

Breakfast at Coppers Grill

Jim Crew imparts a bit of history and news affecting Lake Martin at HOBOb annual meeting

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners Association (HOBOb) held its 11th annual meeting on Saturday, May 19. Jim Crew, with Southern Company



HOBOb

BY JESSE CUNNINGHAM

Generation, gave a very informative talk on activities at Lake Martin, as well as Lake Harris, the ACT (Alabama, Coosa, and Tallapoosa rivers) basin, and the possible court decisions that may affect Lake Martin in the future.

Jim mentioned that Alabama Power Company has begun the development of a subdivision on Lake Martin, from streets to architectural plans to construction restrictions. Called Kennebec, it will be a very exclusive, expensive development of 41 home sites.

This is the first real estate development controlled from start to finish by APC. Gone are the days of the \$100 per year lease lots that the company offered pioneers back in the day. More than 1,800 of those lease lots were the beginning of Lake Martin, as we know it today. Practically all of those lease lots were sold to the lease holders by the power company, beginning back in the late 1980s. Times change, and with developments like this, the property values on Lake Martin will continue to increase.

The Lake Harris Relicensing process is just beginning, and Jim indicated that residents on that lake are hoping for a 4-foot winter lake level increase similar to the 3-foot increase that was approved for Lake Martin. The HOBOb were represented by three board members at Lake Harris' latest meeting in April, and we will continue to participate in the meetings for the next few years.

What happens at Lake Harris will affect us. The meetings are open to the

public, and the next one is scheduled for August this year. Please join the HOBOb in Lineville, Alabama, for this meeting.

Jim gave us an update on the Water Wars activities and Atlanta's continuing efforts to get all of our water. A federal judge has moved to force the Corps of Engineers to make a decision on whether Atlanta can have more water from Lake Allatoona, which feeds into the Coosa River basin. The COE will hold public meetings in our area as part of this process. If Atlanta wins, guess who would lose in the case of a drought? Yes, whatever Atlanta takes out, Martin makes up downstream. Also, just as scary, the Water Wars court case between Florida, Georgia and Alabama has been moved to the District of Columbia Court. Decisions of these cases will probably occur in about two years.

The Alabama Drought Response Operations Plan, was discussed, and the success of this program has been felt by everyone, as explained in our *Lake* magazine article in March. As a result of the success of our increased winter pool level, the power company has filed a request with the COE to raise the winter levels of Logan Martin Lake and Weiss Lake. Remember, the more water all lakes are allowed to keep, the more prepared we are for a drought.

Our HOBOb meeting also included reports on the Neighborhood Watch programs. Thirteen Watch groups have been formed over the past two years, and another is in the process of organizing at this time. The programs mean a great deal to both full-time and part-time residents because part-timers have others to help watch their properties, and full-timers have a means to connect with neighbors for safety and friendship. We elected and welcomed two new board members, Jimmy Bagley and Steve Smith, who are Watch coordinators in their neighborhoods.

After 11 years, the HOBOb are finally learning that May is not the best time to hold our annual meeting. With Mother's Day, Memorial Day, graduations, dance

recitals, boating season and other activities, we are planning to move our annual meeting to February each year. Plan to join us for our next meeting in good old cold, quiet February.

Defining the purpose of the Lake Martin HOBOb is critical to the success of the group. Simply put, the HOBOb are an advocacy group that promotes and defends our lake. Everything we do – every dollar we spend, every activity we support – is about Lake Martin. Our motto: "Preserving the Memories for Future Generations."

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