



America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray<sup>SM</sup>

Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as

**Lake Murray Power Squadron**

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



# The Log Jam

Volume 62, No. 1

## Winter 2025 issue:

Welcome New Members

Samaritan's Purse

1994 Throw Back

Officer Reports

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◆ Executive

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◆ Administrative

◆ Education

Upcoming Activities

D26 Spring Conference

Lake Norman Cruise

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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.

**Jonah and Jacob Charles**



## Operation Christmas Child

I want to thank you for your continued partnership with Operation Christmas Child over the past seven years. Our goal was to collect 50 shoebox gifts this year, and I'm excited to share that we collected **54**, surpassing our goal! Thank you for your generosity and dedication. God bless you all! - Pam Burtis

## Throw Back to The Log Jam circa November 1994

The Power Squadron was renamed to Lake Murray. V/C David Allen, SN-IN was the outgoing Commander. There was a paint avoidance fund, a telephone committee, Christmas dinner was \$20 a person. P/C Debra Allen, AP was Treasurer, Log Jam editor, then and now keeping everyone in line.



Our new Bridge was elected at the October meeting. As you can tell, only our new commander came dressed in costume for the Halloween theme meeting. Pictured left to right are: Educational Officer Jim Rakes, Assistant Educational Officer Emil Myers, Executive Officer Randy Hodge, Administrative Officer Debra Allen, Commander Lee Barber, Secretary Fred Schwartz and Treasurer John Lacey.



# Commander's Report

## By Cdr Mike Charles, AP

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### **Hello Lake Murray Power Squadron/America's Boating Club of Lake Murray!**

Now two months after our Change of Watch, Commander's Cruise, Christmas Party, Boating Activities planning and the Ladies Cookie Exchange raising funds for the Thornwell Children's Home – we are off to a productive start of this year! Add to that the completion of Cruise Planning and Marine Radio Systems classes and our Education program is moving fast as well thanks to the leadership of Lt/C Brian Warman and 1st/Lt Donnie Browning.

I am very thankful to our near 260 members who help make our many facets/elements/program offerings come together. Next up is the Chicken Bog, Virtual Golf, Bowling, Souper Bowl followed shortly by the annual Oyster Roast. Then the calendar gets faster toward the summer!

As such it brings reason to quote Theodor Roosevelt and "The Man in the Arena."

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

What does our past President's words have to do with our boating? His words get at the identity we LMPS members bring to Lake Murray anytime we are out on the water. In times past, I have referred to us as "Shepherds of the Lake." We are known as mariners with knowledge, talent, and willingness: in rendering assistance, pursuing education, knowing the lay of the lake and its many creeks, fishing spots and quiet anchoring locations and, best of all – fun people to be around. And when the chips are down, and the winds are up, untrained folks get into trouble on the water – we are the version of the "man in the arena." We are the people of the lake, known by generations as a group willing to lend a hand when times turn hard, and it is time to "lend a hand" and do the deeds!

How do we do this in any given day? I have watched as new members were given time and training by elders on how to tow another boat in trouble, get a vessel on a trailer, the technique to shoot a flair, talking on the radio properly, coming to the aid of a person needing help on the water – many other examples. Years of this type of repeated assistance builds an enviable reputation we should be proud of and protect.

Melody and I were once those new members. Happy boating!



# Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C John Klein, AP

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## Charting a New Course: From Administrative Officer to Executive Officer at America's Boating Club of Lake Murray

As the year winds down and we prepare for a new year, I'm reflecting on our 2024 accomplishments and looking forward to an exciting new 2025 season for America's Boating Club of Lake Murray.

Serving as Administrative Officer in 2024 provided me with the pleasure of working closely with our dedicated volunteers to ensure the smooth running of our many activities, from membership, to on-the-water to social events. None of this would be possible without the tireless efforts of our many volunteers, and I extend my sincere thanks to each and every one of you.

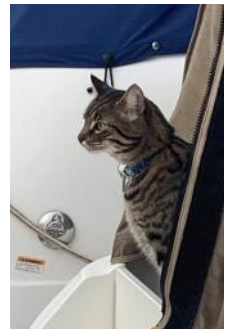
Now, as we navigate into the new year, I'm honored to take the role of Executive Officer and work with our new Commander and Bridge. This new role gives me the opportunity to learn more about how America's Boating Club of Lake Murray operates and our relationship with the community, District, and National. I believe that by working together, we can further solidify America's Boating Club of Lake Murray as one of the premier clubs within the America's Boating Club family.

I want to express my deep gratitude to everyone who has supported our club. Your dedication and your collaborative spirit have been truly inspiring. As we embark on this new chapter together, I look forward to working alongside all of you to ensure the continued success of America's Boating Club of Lake Murray. I'm excited to chart this new course together! Together we can accomplish anything.

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### Boat Show Volunteers needed

The boat show takes place Feb. 21-23 and we need help setting up and manning the booth during the hours it is open. A benefit of volunteering is you can attend the show as well before or after your shift. Please reach out to our Boat Show Chair, Lt Rick Kahn at 843-901-0216 for more details.



### Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) 9 am – Noon on Saturday May 10 at Yacht Cove

Doing a Vessel Safety Check is a great way to meet fellow boaters and help improve safety on the lake and promote our club. Please reach out to Lt Joe Troutwine at 803-830-9621 as he is our Vessel Safety Chair.



# Safety Officer's Report

By P/C Jerry Wise, SN

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## **With all the sophisticated electronic sensors available, how can this happen???**

I'm at the fuel dock in Charleston waiting to gas my Grady White 28 sailfish for a day's fun offshore. Just ahead a boat owner is fueling his boat while the dock attendant is talking to a friend. A faint smell of gasoline was growing. At that moment the dock attendant and I noticed the boat owner was fueling the rod holder on the stern of his inboard powered boat. The dock attendant killed the gas pump power and I dove for the bow line on my boat to get out of there. It must have been ok because I didn't hear an explosion heading out into the harbor. (Rod holders generally are open to the bilge and he was fueling up the bottom of his boat instead of the gas tank.)

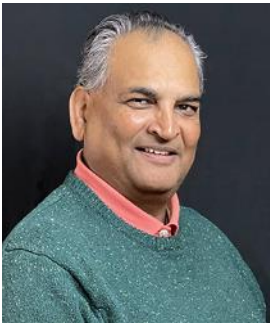
Gasoline explosions on enclosed boats can be devastating. There have even been explosions where the vent fans haven't been run long enough, leaving just enough explosive mixture to ignite. A recent internet news site did an article that shows the power in a [boat explosion](#). It blew the boat in half at the hull joint. I've had a number of enclosed boats over the years from 18 to 35 feet and always been scared of the vent process for gas fumes. There are a number of fuel/gas/flammable gas detectors available on every marine retail site. The one thing I've always made sure of is to have more than one detector and have one wired directly to the battery. This detector is always on and you don't have to turn on the ignition key to activate gas detection. If you get on the boat and that one is going off its a good time to investigate or run away. Just a little extra security at minimal cost.

Even a new or well maintained boat can have leaks develop or hoses begin to deteriorate. Periodic inspection will help keep you safe. Here are a few pointers.

### **Safety Measures to Reduce the Risk of Explosion**

- **Regular Maintenance:** Check fuel lines, tanks, and fittings regularly for leaks or wear and replace any damaged components.
- **Ventilation:** Ensure proper ventilation of the engine room and fuel storage areas to prevent vapor buildup. Install bilge blowers that can expel harmful fumes.
- **Fueling Safely:** Always turn off the engine before fueling. Avoid overfilling and check for spills.
- **Keep the area well-ventilated during refueling.**
- **Avoid Ignition Sources:** Keep electrical systems, batteries, and engines in good working order.
- **Install explosion-proof equipment where possible, and never use open flames near fuel sources.**
- **Carbon Monoxide and Gas Detectors:** Install appropriate detectors for both flammable gases and carbon monoxide to alert you to unsafe conditions.

By adhering to safety protocols and maintaining the boat and its systems, the risk of a gasoline explosion can be minimized, ensuring the safety of everyone on board.



# Administrative Officer's Report

By Lt/C K.T. Tripathi

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As the new Administrative Officer, I would like to wish everyone a great and healthy 2025.

One of the aspects of being the Administrative Officer is that programming for the squadron falls under my watch and is crucial for the long-term success of America's Boating Club of Lake Murray.

Programming gets members more involved and active in the squadron. The squadron belongs to the members of America's Boating Club of Lake Murray. The only way our squadron succeeds is through the involvement of members in squadron activities. It is a great way to meet more people, have a sense of belonging, and have a say so in the operations of the squadron. All of which leads to having more fun, learning more, and expanding your contacts.

There are many educational courses where you and your family can learn something new, become better, safer boaters and teach others. Events are as successful as we make them with member participation, stepping up with ideas, helping to organize, set up, break down and everything in between. This is one of the best ways to take advantage of being a member.

Look for information on events and how to sign up via our Constant Contact messaging system. It is imperative we have your current and updated contact information. If you are not receiving emails we may have old or incorrect contact information. You can visit [LMPSONline.org](http://LMPSONline.org) to look at your information.

There is lots to do and something for everyone! Boat, Learn, Give Back, Have Fun, and Meet People.

## Get engaged and involved and let's have a great 2025!

Food & Fun	Sports & Games	Cruises	Education	Lake Fun
<b>Chicken Bog Day</b> January 18	<b>Virtual Golf</b> January 26	<b>Lake Norman</b> July 11-13	<b>Boat Show</b> February 21-23	<b>Dreher Island Camping</b> March 6-9
<b>Soup-er Bowl</b> February 8	<b>Bowling</b> February 1	<b>Big Man's</b> July 27	<b>America's Boating Course (ABC)</b> March 15/22	<b>Overnight Raft Up</b> April 12
<b>Oyster Roast</b> February 15	<b>Game Night</b> March 22	<b>Congaree River</b> August 9	<b>Fishing Seminar</b> April 19	<b>Log Jam</b> May 24
<b>Hollow Creek Tasting</b> March 15/July 19		<b>Charleston to Beaufort/HH</b> August 22-25	<b>First Mate on the Lake Day</b> April 27	<b>Lake Day for Thornwell</b> July 26





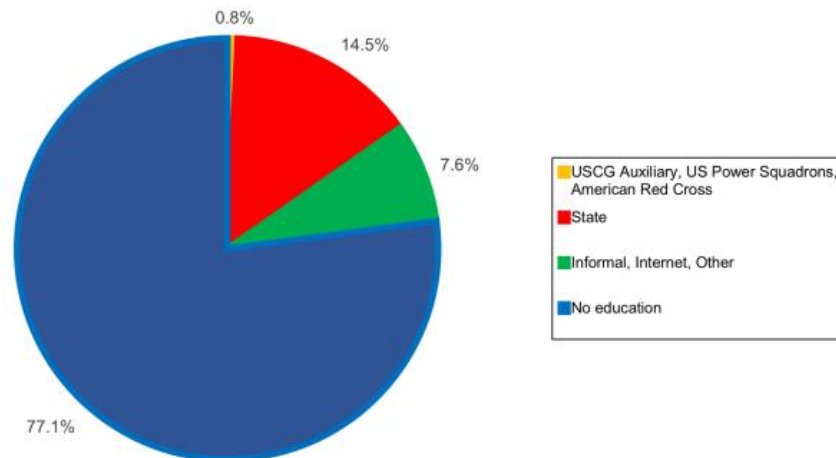
# Educational Report

## By Lt/C Brian Warman



To emphasize the importance of Power Squadron and USCG education programs on safe boat handling instruction, here are some sobering statistics from the US Coast Guard: Where boater safety education was known in boating deaths, 77.1% of deaths had no education and less than 1% of deaths are attributed to those who had US Power Squadron or USCG education.<sup>1</sup>

Figure 7 PERCENT OF DEATHS BY KNOWN OPERATOR INSTRUCTION, 2023



Members need to be champions of boater safety education. Partnering with our national organization, we provide classroom and online courses taught by members of our Power Squadron for our members and the greater boating community.

### Current Classes

Marine Electronics - 8 people are enrolled!

Cruise planning - 5 passed the test!

### Future Classes

America's Boating Course (ABC). Register online or in person at 8 am on day one of this two-day basic boating safety class.

- March 15 & 22 from 9 am-1pm [Register today!](#)
- May 3 & 10 from 9 am-1pm [Register today!](#)

[America's Boating Club Boat Handling Course](#) (ABC class above is prerequisite)

- February 18: This six-week course will meet Tuesdays from 6:30-8:30 pm at Flotilla Island!

If you have questions about the courses, please contact me at: [SEO@LMPSONLINE.ORG](mailto:SEO@LMPSONLINE.ORG)

<sup>1</sup>Coast Guard Accident Statistics [uscgboating.org](http://uscgboating.org)

# January-March Activities

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**For ABC/Lake Murray Members and invited guests**

**(All activities at Flotilla Island unless otherwise noted)**

## January

18th - Chicken Bog and Bonfire

26th - Virtual Golf (watch email for location)

## February

1st - Commander's Bowling Invitational (watch email for location)

2nd-9th - America's Boating Club/USPS Annual Meeting, Orlando

8th - Soup-er Bowl

15th - Oyster Roast

18th - Boat Handling Course starts

21st-23rd - Columbia Boat Show, State Fairgrounds

28th-March 2nd - D/26 Spring Conference and COW, Hilton Head

## March

6th-9th - Dreher Island Camping

15th & 22nd - America's Boating Course (ABC)

15th - Hollow Creek Distillery Tour/Tasting

22nd - Game Night

29th - Shake 'N Break/Blessing of the Fleet/Member Appreciation Lunch

Check our online [calendar](#) for upcoming events. You also will find other resources and information on our website at [LMPSonline.org](http://LMPSonline.org)

Follow us on our Members-Only Facebook page [Lake Murray Happenings | Facebook](#) for the latest news and on our public Facebook page [America's Boating Club of Lake Murray!](#)



# Annual District 26 Spring Conference

## February 28-March 2

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### Join us for the America's Boating Club Annual District 26 Spring Conference & Change of Watch

**When:** February 28 - March 2, 2025

**Where:** Sonesta Resort, Hilton Head Island, SC



**Why You Should Attend:**

- ◆ Meet Chip Michalove, the Great White Shark Whisperer, and hear his fascinating stories!
- ◆ Explore Hilton Head Island with local tours and scenic outings
- ◆ Join a boating adventure with members of the Hilton Head Squadron, exploring the pristine waters surrounding the island
- ◆ Get Updates on the latest happenings at the district and national levels
- ◆ Network with fellow boating enthusiasts and other squadrons

**Reserve Your Room:** Book now at [Sonesta.com](https://www.sonesta.com) or call 1-800-SON-ESTA.

**Use Group Code:** BOATCLUB25.

**Room Rate:** \$199/night (\$239 with taxes and fees), Reserve with credit card, cancel up to five days before event, room rate available until **January 29**.

**Conference registration** and a detailed agenda was sent via email on January 13th.

[More information and registration.](#)

**Save the Date and Secure Your Room Today!**



# Plan ahead for the Lake Norman Cruise!

## July 11-13, 2025

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### Lake Norman Landing Hotel and Marina

4491 Slanting Bridge Road

Sherills Ford, NC 28673

Hotel & Marina: 828-478-2817

**Boat Slips:** There are currently 5 transit slips and the Lake Norman Marina will require all boats to be removed daily and stored in their Boat Overnight Parking. The Harbour Master has agreed to have the larger boats anchor in the harbor for overnight if desired and smaller dinghy boats transit visitors to the restaurant.

**Hotel Rooms:** 12 hotel rooms are secured till June 1, 2025. After this time any that are not reserved will be released. Other hotels in the area are Hampton Inn and Hilton Garden Inn.

**Amenities:** Boat Ramp, Sauna, Paddleboard/Kayak/Aquacycle rental, boat rental, Anntony's Restaurant.

**Register for the Cruise:** Keep an eye out for a Constant Contact email with a sign up form for the cruise and details on how to reserve your hotel room.

**More information:** Contact Dennis Rankin [rankin.dennis@gmail.com](mailto:rankin.dennis@gmail.com) or 803-318-6462

### Lake Norman Facts

- [Created in 1963 by Duke Energy](#), the area is separated by four different counties, Iredell County, Catawba County, Mecklenburg County and Lincoln County.
- It is 33.6 miles (54.1 km) long, 9 miles (14 km) wide, and has 520 miles (840 km) of shoreline. Its average depth is 33.5 feet (10.2 m), but at its outlet it reaches a depth of **110 feet (34 m)**.

Visitors [Guide](#)

# October - December Event Highlights

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## 79 Attend Annual Meeting & Oktoberfest, October 19

Flotilla Island did not disappoint with perfect weather for the Annual Meeting and Oktoberfest. New Bridge Officers were nominated, we swore in new members, and everyone enjoyed a delicious themed dinner!



## Italian Fest, November 2

A beautiful Italian feast was delivered by Rita, and many volunteers in the prep, set up, and decorations. Desserts by Joanne were phenomenal.



## Commander's First Cruise, November 10

21 people on 8 boats joined the Commander on the first cruise!





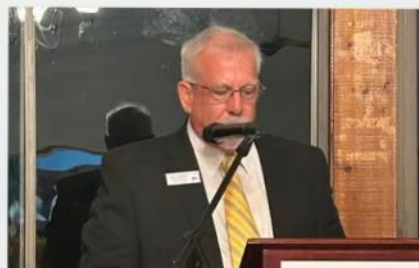


# Change of Watch

November 10, 2024



Commander Mike and First Lady Melody  
with V/C David Allen



Previous Commander Joe




Future Commander



New podium



Serenade 



First Lady Melody and  
Commander Mike



2025 Bridge Officers



# October - December Event Highlights

## Christmas Party, December 10

Pictures are Worth a Thousand Words



## Cookie Exchange, December 15



# New Year's Resolutions

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- 1 Take an America's Boating Course Class in March or May**
  - 2 Improve your boating skills - First Mate Day April 27th**
  - 3 Attend the Columbia Boat Show Feb 21-23 & volunteer at the America's Boating Club of Lake Murray booth**
  - 4 Catch more fish - Fishing Seminar April 19th by Captain Mike Glover**
  - 5 Try something new! Take a weekend cruise with friends on Lake Norman July 11-13**
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America's Boating Club of Lake Murray  
is on the web:  
<http://www.lmpsonline.org>

## Log Jam Editor

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**Send content ideas and photos!**

Email the Editor

Lt Diane Urban at

[baysidedi@gmail.com](mailto:baysidedi@gmail.com)





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## Bridge Officers

2025

**Commander:** Cdr Mike Charles, AP (commander@lmpsonline.org)

**Executive Officer:** Lt/C John Klein, AP (execofficer@lmpsonline.org)

**Administrative Officer:** Lt/C K.T. Tripathi (adminofficer@lmpsonline.org)

**Educational Officer:** Lt/C Brian Warman (seo@lmpsonline.org)

**Assistant Educational Officer:** 1st/Lt Donnie Browning, P  
(astseo@lmpsonline.org)

**Secretary:** Lt/C Becky Weiler (secretary@lmpsonline.org)

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

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

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

Lt Joe Troutwine, S (matla@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Tyler Williams, S (matlb@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Gene Malcolm (matlc@lmpsonline.org)

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