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The Log Jam

Volume 57, No. 2

Summer 2020

Finding "Normal" and Thankful for It

In a year where just about everything we have done or known has changed;

- Work – Now from home.
- Meetings – Done with Zoom.
- Education - Online school.
- Groceries – Online and home delivered.
- Fashion – Designer face masks.
- Hands – Never been so clean.
- Personal space – Six-foot bubble.
- Social events – Cancelled.
- Sporting events – Cancelled or without fans.
- Vacations – What vacation?

At our home port; "Flotilla Island", we still can find some normal.

Pinecones continue to fall.

Grass continues to grow.

Hedges need trimmed.

Building needs cleaned.

Docks need repair.

In a year where finding the normal in things is the exception, we are so grateful to our volunteer members who month after month participate in our Island Workdays and take care of the "normal". Take care of our Island. Take care of our home port.

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Thank You Volunteers!

Building, Dock and Deck Improvements

Blinds and Dock Staining

We now have new window blinds that were put up in February with Cdr Rick leading the effort in addition to all those who helped with the install from LMPS and the CGAux. They not only look great but are black out shades that will make a huge difference when using the projector for presentations!

In May, several members worked together to stain the dock, and repairs have also been made to several boards.

Deck Addition

In the event you haven't been out to the Island recently, in the spring the Bridge authorized an addition to the back of the building.

This was clearly necessary due to the continued growth of our membership.

Grabbing the ball, Mike Zafout, Mike Charles, and Ed Garbe over a two-month period extended the porch by 15 feet on either side, put in new hand-rails (now up to code) and added a metal roof that covers 2/3rds of the porch.

Hopefully before long, we can all put this to great use for our social events!





Commander's Report

By Cdr Rick Agar

In view of Executive orders issued for South Carolina, all social activities (activities other than safety or educational activities) of Lake Murray Power Squadron were closed beginning at the end of March. With some easing of restrictions, we have resumed some of our social activities, keeping in mind Social Distancing and increased cleaning. We had the Clouds Creek cruise with about 30 participants, six couples in 4 boats for a three-day Charleston to Beaufort cruise with a day trip to Hilton Head, and a Buffalo Creek cruise with 15 boats since the Thornwell Children's Home visit cancellation opened up the date for another cruise.

We still have Island Cleanups, which are becoming models of Social Distancing as we maintain our facility, and cruise and raft-up after the work is done. Bridge meetings have been held online as teleconferences. Changes will continue to be required as we finish out our 2020 activities in a manner to try and keep all safe on land as well as on the water.

We did have a swearing in ceremony for 3 new member families following an Island Cleanup day on August 8th. It is nice to see we are still bringing in new members to join in our activities even when the social activities are limited.

Rick Agar
Commander





Administrative Officer's Report

Lt/C Betsy Agar

2020, after getting off to a great start with the Super Bowl Party, Oyster Roast, and Cloud's Creek luncheon, has been a challenge, socially. We froze all social event planning due to a spike in the virus cases, and the governor's orders.

That meant missing Shake & Break and the Pig Picking on the 4th. People have still been able to gather informally to use Flotilla Island for small cookouts and Flotilla Friday gatherings, with some precautions.

Since the Thornwell Children's Day set for July 18th had to be cancelled, we replaced it with a cruise to Buffalo Creek for lunch, followed by a raftup to swim.

Cruising and swimming together have been our most successful ways of socializing with minimal risk, since they make social distancing fairly easy to maintain, and gatherings outdoors with plenty of ventilation and washing are less conducive to viral spread.

August 14th we held a Flotilla Friday at the island, and used the gathering to award 25-year-member pins to Tony and Donna Dodson.

We have asked everyone to limit use of the inside space for gathering and eating as much as possible, which is more practical now that we have a large portion of the back deck roofed over. The bathrooms, kitchen and shower are still available for members to use.

We hope to be able to hold a few events yet this year, as new infections are once more on the decline. Much will depend on whether a new wave of infections and restrictions follow school and business re-openings this fall.

Right now we are cautiously exploring ways to safely hold the Change of Watch party as planned in November. If those plans go well, the Christmas Party may also be able to proceed.



Oyster Roast 2020



Clouds Creek Cruise



Educational Update

Become a Better and Safer Boater with Boating Education

We held our first ABC class of the year in February with all 14 students in attendance passing the exam. The second class scheduled for April had to be cancelled despite having 21 students signed up since we did not feel we could provide recommended social distancing and be safe for students and instructors.

We held Boat Handling and Cruise Planning classes which could be managed safely with their smaller size. Boat Handling had 5 students take and pass the exam and Cruise Planning had 2 students take and pass the exam.

Become a Better Boater Today!

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/courses/americas-boating-course>.

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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.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| -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 |
| -Using GPS on your boat | -AIS Electronics |

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

That Strange Feeling

While cruising along enjoying the day, a pretty bush came into view on the shore. Bright white flowers contrasting with the red clay shoreline. It was a calm day, hot, rare super blue sky with puffs of misty clouds, and far off in the distance a faint rumble of the usual Summer thunderstorm. As I eased the boat over for a closer look at the flowers a small white triangular stone by a black root caught my eye. Oh man, an arrowhead. As I worked the boat closer with a paddle something just didn't "register" with the scene. Many call it a sixth sense, but more likely a nearly imperceptible scent, color mismatch or the feel of a yet unnoticed gaze causes these strange premonitions. Getting closer, I reached way out with the paddle and prodded the quartz arrowhead out of the bank. Just as the little stone was freed the black root exploded in a mass of furious energy as the white jaws struck the paddle. It's been years now, but I'm betting there still is a beautiful perfectly shaped white arrowhead under a flowering bush untouched by modern human hands.

In a very different scenario, a lifelong close friend had a different experience. While I have his permission to relate this, I'll use a made up name. "Grizzly" is a preacher, outdoors-man, woodworker and reenactment enthusiast. He's worked a lot with animals and snakes, understanding their ways as few do. Grizzly, at the time, operated a youth camp in the SC mountains. While on a nature walk, they came across a large Timber Rattler in the trail. Grizzly wanted to relocate the snake to a safer location as they were logging that area and could run over the snake. He carefully held the head of the snake down with a branch (as he had done many times with many types of snakes) and eased his left

hand up just behind the snake's head. This particular Timber Rattler must have recently eaten, as it was very large, and he had trouble fully grasping all the way around the snake's head. The snake was relaxed and let him pick it up holding it by the head and body. But just for a brief instant the snake dislocated its jaw, flicked its upper jaw around and scratched Grizzly's hand. No penetration, just a scratch from the tip of one fang. The searing pain was instant. As he walked back his chest tightened, his breathing became difficult and he could feel the inflammation race through his body. Two days later, after 9 vials of anti-venom and a stay in ICU he was much better.

Wild animals in our environment are here because they have adapted to modern conditions. As you walk through the woods, boat along the shore, swim in a river or lake, or just work in your flowerbed at home, wildlife (or what may be called the new urban-life) are very near. Snakes, as the water moccasin encounter above illustrates, have near perfect camouflage, and you just can't see them much of the time. Had animals, especially dangerous ones, not evolved to blend perfectly with the environment, they would not be here. As you and your family enjoy the outdoors, know that a root or pretty vine may be more than you bargained for. Trust your "something doesn't feel right." Most of the time you are right, and most of the time you'll never be able to confirm it. If you or a loved one does get a bite, photograph the snake and get to the ER. Best not to bring a large rattlesnake into the ER for identification. All you will do is prolong your wait time as security tries to roundup staff in the parking lot.

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:

Wesley Muller
 Kelly Turner
 Betsy & Mark Harvey
 Betty Bussert
 John & Anna Klein
 Ritch & Christi McManus, Danielle & Bethany
 Steve Hinrichs
 Jack & Rita Broughton
 Jay & Elizabeth Marks
 Patrick Finstad & Holly Snell
 James & Tina Austin
 Mike & Jennifer Adkins
 Scott & Eva O'Brian

Welcome Back:

John & Sandy Hutto
 Barbara & Festus Burchfield




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CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS



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September 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31	1	2	3	4 Flotilla Friday	5
6 Labor Day Brunch	7 Labor Day	8 NomCom Report to	9	10	11	12 Dam Swim for Drew
13	14 Bridge Mtg, Fl	15	16	17	18	19 CRUISE-Small Boats
20	21	22	23	24 7pm - USCG Aux Mtg	25 Flotilla Friday Reference Lt Cruise	26 LM Paddle Board
27	28	29	30	1	2 D/26 Fall Conf & Change of Watch	

October 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2 D/26 Fall Conf & Change of Watch	
3 D/26 Fall Conf &	4	5	6	7	8 Member Event-	9 10
11	12 Bridge Mtg, Fl Columbus Day	13	14	15	16 Annual	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 Island Work Day
25	26	27	28	29 7pm - USCG Aux Mtg	30	31 Halloween

Lake Murray Power Squadron

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2020 Bridge Officers

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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

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<http://www.lmpsonline.org>

