



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 56, No. 1

Winter 2019

## 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](http://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 so .....let'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  | -Boating on rivers, locks & lakes            |
| -Your marine VHF radio   | -Boat propane systems                        |
| -Marine traffic near you | -Prepping your boat and dock for a hurricane |
| -Weather for boaters     | -Getting home when the captain is disabled   |
| -Planning your cruise    |  |

### 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.**



Lt/C Mel Charles spreading the holiday cheer.



Joe & Bonnie McElveen celebrate the holiday.

**The holiday sweater crew gets their groove and smiles on**





## Upcoming Social Events

By Lt/C Christine Royson, Administrative Officer

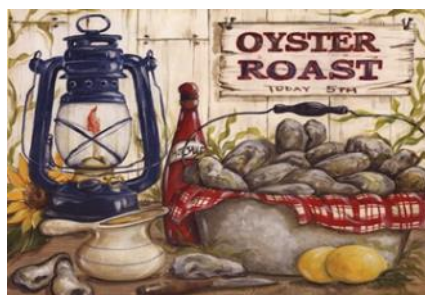
**Watch your email for these upcoming events**

*Mardi Gras – Saturday, February 16, 2019*

*Wine 'n Dine – Saturday, March 23, 2019*



*Shake 'n Break/Member Appreciation – Saturday, April 6, 2019*



**A very special thank you to P/C Lee Ayers, SN-CN and P/C Janice Ayers, AP for another great Oyster Roast on January 26.**

**Thank you very much for all you did!!!**



## LONG BAY POWER SQUADRON HOSTS D/26 SPRING CONFERENCE 2019 AT THE BEACH!

### The USPS District 26 Spring 2019

Conference will be hosted by Long Bay Power Squadron March 8 – 10, 2019 at beautiful Myrtle Beach, SC. D/26 members are invited to attend. Spring Conference 2019 features great accommodations and delicious meals, enjoyable activities, and new learning and skill-building experiences.

Here are just a few highlights of the Conference:

#### RELAXING ACCOMMODATIONS:

The Crown Reef Resort ([www.crownreef.com](http://www.crownreef.com)) in Myrtle Beach is headquarters for D/26 Spring Conference 2019. Long Bay has reserved a block of Oceanfront rooms for the conference. Members may contact the hotel at 800-291-6598 or visit the hotel website to make their room reservations.

#### RECREATION:

Myrtle Beach and the surrounding Grand Strand area are full of fun attractions, golf, dining, shopping and so much more! With a variety of shows and attractions geared towards all ages, there is so much to do in Myrtle Beach. Explore the Myrtle Beach area and make your Conference plans by visiting the Crown Reef Hotel website [www.crownreef.com/area-information/](http://www.crownreef.com/area-information/)

#### MEALS and ENTERTAINMENT:

- Friday evening  
For members arriving on Friday evening, meals are on your own. You can choose from a wide variety of dining options that are within a short walking or driving distance from the hotel. For additional information about restaurant options, visit [www.crownreef.com/area-information/](http://www.crownreef.com/area-information/)
- Saturday Lunch will feature a Chef's Deli Salad or Herbed Grilled Chicken.
- Saturday Dinner will offer a selection of entrées including Breast of Chicken Bruschetta, Prime Rib or Shrimp Scampi. Saturday Evening entertainment features comedian Brian T. Shirley of Charleston, SC.

#### EDUCATION and SKILL BUILDING:

D/26 Spring Conference 2019 is proud to present a selection of learning opportunities for USPS members. \*Each Squadron is encouraged to send at least one delegate to the 3-hour On-the-Water Co-op Charting seminar and one delegate to the 3-hour Geodetic Survey exercise. Attendees at these seminars will be instructed on how to teach these skills to the members back at their local squadrons. This is a great way to transfer knowledge and build capacity at the district and local levels.

**Spring Conference SARS Rollout Overview:** This Microsoft Access-based system allows squadrons to track both boating activities and attendance at land events. Various reports can be generated any time with the click of a button including a year's end boating activities report and a report of all member activities throughout the year. The SARS software along with the SARS User Manual (in PF format) will be available and we urge attendees to bring their Windows 7 – 10 operating system computers. During the seminar attendees will install the system and configure it for their individual squadron. Examples of entering land events and boating activities will be covered and attendees are welcome to bring squadron events to enter into their systems.

For members' planning purposes, the Conference schedule to date is shown in the two tables below.

**Friday March 8, 2019**

	Meeting Room 1		Meeting Room 2		Meeting Room 3
1230 - 1400	Co-op Charting Workshop*		Geodetic Survey Workshop*		Active Shooter Presentation
1400 - 1430	Planning		Planning		
1430 - 1500	Travel to water	America's Boating Club Naming Guidelines Seminar	Travel to search area	DB2000 Open Forum	SEO - Squadron Cross Pollination Workshop
1500 - 1600	On the Water Inspection		Find/inspect Markers		
1600 - 1630	Return to classroom		Return to classroom		
1630 - 1700	Formulating Reports		Formulating Reports		

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**

	Meeting Room 1	Meeting Room 2	Meeting Room 3
0900 - 1000			
1000 - 1100	Squadron Activities Reporting System (SARS) Rollout	USPS Web Site	
1100 - 1200		Navigation	
1330 - 1700	Conference		

For more information, contact Rhonda Hardee at [hardee@scoast.net](mailto:hardee@scoast.net).

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From time to time, AmazonSmile offers special, limited time promotions that increase the donation amount to charitable organizations such as ours.

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On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you need to select "United States Power Squadrons" for LMPS to receive donations from your eligible purchases. AmazonSmile remembers your selected charity, and then every eligible purchase you make from then on at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

Couldn't be easier to raise a little cash for the squadron when you're placing an Amazon order anyway! Try it!

## A Special Offer to LMPS Members

Come enjoy another one of Columbia's treasures!

LMPS members have the opportunity to kayak the Congaree National Park, or the Saluda, Broad, and Congaree rivers at a discounted rate! Check out the website below or give us a call. We look forward to seeing you on the water!



# Welcome new members to LMPS

Welcome aboard Cathy Urquhart.

Great to have you as a member of the Lake Murray Power Squadron. We hope you will enjoy Flotilla Island and all the great activities the squadron has to offer, and support its numerous functions.

New Member Orientation for 2018 members was held on Saturday, January 26, 2019. If you joined LMPS in 2018 or early 2019 and have not received a new member orientation packet, please email Lt Holly Drake at [drakes1967@gmail.com](mailto:drakes1967@gmail.com) so you can pick one up at the next dinner meeting or island function. One packet per family/couple.







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CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS



America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray SM  
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LAKE MURRAY POWER SQUADRON

**February**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	Groundhog Day 2 "Souper" Bowl Potluck, Flotilla Island
Super Bowl 3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Island Work Day Columbia Boat Show, Fairgrounds
10 Columbia Boat Show, Fairgrounds	11 Bridge Meeting, Flotilla Island	12	13	14 Valentines Day	15	16 Mardi Gras, Flotilla Island
17	18 Presidents' Day USPS Annual Mtg Orlando, FL	19 USPS Annual Mtg Orlando, FL	20 USPS Annual Mtg Orlando, FL	21 USPS Annual Mtg Orlando, FL	22 USPS Annual Mtg Orlando, FL	23 USPS Annual Mtg Orlando, FL
24 USPS Annual Mtg Orlando, FL	25	26	27	28 CG Aux Mtg		

**2019**

LAKE MURRAY POWER SQUADRON

**March**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 Fat Tuesday	6 Ash Wednesday	7	8	9 D/26 Spring Conf (Host: Long Bay Power Squadron)
10 Daylight Savings Starts D/26 Spring Conf (Host: Long Bay Power Squadron)	11 Bridge Meeting, Flotilla Island	12	13	14	15	16 Island Work Day
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30 Wine & Dine, Flotilla Island Island Work Day
31				CG Aux Mtg		

**2019**



# Lake Murray Power Squadron

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

## 2019 Bridge Officers

**Commander:** Cdr Fred Ruinen, JN (commander@Impsonline.org)

**Executive Officer:** Lt/C Rick Agar (execofficer@Impsonline.org)

**Administrative Officer:** Lt/C Christie Royson (adminofficer@Impsonline.org)

**Educational Officer:** Lt/C Howard Pendley, SN (seo@Impsonline.org)

**Assistant Educational Officer:** 1st Lt Frank McKinnon (asstseo@Impsonline.org)

**Secretary:** Lt/C Betsy Agar (secretary@Impsonline.org)

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

**Assistant Treasurer:** 1st Lt Wayne Cromley (assttreasurer@Impsonline.org)

### Members-at-Large

P/C Charlie Bruce, SN-CN (atlargemembera@Impsonline.org)

Lt Jer Smith (atlargememberb@Impsonline.org)

Lt Ed Garbe (atlargememberc@Impsonline.org)



1st Lt Wayne Cromley

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or call 803-608-3375

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Lake Murray Power Squadron  
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<http://www.Impsonline.org>

