



America's Boating Club® of Lake MurraySM

Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as

Lake Murray Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



The Log Jam

Volume 61, No. 3

Summer 2024 issue:

Welcome New Members

Thornwell Support

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Welcome Aboard New Members!

We hope you enjoy our educational classes, civic service opportunities, and all the amenities the squadron has to offer.

David, Lynn, Brent & Brooke Werts

Wayne & Ashley DeWitt

July 27th Annual Thornwell Day

Please support our fundraiser for our kids at Thornwell to ensure they have the **best day EVER!**



This lake bag is an example of what we like to provide for the kids so when they get here everything is provided for them. We also like to provide a departing basket for them to take back to Thornwell when they leave that includes pizza gift cards and things for a movie night. Donate on the board at Flotilla or by [clicking here](#).

Contact Natalie Nickerson-Barnhill at Tcbarn31@msn.com.



Commander's Report

By Cdr Joe Firimonte, P

Why Are You A Member?

I want to address a discussion about membership that currently is making its way around the squadron. First and foremost, this discussion requires us to look inwards on expectations of being a member of the Lake Murray Power Squadron, America's Boating Club of Lake Murray.

Personally, I've been a member here for the past seven years and have spent four of them on the bridge or a committee. I understood when I was accepted as a member that there were expectations to fulfilling my membership like being active, volunteering for island clean up days, attending events, engaging with the public as a steward of the club, as well as other opportunities to serve as occasions arose.

Serving as your Commander is an honor and is one of the greatest achievements of my life on a personal level. I believe in this club and what it represents. I love serving my fellow members and many of them have become very close personal friends. Being a member of this club has been truly rewarding to me.

We have 265 members and as a bridge we have decided that we need to improve our screening process for accepting applicants. With our continuing growth it is vital that we attract members dedicated to supporting our mission of promoting boating safety through education, civic service, and the enjoyment of boating activities and social functions among our membership. We must remember that the availability of our wonderful facilities here at Flotilla is based on our mission.

It is exciting to see new members getting involved and becoming productive participants with the goal of increasing their level of boating education. Others have jumped into serving on committees to learn more about our organization and we hope to see them step into leadership positions in the future to lead our civic service activities and the many social and boating events we offer.

We would like to see more members motivated to earn a merit mark through assisting with our education, civic service or fraternal activities. There are many opportunities and ways to support our mission whether it is a donation to Thornwell Children's Day on the Lake, conducting Vessel Safety Checks (VSC's), asking for an inspection of your boat, or completing the basic safety course that we teach, which is the least one can do to improve boating knowledge.

Entering the final months of my tenure as Commander of this great squadron, I want to challenge everyone to think about why you joined and pledge to become or remain a more involved member. We should be working every day on earning merit marks, which is our way of recognizing member contributions. Each merit mark recommended is reviewed by our national organization and approved by our Chief Commander. We have one of the country's largest squadrons, it would be my pleasure to also hold the record for the largest number of merit marks awarded to a squadron's membership.



Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C Mike Charles, AP

Summer greetings from the skipper of Airborne Lady Deuce and XO to America's Boating Club/Lake Murray. By now we as a Club are deep into our list of many activities; which began with the Oyster Roast (lots of volunteers), our "Shake and Break" that included the Annual Blessing of the Fleet and a cruise on Lake Murray, the first mate training, many educational courses (Thank you, Mike Zafoot, Educational Officer), the Cooper River Run (headed by the multi-talented KT Tripathi) with 13 boats and a huge amount of persons (details in his article), the first gathering of boats for Log Jam 1 (kudos to Fred Ruinen) and a great Pig Roast and 4th of July celebration with Lake Murray Country fireworks. Plus, Vessel Safety inspections, Reference Light maintenance, Thornwell day and other important overwatch operations.

Of course, all of this happens because of the many, many people who "put their hand to the plow" and move the mountains of logistics required to make it happen. Please keep up your great work, each of you, to continue to make ABC/Lake Murray the imminent club that others (including National office) look to on how to do things right!

Our calendar is busy with events that take us across the remaining summer and into fall. Our membership continues to grow with more younger members joining. Offer an encouraging word to them when you see them in our midst. They are the next generation.

Only recently we celebrated, as a nation, the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Ancestors related to this club (David Allen's father to name one) participated in that enormous challenge to change the direction of the world at the time. I choose to think, in our own small way, we do the same as shepherds of Lake Murray. Our reach expanding to heads of government (federal, state and local), members of the community and new arrivals to our state.

Let us continue to shine our light, influence for the good when and where we can, prepare our youngers to take our place in this endeavor, and enjoy the immense fellowship of being a part of the truly great: ABC/Lake Murray Power Squadron!

New Electronic Gate – Assistance Needed

As everyone knows, the new gate is now fully installed and has been operational for about two months. We are still working out all the kinks, but overall, the gate has been performing beautifully. We need your help, the upgrade cost the club about \$2,300. This was a significant hit to our budget and we would appreciate any help in covering the cost of this upgrade.

Thank you all in advance for any assistance you can spare!

[**Donate**](#)



Educational Report

By Lt/C Mike Zafoot, AP



District 26 Educational Workshop

America's Boating Club of Lake Murray hosted Squadron Educational Officers (SEOs) and Assistant Educational Officers (ASEOs) from eight (of 11) District 26 squadrons on June 1st and 2nd at Flotilla Island. The purpose of this event was to review job responsibilities and resources available through our National organization. Jan Wright, Assistant National Educational Officer, worked with us on available educational resources for squadrons and districts while our own Natalie Barnhill and Debra Allen gave presentations on Lake Murray First Mates Training and how we partnered with the Lake Murray Association to help with Ladies Day on the lake. Public Boater Education, Collaborative Teaching, Policy & Procedure, On-the-Water Programs, and the MuVit demonstrator were all discussed thoroughly and benefitted all participants.

However, all work and no play is not the Lake Murray way. So, for Saturday evening we had a cookout and sunset cruise to end the day with fun for all. Many thanks to Donnie Browning, Joe and Rachel Troutwine, Tony and Donna Dodson, Tommy and Darlene Clawson and Grandson David, Nancy Zafoot, David and Debra Allen, Natalie and Tim Barnhill for your participation in making this a successful event.

Squadron News

Nine members passed Marine Electrical Systems and six members passed Boat Handling. We're awaiting results of a couple more exams to add to those totals. Congratulations to you all!

For the Fall we will have plans for the classes listed below. We need five students per class comprised of members and non-members. If you want other classes, make a suggestion and we can offer it.

- A follow up Electronics class
- New Navigation class replacing Piloting
- Cruise Planning
- A new Engine Maintenance class

Using Nautical Charts Seminar - Available Online Now

If you participated in our ABC/Lake Murray cruise to Charleston, you know first hand that using nautical charts will help you be a safer boater. Sign up for this seminar and get the skills you need to plan a safe route on your next outing. Learn how to read paper and electronic charts and gain the confidence for a fun and safe day on the water for only \$24.95. [Sign up today!](#)



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



Safety Officer's Report

By P/C Jerry Wise, SN

Do you really need those two back straps when towing your boat?

On the daily commute this week a spectacle presented itself that I haven't seen before. A beautiful nearly new 25-foot plus center console boat lay just ahead in a ditch just off the highway. The trailer and tow vehicle were in the road and looking normal but the majority of the boat was in the ditch with the bow still attached to the winch stand. The tow vehicle had just turned off the highway onto a secondary road when the boat slid sideways off the trailer.

Boats are designed to be trailered secured in the front by the winch stand and possibly a tie down chain to the frame. Most modern trailers have tie down points for straps going to secure points on the rear of the boat. These straps are often the most forgotten tie down points after a boat has been used for a number of years. Next to leaving out the drain plug, not using these is probably the most neglected procedure in preparing a boat for transport.

Most of us don't trailer a boat that often so we need to be extra careful in attention to detail. Here is a check list to make sure you are safe on the road:

- ☑ A lock through the trailer lock lever on the tow ball is a good method of assuring it is locked down and secured when ready to tow. (I take the lock and put it on the drivers seat when hooking up a trailer as a reminder.) Prevent trailer theft by locking the trailer lever even when the boat isn't attached.
- ☑ Attach the rear boat straps to the trailer and check that they are properly adjusted before going on the highway.
- ☑ Make sure your boat is centered on the trailer and that any fuel and gear are distributed evenly as an uneven load can cause instability. It also makes steering and maneuvering much more difficult.
- ☑ Tie down all loose items and equipment in and on your boat.
- ☑ Criss cross your chains under the frame when attaching the trailer to the towing vehicle. The chains must be able to support the weight of the entire load, which is critical if the hitch should break.
- ☑ Check to make sure that the trailer brake lights and directional lights are all working. That way other drivers will know when you're stopping, braking or turning.
- ☑ Check the tire pressure and ensure the lug nuts are tight and secure.
- ☑ Adjust your side view mirrors so that you can get a clear view of the trailer and traffic behind you.
- ☑ Practice turning and backing up with the trailer attached. It takes time to get used to these maneuvers, so it's important to practice, gaining expertise and confidence.
- ☑ Use additional straps to tie down the boat to the trailer frame.

July-September Activities

For ABC/Lake Murray Members and invited guests

(All activities at Flotilla Island unless otherwise noted)

July

- 19th - Reference Lights Cruise
- 26th - Flotilla Friday/Thornwell Prep
- 27th - Thornwell Children's Day on the Lake

August

- 16th - Flotilla Friday
- 17th - Log Jam #2, location TBD
- 24th - Flotilla Island Workday

September

- 7th - Goat Island Clean Up
- 14th - Lake Murray Dam Swim, 8 am-12 noon
- 20-22 - District 26 cruise and rendezvous hosted by ABC/Savannah
- 22-30 - USPS/ABC Fall Governing Board, Pittsburgh, PA
- 28th - Italian Night

Check the [calendar](#) for upcoming events. Follow us on Facebook [Lake Murray Happenings | Facebook](#) for the latest Happenings! Together, we can continue to make our club a thriving and welcoming space for everyone.

Tips for Towed Sports

The summer is in full swing, which makes the topic of our safety message today even more urgent – Towed Sports Safety. As our waterways become crowded during this time of year, it is vital to identify and implement important measures for safely water skiing, wake boarding, knee boarding, wake surfing, and tubing.

Videos like this one underscore the need for safety considerations when participating in towed sports.



Did you know that according to the Coast Guard, towed water sports account for over 400 boating incidents per year. And let's not forget your life jacket when you're out having fun on the water. In addition to a properly fitted life jacket, get one designed for the type of towed sport you are enjoying.

These measures are presented in the "[Towed Sports Safety](#)" video where viewers learn about proper equipment selection and preparing to tow a person.

For instance:

- Tube ropes should be around 60 feet long and heavier than water ski and wake board ropes that should be about 75 feet long
- Ski ropes should have more give than wake board ropes
- Wear your life jacket when you are out having fun on the water and make sure it is properly fitted and designed for the type of towed sport you are enjoying
- The video features additional tips for operating underway

For other safe boating videos visit [Americas Boating Channel](#) which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to [YouTube](#), these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or FireTV. America's Boating Channel™ is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.



April – June Event Highlights

Shake ‘N Break Member /Appreciation Day, April 20



100 members enjoyed a day full of activities including vessel safety checks, grilled lunch, Blessing of the Fleet, a cruise and raft up!



First Mate Training, April 28, Year 2!

Trailer, boater safety, boat docking, flares, and fire safety were all part of the training in which 16 first mates learned new skills or improved current skills. First mates were joined by their families after training with a total of 40 for a delicious lunch.



South American Night, May 4

43 members attended a delicious and fun night thanks to Miriam Mello and Gabriel Waxemberg who prepared authentic delicacies from their home countries of Brazil and Argentina.



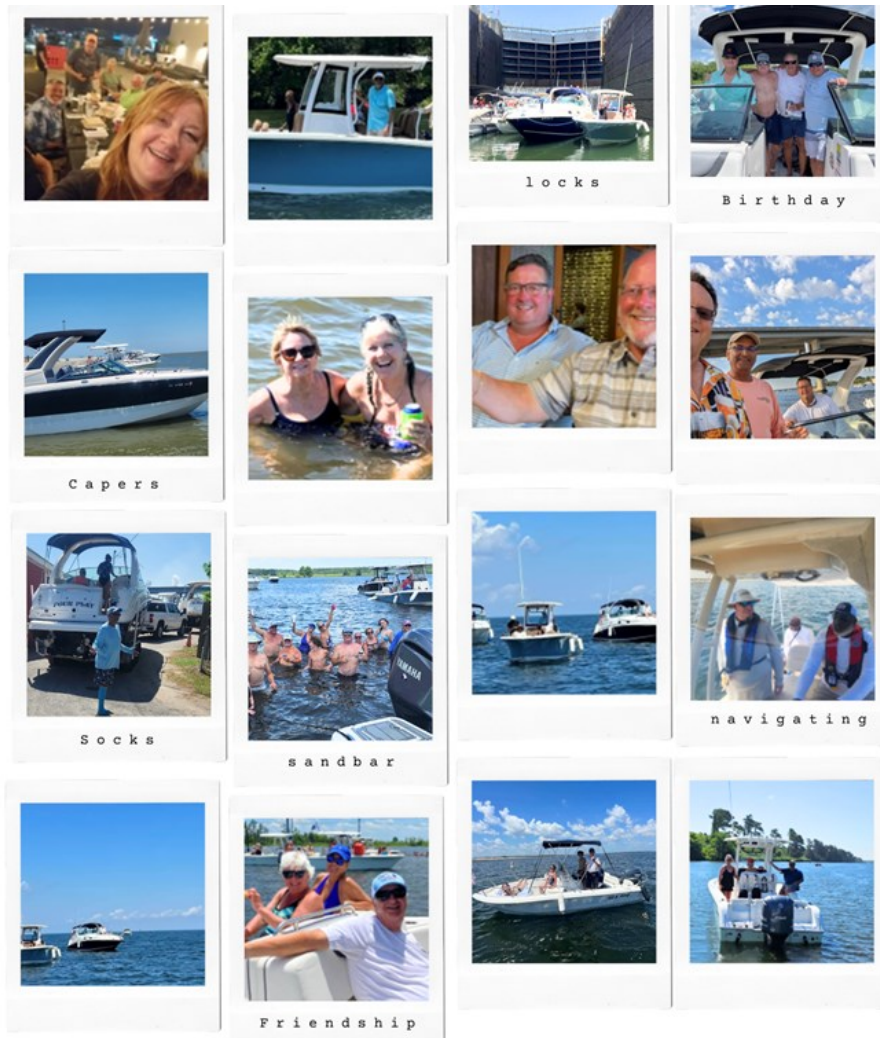
Cooper River Cruise, June 7-9

A total of 13 Boats and 41 squadron members had an awesome time in Charleston as part of the Cooper River Cruise.

Friday June 7, 2024 10 boats and 35 members launched from Canal Lakes Fish Camp on the Diversion Canal in Cross, SC, following the channel across Lake Moultrie to the Pinopolis Lock. We enjoyed refreshments and eats as the lock dropped us about 70 feet to the Cooper River where we snaked our way around and spent some time on a sandbar to enjoy refreshments and more eats. We finally arrived in Charleston where members docked at multiple marinas. Fabulous Charleston food was enjoyed for dinner.

Saturday June 8, 2024 Members explored Charleston area by water. Some went up the Wando River to find and explore new things and eats. Some went on a great boat ride to Capers Island to anchor out and be entertained by beach activities. All returned back to Charleston to take advantage of the night life and more fabulous food and views.

Sunday June 9, 2024 We returned home after a spectacular weekend. There were boaters who explored Coastal waterways for the first time. They had an amazing ride, experience, and educational exposure.



April – June Event Highlights



Ladies Day on the Lake, June 11

ABC/Lake Murray Past Commanders Debra Allen and Elaine Price lent their expertise teaching boating safety during Ladies Day on the Lake, a public educational event we now co-sponsor with The Lake Murray Association.

Log Jam #1 Grillin' and Chillin' on June 15



A good time was had by all as 30 Boats and 80 members gathered for the first Log Jam of the year! P/C Fred Ruinen served as coordinator, anchoring in Heron Cove.

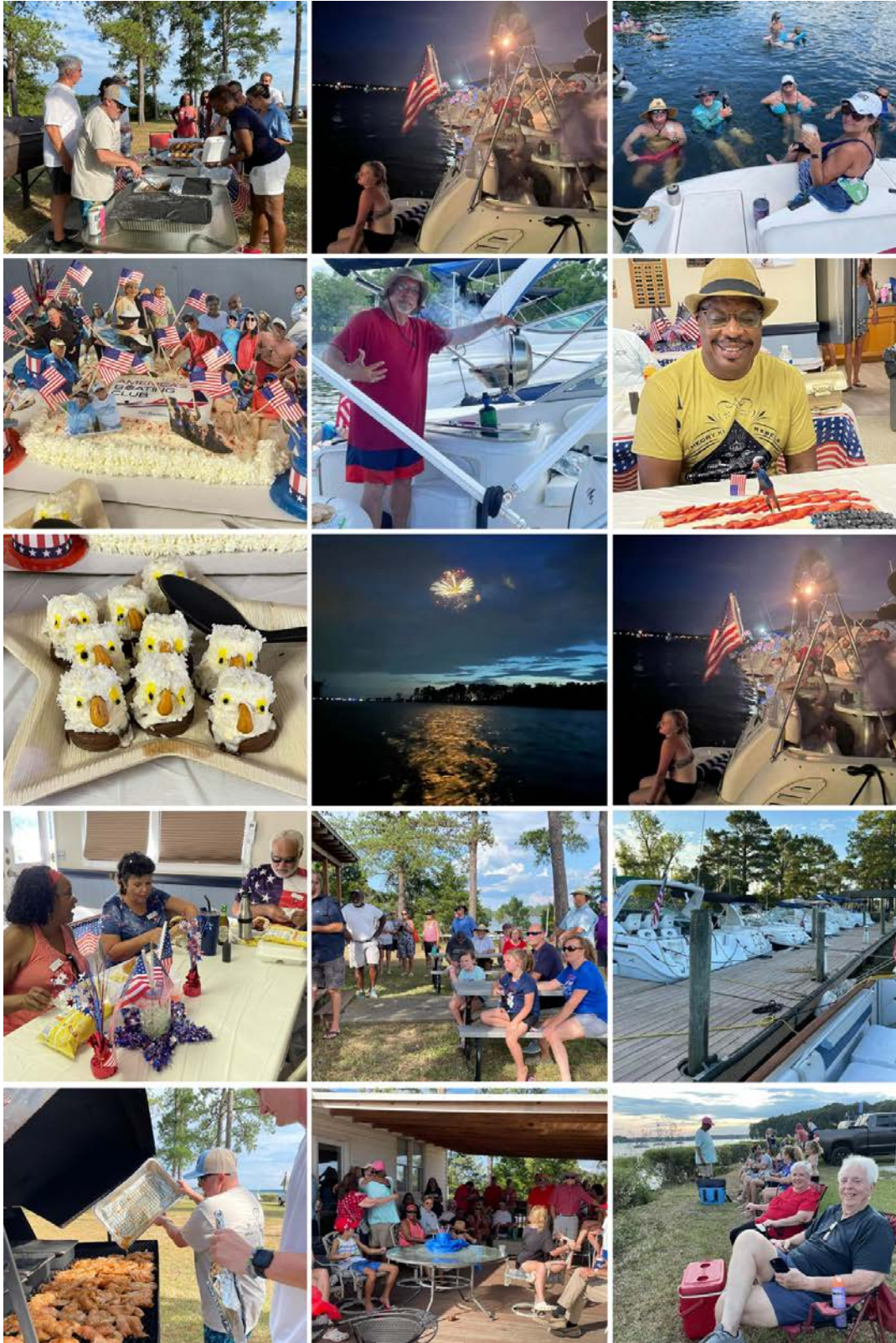
Martin's Landing Cruise, June 22

After an island clean up day, 24 members enjoyed watching the Dam Boat Run, a cruise to Na'Cho Margarita at Martin's Landing and a raft up!



4th of July and Pig Roast, June 29

91 members and guests enjoyed a pre-fireworks raft up, patriotic dessert contest, bbq pork and chicken dinner and fireworks at Flotilla Island. And, we even squeezed in a business meeting!



Friendship & Chance Saved a Life



A second generation member, Donnie Browning joined ABC/Lake Murray in 2021. He met Joe and Rachel Troutwine while attending events, including raft ups. He told his wife Krysta how much she would enjoy meeting the couple and soon they became great friends, they even own the same make and model boats they call “the Twins.”

Joe and Rachel opened Troutwine Automotive last year and where in late March Joe and Donnie were getting their boats ready for the season. Rachel was attending a training class and was going to go straight home but decided to stop by the business instead.

Did you know that Rachel is a CNA and is certified in CPR? Well Donnie does because she arrived as Joe was trying to assist Donnie who was having a heart attack. Having never performed CPR in a real life situation did not deter Rachel, who immediately started CPR and kept Donnie alive. After a few broken ribs, emergency surgery, a few days in the hospital and recovery time at home, Donnie has made an excellent recovery.

“How do you repay someone for saving your life? God used them in a way that is nothing short of a miracle. A few more seconds and I wouldn’t be here.” Donnie said.

And that is how friendship and chance saved a life.

America’s Boating Club of Lake Murray
is on the web:
<http://www.lmpsonline.org>

New Log Jam Editor

As reported in the Spring Edition of The Log Jam, our editor Robert Blalock has stepped away. I am happy to report in this issue that Diane Urban has stepped up and taken on the position. Diane and her husband Brian Warman joined our club just last June (2023) and jumped in right away with organizing the Hollow Creek Distillery event back in March. We are pleased to have Diane bring her experience in community/service publications to this position!

Join me in welcoming her as the new Log Jam editor!

Lt/C Becky Weiler, Secretary

Send content ideas and photos!

Email the Editor

Lt Diane Urban at

baysidedi@gmail.com

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

FB "Happenings" Mashup





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Bridge Officers

2024

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Executive Officer: Lt/C Mike Charles (execofficer@lmpsonline.org)

Administrative Officer: Lt/C John Klein (adminofficer@lmpsonline.org)

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Treasurer: Lt/C Cathy Urquhart (treasurer@lmpsonline.org)

Assistant Treasurer: 1st Lt Melody Charles (asttreasurer@lmpsonline.org)

Members-at-Large

Lt Joe Troutwine (matla@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Tyler Williams (matlb@lmpsonline.org)

Lt K.T. Tripathi (matlc@lmpsonline.org)

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