



# BIRCH *Barker*

vol. 77 issue 13

Weekend of  
August 16  
2025

The official publication of the Birch Lake Yacht Club

BirchLakeYachtClub.com



What a beautiful day we had for the Don Harman Kidz Regatta on Saturday, August 9!

#### FALL DINNER

Sat, Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>

Deadline to  
buy tickets is  
August 17<sup>th</sup>!

details on p. 2



## 2025

### BIRCH LAKE CALENDAR

#### August

16 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

16 - Homeowners Assoc., 10am  
(and CPR/AED refresher)

17 - Last day to buy Fall Dinner  
tickets

20 - Card Night, 7pm

23 - Fall Dinner, 5:30pm

30 & 31 Labor Day Regatta - back-  
up day on 9/1

#### September

6 - Sailing Awards, time TBD

20 - Yacht Club Board Mtg, 9am

#### October

25 - Bad Patty Crockpot  
Challenge, 6pm

#### 2025 BLYC Directors

##### Officers

Commodore: Julie Dickey (E)

Vice Comm.: Steve Frew (E)

Secretary: Mike Sheffieck (W)

Treasurer: Deb Spratt (N)

Fleet Capt: Bob Niezgodski (W)

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Liz Cover (E)

Karen Curtis-Miller (E)

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Deb Hall (C)

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Claudia Phipps (N)

Vickie Rogers (C)

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Ray Scholes (S)

Scott Troeger (E)

Phil Vitale (E)

Sandy Vitale (E)

Dan Waxman (E)

Sue Williams (S)

##### Committee Chairs

Water Quality:

Patrick Welch (S)

Homeowners Association:

Blair Garceau (E)

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Hello neighbors and friends! We have had consistently hot and humid summer weather at Birch Lake. Many of us have been enjoying the lake to get cool and refreshed. Boating, skiing, tubing, and swimming have been ways to beat the heat and have fun! We are so fortunate to have access to this beautiful lake paradise!

The Kidz Regatta gave some lucky kids a chance to experience sailing with some seasoned sailors! Fleet Captain Bob will recap this special event. Big thanks to the Caplis family for providing their home as the start and finish location. Participants also enjoyed a tasty lunch.

I encourage our lake residents to think of more activities that can involve kids in our lake community. Everyone is welcome to attend the BLYC board meetings to share their ideas.

There will be a board meeting this Saturday at 9am. It will be followed by the CPR/AED refresher during the Homeowner's Association meeting.

If you'd like to play cards, don't forget card night on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. It's a great way to have some fun and laughs with your old friends and make new friends.

The Fall Dinner at the BLYC will be happening soon. It is always a great chance to hang out with your neighbors and enjoy some good food! That also means you don't have to

cook dinner. Be there and find out who will become the next Vice Commodore and who will receive the Commodore Award! I hope to see you there in your boating or favorite watersports attire!

Once again, I read another fascinating story about the Cranmer family! Your story takes us back to the early days of Birch Lake development. Harold Cranmer has had an amazing journey at Birch Lake from his birth to present day. He has watched Birch Lake blossom and grow. Thank you Harold and his son-in-law Steve Plaia, for contributing your photos and personal memories.

I have been enjoying some outdoor park concerts this summer. The Cass County COA will be hosting the "Whistle Pigs" on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. They have been a popular and entertaining local group for many years. During the last concert at the COA, I sat with some Birch Lake friends. I would expect to see friends attending this last COA concert, as well. We come from many different places, but we are all in the same boat, we love Birch Lake!

~Commodore Julie



The 2025 Birch Barker is  
generously sponsored by Culver's.  
See ad on page 3.

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.

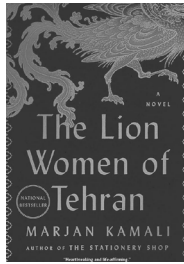
For all other BLYC matters, contact Commodore Julie Dickey at [jdjuls@aol.com](mailto:jdjuls@aol.com) or 574-220-9132.

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

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Book Club

We have two more meetings this summer: August 26<sup>th</sup>, *The Lion Women of Tehran* by Marjan Kamali at Debbie Soldato's and September 16<sup>th</sup>, *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks at Blair Garceau's. Any questions, or if you'd like to join in the fun, contact Jackie Frew: [seeitall8@gmail.com](mailto:seeitall8@gmail.com) or call/text 708-285-2999.



## In Honor of Barbara Green

The Green family will be hosting a celebration of life open house in honor of Barbara Green on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup> from 2 to 5pm at their cottage on the south side. All are welcome to stop in and visit.



## CPR / AED Refresher

On Saturday, August 16 at 10am, Birch Lakers are invited to join us at the Homeowner's Association Meeting for a refresher course on how to give CPR and operate the AEDs we have around the lake. **Please note: this is NOT a certification course**, but rather a review of basic skills. We plan for it to last about one hour.

## 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).



# ANHOY MATEYS!

## ALL ABOARD FOR THE BIRCH LAKE FALL DINNER

### BOATHOUSE PARTY INSIDE THE BLYC

## Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>

5:30 Cocktails, 6:00 Dinner  
Chicken, Pizza, Sides, and Cheesecake  
**\$25 per person**

COME AND CELEBRATE WHATEVER BOAT YOU FLOAT! AND MAKE A BIG SPLASH IN YOUR FAVORITE BIRCH LAKE AND/ OR WATER ACTIVITY ATTIRE.

Questions? Contact Steve Frew at [stephenbfrew@gmail.com](mailto:stephenbfrew@gmail.com)

Tickets available online at [birchlakeyachtclub.com](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com) (or scan the QR code below). Or mail a check payable to **BLYC** to: Deb Spratt, 18100 Farmington Hills Dr., South Bend, IN 46617

**DEADLINE TO GET YOUR TICKETS IS AUGUST 17<sup>th</sup>!**



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# ODDS AND ENDS

**GET YOUR BIRCH LAKE GEAR!** New additions: shorts, sweatpants, and tall sizes. 20% of sales will be donated to the Birch Lake Water Quality Fund.

This is our 3rd round of selling Birch Lake apparel. Previously we raised \$500.00 for the Water Quality Fund, and earlier this summer we raised \$510.00 for BLYC!

[www.promoplace.com/birch](http://www.promoplace.com/birch)  
Order Deadline: August 18, 2025  
Orders will be shipped or distributed at the lake in September.

### 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

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**THANK YOU** to all of our 2025 Barker advertisers! Please check them all out on the BLYC website and support our advertisers.



**Photos for the Phipps.** Hello Birch Lake family and friends. I am still putting together a photo album for Claudia and Dennis Phipps. I would like this photo album to include as many of us as possible. When complete, I will send it to them. Several of you brought a picture to the party but I could use lots more. If you didn't bring one to the party, please take a second and send me a photo you already have in your phone, a selfie of yourself, couples, kids and or pets to be included. You can text your pics to me at 574-876-4981. I will see to it they are printed and included. Thanks ~Patti



**FREE TREES!** Did you know that planting trees and shrubs can improve the lake's water quality? A grant from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has made it possible for Birch Lake residents to receive free trees to plant on their property. If you would like to receive free trees, you can request them by scanning the QR code below. Individual homeowners should request their own trees, but if you have questions, you can contact Blair Garceau, BLYC homeowner's association.

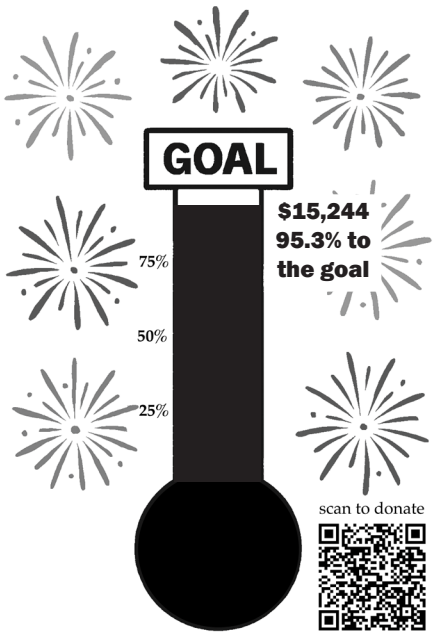


## Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2025 is \$16,000

Contribute now at

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### 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).



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# KIDZ REGATTA





# WATER QUALITY REPORT

## HYDRODYNAMICS AND THEIR IMPACTS

A field study of recreational powerboat hydrodynamics and their impacts on the water column and lakebed has just been released from the University of Minnesota, St. Anthony Falls Laboratory.

The report, long-anticipated and as a follow-up to our early-season recommendations on wake and ski boat operation, gives us answers about what is happening below the surface in our lake during boat activity. This isn't MI law (yet). But in the interest of her majesty, the lake, we appreciate your indulgence.

Spoiler alert: it's recommended that wake boats operate in 20ft of water or greater when in surfing mode to minimize impacts on the lake bottom. Also, "dock starts" are detrimental to the lake bottom in water 10ft or less.

The field-based study was motivated by a need to better understand the environmental impacts within the water column and the lakebed of different types of powerboats. The objectives:

1. Clarify the hydrodynamic phenomena created by a powerboat in motion in different water depths
2. Investigate the depth of penetration and duration of emission gases (engine exhaust bubbles)
3. Investigate the water column velocities and depth of penetration of the bow, stern and the transverse waves and their potential to resuspend lakebed sediment
4. Investigate the prop wash velocity
5. Investigate the effects of repeated boat passage in the water column
6. Capture underwater and video of the hydrodynamic phenomena and any subsequent impacts

Here's are the Cliff's Notes of the findings:

The boats were tested under two operational conditions, representative of their typical usage. For the deck and bowrider styles, this was in the displacement mode (leisure) and planing mode (cruising); for the wake boats this was semi-displacement mode (surfing) and planing mode (cruising).

The report identified three distinct hydrodynamic phenomena produced by common recreational powerboats that have the potential to impact the water



column and lakebed (pontoons were not included in the report):

**1. Bow and Stern Pressure Waves (deck boats, and runabouts):** When running with no or little wake in shallow water (10 ft or less), the bow and stern waves were found to be the primary hydrodynamic phenomena that initiates the movement of lakebed sediments but were not sufficient to cause sustained sediment resuspension. If creating a wake, sustained sediment suspension takes place in shallow waters. *Take Away: Avoid areas that are 10ft or shallower when creating a wake.*

**2. Transverse Gravity Waves (wake boats):** These are boats that make V-shaped waves behind the boat: These waves have crests that are perpendicular to the travel of direction of the boat and move at approximately the same speed as the boat, so they appear, from a passenger's perspective, to be a stationary feature of the wake. Transverse waves penetrate deep into the water column, persist for several minutes and generate velocities large enough to resuspend sediment. *Take Away: When in surf mode, operate in 20ft depth or greater (which is about 500 ft from each shore).*

**3. Propeller Wash (Prop Wash):** Shown to impact the water column for several minutes after the boat passes and, under certain modes of operation, contributed to the resuspension of sediment. It was further noted that prop wash can directly cause shearing and complete uprooting of submerged aquatic vegetation. *Take away: No dock starts and no power loading at the boat launch.*

### Summary:

If you're on your evening (or afternoon!) cocktail cruise, operate in 10ft

of water or deeper. And remember, turn left.

Skiers and tubers: start in 10-15ft water depth and please don't venture inland. Also, no dock starts (fewer splinters that way, too. You're welcome.)

Wake boats: Operate in 20ft of water or deeper (500ft from shore) when in surf mode to minimize impacts to the lake bottom. Dude, that's, like, so gnarly.

Birch Lake.

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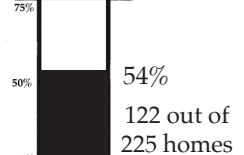
If you're interested in reading the full (very detailed!) study, you can find it here:



### Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY FUND

Our goal for 2025 is to have 75%  
of homes on the lake contribute.  
Contribute now at  
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#### GOAL



### 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.

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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER

## AN EXCITING WEEKEND OF SAILING

The winds of August pulled through once again. Sailing started Saturday this past weekend with the Kidz Regatta. A sincere thank you to all who participated and attended, and especially to the Caplis family for hosting!

The event was a big success. I heard someone counted 23 kids at one point! The wind was strong with 10+ mph winds, and we sailed three races. It made for some fun and exciting sailing. I saw many smiles on the kids' faces, and it appeared they had a great time. After the event, some of the adults were talking. There used to be several more events annually for the kids to meet up, get to know one another, and experience new things. I encourage anyone who has an idea to get the kids together and meet one another to contact the Commodore with their ideas. This is what the lake is all about.

The great wind continued on Sunday with another day of 10+ mph winds. There was a good turnout with eight MCs and six Sunfish. We had a few new sailors for the year, with new neighbor Tom Eslinger joining the MC class, and Connor Caplis sailing with the Sunfish. My cousin Max Parnell from San Diego crewed for me, and I literally showed him the ropes. All kidding aside, it was another fun day and weekend of sailing.

A few final notes on the Kidz Regatta. I want to thank all the sailors who attended and took the kids out sailing. Also, a big thanks to Bob and Leslie King for rebooting this event a few years ago. Finally, a very big thank you to Megan and Tom Caplis for hosting this event. They did a wonderful job.

~Fleet Captain Bob Niezgodski, [rjniezgodski@gmail.com](mailto:rjniezgodski@gmail.com)

PS. If any of the kids or anyone else has an interest in sailing, please let me know. I can help find a sailor to show you the ropes and maybe even help find an unused boat to borrow.

**Sunday is SAILING DAY!**  
**Races start at 11am**  
**Please steer clear**  
**of the course!**

# BIRCH LAKE SAILING SCORES

### MC Scow Standings

	10-Aug 15	10-Aug 16	10-Aug 17	Total Points	% Races Finished	Average Points	Season Rank
MC Scow / Sailor							
Scott Troeger #1489	1	1	4	22011	82	1572	1
Bill Luecht #1579	5	4	1	20467	82	1462	2
Patrick Welch #1979	4	2	5	24499	100	1441	3
Phil Vitale #500	3	5	3	21376	88	1425	4
Bob King #1199	2	3	2	7080	29	1416	5
Amber Grundy #1173	6	6	6	16679	71	1390	6
Steve Frew #676	DNS	DNS	DNS	6413	29	1283	7
Sandy Vitale #2159	7	7	7	14641	71	1220	8
Tom Eslinger #676	8	8	8	3267	18	1089	9

### Sunfish Standings

* Provisional Scores Awaiting Clarification*	3-Aug 9	3-Aug 10	3-Aug 11	Total Points	% Races Finished	Average Points	Season Rank
Sunfish Sailor							
Rick Russwurm	DNF	DNS	DNS	18359	86	1530	1
Stewart Spratt	2	1	1	20917	100	1494	2
Pete Soldato	DNS	DNS	DNS	4417	21	1472	3
Amy Troeger	DNS	DNS	DNS	7155	36	1431	4
Herb Cleveland	1	3	2	11272	57	1409	5
Bob Niezgodski	4	4	4	19269	6	1376	6
Scott Sortal	DNS	DNS	DNS	8228	43	1371	7
Jeff Walls	3	2	3	8226	43	1371	8
Bill Butler	DNS	DNS	DNS	1369	0	1369	9
Connor Caplis	5	5	5	3888	21	1296	10
Max Parnell	DNS	DNS	DNS	0	21	0	11



August 10 Sailboat Races

**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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# CAMP T CORNER

Camp 2025 has come to a close, and now we turn our attention to the fall season and our school year programs. We have a busy fall ahead!

This week we have had a rental group at camp all week. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year that we have hosted the *Village Up North* camp. They are a group from the Basilica of Saint Mary in Livonia, Michigan. Each year they rent Camp for a week to run their own program. This year they brought their largest group yet - 100 campers!

For the most part, this group provides all of their own staff and programming. This year, our kitchen manager, Mr. Conway, is running their food service, and we are providing lifeguards for the waterfront, and archery instruction. You'll likely see their canoers and kayakers out on the water in the afternoons, and their pontoon pulling tubers.

Next week we have three different rentals at camp during the week. On Tuesday night and Wednesday during the day, Corewell Health (Niles) is hosting a Wilderness Medicine training for their residents. They plan to camp out at camp (mostly in tents!) on Tuesday night, and then have a training most of the day on Wednesday. I don't know what this year's training theme is, but in the past they have done search and rescue trainings and one year they did a missing boater training in the lake. They wrap up with a late lunch on Wednesday.

Wednesday afternoon, we welcome a cross county team from *Embrace Sportz*, a non profit organization focused on encouraging sports participation in underprivileged communities. I met the founders of the program at a workshop last winter, and we talked at lunch about hosting them for a week at camp. We were excited to be able to coordinate with them to come here from Wednesday to Sunday next week! We will provide meals and some programming (lifeguards, archery, teambuilding activities), and they will also run on our property, around the lake, and at Dr. Lawless Park.

And then Thursday the Junior High students and teachers from Good Shepherd Montessori School arrive at camp for a one-night retreat. We are very familiar with the Good Shepherd students as we run their after school programs during the school year, and we're thrilled to be able to have them come to camp to open the school year with a fun bonding experience.

After next week, most of our groups and rentals at camp are on the weekends only. This fall we have a family gathering on the weekend of Labor Day, a reunion event in early September, our own Grown Up Camp event in late September, and a wedding in early October.

We're also gearing up for our before and after school programs. We currently have three sites for before and after school: Good Shepherd Montessori School, Sam



Adams Elementary in Cassopolis, and Edwardsburg Intermediate School in Edwardsburg. The starts of their school years are all different, which makes it nice for our staff. Good Shepherd starts on Monday, August 18, Sam Adams starts on Monday, August 25, and Edwardsburg starts on Tuesday, September 2. With the staggered starts, we're able to get one school up and running and figure out routines, and then move to the next school to get them off and running.

And once the school year programs get going, we start planning for next camp season all over again!

~Miss Amber

## 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).



Scan to order yours today!

[www.keepbirchlakebeautiful.com](http://www.keepbirchlakebeautiful.com)

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!

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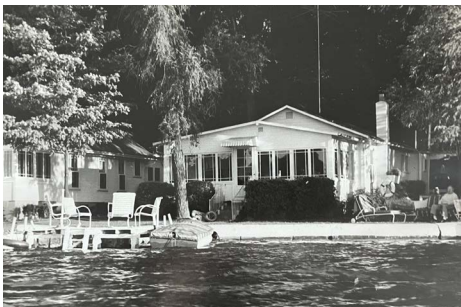
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# BIRCH LAKE HISTORY: BALL FAMILY

**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)

The Ball family's love affair with Birch Lake began in 1948 when Vernon and Genevieve Ball discovered this piece of heaven. Living close by were their two children who spent weekends here with their children. Vern even got his brothers interested in renting at Birch Lake. Today, there are two families of Vern and Genevieve's descendents, with five generations enjoying this wonderful place.



*The original Ball Cottage at S098*

When Vern passed in 1962, his son John and wife Marty purchased the cottage, and his wife and four children spent their summers here. John commuted daily to work in Elkhart.

The family enjoyed boating, yacht club activities, skiing, sailing, and entertaining friends. There were walks around the lake and trips to Lanky's. The older siblings, Cindy and John Jr., had a large group of friends who were Junior Yacht Club members. Dances and hayrides and other Junior Yacht Club activities were held with an adult chaperone to supervise. Walks around the lake as a group was often the norm.

Julie was the third of the four siblings, and remembers the juke box at the yacht club had current music playing every time there was a gathering of kids there. She remembers a few boys gar fishing at night with a large flashlight and spears. Some friends built a boat called the



*Genevieve and Vern Ball*

"American Woman" (for the popular song released in 1970 by The Guess Who).

Julie says her group of lake friends was a bit smaller than the older kids' group, which included Pete Winiarski, Tim Burchell, Steve King, Jill Tunnicliffe (Scholes), and Sue Davis (among many others!). Julie's group enjoyed going out on their own motorized fishing boats making waves and bouncing over them. They went to a lot of the Junior Yacht Club activities, too, and she did a lot of ski watching!

The youngest Ball brother, Steve, didn't have a group to hang out with, besides a couple good buddies. They all learned to slalom ski and how to sail a Sunfish. John Sr. and Marty loved to sail and even fit their best friends on the sailboat with them - four adults on a Sunfish! A few cocktails were enjoyed beforehand.



*Marty and John Sr., with their four children: Cindy, Steve, John Jr., and Julie*

As the siblings married and grandchildren came along, the family grew to 15, and a deckboat was their next boat in the early 80s. They decorated it for many boat parades over the years. The family enjoyed celebrating birthdays and playing cards together on the weekends. Extended family would visit each summer. John Sr.'s favorite place was on a lounge chair on the end of the pier with his pipe and a martini.



*Boat Parade - Celebrating 50 years at Birch Lake*



*John Sr. and Marty toasting 50 years of marriage*

The two bedroom cottage was updated with blue siding, new windows, and a deck in the mid-1990s. In 1998 the family celebrated 50 years at Birch Lake. When John Sr. passed away in 2000, his daughter Julie and her husband Tom (Lacy) purchased the cottage from her mom, Marty. Marty still enjoyed her weekend visits to the lake.



*The cottage after updates in the 1990s*

In 2016, Julie and Tom were ready to move to the lake full time from Elkhart. Her brother, John, and his wife Jennifer, were already living at the lake full time on the southeast shore with their sons. Julie's fondest memories were spent with family here at the lake every summer. She says there are just too many memories to put on paper from her 69 years at Birch Lake! Now she is sharing her love of Birch Lake with the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of Balls, their granddaughter Dezi.

*~Julie (Ball) Lacy (S098) contributed the information and photos for this story.*

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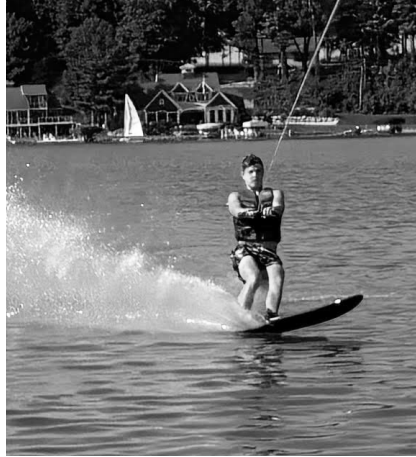
\*Not intended to solicit any properties already listed for sale with another real estate agent.



# BARKER KIDS OF THE WEEK



Some men from Birch Lake golfed at Orchard Hills Country Club in Buchanan on August 7. Left to right: Mark Caenepeel, Andy Karceski, Carl Klappauf, Gus Eshleman, Ed Levy, Steve Frew, Ray Scholes, Tom DeCocker, Ed Dierlam, Bob Bender, Dave Qualls.



Ben Hartman (new south shore resident) on slalom

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



Harrison Grundy (age 6, east shore), sporting pigtails and showing off his first missing tooth. Photo from the Camp T lake serenade in early August.



Mason Habich (age 13, west shore) got up the first time barefooting!



The Habichs (west shore) enjoyed a weekend full of watersports at Birch Lake.





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# SUMMER RECIPES: TENNESSEE ONIONS

Onions don't get the credit they deserve. They're the backbone of soups, casseroles, and pasta dishes. They're also wonderful chopped or sliced and served raw on salads, sandwiches, even burgers.

But even the most ardent onion fan has probably never heard of Tennessee Onions. This creamy, cheese casserole is so much more than the sum of its parts. Try it once, and we know you'll agree.

Learn how to make Tennessee Onions, and keep the recipe for this onion casserole handy. You'll be asked to bring it to every family gathering from now on. We aren't sure whether to call these onions a side dish or a condiment. So really, we'll treat them as both.

A scoop of these at a potluck or barbecue will be welcomed by all, but we also want to eat them on burgers, atop grilled chicken or steak, or even in between slices of bread for an onion-rich grilled cheese.

### Ingredients

- 2 ½ pounds sweet onions (about 3 large onions), sliced crosswise into ¼ inch slices and separated into rings. We strongly recommend Vidalia Onions.
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- ½ teaspoon dried oregano
- ½ teaspoon dry mustard
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ¼ cup salted butter, cut into ¼ inch thick pieces
- 4 ounces mild Cheddar cheese, shredded. About 1 cup.
- 4 ounces smoked Gouda cheese, shredded. About 1 cup.
- Cooking spray



Recipe and photo credit to SouthernLiving.com

### Instructions:

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F.
2. Coat a 9- x 13-inch baking dish with cooking spray.
3. Place the onions in a large bowl. Sprinkle with thyme, parsley, garlic salt, oregano, dry mustard, and cayenne pepper. Toss gently to coat.
4. Arrange onions evenly in the baking dish.
5. Dot butter evenly over the onions, and sprinkle with the Cheddar and Gouda cheeses.
6. Cover with aluminum foil and bake in the preheated oven until onions are soft and the sides are bubbly, approximately 40 minutes.
7. Remove the foil, and continue baking at 350°F until the top is golden brown, about 30 more minutes.
8. Serve as a side dish, or to top a hamburger, grilled chicken or steak, barbecued pork, or with toasted bread for a decadent grilled cheese.

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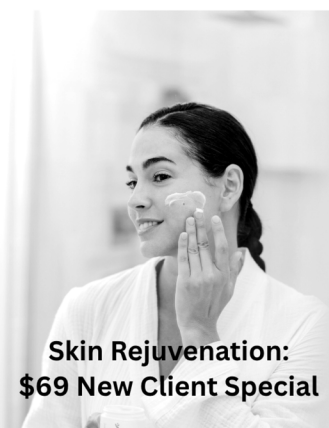
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# CLASSIFIEDS

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### 24' Pontoon Boat

24' Pontoon Boat. Great Condition. Power Bimini. Includes individual custom seat covers, Bluetooth radio. 40 HP Motor. \$8,000. Contact Gerry Temple, North Shore at (847) 767-0037.



## LOST

**LOST:** Black seat cover from our boat on the North Shore. Please contact or return to Roger Falk at (269) 217-9291.



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Reviews for this unit can be found on Amazon. Also a video of operation can be found on YouTube. \$75.00 or best offer. Call (269) 476-2383 - The Rogers

### Washer & Dryer Pair

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## FREE

### Infant / Child Life Vests and Kids Bikes:

I have a collection of youth size life vests (mostly 30-50lbs) that my kids have outgrown. Also have 3 youth size bikes that need some TLC. One is a 12", and two are 16". Two are operable as is, the 3rd needs some repairs. If anyone is in need of the life vests or the bikes, please call Amber at (574) 315-0227 or email [amber.grundy@gmail.com](mailto:amber.grundy@gmail.com).

## SERVICES

I do **sewing and mending** at fair prices – zippers, hemming, small alterations. Call Kathy at (269) 476-9317.

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.

## LAKE LOVERS' DREAM SWAP

### Birch Lake for Tahoe

Hi, my name is Laura (Toth) Koval. I grew up spending summers at Birch Lake and would love to return with my family. Looking to trade a week at Lake Tahoe, for a week at Birch Lake.

Our spacious Tahoe cabin sleeps 12 guests and is available year-round — summer sunshine, winter snow, or anything in between.

We're looking for a Birch Lake home that sleeps at least 8 for summer 2026, ideally the week of July 4th (or nearby dates).

Our Tahoe home offers easy access to hiking, beaches, and winter skiing at Heavenly Mountain. If you have ever wanted to visit Lake Tahoe this is a great opportunity!

Please email me at [laura.toth1@gmail.com](mailto:laura.toth1@gmail.com) and I can share more information and photos of our Tahoe home. Thank you!

## FOUND

We found a plastic cover plate to a Yamaha Jetski on Friday, August 8 floating in front of our West side house. Please contact Mike Sheffieck at (708) 220-1506 if it's yours.



Found turtle raft on west side last week after a windy day. Call Sue Davis (574) 883-6031.



## WANTED

**BLYC Directories** to scan. I have many of the directories, but **there is a big gap from 1980-1997**. If you have any directories from those years, please email [amber.grundy@gmail.com](mailto:amber.grundy@gmail.com). I will scan and return to you!

**Photos of Birch Lake Sailors.** Looking for photos of BLYC sailors from the 60s to create a Wall of Fame at the Yacht Club around the trophy shelf. Send photos or questions to Deb Hall a [debbershall@gmail.com](mailto:debbershall@gmail.com).



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# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

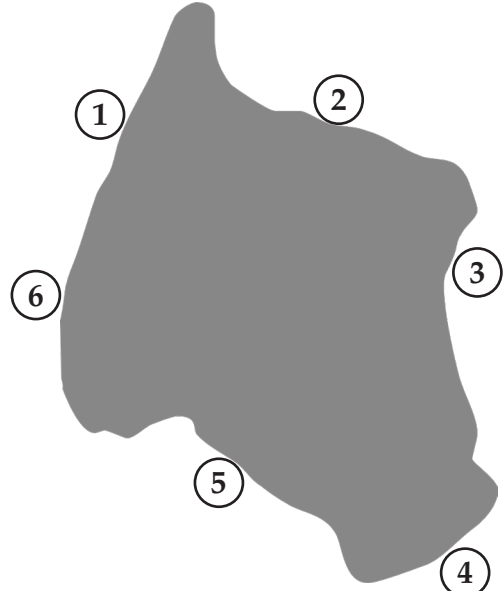
There are six (6) automated external defibrillator units (AEDs) on Birch Lake. The boxes that contain these devices are located at the following locations:

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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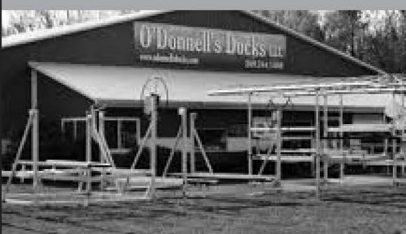
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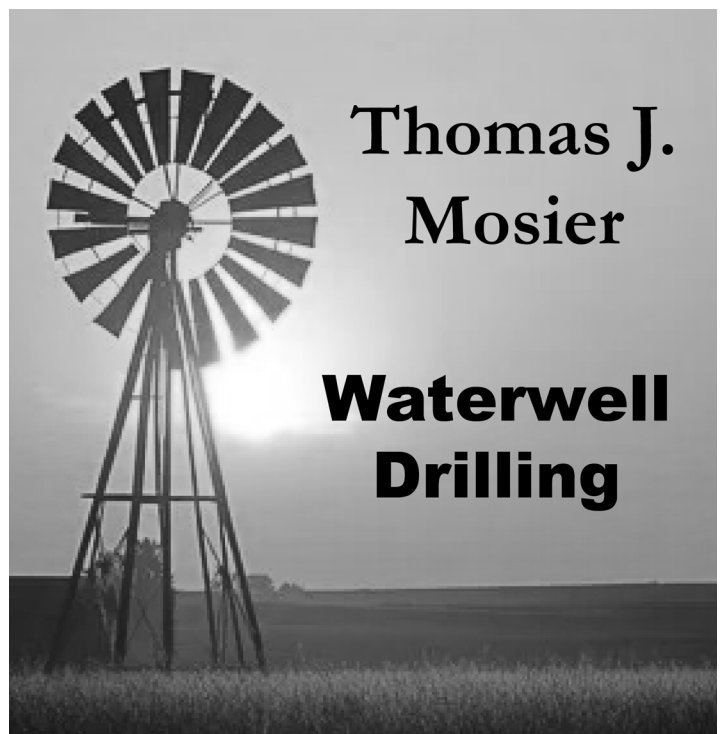
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more info -->



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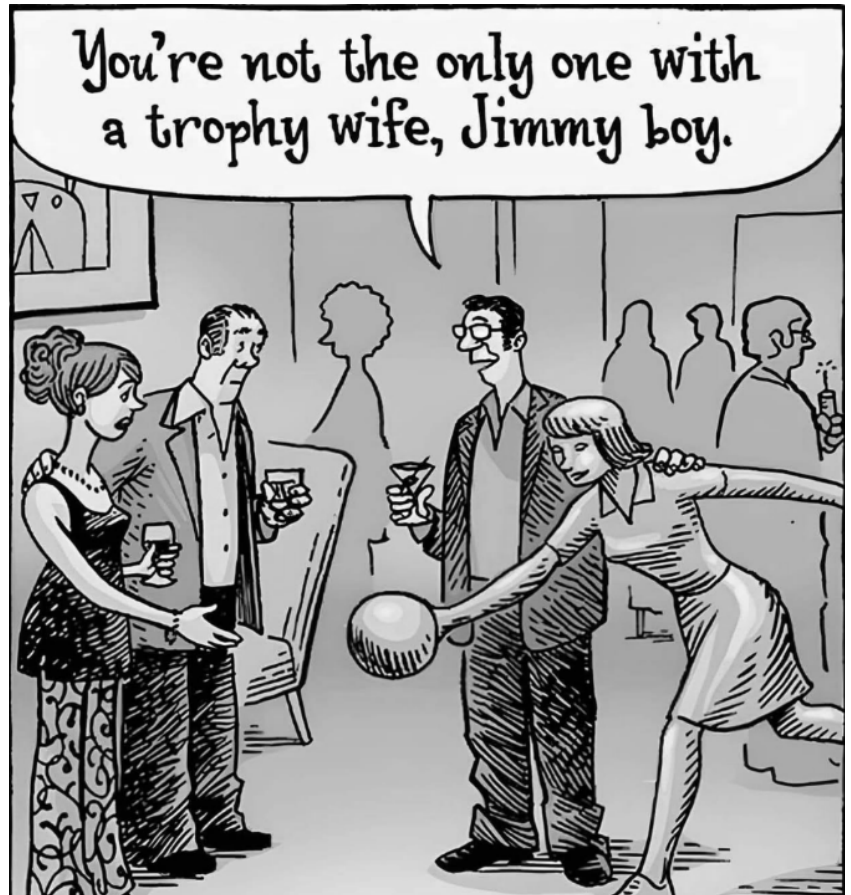
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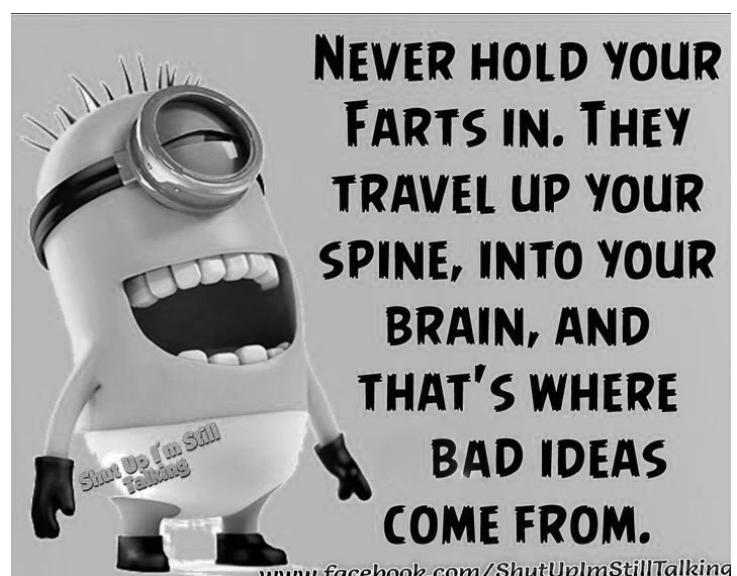
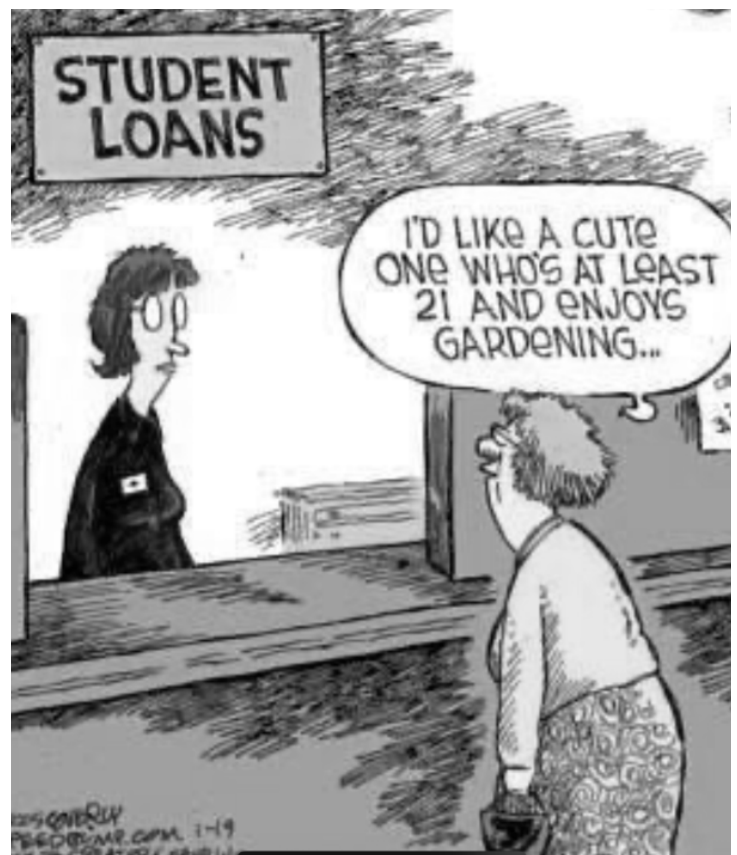
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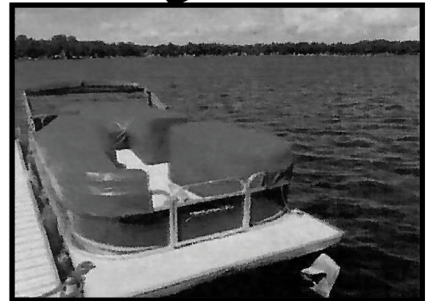
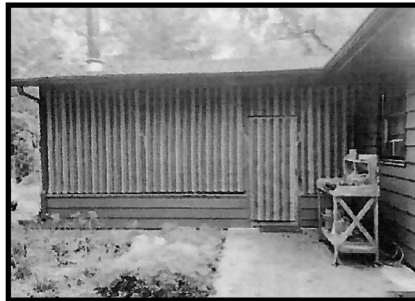


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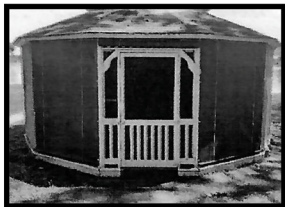
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# BIRCH LAKE YACHT CLUB DUES

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:  
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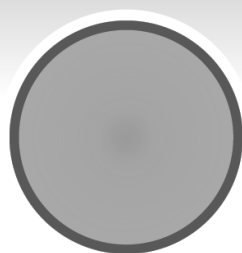
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