

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Fireworks 2018 – June 30th

By HOBO Treasurer Jim McCormick

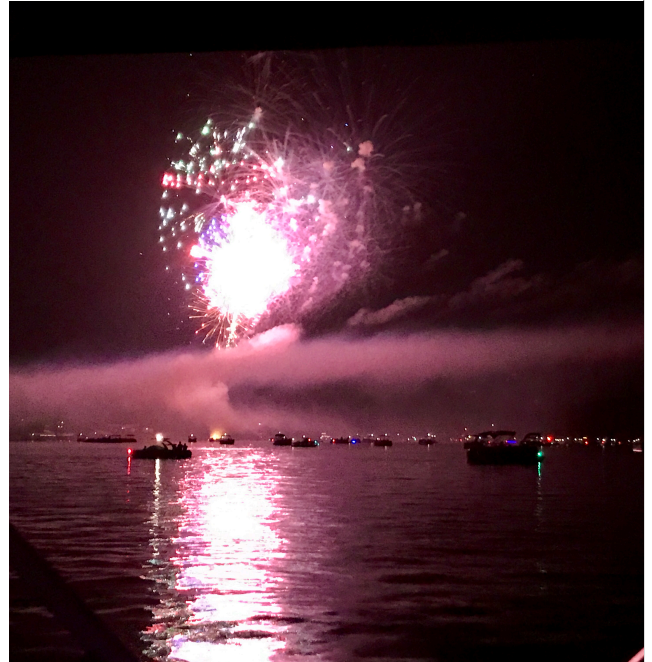
June 30th? That's not a fireworks date is it? Well it will be in 2018. **That's right Saturday June 30th at 9 pm in Cargile Creek.**

The calendar is not kind to us in 2018 with the 4th of July falling on a Wednesday. Because of many of our members work schedules it will not be feasible to have a mid-week show. So as weird as it seems the 2018 4th of July celebration will happen in June.

The preliminary planning for the show has taken place. **The site for 2018 will be the same as 2017, in Cargile Creek.** We had a lot of positive feedback that this is a better location than in years past; plus this site gives us a lot larger footprint so our show can include larger shells and our display can fill more of the sky.

I met with the President of the company that supplies us with the fireworks as well as the set up crew soon after this year's show. He promised us a better selection of shells and a better presentation for 2018.

Let's all remember that we could not put on a show this size if it weren't for your generous donations. Donations can be included with your membership forms. You can donate online through our website at lakemitchellhobo.org or you can mail a check directly to HOBO at P.O. Box 1324, Clanton, Alabama.



From the Spring Cleanup...

**2,160 pounds of trash was
cleaned up by over 75
volunteers, including 9
HOBO Scholarship
Applicants!**



From HOB0 President Scott Phillips:

Well, we are in the fun time of Lake Life – the beginning of summer! I wanted to wish you all a wonderful and safe summer on Lake Mitchell. I also wanted to let you know about your Lake Mitchell HOB0's focus this year. We had a great 2017 and achieved more engagement from our members. We want to continue this momentum into 2018.

This year we are working on all of our existing programs to provide you more opportunities to enjoy lake life, more benefits to membership in HOB0, and more ways to participate in Lake Mitchell HOB0. The following are the programs we are aligning around and focusing on in 2018.

Marine 9 – Increasing engagement with East Chilton Volunteer Fire Department and having the fire boat seen more on the lake.

Lake Area Signs – the initial sign placement was successful and we want to include more around the Lake. ***SO, I am asking the Area communities to let me know if you would like us to consider placing a sign in your lake location and if so, where you believe we could locate it*** (since we will need approval from the landowner to place it in a proposed location.) Please get with your Area Representatives and let them know what you would like to see in your Area or send me your thoughts directly at wsphillips2@gmail.com.

“If you are not getting the results you want, it is due to misalignment somewhere in the organization, and no pushing, pulling, demanding, or insisting will change a misalignment.”

— Attributed to Stephen Covey, Author

Lake Cleanups – increase involvement in our lake cleanups by getting more boats to attend and conduct a pre-cleanup reconnaissance to identify littered areas.

Annual Picnic – engage more young people on the lake and have more people working to plan and participate.

Fireworks – continue the excellence in the fireworks display and explore other improvements that may help make it better – if that is even possible!

Poker Run – continue the Poker Run and use its technique for engaging teams of people in the other projects and programs to make them better and to include more perspectives.

Scholarship Program – continue the excellence in the scholarship program and use things that have made it so successful to improve other programs.

Environmental Program – with our new chair, Richard Cruse, take our environmental program to next level.

So, join in with our focus and alignment and help make your HOB0 better! Start by visiting us at www.lakemitchellhobo.org and by having a safe and fun time on Lake Mitchell.

LAKE MITCHELL CRAPPIE

On March 8th, 2018 Lake Mitchell HOB0 had its first meeting with Alabama Wildlife and Fisheries biologist Mike Holley. The meeting was to discuss possible improvements in the crappie fishing on Lake Mitchell. Twenty seven fishermen attended the meeting. There was much discussion and many questions asked about what conditions might affect the spawn and hatching of crappie.

The main question was what could we do to help? The opinion of the Biologist was that we couldn't do very much and that the real help had to come from Mother Nature! We were told that Lake Mitchell has a decent population of crappie but that they were old, large crappie who were smarter and harder to catch. Also, that their habitat might be different from usual structures and they might be found in deeper channels and open water. In addition, that their main food supply was shad.

My VERY PERSONAL opinion is that there are some things we can volunteer to do such as make fishing during spawn legal only every other year. We can release the females who are heavily bloated with eggs. We can limit our catch of crappie to just a good meal size and number and not try to fill our freezer. We can observe any illegal actions which might affect the health of our fishery and report them to authorities. We can discourage spider pole fishing and we can start an annual restocking program.

Importantly, we can dedicate ourselves to keeping our fishing group together to discuss and work on important future issues that are important to the health of our fishery. I want to personally thank all those who attended our meeting and I look forward to future discussions.

Dan Murchison

AREA UPDATES

Area 5 - Cargile to Bird

It grieves me to have to report two more of our area people who have passed away. Ann Goodwin went to her forever home with her Lord on November 26, 2017. Don and Ann would have celebrated their 62nd anniversary December 2017. What a legacy of love and devotion. Don and the two children and the five grandchildren will miss her forever.

Helen Threlkeld died March 19th at Hatley Health Care in Clanton. She is survived by a daughter, Donna and her 2 sons Robert and Albert. She was preceded in death by her husband Lt. Col. Donald Threlkeld. Both of these ladies will be deeply missed by all their family and friends.

If you haven't submitted your HOB0 dues this year please make an effort to do that soon. You can now pay online, make a donation or purchase merchandise. Of course there is still snail mail for those who are not computer confident. You shouldn't feel bad if you have not yet submitted them as this has been a reminder to me as well!

Peggy Bullard

Area 6A - Bird Creek

Recently I have had the opportunity to attend numerous HOBOSponsored meetings and events. The topics have ranged from Higgins Ferry Campground to Coosa River water flow to Crappie fishing. There is always one common thread present at these well attended meetings and that is the volunteers that give of themselves for the good of all of us are amazing, unselfish people and we don't thank them nearly enough. So...From Bird Creek to all the HOBOSponsored volunteers, Thank You for caring, protecting and giving so that we can all enjoy our amazing Lake Mitchell!

Bird Creek lost a longtime resident this past Spring. Betty Roy, the wife of George Roy, passed away in February. Please remember the Roy family in your thoughts and prayers.

We have gained two amazing families recently. Tony & Molly Watts and Bear & Johnna Newton. Both families are seasoned veterans of Lake Mitchell. Now Bird Creek gets to claim them as our own.

Y'all come see us - Tina & Troy Crocker

Area 8 - Bird to Walnut

Last year we signed up four new members into H.O.B.O. and I plan to contact not only them but the other long term members in our area to encourage each to renew their membership for this year. Needless to say, the more members we have the better organization we become, thanks to excellent leadership.

Jim & Linda O'Rear

Area 9 - Walnut Creek Peninsula

The eagles are soaring, the snow has melted, and our peninsula has come alive. Trees are budding, flowers are blooming, and the sound of hammers are filling the air. It is time to come join us at the lake for fun and friendship. Our area has undergone changes, from our bridge, to home updates and remodeling. One of our goals this year, is through HOBOSponsored, neighbors, and friends to bring our residence closer together. With this in mind, we would like for our neighbors in area 9 to mark your calendars for Saturday, May 26, 2018 for a get together at our home. More information will be coming to you by mail with time and address.

If you would like to be on our area mailing list, please send me your contact information to betty687@aol.com. HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE LAKE....

LAKE DRAWDOWN

Please be aware that Lake Mitchell will be drawn down for the first time in many years this fall, giving you the opportunity to do work on your seawall and piers. The lake will be down several feet from October 5 through October 16. Go ahead and line up your workers, and make sure that you coordinate with Alabama Power Shoreline Management office for any work that requires permitting.

SWIM GUIDE

The Coosa Riverkeeper's Swim Guide program will test three Lake Mitchell locations this year. Those include Higgins Ferry Park, Cargile Creek, and "way up" Hatchet Creek at the Forever Wild Park. Have test results sent to you by texting "SWIMGUIDE" to 844-83 or see CoosaRiver.org/SwimGuide

Some Tales from Bird Creek

By Chip Gates, HOBO Historian

Bird Creek, as you may know, is named for the Jarra Jarra bird, a very large native bird, very rare, meat eater, been known to take...., O.K., so much for a line from Crocodile Dundee II. Actually I haven't the foggiest idea how Bird Creek got its name, but I'm hoping one of our readers with a beak for trivia will let us know. In the meantime, let's get on to the facts at hand. Rick Miller, a full-time resident of Bird Creek, contacted me when he saw an error in the 1st quarter 2017 newsletter historical article. For that article one of my sources was a 1957 USGS map which placed Wyatt's Fish Camp on the point of Bird Creek and the river. Rick was kind enough to set the record straight that **Wyatt's was located just inside Walnut Creek.** Rick went on to provide most of the following about his neck of the woods.

Just south of Higgins Ferry, **Bird Creek is a moderate size slough on the Chilton County side.** As one enters the slough, on the left is land that was once part of the Boy Scout **Camp Arrowhead.** Towards the back of the navigable part of the slough and on the right side is Rick's place. Like many a lake house, it has had a few additions and modifications since his dad started building the original 4-room cabin in 1956. Rick's dad, Bob Miller, worked for the Birmingham Fire Dept., and on his off-days would come down and purchase just enough building material to keep him busy until he had to go back to work. To save money, Bob bought fresh cut oak timbers that had been planed one time (rough cut). He used 20 penny nails which he dipped in oil so as to make it easier to hammer them into the green wood. On completion, the cabin had a big room across the front, a bedroom on each side in the back, and in between the bedrooms the water closet was comprised of a toilet and sink. Sometime later a friend helped Bob add a 30" square shower that was coated with waterproof epoxy. Before we leave the bathroom for the outdoors, contemplate this. **Two of Bob's ancestors were among the first settlers of Wilsonville.** His grandmother was the librarian and his grandfather was the barber, and their house, a rather nice one by the standards of the day, boasted indoor plumbing. Their toilet is still in service at Bob's, now Rick's, place. Not exactly a common family heirloom, but if it isn't broke, might as well keep using it. Some things from the good ol' days were just better made than more modern day conveniences.

You may recognize Rick's house from the water as **the front porch is shaped like the front of a ship.** Rick got his inspiration for this feature some years ago while on a cruise ship. He was afforded the opportunity to go up on the bridge, and the view looking forward gave him a new perspective and an idea. After returning home he started on his new project. The house now sports a row of windows across the front, much like the bridge of a ship. The porch in front has the unmistakable shape of a bow. This is accentuated by a porthole on each side. But if you try to peer inside, you'll only see yourself, as the portholes are not real and the "windows" are mirrors. There *is* a real porthole on Rick's boathouse however, at least a real one from a Captain D's.

As a young boy, Rick remembers when Alabama Power would encourage property owners not to leave empty beer or liquor bottles about, as it might encourage ne'er-do-wells to break in just to get to any unconsumed potent potables. For whatever the reason though, the Miller cabin was broken into. Sometime after this incident, one day Rick rode with his dad into town and waited outside while Mr. Miller went in to the jail. Seems either the sheriff or city police were holding a possible suspect in their theft on an unrelated charge. When Mr. Miller returned, Rick asked his dad what was going on. His dad said he left \$10 with the authorities to make sure nothing of the kind happened again. It is unknown what

may have then transpired between the law and the suspect, but since no further intrusions occurred at the Miller place, it appears it was money well spent.

Rick spent some of his youth at the nearby Camp Arrowhead. Like now, the rank of Eagle Scout was the highest achievement, but **at Camp Arrowhead it was possible to become a member of the prestigious Order of the Arrow.** Rick said while sitting around a ceremonial fire, those that were inducted were approached from behind and literally tapped on the shoulder by fellow scouts dressed in Indian attire. As a sign of their achievement, they were given a white sash with a red arrow on it, as well as a special badge for their regular merit badge sash. No doubt what few white sashes still exist are both treasured by their owners and coveted by Scout memorabilia collectors.

Rick said there are a number of old roadbeds in his area. One of these roads, an extension of the one that went from Clanton to the Higgins Ferry, crossed a bridge over Bird Creek (pre-lake) heading south in the direction of Cargile Creek. The submerged remnants of the concrete and stone foundations are directly in front of Rick's house. Rick remembers his granddad found this to be an excellent fishing spot, not to mention being conveniently located. The next house west of Rick's belongs to Bob and Betty Cook. Between the two houses there is a little indentation in the slough, as it is where a small creek flowed into Bird Creek. Backtracking up this rivulet Rick has found the remains of a still. Going back down to where the little creek used to flow into Bird there is a submerged concrete "box". Robustly constructed using rebar, it is about 30" x 48" with 4" thick walls. Rick is of the opinion it was part of an old sawmill. **Many sawmills used to be located near creeks** (at least two were on Cargile), and many temporary ones were also set up in order to process all the timber cut from the land soon to be covered by the lake. Fact is, according to Rick, further back along the north side of Bird Creek where navigation becomes questionable there remains a large old sawdust pile.

This brings us to the end of the Bird Creek story for now. As always, additional stories and corrections are appreciated. And if you know the real reason Bird Creek is so named, please send it to gatesestate@bellsouth.net. Thanks, and *G'Day Mates!*

You Can Now Join HOB0 Online!

For those of you who don't like writing checks, **you can now pay your HOB0 dues online through our website – lakemitchellhobo.org.** It's easy. It's always available. You don't even need a stamp. Just complete the online form, select your dues and donations options, and then fill out your payment information (you will have to re-enter some data).

Dues are \$25 per year. Donation options such as Fireworks and Scholarships are listed on the website as \$1. You need to increase the quantity to equal your desired donation amount. For instance, if you wish to make a \$20 donation to the Fireworks, you would increase the quantity to 20.

You will receive an email confirmation of your payment when you pay online. Of course, **you can still complete the form on this newsletter and mail in a check if you don't want to pay online.**

Membership in the Lake Mitchell HOB0, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, is open to all Lake Mitchell property owners. Annual dues are only \$25 per family per year. Your dues support lake cleanups, water quality testing, newsletters, homeowner directories, picnics, area events and so much more! **It's the best bargain around.**

Area Representatives				
Area	Area Name	Representative	E-mail Address	Phone Number
1A	Blue Creek	Wesley Pinson	bluecreekmarina@outlook.com	205-217-3660
1B	Alaga	Bobby Lewis	docx2@mindspring.com	205-212-1020
1C	The Ridge	Chan Aldridge	chan.aldridge@gmail.com	334-303-0202
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow	ajwking@aol.com	205-425-9431 205-913-0122
3	Cargile South	Dan Murchison	DanMurchison@gmail.com	205-408-7445
		Janet Pandzik	pandziki@gmail.com	205-224-0432
4	Cargile North	Connie Hampton	connie28fan@yahoo.com	205-755-6344
		Susan Orr	soriii@bellsouth.net	205-613-3491
5	Cargile to Bird	Peggy Bullard	pnbullard@gmail.com	205-755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Leslie Miles	lesliemiles0@gmail.com	205-755-6432
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum	beckmau@gmail.com	205-755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Beau Battaglia	beauredsox@yahoo.com	504-909-6990
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Betty & Joel Elam	betty687@aol.com	205-807-9056 205-755-2775
10	Cove and Mountain	Roxanne Martin	roxypmartin@gmail.com	205-821-0863
11A	Mountain to Lay Dam-Chilton Side	Jerry & Karen Smitherman	JerryRollTideSmitherman@gmail.com	205-755-0422
11B	Mountain to Lay Dam-Coosa Side	VACANT - Please Volunteer for Area 11A!		
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	VACANT - Please Volunteer for Area 11A!		
13A	East Pennamotley	Jim & Wathan Hand	jmhand9256@gmail.com ; whand1952@gmail.com	256-377-1153
13B	West Pennamotley	Richard & Wendy Cruse	wendycruse@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	Joe & Sheila Davis	jnsdavis75@gmail.com ; sheilaedavis@gmail.com	334-819-6056 334-819-6884
16	Big Y to Mitchell Dam	Nan & David Spivey	davidaspivey@gmail.com ; nanspivey@gmail.com	256-377-1178 205-492-0375

P.O. Box 1324
Clanton, Alabama 35046
Change Service Requested

PAID Permit 12
Birmingham, AL

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

Annual Dues Required \$25	Fireworks Donation \$	Fireboat Donation \$	Scholarship Donation \$	In Memory/Honor Name _____
Optional Purchase Boathouse Sign \$20____		Optional Purchase HOBO Photo Calendar \$15____		Optional Purchase Additional Phonebook \$10____
Name:				Check One: Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>
Home Mailing Address:				
Lake 911 Address:				Lake Area:
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