



**America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray SM**  
*Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as*  
**Lake Murray Power Squadron**  
*A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®*



# The Log Jam

Volume 58, No. 2

Spring 2021

## BOATING SEASON HAS BEGUN!

### Day Marks

Great News! America's Boating Club of Lake Murray (LMPS) in cooperation with Dominion Energy is in the process of changing out the Day Marks on the lake. It will take some time to get to all of them, but we're making progress. Again, many thanks for everyone's help to make Lake Murray a safer boating experience.



### VSC Inspections

It is that time if year again — time to get our boats inspected. It only takes about 15 minutes to get an inspection. This gives you an opportunity to make sure all of your critical Coast Guard safety-related items are working properly. It is best to do this before peak boating season begins. To arrange an

inspection, please contact Lt Debbie Becht at 803-730-5784 or [debbiebecht1@gmail.com](mailto:debbiebecht1@gmail.com).

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## Commander's Report

By Cdr Ed Garbe, S

Well, I'd like to tell you that we have all the COVID-19 issues behind us but, as of this writing it's not a fair statement. The Bridge is doing it's best to return our Squadron to as close to normal as possible while still maintaining the health and safety of our members.

Every day seems to become a bit closer to the end of this pandemic and hopefully by the time we're in full summer, everyone will be vaccinated and we can begin to relax a bit.

So being the eternal optimist, I'm looking forward to a return to normal soon, and a full schedule of annual events, Friday Flotillas, cruising, and lazy hazy days rafted up on Lake Murray.

And I encourage all our members to make use of the Island whenever you're just looking for a quick getaway. We have a million dollar view, plenty of dock space, a new porch with overhang, grills, and even a new paint job on the interior.

Hoping you all stay safe!

### Shake 'N Break - Blessing of the Fleet - March 27







## Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C Mike Urquhart

**So, you trust your electronics? Well, *what if*....**

Over the last couple of months, I have engaged in several fishing trips on my boat that took us out into the Gulf of Mexico, 20-40 miles offshore.

While for us fishing at 20 miles produced a lot more catch (40-60 fish), 40 miles out produced much larger fish. We likely brought back more pounds of fish — 4 grouper — than we did with all the fish we caught at the 20-mile mark.



While I could go on and on about our fishing trips, this article is not about fishing, but rather about our return trip to shore from our fishing trips.

When we were 40 miles out (or even 20), there is no more seeing land. Cell coverage is lost at 10 miles, and all you see is the water and sky, and the occasional sea turtle. On this particular day, the water and sky were so closely matched in the color blue, that it was almost difficult to see a horizon — where did the sky end and the water start?

While you may see another boat on the horizon occasionally, for the most part all we saw was blue and for anyone not well prepared to navigate, the journey back to the shoreline could prove to be extremely challenging.

Fortunately, we were well prepared for the journey. Not only did we have the standard onboard electronics (GPS tracking and a radio), we even had an EPIRB which is an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon used to alert search and rescue services in the event of an emergency.

Because I trust my electronics, the SIMRAD GPS tracking system, which leaves a breadcrumb line, our return trip to shore was as easy as following that same line back. After nearly two hours of following that line, we ultimately returned right



back to the Venice, Florida jetty where we started.

As I carefully watched and steered the boat back onto the breadcrumb line, I thought, *What if* my

GPS tracking failed? What would I do? How would I safely navigate back to shore? Yes, I had a radio and the EPIRB as a failsafe and would use them as a last resort, but I also had another non-electronic tool staring me right in my face — my trustworthy compass. I realized then that when I was on my breadcrumb line, my heading (or bearing) was 79 degrees. While that heading may not take me directly back to the jetty, I felt reasonably comfortable that it would take me to land in that general area. Fortunately for me on this trip, I didn't need to rely on my compass to navigate back as I arrived safely to land using the GPS tracking. This experience did however get me to thinking and learning more about my compass and how I would use it if my electronics failed.

Lake Murray Power Squadron also offers at various times several boating education classes. One is Marine Navigation (formerly Piloting) that provides some instruction with the mariner's compass. I plan to attend this class the next time it is offered. While I continue to have trust in my electronics, I need to be better prepared for the *What if*...



## Educational Report

By Lt/C Mike Zafoot, AP

### **Become a Better and Safer Boater with Boating Education**

Your Education Department is a great asset from which you as members can benefit. We have classes with experienced instructors who will help you through Advanced and Elective Grades.

At each event, I will have a signup sheet for these classes. Even if the classes are not currently scheduled, it will help to know who is interested in what classes so we can schedule them.

On April 10 and 17, we hosted an ABC Class. Thanks to a partnership with the Lake Murray Association, we offered the class for free with a loaner manual, and 28 people successfully completed the class by passing the exam.

The Boat Handling Class is rescheduled to start Thursday, June 3. The class will be held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings with completion and exam on June 24th. Classes will be held at Flotilla Island starting at 6:30 pm. New members, this is where you start to move through the advanced grades.

The Sail Class is being organized for the near future. Dates for the class will be announced soon. If you are interested in this class, let me or Assistant Education Officer Mike Charles know.

### **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, visit <https://americasboatingclub.org/courses/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 number handy so you can receive up to a 20% discount on USPS online educational course offerings.

- Boating on rivers, locks & lakes
- Boat propane systems
- Prepping your boat and dock for a hurricane
- Getting home when the captain is disabled
- Using GPS on your boat
- Your marine VHF radio
- Marine traffic near you
- Weather for boaters

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



## Administrative Officer's Report

By Lt/C Tim Barnhill

The 2021 boating season is upon us, and what an exciting time of the year it is — warmer weather, warmer water, etc.

We are cautiously planning squadron events as we continue to deal with COVID-19 restrictions and feel that, with the facilities that we have available, we can proceed with caution.

The 2021 Bridge looks forward to welcoming new and existing members to this year's boating and social activities. We will do our best to make all feel welcome, appreciated and safe while we enjoy each other's company as members of the best squadron in USPS.

Be safe and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

## Upcoming Major Social Events

*Please see emails and/or the Website for more details*

### Flotilla Friday

**Date:** Friday, June 11

**Time:** Whenever you can get there

### Log Jam #1

**Date:** Saturday, June 12

**Time:** All day — any time

### Pig Roast

**Date:** Saturday, July 3

**Time:** TBA

### Small Boat Cruise

**Date:** Saturday, August 7

**Time:** TBA

## Oyster Roast - April 24



# Welcome new members to LMPS

**Welcome aboard!** 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.

### Welcome:

- Drew & Elizabeth Byrd
- Donnie & Krysta Browning
- Robert & Lori Blalock
- Rick Garza
- Rick, Charlene & Douglas Kahn (transfers)
- Clinton & Jennifer Butler

### Welcome back members:

- Tim Corbin
- Larry & Linda Triplett







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CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS



America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray SM  
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# May 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	May 1
25	26	27 Full Moon	28	29 7pm USCG Aux Mtg	30 Flotilla Friday	31 First Day of Asian Cinco de Mayo Par	
2	3	4	5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8	
9 Mother's Day	10 Bridge Mtg, FI	11	12	13	14	15	
16	17 Tax Day	18	19	20	21 Flotilla Friday - Flot	22 Clouds Creek Cruis Island Work Day	
23	24	25	26 Full Moon	27 7pm USCG Aux Mtg	28 Reference Lights C	29	
30	31 Memorial Day	Jun 1	2	3 6:30pm Boat Handlin	4	5	

# June 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	31 Memorial Day	Jun 1	2	3 6:30pm Boat Handlin	4	5
6	7	8 6:30pm Boat Handlin	9	10 6:30pm Boat Handlin	11 Flotilla Friday	12 Log Jam #1
13	14 Bridge Mtg, FI Flag Day	15 6:30pm Boat Handlin	16	17 6:30pm Boat Handlin	18	19 Juneteenth Sox Hop - Flotilla Isl
20 Father's Day	21 Log Jam Articles di	22 6:30pm Boat Handlin	23	24 Full Moon 6:30pm Boat Handlin 7pm USCG Aux Mtg	25	26 Island Work Day Overnight Sail Rao
27	28	29	30	Jul 1	2 Flotilla Friday	3 Pig Roast

# Lake Murray Power Squadron

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

## 2021 Bridge Officers

**Commander:** Cdr Ed Garbe (commander@lmpsonline.org)

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

**Administrative Officer:** Lt/C Tim Barnhill (adminofficer@lmpsonline.org)

**Educational Officer:** Lt/C Mike Zafoot (seo@lmpsonline.org)

**Assistant Educational Officer:** 1st Lt Mike Charles (astseo@lmpsonline.org)

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

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

**Assistant Treasurer:** 1st Lt Cyndi Langlois (asttreasurer@lmpsonline.org)

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

P/C Tony Dodson (matla@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Natalie Denning (matlb@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Kelly Turner (matlc@lmpsonline.org)



Lt Natalie Denning

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**Lake Murray Power Squadron  
is on the web:**

**<http://www.lmpsonline.org>**

