

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 6 Issue 1

First Quarter 2001

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sam Piccolo

You know, I was thinking the other day of what our Lake was like prior to the formation of the Lake Mitchell Home Owners and Boat Owners Association and what has been the impact of the Association. As for me, I knew the people in my immediate Lake Mitchell Coosa County neighborhood but not much more; we talked many times about getting some type of pump and mounting it on a pontoon boat for fire protection. I generally tried to keep the area in the vicinity of my place clean and I guess I was the first and only citizen water tester on the Lake. Prior to that day in early 1996 when I got a call from some guy by the name of Dan Murchison about forming a lake-wide association, I was pursuing the idea of forming a community association of Lake Mitchell Coosa County residents. I knew we needed some kind of organization to address the many problems our lake communities faced i.e. poor infrastructure, poor fire protection, poor medical support in emergencies, etc.

The call from Dan Murchison and subsequent events that led to the formation of the Lake Mitchell HOB.O in 1996 opened up a whole new world thanks to the hard work of Dan and Judy initially and subsequently by Jim and Johnye Woodrow to keep things going. The Association by virtue of its organizational structure provided for a much needed communication network throughout the Lake. Suddenly, I got to know Chilton County Lake Residents like the Murchisons, the Hardys, the Woodrows, the Austins, the Scotts, etc. and began to appreciate a broader spectrum of Lake issues and challenges. I still recall the first time I heard Wayne and Carolyn Hardy so enthusiastically promote the idea of a fire and rescue boat for the entire Lake. When I heard them throw out an estimate of the cost of such an endeavor and visualized the amount of work involved to make it happen, I thought to myself that this would never

materialize. Well, that just goes to show you that I didn't know the Hardys very well at that time.

Through the Association Fireboat Committee, Wayne and Carolyn led the way in making the necessary contacts and raising the necessary money to produce the big yellow Fire and Rescue Boat for Lake Mitchell.

Other major Association contributions since 1996 include the removal of mountains of trash from the waters of Lake Mitchell, the publishing of a very useful Lake Directory, the establishment of a structure to promote communication and work issues, expansion of the water testing program from one to seven sites and numerous other initiatives to preserve, protect, and improve Lake Mitchell.

So, where do we go from here? Believe me, there are still many challenges and opportunities ahead. First, we are now in the business of supporting a Fire and Rescue Boat. Our Association provides funds for its annual operations and we are responsible for replacing worn out or broken parts of the boat and its systems.

Under the able leadership of Carl Scott, the Fire/Rescue Committee (includes Terry Bates and Michael Minor) has done an outstanding job in helping us equip the Fire/Rescue Boat and recommending needed reserves to the Association Board to keep the Boat operational. My biggest fear is that we would suddenly have to replace both engines which would immediately cost us in the neighborhood of \$30,000. To be perfectly honest, our reserves are pretty thin right now but I am hoping they will improve over time. Your Fire/Rescue Boat contributions are still very important.

We have two Lake cleanups scheduled for 2001 (May 12 and Nov 3) and again will attack the large uninhabited areas on the Coosa side of the Lake which have large trash accumulations. We are also in process of republishing the Lake Directory and this time we will have advertisements from local merchants in the back.



These business people are supporting us and we need to support them as much as possible. Down the road there is the issue that we need to address with Alabama Power and the Chilton and Coosa County Commissions regarding sediment buildup in creeks and the Lake due to dirt roads that provide access to Lake Mitchell.

As a parting thought, remember that we are a volunteer organization totally committed to preserving, protecting, and improving Lake Mitchell. From my vantagepoint, the volunteers that are key to our success are our Area Representatives. They represent the engine that makes things go - - get to know your Area Rep and help where you can.

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-McCarty	755-0869
5	Cargile to Bird	George Jackins	755-0567 822-2282
6	Bird Creek	Carol Willie	280-1133
7	Bird to Walnut	Brenda Langston	755-6520
8	Walnut SW	Cecil "Bo" Austin	280-0838
9	Walnut Creek Peninsula	Kathy Peerson	280-7750 699-1618
10	Cove and Mountain	Bill Knowles	755-2038
11	Mountain to Dam Area	Brenda Wood	280-4517
12	Upper Hatchet and Weogufka	Edsel Hughes	377-4849
13A	East Pennamotley	Fred Calloway	377-2333
13B	West Pennamotley	Sam Piccolo	377-4801
14	Hatchet to Big Airplane	Pat Crocker	377-4528
15	Big Airplane to Dam	Charlie & Mary Robbins	377-2475

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AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

AREAS 4 & 5 by Ann Till-McCarty

The water project for the people on the north side of Cargile Creek up to the Bird Creek area has been started!!! Due to the severe cold weather and so much rain we have had the last couple of months, the completion date for the project is unclear at this time, but they are working on it.

Thanks again to all who have participated in this effort.

AREA 11 Mountain to Dam Area

WELCOME Brenda Wood!!! Brenda is our new Area Representative for the Mountain to Dam (Lay) Area. She and her husband Douglas have lived on the Lake for the past two years. They have 3 sons and 2 daughters. Brenda has her own computer programming company, dealing primarily with building web sites. Her hobbies are working with crafts and fishing. If you have a place in this area and need any information about HOBO, please call Brenda at 205-280-4517.

Area 7 - Bird Creek to Walnut Creek

Due to illness, Sue Abernathy has resigned as our Area Representative. Sue has contributed so much to Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. from her wonderful feature articles for the newsletter, to tirelessly working for the betterment of her neighborhood and the Lake. She was always available to help wherever she was needed. Please keep Sue and her family in your prayers.

Brenda Langston, Director, has graciously accepted the responsibilities of Area 7. Brenda was born in Chilton County and is a graduate of the University of Alabama. She is employed in Chilton County as a schoolteacher. **WELCOME BRENDA.**

Area 14 Pat Crocker

Goldmine Road is much cleaner thanks to the efforts of Ed & Cindy Smith, and Joe and Sherry Campbell. Thanks for all you do to keep our neighborhood litter free.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

RELICENSING COMMITTEE Dan Murchison

Alabama Power Company (APC) long term (50 years) federal licenses to operate the hydroelectric facilities on the Coosa and Warrior Rivers will expire in 2007. APC

began the multi-year relicensing process last year by identifying and meeting with stakeholders and then conducted "Issues Identification Workshops" in December 2000.

The Stakeholders include federal and state agencies, non-governmental environmental groups, Lake Associations, BASS, and others. The workshops produced an extensive list of issues, concerns, and questions that APC has summarized in 17 pages for the Coosa system. To address these issues, APC formed two Resource Advisory Teams (RATS), one for ecological/environmental issues and one for recreational issues. Virtually all workshop issues fall into at least one of these two categories. RATS will consist of stakeholders plus APC and are expected to meet 5-6 times this year (first meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2001). RAT subcommittees will be formed to study specific issues.

Lake Mitchell HOBOLicensing representatives will be Sam Piccolo, President of HOBOLicensing, Dan Murchison, Chairman, Duncan Austin, George Jackins, Mary Sue Olson, and Jim Woodrow. Our intention is to fully participate in the process and work with other stakeholders to study, document and address as practicable, issues with the stressed Coosa River system and areas of local concern such as: water quality, water quantity/flow, fluctuations/drawdowns/land use/wetlands issues, fishery.

If you are interested in more information or participation in this vital issue, contact Dan Murchison, Relicensing Committee Chairman at (205) 823-2308 or (205) 755-0521.

SECURITY/BOATHOUSE SIGN COMMITTEE

Fred & Alice Calloway

We have begun the process of printing our identification signs and the first sets have been distributed to the Area Representatives for distribution. Please place your sign where it will be visible to the Fire/Rescue Boat when it enters your area. The signs are white with green reflective lettering on durable material. The cost is \$7.00 with a paid membership and \$20.00 for non HOBOLicensing members.

These signs will be used by the fire department to locate you in the event of an emergency. Please note the emergency numbers at the end of this newsletter and keep them accessible.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE Judy Murchison

Lake Mitchell telephone directories are at the printers. One is free with a paid membership. On receipt of the directories, your Area Representative will contact you.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

This publication will contain advertisements from local merchants and lake resident business owners. Please take the time to review their advertisements and support them whenever possible. THANK YOU to the merchants who purchased ads and to the members who sold them.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE	SEVEN SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	8.46
PH	6.5-8.2	7.28
Alkalinity	20+	49.76
Hardness	10-120	49.52

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.

CLEAN-UP COMMITTEE George Jackins, Chairman

Mark your calendars....May 12, 2001 This is our first scheduled Lake Clean-up for 2001. One of the best things we do as a group is improving our Lake environment. Our past cleanups have already removed several tons of trash from our Lake. Meet at Higgins Ferry at 8:00 a.m. At noon, we will serve a picnic lunch for participants. Alabama Power will furnish tee shirts, bags and gloves.

USEFUL INFORMATION Submitted by Mac McMillan

We have all seen litter alongside roadways. Do you know how long it takes litter to decompose to a non-recognizable form?

Styrofoam	Never
Aluminum	80-100 years
Plastic Bags	10-20 years
Plastic Coated Cartons	5 years
Plastic Containers	50-80 years
Cigarette Butts	10-12 years
Leather Shoes	25-40 years
Vibram Soles	50-80 years
Wool Socks	6-24 months
Orange Peels	up to 6 months
Paper Containers	2-5 months

BULLETIN BOARD

If you need Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. reflective stickers, please contact your area representative or make a notation under remarks on the membership application. Two stickers are included with a paid membership.

Please read your copy of your newsletter from Alabama Power – Shoreline. Lake Mitchell was the featured Lake this month.

Congratulations to Ann Till (Area 4) and Tom McCarty on their recent marriage. They will reside on Lake Mitchell and will continue as Area Representatives for Cargile North. Also congratulations to Fred and Carol Crawford, also of Area 4, on their recent wedding.

Our deepest sympathy to the families of Frank Walton, Pennamotley Creek and James Brooks, North side of Cargile Creek. The Waltons have been on Lake Mitchell for over 30 years. The Brooks have been on Lake Mitchell for the past 40 years.

Our Association lost a good friend and supporter with the passing of **Harold Thornton**, Area 2. Harold was a resident of Clanton for many years. He and his wife Judy were always available for HOB.O., and the “coffee-pot” was always on at their camp. Drop-ins were welcome. Judy currently serves as treasurer for the Association.

4th of July Fireworks will be held Tuesday night July 3rd

River Church will meet at Higgins Ferry Boat Launch Memorial Day weekend Sunday – May 6th. You don't want to miss this opportunity to attend.

Richville Volunteer Fire Department is selling bar-b-que boston butts May 26, 2001 (Saturday of Memorial Day weekend) for \$20.00. You can order by sending payment to Sam Piccolo, 19 Wagner Drive, Rockford, AL 35136 Please make checks payable to Richville VFD and advise if you would like to pickup your order that Saturday at Kelly's Cross Roads (Highway 22 & Coosa County Road 29) or at Sam Piccolos, Area 13-B, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Call Sam at 256-377-4801 if you have any questions. Please support this Coosa County volunteer fire department as they are the responding fire department by land for a large section of our Coosa County residents.

Annual Lake Mitchell HOB.O. covered dish picnic will be June 9th. Watch your mail for more details

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

A permit is required before starting any construction within the lake boundaries. Bo Warren is Alabama Power Company's shoreline inspector. One of his jobs is to assist property owners in completing the application for a lakeshore-use permit. APC has passed new boathouse guidelines. *Any new boathouse built must be open and cannot be walled or enclosed on at least three exterior sides; one exterior side may be walled for the placement/construction of an approved storage area.* Please call Bo, (205) 755-8959 or (205) 755-1198 before you begin any new construction.

ACT COMPACT EXTENDED

EXCERPTS FROM mkales@ucriverkeeper.org (Matthew Kales)

Dated 2/13/01 & Bmclane@alabamarivers.org
(BradfordTMcLane)

PLEASE ATTEND A PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND PRESS EVENT REGARDING THE INTERSTATE WATER NEGOTIATIONS IN THE ALABAMA-COOSA-TALLAPOSSA RIVER BASIN APRIL 12, 2001, 10:00 A.M. GUEST HOUSE INN HOTEL & SUITES, 120 MADISON AVENUE, MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

The States of Alabama and Georgia have tentatively reached an agreement on a water allocation formula for the ACT River Basin. If signed, this agreement will determine the amount of water each State may use from the ACT Basin over the next 30 years.

Recognizing the strengths of the proposal, as well as the value, the Alabama Rivers Alliance and the UCRiverkeepers have concerns.

On one hand, an imperfect agreement is better than none as Alabama would have nothing to protect us from Georgia's water consumption unless and until Alabama would prevail in litigation against Georgia before the US Supreme Court. On the other hand, the proposal does place a limit on interbasin transfers from the Coosa River Basin in Georgia, but metro-Atlanta can more than double the amount of water it currently interbasin transfers from the Coosa Basin before reaching that limit. The proposal contains suspension provisions and other language that The Ala River Alliance believes Georgia could misuse. Also, some of the provisions of the proposal are unclear.

For more information and more detail, please contact either of the following individuals to be added to their e-mail list.

Matt Kales, Program Manager for River Basin Protection, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper,

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1900 Emery Street #450, Atlanta, Georgia 30318 -
Phone 1-404-352-9828 FAX 1-404-352-8676

The Alabama Rivers Alliance - 1-877-862-5260
Bmclane@alabamarivers.org - Bradford McLane
www.alabamarivers.org

MARINE 9 REPORT Michael Minor, East Chilton Volunteer Fire & Rescue

On November 7, 2000, the voters of Chilton County narrowly approved continuation and an increase in the funding used to support the fire/rescue services in unincorporated areas of the county. This means that East Chilton Volunteer Fire & Rescue doors will remain open and we will be able to continue operations of Marine 9 on Lake Mitchell.

Equipment is currently arriving that will complete the initial equipment list budgeted by the Association for placement on Marine 9. This will allow us to have the most critical equipment needed for a fire or emergency medical incident on or around the lake, within the confines of the space available on Marine 9. The Association is to be congratulated for completing the initial goals of the fire/rescue boat project set back in 1997 by the fire/rescue committee.

Unfortunately, some of this new equipment was put to the test on the morning of February 26, 2001, when lightning struck near a residence in Area 14 and set the house on fire. After a short delay in notification, Marine 9 was dispatched to the scene with 7 trained personnel on board, including an assistant chief, 2 captains, and 4 firefighters. The responding crew faced some of the worst conditions for a response on the lake, including lack of utility power to lower Marine 9, torrential rainfall and vivid lightning. The generator purchased by the Association was used to lower Marine 9. Even with all the odds against us, Marine 9 was on the scene within 23 minutes of notification.

Call Times

Dispatched to boathouse: 0823

Marine 9 en route to scene: 0842

Marine 9 on scene: 0846

Marine 9 complete and in-service: 1013

The structure could not be saved but the fire was contained and adjacent exposures were protected. Richville Fire Dept. responded also and the scene was turned over to them after the immediate situation was mitigated. The firefighting and safety equipment aboard Marine 9 functioned extremely well and according to plan. We will continue to evaluate and update our response plans and equipment needs as we train and gain experience in answering calls on the lake.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake area and residence identification for the Coosa side that is now underway by the Association will become invaluable in quickly locating emergencies, thereby decreasing response times of Marine 9 and other public safety agencies. In the meantime, please remember if you are calling from Coosa County, dial 205-755-1120 (Chilton Co. 911 Communications), state your emergency, give your location by lake landmarks or other identifiers, state that Marine 9 is needed, and give a call-back number. This will allow for immediate dispatch of personnel to respond with Marine 9.

If you have any questions or comments concerning fire/rescue around the lake, call Sam Picolo, HOBO President at 256-377-4801 or Chief Terry Bates, East Chilton Volunteer Fire & Rescue at 205-755-6169.

BOATING LAW HIGHLIGHTS:

Pleasure boating season is almost here. Now is a good time to refresh your boating skills and be familiar with the laws that govern safe boating in Alabama. Following are a few simplified answers to some frequently asked questions. This is not intended to be a complete summary of the Alabama Boating Safety Law.

EQUIPMENT:

All vessels must be equipped with prescribed navigation lights when operated at night. Operators of all vessels must comply with the requirements for the type and use of lights when anchored or underway from sunset to sunrise.

Personal Floatation Devices: Vessels less than 16 feet must have aboard a type I, II, III or V personal flotation device for each person. Vessels over 16 feet in length must have type I, II, III or V for each person and at least one type of IV on board as a throwable device. All children 8 years and younger, on any vessel, must, at all times, wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device that must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely in place.

Fire Extinguishers required on all inboard and inboard/outboard vessels regardless of size

Emergency Engine Cut-Off Switch

Sound Device All vessels 16 feet or more in length must have the proper signal device for use during nighttime operations or when visibility is greatly reduced.

Diver's Flag 12 inches square, red with white diagonal stripe. Boat owners must stay 100 feet away from the displayed flag.

For pamphlet in its entirety, please order from Alabama Marine Police, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36130 or call 1-334-242-3673

**Lake Mitchell HOB
Membership Application**

PO Box 1324
Clanton, AL 35046
January 1, 2001 – December 31, 2001

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

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

PRSRT STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit 12

Birmingham, AL

JUDY MURCHISON
217 CO RD 552
VERBENA AL 36091

