



# BILGE-WATER BULLETIN

Indian Lake Yacht Club

Volume 61

Issue 3

June 23, 2023



ILYC

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## Commodore's Comments

I hope everybody had a wonderful Father's Day weekend. The weather cooperated and gave us beautiful weekend. The lake again was full of activity.

I want to thank everyone for joining us Sunday morning at the Yacht Club for our pancake breakfast. It was a record turnout. Special thanks to Christine Huber, Aubrey Huber, Alexis Jaka, Delia Snediker, Justin Kubert, Lisa Kubert, Dave Delgado, Lisa Gammon, Bob Heathcote, Joe DeGrandchamp, and Gina Joyce. Thank you all for your help and support and making this event a huge success.

I want to remind everybody of game night on Thursday evening, June 29 at 6:30pm. We had a small gathering last Wednesday night, however; it was successful and everybody had a great time playing left right center. BYOB and come on down to the club for some evening entertainment.

A question was asked if the Yacht Club was sponsoring the fireworks. The answer is No. Mike Luna is organizing the fireworks show. Any questions about that should be directed to him.

The new committee boat was completed just in time for this weekend's race. A huge thank you to Garry Elghammer and Bob Heathcote. They were a huge help putting the final touches on the new boat. I don't think it would've been done in time if I didn't have their help.

Have a great weekend everybody and as always, be safe and courteous on the water.

-Vaughn Kubert, Commodore

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**June 24** Cass County Boating Inspection  
Free Safety Check 9:00am – 1:00pm

**June 29** Game Night at the Club  
6:30pm

**July 2** Cardboard Boat Races and Ice Cream Social 10:30am – 1:00 pm

**July 4** Pontoon Parade 11:00am

**July 8** Music on the Lake by RPM  
Dinner at 6:00pm, Music at 7:00pm

**July 12** Open Grill Night 5:37pm

**July 12** Game Night Left-Right-Center  
7:00pm

**July 19** Ladies of the Lake Coffee  
9:37am

**July 26** Game Night at the Club  
6:30pm

**July 29** Music on the Lake by The J.R. Clark Band  
Dinner at 6:00pm, Music at 7:00pm

**July 30** Pancake Breakfast 8:30am – 12:00pm

**August 5** Lee Memorial Fundraiser Event

**August 9** Game Night Cocktail Bingo  
6:00pm

**August 16** Ladies of the Lake Luncheon 11:37am

**August 23** Game Night at the Club  
6:30pm

**September 3** Annual Meeting and Dinner 6:00pm

All activities are held at the Indian Lake Yacht Club except the Lee Memorial Fundraiser. Look for further details about each event in the Bilge or on the ILYC website.

## **FUEL SERVICE**

Friday, June 23  
2:00 – 6:00pm

Saturday and Sunday  
June 24 and 25  
10:00am – 5:00pm

The ILYC accepts credit card, cash, or check payments for its marine-grade gas sales. Ice, candy, and cold drinks are also available at the yacht club.



## **SAILING**

The MC fleet got its season going last Sunday, with 9 boats out to compete on Father's Day. The start of racing was delayed 3 times due to a lack of wind, but we finally got started at 2:30pm with light and variable winds out of the South. The first race saw good wind at the start followed by a complete lull where it seemed the wind went around 360°. Bob Heathcote, B.J. Hague, and Tom Tucker emerged from the lull and

rounded the first buoy ahead of the fleet. They remained in that order until the finish.

The second race saw similar conditions at the start, but this time John Smith and Bob Heathcote emerged from the lull to round the first mark ahead of the fleet with B.J. and Tom close behind. Again, the race finished in that order, with Dave Delgado charging hard at the end for 5<sup>th</sup> place. The wind made for an unpredictable but fun start to the season. Looking forward to more great sailing action!

Some have noticed and already commented on our biggest change for 2023: an up-to-date replacement of our prior Committee Boat! The prior boat served ILYC and its sailors very well for over 40 years and will be missed, but the updated boat is a significant improvement. It's much more comfortable and safer for our Race Committee, and it's prettier to look at as well. HUGE thanks to many people involved in purchasing, updating, and outfitting for making the new boat racing ready. Vaughn Kubert, Kathy and Garry Elghammer, Bob Heathcote, B.J. Hague, and more that I'm probably forgetting (apologies if I missed you) really stepped up to the occasion, and a generation or two of ILYC sailors will be thankful for their efforts. Thank you, team!

Lastly, big thanks to Marge Bilder and Tara Cesario for helping Marcy Boyd run our crack Race Committee!

## Race Results from June 18

Sail #	Skipper	Race 1	Race 2
365	Dave Delgado	7	5
576	Kathy Elghammer/ Mary Lou McManaman	5	8
909	Scott Meyer	DNS	DNS
1306	Scott McIntyre	DNS	DNS
1719	Eddie Swierczewski	DNS	DNS
1759	Dave Bilder	9	6
1819	Tom Tucker	3	4
1900	B.J. Hague	2	3
1913	Bob Cesario	8	9
2354	John Smith	4	1
2646	Bob Heathcote	1	2
2680	Bob Buddig	6	7

-John Smith, Fleet Captain

## SAIL WITH A SKIPPER (SWAS)

### A Repeat Notice!

Please make your reservation by Thursday, June 29, for a sail on July 1st. If you ever wondered about how sailboats glide over the water with only the wind on their sails, here is your chance to find out!! Our skippers, who race the MC Scows (with the tall white sails) on Sundays have offered to take those interested in sailing out for a personal sailing experience for a couple of hours. These outings will be on Saturday mornings at 11:00 if the wind is favorable.

Each guest will meet the skipper, help rig the boat, and set sail for a couple hours if wind allows and sailors' desire. Sailing into the wind, downwind and tacking, even rounding a buoy will introduce you to the fun of riding the wind! If you are lucky enough to be on the lake during the week, we may be able to set sail with you on a week day as well.

To sign up you must be 10 years of age or older. Arrive with a proper life vest and water shoes. Wear a cap and sunscreen if needed. To make a reservation to SWAS text name, age, and lake address to Kathy Elghammer 312-286-7913 by Thursday night before each Saturday. I will contact you with details of the sail on Friday.

-Kathy Elghammer



### **SUNFISH SAILING LESSONS**

Lessons will start in July. This year you can make a reservation for a lesson by calling or texting me, Kathy Elghammer, at 312-286-7913. I will get back to you to set a time that works with great weather and good wind.

-Kathy Elghammer

## **LAKE ACTIVITIES**

### **ILYC Kids' Fishing Derby**



We are excited to announce the First Annual Indian Lake Yacht Club Kids' Fishing Derby. The derby will run from July 1st until July 27th and is FREE to all kids ages 0-16. We hope this will give time for the kids to fish if they are visiting for a short time. A Michigan fishing license is not required under the age of 17.

Fishing participants will need to be sponsored by a member of the ILYC. ILYC members can register multiple participants online using the QR code below or email [ilycfishingderby@gmail.com](mailto:ilycfishingderby@gmail.com) for the link.



Paper forms can also be picked up at the yacht club. Registration is due by June 30th and participants can pick up their Derby Bag at the Yacht Club any time after July 1st. Late registration will be accepted, if necessary, up to July 20th. Late registrants are not guaranteed a Derby Bag.

The Fishing Derby will work as follows:

Participants can fish at any time between July 1st – 27th and document their best catches with a photo. The photo should include the participant holding or next to their fish, with a ruler to demonstrate the size of the fish. No weighing will be required. Pictures can be submitted by the ILYC member at any time during the month of July up to and including the 27th. Email submissions to [ilycfishingderby@gmail.com](mailto:ilycfishingderby@gmail.com), and please include participant's name and age.

After the conclusion of the Fishing Derby, the judges will review the photos and determine the winners for each age group in the following categories:

Age Groups: 0-6, 7-12, 13-16

1. Largest bass
2. Largest pan fish (bluegill, sunfish, crappie, etc.)
3. Different fish species (pike, gar, bowfin, carp, etc.)

All participants will be winners!

Also, if anyone would like to make monetary donations or donate items for prizes, it would be greatly appreciated!!! Please email me at

[ilycfishingderby@gmail.com](mailto:ilycfishingderby@gmail.com) if you would like to contribute or have any questions. Thank you!

-Joe DeGrandchamp

## Game Night at The Yacht Club

We have decided that Thursday evenings are better for game night to include more weekenders. Please join us for Trivia on Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30pm. BYOB and snacks. Prize for winners: Guaranteed good time!

Even though our group was small at LRC last week, it was long on fun! Our Commodore and First Lady, Vaughn and Lisa Kubert, were the night's big winners.



Hope to see you Thursday night!

-Delia Snediker

## Father's Day Pancake Breakfast

What is the perfect complement to the delicious pancakes Vaughn serves up? Of course, the great tasting sausage links. As Joe DeGrandchamp cooks them the flavor wafts through the air, enticing nearby Yacht Club friends and neighbors to join the Father's Day breakfast. Naturally, the consistency of the quality must be checked at all times. Good thing Dave Delgado is around to make sure they taste just right!



Dave Degado and Joe DeGrandchamp

Luckily, we had enough to feed the record crowd Sunday on what proved to be one of the nicest days of the summer so far. Thanks to all!

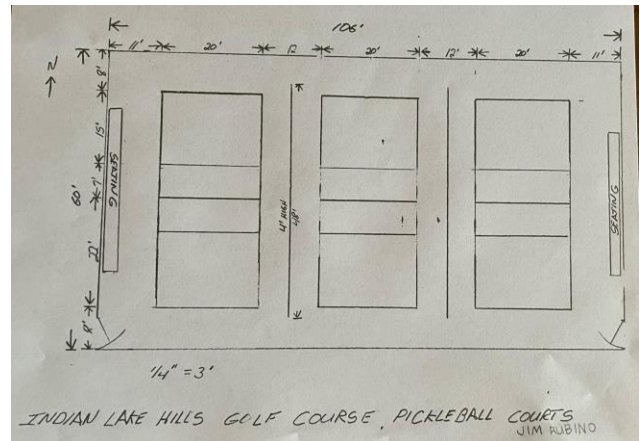
-Jim Slott

## Pickleball

Fencing - Pickleball Court Improvement Project II

Thank you to EVERYONE who generously donated to the Pickleball Court Improvement Fundraiser over the last two years!! My husband, Jim Rubino, and I and all of the volunteers

were a great team in raising nearly \$13,000! The three courts are beautifully asphalted. The courts were perfectly measured by Jim and then painted by hard working volunteers. Currently, a little repair work needs to be done on some cracking in the asphalt that took place over the winter.



The Ask: Reaching out to you all, the Indian Lake community and friends of Indian Lake, to please help by donating to a new fundraiser! This time, we are fundraising for chain link fencing around the 108' x 60' courts. We currently have estimates of \$15,700.00-\$18,000.00 to do an 8' fence around all four sides, with two court entry doors and then two 4 foot fences in between the courts. We currently have \$2,001.00 "in the bank" to start us off.

As you can imagine, fencing would make for more enjoyable and faster play for ALL players so that "stray balls" won't have to be plucked out of the poison ivy infested woods!

THERE ARE 4 WAYS TO DONATE:

(1) This project has a *NEW* "GOFUNDME" account: Go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/>

pickleball-court-improvement-project-part-ii (FYI...3 percent goes to GoFundMe)

(2) Personal checks written to “Carol Rubino” with "Pickleball Courts" written in the memo area and “For Deposit Only” on the back of the check

(3) Venmo: @Carol-Rubino-2 “Pickleball Courts” written in the memo area (1248 phone verification)

(4) Zelle: Pickleball Courts written in the memo area.

Thank you for your consideration!

Questions? Please email Carol Rubino at [carol.rubino@gmail.com](mailto:carol.rubino@gmail.com) or check in with Keith (Turp) North and/or Kevin Skibinski.

Much gratitude goes out to the Miller Family for allowing us to use their property and giving us permission to improve the courts!!

See you on the courts!

-Carol Rubino

## Pickleball Play

The game of pickleball continues to grow in popularity across the nation!! Many of you may watch it on tv when a professional organization now has special invitational tournaments, but the appeal of the game is for those of us that can play and enjoy the companionship of people and competition. It is an opportunity to meet

new people, get a good work out, and have happy times.

A recent issue of the Corewell Health magazine had a nice article about the game. It mentioned a new indoor facility at Senior Services of Van Buren County in South Haven is now open for play. Why the popularity? The game is easy to learn, good for any age or skill level, and is a fun aerobic workout.

The local courts are available 24-7 but Tuesday and Saturday mornings seem to be when many players show up. Last Saturday all three courts were busy and everyone was having a great day!! Check out the photos of some of the players!



Kevin and Ken set for a shot against Curt and Erin



Chuck and Tim await the serve from Kevin

## LAKE NEWS

### Indian Trail and Highland Shores

This past fall we lost a great friend and neighbor in the unexpected passing of Jim Rubino.



Helen and Jeff discussing strategy against Theresa and Claudia



Theresa and Claudia prepare to return Helen's serve

See you on the courts.

-Turp North



James Michael Rubino

Jim was a tireless steward of our lake and leader in the community. Jim could be seen kayaking on the lake in the early hours with his little dog Coopie in the bow, acting like Jim's sentry. Jim was a frequent competitor, both on the pickle ball court and golf course, and he was a member of the Indian Lake Hills "Hole in One Club." He was an extremely skilled woodworker who built beautiful furniture for his home and family. He even built his wife Carol's dream home here on Indian Lake. He was a diehard 60s music fan and a notorious lover of cookies.

Jim was a loving husband to his wife of 45 years, Carol (Easton) Rubino, a proud Dad to his daughters, Jaime and her husband Michael Henry and Jaclyn and her husband Mike Fladmark of



Minneapolis, adored Papa to granddaughters Devin and Sloane Henry of Houston, and devoted uncle to his dear nephew, Ron Nagy. Of course his furry, four-legged companion, Coopie, cherished his owner.

He contributed mightily to the community, serving on the Indian Lake Improvement Association board and as the Pokagon Township representative on the Government Lake Board of Indian Lake. His organizational abilities and unwavering dedication to the lake was certainly a huge factor in getting the GLB off and running in the right direction. He was always seen with a ready smile and was friendly to everyone. We will all very much miss our dear friend, neighbor, and champion of Indian Lake, Jim Rubino.

-Emmett Thiessen and Jim Slott

### **Conklin Shores**

I attended the Indian Lake Governmental Lake Board meeting on May 8 and the Indian Lake Improvement Association (ILIA) meeting on June 10. For those of you who could not make it, here is a summary of the meetings and some of the information on the websites of Cass County, Silver Creek Township, and ILIA.

Barr Engineering has developed a 5-year plan to deal with the weeds (especially the invasive weeds). They have done testing of the water and comparison to data from other lakes and the literature to develop the best long-term, scientifically based plan to deal

with the weeds. As all of you probably know, the lake has been treated with Fluoridone and then samples taken and spot treatment again was applied. The lake is the clearest I can remember in a long time. To my understanding from the 5-year plan's PowerPoint on the Cass County website, the clarity has to do with a decrease in phosphates and other nutrients that feed the weeds. When those are decreased, the lake has more oxygen, which leads to a healthier environment.

There has been speculation for years that the runoff from the Mann Drain at the north end of the lake has contributed to weed growth due to animal waste and fertilizer from the agricultural fields north of the lake. Barr Engineering and some Indian Lake resident volunteers are doing water sample testing at the drain to determine if there is indeed an issue, especially after a heavy rain.

Many of you remember the weed harvester that ran for many years on the lake. Its purpose was to cut and dispose of the tall weeds before they could get tangled in boat propellers. It is past the point of being repaired in a financially prudent manner. Therefore, last year the ILIA membership approved that the ILIA Board research buying a new weed harvester. At the most recent meeting, the ILIA Board recommended that a new Invasive Vegetation Harvester (which I will forever call a "weed eater") be purchased. It will cut weeds 6 feet below the surface and remove them from the lake. This will NOT eliminate the weeds, but is one part of weed management and will help make the lake more enjoyable for all.

Barr Engineering is supportive of this measure. The ILIA Board described how they researched different models and why they chose the model they did. I was satisfied with their explanation and decision. The decision to purchase a new weed eater if funds are raised passed overwhelmingly (and there was a pretty big crowd). However, this new weed eater is not cheap! Therefore, ALL of us will be asked to donate to the purchase.

The ILIA would like to have Block Captains for each section of the lake. This will be the point person in each area for communication between the residents and ILIA. They asked for volunteers for Block Captains at the meeting. They are still in need of Block Captains for Orchard Bluff, Indian Lake Club, German Village, and Inn-D-Inn. If you live in one of these areas and would like to volunteer, please email ILIA at [ILIAMichigan@gmail.com](mailto:ILIAMichigan@gmail.com).

My husband and I have been residents of Indian Lake for over 25 years, and we have been members of the Improvement Association every year. We feel it is a small contribution to help us have the best lake in the region. While nobody likes having chemicals put into the lake, because of invasive species there is really not much choice if we want to keep our lake viable. Kudos to all the current and past ILIA Board members who have given their time and talents to help the lake be the best it can be. I hope every resident will consider becoming a member of ILIA and contributing to the purchase of a new "weed eater." Please be on the lookout for fundraising activities coming soon.

Congratulations to Matt and Melissa Rotroff on their wedding in October 2022. Matt's grandparents had a cottage on Conklin Shores before he was even born, so he has spent his entire life coming to Indian Lake. In 2018, Matt's uncle, Dave Strupeck, who was also a long-time Indian Lake resident, married Melissa's Aunt Arlene. The ceremony and reception were held at the lake. Matt and Melissa met at the wedding and the rest is history!



-Mary Beth Luna

## **CLASSIFIED ADS**

### **For Sale**

2000 Lowes Sea Nymph V FM 1655  
Series Fishing Boat, Trailer, & Lift with  
Johnson 50 hp engine  
Clean, one owner, \$12,000  
Call Ronn at 630-235-5441

### **Found**

A new, white, Indian Lake Hills baseball cap with ball marker clip was found in the lake. Dried out and is good as new. Please call Tim at 312-287-8804.

## **THE BILGE-WATER BULLETIN** **CLASSIFIED ADS**

- ❖ The text for a classified ad should consist of a brief description of the item, the asking price, and a contact person with a phone number.
- ❖ Each classified ad should include one item only. An exception will be made for garage sales.
- ❖ The cost for a classified ad with text only is \$15.00.
- ❖ The cost for a classified ad with text and one business card size picture is \$25.00.
- ❖ The cost for a classified ad with text and two business card size pictures is \$40.00.
- ❖ There is a two picture maximum per ad.
- ❖ Lost, Found, and Free Classified Ads are free of charge.
- ❖ All Classified Ads run for two weeks.
- ❖ If you would like any item (for sale, lost, found, or free) to run another two weeks, consecutively or at a different time, please send an email to [ilycbilge@gmail.com](mailto:ilycbilge@gmail.com)

Payment for Classified Ads should be sent to:

Indian Lake Yacht Club  
P.O. Box 888  
Dowagiac, MI 49047

### **Editor's Note**

Thank you to everyone who sent articles for this week's newsletter. The Indian Lake Yacht Club and Bilge-Water Bulletin are community efforts, and we want you to be a part of the community. Please help us with your contributions.

Feel free to share stories of your family history and home on the lake, special events happening in your family or lake neighborhood, recipes, boating, lake life, jokes, or any other topics of interest.

The **deadline** for submitting articles, photos, and classified ads is **Monday at 12:00 noon** for any items to appear in Friday's Bilge-Water Bulletin. Please send all emails to **[ilycbilge@gmail.com](mailto:ilycbilge@gmail.com)**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

–Deb Raffin