



From President Bob Thornton



Welcome to 2022 on Lake Mitchell. I hope each of you and your families had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Hopefully this year will be an improvement over 2021 and certainly over 2020. We plan to continue working toward a normalization of our Lake Mitchell HOBO activities. We plan on having our two cleanups, our picnic and our poker run. All are shown on the calendar on our web site & below.

We have lost a few long time members and gained some new neighbors. I ask that each of you make an effort to meet your new neighbors and encourage them to join the HOBO (along with existing neighbors who are not members). Our membership has been holding up well, but we can always use additional members. Let's all be safe and watch out for each other.

Saturday May 7 – lake cleanup

Saturday June 4 – picnic

Saturday June 18- poker run

Sunday July 3 – fireworks

Saturday October 15 – lake cleanup

FROM THE EDITOR:



If you are a member of Lake Mitchell HOBO, this is **your** newsletter. It is sent out 4 times per year, and we hope it provides helpful information about the lake in general, as well as keeping you updated on activities and events of interest.

If you have any ideas for items to include in future issues, please contact your Area Rep and they can forward them on to me. And remember we have a great HOBO website which is updated regularly with photos and articles. Be sure to check it out.

To each of you - Happy New Year! We are already excited to see what 2022 may bring for our lake community.

JUST FOR FUN –

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me....

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

AREA REPRESENTATIVES are the lifeblood of HOBO. They are the contact point for people who have homes in a specific area of the lake. Here are the reports that were submitted for this quarter.

Area 5 – Peggy Bullard

Welcome to the New Year everyone. This month Area 5 would like to spotlight Scott and Amy Bailey. They sent me a bit of history about how they came to be on Lake Mitchell. Much of it I already knew as Sonny and I were friends with Amy's Grandparents, Milton and Louise Allen. Their lake house is on the main river north of mine near Goat Island, also known as Boy Scout Island. Milton and Louise had been on the lake since 1959. Their cabin was destroyed by a tornado a few years later. In 1969 Milton and his son Greg built the current cabin in a nearby spot. Their family enjoyed many years of fun together on the lake. Milton and Louise passed the cabin on to Greg at their death and now Greg has decided it is time to pass it on to his daughter and her family. Scott and Amy Bailey are about to begin a full renovation project of the cabin. If you have driven by on the water, you probably already noticed the demo has begun. Next summer we can expect to see a whole new place. The Bailey's are excited to be able to keep a lot of the existing house and all of the memories intact. I am excited for Scott and Amy and their children Madeline, Mitchell and Grant. What a legacy they have and it involves many fun days on Lake Mitchell with their Grandparents. This young couple are not new to the lake but they are new home owners and I am looking forward to meeting them soon. They would welcome anyone to stop by to see the work in progress and for them to meet some Lake Mitchell HOBO's. Looking forward to spring and being on the water again.



The Bailey family

Area 9- Walnut Creek Peninsula - Joel and Betty Elam

Welcome to 2022. Our neighborhood is changing and we need to be reminded about one of the common courtesies on the water ways. As we approach the new season, we must be aware of the work and cost of sea walls, boat houses, and piers. Since the beginning of Lake Mitchell, our types of skiing have changed and our boats have followed. Our boats are bigger and produce larger waves. As we ride in our sloughs or even the main channels, please respect our neighbors and ride to the middle of the water ways. Some of our boats can create huge waves causing damage to sea walls, rock placement, boat houses, piers, and even small children swimming. As Betty and I became new lake neighbors, we had to no idea of the size waves our boat produced until we were told by our lake friends. Please remind others of this courtesy



Are You Ready for Some Fireworks!?

Planning begins early for our annual fireworks show. We have already started planning and as of now we are looking at Sunday July 3rd at 9pm. All of this depends on getting our product which is shipped from China. We do not anticipate a problem at this time but.....well y'all know of the supply chain issues. We are always looking for ways to improve, including shell selection, which shell will be shot within the show, and timing. I'm confident the show will go on so mark your calendar and invite your family and friends. Your generous contributions make it all possible. You can do so as you renew your membership either online or using the form on the back of this newsletter. Thanks to all for your outstanding support ! (notice, courtesy of Jim McCormick)



You know how it is here in Alabama; it hardly ever gets really cold for an extended period of time. Anytime the clouds disappear, the sun warms us, and the lake calls our name. We've got Spring Fever, even before spring arrives. We clean our boats of cob webs and spider poop and crank'em up. The air temperature is feeling warm and we're ready for fun, but remember the water is still COLD. We need to be reminded of a serious subject -- **Hypothermia** – it's not something we worry about much here in the South, but when we're out on the lake in the wintertime, we should be especially careful. Falling into cold water creates a specific condition known as immersion hypothermia. It develops much more quickly than standard hypothermia because water conducts heat away from the body 25 times faster than air. Surprisingly, hypothermia can occur in any water temperature below 70°F. Survival times can be lengthened by wearing proper clothing (wool and synthetics and not cotton), using a personal flotation device (PFD, life vest, immersion suit, dry suit), and having a means of both signaling rescuers (strobe lights, personal locator beacon, whistles, flares, waterproof radio) and having a means of being retrieved from the water.

Lake Mitchell's water temperature goes down to the low 50's in the wintertime. At that temperature, death may occur in as little as an hour. The shock from the cold water can often cause a heart attack. Cold water immersion causes an instantaneous and massive increase in heart rate and blood pressure because all the blood vessels in your skin constrict in response to sudden cooling. In vulnerable individuals, this greatly increases the danger of heart failure and stroke. It's even more important to wear a life preserver in the wintertime than in the summertime.

Our lake is a wonderful place to have fun, but it's most important to arrive back safely to our families. In recent years, we lost one of our members of our Lake Mitchell family to immersion hypothermia. Let us all be careful that this doesn't occur again.

---thanks to Jim McCormick and Patsy Aldridge for this information

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP:

Our annual membership meeting was held on November 12 at the Central Alabama Coop headquarters in Prattville because our regular meeting place was unavailable this year, It worked out really well, and we extend our thanks to Tom Stackhouse for making this event possible on short notice. President Bob Thornton opened the meeting (which was a Covid-delayed 25th anniversary celebration) by recognizing the charter members, past presidents, board members, and area representatives who were present.

Speakers included Trooper Marshall Westbrook, who is assigned to Lake Mitchell by the Central Division of the Alabama Marine Patrol, speaking on boating laws; Van Smith, who is the new State representative for District 42, speaking on the results of redistricting; Tom Stackhouse, from CAEC and Chris Montgomery, from Central Access, speaking about the possibility of internet for CAEC customers; Herbie Johnson, from Alabama Power, speaking on the status of the FERC license for our dams and the plans for the future; Jim McCormick, presenting our proposed budget; Dale Vann, speaking about lake cleanup; Jim Woodrow, reporting on HOBO membership; and Marie Butts, reporting on our scholarship efforts.



Tom Stackhouse



Herbie Johnson



Trooper Marshall Westbrook



Van Smith



Lay Dam info: (this is the dam at the far north end of Lake Mitchell)



Be aware of these potential hazards when fishing close to the dam --

1. Swirling water and strong underwater currents at powerhouse intakes.
2. Strong unpredictable currents, presence of submerged hazards and low visibility upstream of dam spillways and trash gates.
3. Turbulent discharges from automatically operated turbines.
4. Cascading spillway discharges, strong unpredictable currents below dam and presence of debris passing over or through dam.
5. Strong upstream currents in surface waters (reverse flow).
6. Swift, turbulent waters below spillway gates.
7. Slippery surfaces on shoreline.
8. Submerged hazards and rapidly rising waters from turbine or spillway discharge.

(thanks to Alabama Shorelines for this information)

HOBO Founder Honored

As the 25th Anniversary of HOBO drew to a close, HOBO Board Members and Area Reps met for a holiday celebration. Current President Bob Thornton presented a certificate and award to Dan Murchison to recognize his importance as founder and first president of the HOBO Association in 1996. Dan had a vision over 25 years ago that lake residents could make a difference in the health and well-being of our lake if we joined together in a common effort. He and his wife Judy have worked tirelessly since 1996 to “Preserve, Protect and Improve” our lake. You could say Dan's passion was to keep Lake Mitchell beautiful and safe for all to enjoy. He began a grass roots effort - going door to door, meeting people, passing out flyers, and encouraging neighbors to gather at his home to spread his vision, which resulted in the all-volunteer organization we have today, with over 400 members.. Congratulations and thanks to Dan and Judy!



53% of the residents of Lake Mitchell now belong to HOBO – let's go even higher in 2022 !

Lake Mitchell HOB
P.O. Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046
Change Service Requested

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Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Membership Application

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	General Donation \$	Optional Purchase HOB 25th Anniversary Collector's Edition Calendar 2022 \$25 each
Check One:	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member			Optional Purchase Additional Phonebook \$10 each
Last Name			First Names (Both spouses, if applicable)		
Home Mailing Address:					
Lake 911 Address:					Lake Area
Email 1			Email 2		
Home Land Line or N/A	Lake Land Line or N/A		Cell #1	Cell # 2	

Detach and mail form along with your check to Lake Mitchell HOB, P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046
Or join and pay online at www.lakemitchelhobo.org