



# THE LOG JAM

The Official Publication of the Lake Murray Power Squadron  
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A Unit of United States Power Squadrons

Sail and Power Boating—America's Boating Club®



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## CRYSTAL RIVER CRUISE

by Lt Donna Dodson, AP

In the first of many squadron cruises planned for 2011, the Lake Murray Power Squadron traveled to Crystal River, FL this past weekend (25-27 February) to frolic and swim with the manatees as they feed and play in the crystal clear spring waters of Florida.

After an easy seven hour trip on Friday to the resort, our cruise organizer and Boating Activities Chair, Lt Rich Barreto, S, had everything so organized including our block of rooms being all together so we could enjoy everyone's company while unpacking. That was just before we headed over to dinner at the restaurant right next door enjoying great food and a great band! Then, we had the most relaxing Saturday morning while preparing to head out around 11-ish. 16 of us loaded up on two rented pontoons with lunch, wet suits, snorkel and SCUBA equipment to enjoy the day cruising the river to several of the springs in search of the elusive manatee! Excitement was definitely in the air as we traveled to such places as *Three Sisters Springs* and *King's Spring* known to be their favorite hang-outs.

At our first stop, we dropped a hook, rafted up the pontoons, donned our wet suits and enjoyed snorkeling over to *Three Sisters Springs* where the water was crystal clear! It was truly amazing! After returning to the boats and enjoying lunch, we headed back out to the big water of King's Bay and over to *King's Spring* in hopes to snorkel some more with these amazing mammals where we even had some in the group scuba dive and check out the Manatee monument about 20' below water. After such a beautiful day full of exhilaration and anticipation, we all returned to the pontoons where we cruised back leaving enough time to enjoy the hotel Jacuzzi before heading out for another delicious dinner (within walking distance) where we shared the days festivities and the tall tales of "*the huge manatees that were everywhere*"! Everywhere, that is, in pictures in the hotel lobby, on t-shirts and beach towels in the gift shop and even in the tile on the bottom of the swimming pool. Everywhere but in the river and springs where we were swimming even though it was the perfect time of year. The weather and water turned really warm and the manatees headed out to the Gulf where the water temperatures suited them better so unfortunately, we did not get to see any live manatees. But that would not stop this group from enjoying the warm Florida sunshine, the beautiful day together on the river and having a fantastic time!

It was a fun and most enjoyable weekend and a great way to kick off the 2011 Boating Activities! *It's Your Year . . . to Volunteer* so there are many other opportunities to help plan one of the great cruises on the Boating Activities schedule such as this. Thanks Rich!

# Lake Murray Power Squadron

## Commander

Cdr Lee H. Ayers, SN  
111 Pebble Shore Road  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-781-9157  
leeayers@alumni.clemson.edu

## Executive Officer

Lt/C Kem Dempsey, S  
2212 Johnson Marina Road  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-407-7397  
dempseyRK@dot.state.sc.us

## Educational Officer

Lt/C Stan Godfrey, AP  
4019 Centurion Pass  
West Columbia, SC 29170  
803-572-1602  
Stan.godfrey@jan-procolumbia.com

## Asst. Educational Officer

1st/Lt Paul Krohne, N  
202 River Bluff Way  
Columbia, SC 29210  
803-920-2787  
pkrohne@scsba.org

## Administrative Officer

Lt/C Tommy Clawson, AP  
PO Box 5  
Blythewood, SC 29016  
803-315-2168  
tommy@thisdealismine.com

## Secretary

Lt/C J. Strohecker, JN  
108 Summit View Court  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-932-0827  
stroheckerj@llr.sc.gov

## Treasurer

Lt/C Mike Verdone, SN  
1041 Carl Shealy Road  
Irmo, SC 29063  
803-315-5445  
mverdonecodi@msn.com

## Asst. Treasurer

1st/Lt Danny Glenn, S  
157 Stoneridge Road  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-345-5314  
dannylglenn@remax.net

## Members-at-Large

Lt Kathy Ezzell-Glenn  
157 Stoneridge Road  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-345-5314  
kathyezzell@sc.rr.com

Lt David Dunn  
204 Rucker Rd  
Chapin, SC 29036  
803-781-5364  
asapone@me.com

Lt Stanton Adkins, JN  
1815 Pendleton St.  
Columbia, SC 29201  
803-260-6935  
eadkins@sc.rr.com



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## The Log Jam

Any articles, comments or questions regarding this monthly publication may be directed to:

Lt/C J. Strohecker, JN  
108 Summit View CT  
Chapin, SC 29036

(803) 932- 0827(h) or (803) 803-518-8140 (c)  
fireeducation@yahoo.com

Visit the LMPS website at  
www.lmpsonline.org

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## COMMANDERS REPORT

*By Cdr Lee Ayers, SN*

February is behind us now with a successful Mardi Gras themed dinner meeting. Thank you to everyone that worked on putting all together.

Our first boating activity is also in the books, but the details will have to wait until next month's edition. Press time came before the trip.

We have ideas for many future boating activities, but are still in need of coordinators. Pick one of the ideas on the list or come up with your own. Check and the Boating Activities Calendar and get on board.

A hearty thank you goes out to Lt Bryant Blakeslee, AP for stepping up and volunteering to chair VSC's again this year. If you are a Vessel Examiner you can expect to hear from Mr. B in the near future concerning this years efforts. If you want your boat inspected, please standby as Bryant get everything spooled up and on plane for the year."

March will bring our Chili Cook Off on Saturday 26 March at Flotilla in place of our monthly dinner meeting. Be sure to find the details elsewhere in this addition and plan your entry. Hopefully, Mother Nature will be kind and we will have several boats on the docks.

Our spring education calendar is just kicking off. There is still time to get to a class. Look for the Education Department article and class listing elsewhere in the newsletter.

Please be sure to check all of the articles in this newsletter from the various officers and committee chairs. They will keep you aware of all that is happening and the opportunities to get involved.

Remember that this is Your Year ... to Volunteer.

**Let's work together to make it great.**



## EXECUTIVE REPORT

*By Lt/C Kem Dempsey, S*

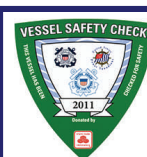
Can you believe it's just one more month to spring? I don't know about you but I can't wait to get the cover off the boat and go for a cruise plus get a little outdoor exercise.

The boat show was the first sign of spring and boy was the weather nice. There was a great turnout. I spoke with many of the vendors and they are all hoping for an upturn in the economy which means more fun on the water. The Bridge wants to sincerely thank each of you who volunteered to staff our table throughout the show with such short notice to plan. We shared a booth with many organizations who are interested in safety on the water this year. Again, this provided a cost savings to LMPS this year.

Our charitable outreach has started out well this year. Please stays turned to announcements concerning the needs and feel free to donate when you can. We will be collecting donations for Harvest Hope at all dinner meetings this year so plan ahead.

Also, as we approach warmer weather and boating season, we will be discussing the future of Co-Op Charting. If you are interested in continuing this program, please let us know.

If you have any suggestions or ideas to improve our organization, please don't hesitate to contact us.



## Vessel Safety Checks

*By Lt Bryant Blakeslee, AP*



Vessel Safety Check is a courtesy examination of your vessel to verify the presence and condition of certain safety equipment required by State and the Federal regulations. The Vessel Examiner is a trained specialist and is a member of the Lake Murray Power Squadron. They will also make recommendations and discuss safety issues. No citations will be given as a result of this Inspection. We will supply you with a copy of our evaluation so that you may follow some of the suggestions given. Vessels that pass will be able to display our distinctive VSC decal. This does not exempt you from law enforcement boarding but it will prepare you. Please contact our VSC Chairperson to schedule an event for your neighborhood or marina.



## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

By Lt/C Tommy Clawson, AP

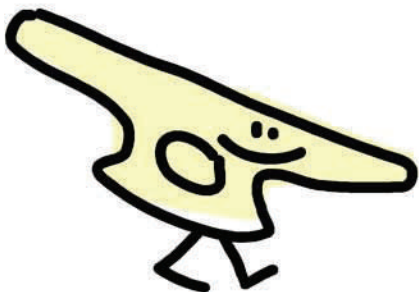
The February meeting was great. We had an excellent turnout with several new members and prospective members attending. The decorations and food were fitting for the celebration. Commander Lee prepared his famous Jambalaya and the Cajuns prepared their Shrimp Creole. Our great volunteers made the preparation, cooking, and cleanup effortless. Thanks to all that volunteered and assisted.

A good first sign of the boating season is the annual Boat Show at the Fairgrounds. This is usually our first taste of boating; the weather was better than the last couple of years. The squadron had a table with several other lake organizations. Thanks to all those who volunteered to represent LMPS at the Boat Show.

The March meeting will be at the LMPS Soup / Chili Fest on Saturday, 26 March 2011. This is an event that the squadron has had for the last several years and it keeps getting better. Come out to join the activities, and maybe even volunteer to enter your best chili recipe. Bring your boat; we'll do some sort of cruise and rendezvous Saturday after the .

We'll have the Cruise signup sheets available for folks to sign up for a cruise. We have a few cruises that need a coordinator. Come take charge of a cruise. Remember ***This is your year .....to volunteer.***

It's getting warmer; we need to go boating!



## EDUCATION REPORT

By Lt/C Stan Godfrey, AP

### CONGRATULATIONS FOR EDUCATION AWARD!!

1<sup>st</sup> Lt Paul Krohne, SN and Jon May have received the Education Proficiency Award.

The next time you see them congratulation them on a job well done!

The 2011 Boat Show was a big success. The crowds were larger that last year. We had several people sign up for the ABC course that starts Tuesday 1 March 2011. It looks like we are going to have another larger turn out for the class. We need your help each Tuesday in March from 7:00pm till 9:00pm to help out and meet the new potential members. If you can help out with the classes contact Edie Godfrey at 240-8847 or Edith.godfrey@philips.com.

Sail class will start Wednesday 2 March from 1830 till 2030 at Flotilla Island. We are looking forward to have Mike Hamme teach his first class for LMPS.

Navigation class with start Wednesday 9 March 2001 at Teradata Corp 3245 Platt Springs Rd. West Columbia.

Weather class will start on Monday 14 March 2011 from 6:00pm till 8:00pm at The National Weather Service at Columbia Metro Airport.

Seamanship will start Tuesday 12 April 2011.

There are additional "Educational Opportunities" located in this Log Jam, and I will continue to have registration forms and course information at all LMPS dinner meetings.

Please call me or send me an e-mail – stan.godfrey@jan-prousa.com if you have questions about any courses being offered or if you have recommendations for the Education Department.

Hope to see many of you register for upcoming class!





## LMPS SOUP/CHILI FEST

Saturday, 26 March

Flotilla Island

1100 to 1400

Cost \$7.50/person

To register to participate, contact Lt. Cyndi Langlois at [splash@sc.rr.com](mailto:splash@sc.rr.com) or 803/730-7315



## Educational Opportunities

If you have questions, please contact Lt/Cdr Stan Godfrey, AP  
[stan.godfrey@jan-prousa.com](mailto:stan.godfrey@jan-prousa.com) or 803-572-1602

### Americas Boating Course

Dates: March 1 –29th

Time: 1900—2100

Location: Flotilla Island

### Sail

Start Date: March 2

Time 1830—2030

Location: Flotilla Island

### Weather

Start Date: March 14

Time: 1900—2100

Location: National Weather Service- Cola Airport  
 West Columbia SC

### Seamanship

Dates: April 12—June 7

Time: 1900—2100

Location: Midlands Tech—Airport Campus  
 West Columbia SC

### Navigation

Start Date: March 9

Time: 1900 –2100

Location: Teradata , 3245 Platt Springs Rd  
 West Columbia, SC

## 2011 LMPS BOATING ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

| Month     | Date     | Event/Activity                                 | Coordinator           |
|-----------|----------|--|-----------------------|
| January   | 15       | Oyster Roast                                   | Lee Ayers             |
| February  | 25 to 27 | Crystal River, Fl. Swim/Dive with the Manatees | Rich Barreto          |
| March     | 20       | Canoe/Kayak Trip                               | David Dunn            |
|           | 26       | Soup / Chili Fest Cruise and Rendezvous        | Tommy Clawson         |
| April     | 16       | Shake and Break                                | Mike Seguin           |
| May       | 13 to 15 | D/26 Cruise and Rendezvous- Thurmond Lake      | TBD                   |
|           | 27 to 30 | CO-OP Charting - Cooper River?                 | TBD                   |
|           | 27to 30  | Pontoon Boat Scavenger Hunt- Lake Murray       | TBD                   |
| June      | TBD      | Log Jam #1                                     | Tony Dodson           |
|           | 9 to 13  | Southport / Wilmington Cruise                  | Fanning/Price         |
|           | 17       | Overnight Sail Race                            | TBD                   |
| July      | 1 to 4   | Pig Pickin' Cruise and Rendezvous- Flotilla    | TBD                   |
| August    | 20       | Log Jam #2                                     | TBD                   |
|           | 27       | "Community Service" Cruise                     | Mike Kirk             |
|           |          | Labor Day Cruise and Rendezvous-Poker Run      |                       |
| September | 2 to 5   | and Rendezvous-Lake Murray-Flotilla Island     | TBD                   |
|           | 17       | Dam Swim For Drew                              | Sho Fagg              |
|           | 30- 10/2 | Lake Jocasee                                   | Donna Dodson          |
| October   | TBD      | Big Saluda River-Small Boat                    | TBD                   |
|           | 15       | Wooden Boat Show- Georgetown, SC               | TBD                   |
| November  | 11 to 13 | LMPS Change of Watch Cruise and Rendezvous     | TBD                   |
| Monthly   | TBD      | Reference Light Cruise-Lake Murray             | T. Dodson/J. Langlois |

# SAFETY

P/C Billy Fanning & P/C David Price

## TRAILERING: HOW FAST IS TOO FAST?

Lake Murray Power Squadron is well known for towing just about any kind of boat just about anywhere. Many of us take it for granted that we can just hook up and go. But there are regulations that apply specifically to towing. These regulations are intended to make towing as safe as possible.

You may have been told in the past that the maximum speed you could tow any trailer was 55 miles per hour, and until recently, that was true. However, South Carolina adopted the federal highway regulations. Under those regulations, no speed limit is specified for recreational boat trailers. So for boats with a beam of 8.5 feet or less, the maximum towing speed is the posted speed limit, and those trailers may be towed on any road at any time (unless otherwise posted). One caveat to this is that the weight rating of the tires must be equal or greater than the weight of the load. If the load weight exceeds the tire rating, speed must be reduced, and the maximum speed is 50 mph (USDOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, 393.75).

Keep in mind that special permits are required for towing oversized trailers. For purposes of this article, an "oversized" trailer is defined as wider than 8.5 feet and/or taller than 13.5 feet. An application for a permit (single or multi-trip) can be submitted online at <https://www.scdot-scarps.org/>. The applicant must provide information about the towing vehicle and the trailer/load being towed. The permit will specify any restrictions.

Of course, conditions may dictate that a safe speed is less than the posted or permitted limit. Just as when you're operating your boat, when weather or traffic conditions are unfavorable, you need to slow down. Wet roads, high winds, and heavy traffic increase the chances of an accident on the highway. The best defense is to reduce your speed, increase your following distance, allow more time for stopping at intersections, and keep a sharp lookout.

And under any conditions, remember your tow rig is longer, wider and heavier, and therefore requires a greater stopping distance than a normal passenger vehicle.

(next column)

This article addresses South Carolina regulations as they apply to boat trailers. If you are traveling to or through other states, or towing something other than a boat trailer (such as a camper) be sure to check those regulations before you go.



## MEMBER BENEFITS

*By Lt States Clawson, S*

Marilyn Hyman attended the past National Meeting and shared some of the member benefit information with me. Below is a quick summary of some of the items she brought back.

### Life Lock

This organization protects your identity from being compromised. For USPS members, we get 30 days free and 10% off. Call 1-800-LIFELOCK and use promotion code **USPS**.

### USPS Wireless Center

Go to [www.USPSwireless.org](http://www.USPSwireless.org), buy a qualifying Samsung Galaxy S phone and receive a free Accessory Bundle worth \$50.00. The bundle includes:

- Universal clip-on Carrying Case
- Universal S Handset Stand
- Micro-USB Travel Charger
- Micro-USB Car Charger
- WEP480 BT headset

If you're in the market for a new phone check out the benefits of being a USPS member.

### Long Term Care Insurance Program

Long term care is something that we probably don't think enough about. It is something we all should consider and weigh the benefits of having it for our security and our loved ones' security. USPS is providing a Long Term Care Insurance Program for members. Go to [www.myltplan.com/usps](http://www.myltplan.com/usps) or call (800) 616-8759.

These and many others are available through USPA. Go to the web site [www.usps.org](http://www.usps.org) and check out what's available. Remember Your USPS Membership has benefits.

# CALENDER OF EVENTS

## March

- 1 ABC Class (Flotilla Island)
- 9 Navigation Class
- 11—13 D/26 Spring Conference
- 14 Bridge Meeting (Flotilla Island)
- 17 St Patrick's Day
- 19 Island Work Day (Flotilla Island)
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 21 Log Jam Deadline
- 26 Chili Cook Off (Flotilla Island)

## April

- 5 Member Orientation & OT Training (Flotilla)
- 9 Island Clean-up
- 16 Shake n Break Tax Relief Cruise
- 18 Bridge Meeting (Flotilla Island)
- 21 Dinner Meeting (Saluda Shoals)
- 22 Good Friday
- 24 Easter
- 25 Log Jam Article Deadline

# CLASSIFIED SECTION

*Kathy Ezzell Glenn*  
 RELOCATION SPECIALIST, CRS, ABR

Cell 803.348.7489  
 Office 803.749.5800  
 Fax 803.749.5810  
 kathyezzell@sc.rr.com

www.KathyEzell.com




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