite book titles. I hope to spend two weeks (at least) on your suggestions. Send them to sailorphil@philvitale.com Please tell your name, age or grade, and your favorite books. I am really excited to see what you're reading.

This week I have some help with the reading suggestions. Loretta Drolet from the Cove sent in the first three. Thanks Loretta, good choices. So without further ado...

Ø East of Eden (Steinbeck)

This is the story of Cal and Aron, twin brothers in early twentieth-century California, who act out a modern-day version of the Bible story of Cain and Abel. (My mom just started this one and can't put it down!)

Ø Grapes of Wrath (Steinbeck)

The story of a farm family's Depression-era journey from the Dustbowl of Oklahoma to the California migrant labor camps in search of a better life. Everyone talks about this book and it's significance.

Ø The Bridge of San Luis Rey (Wilder)

A tiny footbridge in Peru breaks, and five people hurtle to their deaths. For Brother Juniper, a humble monk who witnesses the catastrophe, the question is: Why those five? Good Question!

Ø The Fountainhead (Rand)

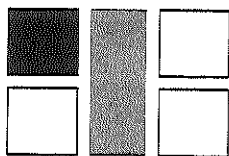
The story of a gifted young architect, his violent battle against conventional standards, and his explosive love affair with a beautiful woman who struggles to defeat him.

Ø Poisonwood Bible (Kingsolver)

Nathan Price and his family move to the Belgian Congo in 1959, and the experiences they have while living in Africa affect each member of the family in a different way. A really good read. Did you know the author went to DePau University in Greencastle, IN?

Next week: A Patriotic Theme

The answer is 981 books



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

-Ben and Vanessa Wozniak

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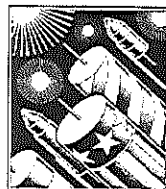
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Light Pollution/ Balancing security issues against neighbors' rights

Editor's Note: The following article was reprinted with permission from the May, 2003 issue of The Michigan Riparian.

Many riparians are disturbed by the proliferation of unshielded or misdirected exterior security lights on lakeshore properties that turn the beautiful natural surroundings of the rural homes and vacation cottages into city-like scenes at night. Besides the annoying glare that is often multiplied by reflections on the water, such lighting interferes with the enjoyment of observing the stars and planets that dapple the night sky.

Those who install such lighting argue that it is needed for security and safety. Owners who only use their lake properties on summer weekends are understandably concerned about their security when they are absent. And neighborhood watch programs sponsored by local law enforcement agencies often encourage exterior lighting to discourage break ins and other crimes.

While recognizing that outdoor lighting is sometimes needed for safety and security, a number of organizations have pointed out that excessive and poorly designed lighting causes problems, including sky glow, light trespass, glare, clutter and confusion as well as energy and financial waste. They also say that poorly designed lighting can compromise safety and security rather than enhancing it, pointing out that misdirected bright

lights produce shadowed areas where intruders cannot be seen because the human eye reacts to the bright light and is unable to discern objects in the shadows.

The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA), a non-profit organization headquartered in Tucson, Arizona, is a leading advocate of controlling light pollution while providing safety and security through good lighting practices. It was founded more than 15 years ago by a group of professional astronomers concerned about the adverse impact of sky glow from outdoor lighting on their research as well as on the public's enjoyment of the beauty of the night sky.

The organization notes that dark skies are vanishing in the United States and that two thirds of the people in the U.S. are unable to see the Milky Way on clear nights because of sky glow from poorly designed outdoor lighting fixtures. Of course, most of those people are urban dwellers, but sky glow is also becoming a problem in rural areas too.

In addition to the adverse affect on astronomical observation, poorly designed lights cause light trespass on neighboring properties, annoying glare that is unsafe for traffic or interferes with the ability to observe intruders, and are extremely wasteful of electrical energy.

IDA reports that about 40% of the light from widely used dust-to-dawn

mercury vapor "security lights" is wasted, going up or sideways. Such lights, which cost about \$30 at home-improvement stores, use about \$70 worth of power a year, or more than twice the purchase price. IDA has estimated that about \$700 million is spent operating these lights each year and that misdirected outdoor lighting from all sources throughout the U.S. costs about \$1.5 billion each year. About six million tons of coal must be burned annually to produce this wasted light.

Yet, there are many ways to correct this problem and reduce the waste. More efficient but effective lighting fixtures are available, and dark sky advocates are promoting their use through education, persuasion, and regulation.

One of the most active groups in Michigan is the Outdoor Lighting Forum of Emmet County, organized in May 2001, primarily through the efforts of Mary Lou Tanton, chairperson of the Sign and Lighting Committee of Emmet County and Bear Creek Township, and Emily Meyerson, former Planning Director for Bear Creek Township, who were concerned about the detrimental effects of poor outdoor lighting.

Gathering together a group of volunteers interested in the subject they adopted the mission "to research and disseminate information on good outdoor lighting practices, to promote lighting that is efficient, offers safety

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to the public, improves community appearance, and protects the night sky environment."

The Forum sponsored a series of seminars for contractors, building professionals, and public officials featuring a noted professional engineer who specializes in lighting technology. It also produced an informational brochure summarizing lighting problems and lighting solutions. (Call 231-348-1731 for copies.)

The Forum also supported a comprehensive outdoor lighting ordinance for Emmet County, although it applies only to commercial and industrial zones. The Forum distributes a flyer pointing out key requirements to building contractors and electricians. Other communities in Michigan with

exemplary outdoor lighting ordinances are Kentwood, a suburb of Grand Rapids, and Brighton Township in Livingston County.

Such ordinances usually specify the maximum amount of light, measured in foot candles, that is permitted at the property line, as well as other control measures such as the height of light poles and shielding requirements. Most street lighting provides about 1.0 foot candles, while big box retail parking lots typically measure 10.0 foot candles—the maximum level permitted by some ordinances. Excessively lighted gasoline service stations often measure 100 foot candles, ten times what is needed for good visibility.

A great deal of information on

lighting issues can be obtained from the IDA web site; www.darksky.org, including listings of good lighting fixtures and where to get them. One such source is Outdoor Lighting Associates, Inc. in Ames, Iowa, which has a web site at <http://members.aol.com/outdoorltg/ola.html>

Many existing dusk-dawn security lights can be retrofitted with the Hubbell Sky cap (\$30). At a height of 25 ft. it lights a circle 200 feet in diameter. A Lite Blocker shield that covers one side of a light is also available for about \$23. Check with your local electric company for ordering information.

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Kathy & Ron Niezgodski & Dorothy Parnell

"Terry is extremely professional, accurate and meticulous and the work he does is top notch!"

Dan Reynolds

"I was completely satisfied. The work was done quickly, efficiently and on time."

Helen Toth

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BLYC Sailing News

Sailors!

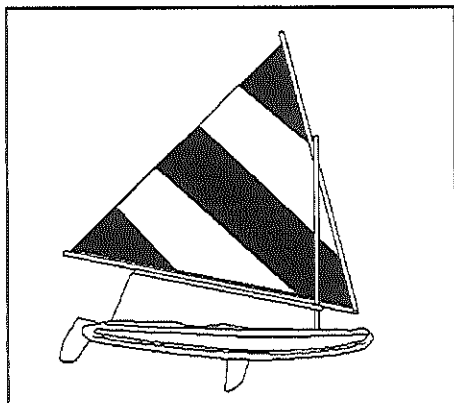
Lack of wind caused Sunday's races to begin at the 1:00 p.m. start time. Delaying the start allowed the wind time to build and the race(s) were on!

We are happy to welcome a brand new sailor to the MC class — Bill Luecht from the East Side. Bill was feeling a little left out of the post race Sunday afternoon discussions so he went out and got himself one! Good for you Bill!

Any others out there that would be interested in joining in, don't be shy, just do it! You'll be glad you did!

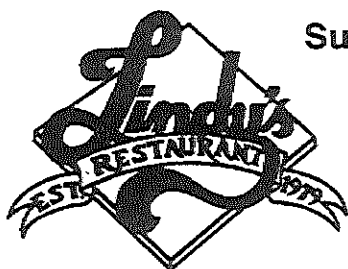
See ya Sunday!

Jim Bolinger, Fleet Captain, 2004



Scores to date:

Sailor	class	1st race	2nd race	day's total	cumulative	place
#races					average	
Scott Troeger	MC	1st	1st	3220	1588	1st
5				7941		
Don Harman	MC	2nd	4th	2910	1516	2nd
5				7582		
Harold Cranmer	MC	3rd	2nd	2985	1473	3rd
4				5893		
Jim Bolinger	MC	5th	3rd	2760	1392	4th
5				6962		
Phil Vitale	MC	4th	5th	2685	1324	5th
4				5297		
Bill Luecht	MC	6th	6th	2470	1235	6th
2				2470		
Dave Olson	Sun A	DNS	DNS	-	1610	Tie 1st
2				4830		
Rick Russwurm	Sun A	DNS	DNS	-	1531	Tie 2nd
2				4593		
Erica Vitale	Sun A	2nd	2nd	3062	1531	Tie 2nd
2				3062		
Tom Howard	Sun A	1st	1st	3220	1610	Tie 1st
2				3220		
Caleb Walker	Sun B	1st	3rd	3064	1571	1st
4				6284		
Amy Troeger	Sun B	3rd	DNS	1454	1505	3rd
3				4516		
Sandy Vitale	Sun B	2nd	1st	3141	1551	2nd
4				6205		
Steve Richards	Sun B	4th	2nd	2910	1455	4th
2				2910		



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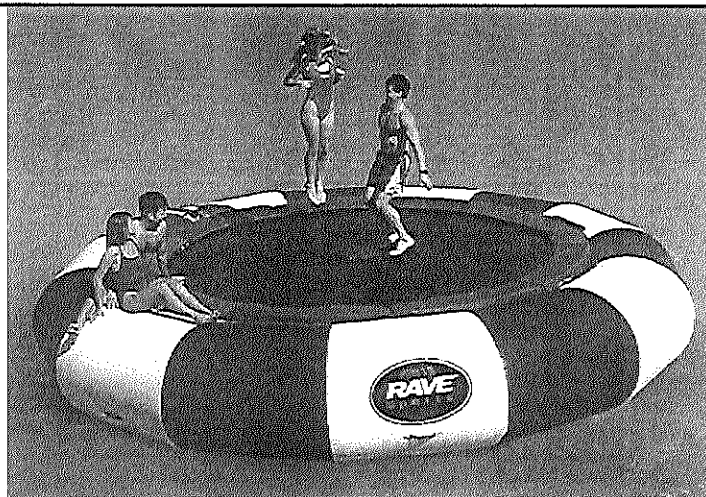
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 Treasurer - Holly Troeger476-9898
 Fleet Captain Jim Bolinger476-9737
 Past Commodore Phil Vitale476-1680

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 Jim Bolinger476-9737
 Dave Bouwkamp476-1001
 Harold Cranmer476-2170
 Roger Falkno lake phone
 Fred Freihofer476-9823
 Bob Herms476-9381

Jack Miller476-9226
 Judy Olson476-2125
 Maryann O'Neill476-2831
 Vicki Rogers476-2383
 Paula Russell476-1880
 Rick Russwurm476-2407
 Charlene Sheetz476-2604
 Denise Smitley476-9000
 Holly Troeger476-9898
 Scott Troeger476-9898
 Sandy Vitale476-1680
 Bruce Wagner476-2090
 Denny Weesner476-2569

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Dan Reynolds, chairman476-8877
 Terry Dugan476-2814

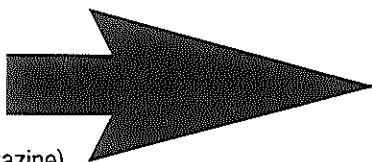
Rick Russwurm476-2407
 Gertie Temple476-2773
 Bob Temple476-2773
 Phil Vitale476-1680
 Sandy Vitale476-1680

HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION

The 2004 officers of the homeowners Association are Scott Troeger, Jim Bolinger, Don Harman, Bill King and Rick Russwurm. There are dozens of members of the homeowners Association; contact any officer for more information. Homeowners Association meetings are publicized in the Barker and open to all members and prospective members.

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 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:
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Make checks payable to:
Birch Lake Yacht Club

Total \$ _____

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BLYC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 26 - Vice Commodore party
July 3 - Boat parade
July 3 - Fireworks
July 4 - Fireworks clean up
July 4 - Pancake breakfast
July 10 - Directors meeting; 9 am

July 10 - Boat Inspection
July 17 - Party TBA
July 24 - Boaters Safety Course
July 28 - Women's tea
July 30 - Men's golf outing
July 31 - Garage sale

July 31 - The Great Tube Float
Aug. 6 - Women's golf outing
Aug. 7 - Corn and sausage roast
Aug. 15 - Directors meeting; 9 am
Aug. 15 - Volleyball Tourney
Aug. 21 - Fall dinner

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR RENT &/OR SALE

For Rent — Birch Lake North Shore \$850 wk. Multiple weeks discount. No pets. Sleeps 6. Nice pier/swim raft. Boat lift available. Call Freihofers at 574-272-3683 or 269-476-9823.

For Rent — Cottage for rent. Sleeps 6 in 3 bedrooms on beautiful north shore. \$700.00/week. Discounts available. Contact Stewart Spratt at 574.291.3227.

For Rent — Birch Lake Storage has self-storage units coming available. U-lock, 10'x18', \$54/month. Call 476-1001.

LOST & FOUND

Lost — One pair of regular glasses in blue case. Lost Memorial Day weekend on East side. Please call 476-2461.

Found — Cylinder-shaped, canvas-covered boat or pier bumper. Approx. 2-1/2' long, 3" - 4" in diameter. 14902 Birch Lakeshore Rd. (south side). Phone: 476-

2578.

Found — One is XS-with Flamin on the back and the other is XL with Wet Line on the back. They will be on the pier at the Foes Cottage in the cove over the Father's Day weekend.

Found — Aluminum row boat - 16' washed up on the west shore in mid May. Older model, no brand or identifying labels. Please pick up anytime from shore between Millers and Quinlans. Phone 476-8802.

Found — Youth-sized PFD, green, found last Sunday. Call Phil at 476-1680.

HELP WANTED

Everybody complains about the weather but nobody does anything — and everybody complains about the media, too. Want to be part of the solution? Become a Birch Barker

Correspondent and you will be granted instant membership in the Fourth Estate. You can become Birch Lake's very own Clark, Lois or Jimmy (sorry, Perry's job is already taken). Adventure, romance, fame and glory and a chance to meet Superman in person. No pay (but what the heck, I'll double that every week!) but the benefits are great. If you've got an inquiring mind, contact the editor, Phil, at 476-1680.

Classified Advertising Policy: All classifications of Birch Lake classified ads are free to members of the Birch Lake Yacht Club (see previous page for membership form). Non-members will be charged \$5 for every ad, except for ads of community interest, like "lost & found" or "personals." For information or to advertise e-mail sailorphil@philvitale.com or drop your ad in the Barker Box at 63174 Birch Rd. (east side).

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