
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 5 Issue 3

Third Quarter 2000

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Jim Woodrow

My article in the 2nd Quarter newsletter was written to congratulate and thank everyone involved in the Spring Clean-up day for doing such a great job. We had about 15 boats and 80 people working that day. We picked up trash along the riverbank that amounted to about 300 bags. We found TV sets, boats and at least one of every plastic bottle known to man. We worked hard and had fun and at the end of the clean up we ate hot dogs and chips. We accomplished a lot.

At the time almost everyone asked, "Can we do it again in the fall?" At the September Board of Directors Meeting we establish a fall clean-up date. Fall is a difficult time to have a Saturday project considering all the activities that take place during that time of the year -- FOOTBALL; therefore we just picked a date that we thought would have minimum impact.

The date chosen is Saturday November 4th.

Also the Chilton Leadership Class 2000 project at Higgins Ferry Park has come to a close, however, there are a few things that still need to be done, for which material has already been purchased. During our Board meeting we discussed this issue and the H.O.B.O. Officers, Directors, and Area Representatives have committed to finish up the items which were left over. Some of these items are painting the pavilion roof and putting in split rail fencing. We want to combine the Lake Clean-up Day with a workday at Higgins Ferry.

We want enough volunteers to do both. "WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!"



Start time for the Lake Clean up / WorkDay will be 8:00 AM at Higgins Ferry Park. H.O.B.O. Area Representatives will be making contacts to get commitments and remind everyone of the date and time for the project.

We plan, as we did in the Spring, to work hard in the morning and have fun in the afternoon. H.O.B.O. will furnish food and drinks around 2:00 PM.

For your information there has already been a date established for a Spring clean up in 2001. The date is May 13, 2001 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. would like to develop the Spring and Fall Clean up as a tradition for our organization and the Lake. By doing our part to clean-up Lake Mitchell we take one more step to improve the quality of life in an area we all love. Projects such as these help to fulfill the mission statement and goal of

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.; to Preserve, Protect, and Improve Lake Mitchell.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Annual General Member Meeting will be held Friday November 3, at 7:00 PM at the Alabama Power Company Building on Highway 31 in Clanton. The meeting will address the proposed H.O.B.O. budget for 2001 and the election of officers for the next two-year term. If you have someone you would like to nominate for an office, contact your area representative and give them the name so that it may be passed along to the nominating committee. A special mail out will be sent to remind everyone as we get closer to Annual Meeting date.

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Area #	Area Name	Representative	Phone
1	Blue Creek	Gordon Beene	755-3934 879-4119
2	Blue to Cargile	Mary Olson	755-9561
3	Cargile South	Dan Murchison	755-0521 823-2308
4	Cargile North	Ann Till	755-0669
5	Cargile to Bird	George Jackins	755-0567 822-2282
6	Bird Creek	Carol Willie	280-1133
7	Bird to Walnut	Sue Abernathy	755-6848
8	Walnut SW	Cecil "Bo" Austin	280-0838
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Kathy & Pete Pearson	280-7750 699-1618
10	Cove and Mountain	Bill Knowles	755-2038
11	Mountain to Dam Area	Rick & Mary Hurst	755-4687
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	Fred Calloway	377-2333
13	Pennamotley	Sam Piccolo	377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Pat Croker	377-4528
15	Big Airplane to Dam	Charlie & Mary Robbins	377-2475

Area 4 & 5 by Ann Till**UPDATE on Cargile Water Project...**

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Cargile Creek Water Project. The residents of these areas should have received a letter from Calvin Cassady regarding the progress of the project. If you have not, please let me know. I know it has taken longer than we all anticipated last September, but I believe the wait will be worthwhile. Hopefully, we will have county water by next summer.

I would like to thank Jim McCormick for managing the funds, Bob Esdale for his support and most of all, please remember the efforts of my late husband Joe Till and of the late Ken Stanton. Without their unselfish efforts, this project would not have been possible. This just proves that one person can make a difference. If you believe in something strong enough, anything is possible. Thanks to everyone!

Area 7

We have learned that Sue Abernathy, Area Representative for Area 7 has been seriously ill for the past few months. She has asked that we extend a BIG THANK YOU for all of the e-mails, cards, calls, and prayers.

Sue is very active in H.O.B.O. and we have really missed her this summer. She is the author of "The Marinas on the Lake" series. The editorial group for this newsletter receives many compliments on these articles. Sue, we hope you are soon back at your computer and feeling great. We miss you!!!!

Area 1 by Gordon Beene

We are very sad to report that Melvin C. Downs of Birmingham recently passed away. He and his family have been residents of the Blue Creek area for over 50 years, and are long term members of H.O.B.O. We extend our sympathy to Jackie and the children.

COMMITTEE REPORTS**WATER QUALITY REPORT**

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	SEVEN SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	7.17
PH	6.5-8.2	8.05
Alkalinity	20+	58.40
Hardness	10-120	53.63

Quarterly Report Average Water Quality

A low **dissolved oxygen** level indicates a demand on the oxygen in the system. Pollutants such as inadequately treated sewage as well as decaying natural organic matter can cause low oxygen levels. The **ph** scale ranges from very acidic such as battery acid to very basic such as household lye. The midsection of the scale between 6.5 to 8.2 is optimal for most organisms. If a body of water has an abundance of buffering materials causing high **total alkalinity**, it is more stable and resistant to ph changes. When alkalinity is above 20mg/l there is a marked increase in nutrient utilization. **Hardness** refers primarily to the amount of calcium and magnesium, which enters the water mainly by leaching of rocks. Both minerals are essential to the development and growth of aquatic plants and animals.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Judy Murchison, Chairman

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. telephone directory for the year 2001-02 will be available the first quarter of 2001. These books will be available at no charge with a paid membership. The Area Representatives of H.O.B.O. will distribute them.

Please check your mailing label on this newsletter to see if this is how you would like your listing in the new book to read. If we have you shown as "William", and you prefer to be called "Bill", you may want to change your listing.

Some of the wives' names are not shown in the phone book and we would like to have both the husband and the wife shown. E-mail addresses are being added. Please make sure we have yours. To make changes, please call me at 205-823-2308 or 205-755-0521.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Johnye Woodrow, Chairman

Year-end is fast approaching. Please remember H.O.B.O. and it's many projects for your charitable contributions for 2000. Our annual dues of \$25.00 do not cover our expenses for our projects, including Marine 9. They are "outside" budget.

We will be selling advertising this year for our 2001-02 Lake telephone directory. We will be contacting local merchants that service the Lake area as well as many business owners that own property on the Lake. If you would like to be included, please contact me for additional information. There will be a limit on the number of ads sold.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

ENVIRONMENTAL Dan Murchison, Chairman

The Alabama State Health Department has issued a NO FISH CONSUMPTION ADVISORY for the entire Lay Lake Reservoir. The advisory is for the consumption of striped bass, spotted bass, crappie, and blue catfish. Since some of these fish are known to be migratory and come through dams, there is likely to be some in Lake Mitchell. We members of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. need to insist that ADEM and Alabama Game and Fish continue to test the fish in our lake for possible contamination.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

What are some of the things that Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. residents can do to protect the water quality and edibility of fish in our lake. Some suggestions are:

1. Support the Lay Lake H.O.B.O. in their efforts to improve their water quality. What comes into Lay Lake flows south to Lake Mitchell.
2. Attend and support any H.O.B.O. meetings with large landowners to negotiate buffer zones along the banks of the reservoir from construction and tree harvesting.
3. Support and join our water monitoring efforts on Lake Mitchell. Monitors are especially needed on Yellow Leaf Creek and around the Lay Dam area.
4. Help identify and protect the wetland areas that filter the water before coming into Lake Mitchell. These areas do not tend to be developed. Not only do the wetlands filter the water, but they also support the wild life and aquatic macroinvertebrates so important to a good fish population.
5. Help report excessive erosion from construction and dirt roads that drain into our lake.
6. Participate and support our litter clean-up efforts on the Lake, banks, and incoming roads.
7. Have confidence in your ability as an individual and as a concerned citizen to act and make a difference.
8. Support your Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Association financially and do some volunteer work with them. They are all volunteers like you and together we can be make a difference.

EMERGENCY SIGNS Jim Woodrow

We have completed the identification and mapping of the Coosa County side of the Lake to make locating emergency calls to Marine 9 easier. Chilton County has 911 addresses. We are now having proto-type signs done for all Area Representatives of H.O.B.O.

Signs indicating your emergency location will be available for all residents on the Lake to purchase at a charge of \$20.00 to non-members and \$7.00 to members of H.O.B.O. They have a green background with white reflective lettering. Please look for these signs in your area.

We will be coordinating purchase of these signs in bulk quantity and will keep you advised through your area representative, and special mailouts.

Signs will need to be attached on a uniform basis, and assistance in attaching the sign to your boathouse will be available.

FIREWORKS Jim McCormick

Thanks to all that contributed to this year's fireworks show. With the help of Sibley Reynolds, Mike McCormick, Graham Esdale and about 12 college guys, we had one of the most successful shows in our twelve-year history. Each year we look for ways to improve the show. Sometimes it is obvious by the unique design of the shells and sometimes it is behind the scenes. For instance, for the first time this year, we set off the 150 shot finale electronically, just like the big shows do. Our show would not be nearly as big if it were not for the barges loaned by Bo Warren, Ronnie Baker, and Paul Minor. Additionally, I would be more nervous than normal if I did not have the East Chilton County Fire & Rescue Department volunteering their time to assure that we are safe from the land as well as from our new fire boat. (Please remember that you can contribute to the upkeep of the fire boat by sending your donations to H.O.B.O.)

For anyone interested, Tommy Robbins of Robbins Photography, Highway 22, Verbena, Alabama has some magnificent pictures of the fireworks at their office as well as on display at Peoples Bank in Clanton.

In closing, I realize we do not have the biggest and most elaborate fireworks show the State has ever seen. But it is our show. There is no municipality, sports team or wealthy industrialist to provide the funds to hire a pyrotechnic company. Our show is totally produced funded, and shot by members of our River Family. That is something we can be proud of.

BULLETIN BOARD

FALL CLEANUP – November 4, 2000. Please let your area representative know if you will be helping and will have a boat available. H.O.B.O. and Alabama Power Company will furnish garbage bags. We will meet at Higgins Ferry at 8 a.m. Please make your plans to attend this fun and productive event. We plan on a hot-dog cook out following cleanup. Please let us know if we can plan on your attendance. *Chilton County Commissioners have agreed to "haul away" our debris. Many thanks to them.*

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Sam Piccolo, Chairman of Water Testing on our Lake has advised we now have 9 people trained to test for ecoli.

The Chilton Leadership Class of 2000 advised that their time with Higgins Ferry was left with a few projects not finished. They will donate any of the materials already purchased if H.O.B.O. can provide the labor and manpower to finish.

We will go over any unfinished items the date of cleanup. However, most of these projects have been already been completed by Donald Giles, Park Ranger and Dan Murchison of H.O.B.O.

Alabama Water Watch Association is holding their annual Planning Meeting October 13-14 on Lake Mitchell at the home of Dan & Judy Murchison.

East Chilton County Fire & Rescue Department will be doing a demonstration of Marine 9 October 14th in Cargile Creek around 10:00 a.m.

Alabama Game & Fish is having a meeting October 25th at 6:30 p.m. at Rockford Courthouse. They will be discussing which fish to stock in the Lakes.

General H.O.B.O. meeting will be held FRIDAY, November 3rd at 7 p.m. at the Alabama Power Building in Clanton. Our meetings are normally held on Thursday, but due to a conflict we will meet on Friday night.

If you have an article of interest, or an idea for one of our "reporters", please submit it to P. O. Box 1324, Clanton, Alabama 35046. Be sure and include your name. Next publication will be early January 2001.

MARINE 9 REPORT Michael Minor ECVFR Department

Due to the complexity of fire protection ratings by the Insurance Service Office, ISO, there are no immediate plans to request a re-rating of the Lake's residents at this time. More than 4 fire/rescue departments cover Lake Mitchell. Each department's ISO rating is assigned separately. These currently range from class 7/9 to 9 and uncovered areas are a class 10. Marine 9 would be only a part of the grading process for these departments if any chose to be re-evaluated utilizing Marine 9. Currently, there are no standards by which Marine 9 could be evaluated by ISO.

From an East Chilton standpoint, our current rating is a "straight" 8 within five road miles of the land station at 5640 County Road 28. An ISO evaluation would not be in the best interest of the majority of the citizens in our coverage area, as a current trend of ISO is to give a split rating such as 6/9. A 6 would apply to all within 1000 feet of an appropriate fire hydrant and 2.5 miles of the land station. A 9 would apply to all other areas within 5 miles of our station. In this scenario, all areas of Lake Mitchell within our current coverage area would become a 9. Current administration is not interested in an evaluation that might result in an overall negative type of rating.

In closing, remember Marine 9 was placed in service to fill a void of no emergency service in some areas of the Lake and to enhance existing service in other areas of the Lake.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Lake Mitchell HOB0

PO Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046

January 1, 2000 – December 31, 2000.

Annual dues Homeowner \$25.00	Emergency Sign-Member \$7. Non \$20.	Firework Donation \$	Marine 9 Donation \$
Name:			
Mailing Address:			
911 Address:			
E-mail Address:			
Phone: Home		Lake	
Lake Area:			

LAKE MITCHELL MARINA

By Mac McMillian, Area 13

Situated on a point at the mouth of Walnut Creek, it was once know as Wyatt's Fishing Camp. In earlier days, it was a bustling place owned by Raymond and Bertha

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Wyatt. Raymond sold gasoline, bait & tackle, snacks and had a few boathouses for wet boat storage and a launch ramp. Back then, you could rent a boat for a few bucks if you brought your own motor. Raymond also sold catfish caught on trotlines in the Coosa River. A few cabins and a campground were available for an over night stay.

During the late '80's, the old store, and some of the Wyatt property. was acquired by Bruce Payton. Bruce for a short time operated the store under the name "Pocanatchie". The old deteriorated boathouses were removed and in addition to renovation of the store, several rental cabins were built. A fire destroyed the store, but the cabins were spared and sold to individuals. William and Deanna McMinn subsequently purchased the store location.

Deanna says William has always loved the water and for a long time had wanted a marina. William is one of 13 children who grew up in Maplesville. Deanna, formerly Deanna Huett, is one of 5 children and originally from Selma. They have been married for 35 years. William and Deanna lived for a time on Lake Jordan and later moved to Lake Mitchell where they have had several homes around the lake before building the "round house" on the Chilton County side of the Lake.

Lake Mitchell Marina officially opened May 1, 1999. In addition to gasoline and bait, the marina stocks an assortment of almost any item you may need and forget to bring when visiting the Lake, including canned goods, soft drinks, fishing supplies, dog food, snacks, and a variety of other items for plumbing repair. There is also a grill serving a varied menu of short order food – hamburgers, hot dogs, etc, and a dinner menu that includes oysters on the half shell, catfish dinners, chicken baskets and bar-be-que.

One thing stands out at the Lake Mitchell Marina – cleanliness!! From the minute you enter, you notice those shiny floors and the clean white walls with green trim. A large dining room is tastefully decorated in "lake décor", which offers pleasant surroundings for dining in an informal setting. From the initial inspection, the marina has earned a 99 rating from the County Health Department and draws customers from Clanton, Thorsby, Prattville, and Birmingham. Lake residents and visitors will usually see friends at the marina and it is also an ideal place to meet new friends.

The coffee-pot is always on. See ya' there.

.....

H.O.B.O. RECOGNIZES:

Gordon Beene has served as a director of H.O.B.O. since 1996. He and his wife Ruth have had a place on the Lake since the early '60's. He is also an area rep and a water monitor. Jim McCormick has been a director since 1998 and provides the wonderful fireworks display. HL. McMillian has been a director since 1996. He is also a water monitor and does the area news "Paddling Around Pennamotely". Renee Powers has been a director since 1998 and also serves as an Ambassador for Chilton County, member of PEECH, member of Cup of Water Ministry and Chairman Chilton Leadership. Chris Speaks has served since 1996 and is an attorney in Clanton. Bo Warren has served since 1996. He also owns Blue Creek Marina and Lake Mitchell Realty. Thanks to all of you who make H.O.B.O. a success.

.....

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.**MARINE 9 EMERGENCY NUMBER****COOSA COUNTY:****205-755-1120****1-205-755-1120****CHILTON COUNTY:****911****Please keep these numbers accessible.**

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

P. O. Box 1324

Clanton, Alabama 35046

Return Postage Guaranteed**Address Correction Requested**

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit 12

Birmingham, AL