

Memorial Day
Weekend

The
Weekend
Of

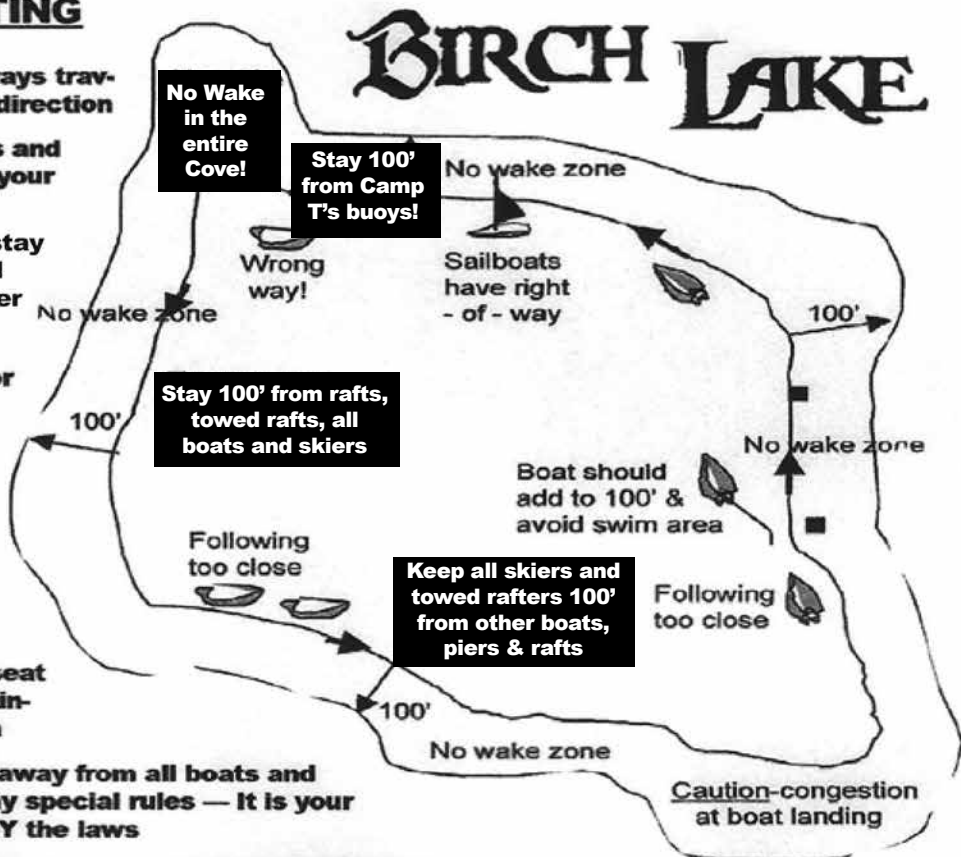
May 28,
2022

Birch Barker

The official summer publication of the
B i r c h L a k e Y a c h t C l u b

COMMON SENSE BOATING

- * No matter what your speed, always travel in a **COUNTER CLOCK-WISE** direction
- * Go **SLOW** near other boats, rafts and shore. You are responsible for your wake.
- * Take your time and give room - stay **100'** from shore, other boats and rafts when you are travelling over wake speed
- * When pulling someone on skis or a tube, you **MUST** have an observer. Watch out for other boats and be sure to add the length of your tow line to the **100'** clearance rule
- * There must be one **USCG-approved LIFE JACKET** for every person on board, as well as one throwable device (seat cushion, etc.), a horn, a fire extinguisher, and a valid registration
- * **PWCs (Jet Skis)** must stay **100'** away from all boats and other PWCs. Jet skis have many special rules — It is your responsibility to know and **OBEY** the laws
- * **Be responsible for everyone on your boat — safety is NO ACCIDENT!**



This message is brought to you by the Homeowners Association of Birch Lake

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Commodore's Comments #1
Memorial Day Weekend 2022

“We pulled it off – our first Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC) Spring Dinner in three years!! The dinner, held at the Rock at Big Fish Lake in Marcellus, was well-attended, and by appearances, people seemed happy to be out on a gorgeous spring evening and to have the opportunity to catch up with old and new lake friends.

Our next BLYC event will be a Trivia Night to be held on Friday, June 10 at the yacht club. See more details later in this Barker issue.

Looking ahead, Vice Commodore Deb Hall and I are planning for our Commodore/Vice Commodore Party to be held Saturday, June 25 at the yacht club. Our “Key West” theme will be laid-back fun with lots of tropical drinks, snacks and decor. We will also use this event as a “stock-the-bar” opportunity. We are in good shape with liquor but could use beer, wine, and non-alcohol drinks. Your donations will help us have a good stock for this party and subsequent events. Thank you in advance for

your contributions. If you would like to help with this Key West party, please contact Deb Hall or myself. Watch for more details on the party in future Barker issues.

Speaking of contributions, our Fourth of July weekend activities will be here soon. Like everything around us, the fireworks cost has increased considerably. I hope all of us, whether we have already paid our 2022 BLYC dues or plan to soon, will consider being even more generous when it comes to the Fireworks Fund donations. We want to deliver a spectacular show that you and your family and guests will thoroughly enjoy.

So don't forget to pay your BLYC dues online at birchlakeyachtclub.com or mail to Deb Spratt (see form included in this issue with mailing address) and don't forget to fill out the Directory form also in this issue and get that to Deb as well. This contact information is due by June 30 so we can update the BLYC Directory which we hope to distribute by this fall.

This weekend, if you are like most of us, you will be working hard to get your cottages and homes ready for summer. Take some time to relax and watch the sailboat races Saturday and Sunday (rain date is Monday) as we host the first Memorial Day Weekend Regatta

2022 Birch Lake Calendar

May 28 & 29 - Memorial Day Regatta, (rain date May 30)

June 25 - Commodore and Vice Commodore Party, YC, details tba

June 10 - Trivia Night 7 pm @ BLYC

June 14 - Birch Lake Book Club meeting, Garceaus' house, 7 pm

June 18 - Newberg FD Open House 11-2

July 1 - Nelson's Chicken Sale fundraiser, 11 am - 2 pm, details tba

July 2 - Boat Parade, **FIREWORKS**

July 3 - Camp T Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11 am

July 22 - Ladies' Golf Outing, Diamond Lake Golf Course, 9 am, Luncheon tba

July 23 - Family Picnic, BLYC

July 23 - Five Lakes MC Regatta, Indian Lake, details tba

July 29 - Mens Golf Outing, Pine View., 1 pm shotgun start, dinner & awards following

Aug. 6 - Corn & Sausage Roast, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC

Aug. 20 - Fall Dinner, BLYC

Sept 11 - Sailing Awards, Frew's house

BLYC BOARD MEETINGS

June 4, July 9, August 6, and Sept. 10

All meetings start at 9 am @ BLYC

sailing in many years. Fleet Captain Steve Frew has worked hard to help get

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for potential publication. E-mail items to sailorphil@philvital.com, mail them to me (or put them in the stone mailbox) at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). Contact Editor Phil at onlinebarker@gmail.com, or at 476-1680 (no text). Contact Commodore Barb Cassady, via email at barbcassady49@gmail.com or call 574-574-229-9815. **DEADLINE** is Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

— Birch Lake Notes —

boats ready earlier in the season to pull this off. Thanks to the sailors who last weekend volunteered to get sailboats rigged and launched for this weekend.

Thank you to BLYC board members Sandy Vitale, Vickie Rogers, Sue Williams and Deb Hall who earlier this month spent many hours cleaning the yacht club interior. Everything is squeaky clean and ready for hosting summer parties.

Take care, be safe and I'll see you out on the lake.

~Commodore Barb Cassady

New contact Information:
barbcassady49@gmail.com
574-229-9815

Trivia Night – New Event Friday, June 10 7 pm @ the Yacht Club

Grab your friends/neighbors/family and come to a fun new event at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. What better way to spend an evening than to gather with friends and have a few laughs, share some snacks, and maybe even learn a thing or two! You can either form your own team or just come individually and we'll get you on a team. Teams can be anywhere from one to eight people.

BRING your own drinks; dish to share (either appetizer or dessert); paper

and pen; wallet (for 50-50 raffle and to buy mulligans - good for free answers).

All proceeds go to our Fireworks Fund. Questions - contact Blair Garceau 269-476-9862 or Sue Williams 574-298-2839. Hope to see you there!

Newberg Open House

The Newberg Township Fire Department will host an open house on Saturday, June 18 from 11 am to 2 pm at the fire station on the corner of M60 and M40 in Jones, MI.

The event will feature hot dogs and burgers, truck tours, a kids' zone and much more. All are invited.

Late night noise

Last Saturday night at 1 am a blue-lit pontoon boat was going around the lake with their music playing very loudly. It woke up many Birch Lake residents. Please, if you are enjoying the lake with friends after 10 pm, be more considerate of those residents who retire earlier, and play your music at a more personal listening level. Thank you.

Book Club June 14th

Birch Lake Book Club will begin meeting June 14 at 7 pm at Blair Garceau's house. The book we will be discussing is The Betrayal I'd Anne Frank, by Rosemary Sullivan. Everyone

is welcome. We hope to see you there.

We need to reorganize as we have lost our great leaders and organizers, Pam And Linda. If you're interested in getting emails regarding Book Club please let Sue Williams or Blair Garceau know. smwillia@comcast.net
bgarceau@comcast.net

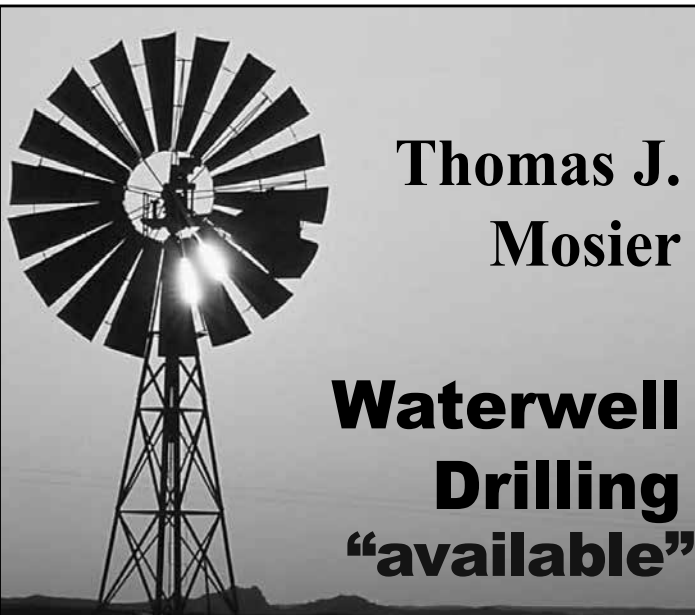
2022 Dues, fireworks donations

In the midst of everything that has been happening in our world for the past year or so, the BLYC is still here and we still need operating capital. In addition, we still need contributions to the Fireworks fund. Please use the dues form in the Barker to submit your donations and/or fireworks contributions, or use the online link (birchlakeyacht-club.com) to pay your yacht club dues. Checks should be mailed to Deb Spratt, 18100 Farmington Hills Dr. South Bend, IN 46637. Thank you to all who have already paid their 2022 dues!

The Printed Birch Barker

The Birch Barker will be delivered to homes on Birch Lake every weekend, and will also be available each week at the website <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items to the Birch Barker, email sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com, or mail (or



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— Birch Lake Notes —

deposit items) Phil Vitale, 63174 Birch Rd. (east side), Vandalia, MI 49095.

Display ad sizes and prices can be seen at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>. Classified ads are free for BLYC paid members, and \$5/week for non-members. Contact Phil Vitale for details.

Deadline for any given week is noon on Tuesday prior to the weekend of publication. Please note that the deadline is the latest that we will accept anything, and items sent prior to deadline are more likely to be used than items received at the last minute due to production issues.

To contact editor Phil email onlinebarker@gmail.com, sailorphil@philvitale.com, phone 269-476-1680 (no texts since I don't use a cell phone), or mail to me at 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 (or put them in my mailbox at that address on the east side of the lake).

Yacht Club building rentals

To rent the BLYC building contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Please note: Due to inflation, costs have increased, and the fireworks show is more expensive. See Commodore's Comments (on page 1) for details



to donate
for fireworks
or any other
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or activity ...

use the form
in the back of
this week's
**Birch
Barker**

or contribute online at

<http://BirchLakeYachtClub.com/>

**SAILBOATS ALWAYS
HAVE THE
RIGHT-OF-WAY!**



HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR



Tip No 1: DIMMIT, PLEASE!

With all the lights on all night long it's hard to enjoy the lake and the stars anymore ... not everyone loves your lights, so please put a motion sensor on outdoor lights or turn them off when you don't need them!

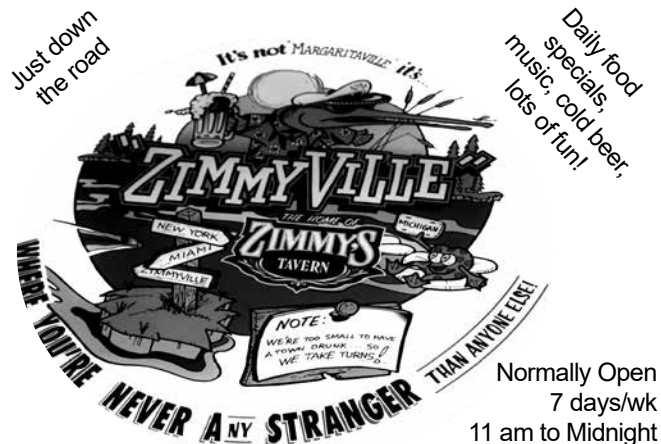
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— BLYC Spring Dinner —



— Water Quality Report —

What we do, updates, boat wake study

Each year we provide information to the lake community through written articles in the weekly printed Birch Barker. The first edition, which this is, provides an opportunity to review what we do, give an update on all the water quality parameters we tested for in the past year, and try to provide some perspective on what we will be talking to you about during this summer season. In addition, in this article, we will point lake residents toward an actual university-designed and conducted study on wake boats. The intent here is not to provide a judgment on the presence or use of these boats but to permit residents to actually read and evaluate real data and information along with further study plans that will evaluate actual effects that may result depending on the use of these boats.

First, what we do. We participate through Michigan Lakes and Streams, a statewide organization, in the MiCorps water quality monitoring program. The usual testing that we conduct is for a primary limiting nutrient, phosphorous, and what might be seen as downstream deleterious effects of changes in this nutrient, i.e. algal growth, lake transparency, and loss of oxygen during the season through the water column. We do sampling at the deepest part of the lake for all these parameters. A spring and late summer phosphorous sample is taken, monthly samples for chlorophyll a, monthly testing for oxygen and temperature from the surface to almost 100 feet down, and basically weekly transparency reading (measured with a secchi disc). No testing was done in 2020 (Covid and funding), so the last prior data was for 2019. To see the recently released data for 2021, please go to mymlsa.org. At the very top of the home page, click on MiCorps. Then click on lakes, then individual lake reports, Cass County, and finally Birch Lake 140187. This will provide the full summary and analysis of the testing which was done. In comparison to 2019, the data slightly trended in the

wrong direction, but a statement regarding that will depend on a few more years of data. A summary statement from MiCorps states that nutrient levels basically have remained unchanged since monitoring began. Basically, we are modestly productive oligotrophic lake with some mesotrophic characteristics. This is a good spot for a small southwest Michigan lake.

In addition we contract with a consulting and treatment firms for the evaluation and presence of invasive species in the lake and for appropriate treatment if necessary on an annual basis. You will probably see more on this when the surveys are conducted and potential treatments planned. Watch for this in upcoming barkers.

Additionally, we have in the past participated in other MLSA programs such as Score the Shore, plant identification and distribution etc. We have copies of a publication on shorelines that were made available at the spring dinner and we will put out at upcoming events. Only able to get 100 so look for these at upcoming events. Terry Dugan can also make some available. Just text him at 269-832-5588. Also, each year, Terry does a survey for Ecoli levels in the lake so as to reassure the residents that the lake is safe for all the water activities we enjoy. We have never seen anywhere near levels beyond background.

Next, as there has been some concern about the potential effects of high energy waves from the new wakeboats, especially in the smaller lakes like Birch, MLSA has been active in reporting on real and anecdotal information, and participating in discussions with manufacturers and state agencies. Now we have a well-designed formal study conducted by the University of Minnesota, that looked at the actual physics of the boat/lake interaction. Of considerable interest, it was done as a comparison under identical conditions between normal ski/tube boats operating at usual conditions and wake/surf boats. We will not attempt to describe everything here



but will direct you to the study. This again can be found at mymlsa.org. Click on news and scroll down to the February 1 report on the boat study. When you pull this up there will be introductory information and then links at the bottom to four pieces of information. We would suggest definitely reading the items under the Healthy Waters Initiative Website, as it encapsulates the study designs in a nutshell. Also, read the news release, as it provides a good short description of the study and the findings. For those interested, the full report is highly detailed and has lots of great information but some physics and equations that may be a bit daunting, but with a beer and your feet up, it is a good read. At the end of the day, a goal will be to provide suggestions on how best this form of activity might be used on Birch Lake. Followup studies will be intended to show whether and what kind of shoreline erosion/damage might result from the inappropriate (to be defined) use of this boating activity. It is hoped the followup study, which is now underway, will make recommendations on which speeds, distances from shore and lake depths are optimal for these boats.

Finally, and with great excitement we announce a new member to the committee, Jennifer Ball. If others are interested, please let us know as age is beginning to dictate a, shall we say, retiring state of mind for some of us.

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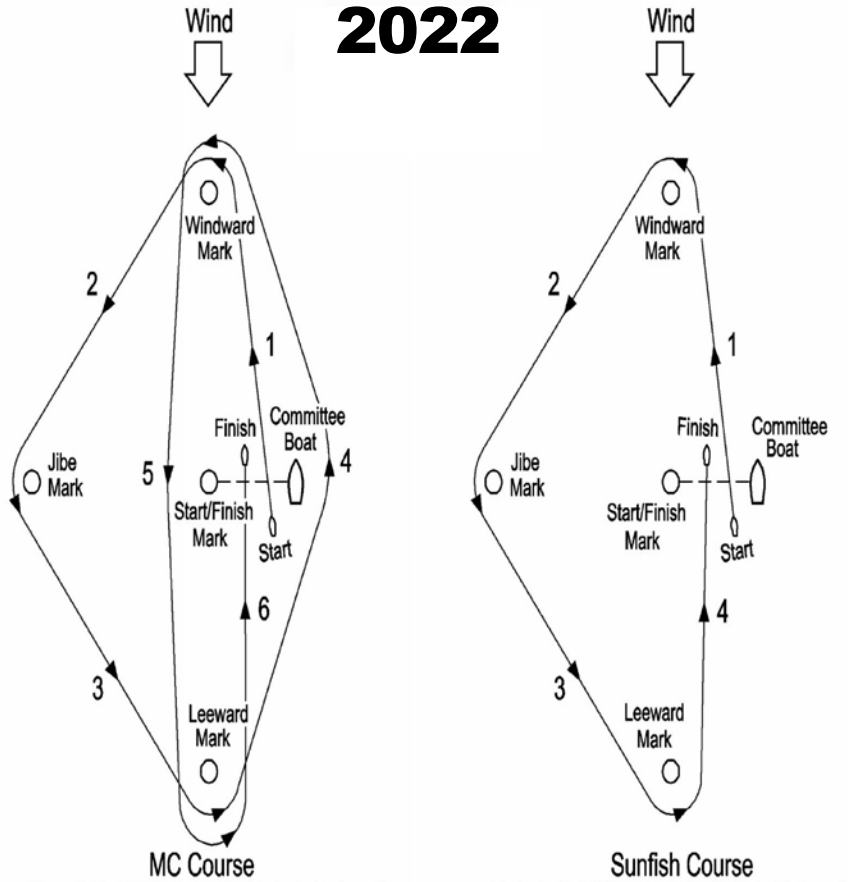
ELKHART & SOUTH BEND



FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



BLYC sailing courses for MC and Sunfish



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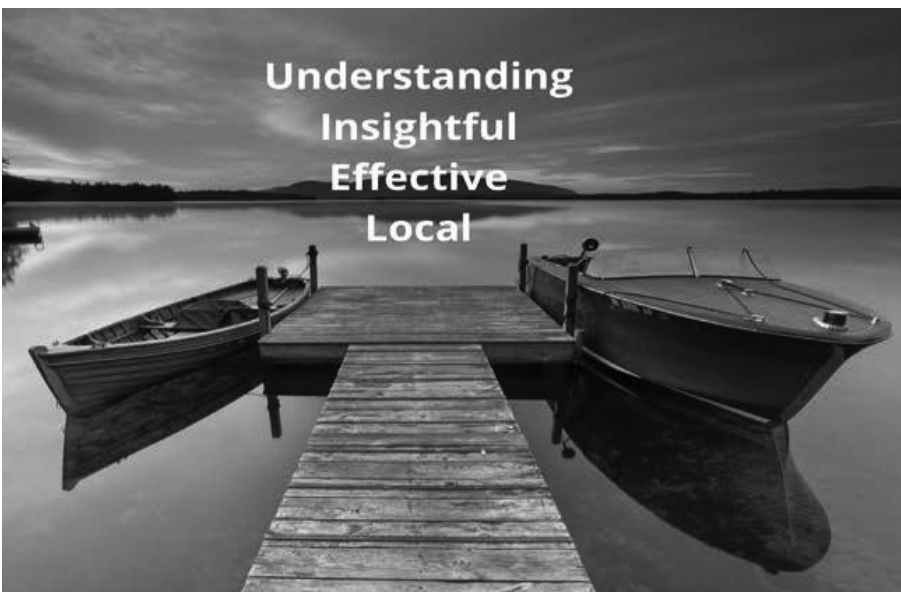
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FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



It's Memorial Day Weekend, the traditional start of the sailing season on Birch Lake! Of course, all those beautiful sailboats don't get on the water without a lot of preparation and hard work.

But to the BLYC Sailors, that's an opportunity to get together last Sunday for a great afternoon of friendship, camaraderie and precision (sort of) teamwork to help each other get things done.

We call it our Help Each Other Get Boats Ready Day.

At right: **Our team of professionals raising the mast on the boat that Sandy Vitale recently bought from Vic Jones. Left to right: Phil Vitale, Pat McGann, Vic Jones, Pat Welch, Tom Cassady, Bob Niezgodski.**



First Mate Tom Cassady transported us from jobsite to jobsite on his course-setting pontoon boat. Left to right: Vic Jones, Pat Welch, Steve Frew, Tom Cassady, Bob Niezgodski



Rowboat being towed, with the boat lift balanced on top. It didn't sink!



Amber Grundy, very happy that the mast on her boat is about to be set up.



Vic Jones supervising while Pat McGann and Bob Niezgodski balance a boat lift on a rowboat for transport from Pat's house to mine. Pat very generously gave me the boat lift. The rowboat idea came from Bob King.

A high-level strategic session. Tom Cassady, P All work successfully completed! Five masts were raised, two sailboats and a boat lift were towed, and one boat lift was moved from one side of a pier to the other. All in a world record time of 3 1/2 hours. Now on to the sailing! Happy Memorial Day weekend everyone!

~F. C. Steve Frew



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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Congratulations to Liz and Al cover on the wedding of their daughter Kate and Spencer Parker on October 9 th. 2021



Birch Barker Kids of the Week

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week? Want your dog to be a Dog of the Week? Want your lawnmower to be the Lawnmower of the Week? Mail your photo (with a SASE if you want it back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095; or put them in a ziplock in the mailbox at my home (on the east side), or email them me at Sailorphil@PhilVitale.com

All six Dufour (east side) great-grandchildren celebrated the official opening of the dock. Clockwise from bottom left, Harvey Reckelhof, Holly Dufour, Anya Noneman, Claire Noneman, Duke Dufour and Jesse Reckelhof.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



The Caplis kids (north side) are good Barker Kids of the week ... since they are turtle hunters extremus. Thanks to Mr. Bob (King, north side) for the pics.

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Blast from the Past

Dam Memories

Just off the beaten path on the south side where the water winds its way back to the mill pond, is the Birch Lake Dam. We all remember it as the place, during our walks around the lake, we had to decide just how we'd cross its roughly twelve-foot expanse. Would we "sit-crawl" sideways, "tightrope walk" one foot in front of the other across its narrow cast-iron top, or wade through the shallow water while someone held a flashlight aloft to illuminate our path? Whatever the method of crossing, the dam was always there, challenging us just a bit on those dark summer night outings.

The dam's builder, with his inventive mind and his love for children probably envisioned all those feet walking across his creation. We who were privileged to know him believe he would have loved providing such fun for so many while also serving the purpose of freshwater fish conservation. This remarkable man was my grandfather, Frank Foote. By trade he was a tool engineer who owned the Martin Machine Company located on West Indiana Avenue in South Bend. He was also an inventor, amateur photographer with a home darkroom, filmmaker, and devoted conservationist. By bringing us, as children, to this place that he loved, he began a family pilgrimage to Birch Lake. Its unique beauty infected us. We keep returning. Some of us live here. Among the lake's current residents are two granddaughters, Sally Everett-Beck, and Sue Wagner, and great granddaughters, Amy Everett and Melanie Hall. My brother and I visit with our children. They easily sense everything that is special about this lake. I think they, too would all live here if their lives hadn't taken them to such far off places.

On the south side of the lake is the cottage, now owned by Claude Petit, which Frank Foote built in 1939 when he was fifty-eight years old. He not only designed the house and its unique features, but did most of the work himself. In the knotty pine living room he built a magnificent stone fireplace which rises two stories tall to meet a cathedral ceiling. He had the large stones hauled in from a farmer's field, and flanked the fireplace on each side with wood boxes. Each had iron doors in the back which opened to the outdoors for convenient loading. The staircase, with its carved pine railings has a balcony that overlooks this room. My grandmother, with her passion for antiques, found a cranberry glass Tiffany lamp which she treasured. It hung suspended from the very top on a long chain in the middle of this room. The focal point in the kitchen was the curved wooden banquette with its round table.

He installed a furnace, and, across the road, built a garage and screened summer house. He intended to someday live there year-round, but just never got around to it. Later on, he bought a full sized red tractor which he kept in that garage and farmed a sizable five-acre meadow at the top of a hill which ran up through the woods. He grew peas, new potatoes, strawberries, and green beans and, like all his other pursuits, loved doing that, too. When more of us grandchildren arrived, he hitched a wooden platform to the back of the tractor to haul all sorts of things plus any kids that cared to ride along. It was great fun and a little scary traveling up and down some of those steep hills behind that chugging farm machine.

My grandfather didn't get through all that home building unscathed. He fell from a ladder while working on the second floor. He was then put on a board, carried to the car, where he was put in the trunk, and, in that fashion, transported to Memorial Hospital in South Bend. His granddaughter, Beverly Foote joined him in the trunk to keep an eye on him for the duration of the trip. The fall resulted in a broken back and he spent the next two months at home in a hospital bed.

A charter member of the Izaak Walton League, he believed in and lived its creed, receiving a commendation from President Franklin Roosevelt for his lifetime efforts in conservation. He loved fly fishing and ice fishing and constantly sought ways to preserve Birch Lake as a good place to do both. He designed special spears and floodlights to keep the gar population in check, and made hinged, triangular metal mooring arms to fasten boats to docks. He owned one of the first snipe sailboats on the lake, acting as sailing teacher for his granddaughter, Beverly.

The evolution of the dam was a three-step process: creation, manufacture, and installation. The first two were done by Frank Foote when he came up with the idea, drew the plans, then implemented them in his machine shop. In the third step, he was joined by his friend, neighbor, and fellow fisherman, Clarke Zesinger, Bud's father. Together, the two men installed the cast-iron structure called a weir dam. Really, a type of fish gate with rake-like projections at the bottom, its purpose was to prevent fish from leaving the lake and traveling to the mill pond and from there to

Shavehead Lake. To this day, some fifty years later, it still serves Birch Lake well. Both men would be proud of their enduring work. Their contribution will always be part of Birch Lake.

Maybe some of the old traditions endure, also. There were always plenty of kids of all ages. Some of the names are still the same: Machallecks, Julie Ebling Weaver, Zesingers, Doolittles, Haynes, Jensens, Weesners, Horvaths, Troegers. The Kessler family, no longer there, lived in the cottage that would become John and Arlene Machalleck's. Ruth Kessler, the daughter, was a nurse who taught swimming to many of the kids.

Nightly forays around the lake always resulted in a group which grew larger and larger as it picked up additional members along the way. In those days, Lazy Lodge had a little general store, and we stopped and bought everything from candy to "contraband" cigarettes (meaning our parents didn't know and wouldn't have approved). Tales of wild cougars kept us on our toes, and once in a while you'd hear one cry out. It sounded exactly like a woman's high-pitched scream, and was just frightening enough to make everyone quicken their pace. There was also the "live wire" rumor. Where that got started, no one knew, but everyone believed it, and, if you listened hard enough, you could hear its eerie whine. Naturally, someone always had to sneak up the wooden steps at Tannadoonah and ring the camp's bell. The perpetrator would then come flying back down the stairs, a counselor hot on his heels. By now, the rest of us were hiding behind trees listening to the voice of camp authority as it yelled out warnings into the pitch darkness. There were lots of water games, too. Bud Zesinger and Jay Walters would ride, two on a bike, straight off the end of Zesinger's long pier. It was a great trick and one I admired, but was always too afraid to try. Then, there were the games: Kick the can, Run Sheep Run, and Manhunt. Those lake roads must still echo with the sounds, of a voice yelling, "ollie, ollie in free."

Maybe, today, some of these things still take place. I hope so. They were a vital part of Birch Lake, just as my grandfather was.

Contributors: Sally Everett-Beck, Becky Kinsella, Beverly Foote Schreiner, Jay Walters, Leona Walters, and Bud Zesinger.

Written by: Becky Kinsella



Photo Blast from the Past



That's our granddaughter Morgann Applegate on our pier in 2008 with Garfield, a little fish I fished out of the lake that day. Morgann was seven years old when this photo was taken; we have no idea how old the fish was when he posed ...

Submit a Past Blast!

Come on, everyone's got a Blast from the Past photo from days gone by at Birch Lake ... want to share them with your neighbors?

Just send them to me ... You can mail your photo (with a SASE if you want the photo(s) back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095;

or you can put them in a ziplock and stick them in the stone mailbox at my home (on the east side),

or email them to me at Sailorphil@Philvitale.com ... Sorry, I don't text or Facebook ... :(

YOUR HOROSCOPE

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Mars will be in your sign for the next six weeks, which is super energizing! You feel courageous, eager, enthusiastic and totally confident about carrying out your plans. You're ready to think big and nothing will hold you back. Obviously, this fortuitous combination can help you accomplish something.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Mercury is retrograde in your sign until June 3; however, the shadow phase of Mercury retrograde will last as long as June 19. Be smart and postpone buying ground transportation, computers and cell phones until after then. Despite the annoyances of misplacing items, forgetting appointments and dealing with goofy mistakes, it's a time of reflection and wisdom that can be attained by deduction and revelation. You can make this work for you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You are empowered because the Sun is in your sign until June 21. This means the next month is your chance to recharge your batteries for the rest of the year. This is timely because you're looking at a popular time ahead. For the next seven weeks, fiery Mars will urge you to formulate goals and pursue them. It also might throw you into a competitive situation with someone else, especially in athletics. You might get a promotion or a boost in your income.

Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a fabulous time for your reputation, your career and the impression you create on your peers because for the next year, Jupiter will be at the top of your chart giving anyone the impression that you are successful. Very likely, something will substantiate all this admiration. You will get a raise, a promotion, an award, or earn accolades and public recognition for your efforts. For the next month, Mars at the top of your chart, will arouse your ambition to go after what you want. Meanwhile, Venus is also at the top of your chart smoothing all your dealings with authority figures. Possibly promoting romance?

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

You'll be popular for the next four weeks because your attention will be on friends and groups. This is because friendships will be important to you. You might examine your role in these relationships, and wonder if you are being a good friend to others. This will boost your desire to travel and do what you can to get a change of scenery. It might also increase your ambitions in publishing, medicine and the law.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Once a year, the Sun travels across the top of your chart for four weeks, which is good news because it symbolizes that you are in a spotlight, and this light is flattering. Especially to bosses, parents and VIPs. Obviously, you can take this to the bank. Lucky, moneybags this will increase your wealth from other sources - the government, loans, inheritances or through your partner. Romance is hot as well!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

In the next four weeks, you want to get outta Dodge and grab a change of scenery to feel more stimulated about life. You want to study, travel, seek adventure and meet new, interesting people. Yeah! Likely, this will include partners or close friends because this part of your chart is activated for the rest of year. On the upside, Mars will give you the courage to speak your peace, which might be a good thing.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

In the next four weeks, you will be more in touch with a deeper part of yourself. You want to experience life on a feeling level, not an intellectual abstraction. (You might meet someone who triggers this process.) You might find you are more concerned about finances bills, insurance issues, shared property and money from others. Meanwhile, However, one thing is certain, anything related to your job will slowly start to improve. Opportunities to improve your existing job or get a better job will come to you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Once a year, the Sun sits opposite your sign for four weeks means you are focused on partners, spouses and close friends. It's important to know that while you are focused on this relationship, it's an ideal time for you to learn more about your own style of relating to others. It's also a good time to consult experts - lawyers, counselors, accountants or an astrologer.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Roll up your sleeves because in the next four weeks, you will be productive, busy, hard-working and you will accomplish a lot. You will set your standards high, which is why whatever you do - you want to do it as efficiently as possible. You'll be happy because you like to be efficient.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This is one of the most playful times of the year for your sign because for the next four weeks. Yay me! Your creative vibes will be hot. You want to socialize, as well as express your talents. Retrograde will put you in touch with family members you haven't seen for a while. Meanwhile, optimism will be the theme of all your communications in the next year. And in the next several weeks, you will mean what you say and say what you mean!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Home, family and your private life will be your main focus for the next four weeks. Many of you will also be more involved with a parent than usual. Meanwhile, this is a wicked Mercury retrograde for your sign right now so expect transportation delays, car problems, mixed-up communications, missed appointments and lots of delays. (Major groan.) However, you will also enjoy coming in contact with relatives, siblings and neighbors you haven't seen for a while. This will be a great time to study history and do research into the past. But the really good news is that for the next year, you're going to get richer! Ka-ching!

Birch Lake items of interest

The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time,
as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)
Illuminated Fraction: 0.013
1.2 days before new moon

NEW MOON

Sunrise: 06:10:36 AM

Sunset: 21:08:57 PM

Moonrise: 05:08:35 AM

Moonset: 19:39:30 PM

Daylight: 14 Hr 58 Min 20 Sec



United States Symbols Word Search



Find these terms in the word search puzzle!

- Old Glory** - nickname for the U.S. flag
- Stars and Stripes** - also a name for the flag of the United States
- Independence Hall** - the Pennsylvania State House, where the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were discussed, created and signed
- Life** - from the Declaration of Independence, called out as one of the rights all people should have
- Liberty** - from the Declaration of Independence, one of three unquestionable rights people have
- Happiness** - the ability to seek happiness is also identified as a right people have
- States** - the United States of America is made up of 50 states. Hawai'i is the most recent, becoming a state in 1959
- Statue of Liberty** - a gift from France to the U.S., a symbol of freedom

Birch Barker Funnies



She Didn't Realize Tapping Him On The Shoulder Would Make Him Do This...Wow.

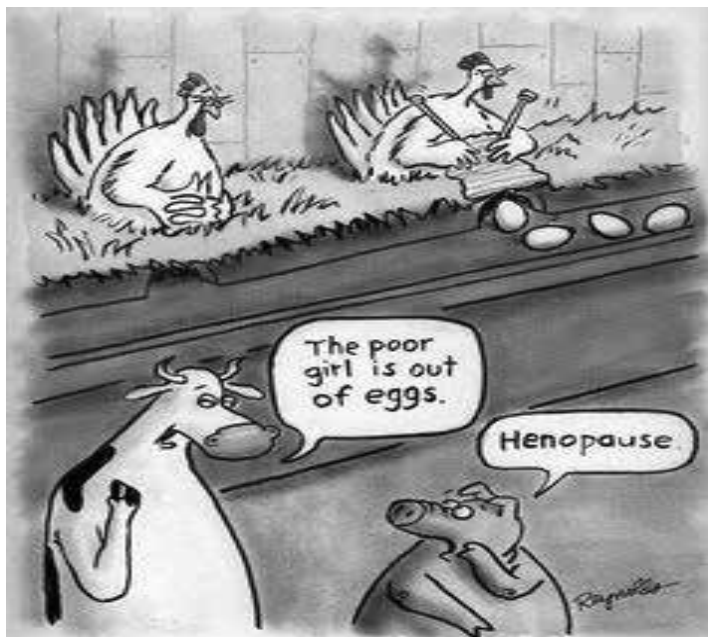
Last Wednesday a passenger in a taxi heading for Midway airport, leaned over to ask the driver a question and gently tapped him on the shoulder to get his attention.

The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb and stopped just inches from a large plate window.

For a few moments everything was silent in the cab. Then, the shaking driver said, "Are you OK? I'm so sorry, but you scared the daylights out of me."

The badly shaken passenger apologized to the driver and said, "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly."

The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for 25 years."



"OLD" IS WHEN..... Your sweetie says, "Let's go upstairs and make love," and you answer, "Honey, I can't do both!"

"OLD" IS WHEN..... Your friends compliment you on your new alligator shoes and you're barefoot.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... A sexy babe catches your fancy and your pace-maker opens the garage door.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... Going bra-less pulls all the wrinkles out of your face.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... You don't care where your spouse goes, just as long as you don't have to go along.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... You are cautioned to slow down by the doctor instead of by the police.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... "Getting a little action" means I don't need to take any fiber today.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... "Getting lucky" means you find your car in the parking lot.

"OLD" IS WHEN..... An "all nighter" means not getting up to go to the bathroom.



~Birch Lake Recipes~



Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge

Hähnchenkeulen Baked Chicken

Hähnchenkeulen is a crispy German chicken recipe that has a flavorful sauce made with curry, paprika and other spices. This baked chicken was super easy to prepare, tender, crispy, juicy and packed with flavor.

When I first saw the finished product, I honestly thought I had burned it. But no! The seasoning blend darkens as it cooks, taking on a deep flavor. The taste was truly unique. I served it with hot sauerkraut with bacon and onions and crisp asparagus.

Cuisine: German

Prep Time: 5 minutes

Cook Time: 35 to 45 minutes

Total Time: 40 to 50 minutes

Servings: 4 to 6

Ingredients:

6 - 10 bone-in chicken pieces

4 tablespoons olive oil

2 tablespoons sweet paprika

1/2 teaspoon paprika or ground cayenne 1 tablespoon curry powder

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon minced fresh rosemary or dried rosemary (I used fresh)

1 teaspoon ketchup

1 teaspoon honey

Here's how to make it:



Directions:

Combine all the seasoning blend ingredients in a bowl. Stir to combine.

Put the chicken into a baking pan. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Rub the chicken all over with the seasoning blend.

Bake in a preheated 400-degree F oven for about 35 to 45 minutes or until chicken is cooked through. (I basted it occasionally with the pan drippings.)

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NOW HIRING FULL AND PART TIME POSITIONS

— Camp Tannadoonah —

Here comes summer!

Here comes summer! By the time this Barker lands in your driveway, part of our camp staff will have already arrived at Camp T! The rest of the staff will arrive on Sunday to kick off two weeks of training before campers arrive.

We've had a very busy spring here at camp. We have a 5-member AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team at camp for six weeks. They have been helping us clean cabins, repair window screens and shutters, assemble furniture, clear trails, and lead groups at camp. They will be at camp until June 21, when they move on to their 3rd of four projects that they will work on as part of their 10-month service commitment to AmeriCorps.

Over the winter we did a lot of facilities work at camp, including new roofs on 5 cabins and 2 sheds, refinishing the floor in the Dining Room (can't wait to show it off at the Pancake Breakfast), and completing the renovations to Morris Lodge. The upgraded bathrooms in Morris are done, the floors have been refinished, a new deck built on the lake side of the cabin, and new furniture for the entire building.

This month we've had two school groups – Bittersweet Elementary and Horizon Elementary - out at camp for

field trip days. We also had a family camp weekend in early May, and a wedding at camp last weekend.

Our camper registration numbers are off the charts so far this year. We're currently at 1099 campers registered for the season; our all-time record (last year) was 1111 for the year, so I am certain we will far surpass that!

We are still looking for some key staff members to join the camp staff this summer. We have several camp counselor, kitchen crew, and program staff positions (ages 16+), as well as the very important Kitchen Manager position still open. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them email gabby@riverbendcampfire.org.

I want to give a very, very grateful THANK YOU to a couple lake residents who have helped us with plumbing and water issues this spring. First, Ron Whiteman, who has been helping Brenda, our facilities manager, repair numerous leaks in our water systems that were revealed when we turned the water on for this year. We are so thankful for the many hours that Ron has put in helping get everything operational for this year. Thank you also to Ron Niezgodski for his plumbing advice when we couldn't figure out what to do about one of the leaks.

And to Tom Mosier and James for



their help chlorinating our wells and fixing some issues with our water systems. Not only did they volunteer their time to fix the water issues and get the wells chlorinated, but they used their equipment while they were here to grade the driveway for us.

Also, thank you to Bernaciaks and the Balls, who allowed us to use their garage up by camp to store the new furniture for Morris Lodge when it was unexpectedly delivered several months early! We are so grateful for the assistance of our neighbors up here at the lake who help us keep everything running smoothly at camp. Thank you Birch Lakers!

~Mrs. Amber

SLOW DOWN

**BIRCH LAKE HAS
NARROW ROADS,
LOTS OF PEDESTRIANS,
A TON OF CHILDREN,
GRANDCHILDREN AND PETS**

**SLOW DOWN ON
OUR ROADS
AND ON THE HILLS
TO AND FROM
THE LAKE!**

**SPEED LIMIT
15_{MPH}**



CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

FOR SALE:

For sale: **Beginner's Melges MC with older trailer.** Older boat, hull # 247, reconditioned two years ago and sailed occasionally for the last two years. All new lines, many new parts. Solid, fully functional, sails well. \$1,000 OBO. Call 476-1680, email to onlinebarker@gmail.com



Jet ski lift. \$675. Call Claudia 574-596-2154

Small boat lift for wave runner or Sunfish sailboat. \$325. Call Bud at 476-2526.

For Sale: **2000 Sea Doo GTX RFI jet ski** for \$500. It's in average condition with 294 hours. Also a **PWC lift** \$500. 574-220 0407

Green Egg type grill from Lowes \$200. Call 476-2383 ask for Tom.

FOR RENT:

Interested in a unique fun vacation? Check out our **Florida Village house** at ourhom-

e4rent.com/cjp Call 574-596-2154 for more info.

For rent: Three bedroom, one full bath with tub and shower, **lakefront house on Birch Lake.** Beautiful brand new granite kitchen and new stainless appliances with dishwasher, washer and dryer also. Nice pier with big platform at the end. Plenty of parking. Beautiful sunsets all year long. Possible ski, pontoon, row boat, and sailboats available for rent also. Sleeps six in beds plus room for more. Contact Pat McGann call/text 574-532-5377.

SERVICES:

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices - zippers, hemming, small alterations; call Kathy at 476-9317

LOST:

Floated away from North Shore home sometime before Halloween, **Turtle raft**, made out of deck material with Styrofoam floats on the underneath on short rope. Please contact Mike at (574) 286-3135

FREE:

Small children's rowboat. 8' long, free to a good home. Contact Jon @ 574 339-6492

SAILBOATS ALWAYS HAVE THE RIGHT-OF-WAY!

BARKER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

Classified ads in the Birch Barker are free to BLYC members, \$5/week for everyone else.

Send your ad to me at sailorphil@philvitale.com.

If you no longer need your ad to run in the Barker please let me know so I can pull it.



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Blair Garceau (E) Chairman, Homeowners
476-9862 blairgarceau@gmail.com
blairgarceau@gmail.com

Birch Lake Directory

We are in the process of updating our current 2020 Phone/Address Directories for Birch Lake residents. Please complete the Directory Form included here and return to BLYC Treasurer, Deb Spratt by July 15, 2022. If you know of new residents, please make sure they are aware of this process. Thanks to Deb for collecting the information and compiling for the Directories. .

Please send your information to

Deb Spratt via email at debspratt@comcast.net **No later than June 30**

so we can get them made and distributed at the Fall Dinner.

Please use this for to submit the following info:

Cottage number (if you know it) _____
Last name(s) of owner(s) _____
First name(s) of owner(s) _____
Lake street address _____
Other address (away from the lake) _____
Lake phone number (landline) _____
Cell phone numbers _____
Children's names _____



BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB THE YEAR HAS STARTED! It's time to pay 2022 dues!



Support the BLYC, support the Lake, support the Community!

\$ ___ - BLYC Member Dues (\$30 / year)
\$ ___ - BLYC Associate Member* Dues (\$10 / year)
*Associate membership is available to current associate members and for non-lake residents who wish to support the BLYC
\$ ___ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
\$ ___ - Sailing Fees (\$15 / year)
\$ ___ - Building Improvement Fund
\$ ___ - **FIREWORKS FUND**
\$ ___ - Water Quality Program
\$ ___ - Milfoil/Loosestrife Eradication
\$ ___ - Safety Committee
\$ ___ - Other non-party related expenses
\$ ___ - BLYC Roof Fund
\$ ___ - BLYC AED Fund
\$ ___ - Misc.

Total contribution:

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Make checks payable to

BLYC

and mail to Deb Spratt, Treasurer
18100 Farmington Hills Dr.
South Bend, IN 46637

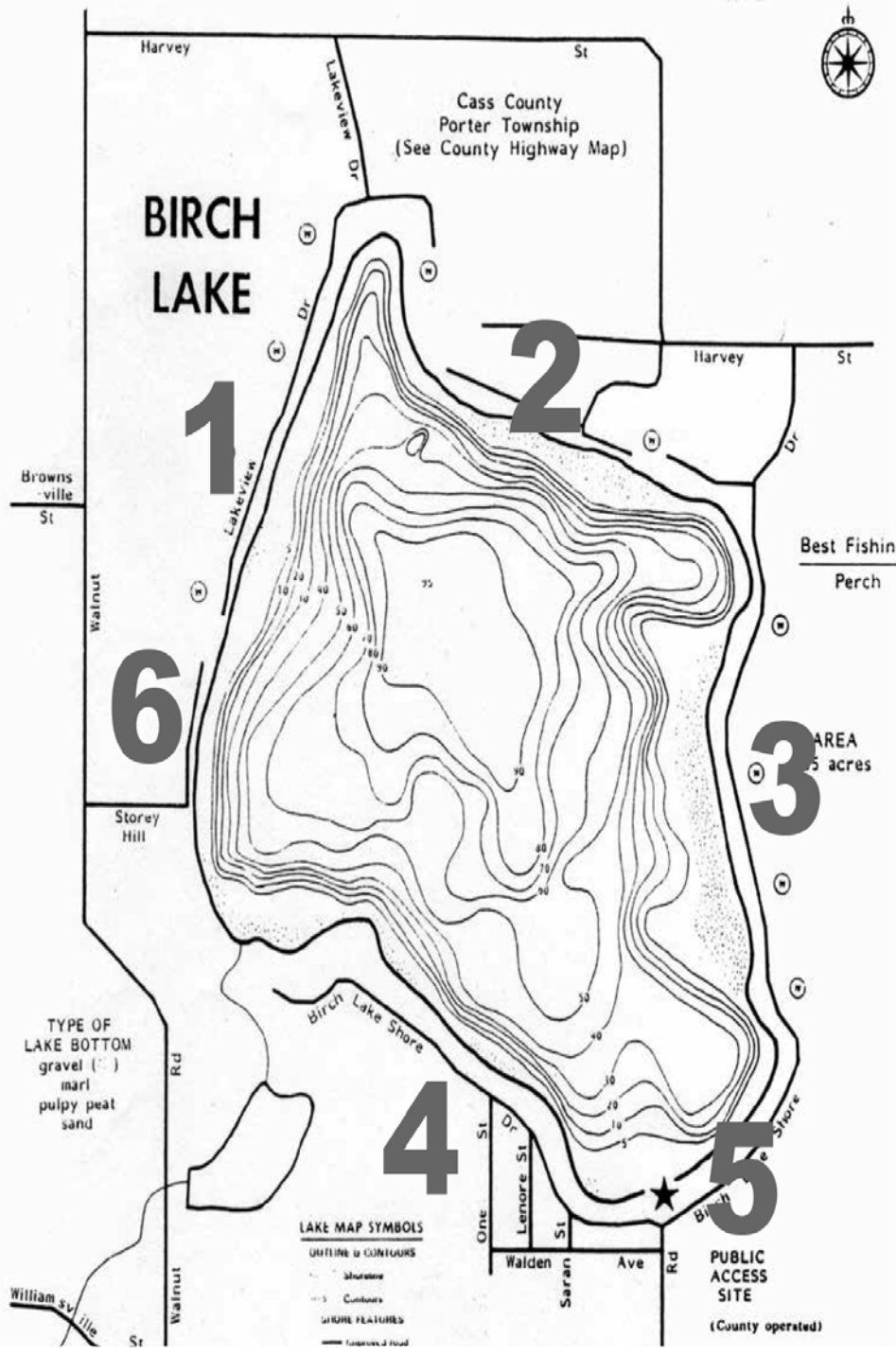
Now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues

EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

CALL 9-1-1



**FOR
EMERGENCY
USE ONLY
ALARM WILL
SOUND**



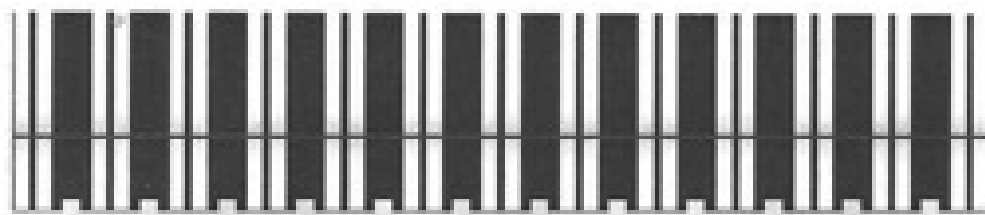
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations (see map):

1. **West Shore, Sheffieck home,**
62875 Birch Lakeview Dr.
2. **North Shore, Smitley home,**
14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. **East Shore, Vitale home,**
63174 Birch Rd.
4. **South Shore, Eberhart home,**
15046 Birch Lakeshore Dr.
5. **South/East Shore, Troeger home,**
63696 Birch Rd.
6. **Southwest Shore, DeYoung home,**
63255 Storey Hill St.

All units are on the ROAD SIDE of the property and accessible by vehicle or on foot.

IN AN EMERGENCY:

1. CALL 911 and report the emergency and the patient's location immediately.
2. Pull the box open, remove the orange-colored unit, TAKE IT TO THE PATIENT and open the device by pressing the white lever at the bottom.
3. An automated voice will guide you through the setup and use of the defibrillator. Follow the instructions as they are given.
4. Continue to follow the instructions as given, and stay with the patient until help arrives.



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