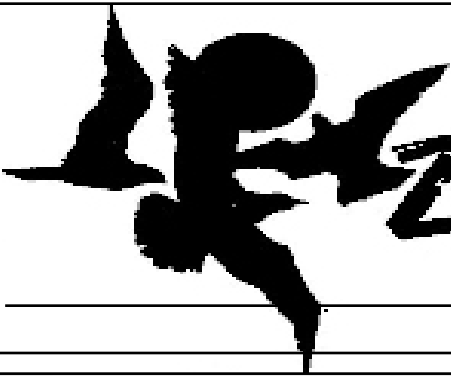


**MEMORIAL DAY** | **W E E K E N D**

**May 25, 2024**



# Birch Barker

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

The official summer publication of the  
**Birch Lake Yacht Club**



The girls of summer: Eleanor Hirons, Claire Noneman and Evelyn Hirons visiting the Dufour cottage (east side), July 4, 2023.

photo submitted by **Dave Dufor**

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

**W**elcome back! We missed you! Although the weather has been spectacular one day and miserable the next, Birch Lake is still a great place to live. We were blessed with the tornadoes of May 7 missing us completely. Not so from many of our surrounding communities. Keep them in your thoughts.

I hope everyone who attended the spring dinner at Pineview golf course had a good time. We had 74 Birch Lakers come together to share stories of their winter escapades and chat about their upcoming summer plans. The theme of "Derby Days" appeared to be a success as most of the partiers came in their best Derby attire. Tough call on the best dressed female, as all the hats were spectacular, but Di Di Wozny took the prize with her outstanding sunshine yellow bonnet, and coordinating spring dress. I was especially pleased by all the gentlemen who went along with the theme with bow ties, seersucker pants, and Jockey attire, however, Tim Burchell took the prize with his neon orange top hat, cummerbund bun, bow tie, and jacket. It was vintage Chris Ball

truth be told. Big thank you to Jill Scholes, Jen Ball, and Julie Dickey for their help with decorations.

Couple of changes to this year's yacht club event calendar. Due to lack of interest, the water safety course intended to be at our club on June 8 is canceled. The DNR website does still have openings at nearby Lakes for those who

missed the signup for ours. I can't stress enough how important it is for the safety of our families that we understand the rules of operating power watercraft. As we approach a busy Memorial Day weekend, it is our responsibility to look out for one another.

Unfortunately, and not for lack of interest, we are foregoing the kids tri-

## 2024 Birch Lake Calendar

### MAY

**May 25-26** - Memorial Day Sailboat Races, Sat/Sun, Monday as backup

**May 30** - Card night - 7 pm, BLYC, TBA

### JUNE

**June 1** - Board Meeting - 9 am, BLYC

**June 8** - Trivia night - 6:30 pm, BLYC,

**June 15** - Commodore/Vice-Comm. Stock the Bar Party - 6:30 pm, BLYC, Jimmy Buffett Tribute Night, "Margaritaville"

**June 29** - Spaghetti Dinner, 5:30-8:30 pm, Tickets required in advance, BLYC

**June 27** - Card night 7 pm, BLYC, TBA

### JULY

**July 6** - Boat Parade - Line up at 2:30 pm at Waxmans', 3pm, theme TBA

**July 6** - FIREWORKS, 10 pm

**July 6-7** - Fourth of July Regatta

**July 13** - Board Meeting - 9 am, BLYC

**July 19** - Women's Golf Outing - TBA,

**July 20** - Family Picnic, TBA

**July 25** - Card Night - 7 pm, BLYC, TBA

**July 26** - Men's Golf Outing- 8 am, Hampshire

**July 27** - Don Harman Kidz Sunfish Regatta (Tentative date), King's (north side), TBA

### AUGUST

**Aug 3** - Corn & Sausage, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC

**Aug 10** - Board Meeting 9 am, BLYC

**Aug 17** - Earl Troeger Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta, TBA

**Aug 23** - Women's Style Show and Luncheon - Woodfire Restaurant, TBA,

**Aug 24** - Fall Dinner & Annual Meeting, TBA

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

**Aug 31, Sept. 1** - Labor Day Regatta, Sat/Sun, backup Mon.

### SEPTEMBER

**Sept. 7** - Board Meeting - 9 am, BLYC

**Sept. 7** - Sailing Award Lunch, 1 pm, 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](mailto: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](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com), or at 476-1680 (no text).

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

# — Birch Lake Notes —

athlon this year. Liability insurance was cost prohibitive, and without it, the county would not block the road for just a few hours for our event. I am currently working with the family picnic chairpeople to come up with something new and exciting for our young lakereers. Ideas are welcome.

Remember, the first card night is May 30 at the yacht club at 7 pm. I have to mention any card game other than strip poker is welcomed. Very casual evening with light snacks provided. BYOB if so inclined. Games are scheduled for the last Thursday of the month. If card nights are a hit, we are also entertaining thought of an additional afternoon group.

Join us at trivia night on June 8. The event has proved to be a fun time, and we hope to see you there. You may even learn something!

The Commodore /Vice Commodore "Stock The Bar" party is coming up on June 15, with a Jimmy Buffett theme for you parrot heads. More info in upcoming barkers.

Ron Niezgodski has offered to make Barker delivery tubes for anyone who is interested in having one. If you do not have a tube or a place other than your mailbox to put the Barker, these would come in handy. The yacht club is footing the bill for this, and Ron is donating his time. Having a tube or a spot on your mailbox to receive the barker makes it much easier for the delivery people to get the paper to you. If you do not want to receive the barker or want to pick it up yourselves, arrangements can be made if you let us know.

Tickets are being sold for the spaghetti dinner that is to take place June 29. Chairpeople for this event are



## YOGA at the YACHT CLUB

Join Claudia Phipps most Thursdays (and some Saturdays) at the yacht club for Yoga ...

- \$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

## Birch Lake Yacht Club WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTIONS

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

**OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION**

**\$100.54**  
AVERAGE AMOUNT PROVIDED PER BIRCH LAKE HOUSEHOLD TO DATE (UPDATED Aug 21)

\*percentage and average based on 234 homes

TO DATE  
**12%\***

PERCENT OF BIRCH LAKES' 23 HOMES HAVE DONATED TO THE WATER QUALITY FUND

We've still got a way to go!

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

encouraging early purchase of tickets so they can gauge how much sauce to make. Remember this is a fundraiser, and proceeds will be used for yacht club renovations.

Was hoping for some historical input or cherished Birch Lake memories for inclusion in my "Commodores Comments." Our goal is to have an article each week for your enjoyment. This week in a separate Barker article, we have comments from Steve Tunnicliffe, a longtime east side resident.

Lastly, there was a reported theft of a boat trailer blatantly hitched up and removed from one of our neighbor's parking lot. The homeowner is following up with the sheriff on leads they have on the culprits. I'd like to think Birch Lake is immune to this sort of thing, but not so. Let's all be aware of our surroundings and be wary of people and things out of the ordinary happening around us.

In closing, "May the memories remain and the view stay the same" on our golden Pond

~Commodore Sue Davis

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Grab your friends/neighbors/family and come to the third annual Trivia Night at the Birch Lake Yacht Club. Last year's event was a huge success - don't miss out on the fun! You can either form your own team or just come individually and we'll get you on a team. Teams can be anywhere from one to eight people.

*Trivia night info*

**WHEN:** Saturday, June 8; Doors open @ 6:30 - Trivia begins PROMPTLY @ 7 pm  
**WHERE:** Yacht Club

## Birch Lake Yacht Club FIREWORKS FUND

Our goal for 2024 is  
**\$17,500**

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



**BRING:** your own drinks, dish to share (either appetizer or dessert), paper and pen, wallet (for 50-50 raffle and to buy mulligans - good for free answers)

**QUESTIONS** - contact Blair Garceau 269-476-9862 or Sue Williams 574-298-2839. Hope to see you there!

## Boat Parade theme

Dan Waxman, chairman of the annual Birch Lake Boat Parade scheduled for July 6 this year, has announced that the theme for this year's parade will be "Favorite Movie."

Put on your thinking caps and start planning your entry now!

## Boat launch parking permit

This year anyone who parks at the boat launch will need an annual pass sticker from the Cass County Parks. Costs are \$15 for county residents and \$30 for non-residents. Anyone can still use the launch, but if you want to park, an annual pass will be required. Passes can be obtained from the Cass County Parks office in Cassopolis, or pick up an envelope at Dr. Lawless entrance and send in your payment. This pass is good

## 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 any social media, the information has not been provided, checked or approved by the BLYC, and may be incorrect or misleading. If you have questions or concerns, please check <http://www.philviale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>, or contact any BLYC director or officer (see "officer and director" information in any edition of the Barker).

# — Birch Lake Notes —

for parking at all the Cass County parks.

## ~BL Home Owners Association

### Spaghetti Dinner June 29

The spaghetti dinner this year will be on June 29. Please come and join your fellow Birch Lake neighbors at the Yacht Club from 5:30 until 8 pm, for an "Authentic" Italian spaghetti dinner.

We will be serving regular and gluten-free spaghetti with the world-famous Niezgodski red marinara sauce and the super-rich Plaia Alfredo sauce, along with Italian meatballs and a freshly made tossed salad accompanied by Italian bread and butter and delicious homemade desserts. Water, iced tea and lemonade will be provided. Feel free to bring a bottle of vino to round out your dining experience. Carry-out will be available.

Members of the Spaghetti Committee will be walking around the lake, Memorial weekend, after sailing selling tickets. Adult tickets (11 & up) are \$10, children (5-10) \$6, little ones (4 & under) free. Tickets can also be purchased from Vickie Rogers (Cove) 269-476-2383, Leslie King (North shore) 574-276-9996, Cam Butler (West shore) 574-596-1066, Sue Williams (South shore) 574-298-2839 or Blair Garceau (East shore) - 574-261-9817.

Please make sure to purchase your tickets before June 24; **tickets WILL NOT be sold at the door.** Proceeds from the sale of the tickets will go to the Birch Lake Yacht Club building improvement fund. There will be a 50/50 raffle with proceeds going to Water Quality. Looking forward to sharing a meal with all of our lake neighbors and their guests.

The Spaghetti Dinner Committee would like to thank the following individuals for their generosity and time. Without their help the Annual Spaghetti Dinner would not be a success:

Ron, Kathy & Bob Niezgodski - Consultants and door ticket takers Tom Kuhn & Jan Temple - donating the regular and gluten free spaghetti; Greg Bolin and Steve Plaia - Spaghetti cooks; Dan Waxman - Donating the Italian bread, butter and dish washer/clean-up; Jim Calderwood- Bread server; Carla Chester - dessert maker &; dessert

server; Amber Gundy, Camp Tannadoonah - Use of kitchen; Lynn & Marc Caenepeel and Deb &; Bud Hall - Donating salad fixings and salad table servers; Debbie &; Carmen Soldato - Donating drinks; Steve Plaia &; Karen Brovold - Donating Alfredo sauce and clean-up; Peggy Geik - dessert maker; Julie &; Mike Sheffieck - cookie maker, and set-up; Cindy &; Kevin Bernaciak - 50/50 raffle; Jennifer &; John Ball - dinner servers; Bruce Wagner - Parmesan cheese server; Claudia Phipps - dessert chairperson; Bill Butler - set-up and clean-up; Vickie Rogers, Leslie King, Cam Butler, Blair Garceau &; Sue Williams - ticket sales; Stacia Andriano &; Cam Butler- donating supplies; Andy &; Lori Snider - serving and clean-up; David &; Terry Carroll - serving; Holly Troeger - serving; Paramount Properties, Inc. from Rick and Patti Russwurm - Cash donation

We are looking for donations and help for the dinner. If you would like to volunteer, contact Stacia Andriano @ 260-710-5883, Karen Brovold @ 269-362-3150 or Cam Butler @ 574-596-1066.

GRAZIE MILLE, from the  
~The Spaghetti Dinner Committee

### Ladies weekly golf

Ladies weekly golf has started. 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 (476-9862).

### 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 send her an email at [sv6102@gmail.com](mailto:sv6102@gmail.com).

### Oh rats ... at Birch Lake?

For some reason several rats have been seen in the last two weeks at Birch Lake (and one has been seen squashed in the road on the east side). In the interest of safety, here are some things you can do if you see a rat:

- Keep children and pets away: Keep

the rat away from children and pets.

- Use poison or traps: If you use poison wear protective clothing and put the poison in places other animal can't access; humane traps can help catch rats without killing them.
- Remove food sources: Rats move to areas with food, water and shelter.
- Store food in airtight containers.
- Use repellents: Try peppermint oil, hot pepper flakes, garlic, clove oil, ammonia, or instant potatoes.
- Clean the area: Clean thoroughly, especially if you've seen droppings.
- Close entry points: Rats can enter through small gaps in walls, foundations, and basements.
- Get a cat: Cats are natural enemies of rats and can deter them from seeking shelter in your home.

### Theft Alert!

We have been notified of two thefts in the area in recent days; a pontoon boat trailer was stolen from the Cove, and a pickup truck was stolen from the driveway of the farm south of the lake. During the holiday weekend be especially alert, safeguard your belongs, lock your house and car, and don't leave items lying outside. If you see suspicious activity, contact the Cass County Sheriff's Department at (269) 445-3877. In case of an emergency dial 911.

### This is the first printed Barker

This is the first printed Birch Barker of the season, and the 24th year for which I have had the privilege of serving as your editor.

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

As in previous years, **the deadline for submitting materials is noon on Tuesday of the week before publication.** Materials can be emailed to me at [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com) or [sailorphil@philvital.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvital.com) (both work), or put in my mailbox at 63174 Birch Rd. (if you want materials back, include a self-addressed, stamped envelope). I DO NOT accept text submissions.

Advertising rates are at <https://www.philvital.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>. To buy an ad or for more info, contact me by email or at 476-1680.

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# — BLYC SPRING DINNER —



## KENTUCKY DERBY

Photos by Jill Sholes and Bud Hall



# — Water Quality Report —

## Start by seeing the bottom

**W**ho doesn't enjoy a lap around the lake and seeing the bottom through crystal clear water? That's one of the many qualities of Birch Lake that most other lakes in our area simply can't offer. Known as one of the cleanest lakes in the lower peninsula, Birch Lake is unique in its natural beauty, depth, and spring fed water quality which is ultimately reflected in its ever-increasing property values. Your Water Quality Committee wants to keep it that way.

This year, the committee will be submitting articles to the Barker that not only educate but analyze things like water transparency, chlorophyll-a testing, phosphors testing and oxygen levels – all important trends that impact our lake. We'll do that using data from the Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (CLMP), an agency sponsored by the State of Michigan and Michigan State University. Look for the State of The Lake article coming soon.

Other important topics this year will include an update on two peren-

nial menaces of the lake: Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, which were found last year (again). These exotic aquatic plants are on the most wanted list to contain and/or eliminate. You'll learn about our efforts to do just that and how we are constantly on the lookout for two other nasty weeds: starry stonewort and hydrilla which haven't shown their ugly leaves yet. Constant monitoring and lake-friendly treatment have kept them at bay so far.

We'll also be discussing topics that we do have some control over. Things like lake-friendly seawalls, farm and surrounding area fertilizer runoff, our testing procedures, the fish stocking program being studied by the DNR, even helpful suggestions to responsibly operate wake boats on Michigan's inland lakes – information from the Fisheries Division we'll share to hopefully minimize any damage to the lake bottom or shoreline.

Finally, we'll continually ask for 100 percent participation of the lake community to donate to the Water Quality/Invasive Species Fund. To



donate, go to [birchlakeyachtclub.com](http://birchlakeyachtclub.com) and follow the links. Without your help, our beautiful lake could degrade quickly. So please, donate to the fund. We'll do the testing, the treatment and the education – we need you to do the funding.

Birch Lake is a precious part of our lives and your Water Quality Committee intends to keep it that way. Remember, to have a top tier lake in the state, you must start by seeing the bottom.



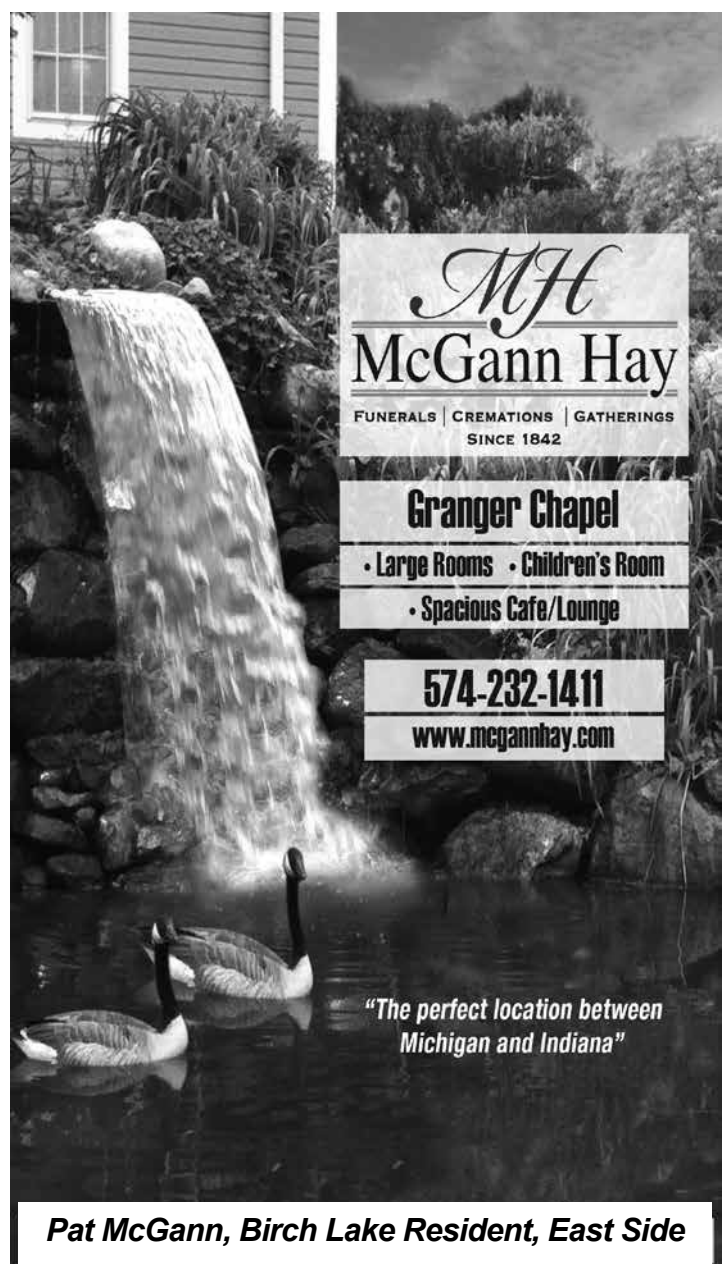
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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## Practice makes perfect

With the Earl Troeger Memorial Interlake MC Regatta scheduled for Saturday, August 18, the Birch Lake sailors wanted to make sure we will be prepared to welcome off-lake guests and their boats at the public launch, and to safely, quickly and efficiently get their boats past the electric lines, masts raised, and boats launched. Several of us raced last year at the Corey Lake Regatta, and learned that a tractor is far more agile and faster than a car or truck for this purpose.

So last Saturday afternoon before the Spring Dinner, Ben Wozniak generously volunteered his time and his tractor, and the sailors pitched in to get the job done. In less than 2 hours, masts were raised on 3 MC's boats launched, and with the experience gained, we should be able to process more boats even faster on August 17. Thank you, Ben!!!

We will need even more volunteers on

August 18. Raising masts can be tricky and can require up to five people per boat, as depicted below. We'd like to be able to raise more than one mast at a time. No experience is needed, and both sailors and non-sailors are welcome, so if you would like to help, just let us know! Thank you!

~F.C. Steve

*Below, left: Ben Wozniak parks an MC safely past the electric lines.*

*Below: Scott Troeger, Tom and Barb Cassady, Vic Jones, and Patrick Welch, with Pat's MC.*

*Right: Bill Luecht, Phil Vitale, Barb Cassady, Bob Niezgodski, and Scott Troeger raise Steve's mast.*



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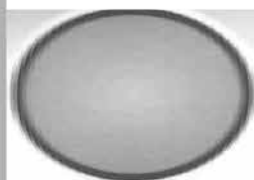
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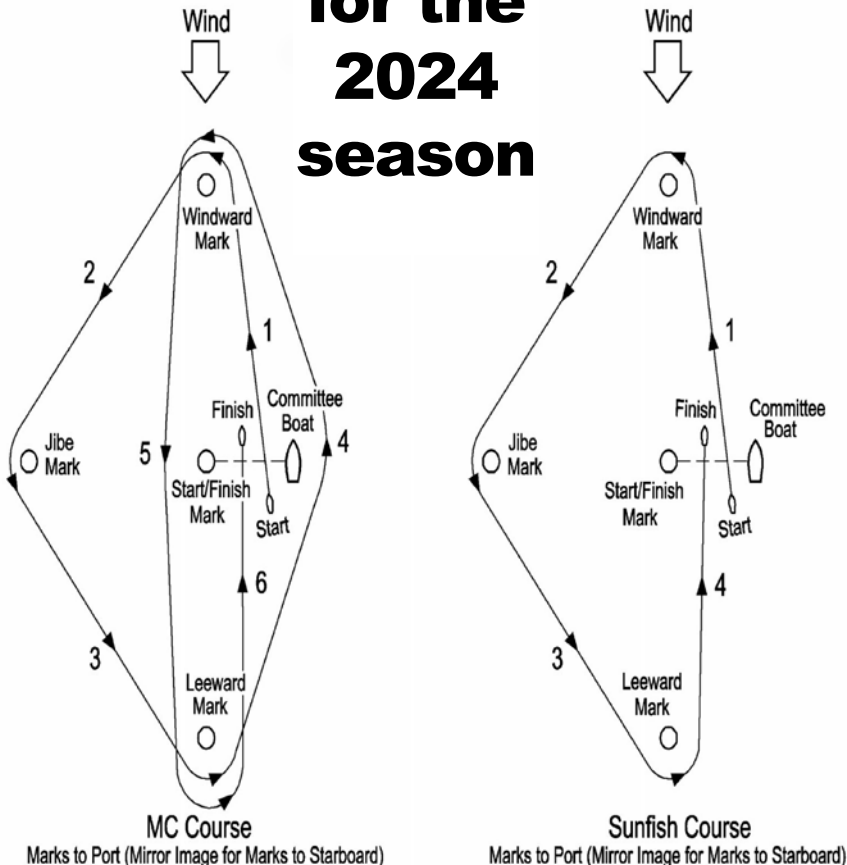
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# BIRCH LAKE SAILING



## BLYC sailing courses for MC and Sunfish for the 2024 season



### Earl Troeger, Jr. Memorial MC Interlake Regatta

BLYC is very excited to host a Five Lakes (Birch, Corey, Diamond, Eagle, and Indian) MC Sailboat Regatta Saturday, August 17. We will be launching sailboats at the public launch from approximately 7:30 – 10 a.m. and will bring boats out at the launch from 3 – 6 pm. We hope to have up to 25 off-lake sailors competing. The approximate time on the lake sailing will be 10:30 – 2:30 pm, depending on weather.

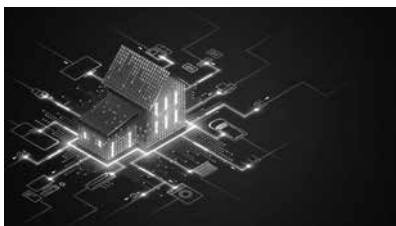
Please avoid boating, other than spectator boats, during this time if at all possible. We look forward to showing the off-lake sailors our Birch Lake hospitality and sharing our beautiful lake for this one day. Thank you in advance for helping us achieve that goal. For more information contact Barb Cassady at barbcassady49@gmail.com

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OF THE COURSE**

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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



Above: Congratulations to Liz Hall for getting her degree from Southern New Hampshire University in May. Proud parents are Deb and Bud Hall (cove).  
photo provided by **Bud Hall**

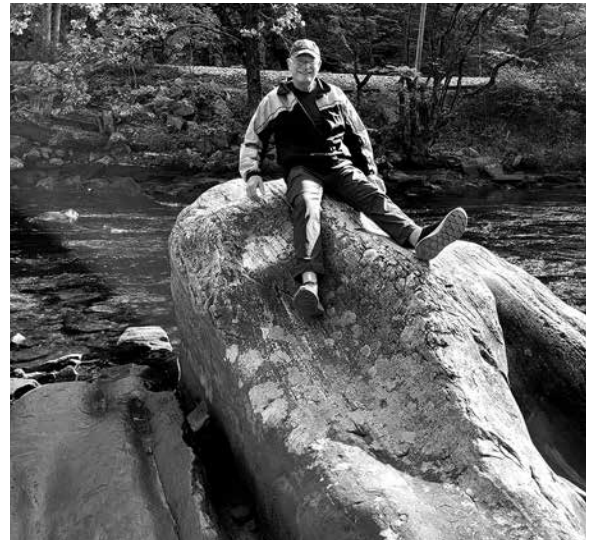


Left: That's our grandson, **Dominic Vitale-Richards**, looking "stylin" and getting ready to head to his Junior Prom at Riley High School.

photo by **Erica Vitale**

## 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](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) or [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com)  
No texts, I don't do phones.



Right: This just in: Indiana man has discovered a Big Rock by the Nantahala River! Indiana man is reportedly very excited!  
It's **Bill Luecht** (east side).

photo provided by **Katie Luecht**

Left: Vacationing in Tennessee last month, Rick & Patti Russwurm (north side) were visited by a black bear during happy hour. Patti shot a couple pix when they got inside ...

photo by **The PattiCam**



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# — Birch Lake Memories —

by **Steve Tunncliffe**

My family's love affair with Birch Lake began nearly 90 years ago and continues to this day. It's an understatement to say I was fortunate to grow up spending each of my summers at Birch from 1955 until 1969 when college came calling.

The day school was out in Ohio we moved to our cottage on the NE side named Wit's End. In those days nearly every cottage had a name. We stayed until the last minute of summer, returning with only enough time to buy new Levis for the upcoming school year.

I often say I had an idyllic "Tom Sawyer like" childhood and the Birch Lake experiences, adventures, and memories that lend credence to that statement have resided with me through the decades. It's difficult to believe these memories go back nearly 70 years...some seem like yesterday.

So here we go with a few memories, in random order.....

- At a very young age "going exploring" by learning to row a boat while it was tethered to the pier. We were small enough then that two of us sat side by side on the middle seat, each manning one oar.

- Going so often to the ice cream parlor in the lower level of Lazy Lodge that I became the only kid I knew who didn't like ice cream anymore.

- Playing, at various times, baseball, football, golf and Frisbee in a large field behind Lazy Lodge, and then cooling off with water from a pump we had to prime to get started. We all drank from a tin cup hanging from the pump ... best tasting water I have had to this day.

- Walking everywhere barefooted. Everywhere. Even completely around the lake, which became an almost nightly event. Even the two miles up to "Billyville" for penny candy from Lanky when it was so hot on the road you had to walk on the white line which was just cool enough not to burn your feet.

- Picking wild raspberries and trying to sell what we didn't eat to get some money for that penny candy.

- There is still nothing as tasty as a fully ripe mulberry.

- Learning NOT to stand barefoot too near the electric prod you pushed into the ground to bring the night crawlers out for bait.

- Fishing with really long bamboo poles.
- Sleeping on the ground under a simple canvas tarp staked out over a rope between two trees deep in the woods behind the cottage. We called it a tent.

- Using car wax to polish the inside of large clam shells to sell as ash trays. Surprisingly profitable as everyone smoked back then.

- Liberating apples from the trees in an orchard along Harvey street behind Tannadoonah (still barefooted).

- Sitting on the front deck of rowboats and jumping in to catch turtles and eventually collecting a \$1 prize for first place in the turtle race at an annual festival in Jones.

- Playing king of the raft.

- Covering ourselves in baby oil and laying in the sun for hours to get tan (who knew back then) and rubbing lemon juice in our hair to help the sun bleach it out. It was, after all, the era of the Beach Boys.

- Diving off the dock and seeing who could go the furthest underwater. When we tired of that we stacked benches at the end of the dock and ran the full length to see how many we could dive over.

- My mother told me she swam across Birch at age 16 and I felt I had to beat that so I swam across and back at 15 with my father rowing in front as my safety boat.

- Landing the ultimate job for a teenage boy...handyman at the all girls Camp Kiloqua, then discovering the campers were too young and the counselors too old to preclude any imagined summer romances.

For many years we didn't have a telephone or a TV; and I never missed them. I hope the young "lakers" today will put down their screens long enough to make similar memories. I can assure them it's worth it.

## 2024/25 BLYC Directory

We are planning to produce a new Birch Lake Directory this year. If you have new listings, changes, corrections or updates, send them to Deb Spratt via email at [debspratt@comcast.net](mailto:debspratt@comcast.net) or to me at [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com), and we'll do our best to get them included.

Please use this format to provide the information.

**Cottage # (if known)**

**Last name, first name(s)**

**Lake address**

**Phone #(s)**

**Email address(es)**

**Children(s) names**



### The Moon this Week

(At Midnight, US Central time, viewed from the Birch Lake)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.852

3.2 days after full moon

### Sun and Moon This Week

Sunrise: 06:11:54 am

Sunset: 21:07:12 pm

Moonrise: 23:55:36 pm

Moonset: 07:19:11 am

Hours of Daylight:  
14 Hr 55 Min 18 Sec



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# Birch Lake Items of Interests

We're still trying to figure out whether Bernie Garceau (east side) was doing gymnastics on his boat lift or whether he was just balancing out there (fully dressed) because he was too lazy to put on waders and it was too cold to get in the water.



The Post Office has warned us that delivery of any items that do not have postage to mailboxes is illegal, and that if we continue using mail boxes, we will be fined. The delivery team has been instructed to NOT deliver in or on mailboxes, but to find an alternative. Pictured is one of the alternatives ... If you would like to arrange an alternative, contact Ron Niezgodski at 476-9317 or email birchbass1@gmail.com .

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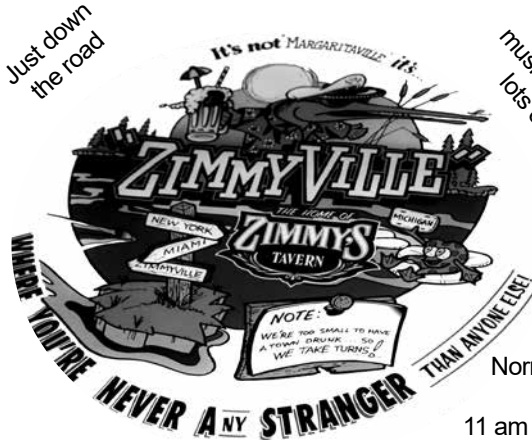
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# Birch Barker Funnies



I tried donating blood...  
**NEVER AGAIN!!!**  
 Too many stupid questions!  
 Whose blood is it?  
 Where did you get it from?  
 Why is it in a bucket?

My husband is mad that I have no sense of direction.  
 So I packed up my stuff and right.

If money is the root of all evil,  
 why do they ask for it at church?



**President Lincoln was approached by a woman after a political speech... If you were my husband I would poison your tea. Lincoln replied...if you are my wife I'll gladly drink it.**

**My grandfather has the heart of a lion and a lifetime ban at the zoo.**

DEPARTURES			
Time	Destination	Flight	Information
09:30	Tatooine	R2D2	On Time
10:15	Kamino	BOBA	Delayed
Delayed a long, long time in a galaxy far, far away			
11:20	Hoth	C3PO	Delayed
Awaiting clearance of snow from runway at destination			
11:40	Jakku	B88	Delayed
Flights to Jakku are delayed due to sand storms			
12:35	Takadona	FN-2187	On Time
14:00	Kashyyyk	WOOK1E	Gate Open
Extra security at gate. All crossbows must be checked in			
15:15	Endor	WICKET	On Time
16:05	Alderaan	LE1A	Cancelled
18:20	Kessel	HANS010	Next info 25/05/18
Aircraft change. Flight duration now less than 12 parsecs			
19:45	Death Star	TIE-11382	Gate Open
Allow extra time for boarding ... possibly a trap			

**Heathrow**  
 May The 4th Be With You 8:59



# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



*Provided Exclusively to the Birch Barker from Mrs. Ima Foodnudge*

## Stuffed Jalapeno Firecrackers

**T**his recipe came about after years of competition with family and friends over the perfect stuffed jalapeno.

*Bring your tissues because these are HOT!  
Goes well with Beer!*

*Prep Time: 15 mins*

*Cook Time: 20 mins*

*Total Time: 35 mins*

*Servings: 8*

*Yield: 24 stuffed jalapenos*

### **Ingredients**

12 jalapeno peppers, halved lengthwise  
1 (8 ounce) package cream cheese, softened  
Cajun seasoning, or to taste  
12 slices jalapeno bacon, cut in half  
toothpicks

### **Directions**

Preheat the oven's broiler and set the oven rack about 6 inches from the heat source.

Fill the jalapeno peppers with cream cheese. Sprinkle the Cajun seasoning on top, then wrap each stuffed jalapeno with a slice of bacon. Secure with a toothpick. Arrange the wrapped jalapeno peppers in a single layer, face down on a broiler rack.

Broil in the preheated oven until the bacon becomes crisp, 8 to 15 minutes on each side.



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# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Start of a new year at camp

It's the start of another summer at the lake, and with it the beginning of another summer of camp. This summer is the 19th summer since I accepted the job of Camp Director for the 2006 season. We've seen so many changes at camp in those 19 years.

This winter we had several very exciting projects happening at camp. We created a new entrance into camp off of Harvey St, which will serve as the main entrance on Sundays during check in, and Saturdays during check out. Traffic will come in the new gate, into the sports field to park, and then exit through the old driveway. This will alleviate a lot of the difficulties with traffic on Harvey St during our check in and check out times, and will make it a lot easier for families to get in and out of camp.

We also tore down four cabins that were built in the 1930s and constructed four brand new buildings in their place. Rotary, Exchange, Exchangettes, and Luta Koda were four of the original cabins that were built in the late 30s when camp moved to Birch Lake. They housed up to 10 campers and 2-3 staff, and we called them the "adventure cabins" because they were quite primitive.

The new buildings are in the same basic locations as the old adventure cabins, but are raised up off the ground and

have a large deck connecting each pair of buildings to provide space for campers to hang out, play cards, and talk to friends. The new cabins are named Sassafras, Tamarack, Firefly, and Lotus. The new cabins give us 16 additional beds in camp each week. They will be finished next week, just in time for the start of our season!

We're about 3 weeks away from the start of camp, and we currently 996 campers registered for the summer, with a goal of 1200 for the year. Our staff have already started arriving, and this week our leadership team is at camp preparing for the arrival of the rest of the staff.

The leadership team consists of our Camp Director (Gabby), two head counselors, the waterfront director, and the kitchen manager. In addition, we have a new assistant camp director this year, but she will be arriving a little late, after she wraps up a year of teaching in London. Meghan will be joining our year-round team, as assistant camp director in the summer, and the program lead at one of our After School programs during the school year.

On Sunday (Memorial Day weekend), the rest of our staff will arrive for two weeks of staff training before the first group of campers come on June



9. This year we have 14 staff members traveling from overseas to be a part of our camp team! They are from India (2), France (2), Scotland (1), Ireland (1), Nigeria (1), Colombia (3), Mexico (1), and Great Britain (3). We also have staff and volunteers from 9 different US states. It's exciting to be able to bring such a diverse group of counselors to camp to work with our campers!

We'd like to give a big thank you to Tom Mosier, who donates his time every spring to inspect our wells, make any necessary repairs, and chlorinate the wells before we do our water tests. Thank you, Tom, for helping us get camp ready to open each year!

## Considering selling your lake home or property?

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

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## FOR SALE

For sale: **boat lift for tri-hull pontoon** 22-24 feet. Like new, asking \$6500. Contact J. Habich, 269-476-9726.

For sale: **Tall water slide.** Very sturdy. 10' x 23" wide. Please call 269-476-9726

## WANTED TO BUY

Old five gallon gasoline cans. Not the newer kind with all the crap "safety features," but the old kind. Looking for three. Contact Stewart, north shore, 574.514.0667.

## FOUND:

Found: **Turtle board** washed up on the south side just east of the yacht club. Call Chris Stevens

@ 317-771-8531.

## SERVICES:

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

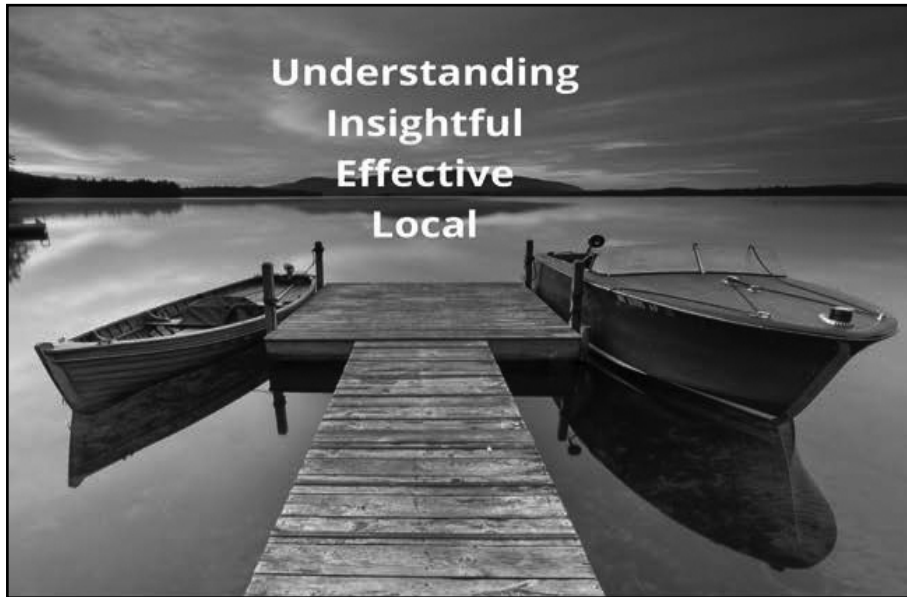
## HELP WANTED:

### Barker delivery person needed.

The Birch Barker is in need of a person to delivery about 35 printed Barkers per week for 15 weeks this summer (from now through Labor Day) on the south side of Birch Lake (from approximately the Yacht Club to the turnaround). If you can help, contact Ron Niezgodski at 574-532-6710 or email birchbass1@gmail.com

**Editor for the Birch Barker.** We're still looking for someone to take on the job of being the editor of both editions (the online and printed) of the Birch Barkers in case the editor retires or dies (I'm not going to live forever, you know). You can take it all at once or you can start easy by taking on the responsibilities for the Online Barker (all you need is a basic knowledge of how websites work, and a minimal grasp of html code, web page production software and FTP software for the online Barker, and a familiarity with publishing software for the printed Barker. Training can be provided if required (and if I'm still alive).

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# HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

## Tip No 1: DIMMIT, please!

*With all the artificial lights on at night it's hard to see the lake and the stars anymore ... not everyone loves your lights, so please put a motion sensor on outdoor lights or turn them off when you're not using them!*

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



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



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

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- \$ \_\_\_ - **FIREWORKS FUND\*\***
- \$ \_\_\_ - Homeowners' Assoc. (\$10 / year)
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- \$ \_\_\_ - Building Improvement Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - Safety Committee
- \$ \_\_\_ - Other non-party related expenses
- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC Roof Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - BLYC AED Fund
- \$ \_\_\_ - Misc.

\*\*See page 2 for more information on these donations

## TOTAL CONTRIBUTION:

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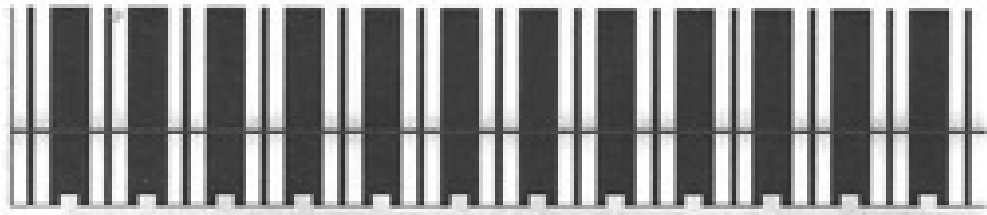
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