
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 13 Issue 2 www.lakemitchellhobo.homestead.com **Second Quarter 2008**

FROM THE PRESIDENT Doug Martin,

dougmart@mindspring.com

What a difference a year makes! Our water levels are back to normal and we can get back on the water... if only we could afford it. Well, you can't have everything. This year on the lake is off to a good start. We had an excellent cleanup this spring and the annual H.O.B.O. picnic had many new faces present. The food was excellent, in large part due to Rose Green and her staff on the social committee. The Richville Fire Department continued their annual cooking of the meat for the event and did a great job once again.

This year H.O.B.O. recognized the four fire departments that serve the lake community: East Chilton, Verbena, Gap of the Mountain, and Richville Fire Department in Coosa County. Two of the departments had more than a few members and family members in attendance. They received on behalf of their departments a plaque honoring their service and commitment. We can all be proud of their dedication in an all-volunteer force for the public good. The Lake Mitchell community is quite fortunate to have their services.

Please submit your photos for the 2009 Lake Mitchell photo calendar contest prior to August 30th. Photos should be related to the lake; beyond that limitation no categories are set, so use your imagination. You can visit the website to see what has been submitted and any new additions. The website address is www.lakemitchellhobophotos.shutterfly.com/action/.

There have been approximately 150 photos submitted at the time of this writing. Submissions should be emailed to roxymartin@mindspring.com.

Your lake association is currently in the process of establishing criteria for a H.O.B.O. scholarship to a worthy resident recipient of either Chilton or Coosa County. The President of H.O.B.O. will award the scholarship during the award ceremony in the recipient's school in May 2009. Once the board approves the criteria, they will be published in the fall newsletter and distributed to county school systems.

I hope you have a safe, fun-filled summer on the lake. Please submit your thoughts and ideas on how your

association can better benefit its people and the beautiful lake environment we all love. Consider volunteering for an activity or event.

We'll see you on the water.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 3 Judy Murchison gugga4@bellsouth.net

We have had a good response from Area 3 homeowners who have joined H.O.B.O. this year. We need 20 more to have 100% membership from our area! If you don't remember whether you have paid your dues for 2008 give me a call and I can tell you. Sometimes I forget too. We have 62 homeowners in our area.

We on Cargile Creek South have a first row viewing of the fireworks show put on by Jim McCormick & Co. It is always fabulous! So much a part of our lake memories. Don't forget to add your donations toward the fireworks show when you send in your membership application. If you are already a member we welcome your donations also. Mail any contribution to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL

35046 and note for the Fireworks Show.

Bad news from Area 3 - we have had some petty thefts recently. Be sure everything is locked up and tools put away when you leave. Some of the things reported taken have been a connection to a camper holding tank, circular saw, yellow child's slide, gas cans & wiring. Be a good neighbor and watch out for each other. We have engraving tools available to mark your property, tools etc. Report to each other any people seen in your area or coming down your road that don't live/belong there. Take note of their looks and what they are driving - you may need this info later if a theft occurs. Have a wonderful, safe summer. Call us with suggestions or concerns.

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard bullspad@bellsouth.net

Hello Summer! We think it has finally arrived. A few days have felt like we were on the inside of a hot air balloon. Hot, but summer at the lake is what it's all about.

We are sad to report that one of our neighbors, Bob Jones, lost his battle with cancer. Bob had been our area rep and also a board member in H.O.B.O. and will be missed.



May the Lord bless and comfort his family during this time.

Our Area 5 Spring Fling was May 3rd at the home of Donna Leigh and George Jackins. Although the morning started with rain our spirits were not dampened. There were 33 in attendance, our highest number yet. If you were not there you missed a real treat. The Jackins home is like an art exhibit and reflects Donna Leigh's talent and skill as an accomplished artist. Thank you to George and Donna Leigh for your hospitality.

Remember to send in your dues for 2008. Check your address on this newsletter and if you don't have an M08 beside your name your dues have not yet been credited.

Remember you may call us or come by at any time. Your ideas, concerns and feedback are important to us. Have a safe and fun summer. We hope to see you at our fall gathering if not before.

Area 8 Steve Wideman DownYonder@Juno.com,

Area 8, which now covers the Lake Mitchell Marina slough and all the way up Walnut Creek on that side, has essentially been ignored the past few years due to my lack of active participation (other than periodic Area Rep meetings and the occasional 'Welcome Package' delivery). I apologize for this, and have no excuse other than I'd HOPED to be able to do this well. My biggest concern right now is that I've recently transferred to another division of my company, and the workload has vastly increased to the point where I must concentrate on the essentials only.

I am happy to report that another resident has stepped up to take over this areas' representation. Please welcome Lee & Kim Poe, and if you have any ideas or concerns please contact them at 280-0626. They are full-time residents of Area 8.

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann RDVANN@bellsouth.net

First, let me say we had a terrific turnout for our Memorial Day get together. As usual, there was a lot to discuss about Lake Mitchell and Area 9. Doug Martin, President of H.O.B.O., was there to give us an overview of the importance of being a member of H.O.B.O. and how this association benefits the residents of Lake Mitchell. It seems he got everyone's' dander up when he told us about the new guidelines for shoreline management. If you were not at the meeting you can contact me to learn more.

By the time you receive this newsletter all of us in Area 9 should have county water! We have all been waiting for over two years. Thanks to Mike Ford for all you did to get this project accomplished. I made a personal visit to the people at the County Road Department. I told them about our concerns and came out thinking that they gave me the courtesy of listening but would not react. Well, I was wrong. Within two weeks most of the potholes were patched all the way to the end of County Road 264. Now if I can only get them to fix the one really bad spot just past the one lane bridge.

If you see anything suspicious going on in our area, please check it out. Just being seen will chase the "not welcome"

away. Also if you have anything you want reported in this newsletter let me know. We hope all of you are having a good summer.

Now let's meet Mrs. Betty Johnson. Betty and her late husband were one of the first to have a place in Area 9. They leased their lot in 1959 and the only way to get there was by water. After the road was extended to their lot, Betty remembers the long walk up the path to where the car would be parked. Today it is different. She drives down the driveway and parks about five feet from her door. On Sunday afternoons they always tried to be the first to leave so they would not be behind anyone on the dusty dirt road. When asked what she likes best about being at the lake she answered "everything", but mostly the peace and quiet, riding the boat with her grandchildren, and meeting her neighbors. She especially enjoys the annual get-together on Memorial Day. She says everyone on the lake is so nice and friendly. If you get a chance to talk to Mrs. Johnson she will tell you a lot about her time on Lake Mitchell.

Area 10 Roxanne Martin roxymartin@mindspring.com

Welcome summertime!! We are so thankful to have a full lake. The lake is getting busy, so please be considerate of others whether you are cruising, fishing, or skiing. The annual H.O.B.O. picnic was fun and a huge success, despite the heat. If you didn't make it this year, please try to come next year! We are very happy to have Doug and Jan Parker as new homeowners in our area. Our area has experienced two losses, Charles Bazzell and Brian Shrader. Charles was on our lake for many years and he lost his battle with cancer. Brian, the son of Rick and Linda Shrader, passed away while working as a fireman in Iraq. They both enjoyed time spent at the lake and will be missed. Our sympathy goes out to their families. If I can help you in any way, please give me a call 205-755-0863 or email roxymartin@mindspring.com. See you on the lake!

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitalawson@bellsouth.net

The Lake Mitchell Water is moving along. They have all permits as required by the State and are offering a last chance to sign up for the water. It has been a long wait but now seems to be a reality.

Just a reminder of all the services offered on the Coosa County side of Lake Mitchell: Garbage Pickup, Mail, Richville Volunteer Fire Department, Lake Mitchell Fire and Rescue Boat, Paved roads, plus the many nice neighbors around you. When Jerry and I purchased our home 30 years ago, we did not even have telephone service!

Keep safe this summer. One of the dangerous acts that can be easily eliminated is skiing or pulling floats behind your boat when coming out of a slough. You never know when a boat will be heading in and they cannot see you coming.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Water Quality Report** Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	8.68
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.77
Alkalinity	20+	54.13
Hardness	10 - 120	52.17

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.

Fireworks Report Jim McCormick

"Come on Baby Light My Fire" was the opening song of this year's Independence Day Fireworks Celebration. And light up the sky we did! Although there was rain and lightning all around, we were still able to get underway at 9 pm.

This Lake Mitchell tradition began in 1988 and has grown in size, technology, attendance and enthusiasm each year. It's been fun but there have been some "I can't believe this" and some "oh NO"s along the way. Once there was the group of "celebrators" that wanted to tie up to our pier so they could get the best view! I finally convinced them that they would only get a real good view of the first shot, after that they would be fish bait!

I have had some questions about this years' show.

Question: All was going well then there was a pause before it started back up?

Answer: A ground wire was pulled loose by the concussion of the previous shells (Sibley Reynolds located and re-wired).

Solution: Fire the guy responsible (but then that would be me).

Question: The music was sounding great then right before "Sweet Home Alabama" all we had was static, what happened?

Answer: 1) I don't know, 2) Brodie got hurt 3) Obama lost his lapel pin while looking for McCain's teeth 4) some of our shells we import from China, maybe it's an Olympic thing.

Solution: Reference above

Question: What's with the ones we see go off well after the main show is over?

Answer: Whenever we have duds we re-wire them and shoot them so they do not fall into the wrong hands.

Question: Why was one of the Smiley faces upside down?

Answer: That was for the astronauts.

Comment: That was the greatest finale ever; did you do something special?

Answer: You bet cha!

Please send any suggestions or comments to jmac51@bellsouth.net. What did you like best? What needs work? Any special shells you would like to see more of? Any music suggestions?

Thanks to all the volunteers, contributors, and our Lake Mitchell family.

BULLETIN BOARD**Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Photo Calendar Contest**

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. is sponsoring a photo contest during 2008 for the production of a 2009 Lake Mitchell Calendar. There will be 13 photos chosen from the submissions and 1 of the 13 will be the 'Best in Show' and chosen for the front of the calendar.

All proceeds from calendar sales will be used to fund a Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Environmental Scholarship to be awarded in the spring of 2009 to a deserving recipient. The details of the scholarship will be announced later this spring or early summer.

Please note the criteria for submission of photos below:

*All photos must be digitally produced (scanned regular photos cannot be accepted due to the image quality for calendar purposes)

*All photos will be uploaded to www.shutterfly.com. If you wish to view the photos on shutterfly, please email roxymartin@mindspring.com and a link will be forwarded via email

*A photo cd may be mailed to Roxanne Martin at 1409 County Rd 261, Clanton, 35046; or photos can be emailed to roxymartin@mindspring.com. Please make sure your name is on the correspondence for identification purposes.

*Photos submitted should be centered on the Lake Mitchell community and its' environment: landscapes, wildlife, etc.

You may enter as many photos as you wish. Photos will be accepted between March 15, 2008 and August 15, 2008.

October 25 is Lake Mitchell Fall Cleanup

Put the date on your calendars now! A fun way to fellowship and help your lake home remain beautiful.

Please contact Larry Waldron at (205) 987-7217, or Doug Martin (205) 755-0863 for more information.

New Phone Book 2009-2010

We will soon be compiling the new edition of our lake phone directory. Please check your listings and those of your neighbors. Any corrections should be sent to Judy Murchison at gugga4@bellsouth.net and Jim Woodrow at ajwking@aol.com. If you would like to place an ad in the new directory, please inquire of Judy Murchison.

Memorial Gifts

In memory of from
Bill Crocker, Area 14 Dan & Judy Murchison

Jim Hampton, Area 4 Dan & Judy Murchison
 Bob Jones, Area 5 Dan & Judy Murchison
 Megan Ray, Area 13A Dan & Judy Murchison

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Email any submissions to beckmau@earthlink.net and gugga4@bellsouth.net for editing and inclusion.

Have a little fun and win a prize!

The first person to correctly locate the word "talent" in this newsletter and notify Judy Murchison at gugga4@bellsouth.net will be eligible for a prize visor or hat!

Last quarter's first correct contact was Margie Hunt of area 14. Other contacts with the correct answer were Charles Russell, Jeri Hensley, Anne Germann, Mac McMillan, Gale Mallory, Barbara Bazzell, and Mike Thornell.

You can now be a "Good Neighbor" in another way!

You now have an opportunity to give and take, or sell and buy with your lake neighbors. We are offering this opportunity to any current (annual dues paid) member of our organization. If you have an item to sell or give away, or are looking for an item, you may submit a written request to Becki McCallum at beckmau@earthlink.net. 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.

From Tom and Tad Henry in area 6: Need a second refrigerator to store all those soft drinks in the boathouse? We have a "barely-used-like-new" white Kitchen Aid model KTRC20K 19.8 cubic foot refrigerator/freezer on top with ice maker, tempered glass shelves, gallon door storage, etc. \$350. Housed in B'ham. Call 822-8636 and please leave a message.

From Richville Fire Department: We will be selling Boston butts for Labor Day as a fundraiser. These are the same delicious meats you were served at the annual H.O.B.O. picnic! Please plan to place your order by Monday, August 4; the pick-up date will be Saturday, August 30 from 7 to 9 a.m. The cost is \$25.00 per butt. We appreciate your support!

Call Wayne Ward at 256-377-4522 or 334-467-7660 to place your order today.

From Steve Wideman in Area 8:

I am willing to let this boat live with a new owner: a 1990 Smokercraft 24' pontoon boat WITH TRAILER and 60HP Mariner outboard, canopy, trolling motor. Good

condition, boathouse-kept but not used NEARLY often enough! Asking \$4673.54, but might come down a tad if you have a really good river story to include in the next newsletter. (This is the famed 'Shady Lady' of Walnut Creek, by the way...)

Contact Steve at DownYonder@juno.com, or call 205/822-0657 during week or 205/755-0940 on weekends.

Safety, Shoreline Destruction, and Boat Noise Dan Murchison

These are currently major topics of discussion on all the major lakes. New home construction is at an all-time high which means significantly more boat traffic causing more wave action. Each new home generally means at least two new boats, 4-6 new children/grandchildren and their friends being pulled on wake boards, tubes, skis and personal water craft. Mom and Pop, Grandmothers and Granddads all want to see how their offspring perform; so running close to shore near our homes has been the preference. Most of us have been there and done the same thing. The problem now is bigger and more powerful boats, especially with the increase in wakeboarding (bigger waves), more homes, more boats, more people, etc. Waves do considerable damage to our piers, docks, and seawalls, and can be dangerous for those unfortunate enough to be sitting in a boat near a pier, children on rafts near piers, etc. when hit by a four foot wave. We have heard horrible stories about unfortunate incidents caused by just the boat waves. The Marine Police suggests that we stress to all that "a boat driver is responsible for his wave action". From a legal standpoint we are all responsible for "our wakes and any damage done". When a boat goes round and round in a highly populated area there is the potential for damage to piers and children playing in the water by their piers. The boat drivers/boat owners causing these waves can be held responsible.

Oh, did I mention the noise from the high fidelity speakers used by some boaters? This is costly for replacing the blown out hearing aids and ear drum damage to our senior (and not-so-senior) citizens trying to enjoy a day on the lake. Please show consideration for others by keeping your music down to a reasonable decibel level.

Safety is also a big issue with the increased bass tournament traffic and ever increasing speeds, bigger motors, and the race to get to that favorite spot first. Beware if you happen to be on the lake at take-off.

The lake associations are receiving these kinds of complaints weekly and are discussing the issues and how to handle them.

If you have a particular problem/suggestion or request the Marine Police has suggested that you write to:

M. Barnett Lawley, Commissioner DCNR
 (Department of Conservation and Natural Resources)
 64 North Union Street
 Room 468
 Montgomery, Al 36130

Email: dcnr.commissioner@dcnr.alabama.gov

Phone number (334) 242-3486

Copy your area representative or:

H.O.B.O. President Doug Martin

1409 Co Rd 261

Clanton, Al 35046

Email: dougmart@mindspring.com

H.O.B.O. Spotlight

**Bob Jones, our dear friend and valued fellow
H.O.B.O. Board member**



Bob & a big cat

From past president George Jackins:

We are truly saddened by the untimely loss of our friend and neighbor Bob Jones. Bob loved the lake and lived on Cargile Creek in the cabin bought by his dad many years ago. Bob grew up and lived for many years in Prattville prior to moving to Lake Mitchell. He served loyally as Area 5 Rep and as a member of the H.O.B.O. Board of Directors. We were always glad to see Bob's smiling face and experience his good nature. We will sure miss him.

From Bob's daughter, Margie Fallen:

"Contentment" was originally leased by my grandfather, Robert M. Jones, Sr. along with several families together in the early 1950's. It was originally a one bedroom fishing type cabin. Eventually my grandfather bought out the other families, purchased it from Alabama Power, and it became the Jones family cabin "Contentment." As my grandfather became unable to take care of the cabin, my father, Robert M. Jones, Jr. (Bob) moved in and began making renovations to the cabin. He loved this lake and its community. I have fond memories of my father taking us fishing early in the morning. We drank coke and ate boiled peanuts! He loved to water ski. He had been doing it for so many years that when I was only two years old, he would place me on his shoulders while he skied. The Jones family always made the cabin available to family and friends and has been enjoyed by all for many years.

If anyone has memories of my dad they would like to share, they can visit www.mem.com. And log in to the guest book. It is great to read them and they will be published in a memory book in a few months. Thank you.