



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 62, No. 4

## Fall 2025 issue:

Welcome Aboard!

Samaritan's Purse

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Bridge Officers



## Welcome Aboard New Members!

We hope you enjoy our educational classes, civic service opportunities and squadron amenities!

**Andrew and Katrina Mullen**

**Gregg and Melissa Foster**

## Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child



Gift-filled shoeboxes are sent to children around the world to give so much joy, hope, and love to a child in need and helps put a smile on their face!

Pick up shoe boxes at the Annual Meeting on **October 18**, and drop off at the Change of Watch on **November 8**.

Need ideas? [What to put in the shoebox.](#)

Or "[Build A Box Online.](#)" Follow instructions on the Lake Murray Power Squadron page on Samaritan's website. Options are "Start Building" or "Build It For Me" and the \$30 cost per shoe box includes shipping.

If you have any questions or would like to know more, please contact Pam Burtis at (803) 530-3619 or email [ppburtis@yahoo.com](mailto:ppburtis@yahoo.com).



# Commander's Report

## By Cdr Mike Charles, AP

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Last article from me as Commander of Lake Murray Power Squadron (also known as America's Boating Club of Lake Murray) for the year of 2025 — and what a year! The very next day after becoming the Squadron Commander, eight boats and twenty-one people joined together for the "Commander's First Cruise." The boats looked great in single file as we crossed from Flotilla past Goat Island and into the big water of Lake Murray and into the brisk November breeze that would eventually bring rain. Lake Murray Power Squadron burgees were blowing in the wind and skippers were talking on the radio about where we were going to raft up. Just another day in the life of the Squadron doing what we enjoy most — BOATING!

That first cruise and moving at fast cruise speed is a great analogy to how this year has been for the Squadron and the 2025 Bridge, which has been instrumental in planning and executing what has been one of the busiest boating activities in our recent history. In addition, we have eaten a staggering amount of food to fuel these boating activities, whether cooked by our talented chefs on the island or brought from our kitchens. Campfires, song singing, boating classes, island maintenance, mowing and beautification, dock upgrades, electrical repairs, plumbing attention, gate adjustments, member meetings, planning and training gatherings, new boat purchases, old boat restorations, boat trailer upgrades, Goat Island cleanup, reference lights cruise/check/improve/replace, Thornwell Children's Home day, oyster roast, July Fourth picnic, the flag pole fixed, Vessel Safety Checks, District 26 Spring Rendezvous and Change of Watch (Hilton Head Squadron), D/26 Fall Cruise and Rendezvous (Golden Corners Squadron) .... and hundreds of other important details that keep our group the envy of District 26 and the United States Power Squadron National Bridge — just ask David Allen.

Which brings me to our members, our people — the heart of what makes our Squadron truly great has others looking and watching us to learn lessons about how to have so many members and with a higher percentage of that membership active in our programs versus just being names on a roster that are rarely if ever seen.

Simply put — a higher number of our members are seen and heard leading, teaching, participating, following, creating and making our BOATING organization better than most other sister units in the national population. The past six years of LMPS Bridge (in which I have been privileged to serve) have had many a conversation on how to identify, attract, train and maintain our members — old and new, as we continue our dynamic calendar of events.

Hence day one of being the new Commander moving at cruise speed across the water and the calendar — now comes to a celebrated end. Thank you for a great year, superb Bridge, dedicated membership, encouragement from Past Commanders, and the promise of an even better year next year in a Squadron known for being the best at BOATING!



# Executive Officer's Report

## By Lt/C John Klein, AP

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### Help Us Keep Lake Murray Safe: Check Reference Lights

We're reaching out to ask for a small favor that makes a huge difference to the safety of everyone on the water. As boaters, we all rely on the reference lights around Lake Murray, especially when navigating in low-light conditions. These aids to navigation are essential, but they occasionally burn out, get damaged, or become obscured.

You can be our eyes on the water! We're asking for your help in conducting an ongoing check on the visibility of these lights.

#### How You Can Help

This is an easy task that you can integrate into your existing time on the water. We're asking you to check the lights in your line of sight whenever you are out before sunrise for early fishing, after sunset while returning from an evening out, or even from your home if you live on the water.

When you're out, just quickly scan the lights you can see. Are they:

- Visible? (Good!)
- Out? (Needs repair.)
- Dim? (May be a sign of a dying battery or bulb.)
- Obscured? (Something might be blocking the light.)



#### Report Your Findings

Whether the light is shining brightly or completely out, please report what you see—good or bad—to the head of our team Michael Urquhart at [mdurquhart60@gmail.com](mailto:mdurquhart60@gmail.com) or [ReferenceLights@lmpsonline.org](mailto:ReferenceLights@lmpsonline.org)

Mike leads the dedicated LMPS team that tracks and repairs these signs and lights, ensuring they are functional for the entire Lake Murray boating community. Knowing that a light is working is just as important as knowing one is out!

Your few moments of observation provide an essential service to every boater on Lake Murray. Thank you for helping LMPS provide this vital function and keeping our lake safe for everyone!

Run your checks often, this is an ongoing, year round initiative.

In addition to this picture of light locations, a list of the reference lights can be found on our LMPS website <https://www.lmpsonline.org/reflights.htm>

You can also load the [Argo Nav app](#) to your smartphone. It shows the location of all the reference lights.

Wishing you safe voyages and smooth waters!



# Safety Officer's Report

By P/C Jerry Wise, SN

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## Emergency Response Procedures

Be prepared for all the unexpected boating emergencies with this handy guide generated by ChatGPT.

### Man Overboard (MOB)

- Immediately shout "Man Overboard!" to alert the crew.
- Throw a flotation device to the person in the water.
- Keep visual contact and maneuver the boat to retrieve the individual.
- Use a ladder or other means to assist the person back aboard safely.

### Fire Onboard

- Alert all passengers and confirm everyone is wearing their life jackets.
- Attempt to extinguish the fire using the appropriate fire extinguisher.
- If the fire cannot be controlled, prepare to abandon ship.
- Activate distress signals and communicate with emergency services.

### Flooding

- Activate bilge pumps to remove water. Use manual pumps or buckets if necessary.
- Locate and attempt to seal the source of the leak.
- If flooding persists, prepare to abandon ship.
- Signal for help and evacuate if needed.

### Engine Failure

- Check fuel levels and connections.
- Inspect the engine for any visible issues.
- Attempt to restart the engine following the manufacturer's guidelines.
- If unable to restart, deploy the anchor to prevent drifting.
- Use communication equipment to request assistance.

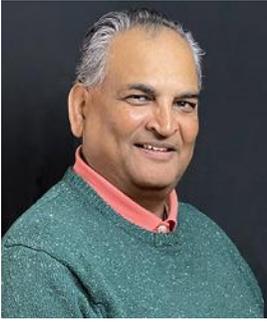
### Abandon Ship

- Gather all passengers and ensure they are wearing life jackets.
- Collect essential items: first aid kit, communication devices, and emergency supplies.
- Deploy life rafts or other flotation devices.
- Signal distress using flares or other signaling devices.
- Wait for rescue and maintain group cohesion.



## Post-Emergency Actions

- Account for All Persons:** Ensure everyone is safe and accounted for.
- Provide Medical Assistance:** Administer first aid as needed and seek medical attention for injuries.
- Report the Incident:** Notify appropriate authorities about the emergency and any actions taken.
- Assess Damage:** Evaluate the condition of the vessel and determine if it is safe to continue operation.
- Restock Supplies:** Replace any used or damaged safety equipment and supplies.
- Review Procedures:** Conduct a debrief with the crew to discuss what occurred and how to improve.



# Administrative Officer's Report

## By Lt/C K.T. Tripathi

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I would like to focus on some points I have mentioned in previous emails. Member Participation.

Our Squadron is totally reliant on member participation for the squadron to operate and be the success it is. We have lots of programming, maintenance work, operations, and so forth. It all works when members are involved. This has been a focus of ours for a long time. I have heard countless times that members did not know of a project, and were not aware of an event. I mention that communications had been sent out and the reply is "Oh I get so many emails that I did not check emails" or "I did not get the email." When an email comes out from the Squadron please open it and be informed. If you don't know how to get involved ask someone to assist you. We need members to be active members to maintain the awesome facility we have and not just dock and ramp users. This is your organization.

Get involved and be a part of your Squadron. Have a say on how it operates, maintain it, learn skills, help with civic responsibilities, meet awesome people. All by being an active member!

### October–December events

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#### October

18 — Annual Meeting, Flotilla Island

#### November

4 — Cruise Planning Course, Tuesdays for 6-8 weeks, 7 pm Jakes Landing, more info on Page 7.

8 — Change of Watch, Yacht Cove Clubhouse

9 — Commander's First Cruise

#### December

6 — Annual Christmas party, Yacht Cove Clubhouse

Check our online [calendar](#) for upcoming events.

Resources and information on our website at [LMPSonline.org](http://LMPSonline.org)

Follow us on our Members-Only Facebook page [Lake Murray Happenings | Facebook](#) for the latest news and on our public Facebook page [America's Boating Club of Lake Murray!](#)

**Together, we can continue to make our club  
a thriving and welcoming space for everyone.**



# Educational Report

## By Lt/C Brian Warman



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### Be Prepared!

As the end of boating season is upon us, we have another season that nobody wants to come and is never guaranteed to be predictable, that's hurricane season. For those of us on Lake Murray, disaster can strike just about any day in the summer from microbursts to tornados.

While crossing the lake we were hit from a microburst that reversed the upward pressure on the forward canopy, which caused the forward canopy to disengage and completely release all four connection points. The result was the forward canopy flew backward and sheared off my rear navigation light and made some minor holes and strapping failures. We were extremely lucky. After consult with the dealer, we re-evaluated the installation and operation. Now I have heavy duty straps installed from the canopy framework to the deck of the boat. If a downward pressure occurs again the straps assembly will hold. As an extra measure I plan to install pins in the connection points to slow down the release if it happens again. Moderate changes to prevent disaster. It could have been much worse if the assembly had pushed under the rear canopy into the passenger compartment.

I now examine all dual canopy boats and see if they have a safety pin on the removable connection point assembly or forward straps, and when I don't find them, I'll advise owners to look into the corrective features as the unexpected can happen quickly on a big water lake with its own weather patterns. The joke now is radar lies!

I was told when my lift was put in that when a storm is coming to put the boat high up on the lift to reduce the sway, but what I've learned lately is to lower the boat on a lift to a level above the maximum wave height. If the boat is not up high enough the water surge can cause the boat to bounce on the lift and depending on you lift to cause the cables to unspool and foul the line like on a whip back on a bait caster reel. Having the boat just above the wave surge, reduces the load weight on your lift pilings especially on heavy boats and with bigger engines. What I read from Agnew Lake Service is that this lower center of gravity reduces the pilings' fail rate. We all have seen this lake go from glass to 3-foot breakers in coves in a blink of an eye after a storm's wind wall hits.

The easiest way to help secure your boat on the lift is to add a couple of dock lines to the floating dock's pilings to reduce the sway back. Also, close and secure your canopy even if it is rated for 65 MPH or greater, the storms on this lake can go above that and come from a side or spinning rotation.

For the easy items, remove all non-permanent items that cannot be stowed in a locker or below deck or under cover. For those in the marinas or not on lifts; charge your batteries so your bilge pumps are charged and ready to operate, ensure the bilge pumps floats are free of debris. Organize your important documents, boat insurance policies and cards handy and in a dry location.

Lastly plan your boat's location — if on a floating dock add more lines, if you think you have enough add two more. If you have a trailer, think about taking your boat out of the water or getting into dry storage. Some of us may head to hurricane hole, but from what we learned this summer in high wind holding anchor in the hole can be challenging, a smaller body of water with the similar conditions to the hole might be better or a protected inlet, stream or cove may be the best option.

By following any of these steps we can reduce our stress levels and potential harm to our boats and never take for granted the manufacturer recommendations. Always look to improve or fit to the conditions, little changes and precautions can save lives, prevent injury, and minimize potential damage during unpredictable weather events and hurricane season.



# Assistant Educational Officer

## By 1st/Lt Donnie Browning, P

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I have been in the assistant educational officer role for two years now. And during that time it has become more and more clear to me how badly we need more boating education on Lake Murray. My wife and I really enjoy our time out on our Sea Ray 260 Sundancer. We regularly take our family out and hang out with other members of our squadron. And we love our overnights on the water. But there isn't a single time out when I don't think to myself, that person really needs to take a safe boating course.

So with that said, I feel I have the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives, and maybe even save a few. I want to make my home lake safer for everyone. Furthermore, I want to promote safe boating whenever possible so people will take it seriously. There have been some serious accidents on Lake Murray in recent years that have resulted in injuries and even fatalities. All of which probably could have been avoided with safe boating practices adhered to.

Squadron Educational Officer Brian Warman and I will be working hard to organize classes throughout the year so everyone will always have an opportunity to learn how to be safer on the water. From ABC class to basic boat handling to engine maintenance to navigation, it's all covered. We just need all to come together as a lake community and declare in one voice, we will not stand for anyone getting hurt on our watch.

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### Upcoming Class! Cruise Planning

CPUS covers a full range of topics a cruiser would need to address. It is one of the most practical and useful courses for day trips or months long adventures including making the Great Loop.

**Starting November 4 on Tuesday nights**

*Duration:* 6-8 weeks at 7 pm

*Cost:* \$55 includes the ebook

*Location:* Jakes Landing, 220 Jakes Landing Road  
Lexington, SC and/or join online.

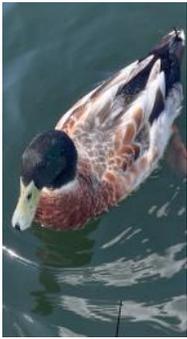


*Sign up:* Call Archie Trawick to sign up 803-603-1002 or email: [lakejake@usit.net](mailto:lakejake@usit.net)

# July – September Activity Highlights



# July – September Activity Highlights



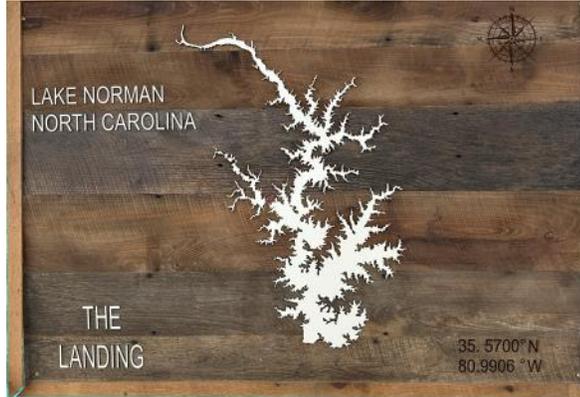
# July – September Activity Highlights



# Lake Norman Cruise July 2025



# Lake Norman Cruise July 2025



# The Ship's Store

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Many are sporting their new ABC apparel and gear! Don't be left out of cool boat and float ware! Don't see what you are looking for? We can take special orders in size or type of apparel and the sky is the limit on what is in the catalog!

**Call Heidi to see what is in stock or place an order 518-726-0003**



**Makes a great gift!**



**Treat yourself!**

America's Boating Club of Lake Murray  
is on the web:  
<https://lmpsonline.org>

## Log Jam Editor

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**Send content ideas and photos!**

Email the Editor

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America's Boating Club® of Lake Murray<sup>SM</sup>

Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as

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A Unit of the United States Power Squadrons®



## Bridge Officers

2025

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**Executive Officer:** Lt/C John Klein, AP (execofficer@lmpsonline.org)

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**Assistant Educational Officer:** 1st/Lt Donnie Browning, P  
(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)

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Lt Gene Malcolm (matlc@lmpsonline.org)

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