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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Lake Martin Home Owners and Boat Owners (HOBOS) and the Alabama Marine Police have announced the joint development of an alert system for Lake Martin. **Lake Martin Alert** will allow the Marine Police to communicate with boaters, home owners, and other interested individuals on short notice via Twitter and Facebook. The alert system provides a means of communication between the Marine Police and lake users for a variety of uses, including notifications of lost, found, or stolen boats, floating docks, and equipment; missing or overdue persons or boats; water hazards, severe weather conditions, etc.

Captain Matt Brooks, Alabama Marine Police, initiated the joint effort with the Lake Martin HOBOS to provide better service to all lake users. “**Lake Martin Alert** will give us the ability to better protect those on the lake, even during this time of reduced staffing,” Captain Brooks stated. “We hope everyone with smart cell phones and computers will follow Lake Martin Alert on Twitter and/or Facebook”

The Alert system has been set up by the Lake Martin HOBOS so that all notifications published will originate with the Marine Police. “The integrity of the alerts is key to the success of the program,” according to Jesse Cunningham with the HOBOS. “All notices must be initiated by the Marine Police. They may post themselves, or they may contact an “on-call” HOBOS, who will then post the notice on Twitter and Facebook. This service provided by the HOBOS allows officers to phone in a notice while on duty, on the water.”

The **Lake Martin Alert** service is set to begin on Friday, May 28, 2010, just in time for the busy Memorial Day weekend. All emergencies on the lake must still call 911. Lake Martin Marine Police may be reached at 256-329-2268. For dispatch contact your local State Trooper office. Follow **Lake Martin Alert** on Twitter and Facebook.
