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# The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

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## FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT

Anita Lawson

This will be my last letter as President of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Your new President, Ralph Mason, will be a great leader of our association.

Lee Poe, Steve Miles, Jim McCormick and Keri Stallings as Officers of H.O.B.O. will all assist Ralph for the next two years. Remember, these are all volunteers working for you to keep our lake safe and as natural as possible.

Also, your Board of Directors has some new faces - Scott Phillips, Jimmy Neely, and Rush Letson have all agreed to become active in H.O.B.O.'s leadership. New people bring new ideas. You, as a member of H.O.B.O. need to keep your Area Reps, Officers, and Board Members informed on your ideas. We need to know what you want out of your association. Your \$25.00 per year, per family dues is not much considering the benefits you receive. Your quarterly newsletter keeps you informed, your Lake Mitchell Phone Book keeps you connected, your volunteer Area Representatives advise you of happenings on the lake. The Marine 9 boat is in good condition and being manned by the East Chilton Volunteer Fire Department for emergency needs. So write your check out right now for your 2011 dues.

Review your current phone book and if anything needs to be changed or added, please email Cindy Wallingford [cindog2009@gmail.com](mailto:cindog2009@gmail.com). Your \$25.00 annual dues includes 1 phone book that will be mailed to you.

We had a great turn out at our annual general meeting in November. Our Marine Policeman, Brad Harrison, was our speaker and he shared some great tips on how to keep our homes and property safer. One important item was to never put on *Facebook* your travel plans. This just sends a welcome flag to dishonest people. Also, try to keep your visits irregular. Do not keep the same predictable pattern that can be used against you. Try to use timers on lamps in your home that come on or off at various times. Officer Harrison's input was a valuable reminder to each of us.

2011 Lake Mitchell Calendars are for sale now. The calendars have pictures of lake events, places, and people each month. The proceeds support our scholarship to a Coosa or Chilton student each year. You can call me 205 960-5083 or email [anitaklawson@gmail.com](mailto:anitaklawson@gmail.com) your order and we can mail to you or plan delivery. Order soon!



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ralph Mason [ralphmason@wildblue.net](mailto:ralphmason@wildblue.net)

The changing of the guard has taken place. In 2009 and 2010, Anita Lawson provided superb leadership as the President of the Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association. While the success of our organization depends upon a large number of willing and able members, the captain of the ship has to lead us toward the accomplishment of the mission. Anita deserves much credit for ensuring that we as a group preserve, protect and improve the quality of life in and around Lake Mitchell. We should all salute our newest "Past President."

Going forward in 2011, we hope to increase our H.O.B.O membership and to get more volunteers to help with the tasks

we undertake to ensure that the beauty and high quality of life is continued on our scenic lake.

We all serve as stewards of the environment we share. Doug Powell, who is in charge of the Renew Our Rivers Program for the Alabama Power Company, has recently complimented our organization for the progress we have made on Lake Mitchell in our clean-up efforts. Lee Bendall deserves a lot of credit for organizing and overseeing the clean-up activities over the last few years. He stepped down from his leadership position on the Board of Directors at the end of 2010.

Equally important to keeping our shores clean and pristine is the water monitoring effort on Lake Mitchell. The dedicated work of our water monitors has made an invaluable contribution to helping protect the water quality in our lake. Protecting our water and shorelines must remain a high priority as we go forward in 2011.

We will give more attention to crime prevention given several incidents of thefts on both the Chilton and Coosa sides of the lake in 2010. We will be coordinating our

concerns with the Sheriff Departments in the two counties and with the Alabama Marine Police.

Kudos are extended to Becki McCallum (H.O.B.O. Secretary) and Rose Green (Social Committee) for their superb contributions as they depart their very active organizational roles.

I wish all of our H.O.B.O. members and their families a Happy New Year in 2011.

**AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**

**Area 5** Sonny & Peggy Bullard [bullspad@yahoo.com](mailto:bullspad@yahoo.com)

Fall has been short but full in more ways than one. The Area 5 luncheon was small but the fellowship was large. We compete with ballgames and school events in the fall so our attendance is always lower. Jim and Karen Shallenburg, new to Lake Mitchell and Area 5, attended the luncheon and we were delighted to get to know such lovely people. Jim didn't stop with the luncheon but joined Sonny the following Saturday at the lake clean up. Jim hopped on board the H.O.B.O. boat with Captain Sonny and they took a boat load of student volunteers out to experience cleaning up beautiful Lake Mitchell. In a fisherman's words Jim and Karen are "keepers" and we welcome them. They claim kin to Jim McCormick...but not! You'll have to ask them about that one.

Remember this is the time of year to get your \$25.00 dues in for 2011. Some have already sent theirs in and if you are one of those you should see a M11 beside your name on the address label. Please check to make sure you are current. New phone books will be published this year and with so many new people to our lake you won't want to miss receiving your new one.

By the time this newsletter is read the holidays will all be over and we asked the Lord to be with each of you during such a wonderful time of the year. We hope your Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays were blessed and may your new year be filled with joy and prosperity in Jesus Christ. Sonny & Peggy Bullard

**Area 7** Becki & Mau McCallum [beckmau@earthlink.net](mailto:beckmau@earthlink.net)

We are so excited to once again assume the reins as area representatives. We want to stay connected with all our neighbors. If you have not already received an email from me, please contact me with your correct email address and phone number. I promise I will not "bug you to death". I do want to report Warren Arrasmith on County Rd 473 had a boat trailer stolen from his yard during November. Even "high traffic" areas are not immune from the recent increase in thefts lake-wide. I would also ask you to be observant. If you see someone cruising you do not know, flag them down and see if they need assistance. Better yet, get a tag number and a description of the vehicle and occupants if possible.

I also encourage you to renew your H.O.B.O. membership – or join for the first time! We need the support of all our

lake neighbors to keep making improvements. The other areas of giving noted on the membership form are worthy of your consideration as well.

Please call me at 755-5334!

**Area 9** Dale & Patty Vann [RDVANN@bellsouth.net](mailto:RDVANN@bellsouth.net)

I wish I had more to report on but there has not been much going on in November and December. I guess you have all heard that stealing on the lake seems to be at a high rate. The latest in Area 9 is the Dorough's had a boat trailer stolen. Please keep a look out for anything that may look suspicious. Especially if you see someone that should not be in our area.

Some good news...Mike Ford is well on his way to recovering from his fight with cancer. Please keep Mike in your prayers.

We have an Area 9 neighbor newly elected to the Board of Directors for H.O.B.O. (Jim Neely). I know he will represent us well. Congratulations Jim!

Happy trails until our next newsletter. Dale Vann

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Water Quality Report** Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O <sub>2</sub>	5-9	6.89
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.76
Alkalinity	20+	79.70
Hardness	10 - 120	65.29

Quarterly Report Average Water Quality

A low **dissolved oxygen** level indicates a demand on the oxygen in the system. Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage as well as decaying natural organic matter can cause low oxygen levels. The **ph** scale ranges from very acidic such as battery acid to very basic such as household lye. The midsection of the scale between 6.5 to 8.2 is optimal for most organisms. If a body of water has an abundance of buffering materials causing high **total alkalinity**, it is more stable and resistant to ph changes. When alkalinity is above 20mg/l there is a marked increase in nutrient utilization. **Hardness** refers primarily to the amount of calcium and magnesium, which enters the water mainly by leaching of rocks. Both minerals are essential to the development and growth of aquatic plants and animals.

**BULLETIN BOARD**

**2011 Calendar of Events**

H.O.B.O. is your organization! Members are welcome at all meetings and social functions. Annual membership dues in H.O.B.O. are \$25.00 per family, payable each January. See the back page of this newsletter for the applicable form.

Feb 18	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	Trinity
<b>Mar 26</b>	<b>8 a.m.</b>	<b>Spring lake clean-up</b>	Higgins Ferry
Apr 10	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
Mar 15		newsletter deadline	

May 6	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	Trinity
	<b>4 p.m.</b>	<b>Annual Picnic</b>	Higgins Ferry
June 12	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
June 15		newsletter deadline	
July 3	9:00 p.m.	Fireworks	Cargile Creek
July 4	10 a.m.	Pontoon boat parade	Higgins Ferry
	2 p.m.	Speed boat parade	Blue Creek
Aug 5	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	Trinity
Aug 7	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
Sep 15		newsletter deadline	
Oct 21	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	Trinity
<b>Nov 18</b>	<b>6:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Annual General Membership meeting</b>	TBA
Dec 15		newsletter deadline	

### Report from 2010 Annual General Membership meeting Becki McCallum

There was a significant number of the general membership present at this meeting, as well as Brian Calhoun representing Alabama Power and guest speaker Brad Harrison of the Alabama Marine Police. Also visiting this meeting was Cam Ward, our newly elected state senator.

President Anita Lawson noted that we have calendars available tonight for sale to fund the annual scholarship. Rebecca Beaty was asked to give a report from this committee and she notes that they are actively publicizing with the schools and are generating good interest. We had three students at the fall clean-up participating for this reason. Anita noted there is one scheduled clean-up for next year, March 26, 2011. Anita also announced there has been a great deal of theft on our lake this year.

The guest speaker of the evening was Brad Harrison, our lake Marine Police officer. He stated he has covered our lake for about five years. He is in regular contact with local authorities and verified theft is definitely on the rise. With only 3-4 days per week coverage and distance from local authorities, watchful neighbors are the best way to "police" our areas. He stressed common sense methods: 1) Don't advertise your movements on the internet 2) Vary your routine for visiting if you do not live here 3) Have a neighbor collect your junk mail 4) set light timers for varied operation 5) keep everything locked.

Rick Griffith asked: "What if we interrupt a burglar and what would be the response time?" Brad stressed the best response is to be a good witness and contact law enforcement immediately. Be sure to specify your location as it could be very different from what is indicated by GPS, especially if you are using a cell phone. Response time of course will vary but due to distance is not immediate. Brad did not know if GPS is available to all 911 services and he said Coosa County 911 should be in service now. Most dispatchers know to call Brad if a lake location is involved. Most of the break-ins have been on the upper end of the lake and some have been for specific items such as a single boat part.

Sam Piccolo asked about the license requirements for out of state visitors. Brad verified an out of state license is sufficient for boat operation in Alabama. Underage visitors who visit regularly are encouraged to get an operator license, although if it is not required in their state

it is not mandatory. In Alabama any resident age 12 and older are to be permitted for vessel operation.

Doug Martin inquired about the procedures for requesting buoys. Brad stated the procedures change frequently, and that some are paid for by the state while others are charged to the individual. You can get an application from the state marine police division or contact Brad directly. Either way, he is the one that investigates the need for a requested buoy.

Lastly, someone asked if he has regular patrol days. Brad works a forty hour week, some on patrol and some in court. He stated he generally patrols three day weekends for most of the month, plus a day during the week. He varies his off days.

Anita presented Brad with a calendar as thanks for his attendance tonight.

Membership report: Jim Woodrow noted 2010 was our lowest paid membership since 2004 at 366. Please encourage membership with your friends and neighbors.

Becki McCallum was presented a gift of a beautiful personalized box in recognition of eight years service as secretary.

Rose Green was also presented with a gift for her outstanding service as social chair.

The 2011 proposed budget was then presented by Treasurer Jim McCormick. He noted the growth in the Marine Capital line item this year was thanks to Sonny Bullard, who rebuilt and sold the old Marine 9 engines. The proposed budget is \$1100.00 less than last year in response to lower paid memberships. George Jackins moved to accept the budget as proposed, Rick Griffith seconded and the motion passed by vote of all present.

The 2011/12 slate proposal was presented as follows:

President – Ralph Mason

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Lee Poe

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Steve Miles

Secretary – Keri Stallings

Treasurer – Jim McCormick

Chaplain – Carl Scott

New Directors proposed are Jim Neely, Scott Phillips and Rush Letson.

No additional nominations were made from the floor. George Jackins moved for closure and acceptance of the slate as proposed, Rick Griffith seconded, the motion passed by vote of those present.

Anita then swore in the new officers and directors.

The Area Representative list for 2011/12 was then posted on the screen for general information.

The gavel was passed to Ralph Mason who stated it is his honor to serve after many successful past presidents. He welcomed suggestions, encouraged vigilant neighborhood watch and asked us all to foster new and renewed membership in our organization.

He presented a gift of a wall clock to Anita in appreciation of her service, and Peggy Bullard presented her with scrapbooks chronicling her term.

**Meet some of your new officers and directors**

Lee Poe – Lee and Kim live on Lake Mitchell full time on Walnut Creek. Kim grew up in Clanton on Lake Mitchell Road and was related to Raymond Wyatt who operated the fish camp on Walnut Creek. Lee grew up in Birmingham and before getting married lived full time on the Warrior River.

Lee is an accountant and works for the State of Alabama. They are members of Poplar Springs Baptist Church in Clanton. They enjoy all water activities fishing, boat riding, jet ski's, water skiing, etc.

Scott Phillips - Scott is married to Gay Phillips and they celebrated their 28<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this January 8<sup>th</sup>. They have two sons, Chris who is a senior at the University of Alabama and Patrick, who is a sophomore at Auburn University. No tension there!

Originally from Mississippi, they met at Mississippi State University where they both graduated – Gay in Elementary Education and Scott in Construction Engineering Technology. They came to Sylacauga, AL in the early 80s after Scott accepted a position with Energen Corporation, and eventually ended up with Malcolm Pirnie in Jackson Mississippi in 1990, then returned to Birmingham in 1995.

Scott is a registered Professional Engineer in Mississippi and has worked for Malcolm Pirnie – an international environmental engineering and consulting firm – for over 20 years. He has expertise in Water Resources, Remediation, Environmental Policy and Community Education & Outreach. He is Malcolm Pirnie's Managing Director of International Operations traveling worldwide to assist companies and communities with water and environmental issues. Scott also serves on the State of Alabama's Environmental Management Commission.

Scott & Gay looked for a weekend lake house for years in Alabama on most all of the central and northern lakes. They finally found Lake Mitchell. buying a "weekend" getaway at the Ridge on Lake Mitchell in 2007. As they joined us for the weekends, they found it harder and harder to leave and moved here full-time in the spring of 2009.

**Your interest and assistance is welcome**

We are always looking for lake folks to become involved in your organization. What is your area of interest or talent? Some of the places you may become involved are on a committee (social, scholarship, publicity, environmental, education, just to name a few). Other positions available include web site coordinator or calendar coordinator.

Please contact Ralph Mason and express your interest or willingness to serve! [ralphmason@wildblue.net](mailto:ralphmason@wildblue.net), 205 755-6618.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Email any submissions to [kmcminn3@aol.com](mailto:kmcminn3@aol.com) and [judyurchison@gmail.com](mailto:judyurchison@gmail.com) for editing and inclusion.

**Memorial Gifts**

*The Lake Mitchell Memorial Fund is available for gifts in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. Please send your contributions to our post office box and note your check accordingly. The intent is to set aside these funds until there is a sufficient amount to fund special projects.*

*In Memory of:*

Tom Carter  
Mike & Dot Wesson

*from:*

Chris Yarboro  
Michael & Kathryn  
Thornell

**"Good Neighbor" postings**

If you have an item to sell or give away, or are looking for an item, you may submit a written request to Keri Stallings at [kmcminn3@aol.com](mailto:kmcminn3@aol.com). She will verify that you are a current member and reserve the right to edit the content. Any requests for publication need to be made by the newsletter deadline posted on the above calendar.

**Lake Mitchell Recipe/Daily Journal** Johnye Woodrow  
[ajwking@aol.com](mailto:ajwking@aol.com)

We are still collecting items for our project. Please forward your favorite recipe, old & new photographs, memories/narratives of life on the lake. If you send in an old photograph (i.e. Lake Mitchell ski club), or a photograph of a place of interest on the lake (i.e. the old rope swing) **please include a short story about it.** If your favorite recipe is not your original, please note the source of the recipe. Keep the cards & letters coming – even the "one liners"! You can send to [ajwking@aol.com](mailto:ajwking@aol.com) via email, or contact me, Rose Green, Roxanne Martin or Patty Vann. As always, thanks for your help and support.