

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 3

Third Quarter 2012

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Ralph Mason ralphmason@wildblue.net



The summer months bring out the best times at our lake, i.e., blue skies, beautiful green vegetation, colorful flowers, clear water, spring cleaning at the boathouse, neighbors returning after the cold weather, cookouts, visitors, gardening, and just plain fun in our fabulous environment. Memorial Day marked the sharp increase in people and boats on Lake Mitchell. It marks the beginning of River Church on Sunday mornings at Higgins Ferry Park. This tradition has been recognized by several editions of our beloved *Southern Living Magazine* and provides Lake Mitchell with wide recognition. Our appreciation goes to the First United Methodist Church in Clanton for their creation of this tradition and their long standing support on the Sabbath Day through the summer and ending on Labor Day weekend.

The Fourth of July holiday is usually the busiest and most crowded time at Lake Mitchell. The highlight of this mid-Summer holiday is the H.O.B.O. sponsored fireworks event in Cargile Creek. Since the Fourth of July holiday falls on Wednesday this year, the fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 7th.

Special thanks should be extended by all of our H.O.B.O. members to Jim McCormick, our H.O.B.O. Treasurer, whose family started the event. Jim has produced the fireworks for more than two decades. His dedicated service to H.O.B.O. and to his neighbors is unmatched. Each of us can show our appreciation for his efforts by donating to the fireworks along with our membership application or by sending a check to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O., Post Office Box 1324, Clanton, AL 35046. Enter "Fireworks Donation" on the check's memo line.

Two recent newspaper announcements from Alabama Power Company have drawn the attention of the full-time residents at the lake. The first one involves a new process for obtaining a construction permit for work on properties near the Coosa River. In the past, property owners were required to obtain permits from both Alabama Power and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before beginning construction. But after an

agreement in February, Alabama Power will be the sole point of contact for obtaining a permit. According to the Alabama Power spokesman, the new process will address all of the considerations required for review by the federal agencies at one time. There are many issues at play: threatened or endangered species, water quality, historic artifacts and structures, and wetlands. The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Board of Directors will be interested in any feedback on the process going forward.

The other announcement involves the closing of a water education program that has operated at the Alabama Power Company Center in Clanton since 1995. The Alabama Power Water Course will close permanently on Friday, June 29th. This has been a highly beneficial program for our young people and was one of the first interactive learning centers to open in the Southeast.

We wish you a happy and safe summer. Your H.O.B.O. organization will continue to work hard to preserve, protect and improve the quality of life in and around Lake Mitchell.

Ralph



H.O.B.O. Scholarship Awarded

The 2012 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Scholarship has been awarded to Kailee Burnett. Kailee graduated from Maplesville High School where she was President of the National Honor Society and Salutatorian of her class. She will be attending Jefferson State Junior College in Clanton to complete her core classes before pursuing a degree in Pharmacy. Kailee plans to return to Chilton County after graduation to open her own business.

Kailee is our fourth student to receive the \$2,500 scholarship. We are pleased that through our donations and calendar sales, we can help Kailee further her education.

Area Representative Reports

Area 1 – Ralph Mason

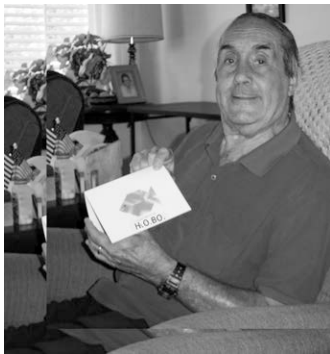
New home construction continues at the south end of the lake. Two houses are currently under construction in the ALAGA Landing sub-division. Bill and Beth Hains took possession of their new home along the Blue Creek channel during the past year. We welcome our new neighbors in Area 1. *Ralph*

Area 5 – Sonny and Peggy Bullard

Hello everyone! In case you are wondering what happened to the “Spring Fling” we always have in May, there is a very good reason it did not happen. In mid April Sonny surprised me in the middle of the night with severe pains caused by a ruptured aorta or the “widow maker.” According to his doctor he should not be here due to the time lapse between it happening and surgery. Thankfully, he is alive and doing well considering all he has been through. We are so thankful to the Lord Jesus who was with us through it all, to the doctors and nurses that gave him such good care, and to all the family and friends who supported us with their prayers and visits. THANK YOU!

Sonny has started back fishing and doing a little work, but I keep him on a short leash right now. He is thankful to be alive and enjoying beautiful Lake Mitchell and all the glory goes to Jesus.

Many of you know that Carl and Katy Scott have moved from their lake residence to a retirement facility due to health issues. Carl served as Chaplain for H.O.B.O. since the beginning of the organization. Both he and Katy have been faithful, contributing members all these years. Ralph Mason, Jane, Sonny and I visited them and presented them with a digital photo frame as a token of appreciation from H.O.B.O. The digital card was loaded with lake pictures as well as family, friends, flowers and H.O.B.O. activities. They will be missed here on the lake. If anyone would like to send them a note or card you may send it to Rocky Ridge Retirement 3517 Lorna Road Hoover, AL 35216 Apt. 130.



We ask all of our area to keep us posted on any news you would like to have entered into the newsletter. We would like to “spotlight” any who have an interesting hobby or tale to tell. Please contact us at pnsbullard@gmail.com or call 205-755-9514.

Have a blessed and safe summer. *Sonny and Peggy*

Area 6 – Paula Pierson

Great seeing friends at the Annual Picnic in June. Food and weather were great!!!

For those of us who travel County Road 28 Higgins - Ferry Road on a regular basis and inquired with the county about striping the road, I have an update. The striping, which was scheduled this spring, will not be striped for another two years until it is repaved. At this time the county plans to put temporary reflectors that should be installed in June or July. This should help some while traveling at night.

Everyone have a safe summer. *Paula*

Area 7 – Becki McCallum

Thanks to Randy Johnston for reminding us to contact our Chilton County commissioners regarding the need for re-striping on Lake Mitchell Road. It is very heavily travelled with day boaters and fishermen and is very dangerous, especially at night. The shoulders are also bad in spots; so many cars tend to use both lanes to avoid the edges. Please be careful of the sides as well as oncoming traffic.

Many in our area have been busy with remodeling projects this spring. The improvements are enhancing our area and look great!

A long-time resident of our area recently passed away. Many of you will remember JoAnn Johnston, a fixture at many events since the 70s. She was active as a master gardener, attended River Church since the beginning, and was a frequent participant at lake cleanups and picnics. JoAnn was much loved and respected, never at a loss for a story to tell or an interesting conversation. Godspeed JoAnn, for a smooth sailing to eternity - we will miss you. *Becki*

Area 8 – Lee Poe

All is well in Area 8. Summer is here and the days are long which would allow for a couple of hours fishing after work if other things didn't get in the way. Need to make more time for fishing.

Lake Mitchell Marina is open and is a great place to eat when you want to spend more time on the water instead of cooking.

River Church has started. We normally go to church in Clanton, but have attended on occasion, and we always enjoy it. Church on the river is a unique experience, Try to attend sometime.

The annual H.O.B.O. picnic was a few weeks ago. If you missed it, try to attend next year. It is good to get to meet other people who have places on the lake.

Hope everyone is having a fun and safe summer.

Lee Poe

Area 9 – Dale and Patty Vann

Here it is the middle of summer and as of the writing of this article all seems okay in Walnut Creek Area 9. Patty and Dale hosted their 10th Annual Memorial Day get together for Area 9 homeowners. There was a lot of discussion about Lake Mitchell and the neighborhood. As always, there were lots of good things to eat. Remember, this annual get-together is where Mike Ford first brought up the possibility of getting county water. Through Mike's efforts and others, there is now county water in the area. I can remember getting the old dirt road (County Road 264) paved...which was accomplished the same way. The annual meeting is always fun and getting to see and talk to neighbors brings a lot of interesting discussion. If you haven't attended in awhile please put it on your calendar for next year. Below are a few things that were brought up in discussion:

- SECURITY FOR YOUR LAKE HOUSE
- H.O.B.O. MEMBERSHIP
- FIRE AND RESCUE BOAT
- FIREWORKS
- NEW ADDRESS SIGNS
- LAKE WATER DRAW DOWN
- ANNUAL LAKE PICNIC
- LAKE MITCHELL CALENDARS
- LAKE MITCHELL BEACH TOWELS
- PHONE BOOKS
- WALNUT CREEK SCUM REPORT (this was not about the people that did not attend the meeting)
- PICTURES FOR THE LAKE MITCHELL CALENDAR
- TRASH PICKUP

Our newest neighbors to Area 9 are Houston and Gina Hopkins who bought Missy Bailey's home, and Alex and Carla Edgeworth who bought the Peerson's home. We welcome them to Lake Mitchell.

If you have anything that needs reporting please contact Dale Vann at 205-910-3713 (Birmingham). Until next time... *Dale and Patty*

Area 15/16 - Anita & Jerry Lawson

My subject for this newsletter is *Boat Wake Erosion is Expensive*. I looked up wake info and the best site I found was info@boatwakes.org.

With summer in full swing now, we have many new boaters on our lake. We need Lake Mitchell boaters to be courteous and thoughtful of the populated areas. When you slow down to a certain speed and the nose of the boat is up - Look at your wake !!

Boat wakes wash away thousands of dollars worth of land. It also buries fish eggs, plants, invertebrates, and disturbs waterfowl nests.

Stand on shore when a speedboat passes and watch the sediment lifted away by each wake.

Boating for an hour at 20 mph erodes 20 miles times 3 thousandths of an inch times two sides of a river= 50 square feet. The cost of boating includes losing your own and others land. Losing 8 square feet per gallon of gas - land worth \$2 per square feet is a land cost of \$16.00 per gallon of gas.

The suggestion at the website was to use plants to protect shoreline. If you use rock, pack dirt and use anti-erosion cloth - plants will grow in the dirt and over the rock.

Have fun, be safe, and be courteous of your neighbors.

Anita and Jerry Lawson



ENGINE. Early model 350 complete Chevy engine. Dist. Carb, manifold, water pump, fuel pump. All new or reworked parts. (.030 over.) Heads reworked. Ready to install. \$1200.00. Contact Sonny Bullard at pnsbullard@gmail.com or call 205-294-5742

CAMERA. Sony Cyber-shot digital camera DSC-P73/P93 5.1 mega pixels with extra tele Conversion lens x2.6, 3 memory sticks, 2 AA rechargeable batteries, and case complete with instruction book. \$50.00. Works great! I just upgraded so I can make even better pictures of H.O.B.O. events. Contact Peggy Bullard at pnsbullard@gmail.com or call 205-755-9514 or 205-646-5968.

DISHWASHER. Kenmore portable dishwasher for sale. Like new. Used very little. If interested call Don Goodwin at 205-441-1700 (cell).

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 Marie Greene at marieandhugh@gmail.com. The next issue of the newsletter will come out in October.



Water, Water Everywhere...

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

Since our last Newsletter, one of the most popular topics I am asked about is water policy in the state of Alabama. This broad question usually comes in the form of questions around the Alabama-Georgia-Florida "Water Wars", drought, and property rights.

Alabama has many laws on the books that deal with water rights, water quantity and water quality. However, these laws are spread across several State agencies and don't always reflect reality in the way water is used or managed across our state.

There have been many attempts to establish a comprehensive water policy for the State and to consolidate it within the State's agencies. However, after many years we still have not achieved this. The State's Office of Water Resources continues to do its job as does the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, but budget cuts make it difficult to add more to their agendas – especially things they aren't authorized by law to do.

This year a proposed comprehensive bill HB674 was introduced in the House of the Legislature this year titled the *Alabama Water Sustainability & Security Act*. It did not pass.

As someone who lives or enjoys Lake Mitchell, you may ask, "What's the big deal? There is water everywhere." And sitting on the Lake it can appear that way, but the State still encounters droughts fairly frequently, competing uses of water abound, and the wise use of water is critical for all of us and our environments. So, I encourage you all to learn all you can about water and how it affects your lives and environment.

Visit the Water Policy and Management Joint Legislative Committee website at http://www.legislature.state.al.us/joint_committees/waterpolicy_management.html. You should also frequent the Alabama Office of Water Resources website at <http://adeca.alabama.gov/owr/> and the Alabama Department of Environmental Management at <http://www.adem.state.al.us/>.

Understand the uniqueness of water and the importance of this precious resource. Then do all you can to let those around you know what you have learned and your views on the need for a

comprehensive State water policy. I will continue to track the progress being made across the State and let you know so you can let those that represent us in government know how you feel about our water, water, everywhere...

Water Quality Report

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 9	8.45	8.6
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.5	7.5
Alkalinity	20+	50	63.67
Hardness	10 - 120	40.71	51.33

She Brought Flowers...

And so much more. By Johnye Woodrow



I was sad to learn that JoAnn Johnston of Area 7 recently passed away after losing a battle to cancer. There was a wonderful article regarding her life in the Birmingham News. But she was even more than that. I don't even remember how I met her, but I will always remember what an effect she had on my life and on H.O.B.O.

It is folks like JoAnn that helped make H.O.B.O. one of the best lake homeowner associations on the Coosa River system. She was a great asset and supporter of our lake H.O.B.O.

When I took on the duties as H.O.B.O. Picnic Chairman, JoAnn was right there offering encouragement and help. Because she lived the closest to the picnic pavilion, she always had to run home to get whatever we forgot to bring. JoAnn worked before, during, and after to make sure all lake residents enjoyed themselves. She carried it off seemingly effortlessly.

She loved to garden, and it showed. She always made sure that there were fresh flowers on the tables at the picnic. It was a nice touch.

She was the first person I ever met on the lake that brought her cat to the lake, much like the rest of us bring our dogs. I don't know why that brought a smile to me, but it showed me what a very unique person she was.

I will remember her as being a strong lady with the ability to make things happen. She was always there to help. She never asked for special recognition, but I think she deserves it.

We will miss her.

Here's Your Sign...

Recommended by Local Law Enforcement for Lake Homes



James Ray displays a sample address sign offered by H.O.B.O.

At a H.O.B.O. meeting earlier this year, the guest speaker, a local deputy in the Chilton County Sheriff's Department, discussed criminal activity around the lake and some handy tips on preventing damage and theft to our lake homes.

One of his recommendations was to post highly reflective blue or green house number signs at the top of your driveway and possibly another on the house itself to aid emergency responders (such as police, fire or medical personnel) to find your home. He said that these signs are especially helpful at night when regular house numbering is difficult to read.

Many lake homeowners live off remote county roads. If the driveway or access road to your home is not clearly marked with your house number, an emergency responder may waste valuable time searching for the correct house.

Based upon this information, the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. association is offering high quality 911 address signs to the families on Lake Mitchell. The cost for each sign is \$25, which includes shipping cost.

- The signs are 18" x 6" made of high quality, bright, extremely reflective material.
- They come with white numbers and your choice of a green or blue background.
- The numbers are applied to both sides of the sign.
- The signs have two mounting holes close to one of the 18" edges and can be mounted vertically or horizontally, so specify if you want the numbers printed horizontally or vertically.
- Your sign or signs will be mailed to the address you enter on the form.

All of the instructions for ordering are listed on the order form below. Just copy this form or cut it out of this newsletter, complete the information, and mail it with your check.

Having proper home identification will show a would-be robber that you are prepared, and if emergency help is required, your home can be easily found on the first try.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

911 Address Sign Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _(_____) _____

Quantity of Signs Ordered: _____

Background Color: Green _____ Blue _____

Orientation: Horizontal _____ Vertical _____

Numbers to appear on the sign: _____

Price: \$25.00 each and includes mailing.

Make your check payable to:

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Send your order and check to:

James Ray
 186 Pody Lane
 Rockford, AL 35136



H.O.B.O. Picnic 2012





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

Annual Dues Homeowner \$25.00	Marine 9 - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$	Fireworks - Donation Purchase of Fireworks \$	Utility Boat - Donation Maintenance & Operation \$
Other Donation 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

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 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

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