
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 1 Issue 1

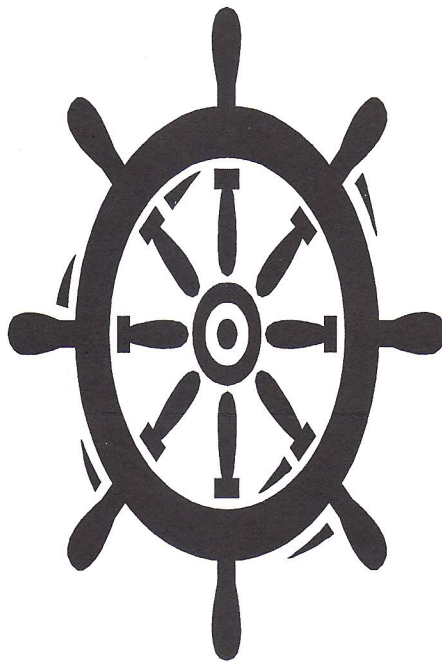
September 1996

What is HOBO?

Lake Martin has it. Lake Jordan has it. We want it for Lake Mitchell! We hope the entire Coosa River chain; Lay, Logan Martin, Neely Henry, and Weiss will have it. **What is it?** It is a non-profit association of *Home Owners* and *Boat Owners* on Lake Mitchell. Why is it important? Most importantly, it is to have an organization ready so that we can all pull together and with our great number of members, preserve, protect and improve our lake and eventually the entire Coosa River.

For example, our Georgia neighbors have been trying for a number of years to divert large amounts of water from this river. We cannot let this happen!

What will Lake Mitchell HOBO do? Your HOBO organization is already hard at work locating and contacting every homeowner on the lake. We have opened a bank account and applied for non-profit status. There are already a few people on the lake who are doing regular water tests. A "Fish Tissue Report" and a "Reservoir Monitoring Report" have been ordered from ADEM. In the future, we plan regular tests of the water in every major tributary feeding the lake as



well as the main channel. Our concerns are:

- restocking fish
- protecting edible fish
- insuring water safety
- establishing good communication
- controlling litter
- securing garbage pick-up
- forming neighborhood watches
- working to lower insurance rates
- improving roads

At the same time we want to become a big lake "family" by getting to know one another. We plan to organize, sponsor, and help fund fun activities such as 4th of July Fireworks, water parades and picnics. We are sure you will have many other suggestions which we hope you will share with us. Return the attached membership application and registration fees. Fees are \$25 for home owners or \$10 for others for

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membership which pays until October of 1997. Donations are appreciated and can be designated for association sanctioned projects. Fees and donations are tax deductible. Our tax ID is 63-1178401. Immediate needs other than your membership are as follows:

- **Computer with printer**
- **Office equipment**
- **Donations to cover water testing kits (\$200 each)**
- **Volunteers to work**

Meet Your Leaders

Dan Murchison, President - Dan enjoyed Lake Mitchell for 15 years prior to his retirement as Regional Sales Manager for Universal Underwriters Insurance Group where he served for 29 years. He and his wife Judy now live most of the time at their place on Cargile Creek. Dan heard of the HOBO associations on Lakes Martin and Jordan, visited them, and dedicated himself to the idea and organization of Lake Mitchell HOBO. He can be reached at 755-0521.

Sam Piccollo, First Vice-President - Sam retired from the Air Force as a Colonel in 1987. He served 25 years during which he worked in a financial position, including a tour in the Pentagon as Budget Director. He has been an active member of Alabama Water Watch for the last two years. Sam monitors and tests the water in Pennymotley Creek on a regular basis. He has also been active in road improvement and street sign postings in his area. His wife Nancy is retired from teaching after 30 years. They live on Pennymotley Creek. Call them at 205-377-4801.

Second Vice-President, Tim Watley - Tim and his wife Sheila are full time residents of Cargile Creek. Tim owns Southern Diesel in Jemison. Sheila is Vice-President of Alabaster Industries. A real outdoorsman, Tim enjoys hunting, fishing, beekeeping, and most anything related to wildlife and nature. Phone him at 755-6021

Secretary/Treasurer, Carolyn Hardy - Carolyn is a retired high school counselor now living with her husband Wayne year round on Walnut Creek. They have had a place on Lake Mitchell for over 30 years and always dreamed of retirement on the lake. Carolyn's hobby is staying busy. She is a skilled

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organizer and enjoys planning down to the smallest detail. You can reach her at 755-4858.

This and That...

- ⇒ Maybe some of you saw the nice article on the front page of the Clanton Advertiser a few weeks ago about HOBO. We sincerely appreciate **Kirk Stokes** for supplying the information, and **Trey Hughes** for writing and including the article on the front page.
- ⇒ Many of us are interested in the dates Alabama Power plans to lower the water level on Lake Mitchell. There are **no** plans for lowering the water level for the rest of this year.
- ⇒ Alabama Power would like you to know the toll free number for information regarding all Alabama Power impoundment's. **Call 1-800-LAKES11** to receive information on the flow through dams, to report mosquitoes, fish kills, weed pests etc.

Future Newsletter Plans

This quarterly publication will be sent to all HOBO members. Free advertisement will be offered to any HOBO member who is in a business which may be of interest to other HOBOS. Watch the newsletter for forms to request space in our Goods and Services Directory.

To keep membership rolls up to date, a list of paid memberships will be published in each fourth quarter newsletter (annual dues should be paid during the month of October). Each newsletter will include a list of lake areas, the contact person for that area, and a phone number. Every issue will include a membership application with space to indicate your special area of interest.

In addition to these regular articles, we invite you to submit articles and editorials for publication. We plan to feature timely articles by the Water Patrol, Game Wardens, Park Rangers, Fire and Rescue Squads, Shoreline Managers, Chambers of Commerce, and Church on the Lake to name a few. Of course there will be announcements of all events planned on or around the lake. It is our hope that we can make the newsletter something each of you anticipate each quarter.

Suggestions and submissions should be mailed to **Carolyn Hardy** at the following address:

PO Box 1324

Clanton, AL 35046

Special Feature: "Is Your Lake Dying?"

Adapted from WaterskiTM magazine, August, 1995

No lake is immune! Whether it's your carelessness or the ignorance of others, our lakes are constantly under siege. We can ill afford poor water, much less poor publicity.

Many Lake Scientists believe that forming a lake association is the single most important action individuals can take to protect their lake. Previously ignored property owners and lake users carry a lot more clout when they get organized. Local, county and state officials snap to attention when a strong lake association comes courting. Lake associations are often eligible for federal and state grants to conduct lake surveys, weed control and various scientific studies. Thirty-one hints for saving our lakes follow.

1. Remove all weed fragments from your boat trailer and propeller before leaving a lake.
2. Don't throw weed fragments back into the lake. Place them in the trash at the launch site.
3. Post a notice at the launch site to remind boaters to remove weed fragments from their boats.
4. If your lake has a weed harvester, make sure it's being used properly.
5. Watch for any new or unusual species of plant growth, especially near the boat ramp. If an unusual plant is spotted, contact your state department of environmental protection.
6. Check the sludge level in your septic tank every year. Pump it when the sludge fills half the tank. The average for pumping is 2-3 years for full time residents, and 5-6 years for seasonal residents.

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7. Organize a neighborhood septic tank "pump out" and take advantage of group discount rates.
8. Check the labels on detergents and use non-phosphate brands. Phosphate rich sewage leaking into the lake feeds the weeds.
9. Avoid pouring bleach, paint, grease and chemicals down the drain.
10. Ground-up garbage from disposals can overburden a septic system.
11. Perform a dye test to determine if your septic system is pouring directly into your lake. Dye tablets can be purchased from a hardware or plumbing supply store. Simply put the tablet into the toilet and flush. If dye appears in the lake you've got a problem. Check the ground around the tank for a few weeks for dye as well.
12. Your lake association may wish to hire a limnologist (lake scientist) to conduct an environmental survey. The cost may be a few thousand dollars, but the expense may be well worth it.
13. Ask the local health department how to monitor bacteria levels in the lake.
14. Avoid planting lawns and gardens within 50-100 feet of shore.
15. Avoid fertilizing your lawn near the lakefront. If it's absolutely necessary, do so sparingly and not when rain is expected.
16. Consider using natural compost rather than commercial fertilizer.
17. Don't wash your boat or car within 100 feet of the lake. Choose non-phosphate detergents and make sure rinse water doesn't run into the lake.
18. When pouring gas from a container into your tank, use a wide mouth funnel to help prevent spills.
19. Some dock and shore side fuel tanks like the Gas Dock are great. They have an automatic shut-off valve to reduce spillage.
20. Keep fuel tanks off the dock and away from shore to prevent accidental spills into the lake.
21. Check the gas cap on the boat for tightness before every ride.

22. Check your bilge water often for oil or other foul bilge brew. If there is a problem, don't pump it into the lake.
23. Leave the shoreline around the lake as natural as possible. Don't cut down healthy trees near the water's edge.
24. Remember that artificial beach usually washes away and can further damage the lake.
25. Keep your boat at idle or no wake speed when operating within 150 feet of the shore to help prevent shore erosion and the damage of boats moored near the shore.
26. Reduce power turning which churns up the roughest water.
27. Keep a trash bag in your boat.
28. Pick up stray trash around the shore or it will eventually wind up in the water.
29. Stay clear of the nesting sites of birds and other animals. Don't harass water fowl.
30. Avoid operating your boat in shallow water. Props churn up bottom vegetation and stir up sediment.
31. Get to know your state and local officials and who the lake experts are.

Logo Contest

We are sponsoring a logo contest for HOB0. The logo will appear on the newsletter in place of the ships wheel that is currently being used. Here are the submission guidelines.

1. Black and white only
2. Print ready art work and copy
3. Must donate all rights of design to Lake Mitchell HOB0.
4. All copy and artwork must fit an area 2" wide by 3" tall, or roughly the size of the ships wheel on page one.
5. No entries will be returned
6. Prize awarded to the winner
7. Send your entry to

HOB0

PO Box 1324

Clanton, AL 35046

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Be sure to include your name, address and phone number.

Don't Forget!!!

Please fill out the form below and send it in with your dues. The information on the form is very important for our records. Also, please indicate your area of interest. Your involvement is critical to the success of HOB0.

Lake Mitchell HOB0

PO Box 1324

Clanton, AL 35046

Annual Dues

\$25.00

Homeowner

Check one:

☐ Renewal ☐ New ☐ Address Change

Name _____

Mailing

Address _____

Lake

Address _____

Phone: Home _____

Lake _____

Business _____

Sub-Division Name and Lot

Area: _____

I am interested in working on the following committees:

☐ Water Research

☐ Garbage Disposal

☐ Annual Picnic

☐ Litter Control

☐ Lake Watch

☐ Fireworks/Parade

☐ Water Safety

☐ Insurance Cost

☐ Telephone

☐ Fish Research

☐ Road Improvements ☐ Funding/Donations

☐ Spring Clean-up

☐ Area Representative

☐ Other (please list) _____