

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association Newsletter

Volume 19 Issue 2

www.lakemitchellhobo.org

Second Quarter 2014

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Lee Poe Mr.LeePoe@yahoo.com



Well it has been a long cold winter and I am looking forward to spring and summer as I am sure everyone else is. The winter fish habitat project was completed on February 3, 2014 at Higgins

Ferry. Alabama Power along with volunteers with Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. placed 160 Christmas trees in the lake for fish habitats. By the time you read this article the spring project below Lay Dam will also have been completed. The GPS locations where the trees were dropped are available on Alabama Power's website as well as the new Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. website. If you have not seen the new website yet you should check it out at www.lakemitchellhobo.org.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. annual picnic will be

Saturday June 7, 2014. It will start at 4:00 PM and everyone should bring a covered dish. Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. will supply the meat. Everyone that attended last year's picnic had a great time and I am sure this year will be just as good.

I am looking forward to 4th of July weekend with the pontoon boat parade, speed boat parade, and - of course - the fireworks. Hopefully this year we will not have as much rain on the 4th weekend.

Hope everyone has a safe and fun summer.
Lee

Please Send 2014 Dues

Please send in your H.O.B.O. dues for 2014. Dues are still only \$25. You can find the membership form on the last page of this newsletter. Mail in the form along with your check to the address shown on the form. Check out the new H.O.B.O. website to see all of the ways that your \$25 is used. It is the best bargain anywhere!



Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Board Members at February meeting.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES			
Area	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek/ The Ridge	Bobby Lewis docx2@mindspring.com	205-212-1020 205-901-8307
2	Blue to Cargile	Jim & Johnye Woodrow ajwking@aol.com	205-425-9431 205-755-0055
3	Cargile South	Dan Murchison DanMurchison@gmail.com	205-408-7445
4	Cargile North	Joan Vickery vickery200@yahoo.com	205-280-7336
5	Cargile to Bird	Sonny & Peggy Bullard pnsbullard@gmail.com	205 755-9514
6	Bird Creek	Leslie Miles lesliemiles0@gmail.com	205-755-6432 205-612-2172
7	Bird to Walnut	Becki & Mau McCallum beckmau@gmail.com	205 755-5334
8	Walnut SW	Beau Battaglia beauredsox@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 Lay Dam	Stan Holt Stan-holt@att.net	205-980-1428
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	VACANT	
13A	East Pennamotley	Jim & Wathan Hand jmhand@centurylink.net	256-377-1153
13B	West Pennamotley	Sam & Nancy Piccolo sampiccolo62@gmail.com	256 377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Eric & Rose Green rosegreenlake14@yahoo.com	205-492-7151
15	Airplane/Finger to Big Y Slough	Tommy Carpenter rtcarpen@southernco.com	256-377-1046 205-586-1749
16	Big Y to Mitchell Dam	Jerry & Anita Lawson anitaklawson@gmail.com	205 663-7035 256 377-4584

Area 3 – Dan Murchison

Kim Trimble has found it necessary to resign as Area 3 Rep due to her schooling, working, and other demands. We thank Kim for all her efforts to help H.O.B.O. and wish her well in all her endeavors.

I (Dan Murchison) have volunteered to represent Area 3 and to update our map and resident list for this area. Please contact me with any changes you may want/need to make to your info in our H.O.B.O. phone book.

I would also appreciate your suggestions and ideas that might improve the goals of H.O.B.O. in making our lake safer and more fun for us all. I hope all of you have a great spring and lots of good fishing! Just don't catch too many in my favorite spots!! *Dan*

Area 4 – Joan Vickery

It has been relatively quiet in Area 4. The last few warm days were so nice to sit on the dock and anticipate the coming months. I am so ready to see friends out and about and just having fun on our beautiful lake. It really is like living in paradise and I am so thankful for our time here.

I would like to remind everyone to be mindful of throwing trash out on our roads. It would be so much nicer to come home and not see so much trash. We try to pick up as much as we can, and I would like to encourage everyone to do the same. It really doesn't take much time and it would really make a difference.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone to pay your dues for this year and to take a look at the H.O.B.O. website. It is awesome. Thanks Marie Greene for such a great job. Have a blessed summer. *Joan*

.Area 5 – Peggy and Sonny Bullard

During the month of March there was a warm and sunny day...hard to believe! Another thing that was hard to believe was someone was skiing. Yes you read it right. Was it someone from our area? We have no idea but it was right out in front of our house and we thought, "They must be crazy or just plain tired of waiting for spring". Sorry to whom ever I might be calling crazy but March is just a little too early for being in the water unless you are a fish. Spring is here and we are so ready as many others are. It's been a very cold winter but even with cold and snow we would not want to live anywhere else.

Sonny and I enjoy being your Area Reps and we encourage you to keep in touch with us by informing us of any special events, activities, awards, births, weddings etc. that you or a family member are involved in so that we can share these with your lake neighbors. Pictures are also welcome. Remember this is your newsletter and we would like to hear from you.

Our H.O.B.O. dues should be paid in January but if you are like us and life got busy and that check hasn't been written yet please take time to do that this month.

Be safe this summer and invite someone to the lake that you have never invited before and share the beauty. *Sonny and Peggy*

Area 6 – Leslie Miles

I want to congratulate everyone on Bird Creek for keeping our area clean!

Steve and I have been out on the water and the amount of trash we saw was horrific! I know the residents of Lake Mitchell are mindful of keeping our water clean but there are too many others that just don't care. It's shameful and it's not only a problem on the water but also the roads to the water. The Alabama Power water clean up is April 12th and I encourage all who can participate to do so. The last clean up we had was good but we needed more boats.

I also want to encourage everyone to visit Lake Mitchell's new website, it is awesome! You get to see great pics and the latest news of what's happening. It's www.lakemitchellhobo.org. From the website you can submit pictures to be posted online and/or to be considered for printing in the next calendar.

In closing I want to say GOODBYE WINTER and HELLO SPRING!!! It was a winter that will be talked about for years and I hope everyone has a wonderful spring. Personally, I can't wait to go noodling!! *Leslie Miles*

Area 7 – Becki McCallum

We love the peace and quiet beauty of winter on the lake but are now looking forward to summer and the return of River Church, fireworks and all the fun that comes with being on the water. If you have not paid your annual H.O.B.O. dues please send them in and support our organization. Also I'm sure I echo others in urging you to visit the new H.O.B.O. website. Marie Greene and those who have helped did a great job - it looks fresh and fabulous. I especially enjoy seeing new photos periodically - please keep them coming!

We extend a special welcome to the newest resident in our area. Zhenya Stallings has been adopted from Ukraine by the Kirk Stallings family. I am sure he will enjoy his "growing up" years on Lake Mitchell with his brothers Skipper and Ethan.

As always I am looking forward to seeing my neighbors and invite you to come by and say hello. I am available to help you in any way I can. *Becki*

Area 9 – Dale and Patty Vann

As I am writing this it is March and 37°. The good thing is when you are reading this it will be April and hopefully over 70°. Things seem to be okay in the Walnut Creek area - no burglaries or reports of squirrels getting into boat houses and eating seat cushions on the boats. Things are still in the works to make Walnut Creek a cleaner creek by preventing the city of Clanton from polluting our creek. Several manufacturers have also been cited for polluting and are now cleaning up their act. Dave and Kathy Crawford, long time residence of Walnut Creek, have their house up for sale. They will be missed. Kevin and Pam Sims have completed their remodeling and their place looks great.

Dale and Patty Vann will have their annual get together on Saturday, May 24, 2014. Please plan to

attend and enjoy conversation and updates on Walnut Creek area. *Dale*

Area 10 – Doug and Roxanne Martin

Welcome springtime! It is nice to have some warm days, after a very cold winter. Area 10 also welcomes a new full time resident, Skip Lieder. Skip purchased Linda Seagle's house. Linda has relocated to Alabaster. It was bittersweet for Doug and me and many other Area 10 friends to lose her day-to-day presence. Linda and her family have been our neighbors for over 30 years. It is hard to imagine the lake without her. Skip is retired from the Coast Guard and moved to the lake from Prattville. We look forward to getting to know him and introducing him to all Area 10 residents.

Doug and I have some news; our youngest daughter is expecting her first baby in May. We are so excited to be adding another baby to our family. They will be at our house this summer, so stop by and meet our newest member!

Hope to see you on the lake soon. *Roxanne*

Area 11 – Stan Holt

If you like to kayak/canoe, there is a paddle trip scheduled for Hatchet Creek May 24-25. It's still in the planning stage with more information on the Alabama Scenic River Trail website.

<http://www.alabamascenicrivertrail.com/> The lilies should be in full bloom. To me, this is one of the prettiest float trips in the State. For those not familiar with the Alabama Scenic River Trail system(which includes Lake Mitchell), the website has some interesting information. Get out and smell the wild flowers! *Stan*

Area 15 - Tommy Carpenter

It's been a long COLD winter but I think we will have it behind us by the time you receive this. Two things come to mind as I write this. The weather was beautiful on the lake this weekend and the wind was fairly calm for March. I really enjoyed watching the birds in my yard especially the Bluebirds. If you don't have a bluebird box or two you are missing a real treat. They will build a nest and the male will constantly catch insects and bring them to the nest. There is plenty of information on the Internet, but here are a couple of key points if you put one up. Firmly place the box on a post or fence about six feet off the ground. Face the box away from prevailing winds and about 100 feet from a tree or something they can land on before going to the box. It also gives the baby birds something to land on when they leave the nest. It is best to put up boxes in late Fall or the Winter, but it's not too late because birds may have 2 or 3 broods a season. Bluebird boxes are inexpensive and can be purchased at Wal-Mart or on the Internet. I also have seen a bald eagle in our area the last two trips to the lake. What a beautiful bird!

Second, I watched a man and his wife launch a boat for the first time this season. He had an extremely tough time getting the motor running. I offered to tow him back to the launch but he finally got it going. The moral of the story is, check your equipment before you leave home or have your boat and motor serviced before you launch the first time each year. I remember trailering a boat all the way from Birmingham and could not get the motor running. That was the first time and only time I ever let that happen. *Tommy*

H.O.B.O. Website Takes Off!

The new Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. website at www.lakemitchellhobo.org is expanding with new information being added and older information being updated.

During the winter the website showcased some beautiful pictures of Lake Mitchell covered with snow. The photos were submitted by various homeowners around the lake. Now is the time to submit your pictures of Lake Mitchell during spring. There are instructions on the website about how to submit your photo for publication on the website.

Here are just a few of the things you can find at lakemitchellhobo.org.

- Alabama Power permit rules for shoreline construction
- Archive of old H.O.B.O. newsletters
- Description of all H.O.B.O.-sponsored activities such as Lake Cleanups, Picnics, Fish Habitat Project, Scholarships and Water Festival
- Calendar of Events
- Information on invasive water plants
- Water Quality Monitoring
- List of Officers and Area Representatives
- Links to lots of helpful resources
- Renew Our Rivers Lake Clean-ups
- Photo Gallery

Spring Fish Habitat Enhancement

On March 25th volunteers met at the boat ramp just below Lay Dam on the Chilton side of the lake (the old Lavadas) to bundle trees and drop them into the lake to create fish habitats.

The exact GPS locations will be posted on the H.O.B.O. website.

Scholarship Report

Once again it's that time of year to choose a winner of the Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Scholarship. This year we have 13 applicants. These students are all seniors who live in Chilton or Coosa counties. The Scholarship Committee will interview each student in late April, and the winner will be announced at the Award's Day held at the student's school in May.

This will be the 6th year a local student has been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship from the H.O.B.O. Thanks to all of you who support this effort by purchasing calendars and making donations to help us be good neighbors to the young people in the counties that border our beautiful lake.

Request for Old H.O.B.O.

Publications

by Judy Murchison

I am trying to find copies of all newsletters so we can get them archived on our new H.O.B.O. web site. My goal is to have the complete history of H.O.B.O. available on lakemitchellhobo.org.

The old newsletters I need are

- Volume 2 - Issue 3 dated September 1997
- Volume 3 - Issue 1 dated March 1981

I am also putting together several sets of all the old phone books we have published:

- Need 2 of the 2007-2008 - Red - Doug Martin's term
- Need 4 of the 2011-2012 - Purple - Ralph Mason's term

If you have any of these items that you could share, would you please contact Judy Murchison at judymurchison@gmail.com

Environmental Update

by Scott Phillips, Environmental Chairman

In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "Action expresses priorities." So as we all look around this spring, we need to remember that our actions will show how much we value our wonderful lake life. While our lake does not have the coveted *Treasured Alabama Lake* designation yet, we need everyone's actions to help in moving us toward our goal of achieving it.



Your Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Board and organization have been working hard to take a meaningful role in the large issues that impact our lake - impacts such as the erosion and illegal releases of potentially toxic chemicals into Walnut Creek; the water policy debate in the State; and the proposed possibility of a graphite mine in Coosa County near the lake.

Many volunteers and our support from Alabama Power in the Renew Our Rivers cleanups are another way H.O.B.O. mobilizes action to help keep our Lake clean. But we also do more.

As our sponsorship of the recent Water Festival for local fourth graders and our high school Scholarship Program demonstrate, we also care about educating our community young students on the importance of our Lake environment.

These are "big" programs that keep our focus on improving our Lake environment. But even with all this attention, we need your help. Mahatma Gandhi also once said, "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

So, as you enjoy this spring season, remember how your actions can benefit our lake environment. When you are doing your spring cleaning, remove your cuttings and other debris from the water's edge so that weather won't send them into the lake. As you enjoy the spring flowers and lush, green vegetation, remember how herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers can get into the Lake and make sure you don't over apply. Ensure your applications are placed on your plants and yards in accordance with the manufacturer's directions.

If you see any of the non-native, invasive aquatic plants like water hyacinth, water lettuce, watermilfoil, and hydrilla, please call **1-800-LAKES11**. Your report could help prevent the spread of these plants in our lakes.

And finally, if you know of any environmental issues we need to be concerned with, have ideas on how to

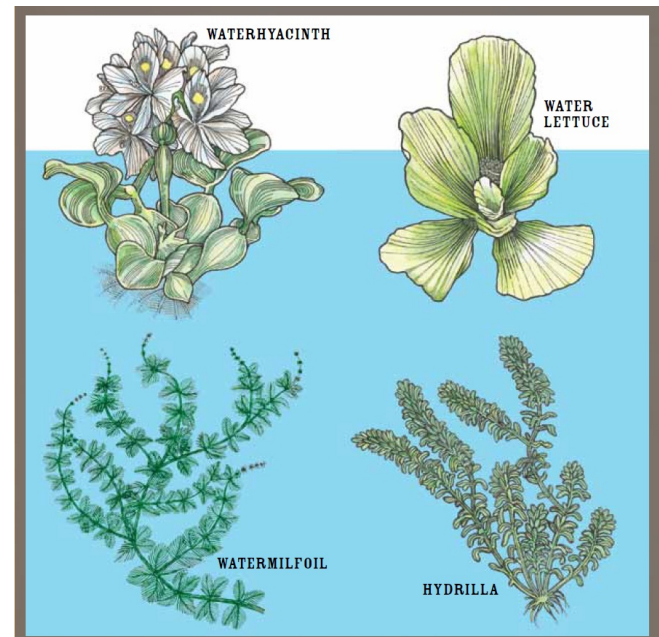
improve our environment, or want to volunteer on our environmental committee, please contact me or any other HOB Board Member.

Over the next few months we will be adding an Environment page to our H.O.B.O. website. This will allow us to not only place our newsletter articles on line for you to use but it will also allow us to provide more frequent updates on environmental issues that affect our Lake. Keep a watch for the launch of this new page as you visit our site at www.lakemitchelhobo.org

Thank you for your help in improving our Lake environment.

Water Quality Report

PARAMETER	O.K. RANGE	CURRENT QTR	LAST QTR
Dissolved O2	5 - 10	9.34	6.02
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.15	7.53
Alkalinity	20+	51.47	69
Hardness	10 - 120	41.18	50



Invasive Aquatic Plants – Water hyacinth, water lettuce, hydrilla and watermilfoil

2014 Fireworks

*When is the show?
When's the show?
When is it????*



This time of year this question circulates around the lake and rightfully so. With the warmer weather before us, we are making summertime plans. We are thinking about getting with family and friends at the lake and there is no better and more exciting time to do that than around July 4th.

We have been having our show now for 25 years and the date has always been a challenge of sorts. It's not as easy as doing the obvious and having it on the night of the forth. Because most of our members and their families and friends are not full time residents we try to have the show on a long weekend. So when the 4th falls on a weekday we adjust the show to the nearest weekend. One year we had it the night of June 30; and that seemed weird!

Now that our show has gotten so much bigger and much more complicated we have created another scheduling hoop to jump through. We borrow very sophisticated and expensive cable, connectors, and firing systems. And as of last year we hired help with the set up, loading, and wiring our computerized show.

While this years' show will probably not be as complicated we will still borrow a lot of equipment and hire help who work in the pyro production field.

With all that being said, since our equipment is borrowed and pyro pros may be booked it might be a stretch to promise a show on the night of the 4th. However; if not, we will shoot on the night of the 5th. Two things are definite. We will have a fireworks show, and it will be at 9pm.

So the answer to the question above is; there is a 40% chance we can have it on the Friday 4th and 60% chance on Saturday the 5th. Sorry I cannot be more precise at the time this newsletter goes to press. When we know more we will spread the word by e-mails, area reps, and word of mouth.

If you have any comments or questions please e-mail me at jmac51@bellsouth.net.

And remember. Your donations light up the sky!

Water Festival Is Huge Success

The 2nd Annual Chilton County Water Festival was held on Friday, March 14 at the Jefferson State Community College Clanton campus and the adjoining Clanton Conference and Performing Arts Center.

Approximately 635 students from Chilton County and Coosa County participated in another successful educational event. The festival is offered to fourth grade students and teachers. The presenters reached the students with fun and innovative messages of environmental stewardship and awareness of our water resources during this year's event.

There was a new development this year that originated from the Lower Coosa Alabama Clean Water Partnership (ACWP) meeting in November 2013. The meeting was well attended by several representatives of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Since many of our Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. members live on the Coosa County side of the lake, it was requested that the Coosa County students could attend the festival as well. Glenn Littleton, Cahaba Facilitator ACWP, brought the request to the attention of the Chilton County Water Festival Planning Committee. One of the planning committee members, Blake Kelley, Alabama Forestry Committee, talked with the teachers in Coosa County, and they were excited with the opportunity for their two fourth grade classes to attend the festival. The planning committee then approved an invitation to the Coosa County classes. It may not always be possible to include them in future Chilton County festivals due to constraints of fund raising but the planning committee will continue to work with them in making it possible for a similar program in their county.

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. remains a strong supporter of the water festival programs. We contributed \$1000 in 2013 and 2014. Other contributors are the Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM), the Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, the Alabama Department of Public Health, Shelby County Environmental Services, Alabama Power Company, Jeff State, the City of Clanton, CAWACO Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Chilton County Master Gardeners, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Blue Bell Ice Cream – Sylacauga, Alabama Forest Forever Grant, Wal-Mart and Coosa ACWP.

Old Map Brings Back Memories

by Chip Gates

This map that was featured in a previous newsletter brought back many fine memories for some of our readers. Many thanks to all who sent in requests for a copy of the map, and to those who shared some of their memories. I will share more of those in the future, but for now I want to let Mike Smith tell some tales from his past in his own words:

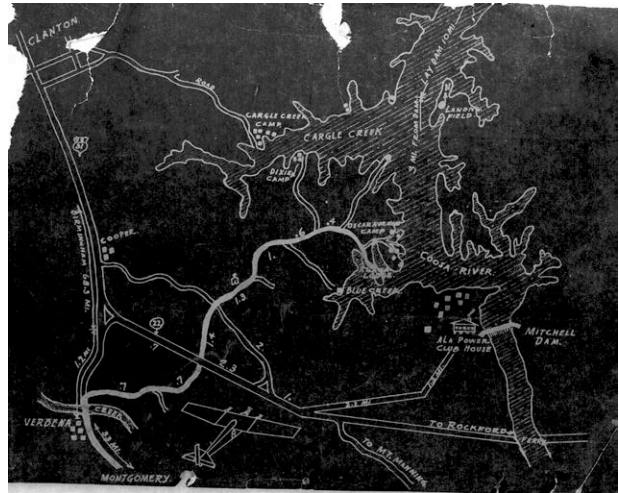
(Mike Smith) *I worked for a gentleman by the name of Eddie Miller who fished and camped on the lake many years ago. He indicated that the airstrip you see on the map was a touch-and-go grass strip built to train military pilots during World War II.*

Also, looking at the Cargile Creek area on the map, my wife's grandfather purchased a lot and built a house in the end of Cargile Creek just before it becomes real narrow and bears back to the right. The map of Cargile Creek is not real accurate in this area of the creek. When my wife and I started using the old house in the late 60's and early 70's there was a gentleman who had a house down around the area of the Cargile Creek Camp. He was pretty ornery. The road to our house went across his property. He really did not want people driving over his property but had no choice. He had several minnow ponds and sold minnows. I have paddled a canoe back up into the creek where it's pretty shallow and there are several houses in the small part of the creek much beyond Dixie's camp. These could be the camp or it may be possible that the houses are the group where my wife's grandparents were located. The adjacent road is in the correct location for this, but Dixie's Camp is not located correctly.

(Chip Gates) Just to add a bit of Cargile Creek trivia, I heard from our Area 15 rep Tommy Carpenter who said that over 50 years ago there were two fish camps in Cargile Creek. One was owned by Millard "Stud" Inman. Inman's Camp is now GRACE Marina. The second camp was owned by Dixie Wilson. All that is left of this camp is the old boat launch.

Now, back to Mike Smith.

(Mike) *I believe it was New Year's 1973. The ski club gathered at the lake on December 31st and partook of warming beverages and friendship. At the stroke of midnight five hardy souls celebrated the New Year with a short ski ride. The skiers included Bo Warren, Gram Esdale, Jimmy McCormick, Susan Speaks and me. We left from the McCormick's pier in Cargile Creek with a dry start, no wet suits were allowed. We took a short run toward the end of Cargile, turned around and landed dry at the Randal beach – or at least some of us made it in dry. Poor Susan fell. It was cold - the air temperature was in the low 40s. Of course water skiing at night is illegal, but with the help of the water*



patrolman Bill Attaway, the ski club obtained a permit from the state to make the run. Mr. Ed Warren wrote a verse about the outing that was published in the Birmingham News and in the American Water Ski Association magazine. Several of us decided to ski every month of that year, which we did. February was cold!

(Chip) Wow! Who knew that Lake Mitchell had its own version of the Polar Bear Club! Mike added that Officer Attaway, along with his wife, son and daughter, lived in the small house at the Higgins Ferry landing. He said Officer Attaway was extremely good at his job. He had a feel for when to be tough and when he needed to not be so tough.

Here is one last personal anecdote from Mike.

(Mike) *There were not many inboards on the lake in the 70's and early 80s, but each had its own sound. You learned whose boat was out on the water just by the sound. My Correct Craft was likely the loudest since the factory used copper tube rather than rubber hose for the exhaust out of the boat. This acts like a megaphone. It is even loud inside the boat.*

(Chip) Mike went on to say the boat is sitting in his driveway waiting on him to finish repairing it from old age and the damage it received from the same tornado that took their lake house several years ago. I'm sure you'll join me in wishing that Mike and his wife get their house rebuilt soon and get their boat restored as well. It would be great to hear that distinctive exhaust sound on the water once again.

Thanks for the memories, Mike.

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

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Change Service Requested

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. 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 \$15____ Memorial ____ Education Fund ____ Scholarship ____ Other (specify) _____			
Amount \$			
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

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M14 should appear next to your name on the mailing label of this newsletter if you have already paid your 2014 dues.