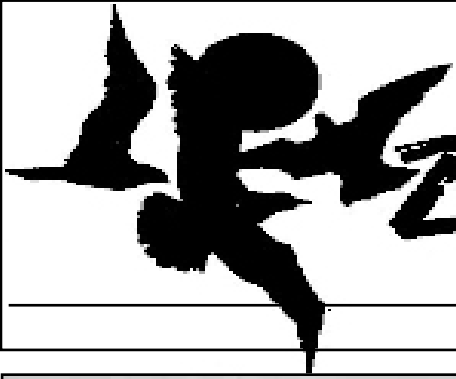


Weekend of | **Aug. 24,
2024**



Birch Barker

<http://www.philvital.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>

The official summer publication of the
Birch Lake Yacht Club



Thanks to Claudia Phipps (north shore) for the pic from her porch of the last weekend's rainy Interlake Regatta.

COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Well, Mother Nature gave the sailors just about everything and anything to deal with at the Regatta. I'll be honest, looking out across the lake and watching the 22 white sails gliding across the water got me a little choked up. It brought back memories of the times we had 10 to 15 Snipes and a strong Sunfish fleet on the lake, competing every weekend. It was an awesome site. I didn't properly thank the regatta committee for all the hard work they did to make the event a success. Although all the sailors went home cold, wet, and exhausted, they all had smiles on their faces after the races. The coordination of getting the sailors and their boats out on to the lake and back to their respective moorings required the efforts of many volunteers. Please know you are appreciated. Hats off to former Commodore Barb Cassidy, and her committee for doing a fine job.

Coming up this week, we have the Women's Style Show and Luncheon at the Woodfire, and our Vice Commodore's Fall Dinner at the club this Saturday .

Although Labor Day quickly approaches, we hope to keep the camaraderie going at the yacht club with the Fall Frolic on September 7 and the Bad Patty Luecht Crockpot Challenge on October 19.

Hope to see you at some of these events.

Please take time to read the included article on the Yacht Club finances. The article encapsulates what was presented to the board on August 10.

Further information on what the board plans to do with this information now in hand will be presented to you in later in this Barker. The final board meeting of the season will be held September 7 and all are welcome to attend if you have questions.

This is my final "Commodores Comments" column as the torch will be passed at the fall dinner to our vice Commodore Julie Dickey. She has some great ideas for next summer so I hope all lakers can join us to show her our continued support for the upcoming 2025 Summer season.

In closing, it's been an exciting season for me as your Commodore getting to know more people on the lake and reacquainting myself with those who have been here so long. While sifting through the Barker from 1968 trying to find some interesting history to report in

our Memories column, I looked down the pages to see a short article on what was then the Birch Lake Junior Yacht Club. For those of you who didn't know, there was an active Junior yacht club in the late '60's of which I was a part. We held hayrides, car washes, dances, ski shows and bake sales. Of the names that were listed in the article including John and Julie Ball (Lacy), Tim Burchell, Darlene Troyer. (Schofield), Barry DeCoudres, Steve Tunnicliffe, (Jill Scholes' brother) Tim Messner, and

2024 Birch Lake Calendar

AUGUST

Aug 24 - Fall Dinner & Annual Meeting, TBA

Aug 29 - Card Night, 7 pm, BLYC, TBA

Aug 31, Sept. 1 - Two day, Labor Day Regatta.

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 2 - Sailing Awards, 11 am, BLYC (tentative)

Sept. 7 - Board Meeting, 9 am, BLYC

Sept. 7 - Fall Frolic Free Concert, BLYC

OCTOBER

October 19 - Bad Patty Luecht Crockpot Challenge (tentative date), TBA

The Birch Barker will consider ads and editorial items for publication. E-mail items to onlinebarker@gmail.com, mail them or put them in the stone mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (East Shore). For **editorial concerns contact Editor Phil** at onlinebarker@gmail.com, or at 476-1680 (no text).

For **delivery concerns contact Ron Niezgodski**, birchbass1@gmail.com or 476-9317. For all other matters **contact Commodore Sue Davis**, at eyesnd76@gmail.com or 574-993-6031. **DEADLINE** is always Noon on the Tuesday of the week before the publication.

— Birch Lake Notes —

myself, with only one exception of those mentioned, we all still have a very strong connection to the lake.

Birch Lake is a special place. Please take care of it for yourselves and for future generations because maybe when we're gone, our children and grandkids may still want to call it home.

Thank you for the honor of being your Commodore. With the words expressed by former Commodore Joe O'Brien, "May the memories remain and the view stay the same," on our Golden Pond.

~Commodore Sue Davis

Fall Frolic concert Sept. 7

The Past Commodores behind the "Fall Frolic" Concert on September 7. Thought it was a good time for an update. The concert at the BLYC is a FREE event open to all Birch Lake residents, that is being funded totally by the Past Commodores.

The Band, DAWG, will begin playing at 7 pm and will play to 9:30 pm, and weather permitting will be located outside on the deck. There will be seating indoors with plenty of tables and chairs. All the windows along the deck will be open. Everyone is invited to bring chairs if you wish to sit outdoors.

There will be free Margaritas and bagged snacks provided (as long as supplies last). There will also be an open bar with two bartenders; the club does not sell alcoholic products but donations to the club are always accepted. If you wish, bring snacks to share and your own beverages. There will also be a 50-50 game available with proceeds going to the BLYC Water Quality Fund.

Please come out and join us for one of the last events for 2024. It will be a

fun night and DAWG, the Band, will get everyone Rockin'."

Well done

Ahoy BLYC: I thought to chime in re: the Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial Invitational Regatta. First: well done Barb (Regatta Chair), Steve (Fleet Cap'n), Scott and Pat (Regatta Committee)! Not many Clubs have a national champ let alone world champ as founding father / lifelong member.

Second: though we had (22) boats registered, several with crew, it was mentioned we had more volunteers than sailors. Well done BLYC. It's great we could pull together to host such a glorious regatta.

Third: well done lake folks. The gift to sailors of a course absent boat wakes was much appreciated.

Last, a mea culpa: to whoever owns the NE pier I had the misfortune of getting tangled up with before the start of race one ... my apologies. Hopefully you figured some visitor got fouled up. Nope, just a lake sailor who lost his way in the start box.

Thanks everyone.

~Bob King, MC 1199

The Printed Birch Barker

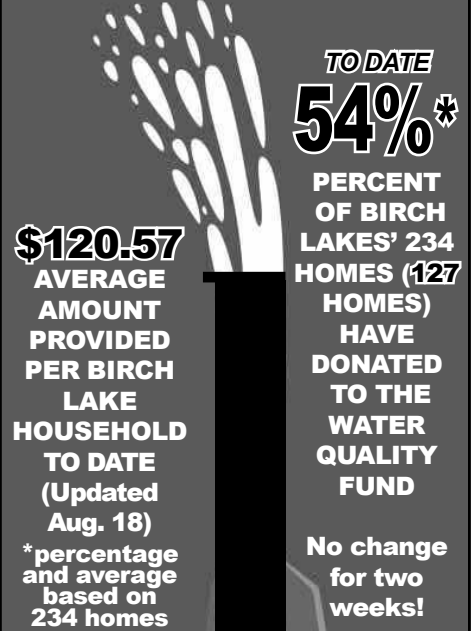
The Birch Barker is delivered to all of the homes on Birch Lake each week and is online at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items for publication, email sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com, or mail (or deposit items) at 63174 Birch Rd. (East side), Vandalia, MI 49095. To contact the editor, email onlinebarker@gmail.com or sailorphil@philvitale.com, or phone 269-476-1680 (no texts).

Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribute now with a click at: <https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>

OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION



To donate for **WATER QUALITY** or any BLYC activity or event, use the form in the back of this week's Barker or visit the website above

BLYC and social media

The Birch Lake Yacht Club **DOES NOT** have a Facebook page, nor is it participating in any form of social media. If you see Birch Lake Yacht Club information on social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions, please check <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer.

Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2025 is **\$17,500**

Contribute now with a click at: <https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



The Moon this Saturday at midnight

Illuminated Fraction: 0.617
1.1 days before last quarter



Sun and Moon this Week

Sunrise: 06:59:54 am

Sunset: 20:28:13 pm

Moonrise: 23:02:59 am

Moonset: 13:02:04 pm

Hours of Daylight:

13 Hr 28 Min 18 Sec

YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

Join Claudia Phipps most Thursdays at 9 am at the yacht club for Yoga ... (No yoga July 25)
9 am start, classes are 75 minutes

- \$5 fee goes to water quality
- BRING WITH YOU:**
- Yoga mat
- Two beach towels or blankets for Yoga Nidra Shavasana (the YC is cold with a cold floor, body temp will drop)
- A pillow or two for under the knees and head
- An eye pillow or scarf to block out the light

— Water Quality Report —

Birch Lake - a Cass County gem

Guest editorial submitted by
Darlene Troyer

We read on a weekly basis articles about our lake water quality here in the Birch Barker, and what is needed and being done to maintain our lake. Birch Lake is the place we love to swim, sail, boat, ski, go tubing, bike, take nature walks and its homes are snatched up like greased lightning when they are put on the market.

Why is Birch Lake so desired besides the above-mentioned things? Clearly (literally) it must be the water that is so clean and clear that we can see the bottom of the lake most days. Water so clear that we can sit on the pier and see numerous varieties of fish and turtles as they swim by. Water so clean and clear that we love to swim in it. Oh, and let's not forget the fantastic fish that are pulled from the lake that just might be tonight's dinner.

Unfortunately, there are many things that threaten our lake and without a vigilant water quality committee all those things we enjoy about Birch Lake are in jeopardy. Why is it then that the water quality of our lake doesn't really seem to be our top priority?

Surprisingly, our water quality goal meter shows that currently only 53 percent of our residents contribute to help fight the fight, so if water clarity is number 1 on our list, why isn't that num-

ber higher?

Clear, clean, healthy water is the goal, and it can only be done with your help. Because in 100 years from now I hope articles will be written about how clean and clear Birch Lake is, like the article I recently found printed in a 1912 edition of the Niles Daily Sun!

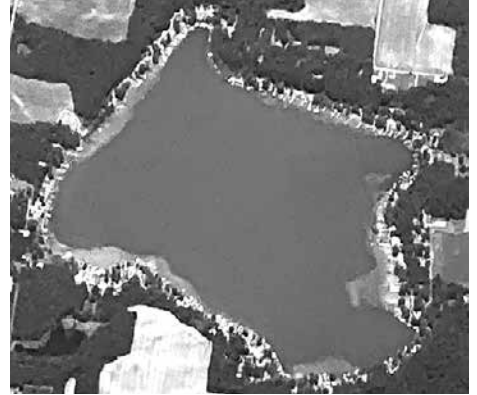
Let me share some of the finer parts of that full page article written by the Daily Sun's Editor after spending several days as guests at "Penwallah," the summer home of Chas. E. Smith.

BIRCH LAKE, A CASS GEM, HAS ATTRACTIONS ALL ITS OWN *September 5, 1912*

● The waters of Birch Lake are the deepest, the coldest, the clearest, and therefore its fish are the best to be found in any of Michigan's small inland lakes. Yet notwithstanding the coldness of the deep waters the shallow beaches are unsurpassed for bathing and the sun warms the water to an agreeable temperature...

● Its waters have that deep clear greenish blue cast that Lake Michigan has, which indicates great depth and a clean bottom free from mud...

● Birch Lake is feed by springs, and the opinion of advanced scientists say the source of supply may even be as far away as northern Wisconsin and the upper lake region area, which would account for the coldness of the water supply and



its resemblance to the big lakes in color. ● The north shore of Birch Lake where the cottage of Chas. E. Smith and Fred Schmidt are located possesses a distinct advantage from the fact that beautiful springs gush from the banks. "Penwallah" is supplied from a spring that gushes up at the very edge of the lake, the water being as cool as if from a refrigerator and of a quality that excites the desire for more. This water has no mineral taste but is said to compare with the finest waters in the world.

Obviously, it IS the clear clean water that is Birch Lakes' main attraction, they thought so over 100 years ago. Hopefully 100 years from now the same things can be reported about our Birch Lake, if water quality is our number one concern and we help our lakes Water Quality Committee however we can.

If we don't care for it, who will?
Thank you, Darlene!

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— BLYC Financials —

Where the money goes for the BLYC

by **SUE DAVIS,**
Commodore BLYC

As Commodore, I would like to thank all of you who volunteered and participated in Yacht Club events this season making the summer of 2024 a success. Earlier in this season, the officers and directors of the Yacht Club were entrusted with the task of delivering to the Birch Lake families an accounting of what and where the money goes that our members donate to the club each year. A committee was formed to analyze the data and present findings to the board before the end of the year. This committee worked hard to compile this information and presented it at our last board meeting August 10, showing a projected deficit in December 31, 2024, in the General Fund of approximately \$2,000. The board then acted swiftly to approve a series of actions that, when completed, will balance the Yacht Club's activities and resolve the projected deficit.

Before the raw numbers are presented, I'd like to reflect on what Birch Lake and the Yacht Club offers to its residents.

I think we can all agree that the

Lake is a very special place. This is a community that is unique in its character and commitment to meeting the needs of all lakers through its Homeowners Association (that handles tax and legal issues, governmental relations, and public access site matters, among other things), the Yacht Club, and our collective diligence towards keeping our waters clean and our community strong. In particular, the Yacht Club was designed to act as a community center, open to all residents for meetings, events, private parties, yoga, cards, and other activities.

The physical club building has served the needs of the lake community since 1957. In 1968 a huge storm blew in and rainwater eroded the foundation on the west side of the club, sending a landslide of mud onto the Yacht Club floor. I can recall many of the men, women, and children of this community, coming out with shovels and mops to remove the water and debris. There was a strong feeling of ownership in the club that is still found today.

The reason the Yacht Club board formed the committee to review our financial status and present it to the residents is because we want to clear

up any misconceptions about what the club does and doesn't do, and to be fully transparent about where Yacht Club dues and donations go.

One Big Myth that must be dispelled is that the Yacht Club was built and is maintained for the express purpose of providing a place for parties and alcohol consumption. Although some events cater to the adult crowd, families are all invited to the corn and sausage roast, the spaghetti dinner, and the family picnic. The club also sponsors the Kidz Regatta, and this year a kids' kayak race.

Over the past three years the net cost of all events has been an average of only \$295 per year – less than \$25 per event. The majority of that amount went to purchasing margarita mix this year and last year for the Commodore/Vice Commodore Party, with the remainder of the money spent on water, pop, and decorations. Yacht Club members are asked to donate beer or wine at the beginning of the season, and at the end of the season any surplus is raffled off and donated back to the club.

That old myth should be busted!
So what does the Yacht Club do,



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— BLYC Financials —

and what are the benefits of membership?

● Directing our consultants in dealing with invasive species in our lake. Our local management – not requiring us to experience the delays and problems of going through a governmental body like other nearby lakes – allows us to respond more promptly to water quality issues, using our water quality funds. Please refer to the Water Quality article that will be presented in next week's Barker for a more detailed report.

● Publishing the Birch Lake Barker, a unique weekly summer community newspaper, providing all lakers information on Lake activities, issues and concerns. An online Barker is made available each month during the off-season.

● Printing a Birch Lake directory distributed to all members every other year.

● Maintaining six AEDs around the Lake with new batteries and pads, as needed.

● Providing and maintaining a Yacht Club building available for events, meetings, cards, yoga, with rental available to all members at a nominal cost.

● Managing the Lake's annual fireworks.

● Maintaining a competitive MC and Sunfish fleet. This year we were able to host an Inter-Lake Regatta with representation from area lakes and with sailors coming as far away as Florida, Colorado and South Carolina.

● Providing the opportunity for residents to be part of a community that shares the common goal of making Birch Lake a better place now and for future generations.

Virtually all the money in the Birch Lake Yacht Club balances is designated for four funds: Water Quality, Building/Roof fund, Sailing, and Fireworks. The remaining General Fund is used to support the Yacht Club's maintenance, insurance, utilities, property taxes, the online and printed Barker, events not fully covered by sponsors or fees, AED maintenance and some minor miscellaneous expenses.

After reading the Yacht Club's financial reports found in this Barker, two conclusions can be made here:

1) Our dues and donations to the General Fund do not provide sufficient funding for our regular operating costs.

2) The General Fund will have a negative balance at the end of the year of close to \$2,000. After paying for fireworks, water quality charges, taxes, year-end maintenance and other operating expenses for the rest of the year, we forecast the Yacht Club's total fund balances as of December 31, 2024 will be \$61,000. However, this amount is less than the \$63,000 we have in special accounts. Over the years, members designated that some of their donations be set aside for particular purposes. Those specially designated year-end fund balances include: a balance of \$42,200 in the Water Quality Fund; a balance of \$17,700 in the Building/Roof fund (of which at least \$15,000 will be needed to replace the roof in the next two to five years); a balance of \$2,400 in the Sailing fund; and \$700 in the Fireworks Fund.

At the end of the financial reports found in this Barker, the board identifies the specific financial issues we face and the actions being taken to address them. Please take the time to review this information in detail and ask any of your board directors any questions you wish.

Here are the Birch Lake Yacht Club Projected Fund Balances at 12/31/2024 and the Projected Income and Expenses for the Year Ending 12/31/2024. These were prepared to support the identification of Issues and Actions needed.

PROJECTED 12/31/2024 FUND BALANCES & COMMENTS				
FUND	7/27/2024 FUND BALANCES	ESTIMATED ACTIVITY THRU 12/31/2024	PROJECTED 12/31/2024 FUND BALANCES	BOARD COMMENTS
Water Quality	\$44,713	(\$2,500)	\$42,213	No immediate issues. The Water Quality committee is planning an article discussing finances for next week's Barker.
Building/Roof	\$17,485	\$200	\$17,685	No issues. Balance can cover expected roof replacement in next 2 to 5 years with an estimated \$2k left for contingencies.
Sailing	\$1,873	\$480	\$2,353	No issues. Balance can cover expected expenses and equipment replacements.
Fireworks	\$17,491	(\$16,750)	\$741	No issues. Balance is good to start saving for 2025 show
General	\$5,515	(\$7,474)	(\$1,959)	NEED ACTION. Expecting another \$1k in expenses for Jan to Apr 2025 period with no revenues then. <u>See Actions below.</u>
Totals	\$87,077	(\$26,044)	\$61,033	

GENERAL FUND BREAKDOWN PROJECTED INCOME AND EXPENSES YEAR ENDING 12/31/2024

INCOME	
General Fund	
Dues	\$4,050
Other Donations	\$3,559
Total General Fund Dues and Other Donations	\$7,609
AED Donations	\$1,345
Barker Ad Revenue	\$2,735
Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser	\$2,247
TOTAL GENERAL FUND INCOME	\$13,936

EXPENSES	
Yacht Club Operating Expenses	
Trash	\$294
Electric	\$947
Sewer	\$728
Grounds	\$1,230
Pest Control	\$283
Other	\$552
Property Taxes	\$1,266
Insurance	\$3,574
Total Yacht Club Operating Expenses	\$8,874
AED Maintenance	\$2,694
Barker/Directory Printing, Software	\$5,639
Family Picnic	\$1,878
All Other Events	\$97
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$19,182
GENERAL FUND PROJECTED (LOSS) FOR 2024	(\$5,246)

ISSUES AND ACTIONS

Based on the above financial information, the Yacht Club Board identified the following Issues and voted to take Actions as noted below to address the General Fund situation:

1) **ISSUE:** The General Fund Dues and Donations of \$7,609 do not cover the Yacht Club Operating Expenses of \$8,874. Further, the AED Donations of \$1,345 do not cover the AED Maintenance costs of \$2,694. **ACTION:** Dues for 2025 will increase from \$30 to \$50, the first change in 9 years.

2) **ISSUE:** Barker Ad Revenue of \$2,735 does not cover Barker/Directory Printing and Software costs of \$5,639. **ACTIONS:** Increase ad rates. Seek additional advertisers using a committee of volunteers. Seek sponsors. Be sure to see next week's Barker for an important announcement on sponsorship!

3) **ISSUE:** The Family Picnic and all other Events cost the Yacht Club \$1,975, paid from savings. **ACTIONS:** Require all Events to be budgeted to at least breakeven. Institute new procedure that the Yacht Club will not spend any money on beer, wine or spirits in the future.

4) **ISSUE:** The General Fund is projected to be in deficit at December 31, 2024 by approximately \$2,000. **ACTION:** Seek "Angel Donors" among the Lake residents to eliminate the deficit.

We hope the Lake Community will support your Board's actions in setting up the Yacht Club for the future. Please contact any member of the Board's Directors if you have any questions.

We expect to address follow-up questions raised in future Barkers.

We hope you will join together with other residents and members in supporting the actions approved by your board in setting up the Yacht Club for the future.

— Earl Troeger Regatta —



photos by BUZZ RASMUSSEN



THANKS TOM & BARB CASSADY





FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial Interlake MC regatta a huge success

WOW! The Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial Interlake MC Regatta was a huge success! Supported by a great crowd of BLYC volunteers, 22 MC's set out for three races on Birch Lake, encountering sunshine, big wind, clouds, drenching rain without lightning, shifting wind, and more sunshine. Nineteen of the MC's made it to the finish line of the third race. Then off to the clubhouse for a wonderful luncheon honoring the memory of Scott Troeger's uncle, Birch Lake's very own Earl Troeger, Jr. who was Snipe world champion in 1965, a record three-time commodore of the BLYC, and a passionate and effective advocate for the sport of sailing.

The guests of honor were seven members of the Troeger family, including two of Earl's three sons and their wives. These are Tom Troeger and his wife Libby; and Dave Troeger and his wife Christine, who were joined by Scott and Holly Troeger, and their daughter Tory. Scott, Tom and Dave were among ten Troeger cousins who grew up summering together at Birch Lake, so Dave Troeger was entitled to sail on behalf of the BLYC in the Regatta. Former west siders Keith Clairro and Kevin Kruggel, who raced with the Troeger clan in the '60s and '70s, came to watch the fun.

No Interlake Regatta had been held at Birch Lake in decades--nobody seems to remember exactly when the last one was held here. The BLYC is part of the local five lakes sailing group, which also includes Corey Lake, Eagle Lake, Indian Lake and Diamond Lake. Three years ago, Diamond Lake Yacht Club held an Interlake Regatta, followed the next year by Indian Lake. Like Birch Lake, Corey Lake had not held an Interlake Regatta in decades, but they broke the ice last year as hosts of the Corey Lake Regatta, which four of us from Birch Lake attended. So we were all delighted when Corey Lake brought a big contingent of five MCs here last Saturday, second only to your BLYC, which had 11. We were also delighted that Indian Lake brought three boats, Eagle Lake brought the winner, the Indianapolis Yacht Club had one; and a new friend from the South Carolina Yacht Club found us at the last minute on the MC Sailing Association website, bringing our total to 22 boats.

The public launch was a busy place where ten MCs arrived, masts were raised, and boats were rigged, launched, and later re-trailerred. Ron and Bob Niezgodski arrived at the crack of dawn and befriended some fishermen who moved their two vehicles with trailers out of our way. Ben Wozniak drove his tractor equipped with a hitch ball and moved trailers much faster than cars or trucks could do. Scott Troeger assisted guests with mast raising, boat rigging, launch and take-out. Ray Gaik and Dan Waxman drove guests via golf carts between the public launch, the mooring spots, and the clubhouse. Tory Troeger drove a golf cart too, and also assisted



at the yacht club and with the BLYC burgee prizes. Steve and Jackie Frew welcomed and directed guests, made sure everyone stayed clear of the electric lines, and marked boats and trailers with numbers on blue tape to speed up re-trailerling. John and Jennifer Ball and Kevin Bernaciak used their waverunners to tow guest boats from the launch to mooring spots on the south shore, and pitched in at the launch, where everyone helped everyone else.

Mooring spots for guests' boats were provided by Pat Welch and his south side neighbors Randy and Fran Welch, Steve and Glynda Hunsberger, and Becky Wiseman. Pat Welch welcomed the guests at the moorings and directed them to the clubhouse, where Barb Cassady oversaw the nerve center of activity. Holly Troeger and Amelea Kim registered guests and handled scoring. Food and beverages were handled by Sue and Pat Williams, Leslie King, and Sandy Vitale. Maggie Cassady designed the beautiful blue Birch Lake T-shirts. Mike Sheffieck was on call everywhere on land. Loaner boats: Sandy Vitale loaned her MC # 2159 to Dave Troeger. John Ball loaned his MC to Brian Hague. Back in the day the Hagues lived next door to Earl Troeger on the south side.

Out on the lake, Tom Cassady and Vic Jones set the course and also acted as the finish line boat, with Good Patti Russwurm recording the finishes. Mark Makielski of Eagle Lake, who is very experienced with big regattas, led the Committee Boat that was driven by Ron Niezgodski. Bob Niezgodski handled the anchors and horn. Crew members were Rick Russwurm and Stu Spratt. Rick Doolittle drove his rescue boat, and Tom Kuhn drove his spectator/rescue boat. MC Crew members were Tory Troeger, with her dad Scott, Tory's friend Amelea with Phil Vitale; and Maggie Cassady with her mom Barb. The official photographer was Buzz Rasmussen. Marc Caenepeel made the beautiful wooden trophies.

The results are in!

The prizes were given by Barb Cassady. George Carlin of Eagle Lake won all three races, giving him first prize as well as the 5 Lakes Interlake Regatta traveling trophy. James Thurlow of South Carolina Yacht Club won second place. He is a young Navy man, stationed at Great Lakes Naval Station, who recently bought a used MC, saw us on the internet the night before the regatta, and got the last mooring spot. Third place went to Robert Heathcote of Indian Lake Yacht Club. Those three top winners received trophies made by Marc

Caenepeel with gorgeous wooden bases and sailboat ornaments taken from some of Earl Troeger's trophies. Dave Troeger, one of Earl Troeger's sons, won fifth place in the Regatta - not bad for not sailing for 20 years. Of the regular Birch Lake MC sailors, Pat Welch performed the best, scoring 11th, followed by Scott Troeger in 12th, Barb Cassady in 14th, Bill Luecht 16th, Pat McGann 17th, Amber Grundy 19th, Bob King 20th, Phil Vitale 21st, and your fleet captain in last place at 22nd, after his halyard failed in the first race. Old friends of the Troegers, BJ Hague and Brian Hague, came in 10th and 18th respectively. Commodore Sue Davis spoke to congratulate everyone on a great event. Tom Troeger described his memories of his strong-willed dad Earl in colorful and moving terms. Dave Troeger spoke in accepting his trophy. Scott says that Dave and Tom were both deeply touched by having the regatta in memory of their dad. They told Scott that it was the best organized regatta they can remember - and they have sailed in many.

None of this would have happened without the vision and positive energy of Interlake Regatta Committee Chair Barb Cassady. More than two years ago, Barb had the idea of reviving BLYC activity in the local Five Lakes Sailing Federation. She chaired a planning committee consisting of Bob King, Scott Troeger, Pat Welch and Steve Frew, and worked diligently with great energy, drive and spirit to develop the plan, obtain BLYC board approval, organize and inspire our great team of 36 volunteers, and bring off the Interlake MC Regatta in spectacular fashion. Thank you, Barb!

The BLYC Interlake Regatta has built on the momentum started last year by Corey Lake, and has sent ripples of enthusiasm as far beyond our little lake as Indianapolis and South Carolina. At the luncheon, John Smith from Indian Lake announced that they would like to host a 5 Lakes Regatta next year. So that will make three 5 Lakes MC Regattas in a row!

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL GUESTS FOR ATTENDING, AND TO ALL OF OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS WHO MADE IT HAPPEN!

I hope that everyone is mentioned here, and sincerely apologize to anyone who may have been inadvertently omitted!

NOTICES:

The Interlake Regatta did not count towards the BLYC season competition, and there was no racing last Sunday, so BLYC season standings are unchanged.

The Sailing Awards have now been officially moved from September 7 to Monday, September 2, which is Labor Day, at 11 a.m. No lunch, just the prize giving.

The position of Fleet Captain will be open very soon. Looking for the person who will take us to the next level!

~F.C. Steve

— Birch Lake Memories —

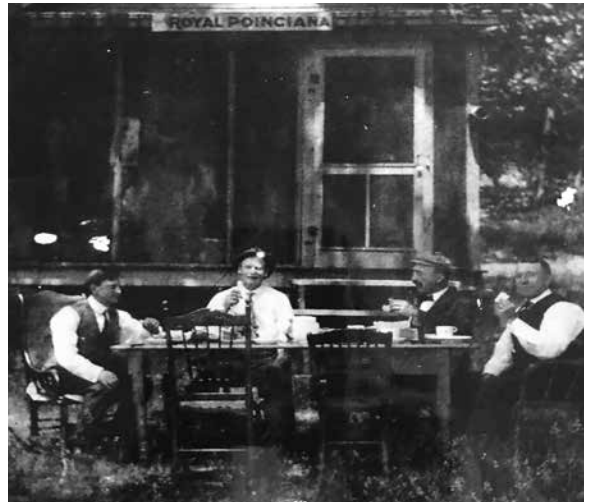
Taken from June 29, 1968 Birch Barker

SPECIAL BULLETIN

HEAVY RAINS HAVE CAUSED EXCESSIVE DAMAGE IN OUR AREA.....ROADS AND BASEMENTS HAVE BEEN FLOODED,...TREES BLOWN DOWN....RETAINING WALLS AT HOWARDS, FORBES AND EBERHARTS HAVE BEEN WASHED OUT.....TOP SOIL FROM ADJOINING FARMS HAS WASHED INTO THEIR YARDS AND THE LAKE.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST.....OUR CLUBHOUSE HAS SUFFERED SEVERE DAMAGE. NEARLY ALL OF THE WEST WALL WAS CAVED IN PUSHING THE POP MACHINE TO THE CENTER....FLOOR WAS COVERED WITH 3 TO 6 INCHES OF MUD.

AN EMERGENCY MEETING WAS HELD AT 11:30 TUESDAY NIGHT TO EVALUATE THE DAMAGE. BOB HAGUE, BUILDING CHAIRMAN WAS AUTHORIZED TO HAVE BUILDING REPAIRED AND HAS MADE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS. PROMPT ACTION WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE OF THE COMING JR. SNIPE DISTRICT 3 CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA.



The top photo is of the cabin that was previously on the site of my mom and dad's cottage. The sign "Royal Poinciana" was apparently "liberated" from the hotel in Florida. Left to right - Harry Hincle, Fred C. Schmidt, Charles Julius, and unidentified man. Photo dated 1911. The bottom photo was taken in 1915. Thayer's cottage is in the background. Pictured are the extended Schmidt family with their Model T. ~Beth Kenagy



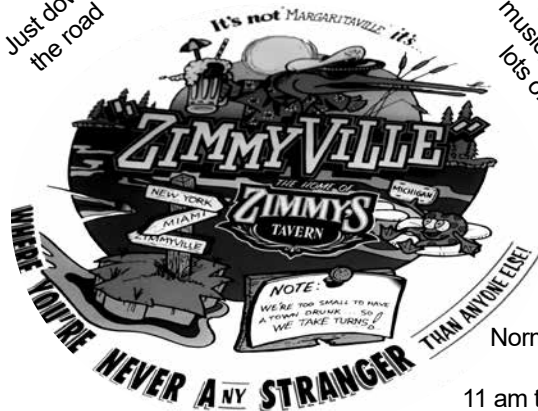
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Pat McGann, Birch Lake Resident, East Side

— Barker Kids of the Week —



Left: The Gardenier family. 4th 5th and 6th from left, Anneroos, daughter, father Peter and mother Christina. Christina, who was the exchange student with my niece about 40 years ago. Above: Peter and Christina. ~Bruce Wagner, cove



Left: Long time 57 yrs Birch Buddies Jill Scholes (south) and Sue Davis (east); Center: Lind Harmon, (east) John and Barb Rondot;



Right: Denny Weesner, (south) Phil Vitale and Julie Dickey (east) all from a recent lake party.

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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Fifth generation Birch Laker, Marin Birch from Boulder, CO enjoying her time at the lake. Marin is the granddaughter of Gus and Ronni Eshleman and great granddaughter of Denny Weesner on the south side.



We have no idea why, but Traci and Jim Limes showed up in the cove with Burger King crowns and a miniature guitar ... we suspect fast food overload may have been a factor.

Barker Kids of the Week

Want your kid to be a Barker Kid of the Week? Mail (or drop off) your photo (with a SASE if you want it back) to Birch Barker, 63174 Birch Rd., Vandalia, MI 49095 ... you can always email me at sailorphil@philvitale.com or onlinebarker@gmail.com.
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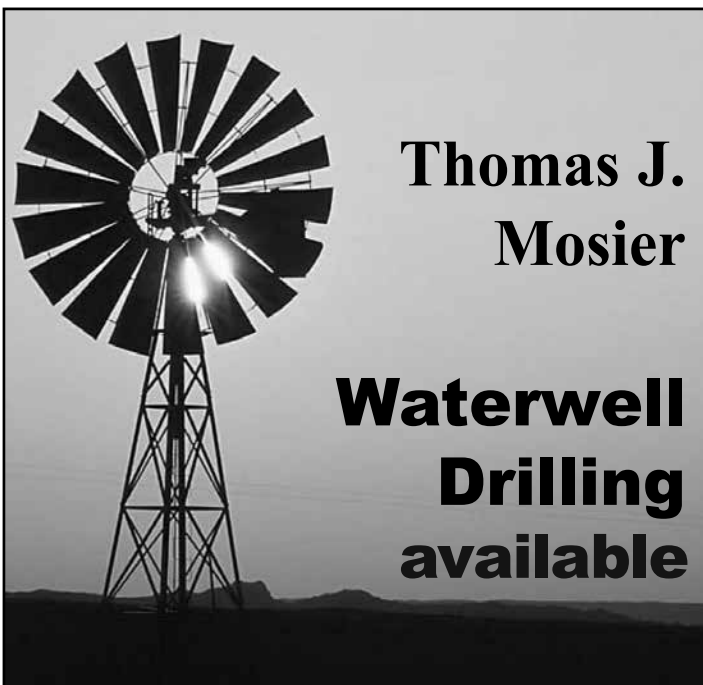


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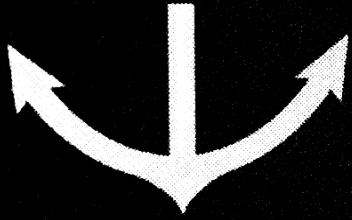
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— Barker Kids of the Week —



Ben Wozniak and Ray Gaik (east side) showed the proper form for launching an MC at last weekend's regatta.



Sandy and Phil Vitale (east side) had a fun visit last week from daughter Sanya (third from left) and our former step-grandkids Lexi and Cam.

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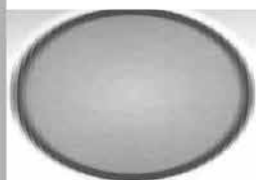
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Prep Time: 10 mins
Cook Time: 15 mins
Total Time: 25 mins
Servings: 4
Yield: 4 servings

Ingredients

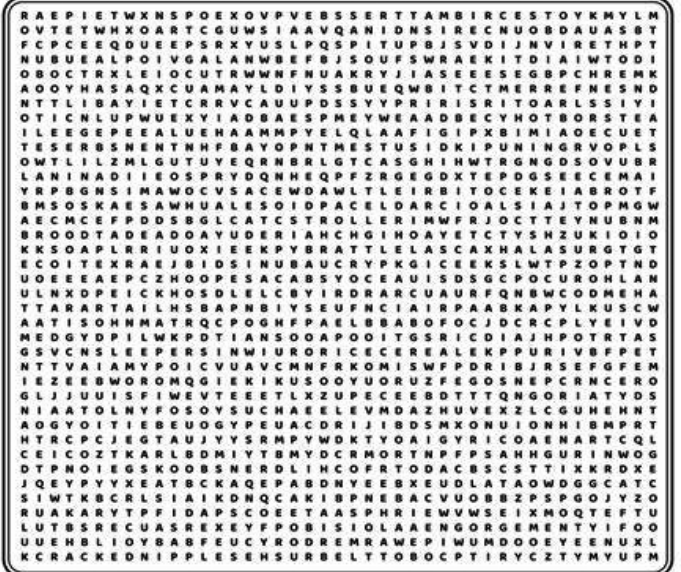
- 4 ripe tomatoes, sliced
- 4 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 4 tablespoons Parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon brown mustard
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese

Directions

Gather all ingredients. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C).

Use a spoon to top each tomato slice with a small amount of the mayonnaise mixture. Sprinkle with mozzarella, and then top with parsley. Bake in preheated oven for approximately 15 minutes, or until golden brown. Serve immediately.

BABY SHOWER 100 WORD SEARCH



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— Camp Tannadoonah —

Looking forward to next year

Camp is done for the season, and the last big rental group has gone home. Now we're on to planning for next year. I've been working on the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, and part of that involves deciding which projects we want to try to accomplish over the course of the off season.

This is what I hope we will get approved for next year:

- Build a new archery range (same location, more seating for campers waiting their turn, and better storage for the equipment)
- Screen in the porch on the Dining Hall, open up two additional doorways onto the porch where there are currently windows, and put 6 new tables on the porch to increase seating. When we had full weeks of camp this summer, we had maxed out the capacity of our Dining Room and had to have some tables out on the porch.
- Replace the flooring in the kitchen. While everything is torn up in the kitchen, I want to take down a wall that currently divides our dish washing space, and make that space much larger. Hopefully we will also be able to replace the dishwasher while we're at it.
- Rewire some of the electrical in the

kitchen while we have the floors torn up

- Replace some of the original plumbing in the kitchen – they are 1954 galvanized steel pipes, and very hard to repair!

- Install a new water filter to provide better drinking water. The taste of the water is one of the biggest complaints we hear from campers who aren't used to drinking well water! Maybe also install a filtered water bottle filling station in the Dining Room.

- New clotheslines for all of the cabins
- Landscaping around the four new cabins we built this year
- Replace one or both of our Barnett Sailboats. These were purchased used in 1994 by former lake resident Bruce Harlan and have served us very well for 30 years. The hulls have started taking on water and have to be drained daily, and also finding replacement parts is getting very difficult!

- Purchase a small canoe trailer

Every year we try to accomplish some improvements around camp, and this year we did a LOT with the four new cabins, new main entrance, and many other smaller projects. This coming year the goals are not as lofty, but will greatly improve our kitchen space and expand our dining space. If anyone is interested in contributing to any of the facilities



projects, or to camperships, please contact me at amber@riverbendcampfire.org

Last week, as I was getting ready to send this list of proposed projects to our finance committee for review, I had a nightmare that I met with the board and they told me that they were concerned that I had no plan or vision for camp. I woke up saying to myself, "But I DO have a plan!" The goals above cover this next year; beyond that we have some really big future projects we hope to accomplish!

~Mrs. Amber

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Lost in a storm, **large blue and yellow O'Brien tubing tube**.

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



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708-220-1506 mcsheffieck@gmail.com
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708-285-2999 stephenbfrew@gmail.com

BLYC DIRECTORS

Dave Carroll (W) 574-850-0465
carrolldavid39@gmail.com
Barb Cassady (E) 574-229-9815
barbcassady49@gmail.com
Ed Chester (E) 574-536-0740
ed@chesterlawoffice.com

Karen Curtis-Miller (E) 574-261-6712
krcurtismiller@gmail.com
Bernie Garceau 476-9862
bgarceau@norcoind.com
Amber Grundy 574-315-0227
amber.grundy@gmail.com
Deb Hall (C) 219-765-8691
debbershall@gmail.com
Ron Niezgodski (W) 574-532-6710
birchbass1@gmail.com
Laura Pence (E) lpence3@gmail.com
Sarah Petty (N) 574-274-9202
sarahkpetty@gmail.com
Claudia Phipps (N) 476-7073
claudia2154@gmail.com
Vickie Rogers (C) 476-2383
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Rick Russwurm (N) 476-2407
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Ray Scholes (S) 567-429-9569
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Scott Troeger (E) 476-9898
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Denny Weesner (S) 219-765-8602
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Sue Williams (S) 574*298-2839
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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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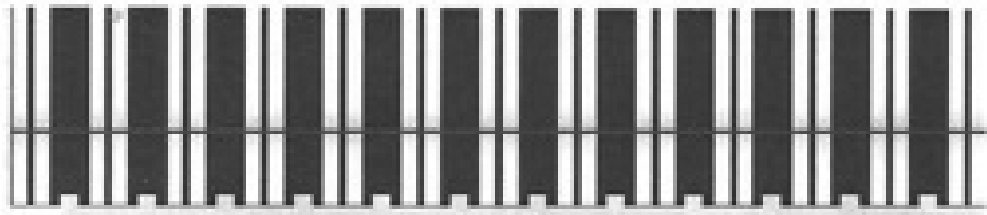
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