



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Jesse Cunningham, President  
Lake Martin HOBOS  
256-825-0919  
[jesse@lakemartin.org](mailto:jesse@lakemartin.org)

**Lake Martin HOBOS 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Membership Meeting**

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBOS) Association, Inc. is pleased to announce its 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Membership Meeting to be held at 3:00 PM on Saturday, March 29, 2008, in the HEA Auditorium, at the Central Alabama Community College in Alexander City, Alabama. Our distinguished keynote speaker will be Mr. Bill Dykes, Hydro Operations, Alabama Power Company, discussing The Drought of 2006/2007 – Lessons Learned.

Why were the Lake Martin HOBOS formed? The HOBOS organization was founded based on what a small group of citizens perceived as a need for an independent group to bring together the over 7,800 property owners in and around Lake Martin sharing in our overall objective expressed in our slogan, “Protecting Lake Martin for Future Generations”. With development growing at an unprecedented pace, the founding HOBOS knew change was inevitable; however, they wanted to ensure such changes were positive additions to Lake Martin’s beautiful landscape. They also wanted to protect the pristine waters of Lake Martin, enhance boating safety as the lake’s popularity continues to grow, and protect and enhance fish and wildlife in and around the lake.

Have the HOBOS been successful in spreading their message and getting others to agree with this small group of founding citizens? The answer is a resounding yes, for in less than nine months the HOBOS have grown from the concept of five concerned citizens to over 1,850 members today. Within the next month the membership is expected to increase to over 2,000 members which far exceeds the initial expectations. Obviously these Lake Martin stakeholders share the HOBOS primary goals of -- Water levels and quality, shoreline development, Martin Dam relicensing, boating safety and fish and wildlife preservation.

So what have the HOBOS done to support the preservation of Lake Martin? Even though the organization has been in existence for a short time, we have made inroads into soliciting and supporting Governor Riley and Alabama Power on last year’s reservoir water levels and temporary winter water level variances. We were also involved in influencing the city of Dadeville plans to upgrade its sewage treatment plant. We are active participants in the Martin Dam Relicensing committees. We are assisting with Lake Martin’s annual Renew Our Rivers lake clean up, and the creation of artificial fish reefs through the recycling of Christmas trees. Recently the organization sponsored its first boating safety certification course.

Do I have to be a Lake Martin homeowner to be a member of the HOBOS? No, we welcome all who are interested in preserving and protecting Lake Martin whether they are property owners, recreational boaters, fishermen, local citizens, businesses, campers, visitors, et al. We encourage everyone to attend the annual meeting to learn more about the Lake Martin HOBOS and its focus for 2008 and beyond.

For more information on the Lake Martin HOBOS’s Annual Membership meeting or the HOBOS organization, please contact Jesse Cunningham at 256-825-0919.

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**The Lake Martin HOBOS** mission is to work together with home owners, boat owners, local businesses, local, state and federal agencies and others to foster long term partnerships to preserve, protect and enhance the overall quality of life of all living things in and around Lake Martin – The Crown Jewel of the South, including, but not limited to, water levels and quality, shoreline preservation, fishing, wildlife, recreational activities and the safety of all boaters. Visit the organization’s website at [www.lakemartin.org](http://www.lakemartin.org).

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*Post Office Box 1030  
Dadeville, Alabama 36853-1030*