From the President…
Steve Miles

It’s a New Year and this New Year brings a new HOBO President. My name is Steve Miles and I would like to thank you for this opportunity to be your HOBO President. I have been a part of the Lake Mitchell community since 1980. My wife Leslie and I have lived on the lake full time for the past 9 years. We enjoy all the HOBO community functions and have made a lot of good friends from them. I hope to carry on as well as past Presidents and try to improve on our membership and quality of life on Lake Mitchell. You can email me with your concerns and or questions or call me at 205-755-6432. I look forward to seeing you at our next lake cleanup on April 11th. When the newsletter comes out it will be warmer and spring will be in the air.

Be Safe!
Steve Miles

Please Pay Your 2015 Dues
If you haven’t submitted your dues for 2015, please complete the form on the back page of the newsletter and send in your $25 today. Along with each paid membership this year, you will receive a free renewal phone book.

2015 H.O.B.O. Photo Calendars Available
Lake Mitchell is a photographer’s dream every month of the year, and HOBO Annual Photo Calendar committee needs your pictures! A submission form is available on the Lake Mitchell HOBO website. Anyone one who lives or spends time on the lake is invited to submit pictures.

Our goal is to be able to select 13 pictures that showcase the beauty, serenity, and enjoyment of life on Lake Mitchell. If you are interested in working on the calendar committee make a note on your submission form. We have already received several pictures of amazing sunsets and beautiful fall foliage for the 2016 calendar, so get your camera out and start snapping!

2015 Calendars are on sale now at $12.00 each. Contact your area representative to purchase your calendar. Steve Miles or Melissa Nannini will also be happy to help you. Contact Jim Woodrow for a calendar to be mailed to you at a cost of $15.00 to include postage and packaging. Proceeds benefit the HOBO Scholarship Fund.
**HOBO Newsletter and Website Changes**

Thanks to Marie Greene for her years of work editing HOBO Newsletter. She is now the Webmaster for our new website [www.lakemitchellhobo.org](http://www.lakemitchellhobo.org). Be sure to pay our site a visit soon! Melissa Nannini is the new editor for the HOBO newsletter. If you have story ideas or suggestions for articles for the newsletter, please contact Melissa at [melissa.nannini@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.nannini@gmail.com).

**2015 HOBO Directory Update**

The Lake Mitchell HOBO Phone Directory for 2015-2016 is currently being developed and will be published during the 1st Quarter of 2015. We are working to accumulate data for the Phone Directory (and HOBO Database) to make the information as current as possible. If you have or know of changes to addresses (home and Lake), phone numbers (home / Lake / cell) or email addresses that need to be made current, please let us know. Corrections or changes may be sent to the HOBO PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046, or emailed to Jim Woodrow at [ajwking@aol.com](mailto:ajwking@aol.com) or called to Jim at 205-913-0121 (cell) or 205-425-9431 (home). The HOBO Phone Directory gives all HOBO Members a way to keep in touch with our neighbors and helps to provide a means to strengthen our Lake community through communication.

Don't hesitate to give me a call if I can answer questions or provide help in any way.

Jim Woodrow

**Renew our Rivers**

The year 2015 marks the 15th year of the Renew our Rivers project. According to *Shoreline Magazine*, volunteers removed over 500,000 pounds of trash from lakes on the Coosa chain in 2014. I am proud that Lake Mitchell always has good turnouts at our cleanups each year. The October cleanup was cold and windy, but the warm hospitality shown by all the volunteers more than made up for it. My brother even got into the act wearing his hunting clothes and using one of those “gripper” things.

Tommy Carpenter

*Mark Your Calendars:*

**2015 Renew Our Rivers Lake Cleanup Dates:** April 11 and October 31

**Tree Habitat Development:** March 4 8:30 AM at Higgins Ferry

**Higgins Ferry Improvements**

Thanks to Alabama Power Company, there have been several updates at Higgins Ferry Park. Two new piers constructed of composite decking with a connecting boardwalk are already in place. The new layout brings Higgins Ferry pier into compliance with current regulations. Alabama Power has plans for additional improvements at Higgins Ferry Park.
Sad news from Area 2; we lost a long time lake friend recently with the passing of Frances Mims. I know you all will join Area 2 in keeping the O’Neal and his family in your prayers.

We welcome the new HOBO Board of Directors, and officers, with Steve Miles from Area 6 being our president for the next two years. Steve has been very supportive of HOBO in various functions. He and Leslie are permanent lake residents and Area Reps for Area 6. Be sure and let Steve know you support him.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Area Name</th>
<th>Representative</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Blue Creek/The Ridge | Bobby Lewis  
docx2@mindspring.com | 205-212-1020  
205-901-8307 |
| 2    | Blue to Cargile | Jim & Johnye Woodrow  
ajwking@aol.com | 205-425-9431  
205-755-0055 |
| 3    | Cargile South | Dan Murchison  
DanMurchison@gmail.com | 205-408-7445 |
| 4    | Cargile North | Joan Vickery  
vickery200@yahoo.com | 205-280-7336 |
| 5    | Cargile to Bird | Sonny & Peggy Bullard  
pnsbullard@gmail.com | 205 755-9514 |
| 6    | Bird Creek | Leslie Miles  
lesliemiles0@gmail.com | 205-755-6432  
205-612-2172 |
| 7    | Bird to Walnut | Becki & Mau McCallum  
beckma@gmail.com | 205 755-5334 |
| 8    | Walnut SW | Beau Battaglia  
beau@redsox@yahoo.com | 205-389-2480 |
| 9    | Walnut Creek Peninsula | Betty & Joel Elam  
Betty687@aaol.com | 205-991-3775  
205 755-3775 |
| 10   | Cove and Mountain | Roxanne Martin  
roxypmartin@gmail.com | 205 755-0863 |
| 11   | Mountain to Lay Dam | Stan Holt  
Stan-holt@att.net | 205-980-1428 |
| 12   | Upper Hatchet and Weogufka | VACANT | |
| 13A  | East Pennamotley | Jim & Wathan Hand  
jmhand@centurylink.net | 256-377-1153 |
| 13B  | West Pennamotley | Richard & Wendy Cruse  
wendycruise@gmail.com | 205-253-8298 |
| 14   | Hatchet to Big Airplane | Eric & Rose Green  
rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com | 205-492-7151 |
| 15   | Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough | Tommy Carpenter  
tcpen@southernco.com | 256-377-1046  
205-586-1749 |
| 16   | Big Y to Mitchell Dam | Nan & David Spivey  
davidaspivey@gmail.com | 256-377-1178  
205-492-0375 |

Area 2-Johnnye and Jim Woodrow

Sad news from Area 2; we lost a long time lake friend recently with the passing of Frances Mims. I know you all will join Area 2 in keeping the O’Neal and his family in your prayers.

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Our newsletter editor has changed to Melissa Nannini. Please help support her by keeping your area reps and/or her directly informed as to items you would like to be included in the next issues of the newsletter.

In welcoming the new president and editor, make sure we all sincerely thank our past president, Lee Poe and newsletter editor Marie Greene. Marie Greene has done an outstanding job with the newsletter and the website. She has retired from the newsletter only, and will continue to manage the website. Both have done a great job for HOBO. Lee and Marie are both still active members.

Please take a few minutes to review your information in the current telephone book. Give me and/or Jim a call with any updates or changes as a new book will be published this year. Your dues are due for 2015 - $25 per family occupying your cabin. Along with each paid membership this year, you will receive a free renewal phone book.

Remember in maintaining your lake homes, be very careful with poisons. Most of us have animals that travel with us. I know the pests can be bad, but try to keep your neighbor’s pets in mind when using strong chemicals.

I know we are all ready for some warm pleasant weather on the lake. Don’t forget your dues! HOBO works for all to promote a strong Lake Community.

Johnye Woodrow

Area 3-Dan Murchison

2015-TIME FOR A CHANGE! A new face, new ideas, new energy- all are needed by area 3. Seventeen years is too long for the same area rep to be effective. It is time for a change! Is it time for you to do your part to protect, preserve, and improve Lake Mitchell? I hope you will answer this call and volunteer to be the Area Rep for area 3. Area Reps are the lifeblood of HOBO! You can call me at 205-755-0521 or email me at danmurchison@gmail.com. This is also the time of the year HOBO sets its annual goals. As an area rep we seek your suggestions as to how we can better Lake Mitchell. Please take time to send me your suggestions! I wish for you and your family lots of happy memories on Lake Mitchell for 2015.

Area 5 – Peggy and Sonny Bullard

It is winter! What is there to say or report? Looking back, we had a great year on the lake. The lake cleanups, both spring and fall, were successful in spite of the cold weather. Biting cold for the fall, but a faithful few turned out including two scholarship applicants. The fireworks on July 4th were the most awesome yet. Again, we thank you Jim McCormick and crew! Both boat parades were tremendous although some people had problems due to the wake created. There was a good turnout for the picnic and everyone enjoyed the band, although only a few took to the dance floor. Attendance was great at the annual meeting. All the past presidents brought their scrapbooks for display and many who attended mentioned that they wished they had more time to look through them. Now it is time to look to the New Year and expect great things. All in all this has been a great year for the Bullards. Only one hospital stop for Sonny in all of 2014! Now we are praying the number to be zero for 2015. How blessed we are to be living here and enjoying the beauty of the lake in all seasons.

Don’t forget to send in your HOBO dues! Hope to see you soon boating around on the lake. Float by and see us!

Area 6 – Leslie Miles

First, I thank Melissa Nannini for taking on the newsletter. It means a lot that she has welcomed the challenge and I truly appreciate the hard work she will be putting into this new endeavor. I know she will do a great job!

I want to welcome a new neighbor to our Bird Creek family, Dr.Marty and Amy Heslin. They bought the Pierce’s home this past fall and they are so excited about meeting new friends and experiencing the lake life. They live in
Vestavia and have 3 children. (Two at Auburn (ouch, you know that's a hard one) and one in high school.) Really looking forward to meeting them.

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season but for the ones who missed it, Santa was seen wake boarding Christmas Day! So glad that he had a good night before and had the energy to wish us all a Very Merry Christmas, it's always such a special treat!!!

Happy winter to all!

Area 7 – Becki and Mau McCallum
Hello all. Our area has been pretty quiet until our friend and neighbor had a heart attack just before Christmas. Louie Bentley has faithfully acted as our own litter control officer for many months and many of you may have met him at HOBO cleanups or River Church. He will have a long road to recovery if his body can heal and fully regain function. At the time of this writing he is healing and getting stronger but he and his family covet our prayers for strength and healing in God's will. We love him and want him back with us healthy and strong again. Thankfully, I have not heard of any other issues or concerns in our area. We have all "hunkered down" and are just enjoying the sunny days (when we have them) and staying warm. Winter is really my favorite time of year and the lake is beautiful and peaceful.

Area 8 - Beau Battaglia
We are about to start another year on Lake Mitchell. Of course, the weather can't determine if it wants to be winter or fall. I have noticed more debris in our lake than usual and most of that is from the windy and rainy nights we're experiencing. I would like to ask residents and visitors on the lake to please contact your area representative or me if you see debris and it's not being removed so we can arrange for it to be removed.

We have some new leadership who are in place now. Last year we welcomed a new area representative to area 9 and I believe it will only benefit our association. As many of you know we also welcomed a new president and we couldn't have found a better person to lead us going forward. Our last president did an amazing job and we thank him tremendously for his efforts during his time in leading us. Also Melissa is now in charge of our website and other tedious duties and we need to help her in any way possible. Marie did a great job and we were blessed to have her for the time we did. I believe in 2015 we're heading in the right direction and it will enjoy another beautiful year on Lake Mitchell.

Area 9 – Betty and Joel Elam
Betty and I are the new HOBO representatives for Area 9. We would like to thank Dale and Patty Vann for the great job they have done for the past ten years in representing our area. Please pass on any news to us that may be of interest to our area for this letter. We are certainly honored to take this duty and hope that anyone needing assistance will not hesitate to call us. Things are usually calm during this time of year, but let's help each other out by checking our neighbors and friends houses on visits to the lake. We plan on continuing the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend for our annual HOBO meeting. Mark your calendars.

Area 13B – Richard and Wendy Cruse
Hi and Happy New Year neighbors. It has been cold so far but that has not stopped us from going outside. It should not stop you either. Bundle up and go out, even just onto the porch. We have heard owls, woodpeckers and the big heron all winter. www.alabamawildlife.org has a great picture collection of our local birds. Try www.enature.com for a very nice selection of birdcalls. On our hikes in and around the woods this year we found some beautiful pink quartz and a lovely white arrowhead. And don't forget to look at all the great tree species we have. A good website to look at is www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0509/ANR-0509.pdf This key can help you identify 69 of the most common native trees found. Hope everyone enjoys our beautiful lake in the winter as much as we do.
Area 15 – Tommy Carpenter

I hope everyone had a safe and blessed holiday season. I just returned from the lake (January 7th). I had to make a special trip to winterize my cabin. I had been down there the weekend before but forgot to check the weather. Lesson learned! A second lesson learned was to make sure I have supplies on hand to get my cabin ready for 12-degree weather. I found some neat things at Wal-Mart to cover my outside faucets. I left some heat on, but for good measure I put some of that RV antifreeze in the sink traps and toilets. My neighbor came down and was doing the same thing. We agreed we could have called one another and maybe saved one of us a trip!

A good neighbor gave us some nice crappie before the cold snap. They were good and very much appreciated. They fried up delicious.

Water Quality Report-Sam Piccolo

Our H.O.B.O. volunteer water monitors collect water samples each month at various locations around the lake. Samples are tested and results reported to Sam Piccolo, who compiles all samples and maintains monthly records of average water conditions on the lake. Average water conditions on Lake Mitchell for the past three months are as follows: Dissolved Oxygen 7.78; PH 7.61; Alkalinity 81.38 and Hardness 60.27. Current water quality data is available each month at www.lakemitchellhobo.org.

Dissolved Oxygen
Low dissolved oxygen indicates an excessive demand on the oxygen in the water. Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage as well as decaying natural organic matter can cause low oxygen levels, potentially resulting in “fish kills” or other negative impacts on aquatic organisms.

pH
The pH scale ranges from very acidic such as battery acid to very basic such as household lye. PH less than 4.0 or more than 11.0 is usually lethal to fish and other organisms. Decreases in pH could be the result of runoff from acid soils (e.g. fertilized farmland or acid mine drainage) or contamination from livestock waste.

Alkalinity
Water with an abundance of buffering materials such as limestone increases total alkalinity, making it more resistant to pH changes and therefore more stable for aquatic life. When alkalinity is above 20mg/l there is a marked increase in nutrient utilization.

Hardness
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.

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How to Stretch a Dollar – Join HOBO!

The Lake Mitchell HOBO is a great value. For a basic fee of $25 per household we are able to accomplish the following:

WATER TESTING - We have an Environmental Committee that works with Alabama Power Company, Alabama Water Watch and other organizations to monitor what our watershed is filtering into our Lake. Your H.O.B.O. dues purchase the water testing kits and supplies that our water monitor volunteers use to regularly test the water at various points along our lake.
LAKE CLEANUP - We spend about $800 per year on our semi-annual lake cleanup events where many volunteers comb the lake cleaning hundreds of pounds of litter and trash from our shores. After depositing the bags of debris, workers celebrate at Higgins Ferry Park with a picnic provided HOBO.

SCHOLARSHIP - Each year we award a $2500 scholarship to a local Coosa or Chilton County high school senior. The HOBO Scholarship Committee accepts and reviews applications, works with school counselors and interviews each applicant to select the scholarship recipient.

WATER FESTIVAL - HOBO donates $1000 each year to the county Water Festival for Fourth Graders. More than 600 children spend an entire day learning about the importance of protecting our valuable water sources. They do science experiments, water testing and other hands-on experiments to gain a better understanding of our impact on the environment and the delicate balance of our fresh water sources.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT - HOBO is also a dues-paying member of the Chamber of Commerce, and we make a donation to the local church in Clanton that allows us to use its facilities for H.O.B.O. board meetings.

POSTAGE - We spend about $1000 annually to mail meeting notices, cleanup dates and picnic invitations.

MEMBER DIRECTORY - Every two years we spend almost $3000 to collect data, print and mail our lake resident telephone directories. These books are provided at no additional charge to H.O.B.O. members.

AREA EVENTS - Area Representatives have $400 in the budget to use to communicate with their area homeowners and to host local parties or events for their area members.

PICNIC - We spend about $500 to feed all members and families who attend the summer picnic held at Higgins Ferry boat launch.

FIREWORKS - After the sun goes down, we all gather in Cargile Creek to enjoy the Lake Mitchell fireworks show. Your dues provide a portion of the cost of the fireworks. Many members also make a specific fireworks donation to help offset the cost of the show.

FIREBOAT - We have a unique form of protection provided by our fireboat, known as Marine 9, the designation given by the East Chilton County Fire and Rescue unit that mans the boat. The boat was purchased in 1998 with proceeds from our dues, donations, yard sales, raffles and a skeet shoot. Since this time we have continued to maintain the fireboat.

And all of this for $25!!!!!!. Please complete the membership form on the last page of this newsletter and mail it in along with your dues check today. Our 2015 goal is to have every homeowner on Lake Mitchell join HOBO.

If you have something you would like to buy, sell, or give away, advertise it for free in the H.O.B.O. newsletter. Submit your information to Melissa Nannini at melissa.nannini@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed!

Bryan Maddox, chief of East Chilton Fire Department, has asked for volunteers. If you are interested in working with the East Chilton Fire Department, contact Bryan at eastchiltonfire@gmail.com.

HOBO Area Representatives keep everyone on the lake connected and up-to-date on lake happenings. Please consider serving as an Area Representative for your area. Contact Steve Miles via email at Smiles@insurancenetworkal.com or by phone at 205 755 6432 to volunteer.
Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.  Membership Application

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Other Donation
Boathouse Sign $15  Memorial  Education Fund  Scholarship  Other (specify) $15

Name: [ ] Check
One: [ ] Renewal  [ ] New Member

Home Mailing Address:
Lake 911 Address:

Email:

Home Phone:  Lake Phone:  Cell Phone

Detach and mail completed form along with your check to: Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., PO Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046