



**America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray<sup>SM</sup>**  
 Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as  
**Lake Murray Power Squadron**  
America's Boating Club® and logo are registered trademarks of the United States Power Squadrons®



# The Log Jam

Volume 57, No. 3

Fall 2020

## Boating Activities and Vessel Safety



As the year comes to an end, in spite of COVID-19, we still managed to do almost 70 inspections this year. Thank you to all of the inspectors for all of your hard work. For those of you who were unable to do any inspections, National has lifted the five mandatory inspections for next year to be certified. These inspections help ensure safe boating on the water.

Looking forward to doing more inspections next year. If anyone would like to be an inspector next year, please let me know.

Safe Boating!

— Lt Debbie Becht, VSC Chair

### Inside this Issue:

Boating Activities and Vessel Safety	1
Commander's Report	2
Administrative Officer's Report	3
Annual Meeting	4
Educational Update	5
Reference Lights Cruises	6
New Member Announcements	7
Calendars	8

While 2020 was a very disruptive year due to COVID-19, which limited our boating activities, we still found a way to have a lot of fun. While several of our activities had to be cancelled, we still managed 17 boating activities this year. This ranged from Reference Lights Checks; Flotilla Fridays; Log Jams; and cruises to the Agars, Buffalo Creek, Beaufort, and Pinopolis Locks.

The highlight of the year was our invasion of Shanghai Resort on Norris Lake. We had 17 boats and over 40 members and friends attend. What a great time.

2021 is destined to be a better year with many great cruises on the horizon. Step up and join in on the fun, you'll be glad you did.

See ya on the lake!

— P/C R.J. Becht, S, Boating Activities Chair





## Commander's Report

By Cdr Rick Agar

Boy will we all remember 2020 as a special year! Sometimes it seems like everything was cancelled due to COVID-19. It certainly was an excuse for late deliveries, lack of inventory for anything, and basically ruining everything. No free breakfast at the hotel. 9-day Amazon Prime deliveries. Cute puppies doubling and tripling in price as everyone tried to social distance, work from home, and avoid human contact.

Where does that leave a social, charitable, boater education non-profit? I miss not having Shake and Break as a season opener with dinner prepared by our Bridge members as people launch the boating season. I really miss watching 60 to 70 kids from Thornwell Children's Home enjoying a Day at the Lake. Even the little girl, as they are packing back into their vans, asking wistfully "Are you open tomorrow?"

It is only when I try and prepare the Annual Commander's Report that I realize how much we still accomplished — like a new roof for our building and new blackout blinds so students could see the screen during our education classes. We still had a full ABC class giving new boaters a good foundation in safe boating. We had a Boat Handling class, the typical first "advanced class" that included several Bridge members. And a Cruise Planning class that is a good introduction to USPS educational offerings.

We had 40 members providing information to people at the Columbia Boat Show. We had 40 people at a Souper Bowl to collect a truckload of food and supplies for donation to a local shelter. And a Ladies Bunco Night to raise funds for a local charity. Our Annual Oyster Roast provided wonderful South Carolina oysters and shrimp for nearly 60 people. As of this writing, we have held 9 Island Cleanups to maintain and upgrade our wonderful facility, including folks fixing electrical problems, repairing bad dock boards and repairing loose screws. I am still amazed at the lake-side deck upgrades. This was authorized at a Monday Bridge meeting and the deck expansion was already nearly complete that Saturday before time to even clear it

with the Coast Guard Aux who also approved it as well. Adding the roof has made the deck a much nicer place to be escaping the sun's heat or the occasional rain. And when people objected to the new, higher rails obscuring the lake view, some of your Bridge members chipped in donating 3 high top tables and 8 high bar stools. Total participation in land events was 560 people tallied so far. We had to forego our Pig Roast due to Social Distancing but still managed to celebrate Oktoberfest with our Annual Meeting with 51 people attending the event, which was held outside to allow Social Distancing.

And remember we are "The Crew that Cruises." We have had 307 people participate in boating activities. This has included 4 Reference Lights Cruises to check on the lighted reference navigation aids on Lake Murray. Some people do not realize that these are maintained by LMPS, not any state organization. We have had 3 off-the-lake cruises that involved a total of 26 boats and 60 members cruising to Beaufort, Lake Norris, and Pinopolis Locks. We also had 3 cruises on Lake Murray with 33 boats and 76 members participating. Our 2 Log-jam raft-ups included 31 boats and 74 members. And I know we had several impromptu cruise and raft-ups on Saturdays following our Flotilla Friday pot-luck gatherings at our island. Some of these have been covered with drone photo coverage on our Facebook page.

I hope 2021 brings much more normal activity schedules but I am still proud of what our group has accomplished in this year of unprecedented challenges. Best of luck to our new Bridge for next year.



## Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Betsy Agar

2020 is still challenging our social activity calendar, but we are once again trying to cautiously gather. The Octoberfest and Annual Meeting took place outdoors at Flotilla Island with social distancing and COVID-19 precautions on 16 October. The weather cooperated to provide pleasant outdoor conditions for the social hour and dinner. Operation Christmas Child Boxes were available for pick up, and our Commander-Elect Ed Garbe and his wife Barb provided a German feast with brats and sauerkraut. We held our annual Change of Watch as planned on 6 November at Saluda Shoals where virus precautions were practiced. The venue required attendance be limited to 50 people due to the need to socially distance and properly space the tables. Blue Marlin provided a catered spread and responsibly served buffet style featuring delicious salmon and chicken with sides and dessert. And, we swore in our new Bridge after dinner to kick off the start of the new watch year!

### **New Life Jacket Labels and Icons – What do they Mean?**

If you have not already seen them, soon you will notice certain life jackets have a new style of label on the inside. Eventually, all new life jackets which are Coast Guard approved and available for purchase in the United States will have these new labels. It is part of an effort to make selecting the right life jacket for you and your intended on-water activity, easier.

The goal was to simplify the labels, with less writing and more icons. The top 10 features and goals of the new life jacket labels are: 1) Performance summary graphic, 2) Activity appropriateness icons, 3) Legal requirements specified, 4) Reduce language barriers, 5) More universal acceptance, 6) Harmony with other countries, 7) Approval status clearly noted, 8) Third party testing verification, 9) Manufacturer contact information, 10) Care and cleaning instructions. In general, the intent of the new labels is to help users select and care for the appropriate life jacket for the activity in which they are participating. The labels have fewer words and more easily understood icons.

What about the old labels and life jackets? In 2014, the U.S. Coast Guard removed the “Type” codes from the Code of Federal Regulations. As you may recall, life jackets and personal flotation devices had been referred to as Type I, II, III, IV and V, each of which corresponded to a certain performance or designated use. Going forward, these devices will be referred to as either “throwable” or “wearable” and have a performance category indicated by an icon.

It will take many years for the older style labels to be completely phased out and you are likely to see both styles in stores, on boats and in use for many years to come. Any life jacket with the old-style label that is still serviceable and in overall good shape, as long as it's Coast Guard approved, will continue to meet regulatory requirements.

New life jackets feature information in four main categories, usually in separate boxes on the life jacket label. At the top of the label, usually toward the neck, is sizing information. The sizing usually specifies a user weight range and chest size range. Proper fit is one of the most important considerations when selecting a life jacket. Additional considerations are found elsewhere on the life jacket label. The first thing you will notice on the new labels is a bold-faced number. It could be 50, 70, 100, 150, or 275. This is a measurement of gravitational force, which in the case of a life jacket is essentially buoyancy. Simply put, the higher the number, the greater the flotation. For the time being, most all the life jackets on the market today in the United States are Level 70 life jackets.

# Pictures from the Annual Meeting





## Educational Update

Lt/C Frank McKinnon

### News from the Education Department

Members, as an alternative to this year's Cruise Planning course, it has been suggested that students check out and enroll in the USPS online seminar "Planning Your Cruise." As described on the USPS website: From chartering or cruising in exotic places or foreign waters to gunk-holing in remote areas, this course gets you started on the adventure of your dreams. In no time, you'll learn how to choose the destinations, length, and season for your cruise as well as how to plan meals and provision your boat. This is a two-hour course for a very reasonable cost.

Also, we are soliciting students for our Advanced Piloting course normally offered in the beginning of the new year. This course will be taught by our Instructor P/C Charlie Bruce. Prerequisites for this course are Seamanship (Boat Handling) and Piloting. Please consider signing up for this course as we will need 4 to 10 students. Classes will be held starting mid-January on Tuesdays or Wednesdays 6:30 to 9 PM for about 8 weeks. Below is a synopsis of this exciting course. Please let us know if you would like to enroll in this opportunity.

Advanced Marine Navigation (Formerly Advanced Piloting)

Do you want to navigate unfamiliar waters in limited visibility or take an extended cruise with confidence? Learn to use radar, chart plotters, AIS and other electronic tools to supplement basic GPS navigation. Obtain a thorough understanding of piloting techniques in a variety of coastal tide, current and wind conditions.

What's included?

- Advanced positioning techniques, such as advancing a line of position to obtain a running fix
- Use of a variety of electronic tools: radar, depth sounders, autopilots, chart plotters, laptop computer software, and more

- Hazard avoidance techniques using electronics (e.g. avoidance waypoints or safety zones in GPS)
- Collision avoidance using radar, GPS, and AIS
- Working with tide and current data to determine clearances, depth of water, and effects of current
- Piloting in various wind and current conditions
- The "Seaman's Eye" - simple skills for checking that one is on course

Eight classes of two hours each normally are scheduled for presentation of this course. In addition, the students have seven days to complete an open book exam.

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

## Reference Lights Cruises

The Reference Lights cruises are over for the 2020 watch year! On behalf of Lt David Moxley, AP and P/C Charlie Bruce, SN-CN, we would like to say “Thank You” to all members who helped with this civic service for America’s Boating Club of Lake Murray. Through our Reference Lights cruises, we were able to confirm the status of all the reference lights on Lake Murray. We had more than 20 members participate in checking reference lights and reporting their status. In addition, we also received reports through social media, Dominion Energy and Lake Murray Tourism. The Reference Lights repair crews acted on each of the reports and repaired or replaced the defective lights. Over the next several months, we will complete upgrades on the final five lights not yet switched over to LED. The LED lights are much brighter, require less power and are much more reliable. We very much appreciate all the efforts from the squadron in helping keep Lake Murray safe!

— P/C Tony Dodson, SN-IN

Light # & Day Markers	Latitude	Longitude	Flash Sequence	Location
01	N 34° 01.577'	W 081° 13.899'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Jake's Point
02	N 34° 03.560'	W 081° 13.880'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Windward Point
03	N 34° 03.596'	W 081° 16.950'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	Spence Island
04	N 34° 03.953'	W 081° 15.415'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	Pine Island
05	N 34° 02.138'	W 081° 20.573'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	Rockywell Point
06	N 34° 06.444'	W 081° 16.233'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Flotilla Island
07	N 34° 01.485'	W 081° 22.154'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	In Long Bay
08	N 34° 05.463'	W 081° 16.935'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Burton Point
09	N 34° 03.705'	W 081° 20.290'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Shull Island Point
10	N 34° 04.917'	W 081° 18.235'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Rip Rap Point
11	N 34° 01.592'	W 081° 26.159'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	In Hollow Creek
12	N 34° 04.578'	W 081° 19.715'	On for 1 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Mouth of Bear Creek
13	N 34° 04.720'	W 081° 23.424'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	Little Gap
14	N 34° 05.347'	W 081° 20.911'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	In Bear Creek
15	N 34° 06.895'	W 081° 25.481'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	In Crystal Lake
16	N 34° 06.262'	W 081° 21.181'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	In Bear Creek
17	N 34° 04.617'	W 081° 25.325'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Big Gap
18	N 34° 07.584'	W 081° 21.361'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	In Bear Creek
19	N 34° 05.033'	W 081° 27.915'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Wildwood Point
20	N 34° 04.195'	W 081° 21.908'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Nadine Island
21	N 34° 04.460'	W 081° 29.897'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Saluda River
22	N 34° 04.630'	W 081° 23.254'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	Little Gap
23	N 34° 04.866'	W 081° 30.919'	On for 1 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Saluda River
24	N 34° 06.174'	W 081° 24.287'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Tanglewood Point
25	N 34° 05.257'	W 081° 32.808'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Gold Nugget Point
26	N 34° 04.449'	W 081° 24.233'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Big Gap
27	N 34° 05.071'	W 081° 33.430'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	Little Saluda River
28	N 34° 02.291'	W 081° 25.727'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	In Hollow Creek
30	N 34° 05.085'	W 081° 27.141'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Plantation Point
32	N 34° 04.900'	W 081° 28.487'	On for 3 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Holly Point
34	N 34° 06.089'	W 081° 28.800'	2 quick flashes every 5 sec.	Holland's Landing
36	N 34° 05.157'	W 081° 31.803'	On for 1 sec. Off for 1 sec.	Saluda River
38	N 34° 05.783'	W 081° 33.188'	On for 3/10 sec. Off for 7/10 sec.	Saluda River

# Welcome new members to LMPS

**Welcome aboard!** Great to have you as a member of the Lake Murray Power Squadron. We hope you will participate in the many educational courses and seminars available and enjoy Flotilla Island and all the great activities the squadron has to offer, and support its numerous functions.

## Welcome:

Lewis & Susan Williams

Jonathan & Jessica Berry

Anthony W. Hughes

Ann Scott O'Brian






**KELLER WILLIAMS**  
REALTY

**Michael DiMaria**  
*Real Estate Professional*

Keller Williams Realty  
1 Harbison Way  
Columbia, SC 29212  
Cell (803) 238-8991  
Office (803) 772-5858  
mdimaria1410@gmail.com  
www.mikedimaria.com



Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

Boat Storage  
Launching Ramps  
Gas Dock

Marine Accessories  
Beer, Soft Drinks  
Sandwiches, Ice

## Jakes Landing, LLC

On Beautiful Lake Murray  
Nearest Marina to Columbia

Archie Trawick, Jr  
220 Jakes Landing Rd. #2  
Lexington, SC 29072

(803) 359-9268  
1/2 mi. S. of dam - Hwy. 6  
jakeslanding.com

CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS



America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray SM  
Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as  
**Lake Murray Power Squadron**  
A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



# November 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Daylight Saving	2	3 Election Day	4 CG Aux Training	5	6 LMPS Change of	7
8	9 Planning Mtg, FI	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 9am - Island Work
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving Day 7pm - USCG Aux Mtg	27 Black Friday Native American	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

# December 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 LMPS Christmas
13	14 Bridge Mtg, FI	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve 7pm - USCG Aux	1 New Year's Day	2

# Lake Murray Power Squadron

P.O. Box 2281, Columbia, South Carolina 29202

## 2020 Bridge Officers

**Commander:** Cdr Rick Agar (commander@lmpsonline.org)

**Executive Officer:** Lt/C Ed Garbe (execofficer@lmpsonline.org)

**Administrative Officer:** Lt/C Betsy Agar (adminofficer@lmpsonline.org)

**Educational Officer:** Lt/C Frank McKinnon (seo@lmpsonline.org)

**Assistant Educational Officer:** 1st Lt Mike Zafoot (astseo@lmpsonline.org)

**Secretary:** Lt/C Susan Firimonte (secretary@lmpsonline.org)

**Treasurer:** Lt/C Mel Charles (treasurer@lmpsonline.org)

**Assistant Treasurer:** 1st Lt Cyndi Langlois (asttreasurer@lmpsonline.org)

### **Members-at-Large**

Lt Tim Barnhill (matla@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Mike Charles (matlb@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Mike Urquhart (matlc@lmpsonline.org)



Lt Natalie Denning

Email the editor at  
ndenning@gmail.com  
or call 910-584-7599

Articles, opinions, and advertisements do not necessarily reflect USPS policy or endorsements unless so designated.

**Lake Murray Power Squadron  
is on the web:**

**<http://www.lmpsonline.org>**

