



America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray SM
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Lake Murray Power Squadron
 A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



The Log Jam

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2019



Change of Watch Ceremony Welcomes New Leadership to Lake Murray Power Squadron

It was Past Commander R.J. Becht's best day ever as the new bridge was sworn in on 02 November 2018. We want to thank D/Lt/C George Theriault for making the trip to our neck of the woods to relieve R.J. from his command and swear in our new Commander, Fred Ruinen, and his bridge. Also, thank you to D/Lt/C Sharon Payne and D/Lt/C Devon Callahan for also attending and celebrating our Change of Watch.

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Cdr Fred Ruinen, JN is sworn in by D/Lt/C George Theriault.



New bridge members being sworn in by D/Lt/C George Theriault.

Before all the formal activities began, a delicious meal of baked chicken, chicken cordon blue, macaroni and cheese, german creamed spinach, salad with fruit, bread with strawberry butter, and dessert was enjoyed by all. The dining room and tables were beautifully decorated thanks to Lt Cyndi Langlois. Lt Mark Burtis and Lt Tim Barnhill made sure no one went thirsty.

We want to thank all the out-going and the new bridge members for their commitment to making the Lake Murray Power Squadron the best squadron. In case you missed it, our new officers are:

Commander Fred Ruinen, JN

Executive Officer Rick Agar

Administration Officer Christie Royson

Education Officer Howard Pendley, SN

Assistant Education Officer Frank McKinnon

Secretary Betsy Agar

Treasurer Melody Charles

Assistant Treasurer Wayne Cromley

Past Commander R.J. Becht

Flag Lieutenant Dan Drake

Chaplin Mike Charles

Members at Large: Charlie Bruce, SN-CN,
Jer Smith and Ed Garbe





Commander's Report

By Cdr Fred Ruinen, JN

Happy New Year! I can't believe that it has been more than two months since the change of watch. A huge thank you to P/C R.J. Becht and his bridge for another great watch year. We certainly created some great "Moments" last year and we will continue to "Ride the Wave" to another great boating year and towards a sandy beach, a beautiful sunset, a wonderful swim, or whatever you love to do while on the water.

The holidays are always a busy time of year for all of us. I hope that you were able to enjoy them and share some good times and delicious meals with your friends and family. I had a great time at the Christmas Party, and I would like to congratulate all of the recipients of the rewards handed out by P/C R.J. Becht to our members as well as the various winners of the ugly sweater contest. Susan, Ethan and I had a wonderful Christmas. We spent it with my Mom and Dad and afterwards, made a trip to Florida to spend time with Susan's mom, sister, and brother-in-law over New Years. We really lucked out with the weather in Florida as we had plenty of sunshine compared to all the rain we had back here at home.

Our planning meeting was held December 8, 2018. We had a very productive meeting and have great events, cruises, and dinners planned for the year. Please be sure to visit our website (www.lmpsonline.org) and review the calendar for what is planned. Mark your calendars so you can plan ahead and not miss out on anything that is of interest to you. We will certainly continue to keep you informed throughout the year with email. Please know we don't want to flood your inbox with squadron emails and will only send them out when necessary. When RSVPs are requested, please respond timely so we can plan accordingly. We have a very busy beginning for this new year with island workdays, Oyster Roast, Souper Bowl pot luck, Boat Show, and Mardi Gras.

In addition to the planned squadron events, there are district events that you should also consider. The first one on the calendar is the D26 Spring Conference hosted by Long Bay Power Squadron March 8-10 in beautiful Myrtle Beach. The conference is for anyone who is interested in participating and is a great opportunity to meet new friends. You will find additional information about the conference in this newsletter. If you are interested or have questions, please let me know.

Our Island home is in need of repair. The roof shingles need to be replaced and the north side of the building has settled due to soft soils and all the rain we have had. The Bridge has been working on developing a plan to correct both problems, the foundation will be the highest priority. We will minimize the funds that have to be spent but we will need to raise funds for these projects. As we finalize our plans, we will let you know what help (money, labor, equipment) is needed.

I'm looking forward to another great year. I look forward to seeing all of you at our events and out on the water. I urge all of you to get involved so you get the most out of your membership. Thanks to all of you who help make this the best squadron in all of USPS.

A huge thank you to P/C R.J. Becht and his bridge for everything they did. It was a great year with many good times and accomplishments. The new bridge is excited to continue the great work of our previous bridges solet's ride the wave in 2019!

Until next time,

Fred Ruinen, JN
Commander



Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C Rick Agar

I sat in on the District 26 Commander's conference call on January 23 (Commander Fred Ruinen was traveling and unable to sit in) as well as the D26 Executive Officer's conference call on January 29. The District Treasurer will be contacting squadron Treasurers to address the confusion over the change in Education Honor Roll funds. The District 26 Spring Conference is March 8-10 in Myrtle Beach hosted by Long Bay Power Squadron. They have secured favorable room rates as long as you book by February 15. See details on the D26 website or contact me and I can forward details.

The 2019 Vessel Safety Check stickers have been distributed to the squadron and are being distributed by Debbie Becht to certified vessel inspectors. If you are interested in becoming an inspector, please contact Debbie or me for more details.

The Columbia Boat Show is scheduled for February 8-10 and we will be staffing a booth for the show. Booth assignments are being coordinated by R.J. Becht. This will be a good re-introduction to the traditional boating season as we watch the water slowly rise again in Lake Murray.



Safety Officer's Report

By P/C Jerry Wise, SN

Sunk....

It all started with the local electric company's (SCANA, SCEG, Dominion,?) "drawdown" on Lake Murray. My old Hunter 28' sailboat draws 4 feet. The dock had 2'9" of water after the drawdown. The only thing for it was to use skills learned in the Lake Murray Power Squadron classes and "anchor out" for the duration of the drawdown. After carefully rigging a beautiful anchor arrangement, out we went to secure the sailboat just offshore for the winter. Now many would say a 50-pound CQR plow anchor is a bit much for a 28-foot boat. And many would be right, but if you have one and don't have a 60-foot yacht, then why not use it. (It seemed like a fine deal on Craigslist.) I knew I could get it down and, at the time, didn't think about it never coming up again. But more on that in a later article.

With the sailboat all secure and riding beautifully at anchor all seemed fine. But I once had a 33-foot sailboat anchored out in another drawdown that partially flooded. The battery died stopping the bilge pump from automatically bailing the usual small leaks and drips common in a sailboat. In the interest of keeping the water on the right side of the hull I rigged up a solar battery charger and installed new batteries. To do this a small 10-foot jon boat was used to ferry the stuff out to the anchored sailboat. The jon boat has a 2.5 horsepower Suzuki outboard on it. Not much of a rig, but easy to pull up on the dock and ignore when you don't need it. The Suzuki, while almost new, does occasionally start. I keep it shined up and sticking out in the lake on the back of the jon boat when on the dock. Even though I've really tried, nobody has stolen that motor yet. One guy tried but apparently brought it back (chain was cut but the motor was still there). When it does work it makes a fearsome racket and slowly moves the boat.

It was the last warm weekend of 2018 and I had finished ferrying the solar panel and batteries out to the sailboat. The jon boat was tied to the stern. I stepped into the jon boat being very careful to stay in the center. Sitting on the seat you turn, put your legs on both sides of the seat and start the motor. After 20 good pulls on the starter rope, I slid back a little on the seat for a better angle. One more yank and all of a sudden I felt a rush of warm water all over my bottom. Just like that I was sitting in a sunk jon boat. I had a life jacket on and was only a hundred yards from shore with nobody in sight. I didn't want to leave the jon boat with no way to retrieve it so I decided to tow it to shore using a side stroke. It took about 40 minutes to make the shore and get that little boat drained. That stupid motor cranked with one pull when I yanked the starter rope at the dock.

There are many safety lessons with this story. First and foremost, always... always wear a life jacket. The hallmark of accidents is never knowing when they will occur. Secondly, boats are mobile. The smaller the boat the more mobile they are (read unstable) and can dump you in an instant. The scary thing with this story is I almost didn't put on a life jacket. It was only a little ways out and there was a big boat and little boat to cling to if I went in. Not smart but a common thought pattern for folks familiar with the water. There were some good things out of it. It necessitated a humbling trip to the cell phone store communing with intellectual giants in the purchase of a brand new iPhone 7. A really very nice swim towing that flooded jon boat to shore, and that Suzuki finally started.



Educational Update

By Lt/C Howard Pendley, SN

Boater Education

Hello everyone, I hope all of you had a great and safe start to 2019. For more than 100 years, USPS has worked to make the water a safer place through boating education, civic service and fellowship. There is no better way to increase your safety on the water than elevating your knowledge through our USPS educational opportunities.

To learn about the many educational opportunities available to you, check out USPS.org Educational Department – Educational Outreach. One of the easiest ways you can improve your boating knowledge is through online seminars. To locate the online education courses, you can access them via <https://americasboatingclub.org/education-matters/online-boating-education/americas-boating-course>.

Become a Better Boater with Online Seminars

With just a few dollars and two hours of your time, you can boost your boating knowledge while keeping yourself and your guests safe on the water. Take one (1) or more of the nine (9) online seminars starting today! Remember to have your membership handy so you can receive up to a 20% discount on USPS online educational course offerings.

- Using GPS on your boat
- Your marine VHF radio
- Marine traffic near you
- Weather for boaters
- Planning your cruise

- Boating on rivers, locks & lakes
- Boat propane systems
- Prepping your boat and dock for a hurricane
- Getting home when the captain is disabled

Become a Better Boater Today!

LMPS is pleased to announce two offerings this year for the Americas Boating Course (ABC). This will be a chance for our members who have not yet taken the course and for non-members to learn the basic knowledge of safe boating. **Boaters under 16 years of age are required by law to pass an approved boater education course before operating, without supervision, a personal watercraft (jet ski) or a boat powered by a 15 hp motor or more.** As your SEO, I encourage you along with your family and boating friends to take advantage of this course.

Each ABC course consists of two consecutive Saturdays from 8:30 am – 1:00 pm. The cost for one person is \$40 or \$50 for an immediate family to share the same ABC manual.

Mark your calendars: These classes are limited so don't delay registering!

- May 4 and 11 online registration available for 17 learners
- July 27 and August 3 online registration available for 20 learners.

Any Questions? Please give me a call 803-318-0072.

Remember, the more marine education you have, the safer you will become on the water.

LMPS Remembers 2018 with Awards During a Holiday Celebration



Lake Murray Power Squadron members, old and new alike, donned their gay apparel and came out to celebrate the holiday season with good food, fellowship and the desire to thank those who made 2018 special. It was exciting to see so many new faces mingled at our annual Christmas Party at Saluda Shoals. The evening featured presentation of the squadron's annual awards, outstanding door prizes, a delicious dinner and time with good friends talking about boating and creating those important memories.

The evening's big event, however, was the awards presentation.

The Commander's Award, which is solely determined by the commander and offers an opportunity to recognize someone who has been an asset in making Lake Murray a better squadron. P/C R.J. Becht announced that Lt Donna Dodson, AP was the recipient of the 2018 Commander's Award.

The squadron's most prestigious service award — the Golden Anchor Award — was then presented. This award is presented annually to a squadron member "for distinguished and unselfish service to the squadron with outstanding leadership, vision and ability." P/C R.J. Becht announced that P/C Debra Allen, AP was the recipient of the 2018 Golden Anchor Award.

Finally, it was time for the Lake Murray's infamous Bent Prop Award, presented annually to the member who inflicts in a most spectacular fashion the most damage to his or her vessel or the vessel and/or property of others. P/C R.J. Becht announced that Lt/C Rick Agar was the recipient of the 2018 Bent Prop Award.

The Spark Plug Award is given to a new member of two years or less who started their squadron career with a real spark. P/C R.J. Becht announced that Lt Ed Garbe was the 2018 recipient.

The Catch the Spirit Award is presented for meritorious service going above and beyond to help grow our beloved squadron. P/C R.J. Becht announced that Lt/C Rick and Lt/C Betsy Agar were the 2018 recipients.



**P/C R.J. Becht presents P/C Debra Allen, AP
with the 2018 Golden Anchor Award.**



P/C R.J. Becht congratulates Lt Donna Dodson, AP with the Commander's Award.



P/C R.J. Becht (left) recognizes P/C Charlie Bruce, SN-CN, and Mark Burtis for all their hard work on the dock at Flotilla.



Last year's Bent Prop Award recipient P/C Mike Kirk, AP presents Lt/C Rick Agar (right) with the 2018 Bent Prop Award.



P/C R.J. Becht recognizes Lt/C Howard Pendley, SN, for achieving Senior Navigator status.



P/C R.J. Becht presents Lt/C Rick and Lt/C Betsy Agar with the Catch the Spirit Award.



Lts Kathy and Danny Glenn enjoying the holiday festivities.



Steve Crater & Angelika Breland share a holiday smile.



P/D/C Archie Trawick Jr. and family enjoying the holiday cheer.



P/C R.J. Becht and Lt Debbie Becht ring in the holiday spirit.



Mike and Kathy Urquhart spreading the holiday cheer.