

# BIRCH

vol. 77 issue 6

# Barker

Weekend of  
**JUNE 28**  
2025

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com



*Avery Grundy (east shore) skiing on a perfect summer evening in June*

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**H**ello to all! Summer has officially arrived on June 20! We are all feeling the heat! Many of us have plunged into the lake to beat the heat! The lake proved to be very refreshing! We enjoyed socializing with our neighbors who were also taking advantage of the cooling lake water!

We are in the process of getting our geothermal unit repaired! We did not have air conditioning last weekend, so we opened all of our windows! The breezes were very helpful, but by last Sunday, it wasn't enough! We had to retreat to our other home in Mishawaka!

There was plenty of wind for the sailboats, last weekend! They were a beautiful sight!

Unfortunately on a personal note, the wind caused the pole to our newly purchased outdoor umbrella to bend in half! It looked strong, but it proved me wrong! Fortunately, we were able to return it and get our money back!

Last Saturday on 6/21, the BLYC had its monthly board meeting. We were excited to welcome two new directors to the BLYC! Thank you, Tim Cole and Liz Cover for joining the directors and volunteering your time.

The BLYC is in the process of evaluating the improvement needs of the BLYC. The replacement of the deteriorating deck is the first major focus. We are in the process of getting quotes for the deck replacement.

Since the roof replacement was covered by insurance, the "Roof Fund" money can be used toward other necessary improvements. The former "Roof Fund" name has been changed to "The BLYC Improvement Fund."

At the BLYC meeting, there was a discussion about increasing activities for children at the lake. The number of children at Birch Lake continues to increase. Many directors lived at Birch Lake during their childhood. They have memories of participating in planned activities at the BLYC building. Some youth gatherings were hosted by lake residents. One suggestion for a resident hosted event was "Popsicles On The Pier." We will continue our discussion at the next board meeting. In the meantime, if there is anyone interested in being part of a committee to increase youth events, please notify one of the officers or directors.

This year we do not have a Family Picnic scheduled. Like the Spaghetti Dinner, there is not a person to lead the event and a committee to assist. The Spaghetti Dinner is a delicious and

successful fundraiser and the Family Picnic has been sponsored by the BLYC. The BLYC money to support the Family Picnic has varied. Last year, it was decided that all events should be funded by the participants with a break even goal. We shall further review and discuss future plans for the Family Picnic. Any ideas for the Family Picnic are welcome! It is a great event for families, their children, and grandchildren! There still may be a way to make it happen! We can keep it simple! We just need someone to lead the way!

Sending out special thanks to Kevin Bernaciak for completing the AED maintenance checks on all the units to ensure they are all in working order! Kevin, you are much appreciated!

There are other numerous committee leaders at the BLYC that are continually active. Thank you all for your service!

The Fourth of July Fireworks and boat parade are coming soon! Thank you, Bernie Garceau for organizing the fireworks and Dan Waxman for organizing the Boat Parade! We really appreciate what you do to make Birch Lake a great place to celebrate the Fourth of July!

We come from many different places, but we are all on the same boat, we love Birch Lake!

*~Commodore Julie*

## 2025 BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

### July

5 - Boat Parade, 3pm  
5 - Fireworks, 10pm  
4-5 (Fri/Sat) 4<sup>th</sup> of July Regatta,  
backup day Sunday at noon  
6 - Pancake Breakfast, 8:30-11am  
16 - Card Night, 7pm  
18 - Ladies' Golf Outing, 9am  
19 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am  
25 - Men's Golf Outing, noon  
TBA - Don Harman Kidz Regatta

### August

2 - Corn and Sausage Roast  
16 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am  
16 - Homeowners Assoc., 10am  
20 - Card Night, 7pm  
23 - Fall Dinner  
30 & 31 Labor Day Regatta

### September

20 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

### October

25 - Bad Patty Crockpot  
Challenge, 6pm



The 2025 Birch Barker is  
generously sponsored by Culver's.  
See ad on page 2.

The Barker will consider ads, photos, and editorial content for publication.

Email items to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com).

For editorial concerns, contact editor Amber Grundy at [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) or 574-315-0227.

For delivery concerns, contact Ron Niezgodski at [birchbass1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbass1@gmail.com) or 269-476-9317.

For all other BLYC matters, contact Commodore Julie Dickey at [jdjuls@aol.com](mailto:jdjuls@aol.com) or 574-220-9132.

**DEADLINE** for submissions is always **NOON** on the Tuesday of the week before publication.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## BOAT PARADE: NEXT WEEK SATURDAY, JULY 5 at 3pm

It is the big countdown to the Birch Lake Boat Parade so time to assemble your boat decorations for this year's theme, "Favorite TV Show."

For those still trying to pick a show, how about the cartoon series *Popeye the Sailor*? This would be especially good for those families with a new baby or toddler that you can dress up as Sweet Pea. You then must decide who will be Popeye (easy if there's a male who is bald and will wear a sailor cap). Big challenge is then who will be Brutus, Olive Oyl and Alice the Goon!

All parade participants please come to the Waxman pier on the east side by 2:45pm and then we start at 3pm. Everyone on the lake please be outside to cheer on the boats as they pass by your homes!



## ANNUAL CAMP T PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, July 6, 8:30-11am

The cost is \$6 for ages 13 and older, \$4 for youth ages 4-12, and free for ages 0-3. We will have pancakes (including a gluten free option), sausage links, coffee, orange juice, milk, and fruit cocktail.

Miss Gabby will also have the Camp Trading Post open, so you can get all the new Camp T apparel on Sunday morning.

Last year we served 360 people - let's see if we can get to 400 this year!

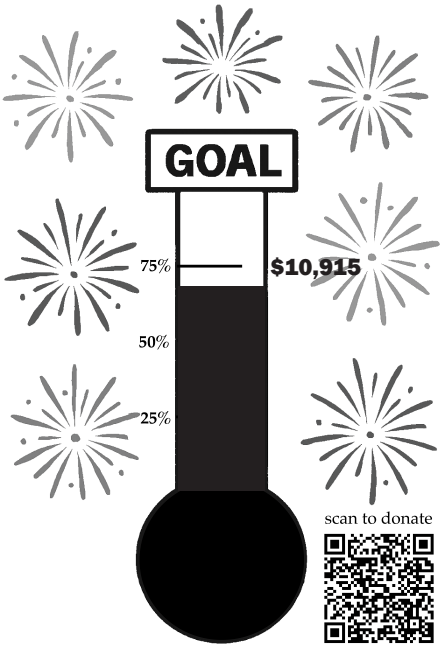
We can always use helpers at the breakfast, too. If you're interested in volunteering for a shift, please email me at [amber@riverbendcampfire.org](mailto:amber@riverbendcampfire.org).

## Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2025 is \$16,000

Contribute now at

<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



### Fireworks Backup Plan

The annual Fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup> at approximately 10pm. In case of rain or excessive wind, the backup date is Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. We will communicate any changes via the Barker email list. You can subscribe to email list at [birchlakeyachtclub.com](https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com)



# WELCOME to DELICIOUS

VISIT YOUR LOCAL CULVER'S RESTAURANT:

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Coldwater, MI

Three Rivers, MI

Granger, IN

Mishawaka, IN



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# ODDS AND ENDS

## Ladies' Golf Outing

The Ladies' FUN Golf Outing will be on Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup> with a best ball, shotgun start promptly at 9:00am. This year we'll be playing at Sauganash Golf Club in Three Rivers. Lunch will follow in the clubhouse. The cost of golf and lunch is the same price as last year at just \$45.00 per golfer. What a bargain! Registration form is on the next page of this Barker.

Ladies who would like to join us for just lunch the cost will be \$25.00. Let Carol or Blair know before July 13th. We are looking forward to a fun day with all the Birch Lake Ladies.

## Ladies Weekly Golf

We usually tee off Monday mornings and follow up with lunch after the nine-hole "adventure." We don't keep track of scores and welcome all levels of players. The only judgment and competition is with yourself. If you have questions or are interested in golf or just lunch, contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862).

## American Heart Assoc. BLS Training

Liz Cover (east side) is hosting a medical professionals level Basic Lifesaving (BLS) training on Sunday, June 29<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$50 for the certification. There are 5 spots available if you are interested in getting trained. Contact Liz at 574-849-1429 or [Bizzycover27@gmail.com](mailto:Bizzycover27@gmail.com) for more information.

## Yacht Club Building Use

For information on the rules and requirements, or to make arrangements to use the Birch Lake Yacht Club building for a non-BLYC event, call or text Sandy Vitale at 269-858-8184, or email [sv6102@gmail.com](mailto:sv6102@gmail.com).

**Birch Lake Floating Keychains** are still available for purchase for \$5.00 each. 100% of proceeds go to the Water Quality Fund. Text or call **Jennifer Ball** at 574-535-3733 or **Cindy Bernaciak** at 773-401-9191 to get yours.

## Slow Down Signs

"Slow Down" signs are available for lake home owners. Contact Blair Garceau (269-476-9862) if you need a sign for your yard. Courtesy of the BL Home Owners Association.

## Boat Parade Grand Marshal

The final group of Grand Marshals leading up to this year is Vivian Kolber in 2019, Denny Weesner in 2020, Randy and Fran Welch in 2021, Coach Bill Doba in 2022, Paul and Celia Fallon in 2023, and then Kathy and Ron Niezgodski in 2024. So who will be our Grand Marshals this year? You will find out in next week's July 4th Barker!

## Card Night Update

Well, Mother Nature made every effort to interfere with card night last Wednesday night at the yacht club, but we persevered and had a great time. Newcomers learned how to play 65 and seemed to enjoy the game. Besides the storm, we noticed that the Barker did not have the time in for the event so from now on, it is at 7 o'clock on the third Wednesday of the month, next time being July 16th. Euchre, 65, and poker are always available for participants, but all games are welcome if the necessary equipment is brought to the club. Hope the weather doesn't threaten the games again and excited to see you there! ~Sue Davis

## The Printed Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to all of the homes on Birch Lake each week, and is available online at

[birchlakeyachtclub.com](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com)

The submission deadline is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication. Contributions can be emailed to

[birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com).

To buy an ad or for more info, contact Amber at [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) or 574-315-0227. Advertising rates are posted at

[birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com/advertise)



2025  
BIRCH LAKE  
KIDZ  
REG TTA



Birch Sailors are determined to get kids sailing, even if it is just the one time every year!

**Date TBD**

**WATCH THIS SPACE FOR DETAILS**



*Abby Waxman Moore taking care of brother Dan's Barker route last week while he was away from Birch Lake. Thanks Abby!*

This week's Barker delivery spotlight is on Chris Cole who lives with her husband Tim on the hill. The east side route is divided into south and north sections, and Chris delivers to the south section and the hill. Tim's family has had a home on the hill since the 1960s and Chris and Tim have now lived on the hill for 5 years. Chris' favorite part of the Barker is the Birch Lake History section as she enjoys reading all about the different homes, families, and Camp T. Thank you, Delivery Girl Chris!

Cass County COA

Summer Concert Series

Friday, June 27: Touch of Texas

Friday, July 25: Memphis Underground

Friday, August 22: Whistle Pigs

The COA's Summer Concert Series is back by popular demand. Join us at the COA Lowe Center's Pavilion for some great music and an opportunity to purchase food from our food truck vendors. Bring a chair or blanket enjoy three FREE outdoor concerts!

Food is available from 5:30-7:30pm  
Concerts begin at 7:00pm

more info -->





# BLYC ANNUAL LADIES' FUN GOLF OUTING

**FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2025**

## Sauganash Golf Course

**9am Tee Off**

please arrive no later  
than 8:30am

**Lunch at Sauganash  
following the outing**

**\$45 REGISTRATION INCLUDES:  
Golf, Cart, and Lunch**

If you don't golf but would like to  
join us at noon for lunch, please  
register and pay \$25

**All Entries Due by  
Sunday, July 13**

**If you'd like to sponsor a hole, or have questions, please contact either:**  
Carol McCoy (708-738-3962) or Blair Garceau (574-261-9817)

## 2025 BLYC Ladies' FUN Golf Outing Registration

\$45 per player or \$25 for lunch only

**Team Captain:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Player 3:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Player 2:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Player 4:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to BLYC and bring or mail to:**

Carol McCoy

63021 Birch Rd.

Vandalia, MI 49095

Blair Garceau

**OR** 63542 Birch Rd.

Vandalia, MI 49095

**\*Individual registrations available.**

If you don't have a team, contact Carol  
or Blair and we can match you up.

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- Many lake property buyers are cash buyers.
- Interest rates have leveled off and may come down more.



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\*Not intended to solicit any properties already listed for sale with another real estate agent.



# WATER QUALITY REPORT: WATER TESTING

## What does your Birch Lake Water Quality Committee do for you and Birch Lake?

Terry Dugan introduced John and I as the water testers for Birch Lake in the May 31 issue of the Barker. Terry was the devoted water tester for many years. We wanted to take on the task because Birch Lake is a big part of our life stories. John has been on Birch Lake his entire life - 73 years. I have been a part of the Birch Lake community since 1978.

I would like to share with you how we get the data regarding our lake. It is not a “one and done” testing process that yields a magic number. Our data is years in the making, collected by someone on the Water Quality Committee.

Our lake belongs to the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association, a state-wide organization that dedicates itself to the preservation and protection of Michigan inland lakes. You can check them out at: [mymlsa.org](http://mymlsa.org). MLSA also publishes the *Michigan Riparian* magazine dedicated to the lifestyle and interests of all Michigan lake residents. You can join MLSA on your own and receive four issues of the magazine, and you can sign up for news and information through their email newsletter. MLSA membership is open to anyone.

MLSA partners with Michigan Clean Water Corps (MiCorps) which is led by the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE). EGLE serves as program administrator of our volunteer lake water quality monitoring program. The Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP) is the second oldest citizen volunteer lake water monitoring program. CLMP makes it possible for lake associations to measure the physical, biological and chemical parameters of inland lakes.

All volunteers are trained and equipped to monitor the following for Birch Lake:

1. Secchi Disk-Water Transparency: weekly or biweekly, mid-May to mid-September.
2. Spring and Summer Total Phosphorus: Spring is collected within 2 weeks after the ice is off the lake. Summer is collected late summer.
3. Chlorophyll a: a measure of how much algae is present in the lakes water column. The testing is in May, June, July, August, and September.
4. Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature: up to 85 feet. DO and Temp are tested and recorded every other week May through September.

Testing the water of Birch Lake is a 5-6-month commitment each year.

The collected samples of Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll a are frozen and turned into the EGLE office near Kalamazoo twice a year on our designated date. Secchi Disk, Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature recordings are maintained May through September and then reported either by mail or email to MLSA on or before October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Each year the previous year’s Birch Lake summary report of the data collected from CLMP is sent to the water testing



person. The Water Quality Committee reviews the report and then shares it with our neighbors and friends in the Birch Barker. Terry also mentioned in the May 31 edition that you are able to access the entire report on [Micorps.net](http://Micorps.net) then click on Lakes and individual Lake reports.

Members of the Water Quality Committee also do

the following: Exotic Aquatic Plant Watch, Aquatic Plant Mapping, Score the Shore and Lakeshore Habitat Assessment. Plus, we work with outside contractors for the right treatment of invasive plant species.

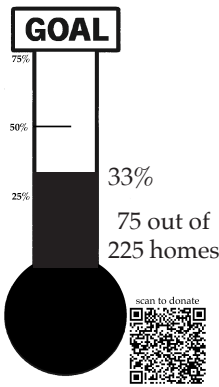
Your Water Quality Committee not only raises money to fund the education, tests and analysis described in this article; we also have the lake surveyed, permitted and treated for invasives, all by professionals. Also, it’s important to note that your donation to Water Quality is for just that - no other BLYC events or needs are paid with Water Quality funds.

Yes, they’re very important, but we are not just about the Six Commandments. The Six Commandments you see listed each week are good reminders to all of us and our guests that it’s imperative to respect and care for our lake.

We are dedicated advocates to preserve and protect the Birch Lake we all treasure. Our involvement with MLSA, CLMP and EGLE gives us the tools to effectively manage the present and future of Birch Lake. Please consider a donation to your future on Birch Lake by donating to Water Quality.

~Submitted By Jennifer Ball

**Birch Lake Yacht Club  
WATER QUALITY FUND**  
Our goal for 2025 is to have 75% of homes on the lake contribute.  
Contribute now at  
<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com>



## Keep Birch Lake Beautiful

Phyllis Rasmussen (west side) has partnered with Birch Lake Water Quality to sell one of a kind Birch Lake gear, and 20% of all proceeds will be donated directly to the Water Quality fund. There are three designs (Gull, Fish, and Turtle), and three garment choices (T-Shirt, Crewneck, and Hoodie).



Fish Design

Gull Design

Turtle Design

Go to  
[www.keepbirchlakebeautiful.com](http://www.keepbirchlakebeautiful.com)  
to get yours today!

Thank you Coy Jankowski for your beautiful art donation! Thank you to the Birch Lake community for submitting your wonderful photos which are shared on the ordering site. Thank you to everyone involved in this project.

Let’s keep our lake clean and beautiful for years to come! This project helps support keeping our earth clean, our lakes clean, and ensuring our waterways are safe for children to swim in! You can make the difference!

Contact Phyllis by phone (574-807-1924) or email ([keepbirchlakebeautiful@gmail.com](mailto:keepbirchlakebeautiful@gmail.com)) with any questions or to place an order by phone.

...a little slice of heaven

### THE SIX COMMANDMENTS OF BIRCH LAKE WATER QUALITY

- I. Thou shalt prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- II. Thou shalt minimize surface runoff.
- III. Thou shalt minimize the effects of waves.
- IV. Thou shalt protect and expand Natural Shorelines.
- V. Thou shalt not allow phosphorus, nutrients, and other undesirable chemical elements to enter our lake.
- VI. Thou shalt remain informed and active about other Water Quality issues.



# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## NEW VOLUNTEERS AND A FIRST PLACE FINISH

For the past several years, Tom Cassady and Vic Jones not only set the racing buoys for us sailors, but they also stayed out during the races to serve as a rescue boat. Rick Doolittle and Buzz Rasmussen also help out as a second rescue boat when they can. Unfortunately, Tom had to step down this year.

After the first race of this season, it was brought to my attention that we needed additional help. Ideally, we will never need the rescue boat, but emergencies and accidents can happen. At the monthly meeting of the Directors for the Birch Lake Yacht Club, I announced we were looking for new volunteers to help.

After the meeting, our new Director, Tim Cole from the hill, approached me to volunteer. The next day, Tim and his wife came out to help. Ask and you shall receive. A big thank you to Tim and Chris Cole for stepping up and volunteering to help us sailors out! If only it were always this easy to find help. I also want to thank

Rick and Buzz for your continued help! Many hands make for light work.

Now for the sailing itself. The wind was good and mostly constant, so we got in the first Sunfish races and the second MC races of the year. It was a great day of sailing. On that note, I am happy to announce that our new Birch Barker Editor and long-time Camp Tannadoonah and Birch Lake staple, Amber Grundy, got her very first first-place finish in the MC class. I was told it was a very close finish, and she was smiling ear to ear. Congratulations Amber!!! Let this show to anyone who may be interested in sailing that with a little practice, patience, and perseverance, you can succeed.

~FC Bob Niezgodski

**One Final Note:** Spoke with a few sailors. With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July falling on a Friday and people possibly returning to work on Monday, we are going to host the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Regatta on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>, with Sunday, July 6<sup>th</sup> at noon, after Pancake Breakfast, serving as the backup date.



Sailboats on June 22, photo credit to Bob King



The Sunfish were color-coordinated on Sunday, all with Blue, Green, & White Sails

# BIRCH LAKE SAILING STANDINGS

## BLYC sailing results & season standings to date

Date.....	6/22.....	6/22.....	6/22.....	Total .....	Point .....	Races .....	% .....
Race.....	4 .....	5.....	6.....	Points.....	Average .....	Finished.....	Finished .....
<b>MC Scow/Sailor.....</b>				<b>Total MC Races = 6.....</b>			
Scott Troeger #1489.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	4800.....	1600.....	3.....	50.....
Bill Luecht #1579.....	2.....	4.....	1.....	4490.....	1497.....	3.....	50.....
Phil Vitale #500.....	3.....	2.....	4.....	8897.....	1483.....	6.....	100.....
Patrick Welch #1979.....	1.....	3.....	2.....	8822.....	1470.....	6.....	100.....
Amber Grundy #1173.....	4.....	1.....	3.....	8595.....	1433.....	6.....	100.....
Sandy Vitale #2159.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	3888.....	1296.....	3.....	50.....

<b>Sunfish/Sailor.....</b>				<b>Total Sunfish Races = 3.....</b>			
Rick Russwurm.....	1.....	1.....	1.....	4800.....	1600.....	3.....	100.....
Stewart Spratt .....	2.....	3.....	2.....	4486.....	1495.....	3.....	100.....
Bob Niezgodski.....	3.....	2.....	3.....	4409.....	1470.....	3.....	100.....
Bill Butler.....	DNF.....	DNS.....	DNS.....	1369.....	1369.....	0.....	0.....

### Key and Scoring Information

DNS (Did Not Sail) does not count against season score, however sailor must complete 2/3 of races to qualify for season  
DNF (Did Not Finish) or DSQ (Disqualified) scores as last place (if 5 boats started the race, you will be scored as 5th place).  
DNF, DSQ are not counted toward minimum number of races needed

CB - sailor who serves on Committee Boat receives their season average place as of that date - counted toward season total.  
Season Points are awarded on Square of 40 system (1st = 40 squared = 1600, 2nd = 39 squared, etc.)  
Season Place = total season points / number of races attempted

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# 2025 BLYC OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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*Water Quality Committee*  
Patrick Welch (S) ..... 574-536-7344  
patrick.welch2017@gmail.com



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# CAMP T CORNER

We are two thirds of the way through Super Week, and we are sure you will agree that it has been Super Hot! Highs in the upper 80's and 90's are nothing to scoff at when you are without air conditioning and spending all day in the summer sun. One of the ways that we like to beat the heat - as I'm sure is true for you as well - is to jump in the lake!

On the hottest days, we encourage as many campers as possible to go down during free swim time to cool off. We also enjoy turning on the sprinklers near our gaga ball pit to allow campers to run through them throughout the day. We give many reminders to drink water and stay hydrated, and cool showers are much more common on these days! But no matter the temperature, rain or shine, we are always able to have fun and make memories.

While Super Week itself lasts 11 days, it is also comprised of two smaller sessions: the regular week of Session 3 (the past 7 days) and Mini Week (Sunday through Wednesday). Our week-long campers leave on Saturday morning, but we will have our Mini Week campers joining us Sunday morning.

Mini Week gives campers who may be unsure about staying a whole week the chance to try things out. For this reason, Mini Week tends to have a lot of new campers. We are excited to meet them and show them the magic of Camp

T! We do still have the Super Weekers who stayed the weekend with us as well. All campers will be checked out on Wednesday morning, July 2, at which point we will break for the 4th of July holiday.

Our staff have time off from around noon on Wednesday until noon on Sunday, July 6. For the staff, it's about the midway point of the summer. Including staff training, we will have been at camp for 4½ weeks when the Super Week and Mini Week campers leave on Wednesday, and we have 5 more weeks of camp to go when we return.

Some of our camp staff will return a little earlier from their break on July 6<sup>th</sup> to join us for our 39<sup>th</sup> annual Pancake Breakfast! (This year would be the 40<sup>th</sup> if we hadn't missed 2020)

Please come join us in the Dining Hall between 8:30am and 11am for pancakes, sausage, coffee, juice, and an all-around great time. If you haven't been to camp yet this year, it would be the perfect opportunity to come check out the newly screened-in Dining Hall porch, the barn doors, and the stainless steel countertops.

The camp store will also be open as well, staffed by yours truly, so that you can grab the latest camp merchandise! The camp shirt this year is teal with yellow and orange sun rays in the shape of Michigan, and the sweatshirt is a light blue with "Camp T" written in a nature



**CAMP T**  
**ON BIRCH LAKE**  
[www.tannadoonah.org](http://www.tannadoonah.org)

font. We would love to see you there before the start of our next session.

We here at Camp T wish you an enjoyable and relaxing holiday weekend. Hopefully it turns out to be a little cooler than this past week! Stay safe and cool, and we will see you around the lake!

~Miss Meghan at Camp T



*Campers from Camp T escaping the 95° heat on Monday during their Kayaking class. Photo credit to Bob King.*

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# BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: GETZINGER FAMILY

**Editor's Note:** This season in the Barker, we plan to feature different properties on the lake each week, with historical information about the families who have lived there, photos, and stories. If you would like to submit content about your home at the lake, we will gladly accept new submissions! Please send to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com)

Hub and Dorothy Getzinger were introduced to Birch Lake when I spent a week at Camp Tannadoonah as a Camp Fire girl. They fell in love with the beauty of the lake, its setting, and proximity to South Bend. In 1956 they purchased property on the South side of the lake on the "shallow cove" four lots from the dam. Dad and my brother Dave built what would eventually become Dad and Mom's retirement home.

In the winters on the weekends Dave, myself, and some of the other kids from the shallow cove would ice skate on the lake. The water in the cove was only mid-thigh deep so it quickly froze over and dad would make sure the ice was thick enough. We would clear off an area and skate until we were so cold we couldn't skate anymore, then we would go in and sit around the fireplace and drink hot cocoa. It was eerie to hear the ice crack and echo across the lake.

In the early years Dave would race around the lake in a small speed boat he and dad built. Eventually they built a bigger boat for water skiing and we spent summers enjoying that sport.

Julie Ebling Weaver took me sailing and the bug bit me. The lake had a fleet of Snipe sailboats and I wanted one. With the help of Earl Troeger, a lake sailing enthusiast, I learned to sail. Dave and I sailed on the weekends in races on Birch, Eagle, and Diamond Lakes. There's no feeling like being in a sailboat on a run with the sound of the water against the bow and wind in the sails. Heaven! Then you have to come about, pull in the whisker pole, trim the jib, dodge the boom, and scramble to the high side of the boat to hang over the side to keep the dagger board in the water! The only rush bigger is behind a ski boat digging your ski in to fly across the wake, turn and fly back across to the other side.

Dad and Mom took a more sedate route and added a pontoon boat to their growing fleet for relaxing cruises around the lake in the evening. One summer we kids in the cove decorated it and used it in the float parade.

Not all summer activities involved water sports. On rainy days a bunch of us would gather at someone's house and play cards and board games and have popcorn and Kool-Aid. On good days we might walk up to Lanky's General Store for penny candy or minor necessities. There were no commercial entities on the lake per se, although for a time Winarski's sold pop and ice cream treats from their basement. Lankey's was the closest place for gas also. In the early days we could walk down to the public beach once a week to check out books from the Cass Library bookmobile.

Because we didn't have the ambient lights of the city, nighttime at the lake had its own spectacular views. Being on the south side, one time we got to see the Northern Lights over Camp Tannadoonah. In August, we could watch the Persied Meteor Shower. Talk about wishing on a falling star! Fireworks displays were awesome too.

If dad beeped his horn coming down the hill on Walnut Rd coming into Williamsville, where you could see the mill pond, we could hear it at the cottage. One summer we heard music coming from up the hill so Dave and I drove up to see where it was coming from. It turned out that the Evans brothers and Paul Dennert, another Birch Laker were having a jam session at their auto repair garage on Brownsville Rd. Paul was a member of *The Rivas*. Lots of lake kids were there, and it is one of the many great memories I have of Birch Lake.

When we first started spending summers at the lake, there was a year-end potluck and square dance at the Grange Hall in Jones. Eventually with the donation of land, materials, and fund raising by a lot of the lake residents, the Birch Lake Yacht Club was built. At first it was just a one-story cinder block building in the side of the hill with a dirt road. Dances were held on the weekend to the tunes of a jukebox which Bill King - as Senior Commodore - and I - as Junior Commodore - managed to scrounge up

from somewhere. The year-end potluck was now held on the lake, too.

David's daughter Lisa and my daughter Shannon also spent summers at the lake. Cards and board games were still a part of rainy days but water skiing was now behind John Ehrhardt's boat. The book mobile didn't come anymore and Lanky's was closed. Walks up the hill were now to Tom's, next door to Lanky's, for penny candy. He was also the new site for gas. Three generations built lifetime friendships and enjoyed the beauty of Birch Lake.

Eventually my stepdaughter Sherry, and her husband Bill Holleman stayed with my Mom and Dad while they built their home in the cove next to Tannadoonah, but that's a story for another day.

So in the words of Bob Hope, "thanks for the memories" Birch Lake.

*~Submitted by Gail Getzinger Schutt, former South side resident.*



*Gail's Snipe, 1961*



*Boat parade at Birch Lake, undated*

## PAUL'S PROPERTY REHAB



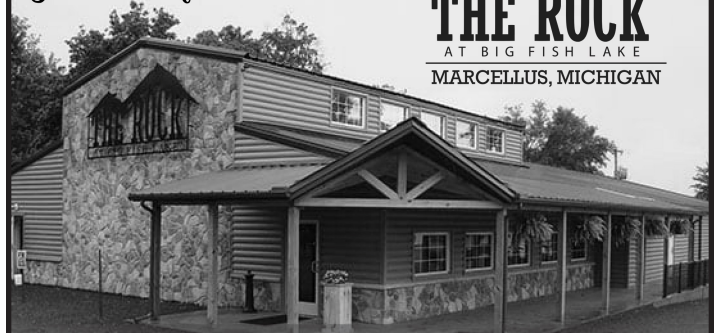
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# BLYC 65<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEN'S GOLF OUTING

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**Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)**

<sup>+</sup> Donations of door & team prizes are needed. If you have access to golf- or lake-related merchandise that could be donated, please contact John.

**ALL ENTRIES DUE BY JULY 14**

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**\$75 per man\***

Please PRINT names:

Team Captain: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Player 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Player 4: \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions? Contact John Ball (john.ball0452@gmail.com or 574-535-3736)**

*Please make checks payable to BLYC and mail to:*

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**\*Individual registrations available.**  
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# BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Jill Robinson and new lake resident, Renée Hartman, welcomed friends from back home for Ladies Who Lake. Copious amounts of cheese was consumed.




Cousins from the North Shore: Connor & Abby Caplis, Cooper & Leila Petty

A Father's Day hotdog ride with Tom, Connor & Abby Caplis

Want your kid to be a Barker kid of the week? Send your photos to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com)






## ROY'S GREENHOUSE


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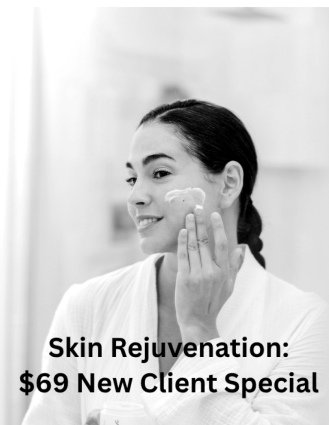
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# SUMMER RECIPES: BLT PASTA SALAD

**Ingredients:**

1lb pasta (we love mezzis rigatoni for this recipe)  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 red onion, sliced  
Kosher salt and pepper to taste  
8 slices cooked bacon, chopped  
1 pint cherry tomatoes, halved  
2 cups baby arugula

**Instructions:**

Cook pasta per package directions. Meanwhile, heat oil in medium skillet on medium. Add onion and sauté until just tender. Transfer contents of skillet to large bowl. When pasta is cooked, drain well and add to bowl with onion and 1/2 tsp each salt and pepper and toss to combine. Fold in bacon, tomatoes, and arugula. Serves 6.



Recipe and photo credit to Goodhousekeeping.com



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## SAILBOATS

**Sad Sunfish Seeking Sailors!** Our boat pines to go racing on Sundays. Please borrow the boat (rigged and ready)! It's a great way to "kick the tires" at no expense. Contact the Kings at 574-299-0705 and leave a message. **UPDATE:** I was mobbed by sailors at the Commodore's Cocktail wanting to race our Sunfish on Sundays. First guy wins, watch for 21351 on a lake near you.



*Sad Sunfish*

## WANTED

**Wanted to Buy:** Bill and Sherry Holleman are looking to get back on to Birch Lake part-time or full-time. If you are thinking about selling, please email Sherry at [dakotalynn01@aol.com](mailto:dakotalynn01@aol.com).

**Packing Materials:** If you have any boxes, newspaper, bubble wrap, etc. that you want to get rid of please drop them off at 14719 Kiloqua Woods Ln. on the front porch. Thank you! ~Claudia and Dennis Phipps

## SERVICES

**Errands Services.** Hi all! My name is Ruby Sandler, I am 16 years old and live on the North Shore. I am offering a service for the summer that includes picking up to-go order groceries from Martin's (or any other store that may offer that around this area), and bringing them back to your home. I will also be available to run errands such as taking things to Goodwill, watering plants when you are out of town, walking/checking on pets, etc. I will be available 4 days a week: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday from 9am - 4pm, excluding the week of July 26<sup>th</sup> - August 3<sup>rd</sup>. I will be available until middle of August. If anyone is interested, feel free to contact me at 574-261-0121.

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices – zippers, hemming, small alterations.  
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Classified Ads in the Barker are free to current BLYC members. The cost is \$5 per week for non members. Send your ad to [birchbarker1@gmail.com](mailto:birchbarker1@gmail.com) Deadline is Tuesday noon for the upcoming weekend's Barker.

**Sourdough Baking Class:** Have you ever wanted to learn to make sourdough bread, but found the whole process intimidating? Come to the west side for a complete class on making sourdough bread. I will walk you through each step and finish with a loaf of homemade sourdough bread to sample. Bring a container to take home sourdough starter to begin making delicious sourdough bread at home!



**When:** Friday, July 11 at 10am  
**Where:** 62769 Birch Lakeview Drive (west side, Scofield cottage)  
**RSVP:** text 574-210-5584. Text any questions to the same number!

## FOUND

Found OluKai Sandal floating in water along the west shore. Call Niezgodski's to claim. 269-476-9317



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# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

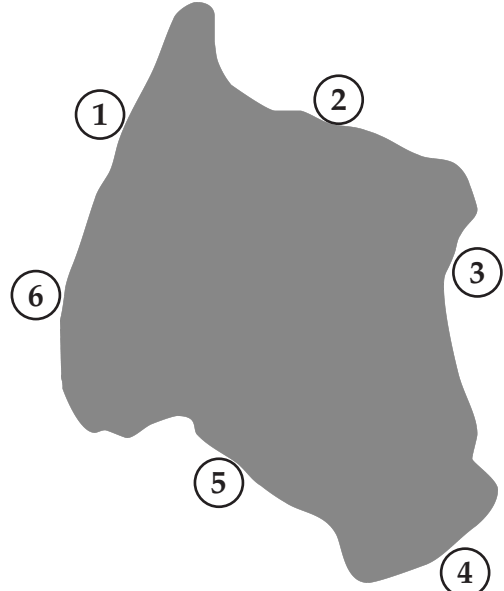
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

1. **West Shore:** Sheffieck Home  
62875 Birch Lakeview Drive
2. **North Shore:** Smitley Home  
14859 Birch Northshore Drive
3. **East Shore:** Vitale Home  
63174 Birch Road
4. **Southeast Shore:** Troeger Home  
63696 Birch Road
5. **South Shore:** Crawford Home  
15046 Birch Lakeshore Drive
6. **Southwest Shore:** DeYoung Home  
63255 Storey Hill Street

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



## AED Locations



## IN AN EMERGENCY

1. **CALL 911** and report the emergency and the patient's location
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 directions as they are given.
4. Continue to follow the instructions, and **stay with the patient until emergency personnel arrive.**

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

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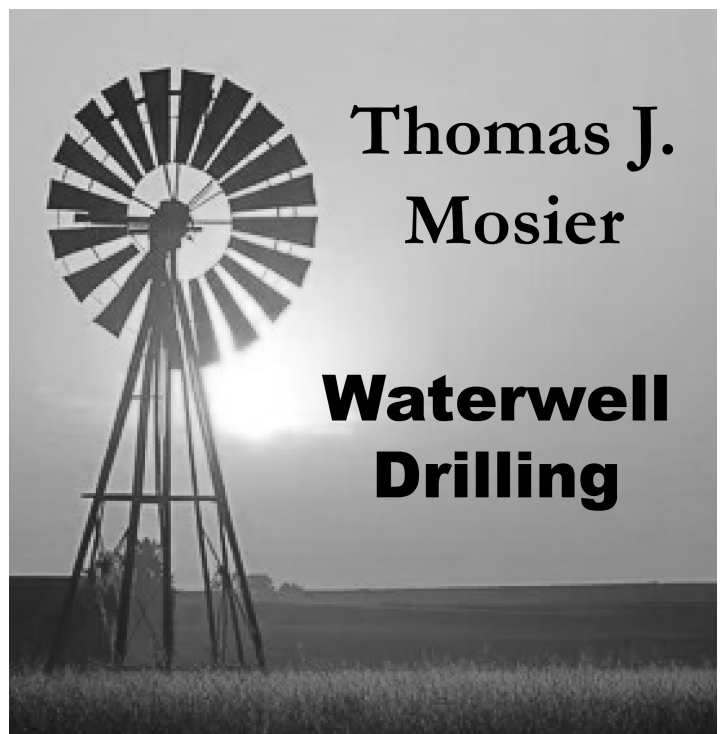
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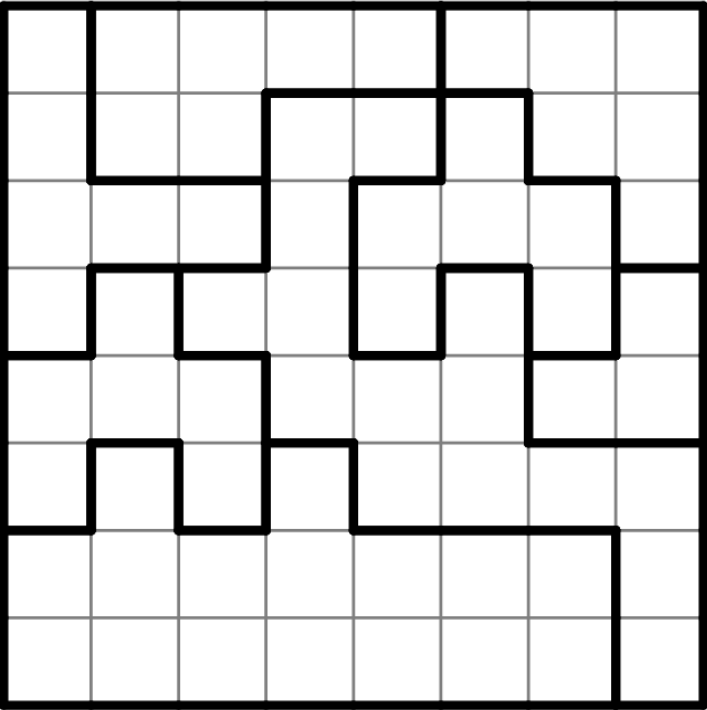
**Cell: 269-580-3246**

PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku: Challenging

		7	6		3		5	
					7			9
8			2				7	
					6	9		
1	9						2	3
		6	1					
	7				5			4
6			9					
	5		4		2	3		

Star Battle Puzzle



ACROSS

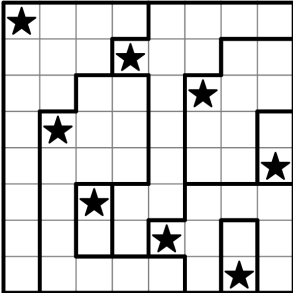
- 1) Model S maker  
6) With a cast of thousands  
10) Two-word anagram for "teas"  
14) "The \_\_\_\_" (series starring Mr. T)  
15) Mexican snack food  
16) Many a Syrian  
17) Two orange things  
20) Slip by, as time  
21) Parts of clowns' wardrobes  
22) Bygone Toyota sports car  
25) Suggestive stares  
26) Word in synagogue names  
30) Cartoon bear  
32) Alarm clocks, in the morning  
35) Linger around a store without purpose  
41) Four orange things
- 43) Metallic tests  
44) Shipment amount?  
45) In this way  
47) Some shady trees  
48) Street urchins  
53) Highly skilled  
56) Wicked  
58) Like rain on your wedding day, as per a certain song  
63) Three orange things  
66) Holiday precursors  
67) Polish, as one's skills  
68) Nimble of foot  
69) "Out," to an editor  
70) Fancy pitcher with a lip  
71) Fabricated stories

Star Battle Puzzles are also known as “Two Not Touch” Puzzles. Each puzzle is divided into 8 different regions. **Each region, row and column contains a single star.** The stars may not be adjacent to each other (not even diagonally). Check out the example below, before you try the one above!

Star Battle Puzzle: EXAMPLE



Scan for Solutions



DOWN

- 1) Break, as a horse  
2) "Too many more to mention" abbr.  
3) "... \_\_\_\_, whatever will be, will be"  
4) "Aladdin" discovery  
5) Stock up on  
6) Pilot's announcement, briefly  
7) What a mouse slides on  
8) It can lead to cooler heads  
9) Nickname for Conan O'Brien  
10) Fry just a bit over high heat  
11) Keebler's head elf  
12) Spud  
13) Immeasurable chasm  
18) Romanian currency  
19) It gives a hoot  
23) Ignited funeral heap  
24) "Citizen Kane" sled  
26) Ali \_\_\_\_ of "The Arabian Nights"  
27) Winged god of love  
28) Auto-club services  
29) Hip-swiveling Hawaiian dance  
31) Pelvic bones  
33) Boar's place  
34) Old-style prefix for "while"  
36) Make a selection  
37) Spot on a map  
38) Saw or screwdriver  
39) Cheese that comes in red wax  
40) Radioactive energy units  
42) Prepare for a photo  
46) Make sacred  
48) Performed a dishwashing chore  
49) Get \_\_\_\_ on (hurry)  
50) Drive forward  
51) "All That Jazz" director Bob  
52) \_\_\_\_ Lanka  
54) Apple or cherry treat  
55) Take the tab for all  
57) Continuous dull pain  
59) Gold-medal gymnast Korbut  
60) Ammunition for a carpenter's gun  
61) Wait at the light  
62) Average school grades  
64) About two o'clock on a compass  
65) \_\_\_\_ capita

ORANGE GROVE

By Timothy E. Parker

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20								21						
				22		23	24			25				
26	27	28	29			30			31					
32				33	34				35	36	37	38	39	40
41								42						
43							44							
					45	46				47				
48	49	50	51	52		53			54	55				
56					57				58		59	60	61	62
63							64	65						
66					67				68					
69					70				71					



BARKER FUNNIES



The moment Tillie realized that the fly she's been chasing around the kitchen for the last half hour is actually just an eye floater.

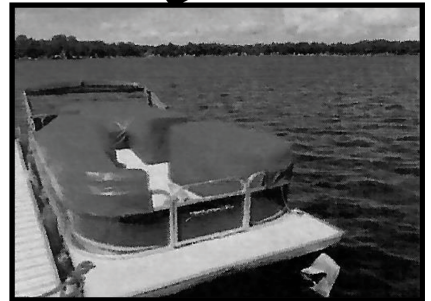
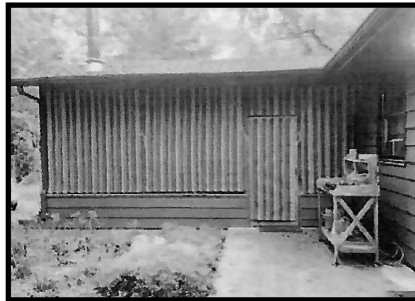


# D & M CANVAS

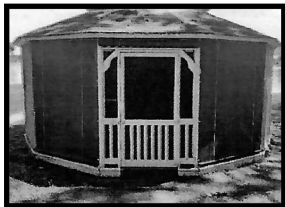
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**Jim Gills**

Director of Sales

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# BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB DUES

Support the BLYC and the entire Birch Lake Community by becoming a member!

The Birch Lake Yacht Club (BLYC) is a 501(c)(7) non profit organization

**What your BLYC dues and donations support:**

- Monitoring water quality, which helps keep Birch Lake clean, and improves our ability to respond swiftly to treat and eradicate invasive species.
- Maintaining the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) around the lake.
- Producing and distributing the printed Birch Barker every week in the summer (and online every month in the off season).
- Publication of a biennial Directory.
- Fundraising for, planning and carrying out the 4th of July Fireworks show.
- Providing a forum and means for handling lake-wide concerns with local governmental issues.
- Helping to fund and host a variety of community-building activities.



BLYC dues are NOT used to purchase alcohol for events. All events sponsored by the Yacht Club are organized by volunteers. In 2024, the BLYC Board of Directors voted to make all events revenue-neutral and to not spend any Yacht Club funds on alcoholic beverages.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ BLYC member dues (\$50 per year)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Associate member dues (\$10 per year) (non lake residents)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Water Quality donations

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Fireworks fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Homeowners Association (\$10 per year)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sailing Fees (\$15 per year)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Donations (please specify: \_\_\_\_\_)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL CONTRIBUTION

Make checks payable to:  
**BLYC**  
and mail to: **Deb Spratt, Treasurer**  
**18100 Farmington Hills Dr**  
**South Bend, IN 46637**

or pay online at  
[store.birchlakeyachtclub.com](https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com)

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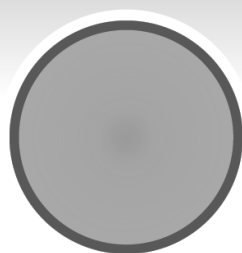
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