

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

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 2

Second Quarter 2012

## FROM THE PRESIDENT...

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



In January, Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. held a training class for those members interested in pursuing certification in water monitoring. The ten members who completed the class were Bill Lees, Patsy Wideman, Jim Woodrow, Dan Murchison, Becki McCallum, Jimmy McCormick, Leslie Miles, Kathy Mohan, John Redd and John Swindle. We have 6-7 additional individuals who want to be trained as monitors. At our recent board meeting, adequate funds were approved to purchase water-testing supplies needed to support our new monitors. We extend our thanks to our dedicated water monitors. H.O.B.O. volunteers more than met the call for help at the Fish Habitat Enhancement event on a cold and rainy February 1. It was a great turnout of approximately 33 persons. A total of 201 trees were installed at various locations around the lake. The GPS coordinates will be added to the [www.alabamapower.com/fishdata](http://www.alabamapower.com/fishdata) website later this spring once all the habitat work around the state is completed. My thanks go to those who participated in the work to improve the fishing habitats at Lake Mitchell.

The news on the Marine 9 Fire and Rescue boat is very positive in 2012. Steve Miles, our liaison with East Chilton Volunteer Fire Department, reports that George Fanning is the new Fire Chief at East Chilton. Chief Fanning is very supportive of the Marine 9 operations on the lake. The boat is expected to have a new radio installed that is compatible with the Chilton County 911 Communications System. A contract for new upholstery is out for bid to complete a series of major repairs on Marine 9 during the past year. We should have a fully operational fire and rescue boat on the water before Memorial Day.

Do mark your calendar to attend the Annual Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. picnic on June 2. The Trobaugh Pavilion has been reserved for this fun activity. We are optimistic that the weather will be good, and we know from past experience that the food is really good. Best of all, it is one of the best H.O.B.O. events at which you can meet your Lake Mitchell neighbors from every area of the lake.

It is with deep regret to announce that Carl Scott resigned as our Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Chaplain on March 11. Carl was highly respected for his powerful prayers that opened the board meetings and other H.O.B.O. activities. He and his wife, Katy, have been loyal members of our association and have really enjoyed working with H.O.B.O. to enrich the Lake Mitchell community for all. They will be sorely missed as they have moved to Rocky Ridge Retirement in Hoover.

If you have not paid your dues, now is the time to do so. As of February 22, we had a paid family unit membership of 291, which is higher than the prior year. But we have a long way to go to match our high mark for membership of 420 members in 2009. Since we have between 600 and 650 family units in our lake area, we should be able to exceed 450 members. We need your help in encouraging our neighbors to join and participate in Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.. The annual dues in the amount of \$25.00 annually have never changed and remains a high bargain for each family.

Have a nice spring and enjoy the magnificent waters and scenery of our beautiful lake!

Ralph



## Water Quality Report

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX-SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	8.6
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.5
Alkalinity	20+	63.67
Hardness	10 - 120	51.33

AREA REPRESENTATIVES			
Area	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek	Ralph & Jane Mason ralphmason@wildblue.net	205 755-6618
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow ajwking@aol.com	205 425-9431 205 755-0055
3	Cargile South	Judy & Dan Murchison danmurchison@gmail.com	205 755-0521 205 408-7445
4	Cargile North	Joan Vickery vickery200@yahoo.com	205-280-7336
5	Cargile to Bird	Sonny & Peggy Bullard pnsbullard@gmail.co	205 755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Paula & Joe Pierson hansandpaula@yahoo.com	205 280-6377
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum beckmau@gmail.com	205 755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Lee & Kim Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com	205-389-2480
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Dale & Patty Vann rdvann@bellsouth.net	205 979-5559 205 755-0825
10	Cove and Mountain	Roxanne Martin roxypmartin@gmail.com	205 755-0863
11	Mountain to Dam Area	Stan Holt sholt1428@charter.net	205-980-1428
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	David & Kay McKeever kmckeerv@bellsouth.net	256 249-4413
13A	East Pennamotley	Jim & Wathan Hand jmhand@centurylink.net	256-377-1153
13B	West Pennamotley	Sam & Nancy Piccolo samppiccolo62@gmail.com	256 377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Eric & Rose Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com	205-492-7151
15/16	Big Airplane to Big Y Slough	Jerry & Anita Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com	205 663-7035 256 377-4584

## Area Representative Reports

### Area 1 – Ralph Mason

Three H.O.B.O. members jumped ahead in the Spring cleanup of the south end of Lake Mitchell. The winter rains have brought an usual amount of trash to the shoreline at the boat ramp for The Ridge at Lake Mitchell community as well as other shoreline locations in Area 1. Kudos go to Phil Foster, Harry Hargrove and Dick Pyburn for their several efforts to keep our neighborhood clean.

Area 1 wishes to recognize the long-time leadership role of Judge Sibley Reynolds in support of two important activities on Lake Mitchell, the River Church sponsored by the First United Methodist Church in Clanton, and the boat parades held annually on July 4<sup>th</sup>. We are fortunate to have a neighbor in our area who has contributed his time and effort to these worthy activities. *Ralph*

### Area 3 – Dan Murchison

Spring fishing is upon us! Alabama Game and Fish report good crappie fishing on the Coosa due to a good hatch two years ago. These fish are just approaching the nine-inch legal catch size. These young fish will readily bite and it's sometimes easy to overfish them. We might be wise to enjoy and catch a mess, but not try to fill our freezers. If we give them a chance to grow and reproduce, we might enjoy good crappie fishing for several years.

Our H.O.B.O. membership in Area 3 is poor. I promise to do a better job as your Area Representative, and I hope you will join me in supporting H.O.B.O. by paying your dues and getting involved to help us improve and protect our Lake. Have a great Spring and be safe. *Dan*

### Area 4 - Joan Vickery

Being a resident of area 4, we have a 50-yard-line seat for the Forth of July fireworks. Our family has celebrated this tradition for five years, and we have often wondered just what had to take place to make this beautiful display happen. Jim McCormick, who has taken on this task for years, was kind enough to share the details, which I have outlined in a separate Fireworks article in this issue of the newsletter.

I had no idea that it took so much effort and planning to produce, what is to our family, one of the BEST celebrations of the summer. Jim, to you and everyone that helps you make this happen, I would like to say a BIG THANK YOU! We are looking forward to this year's show on July 7. *Joan*

### Area 5 – Sonny and Peggy Bullard

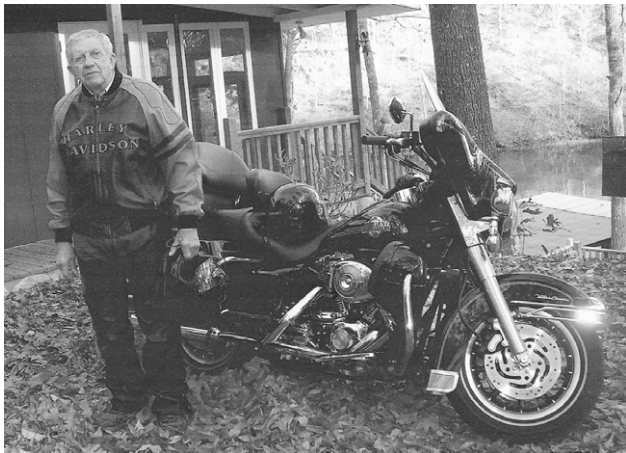
Our area spotlight is on Raymond and Barbara Freeman a very unique couple in our area. Raymond and his wife, Barbara, have been coming to Lake Mitchell since 1959. They were part of the Centreville crowd that camped on the main island and this is where they learned to ski. Raymond learned to ski backward on one ski. Many times other boats would follow and watch him. Once he was going backward and hit a boat and the pier at Blue Creek but that did not stop him.

The Freeman's bought a cabin in 1960 with two other families and in 1963 they purchased their present cabin in Pump House Slough. In 2009 they remodeled and moved to the river to live full time.

In the years since 1959 the Freeman family has enjoyed many week ends on the river skiing with friends. Raymond has taught many young people to ski. Only two were successful in learning to ski backward on one ski.

Many Saturdays Raymond raced cars at Montgomery or Birmingham but on Sunday they attended River Church and had a fun day of skiing on Lake Mitchell.

Raymond Freeman, Jr. started riding a motorcycle when his Daddy told him that he would get him a Harley if he did not go out for football at age 15.



Raymond and Barbara still frequently ride the Harley and have ridden for such charities as the Methodist Children's Home. The Sandy Chapel United Methodist church in Centreville has Bikers Sunday and sponsor the event. We are blessed to have them for our neighbor and friends.

We have survived a not-so-cold winter and hopefully everyone survived all the terrible storms around the state. Spring is here and we are looking forward to an amazing summer. Have you sent in your membership dues? We forgot but are sending them this week. If you haven't sent yours maybe Area 5 can make this our official renewal month. See you around the lake.  
*Sonny & Peggy*

Area 6 – Paula Pierson

As I write this in early March, spring is unofficially here and the fish are biting.

Rick Miller, a master gardener, advises us not to be fooled with all the current warm weather. He says "If you rush the spring season by fertilizing, grass cutting, shrub trimming, etc. and cause a sudden growth too early, it may all be damaged or killed if and when we have a FROST."

A very special thank you for all the Bird Creek men who participated in the February Fish Habitat work day. Over two hundred trees were submerged around the lake including our own Bird Creek.

Please contact or email me with any news you would like to share in our H.O.B.O newsletter. *Paula*

Area 10 – Roxanne & Doug Martin

Well, winter has come to an end . . . or did it even begin!

As of March 15<sup>th</sup> we began seeing Cove Branch homeowners filtering into the area for the annual rites of spider web clearing, dusting, mowing and generally making the places prepared for Spring break 2012 and beyond.

As the days warm, the activity on the lake begins. We have missed all of our lake neighbors that are not full-timers and look forward to seeing all soon. Don't forget to be courteous to other homeowners and boat owners as you take to the water.

Area 10 residents met at our pier on March 24 to get trash bags for the "Renew Our Rivers" clean up of our area. After gathering the trash we took it down to the public launch to have lunch.

Please pay your 2012 H.O.B.O. dues - \$25.00 for the year, if you haven't already done so. We hope to have an area gathering this spring at our house. It is a great way to meet homeowners in our area new and old.

Area 10 residents please give us a call if we can be of assistance. *Doug and Roxanne Martin 205-755-0863*

Area 14 – Rose Green

There has been a lot going on in our area the past few months. Several homes were burglarized, but thanks to great neighbors taking notice and communication with the sheriff's department, three arrests were made and six cases were solved within 12 hours. Please take notice of any suspicious vehicles and report to the Coosa sheriff the make, model, color, tag number and anything that might stand out.

I have been attending Neighborhood Watch meetings and we are in the process of posting signs all around the area. Coosa County highway department donated the posts. Donations are greatly appreciated to help pay for the signs. Mail your donation to: Richville Neighborhood Watch, 13061 County Road 14, Rockford, AL 35136. Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of every month 6 p.m. at Richville Fire Department. (Bring a covered dish.)

As you return to the lake and turn on to County Road 1 North, please take notice it has had a name change to Coosa County 121. This happened as part of the new 911 system. The signs on Highway 22 have not yet changed and still say 1 North. Those signs are the responsibility of the state of Alabama to change.

We had one fire in February. It started because a large tree that was blown over from high winds brought

down power lines and sparked the fire. Due to the quick actions of some construction workers and response of our Richville Fire Department, it was put out quickly.

Hope to see you all around the lake. *Rose*

Area 15/16 - Anita & Jerry Lawson

Fishing, boating, and just plain summer fun is just around the corner.

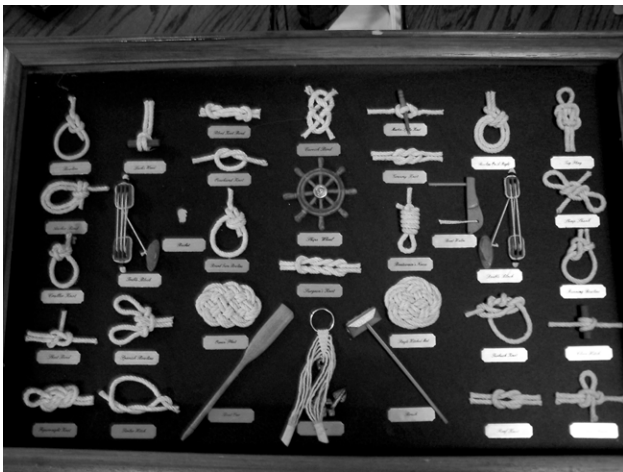
Hopefully, the break-ins have been stopped due the arrest of two from Chilton County.

We are going to have our Area 15/16 H.O.B.O. party this year. Gary and Cathy York live in the cove and have offered their home for our party. It will be Saturday, June 16 at noon with lunch being served about 1 p.m. Bring a dish - salad or dessert to share. H.O.B.O. will furnish the meat. Bring chairs. We will be sending out invites and hope you will RSVP so we can get a head count prior to June 16.

Remember H.O.B.O. is having our lake-wide picnic on Saturday June 2 at Higgins Ferry Public Boat Launch. Hope to see everyone there. Please call me at anytime with news that I need to share with our area. I love to keep everyone informed. My email is [anitaklawson@gmail.com](mailto:anitaklawson@gmail.com) or cell 205- 960-5083.  
*Anita and Jerry Lawson*

## Knot Display Found

Wayne Beaty found this framed display of knots on the side of the road on the Coosa side of the river last winter after several break-ins had occurred in that area. If this belongs to you or someone you know, contact Wayne Beaty at 256-377-4587 (lake) and 205-873-2087 (cell).



## New Fish Habitats Ready

Get your fishing equipment ready. The new fish habitats that were installed in February should have attracted fish by now. Check out [www.alabamapower.com/fishdata](http://www.alabamapower.com/fishdata) for all of the GPS coordinates at Lake Mitchell and other Alabama Power lakes.



H.O.B.O. volunteers bundled more than 200 Christmas trees into groups of four, weighted them with concrete blocks, and attached a float to cause them to stand when placed, and placed the bundles in locations upstream and downstream from the Higgins Ferry landing. GPS coordinates were recorded for each location.

Special thanks to Doug Powell and his team from Alabama Power Company whose effort and partnership with H.O.B.O. makes this project possible. This is a big and important job that gets accomplished quickly and smoothly with many enthusiastic volunteers.

## Fish-Cleaning Sink Installed

H.O.B.O. members recently installed a new sink and pipe at Higgins's Ferry bass weigh-in station.

Bass caught in tournament fishing are stressed and struggle to survive. The quicker and easier they can be returned to the river helps reduce their mortality rate. With this in mind, H.O.B.O. volunteers installed an extra sink and an eight inch pipe to slide the fish back into deeper water after the weigh-in. Park Ranger, Frank Atkinson, donated the sink and assisted the construction along with retired East Chilton Fire Chief, Terry Bates.



## Where does my H.O.B.O. \$25 go?

*Membership dues explained by Jim McCormick, Treasurer*

The Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association (H.O.B.O.) was formed in 1996 through the vision of Dan and Judy Murchison. At that time membership dues were established at \$25. We have maintained that level for 16 years without a single increase. And during this time, your organization has never had a debt, a loan or a past due bill!

As your treasurer, I would like to tell you how your Board puts our collective H.O.B.O. dues to work.

We will start with the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.'s mission statement, which is to "Preserve. Protect. Improve." Our lake would not be what it is today if we did not diligently work to preserve, protect and improve our water quality.

We have an Environmental Committee that works with Alabama Power Company, Alabama Water Watch and other organizations to monitor what our water shed 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.

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 by your \$25.

Your H.O.B.O. association is also civic minded. Each year we award a \$2500 scholarship to a local Coosa or Chilton County high school senior. The H.O.B.O. Scholarship Committee accepts and reviews applications, works with school counselors, and interviews each applicant to select the scholarship recipient. H.O.B.O. 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.

We spend about \$1000 annually to mail meeting notices, cleanup announcements and picnic invitations.

Every two years we spend almost \$3000 to collect the data, print, and mail our lake resident telephone

directories. These books are provided at no additional charge to H.O.B.O. members.

With the help of Alabama Power Company, H.O.B.O. provides this quarterly newsletter to all lake residents.

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.

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

The largest community events we support surround the Fourth of July. All can enjoy and any can participate in the two boat parades – the party boat parade in the morning and the ski boat parade in the afternoon. 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.

1936  
 April 20, 2012  
 DATE  
 PAY TO THE ORDER OF Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. \$ 25.00  
Twenty-five and no/100 DOLLARS  
 FOR Annual Dues John Q. Homeowner  
 ⑆000000186⑆ 000000529⑈ 1000

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. I know of no other lake our size that

can claim a boat this large, this fast, with as much on-board life-saving equipment. The boat was purchased in 1998 with proceeds from our dues, donations, yard sales, raffles and a skeet shoot. Since this time we have invested thousands of dollars in a defibrillator, pumper, a boathouse and fireboat maintenance.

And all of this for \$25!!!!!!.

I hope you will all agree that your investment in the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. is a good value. Please make sure that you have paid your dues for 2012 and encourage your neighbors to join as well.

For every check we write, for every cause we support, we need to make sure our money is used wisely. You can have input into those decisions. Get involved in H.O.B.O. today. Contact any board member or your Area Representative to learn ways you can volunteer.

## Summer Events Planned

### Annual Picnic is June 2

Mark your calendar now to attend the annual H.O.B.O. picnic at Higgins Ferry that will be held this year on June 2 at 4 p.m. This is a great opportunity to meet and greet fellow residents from all over the lake.



*Mau McCallum clowns around at last year's picnic.*

Bring a covered side dish or dessert. H.O.B.O. will provide the meat, drinks, plates and utensils.

This year we will have new "Lake Mitchell" monogrammed beach towels for sale as well as logo hats and visors.

If you have never attended the picnic before, make this summer a first. Invite all of your neighbors to join the fun. Take it upon yourself to organize a boatload of folks from your area on the lake to come as a group. Let's see which area can have the best representation.

### Fireworks set for July 7

Because Independence Day falls on a Wednesday this year, the annual fireworks display in Cargile Creek will be held on the following Saturday evening, July 7, at 9 p.m.

This annual event that we all anticipate eagerly doesn't just magically happen. Jim McCormick and his team begin the planning and preparation in March.

By April, the music that will accompany the display has been selected and mixed in the studio. Hopefully this year we will have an enhanced broadcast on 96.9 FM, but for most, you can hear the synchronized music over the sound system.

ATF has approved our license and we have applied for the State Permit.

Selection of the fireworks begins in April. This year new product has become available that will add even more variety to the 400+ shells we display.

A day or two before the show, the pace of activity really picks up as last minute preparations move into high gear. Safety is always a top concern as the sound system is tested, the mortars are positioned, and the firing cables are connected. We run a firing test to be sure all of the electronics are properly connected about 30 minutes before the 9 o'clock hour. Then we take a deep breath, the adrenalin sets in, the music starts, and shell by shell is ignited by simply touching individual "buttons" one by one.

Months of preparation and coordination culminate in a spectacular display over Lake Mitchell for 17 minutes each July.





## You are Our Environment

Scott Phillips, Chair of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Environmental Committee

Here at Lake Mitchell, we all enjoy the wonders of our natural environment. We see daily evidence of things that lead us to believe that we have a healthy and safe lake environment. We see water that is relatively clean and free of odor, making it enjoyable for swimming and other water sports. We watch as wildlife flourishes with darting dragonflies, skittering water striders, diving coots, kingfishers watching for the perfect fishing moment, great blue herons standing motionless in the shallow depths, and the return of the great Bald Eagle, hurling itself into the water and recovering with a fish in its talons. We see turtles sunbathing, sunfish swimming in the shallows, baitfish darting across the surface and even the occasional beaver. Around our lake we see wildlife plenty and plant life bursting at the seams. All this indicates to us that our lake must be healthy and safe.

However, it is the things that most of us hardly ever pay attention to that really determines the true health of our lake. It is the health of the larvae found on the grasses and reeds in the lake that produce the dragonflies. It is the microorganisms and algae found in the water columns that support the fisheries of baitfish that allow us the bream, crappie, bass and catfish we enjoy catching. And it is the ability for the lake to stay in balance with the nutrients, sediments, and bacteria that protect this living system.

Lakes, like the plants and animals that live on and around them, are ecosystems - living laboratories with chemistry, biology, and mineralogy all represented. These things we normally expect others to worry about and to monitor. Don't we have Federal, state and local agencies that have missions to do these things?

Even if that were the case, in these times of reduced budgets, these agencies are fighting for their lives to deal with only the most severe issues. Our Alabama Department of Environmental Management has had a 60% total cut from its General Fund budget in the past three fiscal years. This now threatens our EPA Federal funds that require State matching dollars. Fortunately,

our Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. has a tremendous and successful history of having our members work hard to implement programs to protect and improve our lake. For example, this past year H.O.B.O. provided a donation to Alabama Water Watch, which was at risk of not being able to continue their program

without support. We have had a long history of volunteer water monitors as a part of Water Watch on our lake, and we are now up to 11 trained monitors. Jim Woodrow sits on the Alabama Water Watch Board and our Environmental Committee.

The *Renew Our Rivers* Cleanup Program sponsored by Alabama Power has been and continues to be well attended by our members. Dan Murchison participates on the Coosa River Basin Clean Water Partnership as our Lake Mitchell liaison and serves on our Environmental Committee. And there are many, many more that work for our Lake environment.

You see in these times of the "great recession" we all know that *we* have to make the difference in our environment, not just government agencies. We have a wonderful gift in our lake and the lands around it. And we have had and continue to have a H.O.B.O. Board Environmental Committee that wants to see it get even better.



The State of Alabama recently passed into regulation the designation of *Treasured Alabama Lake*. Lake Martin is the first and only lake so far to receive this honor because of the high standards required. We want to set a vision for our Lake Mitchell to achieve this designation. It will not be easy - since we receive water from other lakes upstream and we don't control their actions - but we can do it on our lake with your help.

And your help is what I need. We need members for our Environmental Committee from around the lake to set a real strategy for our Lake environment, to communicate this strategy, and to help implement it. So now is the time for you to help take our Lake to the status of *Treasured Alabama Lake*. If you would like to volunteer to become a part of the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Environmental Committee, please contact me - Scott Phillips at (205) 280-5921 or by e-mail at [scottonthelake@hughes.net](mailto:scottonthelake@hughes.net).

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

<b>Annual Dues</b> Homeowner \$25.00	<b>Marine 9 - Donation</b> Maintenance & Operation \$	<b>Fireworks - Donation</b> Purchase of Fireworks \$	<b>Utility Boat - Donation</b> Maintenance & Operation \$
<b>Other Donation</b> Boathouse sign ____ Memorial ____ Education Fund ____ Scholarship ____ Other (specify) _____ Amount \$			
Name:		Check One: Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/>	
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

Can't remember whether you've paid your dues for 2012? If you have already paid by the time this newsletter went to print, "M12" (for "Member-2012") will be next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter. If you don't see "M12", please complete and submit this form along with your check for your Annual Homeowner's Dues plus any additional donations you would like to contribute.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.  
P. O. Box 1324  
Clanton, Alabama 35046

PRSRT STD

U.S.Postage  
PAID  
Permit 12  
Birmingham, AL

**Change Service Requested**