



America's Boating Club® of Lake MurraySM

Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as

Lake Murray Power Squadron

A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®

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The Log Jam

Volume 61, No. 1

Winter 2024

Christmas Party Fun!



More Christmas Party pictures on Page 9.

**Our new
Commander
Joe Firimonte, P**



Newly Elected 2024 Leadership

Commander: Cdr Joe Firimonte, P
Executive Officer: Lt/C Mike Charles, AP
Administrative Officer: Lt/C John Klein, AP
Educational Officer: Lt/C Mike Zafoot, AP
Assistant Educational Officer: 1st/Lt Drew Byrd, AP
Treasurer: Lt/C Cathy Urquhart
Assistant Treasurer: 1st/Lt Mel Charles
Secretary: Lt/C Becky Weiler

Members-at-Large

Lt K.T. Tripathi
Lt Tyler Williams
Lt Joe Troutwine

Nominating Committee

P/C Ed Garbe, S (2024)
P/C Mike Urquhart, P (2025)
P/C Tim Barnhill, P (2026)

Audit Committee

Lt Susan Ruinen (2024)
P/C Mike Kirk, AP (2025)
Lt Tim Austin (2026)

Rules Committee

P/C Tony Dodson, SN-IN (2024)
P/C R.J. Becht, S (2025)
P/C Fred Ruinen, N (2026)

Inside this Issue

| | |
|---------------------------------|------|
| Commanders Report | 2, 3 |
| Executive Officer's Report | 4 |
| Safety Officer's Report | 5,6 |
| Secretary's Report | 7 |
| Educational Officer's Report | 8 |
| Administrative Officer's Report | 9 |
| America's Boating Channel info | 10 |
| Award Winners | 11 |
| New Members | 12 |
| Upcoming Classes & Events | 13 |
| Squadron Info | 14 |



Commander's Report

By Cdr Joe Firimonte, P

Many of us will be thinking about personal changes in the upcoming year and that is normal but I'd like to ask our membership to think about what you can do for ABC of Lake Murray.

Our mission statement is as follows:

“As a fraternal, non-profit boating organization serving central South Carolina, our three-part mission includes the promotion of boating safety through education, civic service and the enjoyment of boating activities and social functions among our membership.”

So my challenge to membership is where do you see yourself this year in meeting our mission statement? While you ponder that question let me give you some ideas of where you can contribute.

Education

Our current educators under our SEO Mike Zafoot do a wonderful job and a credit to them for their many years of service but we really don't have a secession plan to replace them as when and if they decide to step down.

I am asking anyone and everyone to please consider starting now whether it's baby steps of assisting a class, providing refreshments or handing out paperwork and tests to start with the goal of eventually holding a class on your own. We have educators that can certify anyone who is interested in teaching a class. I was told that you don't have to be a teacher to teach.

Please reach out to Lt/C Mike Zafoot, AP at 803-269-0840 our Educational Officer.

Public Relations

We are in need of members who are willing to interact with various businesses that are tied to boating to help get the word out about the new laws affecting those under sixteen years of age and marketing our additional classes that we offer to the public. This is a great opportunity for our retirees who may have time on their hands and are looking to contribute to the club.

Please reach out to Lt RJ Becht, S at 803-730-0930 as he is our Public Relations Chair.

Island Maintenance

We normally have a dedicated few who show up on island clean up days but are in need of additional help. This year besides normal maintenance we will be planting shrubs to beautify Flotilla and will definitely need additional help.

Please reach out to Lt Bob Bailey at 803-590-8025 as he is our Harbor Master.

Boat Show Volunteers Needed

The boat show takes place Feb. 16-18 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.

Continue on Page 3

Continued from Page 2

Cruises and Events

These are the most important social functions that our members attend. Do you want to participate or even lead one of our cruises? They are always a fun time and create great memories.

Please reach to Lt Gene Malcolm at 864-605-1030 as he is our Boating Activities Chair.

Vessel Safety Checks

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.

Merit Marks

Every member's goal should be how I can earn a merit mark every year. Your contributions are deeply appreciated and depending on your participation you can earn a merit mark.

A "Merit Mark" (MM) is awarded by the chief commander to a member for substantial personal effort in furthering the interest, programs and objectives of USPS, its districts and squadrons. It is a coveted award; it is by and large the only official recognition members receive for their efforts. Only one merit mark may be awarded in a year to a member, no matter how extensive the contribution. A certificate is issued, and a special insignia may be worn on USPS uniforms.

I hope all our members take this to heart and decide this year I plan on making a difference. It would be my pleasure to reward those with a Merit Mark for a job well done!





Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C Mike Charles, AP

Happy New Year for 2024 from the skipper of Airborne Lady Deuce and XO to America's Boating Club of Lake Murray. Our family just returned from a great trip to Naval Air Station Key West and spent a great day on the water boating around the island waters of the Keys. It was an "enchanted day" which gives me segue to discuss our own Squadron opportunities in this coming year – already coming into fruition as the Boating Activities meeting has met and outlined a plan to be published soon.

Our gatherings, meals, boat trips, education classes, vessel safety inspections, island cleanings, community interactions and interagency relationships provide a busy calendar for the upcoming year. To be successful in the many aspects of our Squadron's schedule requires numerous volunteers and that is the main point of this article – we need to grow more and adequately train and retain for continued service, a next generation of volunteers to aid in the already great success of our Squadron. ABC/LM is one of the most successful, by many measures, in the United States Power Squadrons nationwide. This has been the case for many years. That repeated success is due to the great numbers of people across the years offering their talent, time and expertise in myriad tasks to be accomplished on a regular basis to keep our organization moving and succeeding in our goals – at flank speed.

To that end, P/C Debra Allen, AP will be providing Bridge training to our new (and old) Bridge/Executive Committee at Flotilla Island, Saturday 13 January 2024. As she has stated many times, this two-hour training block is only the beginning of training and learning how to participate in running this club of 250 plus members. Our continued success is predicated on willing folk able to say "here I am, use me. Train me. Help me help others enjoy the benefits that have enhanced my own life and that of my family by making me a better boater AND member of my larger Lake Murray community!"

The recipe is simple: begin by taking the first boating course. Then, join the Club and identify where you can use/apply your natural gifts. If you are not yet comfortable leading a team, be a part of a team as a member and learn what that team does for the larger group – docks, island/building maintenance, cruise planning/leading/execution, social meetings with or without food, boating course (enroll, meet other class members, become more proficient in all areas of boating, then become an assistant instructor), financial management, interaction with other agencies (Dominion, US Coast Guard Auxiliary, SC State and County agencies that occasionally use Flotilla), navigation reference light upkeep...all this and more are kept going and successful by the continued interaction of the willing!

Commander Joe Firimonte has asked us to look across our sea of faces and ask members to take an active role in our continued success in this coming year to keep us on par with our historic tradition of being the best, one of the biggest, and certainly the friendliest Squadron in the National formation! May we have many "enchanted days" on the water this year!



Safety Officer's Report

By P/C Jerry Wise, SN

A Coast Guard Survey shows some very interesting facts

A new report on recreational boating activity in the U.S. is giving policymakers and the boating community the ability to shape smart boating safety policy into the future. Issued recently by the U.S. Coast Guard, the [National Recreational Boating Safety Survey](#) looks at boating participation demographics, trends, boat use, at-risk boating populations, boating safety and more. The survey data includes all types of on-water activity from canoes, kayaks, rafts and rowboats to sailboats, skulls, airboats, motorized boats and personal watercraft. "While a number of factors have made recreational boating safer over the years, such as stronger laws, regulations, [boating safety education](#), better enforcement, and [improved manufacturing standards](#), it all relies on having the best data possible," said Boat US Manager of Government Affairs David Kennedy. "This information is going to help guide and develop policies that matter to boaters."

Some notable findings:

Ownership: It is estimated that approximately 25.2 million boats were owned by 14.5 million households in 2018. Evidence suggests that [joint/shared ownership](#) is an increasingly popular way to secure access to boats. While the vast majority (94.5% or 23.83 million) of boats in the country were owned exclusively by someone residing in the household, nearly 1.4 million boats were in some manner of joint/shared ownership.

Registered/Nonregistered boats: There were 11.82 million boats registered in the 50 states and the District of Columbia in 2018. Almost 13.4 million boats were owned in 2018 in the United States that were not required to be registered by the state where they were kept and operated. Open powerboats continue to be owned by more households than any other types of boat, while approximately 4.24 million households owned one or more kayaks and about 2.14 million households were owners of canoes. The survey summary notes: "The proportion of all boats that are unregistered is creating a number of financial and management issues and difficulties for boating safety and law enforcement agencies as well as agencies that provide and manage boat access and infrastructure facilities. Foremost, owners of unregistered boats do not pay registration fees, and because most are human-powered boats, they do not purchase fuel for these boats and therefore do not pay fuel taxes, which support the development and maintenance of boating access and infrastructure as well as boating safety education and enforcement." A number of states are currently considering expanding registration requirements to include various types and sizes of human-powered craft.

Boat use: Boats that were operated in 2018 were taken out on the water a total of 471.8 million days. Across all owned boats, the average number of days a vessel is used is 19 days — 29 days for motorized boats and 12 days for human-powered boats. Outings, meaning different occasions that boats were operated out on the water, lasted an average of 3.8 hours. On average, boats that went out on the water in 2018 had 2.3 persons aboard.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from page 5

Operator use: A total of 10.2 billion person hours of boating took place in 2018, with person hours aboard motorized boats representing 84.1% (8.6 billion) of the total. Over 1.3 billion hours were spent boating on human-powered boats. Five states – Florida, Michigan, Texas, South Carolina, and New York – represented about 31% of all person boat hours that year. The state of Florida represented about 10.7% (1.089 billion hours) of all person hours nationwide, followed by Michigan (603.7 million) and Texas (522.3 million).

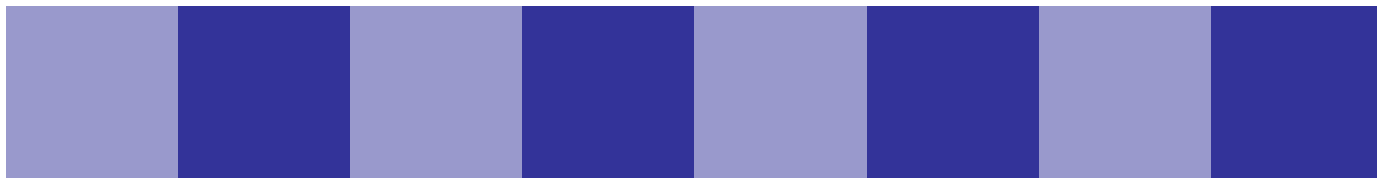
Regional boat use: Contrary to what has sometimes been assumed, boats in southern states are not, in general, operated more days, on average, than boats in northern states. In fact, motorized boats in the Midwest (56 days) and Northeast (55 days) census regions were operated more days, on average, than in the South (52 days) and West (52 days) census regions. About 647,000 boats in coastal and Great Lakes states were operated at least once more than 3 miles from shore in 2018.

Safety: About one-third (33.7% or 220,000) of all boats and 32.8% of motorized boats that operated over 3 nautical miles from shore were equipped with EPIRBs while 83.2% of the motorized boats that were operated at least once were equipped with an emergency engine cutoff switch. Just 13.9% had VHF-DSC radios. About two-thirds (65.6%) of the persons that operated a boat in 2018 had not taken a boating safety course.

Trailerred boats: About 6 million boats that were operated in 2018 were either trailerred or transported (i.e., on top of a car, in a truck) at least once for the purpose of launching them on the water, representing almost two-thirds (65.3%) of the boats that were operated during 2018. Boats were trailerred/transported for the purpose of launching them 167.3 million times in 2018.

Boater socioeconomic: In 2018, an estimated 84.54 million recreational boaters of different ages, races, and ethnicities in the United States participated in boating, or 26.5% of the U.S. population. Boat-owning households were predominately all-white households. All Black/African American households represented less than 1% of boat-owning households. The survey summary notes, “This may be a significant factor in limiting participation of more minority persons in boating given that the NRBSS Participation Survey found that not knowing anyone who owns a boat was a significant reason why more persons did not boat in 2018.” Other and mixed-race households constituted 16.3% of all boat-owning households. Survey findings showed that the greatest percentage of boating participants do not, as is sometimes assumed, have high household incomes. Almost a quarter (23.1%) of boat-owning households in 2018 had household incomes of less than \$50,000, and 41.8% earned less than \$75,000. Households with household incomes between \$75,000 and \$149,999 represents 37.5% of boat-owning households.

Fatalities/accidents: The risk of boating fatalities is six per 100 million person hours for all types of boats nationwide and five per 100 million person hours for motorized boating. This low rate is attributable to practicing safer boating behaviors due to boater education, regulations and inspections as well as safer boats and safe-boating technologies. However, the risk for fatalities nationwide was twice as high on human-powered boats: 13 per 100 million person hours.





Secretary's Report

By Lt/C Becky Weiler

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

Effective with the 2024 operational year, our membership will be receiving a copy of the Executive Committee meeting notes monthly through Constant Contact. The board unanimously agreed to have this info distributed to the general membership to keep everyone up to date with the board's activities. The goal is to have a well-informed membership. As of this writing, the meeting notes from November and December have been distributed. Everyone is encouraged to watch their email inboxes for these monthly updates.

LMPS Reference Lights Committee

Our Reference Lights Committee was at it again in November repairing the lights on Lake Murray. They visited seven that were not working at the upper end of the lake. Three were totally repaired, three are being worked on and one, #25 Golden Nugget Point had to be removed for repair. Thank you to member P/C Mike Urquhart for the use of his pontoon. And a big Thank You to the friends of ABC/LM for your help in keeping us informed of the lights and our boating community safe on the water!





Educational Report

By Lt/C Mike Zafoot, AP

Become a Better and Safer Boater with Boating Education

Education

Congratulations to Drew Byrd, Mike Urquhart, Rick Agar, Mike Charles, John Klein and Tim Barnhill. All of these members have passed Advanced Piloting. Also thanks to the instructors Charlie Bruce and Tony Dodson for a job well done.

Classes for 2024

We have Marine Electrical Systems starting 31 January at Flotilla Island at 6:30 pm. Boat Handling will be starting 20 February at Flotilla Island at 6:30 pm. Our next classes will be starting in September (Piloting & Engine Maintenance) dates and times to be announced. Anyone wishing to take these classes please contact SEO Mike Zafoot at captnzoo1@gmail.com or ASEO Drew Byrd at apexhandymanserviceslic@gmail.com.

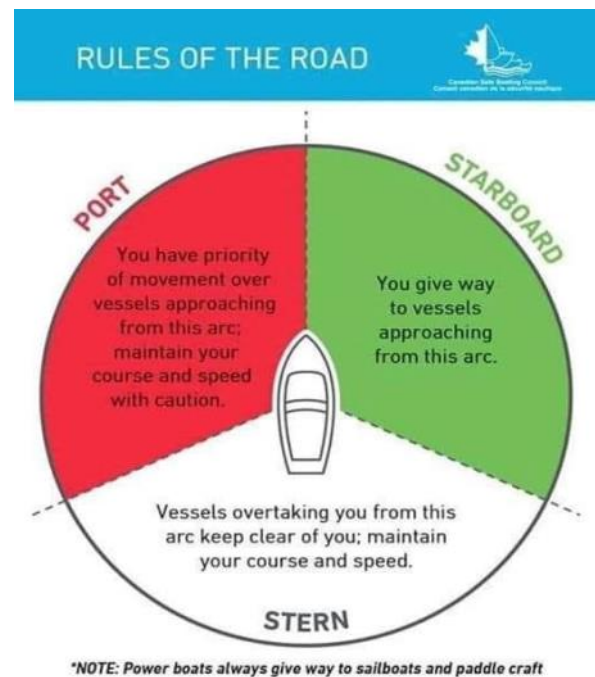
We would like to see everyone take a class in the New Year. It will be fun making new friends and old friends planning summer fun. I guarantee you will learn something useful.

Until then calm seas and fair winds.

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



P/C Tim Barnhill presented a Certificate of Recognition to his Aide Natalie Barnhill.



Do you know the Rules of the Road that apply on Lake Murray?

Plan to take America's Boating Course before venturing out as our lake is getting more crowded! Whether you're a paddle boater, jet sky operator, sailor, fisherman, or power boater, there's something for everyone to learn.

For information about the class, contact ABC/Lake Murray's Educational Officer Mike Zafoot at captnzoo1@gmail.com.



Administrative Officer's Report

By Lt/C John Klein, AP

Thank you all for a great 2023! We enjoyed so many great boating and social events thanks to our members who volunteer to make it happen. However you contribute, whether it is organizing an event, cooking, setup, serving, cleanup; I appreciate you.

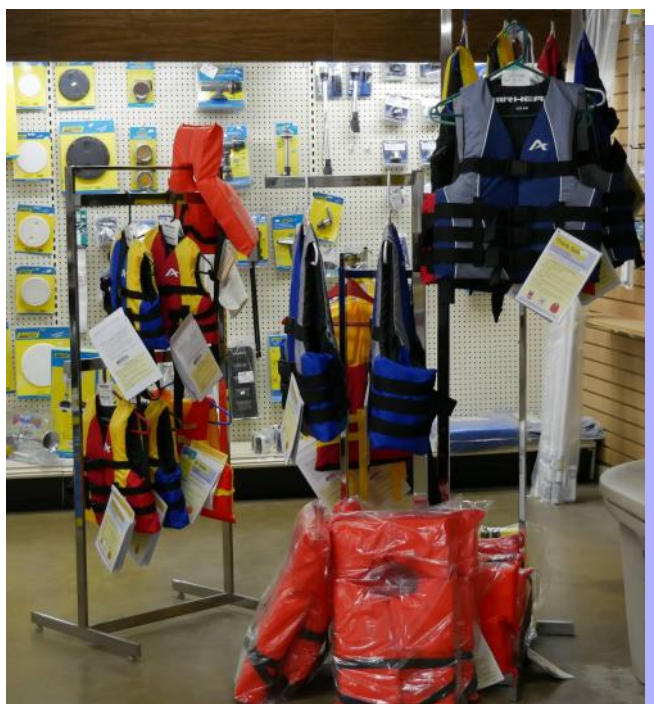
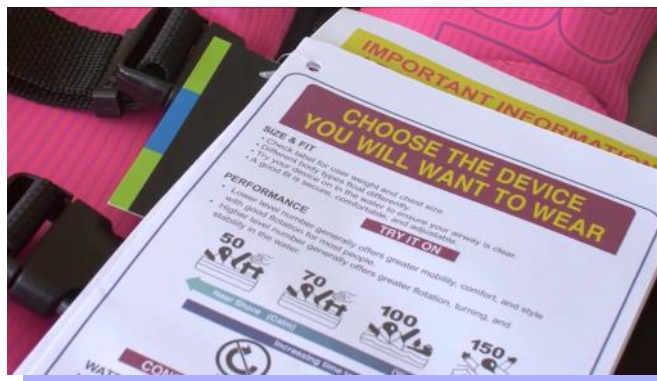
On Saturday 6 January 29 of us met at Flotilla for the Boating Activities Planning meeting. We enjoyed lots of good planning, discussion, and eats. The following boating events were planned. Many have organizers, but we are seeking champions to coordinate some of the cruises.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Organizer</u> |
|-------------|---|--|
| March 2 | Oyster Roast | Lee & Janice Ayers |
| April 5 | Spirit of Lake Murray | Fred Ruinen |
| April 20 | Shake 'N Break | Bridge |
| June 7-9 | Cooper River Cruise | Need coordinator |
| June 25 | Log Jam #1 | Fred Ruinen |
| June 22 | Martin's Landing | Tim Barnhill |
| July 12-14 | Hartwell or Lanier Cruise | Need coordinator, possibly with the Atlanta Squadron |
| Aug. 17 | Log Jam 2 | Joe Firimonte |
| Aug. 22-27 | Bald Head Cruise | Need coordinator |
| Sep. 20-22 | District 26 Cruise & Rendezvous, Tybee Squadron | Need coordinator |
| Oct. 5 | Overnight raft up | K.T. Tripathi |
| Oct. 12 | Congaree River Small Boat Cruise | David Allen |

Please contact Lt Gene Malcolm or Lt/C John Klein if you are willing to lead one of these or another boating event.

America's Boating Channel™ Understanding Life Jacket Labels

Let's start the year by getting our life jackets ready for the 2024 boating season. If you cleaned and inspected your life jackets before storing them for winter storage, you should know how many need to be replaced. Which brings us to our topic of life jacket labels. You may be unaware of the new labeling system if you have not purchased a life jacket recently. Type I, II, III and IV labeling was removed by the U.S. Coast Guard from the Code of Federal Regulations in 2014, but it is taking several years for the legacy designations to be phased out.



To help boaters understand the current labeling system, Season Four of America's Boating Channel offers the video "[Life Jacket Labels](#)" in which you are introduced to the simplified labels that contain less writing and more icons.

Regardless of your age or experience level, data shows that life jackets save lives. So don't hesitate to replace older life jackets. America's Boating Channel also produced a sequel entitled "[New Label Benefits](#)" that covers the advantages of the new life jacket labeling system. In this video, viewers learn how to interpret label icons. Also featured are tips for selecting the right life jacket for your intended on-the-water activity.

Follow the above links or visit <https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel> to find these and other safe boating videos, which are an excellent tool to help recruit participants to our educational program and to membership. Invite your friends and neighbors to watch, like and subscribe to America's Boating Channel to introduce them to what our organization has to offer.

In addition to YouTube, these professionally produced high-definition safe boating and boater education videos are available via the America's Boating Channel free, on-demand app on Apple TV, Roku or Fire TV. [America's Boating Channel™](#) is produced by the United States Power Squadrons® (USPS) under a grant from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

2023 AWARD WINNERS!



**Commander's Award
Joe Firimonte (center)**



**Golden Anchor Award
Tony Dodson (center)**



**Catch the Spirit Award
David Cook**



**Rusty Anchor Award
Mike Urquhart (right)**



**Spark Plug Award
Becky Weiler (right)**



**Bent Prop Award
Jay Page (left)**

Welcome Our New Members

Welcome aboard!

Great to have you as a member of
America's Boating Club of Lake Murray,
serving central South Carolina since 1963
as Lake Murray Power Squadron.

We hope you enjoy our educational classes, civic service
opportunities, and all the amenities the squadron has to offer.



**Cindy McConnell & Robert (Bob)
McConnell**



Not pictured – John & Susan Little



Heidi Williams

2024 – January through February Activity Schedule for LMPs Members and Invited Guests

Marine Electrical Systems Class

When-Wednesday, Jan 31, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Souper Bowl

When-Saturday, Feb 3, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

USPS Annual Meeting, Orlando, Fla

When-Feb 6 – 11, 2024

Marine Electrical Systems Class

When-Wednesday, Feb 7, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Annual Commander's Bowling Invitational

When-Saturday, Feb 10, 2024

Where-TBD

Marine Electrical Systems Class

When-Wednesday, Feb 14, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Columbia Boat Show, State Fairgrounds

When-Feb 16 – 18, 2024

Boat Handling Class

When-Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Boat Handling Class

When-Tuesday, Feb 20, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Boat Handling Class

When-Tuesday, Feb 27, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC



Marine Electrical Systems Class

When-Wednesday, Feb 28, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Oyster Roast

When-Tuesday, Mar 2, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Boat Handling Class

When-Tuesday, Mar 5, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Marine Electrical Systems Class

When-Wednesday, Mar 6, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

D/26 Spring Conference & COW

When-Mar 8 – 10, 2024

Where-Savannah Lakes Village Recreation Complex, 385 Country Club Dr, McCormick, SC 29835, USA ([map](#))

Description-Hosted by Thurmond Lake Sail and Power Squadron. Lodging at Hickory Knob State Park, Discount if register prior to 1 February 2024

Boat Handling Class

When-Tuesday, Mar 12, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Flotilla Island Workday

When-Saturday, Mar 16, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Boat Handling Class

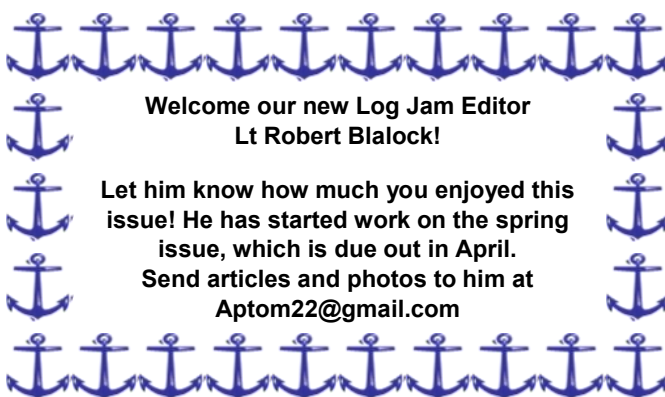
When-Tuesday, Mar 19, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC

Boat Handling Class

When-Tuesday, Mar 26, 2024

Where-Flotilla Island, 2390 Johnson Marina Rd, Chapin, SC



Lake Murray Power Squadron

P.O. Box 113, Ballentine, South Carolina 29002

2024 Bridge Officers

Commander: Cdr Joe Firimonte (commander@lmpsonline.org)

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

Administrative Officer: Lt/C John Klein (adminofficer@lmpsonline.org)

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

Assistant Educational Officer: 1st Lt Drew Byrd (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 (matla@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Tyler Williams (matlb@lmpsonline.org)

Lt K.T. Tripathi (matlc@lmpsonline.org)



Lt Robert Blalock

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**America's Boating Club of Lake Murray
is on the web:**

<http://www.lmpsonline.org>

or

<http://www.americasboatingclublakemurray.org>

