

Barlow Lake Newsletter

Labor Day Weekend 2015

Second Edition 2015



Looking Back..

Again I find myself wondering how summer can go by so quickly.

It's hard to imagine that the ice just thawed, the waves could be heard and the smell of campfires once again became an evening ritual.

Anyone who took the "evening lake stroll" could see all the activity happening on the shoreline – a good sign for Barlow. New houses, additions and renovations – means more lake memories and more history being made on this place we call home.

Barlow has been 50 years of memories for me. How fortunate I am....



A DAY AT THE LAKE RESTORES THE SOUL



Association Officers / Area Captains

We are gaining volunteers but need more.....
Anyone interested in taking charge of advertising?

Association Officers:

President: Luke Miller
Vice President: Mike Cunningham
Secretary: Barb Cunningham
Treasurer: Don Visser
Advertising: ????????

Area Captains:

Area 1: Jim and Mary Lou Johnson / Luke Miller
Area 2: Greg Oatley
Area 3: Ruth Hubbard
Area 4: Bob & Wanda Hunt/ Mike & Marilyn Wagner
Area 5: Terri Duff / Fred Ainsworth / Bernice Heys/ Lindsey Nichols
Area 5: Sue O'Brien

Special Interest Coordinators

Fireworks: Earl Krol
Boat Parade: Mary Lou Johnson
Fish Contest / Stocking: Mike Hoekstra
Still looking for any volunteers to help with advertising, newsletter, welcoming committee, and fundraising.

Dues DUE DO.....AGAIN

Pay Dues

Please send dues to Don Visser, 2480 44th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49512

Dues are critical for Barlow to continue with fireworks, boat parade, fish stocking and the fish contest - \$40.00 per year is not very much compared to other associations.

For those who would like to

contribute "extra" you can do so and can have it directed to the fish funds or fireworks – simply select which – or both on the dues sheet and we will make sure to apply accordingly.

Thanks to all those that have paid.



Dates for your Calendar

Summer 2016



2016 Association Meetings:

June 4th – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall

August 20th – 9 AM Yankee Springs Township Hall

Fireworks:

We are requesting as first option Saturday July 2nd
with Sunday 3rd as second choice – We will update once we
know exact date



Boat Parade:

July 2nd

2:00 PM Start in Turtle Cove

Theme: Will be posted on web site and May newsletter

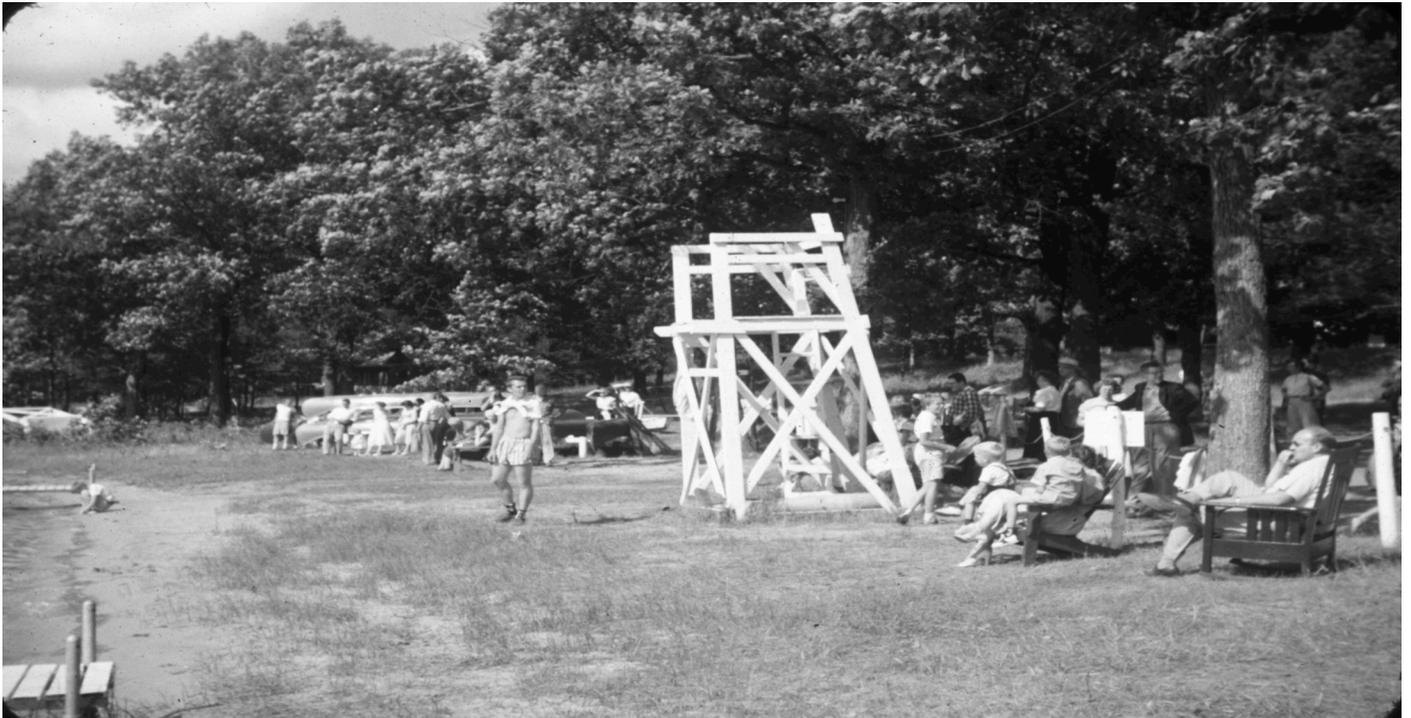
Contact: Mary Lou Johnson 795-0009 or mljohnson0009@charter.net

Triathlon: TBD

YMCA Picnic: Saturday August 6th – 4-7PM – Activities from 4-6; Food from 6-7



A little history about the Y-Camp



A BRIEF HISTORY OF YMCA CAMP MANITOU-LIN

"On the shores of Ol' Lake Barlow
Tapestried in Green
Lies the Camp of Manitou-Lin
Happy days, the scene..."

Those happy days have been experienced by thousands of campers through the years because of thought, planning, devotion, idealism, sharing and sacrifice by all those who have experienced the magic that is YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin.

Camping for the Grand Rapids "Y" began in 1897 at Green Lake and was held at various locations until 1912, when the site on the east side of Barlow Lake was discovered. This site was located four miles southeast of Middleville, on the Michigan Central railroad. The area was described as being on a high bluff overlooking Barlow Lake, and was later presented to the "Y" as a gift from Herman Liesveld, then president of property for the "Y", and has remained the site for the resident camp of the Grand Rapids YMCA.

In 1913, the camp was named Manitou-Lin. The name was selected from the Ojibway language because it reflected the true meaning of the camp..."where the Great Spirit lives." It was in that same year that the first season of camping took place under the direction of Oscar J. Fox.

Y camp history cont..

In 1914, a screened in clubhouse was built which later became known as the Liesveld Lodge, until the new Liesveld Lodge was dedicated in 1949. In 1998, the Cheff Lodge, named after former camper, staff, and board member Stan Cheff, replaced the Liesveld Lodge.

Each year, the association added permanent equipment to the camp. By 1916, the inventory consisted of the following: six steel boats with air chambers, two canoes, ten tents with flies, a screened-in clubhouse with porch, kitchen, store and cellar, an icehouse with 1000 cakes of pure ice, complete hotel kitchen equipment, and a seventy-six foot dock.

Through the years, Manitou-Lin has grown in facilities from 10 tents in 1913 to where we are today. In 1926, eight cabins were built. In 1959, four cabins and a bathhouse known as Freddie's Village was built from funds provided by Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Bryant in memory of their son Fredrick. That same year the Curtis Wylie Nature-Craft building was completed. Also in 1959, the A-frame leadership lodge was constructed, made possible by the Grand Rapids Noon Y's Men's Club, and was taken down in 1993. The club later provided funds for the Asman and Oviatt cottages on the north shoreline of camp in 1965 and 1967. In 1961, the Fletcher memorial Infirmary was constructed. In 1970, the John H. Millar cabin was added. This was the first winterized building containing two cabins with bathrooms connected by a small meeting room. In 1972, three additional winterized cabins were added, one forty-unit cabin and two 14 unit cabins were added with funds provided by the Y's Men's Club. In 1980, three additional winterized cabins were constructed. In 1992, the Baxter Building, named after Harry "Bud" Baxter, was built, which consisted of two 12-unit cabins, office space, and an apartment. In 1997, the first "Quad" building was constructed to replace one of the 40-unit cabins. The "Quad" houses four 12-unit cabins, two bathrooms, four staff rooms, a middle room on the top floor, and two large conference rooms with a kitchen on the basement level. In 1998, the second "Quad" was completed, containing four 12-unit cabins and one bathroom. In 2000, the Gates Chapel was dedicated. Today, YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin can house over 200 people with programs running year round.

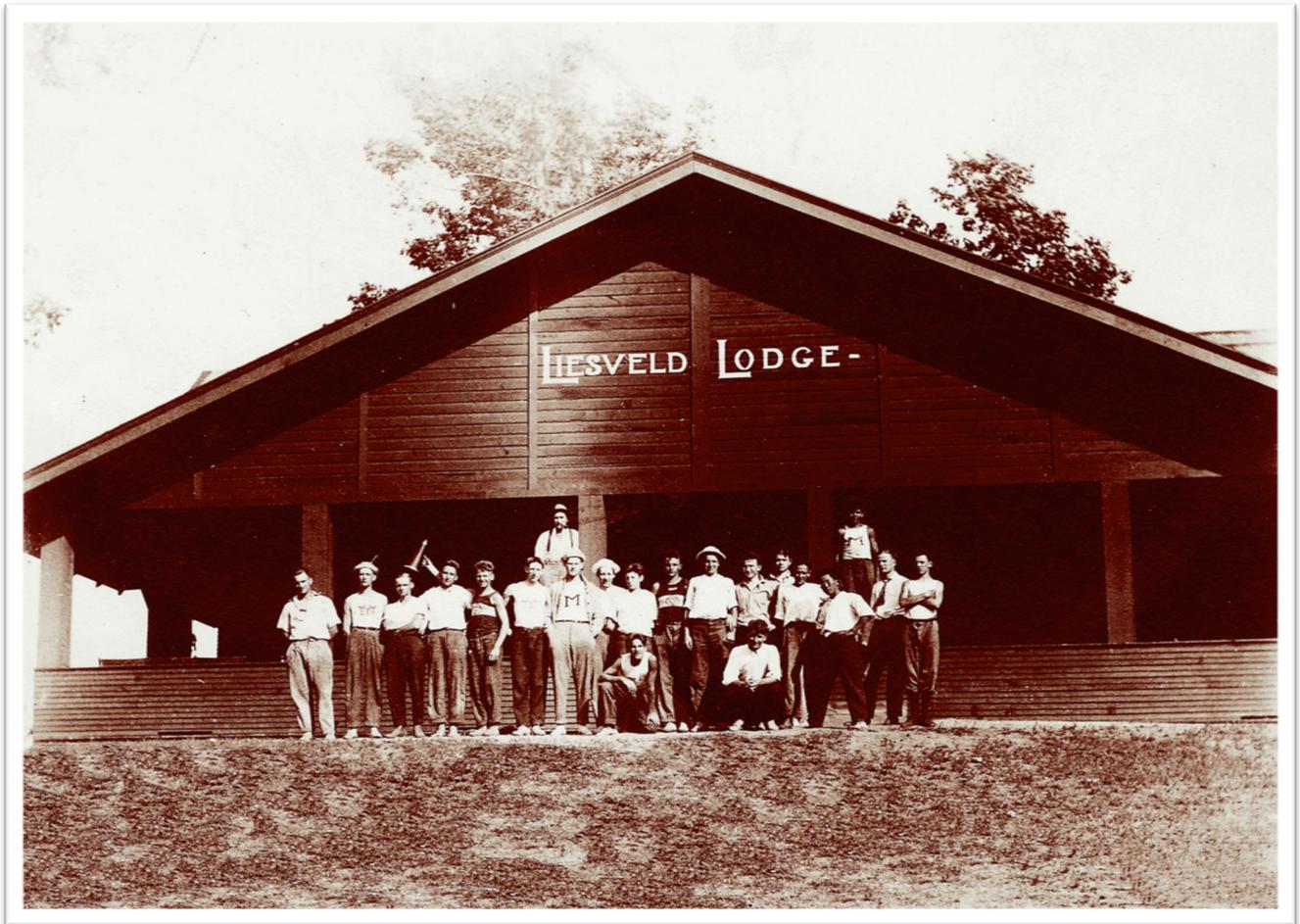
In 1952, ten acres of land was purchased. In 1968, eight additional acres were purchased, followed by the purchase of the 120-acre Misak farm east of Briggs Road in 1988. YMCA Camp Manitou-Lin currently owns approximately 168 acres of land. With the purchase of the east plot, programs increased to include a more extensive equestrian program, a football field, a high ropes course adventure program, and a team-building adventure program. Other program areas include mountain bikes, rifle range, archery range, climbing tower (indoor and outdoor), nature activities, and waterfront activities including canoes, kayaks, windsurfs, sail boats, and power boat activities.

Although Camp Manitou-Lin's original program was aimed at young boys, camp began coed programs in the 1980's with all girl sessions and all boy sessions; later, all sessions became coed.

In 2015, the Welcome Center was added onto the Cheff Lodge as part of the 100 Year Capital Campaign.

Special thanks to Bill, his staff and Camp Manitou-lin for their participation and hospitality to the residents of Barlow.

**The article and pictures were provided by Bill.
great stuff – great pictures.**



The Groves Report End of Year 2015

I am adding an additional article that Tony provided – he sent 2 very interesting articles. I would like to add the second to the Spring 2016 newsletter.

Very, very interesting information and a tremendous asset to Barlow Lake – Thank You Tony for all you do for us

“Thus far this season, plant surveys were conducted by biologists from my office in May, June and July. Each survey was followed by a spot-treatment of Eurasian milfoil. In total, about 22 acres of milfoil have been treated this year, mostly with a granular systemic herbicide. In addition to the milfoil, a new invasive plant species has made its way into the lake, a plant called starry stonewort (see attached article). The starry stonewort infestation of about one-half acre was treated in July and our survey later this month will evaluate how effective the treatment was and the need for additional treatment. As with the milfoil, early detection and rapid response will be essential to ensure starry stonewort does not gain dominance in the lake.”

Many lakes across the state have had problems in recent years with hybrid milfoil. Hybrid milfoil is a cross between Eurasian milfoil and native northern milfoil (see attached article). Last month, I sent several milfoil samples from Barlow Lake to Grand Valley State University for genetic testing and no hybrid milfoil was detected (which is good news).”



Hybrid Milfoil: Management Implications and Challenges

By: Tony Groves, Paul Hausler, and Pam Tynning Water Resources Group, Progressive AE

Background

Millions of dollars are spent annually on programs to combat invasive aquatic plants in Michigan. A primary focus of many of these programs is the control of Eurasian milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), an aggressive-growing exotic plant introduced into the United States from Europe and Asia.

Eurasian milfoil is not the only type of milfoil found in Michigan. There are several native milfoil species, such as northern milfoil (*Myriophyllum sibiricum*). Some native species closely resemble Eurasian milfoil and are commonly mistaken for it. However, the native milfoils rarely form dense, impenetrable plant beds like Eurasian milfoil often does. In some lakes, hybridization between exotic Eurasian milfoil (*M. spicatum*) and native northern milfoil (*M. sibiricum*) is occurring. Genetic testing has found milfoil hybrids to be widely dispersed across the northern portion of the United States and hybrid milfoil appears to be widespread in Michigan. The documentation of the presence of hybrid milfoil is important because hybridity in plants is often linked to invasive traits. In fact, hybrid milfoil may be more invasive than Eurasian milfoil. There is concern in the scientific community that hybrids could have a competitive advantage over, and ultimately displace both northern milfoil and Eurasian milfoil.

In terms of physical appearance, hybrid milfoil is difficult to distinguish from Eurasian milfoil. For positive identification, genetic testing is required. Further, not all hybrid milfoils are the same. There is considerable genetic variability within hybrids.

Herbicide Treatments

Herbicide applications are the most commonly-used method to control Eurasian milfoil. However, in some lakes, herbicide treatments have become less effective. Dose rates that historically provided good control of milfoil are sometimes only partially effective, and plant die-back is incomplete and/or regrowth occurs more rapidly.

Recent research indicates that hybrid milfoils may exhibit increased tolerance to some herbicides. On average, hybrid milfoil is less susceptible to control with the commonly-used aquatic herbicide 2,4-D in comparison with Eurasian milfoil. The decreased sensitivity to 2,4-D appears to be common across different hybrid lineages. Lakes that have been treated historically with 2,4-D have a higher incidence of hybrid milfoil than non-treated lakes. This research suggests that use of certain herbicides may inadvertently allow tolerant hybrid milfoil to gain dominance.

With the aquatic herbicide fluridone (Sonar®), hybrid tolerance appears to be limited to fewer hybrid lineages. While hybrid resistance to fluridone has been observed in a small percentage of lakes, hybridity does not necessarily infer fluridone tolerance.

Management Implications

Management of hybrid milfoil presents new challenges. Fortunately, there are some new tools available to document the presence of hybrid milfoil and to evaluate the potential for herbicide resistance.

Genetic Testing: As discussed in an article in the Summer 2014 issue of the Michigan Riparian, genetic testing is now commercially available and can be used to determine the presence and distribution of Eurasian versus northern versus hybrid milfoil in a given lake. This data can, in turn, be used to inform management decisions.

Herbicide Susceptibility Screening: Another approach that is being used is herbicide susceptibility screening in which milfoil samples are collected from various locations in a lake and exposed to typical herbicide dose rates to evaluate plant response. If plant response is diminished, it may indicate the presence of hybrid milfoil and the need for reevaluation of a treatment approach, before substantial resources are committed to a treatment protocol that may not be very effective.

Conclusion:

As with most invasive species, early detection and rapid response is key to effective control. Annual monitoring of the type and abundance of aquatic plants is an essential first step in this endeavor. In areas of the lake where milfoil is found, plant samples can be collected for further analysis.

In general, the use of herbicides with different modes of action, rather than using the same type of herbicide year after year, may help stem the spread of hybrids that are showing resistance to a particular herbicide or class of herbicides.

Given the potential management implications, genetic testing and herbicide susceptibility screening may soon become standard practices for lake managers. Additional research is ongoing to better evaluate the distribution of hybrid milfoil, its biological characteristics, herbicide treatment impacts, and its susceptibility to control measures.

Hybrid Milfoil



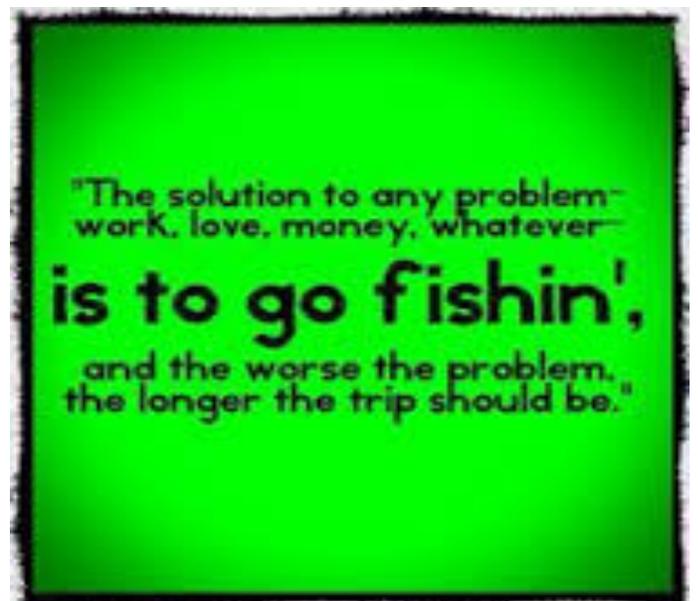
Eurasian Milfoil



FISHING CONTEST 2015



FISH	FISHER-PERSON	DATE OF CATCH	SIZE
Crappie	Jarod Nichols		13 ¼ in
Black Bullhead	Zachery Dewitt		15 in
Sm. Mouth Bass	Stacey (Hope) Hereth		21 in
Walleye	Dale Deyoung		23 in
Green Sunfish	Zachery Dewitt		9 ½ in
Northern Pike	Dale Deyoung		35 ½ in
Brown Bullhead			
Lg Mouth Bass	Hope Johnson		20 in
Blue Gill	Harper Nichols		8 ½ in
Rock Bass	Hope Johnson		8 ½ in
Sunfish	Don Brzezinski		8 ½ in
Perch	John Knieble		10 in



Your Lake Association

Your Lake Association (What it is and what it isn't)

What it is!

The Barlow Lake Association has been around at least since the early 1950's. Based on what I remember and what I have gleaned from browsing through past copies of the association newsletters, my perception of the intent and purpose of the association is that it is supposed to maintain and improve Barlow Lake and the "Barlow Lake" experience for the association members. This intent has been put into practice over the years through many of the same activities we see today.

Such as:

1. Fireworks
2. Boat Parade
3. Fish Contest and planting
4. Newsletter & Directory
5. Navigation Buoys
6. Water testing
7. Annual picnic
8. Annual Meetings



The activities shown above are paid for with the \$40/year dues we all pay. About 70% of the almost 230 Lake Association members pay their dues each year. Over half of the members also give extra towards fireworks and fish planting. It is easy to forget to pay these voluntary dues which is something that happens to all of us occasionally. I would ask that everyone try hard not to forget so that we can continue to enjoy the activities we are used to.

I think that, in addition to the activities listed above, the Lake Association provides a sense of community that is hard to prove or describe but would be missed if there was no Lake Association.

What it is not!

The Barlow Lake Association is not a homeowners association or a condominium owners association and it is certainly not a governmental body. The Association only has control over how it spends the money voluntarily paid as dues by the Association members, the conduct of meetings, creation of the newsletter etc. The Association does not own any property and as such does not have the ability or responsibility to control or maintain any property around Barlow Lake or elsewhere.

We are fortunate that our lake does not have any major problems and that the Lake Association can focus on the enjoyable and beneficial activities listed above.

Mike Cunningham

What the Association Meetings are About...

LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETINGS

Your Barlow Lake Association holds two meetings each year, one at the beginning of the summer season and one towards the end of the season.

The meetings are held on Saturday mornings at 9:00 AM at the Yankee Springs Township Hall located at 284 N Briggs Rd. The meetings are scheduled to last one hour.

The purpose of the two meetings is to update association members about planned activities for the year, review the association dues and financial information and to hear comments and information from association members.

There are discussions about the fireworks display and fish planting as well as boating safety and other topics.

The meetings also provide an opportunity for members to talk with old friends and meet new lake residents.

Coffee and donuts have been available at recent meetings.

About 15 people are usually in attendance at each meeting, which is less than 7% of the membership. We would like to see even more people attend these meetings!

Additional comments and information would help everyone and the more people in attendance the more likely that all viewpoints are represented.

The 2016 meeting dates are Saturday, June 4th and Saturday, August 20th. Both meetings will start at 9:00 AM. Please mark these dates on your calendar and try to attend at least one meeting each or every other year. The increase in attendance will greatly improve the meetings.

Meeting minutes and other Lake Association information can be found on our website at <http://www.barlowlakemi.com/>

Thanks!

Mike Cunningham



Safety Poster- Keeping Barlow Safe

UPDATED BARLOW LAKE BOATING SAFETY POSTER

By the time you receive this edition of the newsletter you should also have received a copy of the updated Boating safety Poster.

This boating safety poster is provided to you by your Barlow Lake Association. The poster replaces a similar poster that was distributed many years ago which contained the laws thought to be most applicable to Barlow Lake.

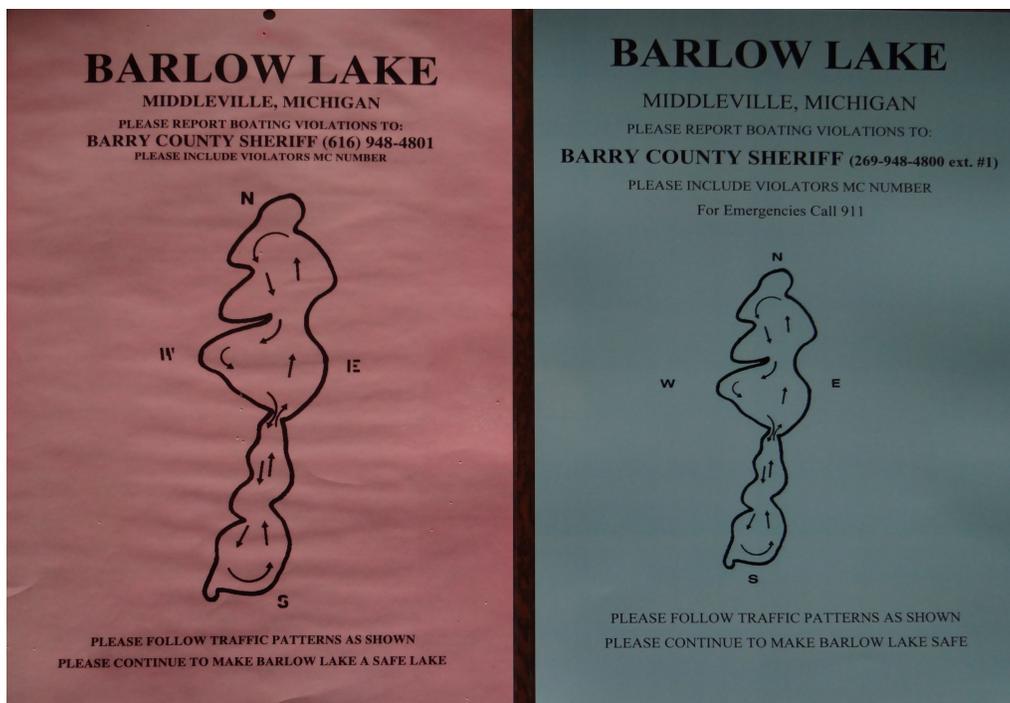
Please display this poster in a location where it can be easily seen. The information on this poster will be especially useful for renters and lake visitors who may not be familiar with Barlow Lake and Michigan boating safety laws. One side of the poster shows the correct direction of travel around the lake and the other side contains some updated boating laws. The poster has been reviewed by the Barry County Sheriff's Marine Patrol.

The information on the poster is not the complete Michigan boating law. The entire boating law can be found on the internet. The sections of the law applicable to each regulation are provided on the poster.

Following these rules and consideration of others will help to insure safety on our lake.

Old Poster (pink)

New Poster (blue)



Safety Poster- Keeping Barlow Safe cont...

As would be expected, boating safety and courtesy have been topics of much discussion at every association meeting that I have attended.

We enjoy a lake that is suitable for just about every type of boating and water activity possible from swimming, fishing, kayaking, and power boating to even the occasional float plane. With this wide variety of water activity comes the need for extra vigilance and courtesy to ensure safety and enjoyment for everyone.

Of particular concern at a recent meeting was the special need for vigilance and courtesy while boating in the narrows. There is always the possibility of a bad accident if boaters are not watching for other boats in this area. Please be prepared and willing to “go around” or stop if it looks like there will not be enough room to insure safety when another boat is approaching.

Also, please be aware of the close proximity of docks, rafts and swimmers etc. just inside (south of) the narrows. This concern also includes the creation of large wakes in this area that can be a safety hazard to people on nearby docks and also accelerates shore erosion.

Other common topics include requests to reinstate an old quiet hours rule for boating on the lake. The association has no authority to make such a rule so the topic is included in this article to encourage everyone to limit early morning power boating activities as much as possible.

As always I would rather be writing about avoiding what might happen than writing about what did happen when it comes to safety!



Mike Cunningham

A very special thanks to Roger Offringa for helping the association with printing the revised lake map / rules.

And thanks to Mike and Barb Cunningham for their efforts to update the map and make sure all of them were delivered.



My Perspective - making our lake a safe place

I have spent the better part of my life at Barlow – my parents bought our house in 1950. Many summers here and I have seen an incredible amount of change since I was a teenager as I'm sure many of you have as well.

In the “old” days, we are able to identify who was going by in a “speed boat” simply by the sound of the motor because there were very few powered boats on Barlow.

Full time residents were not the norm and the lake was calm most of the day.

Fast forward to 2015 -- there seems to be more boats than houses and the boats of today are equipped with more “goodies” than one would ever imagine.

As watersports have evolved to encompass ways to ride on top of the water never thought possible – so have the boats. Ballast systems that fill and drain at the push of the touch screen, cruise control to set that perfect speed for wake boards, for surfing – and then back to that old fashioned thing that once was so popular – slalom skiing.

This is all very cool stuff – especially if you are one who enjoys the many options we now have to be on the water and attempting to perfect the sports gaining popularity by the second.

The only problem though – with these amazing advancements comes pros and cons.

As an owner of one of these boats – I know the pros and I truly enjoy them.

As a long time resident here – I also see the cons.

Every association meeting we have the topic that always comes up about what damage, danger these new all sport boats cause. The late and early hours wakeboarding, skiing, the tremendous wake put out by these boats, buzzing docks, rafts and concerns of safety.

Being the owner of one of these boats – and being a part of the association, I tend to be in the hot seat during the meetings when the topic comes up.

This year when we discussed concerns I did speak up on what I try to do when it comes to causing a wake, surfing, navigating the narrows etc. And I was asked if I would write something on what I do and try to teach my kids because my family does try to mitigate some of the issues associated to what our boat can do.

Barlow has been a very safe and wonderful lake. Activity has increased tremendously. What once seemed like a 10,000 acre lake now seems at times to be a small pond because of the traffic.

This year we had a very serious accident in the narrows that many are probably not aware of. A resident was knocked off his dock by the wake of an all sports boat and trapped between his boat and the dock. The resident sustained very serious injury and nearly drowned.

making our lake a safe place - cont

This was an accident and from what I understand there was not neglectful boating. **But what happened is an eye opener and should be addressed.** Not from a rules standpoint, not from law nor as an anti all sports boat standpoint *but from the perspective that this lake is growing and the boats will be here and enjoying the lake.*

This needs to be addressed from a simple “lake awareness and courtesy” standpoint. Obviously there are laws that need to be followed – but applying better awareness and courtesy efforts will make for a better lake experience for all.

So here it is – and I feel pretty strongly that this is manageable by anyone who has a speedboat *or* any boat for that matter. Definitely manageable by those that can increase their wake in order to wakeboard and surf.

Some rules I teach my kids:

When it comes to the narrows – always approach the narrows so you can see what traffic is coming at you and allow yourself the ability to go away from the narrows to allow on-coming traffic to come through.

The narrows is the most difficult part of this lake – it is the most dangerous and therefore it REQUIRES the most attention to how we navigate through – awareness and common courtesy should be our first priority here.

If there is an opening – try to “split” the narrows down the middle and once you clear the narrows and the bay widens – shift over to allow for on-coming boats to have space BUT make sure you provide enough space between you and rafts.

If wake boarding (the wake is less than it is when surfing) – try to stay in the big bays but when going through the narrows and in the south end – if traffic allows – stray towards the center of the bay – this does allow some space for the wake to dissipate somewhat.

If surfing (larger wake) -- at my kids age – full wake is not needed so I don't fill the ballast full – stay in the big bays and give yourself more distance from the rafts and shoreline. The waves are still large and will obviously make their way to the shoreline but I try to give more time for them to get smaller.

These all sport boats will always be a hot topic. Their popularity will obviously continue to grow and Barlow Lake will seem to get smaller and smaller each year.

But I do feel there is enough room here for all of us but with the increase in activity I reach out to all of you and ask that you help – increase your awareness of what is going on around you, be courteous of those on the shore and docks, give every effort to managing what your boat does and where it is.

There is no easy solution nor answer; being more aware of our surroundings and being diligent when on the water will definitely make Barlow a safer lake to be on.

General Lake Information



An Invitation

There has been something good going on at the lake that we'd like to invite you to be a part of next summer! Every week a group of men and another group made up of women have met for Bible study. We want to make more people aware of this opportunity so that you can think about joining us next summer!

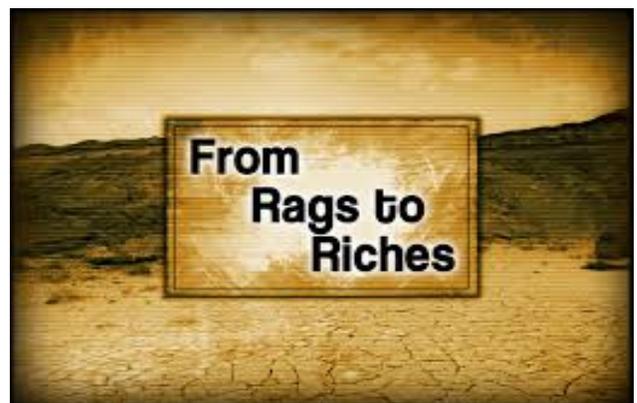
Anyone is welcome to study along with us. It doesn't matter what your background is or how much or how little Bible knowledge you have. You don't have to be part of a particular church or denomination. Maybe you don't attend church at all. No matter!

There will be more information in the May newsletter. We would love to have you join us!

Fred and Joyce Hoekzema at [269-795-5121](tel:269-795-5121) (cottage) or [616-457-8198](tel:616-457-8198) (hm).

THE DIRECTORY IS UPDATED ANNUALLY AND IS INCLUDED WITH THE SPRING NEWSLETTER

PLEASE REVIEW YOUR INFORMATION AND SUBMIT CHANGES TO US VIA THE WEBSITE BY CLICKING ON ASSOCIATION THEN CHOOSING "EMAIL BARB". IF YOU PREFER PAPER, PLEASE MAKE CHANGES ON THE DUES SHEET- IF YOU PAY YOUR DUES????



Every year the request is made for help with articles and photos for the newsletter.

Well – this year I was given more than I could ask for and it is so great to have material to choose from.

With all the material provided I simply couldn't add everything to this letter however, I will add to the 2016 spring letter.

So please keep "stuff" coming – and I will get it in a newsletter. Very, very cool to get all the help.

Thank you

