
The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Volume 13 Issue 1 www.lakemitchellhobo.homestead.com First Quarter 2008

FROM THE PRESIDENT Doug Martin,

dougmart@mindspring.com

Another wonderful spring is blooming on Lake Mitchell. The good news is our bucket is filled and we are all hoping for normal weather patterns for the coming activity filled summer months. There will be many events, some of which are new, for Lake Mitchell residents to participate in. The recently announced 2008 photo contest for a 2009 calendar had 38 photos posted on the first few days of posting. If that first posting is any indication, we will have some wonderful pictures from which to produce a great Lake Mitchell calendar. Please join in and watch the listing grow. Send Roxanne an email (roxymartin@mindspring.com) and a link will be forwarded which will give you the ability to view the album.

Unfortunately, due to the possibility of inclement weather on March 15th our planned spring clean up was delayed one week. The intrinsic rewards of participation in this semi-annual event make it well worth the effort. As we travel the lake during the summer and view the beauty of Mother Nature's gift, we often forget it takes a concerted effort to remain pristine.

We still have areas on the lake which are not in participation with H.O.B.O., and there are plans on welcoming and joining with them in our activities.

The reports on fishing on Lake Mitchell have been good this winter/early spring. The Alabama Big Crappie Hunt fishing tournament still has Lake Mitchell producing 2 of the largest 5 fish to date.

Lake Mitchell is pleased to announce a new board member, Chuck Traetto. Chuck and Carol have their home in Area 13B. We would like to welcome him and look forward to his efforts in making our community a better place. At the same time we wish to give large thanks to Terry Bates for his years of service on the H.O.B.O. board and wish him the best in his years of retirement. Terry has been instrumental in the development, operation and maintenance of the Lake Mitchell Fire/Rescue Boat. We will still see him and Debbie on the lake, of course.

Our area representative system is still the primary means of transferring information to and from the board. Please keep your area representatives informed of email address changes and phone/home address changes, as well as any ownership changes you are aware of. They will transmit that information to the membership committee. If you have suggestions or ideas for your organization, please let them know. It will be discussed in one of the 3 or 4 area rep meetings held throughout the year.

A last note, though not the least, must be to stay vigilant with environmental safety concerning gasoline and other household chemicals used in and around the waterway and ground water areas. Though many are now getting county and/or city water for the first time, there are also many who still pull water from the lake for drinking purposes. Our careless spillage actions can affect people from not only 'our neck of the woods', but Lake Jordan and further downstream, not to mention the aquatic and wildlife life depending on our self-restricted caution.

Please consider volunteering for a committee, event or other activity; have a great spring and we'll see you on the water.

We have an area rep vacancy in 13A (Pennamotley). If you are willing to volunteer, please call or email Doug.

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Area 5 Sonny & Peggy Bullard bullspad@bellsouth.net

We are rejoicing as we see the daffodils in bloom. Spring has come, summer is nigh and soon we will all be enjoying the beautiful lake with family and friends.

Please help us in welcoming John & Kathy Redd to our area. They purchased the Vajda house and have been busy most of the winter painting and fixing up their new place. Hopefully they will be finished and ready to relax and enjoy the beauty of the lake by the time summer is here.

Our area will hold our "Spring Fling" on May 3rd at the home of the Jackins' so mark your calendar. More information will be sent to you later. Last year we had a spring brunch at our home and in the fall we had a chili and soup lunch at Bob and Patsy Straka's. We had a large



turnout and had a fun time at both so make your plans to be with us this year and let's get to know each other better.

Other events you may want to mark on your calendar are the H.O.B.O. picnic on June 7th at 4:00 P.M. at Higgins Ferry Park and the 4th of July parades and fireworks. For the picnic just bring a dish and come and meet more of the wonderful people on Lake Mitchell. Meat and drinks are provided. The 4th of July celebration will begin at 10:00 A.M. with the Pontoon Boat Parade leaving from Higgins Ferry and the Speed Boat Parade at 2:00 P.M. from Blue Creek Marina. Fireworks will be at 9:00 P.M. in Cargile Creek. Mark your calendars for these fun events. If any of you are located where you do not have a great view of the main lake give us a call and we would be glad for you to join us atop our boat house. Be safe, be blessed and have a great summer.

Area 9 Dale & Patty Vann RDVANN@bellsouth.net

Hello to everyone in Area 9. Today, as I write this, March 3, hopefully the worst of the cold weather will be gone and by the time you are reading this spring will be upon us. The river is at full pool and let's hope it stays that way through the summer. My boat has not been in the water since last July. I am sure some of you have the same situation.

Let me remind each of you who have not paid your 2008 Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. membership dues to please do so. The H.O.B.O. leadership team works hard to make Lake Mitchell an area you can be proud of. We need your support, so please join.

As usual, Patty and I will have our annual Memorial weekend get-together. For those of you who attend, you know we have a good time and some pretty good discussions. We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday, May 24 from 9 AM until 11 AM. More information will be sent to you at a later date.

Water, water, where is the water. As of today, it looks like we all should have county water by June. For those of us who come in on County Road 264 you can see it is on the way.

Tommy and Rhonda Yearout are in the process of remodeling their home. It looks good and improves our area.

Now something new...lets call it "meet your neighbor".

Name: Beth Dozier

Beth is a full-time resident of Area 9. Her place was built by her mom and dad in 1957. She remembers as a young girl spending the summer on Walnut Creek and meeting young friends from other parts of Lake Mitchell. Lake traffic was not nearly as congested back then as it is today. Beth enjoys watching the Lake Mitchell sunrise and sunsets, the wild animals (deer, squirrels, fox, and turkeys) and especially the two ducks – Fred and Ethel. Beth's husband, Tom, passed away several years ago. She appreciates the support and friendship of her neighbors, especially when it comes to removing fallen trees from her driveway.

Beth knows Lake Mitchell, now we know a little about Beth Dozier.

Area 15 Anita & Jerry Lawson anitalawson@bellsouth.net
The spring lake clean up will have come and gone by the time you are reading this. Let's remember to do our part as well as another's part in keeping our lake clean this summer.

Summer is on the way! Just a tidbit about hydrangeas if you have any in your yard: to obtain pink blossoms just add lime to your soil; to have blue blossoms just add aluminum sulfate with 10-10-10 fertilizer in April and July each year.

See you all this summer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Water Quality Report Sam Piccolo, Chairman

PARAMETER	ACCEPTABLE RANGE	SIX SITE AVERAGE
Dissolved O ₂	5-9	9.49
pH	6.5 - 8.2	7.63
Alkalinity	20+	78.53
Hardness	10 - 120	68.82

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

2008 Calendar of Events

H.O.B.O. is your organization! Members are welcome at all meetings and social functions. Annual membership dues in H.O.B.O. are \$25.00 per family, payable each January. See the back page of this newsletter for the applicable form.

Apr 20	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
May 2	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
June 7	4 p.m.	Annual Picnic	Higgins Ferry
June 8	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	Martin home
June 15		newsletter deadline	
July 4	10 a.m.	Pontoon boat parade	Higgins Ferry
	2 p.m.	Speed boat parade	Blue Creek
	9 p.m.	Fireworks	Cargile Creek
Aug 8	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Aug 10	2 p.m.	Area Rep meeting	TBA
Sept 15		newsletter deadline	
Oct 24	6:30 p.m.	Board of Directors meeting	FUMC
Oct 25	8 a.m.	Fall lake clean-up	Higgins Ferry
Nov 21	7 p.m.	Annual General Membership	TBA

Dec 15

meeting
newsletter deadline**Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Photo Calendar Contest**

Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. is sponsoring a photo contest during 2008 for the production of a 2009 Lake Mitchell Calendar. There will be 13 photos chosen from the submissions and 1 of the 13 will be the 'Best in Show' and chosen for the front of the calendar.

All proceeds from calendar sales will be used to fund a Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. Environmental Scholarship to be awarded in the spring of 2009 to a deserving recipient. The details of the scholarship will be announced later this spring or early summer.

Please note the criteria for submission of photos below:

*All photos must be digitally produced (scanned regular photos cannot be accepted due to the image quality for calendar purposes)

*All photos will be uploaded to www.shutterfly.com. If you wish to view the photos on shutterfly, please email roxymartin@mindspring.com and a link will be forwarded via email

*A photo cd may be mailed to Roxanne Martin at 1409 County Rd 261, Clanton, 35046; or photos can be emailed to roxymartin@mindspring.com. Please make sure your name is on the correspondence for identification purposes.

*Photos submitted should be centered on the Lake Mitchell community and its' environment: landscapes, wildlife, etc.

You may enter as many photos as you wish. Photos will be accepted between March 15, 2008 and August 15, 2008.

Peach Parade 2008 Judy Murchison, gugga4@bellsouth.net

The annual Peach Festival will be held in Clanton the last weekend of June 2008. They plan to again have the "Peach Jam" on Friday night in downtown Clanton.

On Saturday the 28th of June they will host the annual "Peach Parade". It will leave Fred's parking lot, jog over to Hwy 31 at 5th Ave N, turn on 2nd Ave N and come back up 6th St to 4th Ave N. Last year H.O.B.O. sponsored a float in the parade with a pontoon boat provided by *Skier's Marine*. We had great "throw" items given away and it was fun to be represented in the greater local community. Plan to come out this year wearing your *Renew Our Rivers* shirts to watch the parade and check out our float!

Update from the Fireworks Committee Jim McCormick
jmac51@bellsouth.net

Every year we try to improve on our fireworks show. We have received many favorable comments about the changes we made last year. Well, this year will be our biggest leap yet.

While we are limited in space as to the size of show we can produce, we are learning how to make adjustments in our staging to give you a "fuller sky". To do this we have enlisted the help of a nationally known pyrotechnical

company to help in the design of our show. Our goal is to have the shells shot at various angles to fill the sky to a more 180 degrees than the narrow window we have been filling. Also, we will be adding a different shell size so the show will be "stacked" at different times from 300', 400', 500', and 650 feet.

We will keep the music patriotic but will compress some of the songs to cull some of the slow soft spots and amplify the crescendos. The show will be a few minutes shorter but shot 2 seconds per shell faster to increase the pace with the intent to have a shell in the air at all times to eliminate "black sky".

We have received our permits from the State Fire Marshal as well as the Federal license from ATF. By the time you read this we will be in the process of selecting our shells individually by type, so this year the shell going off in the sky will correspond to the selected music.

There is a lot to do, that's why we start in February. But what we do is not hard, we have too much fun doing it, and as Larry the Cable Guy says we have several months to "Git er Done".

While we are gathering helpful hints from all known sources, this fireworks tradition is still 100% Lake Mitchell. All of the efforts of this show from the planning to the labor are performed by your fellow H.O.B.O. members.

We are all looking forward to all of the July 4th festivities from the boat parades during the day to the fireworks show at 9pm in Cargile Creek. If you are unable to hear the fireworks music over the four giant speakers we will have, just tune into 96.9 FM at 9 pm.

There are many people to thank but I will wait until another time to mention them by name. But until then, you will be able to recognize them at River Church. They will be the ones with the singed eyebrows!!

More about Fireworks – Judy Murchison, Publicity

gugga4@bellsouth.net

It seems like every year our fireworks show gets better and better. We all are so fortunate to have McCormick & Company here on our lake to put on such a great show for us. We jokingly say "McCormick & Company" – but it is actually Jim & Tricia McCormick in Area 4, their two sons and many of their dedicated friends that work so hard to give us this show every July 4th. It's a tradition!

What a wonderful patriotic way to celebrate our **FREEDOM**. The music, fireworks, and gathering of friends and families in their boats in Cargile Creek are a sight to see and enjoy. It's a family gathering. Don't miss it July 4th at 9:00 P.M. in Cargile Creek.

Contributions are much appreciated for this show. See the back of this newsletter for where to send them.

Don't forget to say a special prayer for our armed forces who are maintaining the freedom we celebrate.

October 25 is Lake Mitchell Fall Cleanup

Put the date on your calendars now! A fun way to fellowship and help your lake home remain beautiful.

Please contact Larry Waldron at (205) 987-7217, or Doug Martin (205) 755-0863 for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to submit please email the notice to beckmau@earthlink.net and gugga4@bellsouth.net for editing and inclusion.

You can now be a “Good Neighbor” in another way!

You now have an opportunity to give and take, or sell and buy with your lake neighbors. We are offering this opportunity to any current (annual dues paid) member of our organization. These “ads” will be accepted in a “good neighbor” format. If you have an item to sell or give away, or are looking for an item, you may submit a written request to Becki McCallum at beckmau@earthlink.net. She will verify that you are a current member and reserve the right to edit the content. Any requests for publication need to be made by the newsletter deadline posted on the above calendar.

These are a sample of the format – and real advertisements!

From Fred Rogers in Area 15: I have a 1977 Glastron classic runabout (21’). It is 188HP I/O, very clean, runs good; plus it has a dual wheel repainted trailer. I am ready to let this classic boat have a new owner to love and care for it for \$2500.00. Please call me at 205-822-2418 if you are interested.

From Ross Robinson in Area 3: We have a purple tube that has floated up to our cabin. If anyone has lost one feel free to call Ross or Ann at 755-3583.

East Chilton Fire Department

East Chilton Fire Department has a new website. Check them out at www.eastchiltonfire.com.

Updated Marina information

Blue Creek Marina – 755-1198

Gas available 24 hours with MasterCard or Visa Store will open after Memorial Day.

Public Camping area has permanently closed.

Grace’s Marina – 280-4110

Hours Mon-Thurs 10a.m. – 2p.m.

Friday & Saturday 10a.m. – 8p.m.

Sunday 1p.m. – 8 p.m.

After Memorial Day:

Mon-Thurs – 10a.m. –6p.m.

Wed – Close at 4:00 p.m.

Friday & Saturday 10a.m. – 8p.m.

Sunday – 1p.m. – 8p.m.

Store, convenience items, self serve lunch, drinks & snacks. Ice/oil also available.

The Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O.

Lake Mitchell Marina - 755-8100

Open Thursday 9a.m.-5p.m.

Friday & Saturday 9a.m. – 9p.m.

Sunday 12p.m. – 5p.m.

Restaurant - Serving steak, catfish, chicken dinners as well as Hot Dogs & Hamburgers.

Gas/Minnnows are available anytime. Julius McMinn is on-site (lives in the apartment upstairs).

Barrett's Fish Camp - (256) 377-4728

Call to verify Edsel Hughes is there.

Gas, Minnows, Worms & Snacks

How do you know you are a member?

Your newsletter mailing label will have an “M” and the digits “08” if we have received your dues for the 2008 calendar year. The first line also contains a digit(s) representing the area where you reside on the lake. Use this digit to determine who to contact as your area rep. We value your membership yearly! Your dues help support projects sponsored by the organization and every little bit helps. Thank you for your continued support.

Permitting and Building on the lake Keisa Sharpe, Alabama Power Company

With more subdivisions springing up around our lakes, there is a need for a consistent shoreline management program. Alabama Power Company is asking contractors and builders around Lay, Mitchell, Jordan and Bouldin reservoirs to help with this program by contacting our Clanton office to obtain a permit before you build.

No construction can begin on structures along the shoreline or in a flood control area before the required **Lakeshore Use Permit** is obtained from the property owner. The property owner must contact Alabama Power Company and submit the application, which includes a copy of their deed, a detailed drawing of the proposed structure, and signed guidelines. This application must be approved by our Clanton office contact Gala Wheat. The permit fee is \$250.

Once Alabama Power Company has approved the application, a company representative will place a temporary construction tag on site. No construction is to begin until this tag is in place. And note: contractors do not have authority to approve any construction; they must bring the permit application to the Clanton office for approval.

Working without a valid permit has always been prohibited, but some contractors seem to be inadvertently violating this requirement. Noncompliance with this requirement includes such practices as working under an expired permit, beginning work based on a promise from the property owner that a permit will soon be granted, and failure to contact Alabama Power Company to obtain a required permit.

The number for the Clanton office is (205) 755-4420, or call toll-free

1-800-LAKES-11. You can also visit the company's Web site, www.alabamapower.com.

Fish Habitat coordinates for trees placed Feb 2008

You can find coordinates for the 2008 fish habitat enhancement online at

www.alabamapower.com/fishdata.

H.O.B.O. Spotlight

Our longtime friend and supporter Gordon Beene,

Dan Murchison danmurchison@gmail.com

Gordon Beene has spent most of his adult life fishing, playing and working on or around the lower Coosa River. Gordon's mother and father, (P.G. & Verna Beene) first built the cabin on Blue Creek during 1962 and 1963. Prior to this time Gordon and his father fished and roamed the Coosa in any free time available.

Mr. P.G. Beene died in 1969 and at that time Gordon and his wife Ruth took over ownership of the Beene cabin. One of the landmarks of the Beene place is the huge redwood tree standing in the front yard. If you go in the Blue Creek area you can't miss it. Gordon's mother, Verna, planted this tree soon after the cabin was built. Gordon and Ruth raised their two sons, Gordon Jr. and Graham, loving the outdoors and loving to fish and explore the Coosa River.

Gordon and Ruth were two of the strongest supporters of Lake Mitchell H.O.B.O. in the formative stage. Gordon has served as Area Rep for Blue Creek, served on the H.O.B.O. Board of Directors, was an avid Water Watch monitor, and participated in and promoted our litter clean ups in his area and on our entire lake. Gordon worked very successfully in the furniture sales business for many years but I think his real calling was engineering. He is very creative in building and could fix anything. Ruth always said, "We have never called a repairman for

anything – Gordon could always fix it". Ruth was a very supportive, loving cheerleader for Gordon and her family – a classy lady, loved and admired by all of us.

Gordon was one of the first to suggest that H.O.B.O. work with Alabama Power to preserve the Arrowhead property. He had worked with the Boy Scouts and served many years as scoutmaster in the Homewood area. During his scouting days he brought his troops numerous times (which included his two sons) to Camp Arrowhead for scout outings. He loved the pristine area there.

Gordon and Ruth moved to "Kirkwood by the River", a retirement home on the bank of the Cahaba River in February 2002. Gordon Jr passed away in November 2003 and Ruth in July 2004. Graham now shoulders the responsibilities of maintenance of the Beene cabin and the care of Gordon. Through the entire heart breaking time, Gordon continued his environmental interests by building blue bird houses that surround the retirement home for the enjoyment of all who live, work and visit there. Even though Gordon's tools (electric saws, hammers, nails, etc) have been removed from his room, he presently serves as an advisor and confidant to many of the widows who surround him at the lunch table.

Gordon, I know you will be reading this newsletter and this article. I know how you still follow everything that goes on here on Lake Mitchell with continued enthusiasm. I don't think you ever missed a lake clean up when you were able to attend. I want you to know how much your support, advice and enthusiasm has meant to me and all of H.O.B.O. Your good deeds and friendship will always be an example for others to follow.

We love you very much and cherish your continued advice and support.

P. S. I still have the uniquely constructed e-coli incubator you made and gave to me when you had to give up water testing.