

Live the Dream

# Retire at Lake Martin

Most people in America work their entire lives, hoping one day to be able to retire, end the daily grind, stop the long commute in terrible traffic and the troubles of metropolitan life, and enjoy the remainder of their lives in quiet, beautiful surroundings.

Thousands of us have made the choice to live the remainder of our lives on the shores of wonderful Lake Martin. More than 7,500 homes have been built on our lake, and at least one third of these homes are occupied full time, mostly by retired people who have made the commitment to themselves and their families to enjoy retirement to the fullest. The Lake Martin HOBOS completed a manual survey – not a guesstimate – several years ago and determined that one third of all homes were occupied full time.

Smart retired people live in most of these homes.

Do you enjoy one-hour commutes to work? Do you like traffic lights? Eight-lane expressways? Homes with no views? Homes on 100-foot lots or smaller? Crime? Undesirable neighbors? High property taxes? If you enjoy these “benefits” of urban life, read no further; however, if you long to improve retired life, read on.

The benefits of retiring on Lake Martin are many. First, life on our lake is quiet. There are no horns, sirens or loud obnoxious music; well, practically none, except on holiday weekends in the summer. We can all live with a little party noise from other people enjoying the water.

The most enjoyable time on the lake for many folks is from October each year until May of the following year. With cool weather and the lake to ourselves, life is great.

Second, the new, retired friends you meet could become the best buddies you’ve ever had. Newly retired residents often notice a shocking difference in conversations. People at the lake don’t discuss the careers they had, how much money they made or where they lived. They just want to get to know you. This is your new life here; the past is insignificant.

Third, the talents of your new neighbors likely will truly humble you. Even though your new neighbors and friends don’t dwell on their pasts, you might learn that they had incredible careers as rocket scientists, college professors, ministers, military officers, doctors, business executives, teachers, airline pilots or lawyers, just to name a few. All walks of life could be found enjoying retirement on Lake Martin.



HOBO

BY JESSE CUNNINGHAM

Fourth, the cost of living is reasonable. Yes, waterfront property can be expensive, but most retirees find they enjoy downsizing, which – when combined with lower property taxes – helps to justify the beauty of being on the water. And the taxes from that waterfront property make a difference in the surrounding communities. Waterfront homes and property in Tallapoosa County pay 61 percent of all county property taxes collected, including school taxes.

Fifth, even though you may live 10 miles from the nearest traffic light, shopping is close by and abundant. Alexander City, Dadeville and Eclectic offer most essentials, and Opelika/Auburn and Montgomery fill the needs of the majority of retirees. Even Birmingham and Atlanta are reasonable day trips for the adventuresome.

Sixth, your spiritual life could get a real boost at the many churches and other religious opportunities in the area. Here, you could find the many talents of retirees are used to improve and invigorate the great rural church services.

Seventh, abundant healthcare facilities and doctors are available with hospitals located in Alexander City and Dadeville. More extensive care is also close by in Opelika and Montgomery. Of course, you’re close by the medical centers in Birmingham and Atlanta, as well.

The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners Association was founded almost 12 years ago by a group of retirees whose goal is to preserve the memories for future generations. Let’s all strive for this goal.

*Jesse Cunningham is president of the Lake Martin HOBOS. Learn more about this organization at [www.lakemartinhobos.com](http://www.lakemartinhobos.com).*

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