



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 63, No. 4

## Fall 2026 issue:

Samaritan's Purse

Officer Reports

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## Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

**Oktoberfest** on Saturday October 24 will be Kick-Off for the **Operation Christmas Child Campaign**. Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse that uses gift-filled shoeboxes to transform the lives of children around the world who are victims of war, poverty, famine, and natural disaster. The shoeboxes bring joy, hope, and love to needy boys and girls.

I want to thank the members of the Lake Murray Power Squadron for supporting this ministry for the past 9 years.

Our goal this year is **65** shoeboxes. If you choose to pack a physical box, please return the packed shoeboxes to the Change of Watch on Friday 6 November or to Flotilla Island.

Another option is to "Build A Shoebox" [online](#). It is so simple.

We want your online boxes to count in our ABC/LMPS goal so [click here](#). The cost is \$30, which includes shipping.

If you have any questions, contact Pam Burtis at:  
[ppburtis@yahoo.com](mailto:ppburtis@yahoo.com) or [803-530-3619](tel:803-530-3619)



Cdr John Klein, AP

# Commander's Report

## A Year of Dedication, Community, and Excellence

It has been an absolute honor to serve as your Commander over the past year. Looking back at everything we have accomplished together, I am deeply proud of our bridge, our committees, and every single member who steps up to make this organization such a vital part of Lake Murray.

**Strengthening Our Community & Service** Over the past year, we have significantly deepened our commitment to the Lake Murray community. Our Flotilla Island continues to serve as an invaluable resource not only for our members, but also for vital local emergency and law enforcement agencies—including the Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD), South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)—who utilize the island for essential water-based training operations.

In addition to supporting public safety, our volunteers brought energy, safety, and joy to numerous community events and organizations throughout the year:

- **Community Outreach & Events:** We proudly supported Ladies Day on the Lake, the Dam Swim, the Wacky Wednesday Foundation, and youth boating safety initiatives.
- **Thornwell Day:** Once again, everyone's favorite event was a resounding success, bringing smiles and unforgettable experiences on the water to the children and staff of Thornwell Children's Home.
- **Boating Education & Safety:** We hosted a full America's Boating Course (ABC) class with a strong turnout—including several eager youth students—and our Vessel Examiners worked tirelessly conducting over 100 Vessel Safety Checks (VSCs) to ensure local boaters remain safe on the water.
- **Fellowship & Member Connections** Beyond our community outreach: We placed a major emphasis on creating a wide variety of events and opportunities to engage and support all our members. We brought back popular traditions from the past, including our dinner speaker events, which provided wonderful evenings of educational presentations, fellowship, and great food. On the water, we stayed active with our many raft-ups and squadron cruises, bringing members together to enjoy everything Lake Murray and the area have to offer.
- A major highlight of the year was hosting the District 26 Spring Conference and Change of Watch—an event that required tremendous planning and execution, showing the rest of D/26 the unmatched hospitality and dedication of the Lake Murray Power Squadron.

### Recognized for Excellence

Our collective hard work has not gone unnoticed. This past year, the Lake Murray Power Squadron was recognized with prestigious awards from our local community, District 26, and the America's Boating Club national organization.

These honors belong entirely to you—our amazing members. Your selfless dedication, countless volunteer hours, and passion for boating safety and community service are what make all this possible. My heartfelt thanks go out to every single volunteer who lent a hand, shared their expertise, or supported an event this year.

Finally, I want to extend a special, deeply personal thank you to my Bridge officers for their steadfast leadership and guidance, and to my wife, whose unwavering love and support kept me grounded throughout this journey. I could not have fulfilled this role without you.

Thank you all for an incredible year. I look forward to seeing the Lake Murray Power Squadron continue to thrive and make a difference on and off the water!



Lt/C K.T. Tripathi

## Executive Officer's Report

### Making Lake Murray *Our* Home on the Water

Help Us Keep the Motors Running — Get Involved!

If you've read my previous articles, you know what's coming: **We need you!**

A successful Squadron relies on its members to keep things running smoothly. Right now, like many organizations, we have the "Famous 20"—the dedicated group doing almost all the heavy lifting. But those 20 members aren't hired staff; they're regular members who just want to see our Squadron thrive. It's time to mix things up, spread the love, and make an impact!

Here is why stepping up to join the Bridge, teach, or assist with events is a total win:

- **Expand Your Circle:** Meet awesome people with incredible, world-wide stories and a shared passion for boating.
- **Grow & Teach (Educational Opportunities):** Sharpen your own boating skills, swap practical knowledge, or help lead educational courses to pass on safe boating skills to others.
- **Give Back to the Community:** Use our collective boating expertise to support local waterfront safety, community outreach, and civic initiatives that make our waterways better for everyone.
- **Join the Adventure:** We just wrapped up a fantastic trip to Lake Lanier! Coming up next, we're planning a cruise through the lock system down the Cooper River into Charleston. Plus, next April, we're looking at a boat trip to Hilton Head to raft up in Calibogue Sound and watch the Heritage Golf Tournament right by the 18th hole.

Our Squadron is one of the best networking and social hubs around. Get involved, give back to our community, and help shape our upcoming trips—you'll be glad you did, and our Squadron will be stronger for it!



Lt/C Natalie Barnhill

## Administrative Officer's Report

A successful boating club is about more than boats, meetings, and events—it's about the people who make our club what it is. Our members are the heart of the club, and getting involved is one of the best ways to make your membership more enjoyable and meaningful. Whether you have been a member for years or just joined, there is a place for you.

For our new members: We encourage you to jump right in, come to events, attend meetings and volunteer for an activity. The more you participate, the more you will see what we have to offer.

To our long-time members: Your involvement makes a tremendous difference. Sharing your knowledge, welcoming new members and helping with our club activities helps keep our organization strong.

We want all our members to feel welcomed, connected and valued. So, whether you can lend a hand at an event, help with a class, volunteer for a committee, or simply show up and join in on the fun your participation matters.

Your club is not just a place to launch your boat, come get involved, have some fun and help make America's Boating Club of Lake Murray an even better place to belong.



Lt/C Brian Warman

# Educational Report

## The Future of Boating Education: Learning Beyond the Classroom

For decades, the classroom has been the cornerstone of boating education. Squadron members gathered at our facility on Lake Murray to learn navigation, seamanship, weather, marine systems, and boating safety from experienced and dedicated instructors. While this traditional model remains valuable, today's lifestyles are changing how people learn. Busy work schedules, family commitments, travel distances, and seasonal residency often make it difficult for boaters to attend regularly scheduled classroom sessions. To continue fulfilling our mission of promoting safe and competent boating, America's Boating Club is increasingly embracing e-learning and hybrid educational opportunities.

### Why E-Learning Matters

Online education provides members with the flexibility to learn when and where it is most convenient. America's Boating Club offers both instructor-led and self-paced online learning options, allowing students to select the format that best fits their lifestyles.

Some key advantages include:

- Learn at your own pace
- Study from home, the marina, or while traveling
- Review lessons as often as needed
- Eliminate travel time and scheduling conflicts
- Stay engaged during the off-season
- Access quality educational resources year-round
- Appeal to younger boaters who prefer digital learning

For many members, online learning can be the difference between taking a course and postponing it indefinitely.

### A Wide Variety of Courses

Members may be surprised by the number of boating education opportunities available online through America's Boating Club. Courses range from introductory boating safety to advanced navigation and vessel systems.

#### Boating Safety and Seamanship

- America's Boating Course
- Boat Handling
- Boating with Confidence
- Emergencies Onboard

#### Navigation

- Marine Navigation
- Introduction to Marine Navigation
- How to Use GPS
- Electronic Navigation
- AIS Electronics for Boaters

#### Weather

- Weather
- Weather for Boaters
- Marine Weather Forecasting
- Thunderstorms and Severe Weather

#### Cruising and Advanced Boating

- Cruising Under Power and Sail
- Planning Your Cruise
- Anchoring with Assurance
- Confidence in Docking and Undocking
- Cruising Boats and Systems

### **Communications and Electronics**

- All About Marine Radio
- Marine Communication Systems
- Radar for Boaters

### **Vessel Systems**

- Marine Electrical Systems
- Engine Maintenance
- Introduction to Marine Batteries

These courses provide valuable knowledge that can improve confidence, safety, and enjoyment on the water.

### **E-Learning Does Not Replace Fellowship**

One concern occasionally expressed is that online learning may reduce the social interaction that has long been a hallmark of our organization. E-learning can complement rather than replace the squadron experience.

A successful educational model for the future may include:

- Online coursework for theoretical knowledge
- Virtual discussion groups via Teams or Zoom
- In-person workshops for practical skills
- Squadron vessel tours and demonstrations
- On-the-water training activities
- Mentoring relationships between experienced and new boaters

This blended approach allows members to gain knowledge online while still enjoying the fellowship and shared experiences that make our organization unique.

Looking Ahead: As society continues to evolve, boating education must evolve with it. By embracing technology while maintaining our strong tradition of mentorship and fellowship, we can reach more boaters than ever before. The goal remains unchanged: safer, more knowledgeable, and more confident boaters. The classroom may be changing, but the mission of America's Boating Club remains as important today as it was when our organization was founded.

### **This Fall\Winter:**

- Tuesday 3 November: "Cruise Planning" will be taught by Archie Traewick, who has been using [www.FreeconferenceCall.com](http://www.FreeconferenceCall.com).
- Wednesday 27 January 27: "Marine Electrical Systems" (Jim Rakes and John Klein) will use [www.FreeconferenceCall.com](http://www.FreeconferenceCall.com).

Whether you prefer a classroom seat, a computer screen, or a day on the water, there has never been a better time to continue your boating education.

**Interested in teaching?** Contact the Education Department today! [seo@lmpsonline.org](mailto:seo@lmpsonline.org)



Lt Sarah Trawick

# Member-at-Large Report

## The Why Knott Cruise

Below are the first four days from my captain's log on The Why Knott Cruise in which P/C David Allen and I are traveling from our starting point in Colonial Beach, VA and making our way across the Chesapeake Bay, down through the Outer Banks and eventually to our final destination in Little River, SC. P/C Charlie Bruce and P/C Debra Allen made sure we made it to our launch point and back home from Little River.

### Day 1: Monday - September 14, 2026

We started our day by leaving the yard at 7:00 a.m. sharp and arrived in Colonial Beach, VA, at approximately 7:00 p.m. What started out as an 8-hour tow quickly turned into a 12-hour ordeal. I drove us the whole way here, so be proud of me! We didn't even make it to Florence before we had a tire blowout on the trailer. Not a good way to start the day, and it left us with our only spare tire now on the trailer, giving us no margin for error if we had another issue. After quickly changing the tire, we were back on the road in about 15 minutes. Well, as luck would have it, just outside of St. Pauls, NC, we had a completely different tire blowout in a construction zone. We limped off the interstate and into a gas station. After making an abundance of calls to local tire companies, we were referred to a small tire shop about 15 minutes away. I walked up to a local business owner with a utility truck and asked if he would take David to the shop to get a new tire. He agreed, and soon David was back with a freshly mounted tire.

In the meantime, Charlie's impact wrench died. Fortunately, Charlie had brought the charger, and we were able to revive it. After putting the new tire on the trailer, we took the truck back to the tire shop. Our thinking was that if two tires had already blown, the other two probably weren't far behind. The people at the tire shop were incredibly kind, and we talked to a lot of farmers while we waited. We also got the cheapest diesel we had seen all day from a vintage pump. Then we were finally back on the road. The rest of the tow was uneventful, except for stopping at what may have been the most poorly designed Love's truck stop you could imagine. And I can say for a fact the roads on I-95 in Virginia are worse than in SC. Several times I thought we had lost the boat off the trailer because the road was so rough.

Once at the marina, we raced the sunset to get the boat launched, tied up, and hooked to shore power at the dock. Debra and Charlie checked into their hotel, and we all sat down to dinner. It was a long day, but we made it!

### Day 2: Tuesday - September 15, 2026

We started out the day with the discovery that our main electrical outlet that provides 120V AC power wasn't working. That meant no coffee! After troubleshooting, we determined that it might have been a bad outlet. Luckily, the marina operator was kind enough to lend us his golf cart. Off we went for a ride through town, with a pit stop at Ace Hardware to pick up a new electrical outlet. After returning to the boat we went to work, but miraculously, it fixed itself. As it turns out, the breaker had tripped at the outlet and, apparently, we weren't pushing the reset button hard enough. Oh well...I guess we were just trying to overcomplicate things again. But with the problem solved we finally left the dock and were officially underway. We didn't even make it to the channel before a harbor vessel warned us over the radio that the Navy was conducting a live-fire exercise in the river. After some back and forth radio communication with the captain, we learned that we would need to take a scenic detour to avoid becoming chopped liver. The detour added a considerable amount of time to our journey, but eventually we were back on course. We had lunch on board and enjoyed making our way down the beautiful Potomac River toward Chesapeake Bay. David and I were both surprised by how much the Chesapeake reminded us of Lake Murray. The water is beautiful, and the weather was absolutely perfect for cruising. It was a cool 70°, and I actually needed a sweatshirt. We arrived without incident in Solomons Island, Maryland. It's a wonderfully quaint little town with countless marinas and boatyards.

We were able to snag a slip at Solomons Yachting Center. The marina was kind enough to lend us a car, so we headed into town to explore. We stopped at an interesting museum dedicated to the local crabbing and boating industries. Afterward, we relaxed for a bit before sitting down to dinner. Every so often F18's landing at the Patuxet River naval air station would fly over, they were deafening. After dinner we headed to get some ice cream; it was a fabulous way to end a very long day.

### **Day 3: Wednesday - September 16, 2026**

Today started out pretty well. It was a cool 70° and perfect for cruising. But we were out of ice, so I walked over to the marina office and paid \$22 for four 7-pound bags of ice. An amount I wasn't happy with. We left Solomons, MD and headed toward Annapolis, MD. The water was smooth and calm. We listened to Jimmy Buffett to start the morning but moved on to some rock and roll. David and I took turns at the helm as we made our way north. Along the way, we passed a giant naval fueling station. I'll admit it made me a little nervous to be out on such a large body of water where you couldn't see land on the horizon. Then, just as I was getting comfortable with that, a huge cargo ship appeared. We gave it a wide berth, but the wake it created was incredible, 6- to 8-foot rollers. We had to slow to a complete stop and let it pass. Eventually, we decided it was time for lunch. Turkey sandwiches and chips, a traditional boating lunch. As Annapolis came into view, the wind and waves picked up a little, but nothing unmanageable. It was still a gorgeous day. Soon, we arrived and radioed the marina. Our slip is right in the middle of Ego Alley, and a dockhand helped us get tied up.

I will say, *Cocktales* might be a big boat on Lake Murray, but on the Chesapeake, we are a dinghy! Once we got our bearings and hooked up to shore power, we watched as boats of every shape, size, model, and make began cruising their way through Ego Alley. It was fantastic to see. After resting for bit, we headed out to explore the city. There are small shops everywhere. I found a local hot dog shop called Pip's and got what is probably among the top three hot dogs of my life. From the shops, we made our way to the State House.

Annapolis has an incredibly rich history. This is where George Washington resigned as commander in chief of the Continental Army at the end of the Revolutionary War. It's also where the Treaty of Paris was ratified, officially ending the Revolutionary War, and where the statehouse building became America's first peacetime capital. After our little historic stop, we went back to wandering through the local shops and taking in the sights and sounds of the city. Some of those sights included the hunky midshipmen from the Naval Academy running around shirtless. We soon made our way back to *Cocktales*, to find that a giant Greenline yacht was in the process of docking behind us. So now, we are officially the smallest boat in the flotilla. David doesn't seem to mind one bit. We're currently taking a little rest, having a drink, and enjoying the view from *Cocktales*. Tonight's plan is to dinner hop (like bar hopping, except with food). There are just too many great restaurants to choose from, so we decided we might as well try a few.

### **Day 4: Thursday - September 17, 2026**

Today was a layover day in Annapolis, no planned cruising. To my annoyance, last night we walked to the marina bathhouse, which was an inconvenient two blocks away. Only to discover the gate was chained shut with a giant sign that said, "Bathhouse only open during marina hours." None of the staff had told us this, and I was not a happy camper. And when I say "bathhouse," I use that term loosely. The showers were actually in a trailer with a few shower stalls. So, this morning we had to get up and do the walk-of-shame through the city, each of us carrying all our shower supplies. Thankfully, we made it back to the boat freshly cleaned and ready to go about our business. We headed to breakfast at a place called Chick & Ruth's. I had the two-egg and bologna breakfast, while David had the sausage and cheese omelet.

While we were sitting there talking about our trip, we apparently pricked the ears of two Brits sitting next to us. They were doing a long road trip by car and started asking us about the best places to visit in the Outer Banks. I emailed them our cruise itinerary and told them there was one place they absolutely had to visit: Southport, NC. After breakfast, we walked around the city for a while before heading back toward the boat. We decided to visit the Naval Academy, which was only a few blocks away. After a little struggle getting through the entrance, we finally made it onto campus and headed to the chapel. The chapel was absolutely breathtaking, David observed, "I'm pretty sure God hangs out here."

From there, we went to the Naval Academy Museum. No midshipmen running around shirtless, apparently, they can only do that in town and not on campus. The museum showcased a detailed history of the birth of the Navy, all the way to its involvement in the events of 9/11. We spent a couple of hours walking through the museum before heading back into town for lunch at Pip's Hotdogs. After getting back to the boat, I decided I wanted to try the Thai restaurant up the street, so I ordered some pad Thai, which was delicious. Between all the walking, good food, and exploring, it's been a lazy kind of day so far. We are currently sitting down to dinner at McGarvey's. It was so good yesterday that we had to visit again today.

*Follow the adventures of The Why Knott Cruise on our Facebook page at*  
<https://www.facebook.com/AmericasBoatingClubLakeMurray/>

# America's Boating Channel Releases New Video on Boat Launch Ramp Etiquette

*RALEIGH, N.C., September 22, 2026* — With busy boat ramps often crowded with boaters eager to get on the water, America's Boating Channel has released a new video offering practical tips for launching and retrieving boats safely, efficiently and courteously.

The new "Boat Launch Ramp Etiquette" video addresses common situations boaters encounter at public launch ramps and demonstrates simple ways to help keep the launch process moving while reducing congestion and frustration.

The video encourages boaters to prepare their boats and equipment before reaching the ramp, be aware of other boaters and follow good ramp etiquette. Taking a few minutes to prepare away from the launch area can help prevent delays and allow everyone to get on the water more quickly.

"Boat ramps can become especially busy on weekends and holidays," said America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons Chief Commander Mike Wiedel. "Knowing what to do before you reach the ramp, and being considerate of other boaters, makes the experience better for everyone."

The video is part of America's Boating Channel's continuing effort to provide boaters with practical, easy-to-understand information that promotes safe and responsible boating and is available for free viewing at America's Boating Channel YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@AmericasBoatingChannel/videos>) or on the free on-demand app on Roku or FireTV.

America's Boating Channel is produced by America's Boating Club® | United States Power Squadrons®, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting safe boating through education, civic service, and fellowship. For more information about America's Boating Channel and its boating safety resources, visit [AmericasBoatingChannel.com](https://AmericasBoatingChannel.com).



*You don't usually encounter an "empty" ramp. Taking a few minutes to prepare away from the launch area can help prevent delays and allow everyone to get on the water more quickly.*



# July-September Highlights

















We sure do eat a lot!

# October-December Activities

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## For ABC/Lake Murray Members and Invited Guests

(All activities at Flotilla Island unless otherwise noted)

### October

3-4 — Cooper River Cruise

9— Reference Light Cruise

14— Flotilla Island Clean up

16-18— D26 Cruise and Rendezvous, St. Simons Island

24—LMPS Annual Meeting

### November

3—Cruise Planning Class, Jake's Landing and Online

6—Change of Watch, Yacht Cove Clubhouse

7—Commander's Cruise

### December

4 — Holiday Party, Yacht Cove Clubhouse

13— Cookie Exchange

20— Frostbite Cruise

### **2027 SNEAK PEAK**

### January

4 — Marine Electrical Systems starts – see education page for details

# Member Benefit:

## New Affinity Boat Insurance Program

America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons is pleased to announce an important change to your member benefits. After a thorough review of our previous affinity boat insurance program, we have transitioned to a new partner—Core Insurance Group—to provide a stronger, more flexible, and more competitive insurance experience for our members.

This change reflects our commitment to delivering meaningful value, rewarding membership, boating education, and supporting you with benefits that align with the way members boat today.

### Why We Made This Change

Our previous insurance partner is now under new ownership and is no longer able to provide the level of benefit originally intended. As a result, many members are not receiving the full value they have earned through their training and commitment to safer boating.

To better serve our membership, we sought a partner capable of offering:

- More competitive pricing
- More flexible coverage options
- Stronger recognition of boating education
- A broader selection of carriers.

Core Insurance Group meets all these needs—and more.

### A Multi-Carrier Advantage

Core Insurance Group provides access to multiple marine insurance carriers, allowing you to compare options and choose a policy that fits your vessel, your boating style, and your budget.

### Simplified Survey Requirements for Many Older Boats

For many boats meeting the following criteria, a vessel survey may not be required, subject to carrier underwriting guidelines:

- Over 20 years old
- Valued under \$100,000
- This can remove a major barrier and make switching easier and more affordable.

### Support for USPS Instructors

Core Insurance Group has worked with its participating carriers to provide additional insured status for USPS where applicable for qualifying instructor policies. This strengthens protection for our volunteers and supports our education mission. Core Insurance Group also will provide support to USPS programs and member services.

Additionally, Core Insurance Group will market the program to their existing boat-owner customers, introducing America's Boating Club to a wider audience of boaters, adding brand recognition, and driving membership at all levels.

### A Valuable Membership Benefit

Participation in the Core Insurance Group affinity program requires membership in America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons, making this a valuable tool for both member recruitment and member retention. Boaters who want access to competitive multi-carrier insurance options, along with available education-based discounts and underwriting credits where applicable, will need to join and remain part of America's Boating Club | United States Power Squadrons.

This strengthens our community, expands our reach, and reinforces the value of membership.

Send a request to receive your quote within 48 hours: [Request a Quote](#).

# The Ship's Store

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**Great gifts  
or  
treat yourself!**



Many are sporting their new ABC/LM 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**



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## Log Jam Editor

**Send content ideas and photos!**

Email the Editor

Lt Diane Urban at

[baysidedi@gmail.com](mailto:baysidedi@gmail.com)



Articles, opinions, and advertisements do not necessarily reflect America's Boating Club/USPS policy or endorsements.



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*Serving Central South Carolina since 1963 as*  
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## 2026 Executive Committee

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**Commander:** Cdr John Klein, AP (commander@lmpsonline.org)

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

**Educational Officer:** Lt/C Brian Warman (seo@lmpsonline.org)

**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)

**Past Commander:** P/C Mike Charles, AP (pastcdr@lmpsonline.org)

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

Lt Joe Troutwine, S (matla@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Dennis Rankin, S (matlc@lmpsonline.org)

Lt Sarah Trawick (matlb@lmpsonline.org)



### **Stay Informed, Stay Connected!**

Follow us on [Lake Murray Happenings | Facebook](#), our Members Only Facebook page, so you know where to meet for scheduled or unscheduled events and raft-ups.

Wednesday is Check Your Email Day!  
Not getting emails?

Reach out to Becky Weiler at  
[secretary@lmpsonline.org](mailto:secretary@lmpsonline.org)

Visit our website at:  
<https://lmpsonline.org>