

The  
Weekend  
Of

July 23,  
2022

# Birch Barker

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



Seven of Jeannie and Pat Welch's grandchildren (south side) visiting beautiful Birch Lake from Indiana, Ohio and Colorado. Ages range from 15 months to 12 years old.

## COMMODORE'S COMMENTS

Commodore's Comments #9  
July 23, 2022

This was a busy weekend for me. This was Year 3 of "Camp Marge." Initiated the summer of 2020 by our daughter Maggie, she has repeated it for two more summers. The "Marge" part comes from what her older brothers, and now her five nieces and nephews, call her.

"Camp" is only 24 hours long but you would think with the planning, preparation, and implementation of this activity that it was a week-long event. Friday afternoon we picked up Maggie's nieces and nephews – ages eight down to just-turned-two. Luckily, only one is still in diapers! When we got everyone to the lake, they were so excited. Maggie read them the itinerary and then each child had to select a camp name. I was out of the room during this process so I can't explain the reasoning behind any of the names the kids chose: Seaweed, Blueberry Bush, Elk, Apple Tree, and Coconut. Next each child picked their bunk in "Buck's Bunkhouse." The two-year-old didn't get a choice as he was relegated to the baby crib. And one child had to sleep on the floor in a sleeping bag with his older sister's name embroidered on it but he never once complained. Maggie took a photo of each of them as



they held up a "Happy Camper" sign sitting in their bunk. We so hoped this would set the tone for their stay.

The kids had heard their Dar (what they call their Grandpa Tom) had bought them all fishing poles. They were kid-sized and were called "Fish Stix." The itinerary was quickly ditched, and they were all about the fishing. Tom tied little plastic fish to the end of the lines and they basically just casted over and over again. I was on untangling fishing line duty; when Dar was asked to untangle he just cut the line and started over. It was amazing how this activity kept them enthralled for so long. When they tired of the fishing they came inside to play while we made dinner: frozen cheese pizza and a variety of fruit. More "fishing" and then it was time to put the baby down. The four older kids agreed on a movie, and they settled down watching it and eating popcorn. Soon we heard laughter and giggles. So neat how simple

## 2022

### Birch Lake Calendar

- July 23** - Family Picnic, BLYC, See P3
- July 23** - Five Lakes MC Regatta, Indian Lake, details tba
- July 27** - Going Away Party for Gordon & Michelle Seyfarth, 6:30 pm, Phipps'
- July 29** - Mens Golf, Pine View., 1:30 pm shotgun start, dinner & awards following P9
- Aug. 6** - Corn & Sausage Roast, 5:30-7 pm, BLYC
- Aug 13** - Kidz Regatta, Kings' (north s9de)
- Aug. 17** - Hazardous waste and tire collection, Road Commission, Cass, 3-6 pm
- Aug. 20** - Fall Dinner, BLYC, See P5
- Aug. 26** - Birch Lake Ladies Style Show & Luncheon, Woodfire, Dowagiac, See P 2
- Sept 11** - Sailing Awards, Frew's house
- Sept 17** - Crockpot Challenge, 6 pm, more details tba

### BLYC BOARD MEETINGS

August 6, and Sept. 10  
All meetings start at 9 am @ BLYC

slap-stick humor gets them going. As bedtime approached, they asked Mamie (what they call me) for a Mr. Scoots story. I've been making up these somewhat scary stories for my kids and now the grandchildren for years and they love them. The youngest asked for "a nice Mr. Scoots story" so Mamie had to tame down the

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

# — Birch Lake Notes —

scary parts. Staying with the theme, of course the main characters of the story were at summer camp. Maggie slept in the room next to the bunk room so this year I got to sleep in my own bed instead of the top bunk with the four-year old “talker.” As the adults settled down to sleep, we kept getting pictures texted to us of our two sons and their wives all together at a restaurant and later getting a drink. They ended up at both places unbeknownst their sibling would be there. They were taking advantage of a free night and by the looks of the pictures they were definitely “Happy Campers.”

Morning came too soon with the last one asleep, the first one up. I got bacon going and prepped for blueberry pancakes (Come to think of it, I should have had “Blueberry Bush” helping me with this). The meal was quick as “fishing” was on their minds. Next on the itinerary was water balloon games that quickly turned into an all-out water balloon war. Mamie and Marge were soaking wet and that water was COLD! Grandpa Dar took the two four-year-olds for a ride in the “fast” boat which they love. After lunch it was back outside to teach them some lawn games. As I was explaining “Mother May I” the eight-year-old interrupted me to inform me that the game was actually called “How many steps before the Queen?” When did the name change and why did it

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change? You start feeling old and like what we had wasn't relevant.

Soon after the games I was getting life jackets on the kids to do some paddle boarding, and one of the kids, yes it was that eight-year-old again, asked me a question. I was explaining that she had a “child” size jacket on, but she was really a “youth” size. I further explained there were infant, child, youth and adult size jackets.

“Well,” she said (did I mention her middle name is Precocious?), “Mamie, there is something called ‘middle-age,’

what is that?” I explained her Mamie and Dar were middle-aged. She replied, “and after that is elderly, right?” I agreed. She then told me she would just call us “young elderly.” I said, “Girlfriend, you can call me anything with ‘young’ in the name!”

The party came to an end when the dads arrived. Marge took them to the Camp Store where they got to pick out some snacks and candy. The bigger prizes: Hot Wheels cars, a light-up jump rope, and more, were doled out earlier when Marge and I were losing their attention and the

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

interest was fading. One of the boys grabbed his loot, jumped up on a barstool and promptly devoured his pack of chips and then tore into his mini candy bar. You would have thought we hadn't fed him anything since he arrived.

As their cars pulled away and were still in sight, I turned to Maggie and said, "Marg Marge?" We were on the boat relaxing with our books and enjoying our salty margaritas within minutes. Now who was the "Happy Camper?"

## 2022 BLYC FAMILY PICNIC

Saturday July 23  
5:30pm-9pm

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Speaking of "Happy Campers," get those kids and grandkids to Saturday's Family Picnic at the yacht club, starting at 5:30 pm. Your entire family and guests are welcome, and the food and live band are all complimentary! Don't forget BLYC Golf Outings: Ladies' on Friday, July 22; Men's Friday, July 29. Looking ahead to August reserve your tickets for the Fall Dinner (August 20) and the Ladies' Style Show and Luncheon (August 26) by going to: birchlakeyachtclub.com. More information on these and other events in this Barker issue. Kudos to Claudia Phipps for organizing last week's Flotilla. Seven boats rafted together to share food and friendship.

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

~Commodore Barb Cassady

### Ladies Style Show and Luncheon

Mark your calendars for the Birch Lake Ladies' Style Show and Luncheon on Friday, August 26th. Lunch will begin at 11 at the Wood Fire Trattoria in Dowagiac. Six lovely Birch Lake ladies will be modeling fashions from the Marshall Shoppe. There are three lunch options. Tickets are \$32, and include main dish, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic drink, tax, and tip. Tickets can be purchased from Ronni Eshleman, 317-418-9557, Denny Weesner 650-862-4711, or Jeannie Welch 574-286-2890.

They will also be available online on the Birch Lake Yacht Club website. This event sold out last year, so get your tickets early!

### Hazardous waste, tire collection

A household hazardous waste collection will be held on August 17, 2022 from 3 to 6 pm at the Cass County Road Commission, 340 N O'Keefe St, Cassopolis. The event is sponsored by the Cass County Board of Commissioners.

In addition, Cass County has received

### FAREWELL PARTY FOR GORDON & MICHELLE SEYFARTH

When: Wednesday July 27

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Bring: Appetizer to share

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# — Birch Lake Notes —

a grant for the collection of used passenger car/pickup truck tires. No appointment is necessary. Proof of residency is required. The event will be held on August 17, from 3 to 6 pm at the Cass County Road Commission, 340 N O'Keefe St, Cassopolis.

## The Printed Birch Barker

The Birch Barker is delivered to

homes on Birch Lake and available each week at <http://www.philvitale.com/Barker/BirchBarker.htm>.

To submit items for publication, email [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com) or [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com), mail to 63174 Birch Rd, Vandalia, MI 49095. To contact the editor, email [onlinebarker@gmail.com](mailto:onlinebarker@gmail.com) or to [sailorphil@philvitale.com](mailto:sailorphil@philvitale.com), or call 269-476-1680

(no texts since I don't use a cell phone).

Deadline for any week is noon on Tuesday prior to publication.

## Yacht Club building use

To make arrangements to use the BLYC building, contact Sandy Vitale at 269-476-1680 or 269-858-8184.

## Scannel/Hogoboom reunion



*The Scannel/Hogoboom aka ScaBoom reunion was last Saturday. It was the perfect opportunity to wish Patricia Scannel Hogoboom a Happy 90th Birthday! Pat has been coming to Birch Lake for over 80 years and was one of the original editors of The Birch Barker.*



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# — Birch Lake Notes —

## Blast from the Past

*That's East Siders Bad Patty and Bill Luecht at a BLYC party in 2001. Rumor has it they were actually dancing, but the truth is Bill was explaining to Patty how a surveyor's transit works ...*



## Birch Lake Mens' Golf Outing

The Birch Lake Men's Golf Outing will take place on the July, 29, beginning with a 1:30 pm shotgun start at Pine View Golf Club, 52065 Pulver Rd.. The cost is \$75 each (\$300 per foursome). Please show us how your foursome makes it fun, and dress accordingly. Awards for best (craziest) dressed! The theme is Olympic Gold Medal efforts. Dinner will be Chateaubriand, etc. Before July 25, please send your foursome names and checks to me, made out to BLYC, and mail to or drop in my mailbox at 63156 Birch Rd. Include your cell phone number.

~ Pat McGann

Registration Form

Team Members (list captain first with phone number)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

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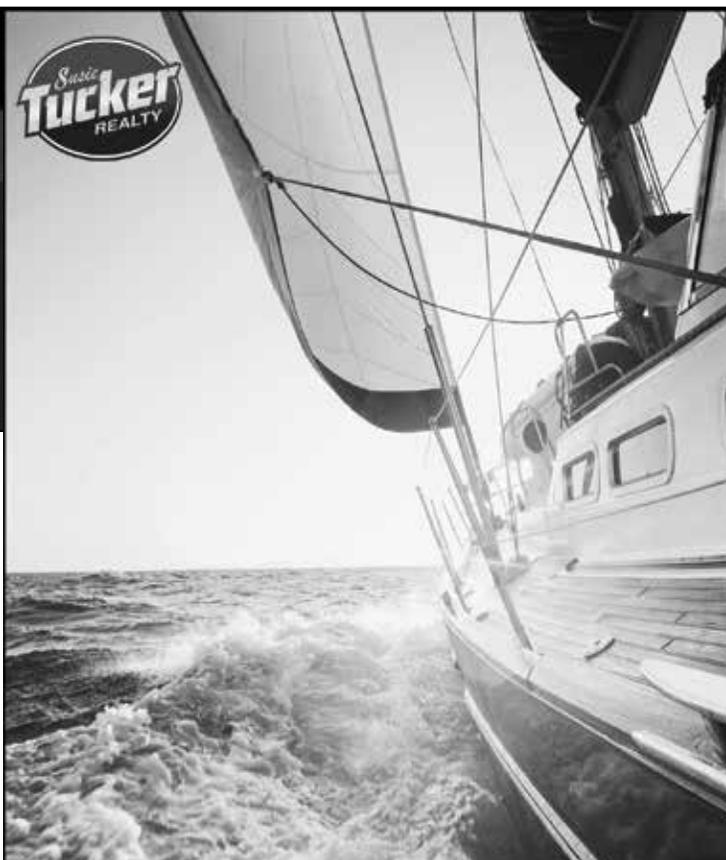
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# FLEET CAPTAIN'S CORNER



## No wind, no sailing, but treasure found

**N**o wind and no races; but a treasure box of Birch Lake sailing history received from Mike Machalleck:

Last Sunday featured not much wind, and a lot of light rain. That's a bad combination for sailing. So the sailboat races had to be canceled yet again, and we have no race results to report this week.

On Monday the Birch Lake men's golf group played at Pine View. At lunch after the game, Mike Machalleck went to his car and came back with a treasure box of Birch Lake sailing history for me. Mike's long and active history at Birch Lake includes having been Fleet Captain of the Snipe fleet in 1961; Fleet Captain of the Sunfish fleet in 1972, 1973 and maybe 1974 (If anyone has any old Barkers, we might know for certain!); BLYC treasurer from 1975 to 1985; and Commodore in 1986 and 2001. Inside the box are a number of Sunfish parts, that Mike hopes we can put to good use; and also a number of rare items dating back to the 1960's, some of which are shown in the photo below.

Thank you, Mike, for this wonderful collection of Birch Lake sailing history! I will keep it safe, and will pass it along to our next Fleet Captain.

**SAIL-SET INSTRUCTIONS**  
(Revised Rigging Instructions To Replace Lashing Line w/Sail-Set)  
3. The sail is attached to the booms as follows, (through eye of boom through grommet in the lashing-line-maker's stamp).

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*\*Factory-built boats include a choice of striped red-and-white, blue-and-white, green-and-white, solid white, or yellow-and-blue Dacron sail.*

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Items from Mike Machalleck's treasure box of Birch Lake sailing history.

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# BIRCH LAKE SAILING



About to jump on board and head out with advanced sailors Mason Custard and Denny Batalis, both age 11, and Brody Hudecek, age 10.

## BLYC-CAMP TANNADOONAH JUNIOR SAILING PROGRAM

Pat McGann and I both taught classes last week. Thank you Pat! Thank you to Amber Grundy and her team at Camp Tannadoonah for the great sailing photos! ~F.C. Steve



Top: advanced sailors Denny Batalis and Mason Custard, both age 11 and from Birch Lake families, help prepare a boat for sailing.

Above: Sailing instructor, Miss Sam is ready to sail with advanced sailors Olive Morton, age 9, Rocco Carpenter, age 10 and Penny Morton, age 11.



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# — Barker Kids of the Week —



*Bill and Sheryl Magro's grandkids (north side) enjoyed the Fourth of July at Birch Lake!*

## 2022 Birch Lake Yacht Club **FALL DINNER**

**August 20, 2022**

**at the Birch Lake Yacht Club**

**5:30 – Appetizers:**

an assortment of cheese and crackers, fruits, and vegetables and dip

**6:30 – Dinner:**

Polish Sausage, broasted chicken, kluski noodles, mashed potatoes and gravy, sweet & sour cabbage, seasoned green beans, rolls and butter (catering provided by The Skillet, South Bend)

**7:30 – Year-End Meeting**

**\$25 per person**

Tickets must be purchased in advance by using the Birch Lake Yacht Club website

**<https://store.birchlakeyachtclub.com/>**

or by contacting Vice Commodore Deb Hall (cove).

**Tickets must be purchased by August 11.**

*No tickets will be sold at the door or after the above date.*

# YOUR HOROSCOPE

## Aries (March 21-April 19)

For the next four weeks, your personal mantra will be, "I want to be me! I want to enjoy myself!" You will feel more lighthearted and playful than usual, which is why you will make an effort to enjoy sports events, entertaining diversions, the theatre, fun luncheons, romantic dates, playful activities with kids and exciting vacations. Please note -- if you can't take a big vacation, then slip away on a weekend getaway because you need fun, adventure and a chance to explore new things!

## Taurus (April 20-May 20)

This week your focus on home and family will become much stronger. You might be involved more with a parent. You will enjoy spending more time at home, relaxing among familiar surroundings. Many of you will tackle home-repair projects and enjoy family discussions, including entertaining family and friends at your fine table. Think about whether your goals are meeting your needs. This is an excellent time for you to express important views to family members.

## Gemini (May 21-June 20)

You will be more involved in group discussions and conversations with others. You will meet new people, take short trips and have more contact with relatives and neighbors. You will enjoy intellectual activities. You will not want to settle down. Do whatever you can to break free from your everyday routine. Take a vacation. Enjoy short trips.

## Cancer (June 21-July 22)

This is a lovely time for you promoting your desire to relate to others. This is an ideal time to make peace with others. It's also a good time to buy wardrobe treasures and score bargains! Your interest in money, cash flow and taking care of what you own will be stronger. You will be more concerned with business and commercial affairs. Financial transactions will take place. You will also give more thought to your values and where you stand on issues.

## Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

This is a powerful time that will boost your energy and your confidence, which is why you will create a better impression on everyone. Meanwhile, it helps you to communicate effectively because you will put more of yourself into what you say. This winning combo puts you in the perfect position to impress others and be successful in going after what you want.

## Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Because your birthday is a month away, your personal year is coming to an end. When this occurs, the Sun, and this week, Mercury as well, are "hiding" in your chart. Hence, you will prefer being in the background for the next 4 to 5 weeks. Also, you'll keep your opinions to yourself. This is why the next few weeks are an ideal time to go off by yourself to think, study or do research. It's also an excellent time to make goals for your new year ahead.

## Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

You are the most social sign in the zodiac. This week, friendships will become more important, and you will examine the role people play in your life. This is also the perfect influence to help you work and cooperate with others. It will give you the personal courage to establish who you are with your friends. Team efforts will thrive. Personally, you will scrutinize the people you hang out with. "

## Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

This week others will admire you even if you don't do anything special. Bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs will see you as competent and capable. Obviously, this is an advantage you can use. That makes the month ahead the perfect time to make your pitch or ask for permission or approval for whatever you want. At the same time, Mercury will also be at the top of your chart helping you to make plans about your professional life, and how you should express yourself in society. It's a great time to take up any study that will help your career.

## Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

This week you will feel energized to do all the things you love to do! It will heighten your desire to travel and broaden your horizons. It will make you enjoy studies and discover fresh, new experiences. It will promote opportunities in publishing, the media and anything to do with medicine and the law. It will also help you finish important papers or manuscripts. It will encourage discussions about abstract ideas and general philosophy and approaches to life

## Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

In the next four weeks, you will get in touch with some hidden aspects of yourself. You might go deeper within yourself and make changes in your ways of thinking. In part, you will also have more discussions about finances, property and shared possessions because these areas will concern you as well. Fortunately, Venus opposite your sign will pave the way for smooth negotiations. Good timing.

## Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

This week is not the time to go it alone. Au contraire! It's best to work with others or create working units and partnerships. It's an excellent time to ask for help from consultants, lawyers, specialists or astrologers. You can examine your closest partnerships. If so, you have more objectivity to do this, and to discover what needs these relationships do or do not fill in your life. !

## Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

You will accomplish a lot in the next 4 to 5 weeks. Even if you are retired, this astrological energy will help you to focus and work on whatever task that you set for yourself. Because of Mercury, this will be an excellent time for all kinds of mental work. You will pay more attention to details, and you will enjoy planning and looking at something from every angle. Relations with coworkers will likely improve. In addition, you will explore ideas about how to improve your health, as well as your dealings with a pet. You can look forward to productive times ahead!

# Birch Lake items of interest

## The Moon for this Saturday

(At Midnight, US Central time, as viewed from the Northern Hemisphere)

Illuminated Fraction: 0.166

3.7 days after last quarter



Sunrise: 06:25:57 AM

Sunset: 21:11:08 PM

Moonrise: 02:09:30 AM

Moonset: 17:31:57 PM

Daylight: 14 Hr 45 Min 11 Sec

## Family Word Scrambles

Unscramble the family themed words below.



1. iymlaF \_\_\_\_\_
2. grTeeho \_\_\_\_\_
3. eoLv \_\_\_\_\_
4. eaUnnrtdsidgn \_\_\_\_\_
5. roesgtniF \_\_\_\_\_
6. Peantr \_\_\_\_\_
7. niCuoss \_\_\_\_\_
8. tnooAdip \_\_\_\_\_
9. slinbSgi \_\_\_\_\_
10. Hoem \_\_\_\_\_
11. tHaer \_\_\_\_\_
12. oBnd \_\_\_\_\_



# Birch Barker Funnies

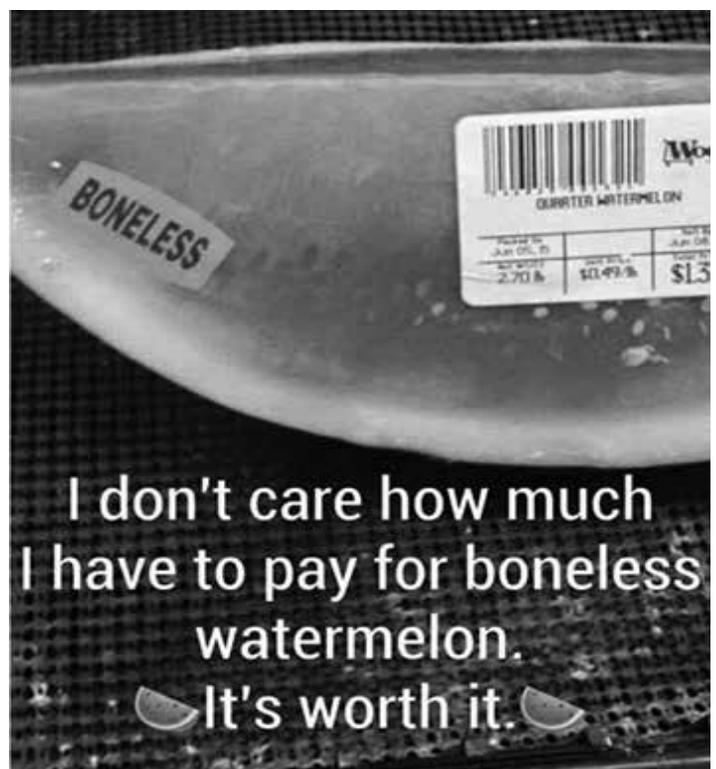
My therapist set half a glass of water in front of me. He asked if I was an optimist or a pessimist. So, I drank the water and told him I was a problem solver.

~Unknown

**It's my wife's birthday tomorrow, she's been leaving jewellery catalogues all over the house, so I've bought her a magazine rack.**



I hate it when I can't remember my password & I don't know the answer to my secret question. It's like I don't even know me...





# ~Birch Lake Recipes~



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

## Zucchini Patties

**T**hese cheesy zucchini patties are an excellent way to use up that abundance of zucchini from the garden. Serve with a bit of tomato sauce or sour cream dabbed on top.

### Ingredients

- 2 cups grated zucchini
- 2 eggs, beaten
- ½ cup all-purpose flour
- ½ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- ½ cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- ¼ cup chopped onion
- salt to taste
- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil

### Directions

- Step 1 Combine zucchini, eggs, flour, Parmesan cheese, mozzarella cheese, onion, and salt in a medium bowl. Stir well enough to distribute ingredients evenly.
- Step 2 Heat oil in a skillet over medium-high heat.
- Step 3 Working in batches, scoop tablespoonfuls of zucchini mixture into hot oil and fry until golden brown, about 2 minutes per side.



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# — Camp Tannadoonah —

## Winter Olympics at summer camp

It's Winter Olympics week at camp this week, and it's been very un-winter-like with hot and humid temperatures. Sunday afternoon we had thunder during the time we usually do our swim tests, which threw our whole schedule for the afternoon into a muddle.

On Sunday afternoons after they check in, each cabin goes to the waterfront to take their swim tests. The waterfront is divided into three different areas – beginner, intermediate, and advanced. Usually we run swim tests from 3:30-6 pm every Sunday.

Campers who are non-swimmers, or who choose not to take the swim test get a red band and are in the beginner area, which is enclosed by the pier. When I was a camper and staff member, that enclosed area was called the "crib." In order to get an intermediate (yellow) band, campers must be able to swim 50 yards continuously (the length of the waterfront pier and back). And in order to get an advanced (green) band they must swim 75 yards continuously (down and back and down one more time).

If campers want to take a boating class of any kind, or do waterskiing or wakeboarding, they have to have either a yellow or green band. While we do require all campers to wear life vests on all boats (which is a State of Michigan licensing rule, too), we also want to be sure they

are capable and confident in the water. If something happens while they're out in the middle of the lake (e.g., they fall out of their kayak or tip their canoe), we want to be sure they're not going to panic in the water, or that they have the ability to swim themselves to safety.

This week we have two Birch Lake residents helping with our boating classes at camp – Tom Kuhn has been helping drive one of the waterskiing boats and Patrick Welch is helping with the youth sailing program. Last week we had Pat McGann and Steve Frew helping with the youth sailing program. The sailors were planning to set up a junior-sized course for a race on Thursday or Friday, but unfortunately the weather did not cooperate on either of those days!

We also offer Red Cross swim lessons at camp, which campers can sign up for each week. There are 6 levels, and if they sign up for swim lessons they get tested to determine the appropriate level and then have a 45-minute lesson with one of our waterfront staff each day.

Our waterfront is a busy place! At any given time during the day, there might be 50 or more campers at a time doing waterfront classes. There are waterskiing, wakeboarding, canoeing, kayaking, stand up paddleboarding, sailing, fishing, and swimming classes going on throughout the day every day.



We also have 2 free swim periods – one in the morning and one in the afternoon, which are open times for campers to come swim each day. They last for 30 minutes, and on really hot days we might even have the whole camp down there to cool off all at the same time! If the temperature goes over 90 degrees (F), we call for a mandatory swim time, and send all of the campers and staff to the lake for a dip!

Next time you see us at the lake be sure to wave!

~Mrs. Amber

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# HOW TO BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR CLEAN UP AFTER FIDO!

*Dogs gonna do what dogs gotta do, so if your dog does it at Birch Lake, please clean it up!*

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



## 2022 BLYC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

### 2022 BLYC OFFICERS

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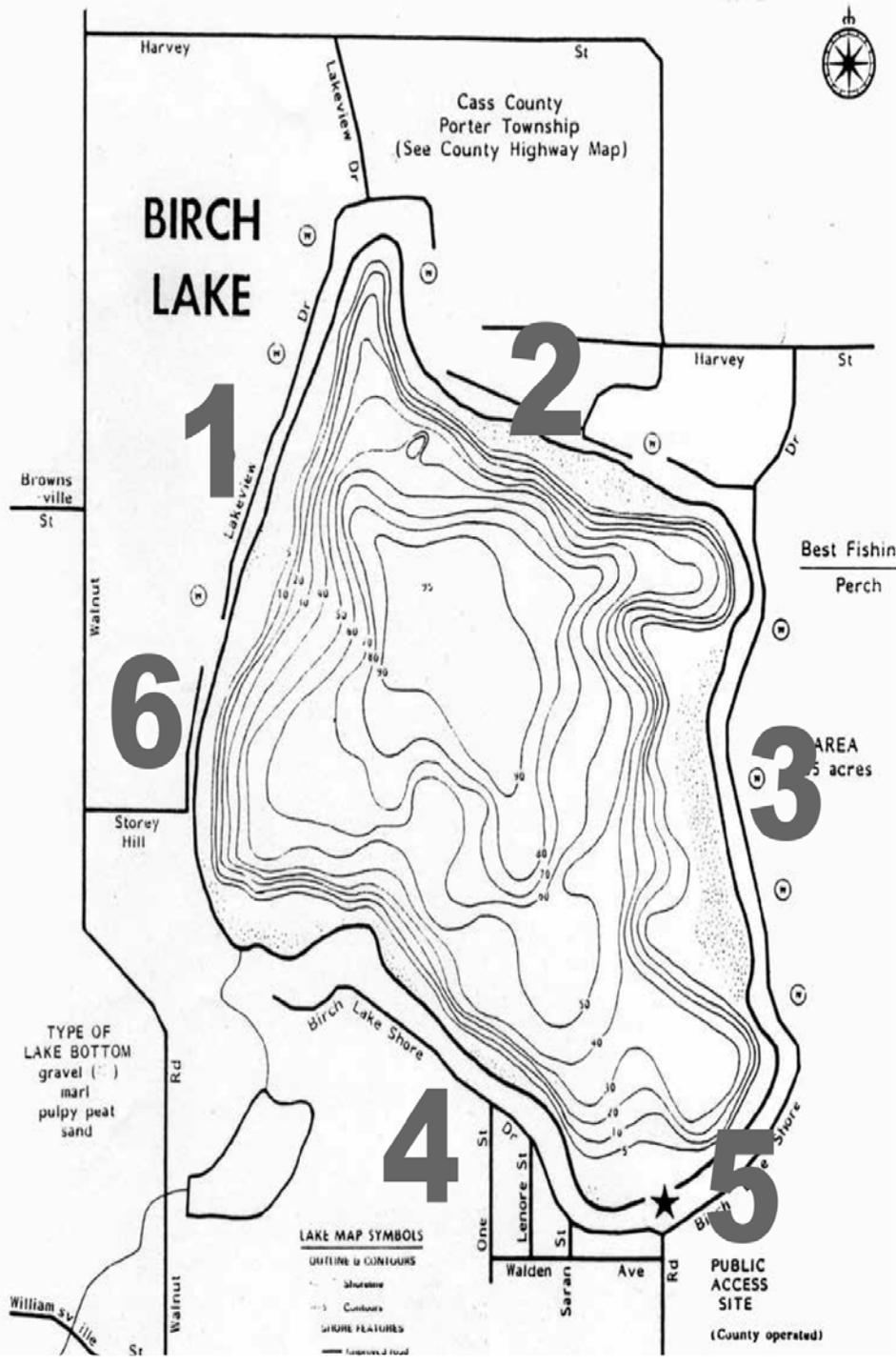
Now you can go online at [HTTP://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM](http://BIRCHLAKEYACHTCLUB.COM) to pay your dues

# EMERGENCY HEART DEFIBRILLATOR (AED) locations on Birch Lake

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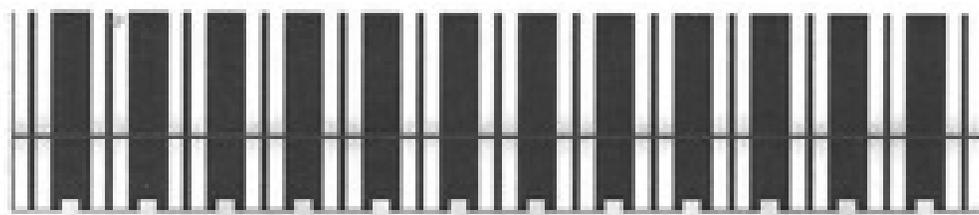
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2. North Shore, Smitley home, 14859 Birch Northshore Dr.15046
3. East Shore, Vitale home, 63174 Birch Rd.
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