



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. 1

## Winter 2026 issue:

EMPTY SPOT

Stay Informed, Stay Connected

Officer Reports

◆ Commander

◆ Executive

◆ Safety

◆ Administrative

◆ Education

Member At Large article

Vessel Safety Checks

5 Reasons to Take A Boater  
Safety Course in the Winter

Change of Watch

Past Events Highlights

Holiday Party

Upcoming Events

Ship's Store

Bridge Officers

## You put the Power in the Squadron.

**How?** By recommending friends, co-workers, neighbors, relatives, acquaintances become a member! Know someone who loves to boat, meet new people with similar interests and get involved? Send them [this link](#) to apply to be a member!

Do you belong to a HOA community, club, church or service group, and want us to make a presentation about America's Boating Club membership? Email Diane Urban, [baysidedi@gmail.com](mailto:baysidedi@gmail.com)

## Stay Informed, Stay Connected!

Follow us on our Members Only Facebook page [Lake Murray Happenings | Facebook](#) so you know where to meet for scheduled, informal 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)

Power Squadron website:

<https://lmpsonline.org>

[The Resilience Group](#) was created to promote friendship and personal growth. Connecting with others including activities, crafts, shows and events and community service. [Join](#) today!



# Commander's Report

## By Cdr John Klein, AP

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### **A New Horizon: Charting Our Course for 2026**

To my fellow members of the Lake Murray Power Squadron, It is a profound honor to step into the role of Commander for the coming year. As I look out across the sparkling waters of Lake Murray, I don't just see a beautiful place to boat; I see a community of dedicated mariners, lifelong learners, and true friends.

Our Squadron has a long-standing tradition of excellence in boating safety and education, but what truly makes us "The Best Squadron in ABC" is you. Your passion, your volunteer hours, and your shared love for the water are the engines that drive this organization forward.

### **Hosting the District 26 Change of Watch**

Before we get too far into our summer cruises, we have a monumental opportunity to showcase our hospitality. On the last weekend of March, Lake Murray Power Squadron will be the host for the District 26 Change of Watch.

This is our chance to shine! We will be welcoming squadron members from across the region to our home. It's more than just a ceremony; it's a moment to demonstrate why Lake Murray is a premier destination and why our Squadron is a leader in the District. We want our guests to leave impressed by our professionalism, our warmth, and our unmatched lake spirit. I'll be calling on all of you to help us put our best foot forward as we host this prestigious event.

### **What Else is on the Horizon?**

This year, we aren't just maintaining the status quo—we are setting a course for growth and renewed energy:

- **Educational Outreach:** We're offering training to ensure every boater on Lake Murray feels confident behind the wheel, that will be the focus of our booth at the Columbia Boat Show.
- **A Robust Social Calendar:** From raft-ups to cruises to dinners, we are creating more opportunities for us to connect, enjoy the water, and celebrate.
- **Vessel Safety Checks (VSC) Initiative:** We are aiming for a record-breaking year of safety checks. Our goal is to be the visible leaders in safety on the water.
- **Community Partnership:** We will strengthen our ties with local organizations to ensure Lake Murray remains a safe environment for everyone.

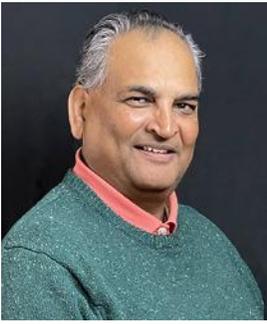
### **We Can't Do It Without You**

A squadron is only as strong as its crew. Whether you are a seasoned navigator or a new member looking to get your feet wet, there is a place for you to contribute. We are looking for volunteers to help with the District event in March, committee assignments, and mentoring our newer boaters.

The success of the Lake Murray Power Squadron isn't defined by the Commander; it's defined by the collective spirit of its members. I am incredibly excited to work alongside each of you.

"The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails." — William Arthur Ward

Let's adjust our sails together and make 2026 our best year yet. I'll see you on the water!



# Executive Officer's Report

By Lt/C K.T. Tripathi

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As the new Executive Officer, one of my primary areas of focus will be increasing member involvement within the Squadron. This includes participation across many areas such as education, activities, and events. Member involvement goes beyond simply attending events—it also means helping plan, organize, and support them. Active participation not only enriches the individual member's experience but is also essential to the long-term success of our Squadron.

In future articles, I will highlight the importance of member involvement and share ideas on how we can move forward, incorporating feedback and input from fellow members. We will explore the journey from why members initially joined the Squadron to how they can become active participants in Squadron activities.

One of the most common reasons members give for not participating is, "I didn't know." To address this, we need to step back and focus on how we share information and where members can find it. Communication can take many forms, including strategically placed pamphlets, mailed letters, and in-person conversations. While email remains a useful tool, we must recognize that it is not always the most effective way to reach everyone.

We have done a commendable job engaging younger members, but there is still more work to be done, and this will be an additional focus moving forward. Member involvement is a challenge faced by nearly every organization, and our Squadron is no exception. I firmly believe that strong programming attracts participation, and overall, we do a good job in this area. The challenge lies in reaching those members who are less active—reminding them of the value of membership and the benefits of becoming involved.

We must also ensure that members are aware of the resources available to them and understand where to find information independently. Reading Squadron communications in full is essential. While we already make efforts in these areas, I believe it is important to explore new methods and approaches to increase engagement.

I have already discussed these ideas with several Bridge members, who share this vision. Greater member involvement leads to a stronger, more successful Squadron—and that is the goal I will be working toward.



# Safety Officer's Report

By P/C Jerry Wise, SN

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## Boat Jumping

There are two lines of thought here. One involves jumping from a boat onto a dock as it approaches for a docking. The other is a TikTok trend jumping off a boat at high speeds for an exciting "Reel" opportunity.

The first example happened as a chartered fishing boat was leaving the City Marina dock in Charleston. Apparently an elderly man was chartering his boat and had a captain and crew member on board. A friend and I helped them get out of the slip but the owner seemed a bit peeved we were helping. Fine. A good Power Squadron member will always lend a hand... wanted or not. Later, it just so happened my friend and I were walking back along the dock when the charter boat returned. The passengers were all in a mighty fine spirit from the beverages provided and having a big time. The captain backed the large fishing boat into the slip and was about 3 feet off the dock at the stern. While we watched the owner (quite feeble because of obvious age) coiled the stern line and, instead of handing it to us to secure, took a quick run across the back of the boat, stepped up on the rail and jumped for the dock. Surprisingly he made it. He came down solidly on both feet looking good. But his leg muscles could not handle the shock loading and he collapsed. Down he went face first onto and across the dock.

We tried to help him up but still running his pride thing he jerked away from us and slowly stood. Quite the mess but standing on his own. He tied off the boat and saw his guests off in a shaken but honorable manner.

Jumping from a boat to a dock may well end as this one did with no serious harm done. The leap was perfect but the jumper was not up to the landing. Its always best to let the boat nudge the dock or be very close and step over onto the dock. Jumping is an open invitation to serious injuries. Face plants, twisted ankles, broken bones and being caught between the dock and the boat are all possible. Take a little extra time to be on the safe side.

Running a boat at high speed and jumping out. There are accounts of four people dying doing this in Alabama. Even more suffered injuries like broken necks (instant death) and other injuries. Anyone who has ever water-skied and went down hard in a turn can tell you the water can be like hitting concrete. The faster you go the harder it is and consequently much more dangerous. This seems to be a trend among the very young.

About the only thing you can say about this show off bit is don't. It has too many ways it won't turn out good.



# Administrative Officer's Report

## By Lt/C Natalie Barnhill

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### Who says boating season ends when the weather cools down?

On December 21, (winter solstice) Lake Murray Power Squadron proved that even a chilly day on the water can be full of warmth, especially when Santa is onboard.

It was a simple idea but turned into a powerful one. A short cruise to a local restaurant turned into a magical holiday moment between our members and local children who were just having lunch with their families. A reminder to us all that boating is about community as much as it is about the water.

A smiling Santa, a few decorated boats, hot chocolate, and members bundled up to celebrate the Christmas season made this boating activity a jolly good time.





# Educational Report

## By Lt/C Brian Warman

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I hope you enjoyed the winter season and holidays. With longer days ahead, it's time to prepare for boating activities.

Please take this opportunity to review engine and boat maintenance, including hull inspections and charging marine radios and batteries. Resources on these topics are available through online seminars and virtual classes.

Crew readiness is equally important. I've included a seminar link for [Crew at the Helm](#) (\$34.95) which covers VHF radio communication, emergency procedures, signaling equipment, first aid, and engine operation. A related [YouTube link](#) on PWC overboard and rollovers is also provided.

The Lake Murray Power Squadron Educational Department recently offered Cruising Under Power/Sail via virtual format; students have until March 22, 2026, to complete exams. Additional East Coast classes are accepting registrations.

**Upcoming Classes:** For registration details, please refer to the provided links.

### Marine Navigation

- Feb 2, 2026, 7 PM | Contact: Robert Rayburn | \$75 | [Classroom & Virtual](#)
- Mar 18, 2026, 7 PM | Contact: Barbara A. Spraggins | \$75 | [Classroom & Virtual](#)

### Boat Handling

- March 4, 2026, 7 PM | Contact: James E. Rudolph | \$80 | [Classroom & Virtual](#) (Google Meet)
- May 7, 2026, 7 PM | Contact: Barbara A. Spraggins | \$70 | [Virtual](#)

### Weather

- March 11, 2026, 7 PM | Contact: James P. Zeigler | \$55 | [Virtual](#) (Zoom)

**ABC Course** - Requires both days to complete

- April 18 & 25 morning 9-1 [Dates and Registration](#)

If you have any questions about current and future educational opportunities, please reach out to [seo@lmpsonline.org](mailto:seo@lmpsonline.org)

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you in class or on the water soon!



# Member-at-Large Report

By Lt Sarah Trawick

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## The First Adventure of the New Year

On Monday 5 January, David Allen and I took off on our first adventure of the new year. The plan? Tow our center console, Bad Alibi, to the Intracoastal Waterway (ICW) in Little River and have a good time. We left Columbia early in the morning while the fog was still thick and our coffee still hot. During the drive, we started putting together a list of all the work that needs to be done on the boats in our fleet: adding a second battery to my Regal, fixing the trim tabs on our Grady-White, doing trailer maintenance, etc. As any prudent boater knows, the list of work to be done on your boat is never-ending, or as David says, “Everything on your boat is broken—you just don’t know it yet!” An intimidating thought for a new boat owner—I just bought my first boat in 2025! But back to our latest adventure.

Our tow to Little River was long and uneventful, but I’ve learned that any uneventful trip while towing a boat is a good one. We finally reached the Bucksville Boat Ramp at Socastee Landing Park where we launched Bad Alibi. David backed the truck down while I drove the boat, which is our usual routine. By 1p.m., we were underway and couldn’t have asked for a better day on the ICW; the conditions were perfect.

There was absolutely no wind, and the water was calm. It was a very warm 67 degrees. On our adventures, David and I always try to establish a mission for the day. The mission? Enjoy lunch at Wacca Wache Marina, where we could get a tasty frozen piña colada!

The stretch between Little River and Charleston is arguably one of the prettiest along the ICW. As we made our way down the channel, the beauty of coastal South Carolina revealed itself to us. Osprey nests perched high in the cypress trees seemed to be everywhere you looked, Spanish moss draped among the branches, and the salty breeze felt like it could heal any ailment deep in the soul. After about an hour-and-a-half cruise, we arrived at Wacca Wache Marina.

While approaching the dock, David pointed out the giant dumpster in the parking lot, and our spirits sank, they were closed for maintenance! With nowhere open within 25 miles in either direction to snag a bite of lunch, we were stumped as to what to do. The original mission was shelved, and we established a new one: explore the creeks around us while surviving on some emergency snacks I usually keep in my bag.

As we cruised along, we explored everything we could around us, including Laurel Hill Island, Prince Creek, and Silvers Creek. While idling down Silvers Creek, a giant fallen tree blocked our path. We shut off the motor and, using a boat hook, pulled ourselves across the sunken tree. It felt like being a thousand miles from nowhere. With not a cloud in the sky, there was no argument—it was a gorgeous day.

But the day was getting short, and not wanting to be on the water in the cold and dark, we headed back to the truck and trailer. After towing the boat to the storage yard, we headed out for the best Italian food in North Myrtle Beach: Pizzelli’s. It may look like a hole in the wall, but don’t be fooled because you’ll experience some of the best service and most delicious food around. After supper, we headed back to Surcee, David and Debra’s motor yacht in Little River, anticipating day two of our trip.

*Continued on next page...*

*The First Adventure of the New Year continued...*

Once Tuesday's fog burned off, and we picked up coffee and breakfast, we were ready for another day's adventure. On a side note, we had replaced the fuel sender in our boat because it had quit working. Yet, it appeared perpetually stuck on full, so we decided just to be sure and stop for gas, even though we were convinced the tank was full. Well, 20 gallons and \$100 later, the tank was full. Take note of our mistake! Don't assume you've fixed something before testing it. Thankfully, we decided to stop, and avoided an issue.

As we trailed down to Wacca Wache Marina, we established the mission for the day: eat a delicious lunch at Buzz's Roost in Georgetown. Once the boat was back in the water, we fired up the engine and headed South, excited to see what the day would bring. Cruising down the waterway was much different than the previous day—it was windy. The wind made the temperature feel colder than it truly was, but we persevered. Lunch awaited. In about two hours, we arrived in Georgetown and enjoyed delicious blackened mahi sandwiches.

David and I have a routine when we adventure together: we talk. We swap stories and share our opinions on life, politics, and whatever else is going on in the world. David is a Boomer, and I'm a Gen Z, so our perspectives are often different, but that's part of what makes those conversations so special. Hearing how someone from a different generation sees life and learning from the experiences they've had is something I truly value. Over the past year, both of us have lost important people in our lives. Loss has a way of putting things into perspective, and it's been a tough reminder that tomorrow isn't promised. Nothing in life is guaranteed and even taking a single day for granted feels like a mistake once you've been reminded of that truth. I'm incredibly thankful for the chance to get out and adventure, and even more thankful to have a trusted friend like David by my side. But onto happier subjects!

We left Georgetown and decided to return via a different route along the Pee Dee River. While cruising, a giant white house suddenly rose out of the marsh, which is part of the Samworth Wildlife Management Area.

We stopped to stretch our legs and explore. It was home to some of the biggest oak trees I have ever seen! According to the DNR website, Samworth WMA was a gift to South Carolina sportsmen from Thomas G. Samworth and the original 500 acres have been increased to over 1,500 acres through state acquisitions. Once again, though, the day was getting short, and we needed to get off the water before dark. We cruised back to Wacca Wache and, without incident, trailed the boat out of the water—an incredible finish to a stunning adventure. Being part of the Lake Murray Power Squadron is a gift I cherish; it's not something that everyone has the privilege of experiencing, and it's something I greatly appreciate. Adventuring through coastal South Carolina has a way of reminding me of all of this. The opportunity to be out on the water, surrounded by the natural beauty of the ICW, cruising down winding rivers like the Great Pee Dee River, slows everything down. Seeing the natural beauty of our state makes me reflect on my life and puts a lot of things into perspective. Time marches on; it doesn't wait, and the water keeps carrying you forward whether you're ready or not. It reminds me that the best way to appreciate the gift of life we've been given is to take every opportunity for adventure possible. To not push off an opportunity but to grab hold of it and never let go.

For me, the cruises that David and I go on aren't just about reaching a destination. They're a reminder to appreciate the present and the people beside you. Cruising the ICW in South Carolina feels like a different world, and most people will never see it. I've come to have a deep appreciation for the state we live in, as well as good company. So why don't we schedule a squadron cruise from Little River to Georgetown? We could even trailer to Georgetown where, David tells me, we could easily find slips for the cruisers in our group while those with smaller boats have walkable hotel options. It would be an incredible adventure, and there's no better way to experience it than together. I'd love to see who might be interested in joining.

**Let's go boating!**



# Vessel Safety Checks (VSC)

## Volunteer Opportunity!

We are looking for members to become certified Vessel Safety Check inspectors.

We host or help with community VSC checks annually.

Members of America's Boating Club of Lake Murray participate as certified inspectors in the nationwide Vessel Safety Check Program, offered by the United States Power Squadrons, which is America's Boating Club, and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

This effective, proactive and preventative safety program is unique to the recreational boating community. It insures that key marine safety equipment is present, is within prescribed functional limits, and is compliant with federal, state, and local regulations.

The Vessel Safety Check Program provides the certified inspectors an opportunity to discuss with the recreational boater, the purpose of the marine safety equipment, to clarify various federal, state, and local regulations, to emphasize specific safety procedures and practices, to answer any boating related questions and to encourage additional boater education.

During an examination the VSC inspector will look at:

- Registration and vessel numbers**
- Navigation lights**
- Anchor & line**
- Life Jackets**
- Fire extinguishers**
- Sound producing device**
- Flame arrestors and ventilation (if required)**
- No oil in bilge**
- General safe boat condition**

Inspector certification is completed online. For more information about the online training, contact Brian Warman at [seo@lmpsonline.org](mailto:seo@lmpsonline.org). After a volunteer completes the online training, he or she will work with Lake Murray's VSC Chair Dennis Rankin to arrange five supervised vessel safety inspections. Those interested in volunteering for this vital community service should contact Dennis at [vsc@lmpsonline.org](mailto:vsc@lmpsonline.org).

# 5 Reasons to Take a Boat Safety Course This Winter

Winter may feel like the off-season for boating, but it makes for the perfect time to sharpen your boating skills and expand your knowledge. Whether you are new to boating or have many years of experience, here are five great reasons why taking a boating safety course in the winter is beneficial.

## 1. Prepare for a Safer Boating Season

A boating safety course can equip you with the knowledge that is needed to handle a wide range of on-the-water situations. Whether it's navigation, weather awareness, or responding to emergencies. You will learn how to prevent accidents and operate your vessel safely while following boating laws. America's Boating Club offers Coast Guard approved boating safety courses that can help meet state and federal boating education requirements.

## 2. Refresh and Improve Your Skills

Even seasoned boaters will benefit from a boating safety course refresher. Regulations and best practices evolve over time and taking a boater safety course will keep you up to date. Review important topics such as:

- Marine Navigation and Rules of the Road
- Communication Protocols
- Safety Gear Requirements
- Emergency Procedures

## 3. Convenient Learning Options

Winter is an ideal time to learn from the comfort of your home. With today's modern technology, you can take an online boater safety course that fits directly into your schedule. America's Boating Club offers flexible online boating safety courses that cover everything from boat handling to emergency procedures.

## 4. Save Money and Meet Insurance Requirements

Insurance companies may offer a discount to boat owners who have completed a boating safety course required by the state. This can mean that investing a few hours throughout your winter can help save money on your policy all year long.

## 5. Join a Community of Knowledgeable Boaters

When you enroll in one of America's Boating Club's boater safety courses, you're joining a community of boaters who are passionate about boating safety and having a good time out on the water. Our courses don't just teach boating safety but they connect you with others who also enjoy learning, exploring, and growing in the boating community.

From local classes to online opportunities, you will find the supportive boating community to build your skills with all year round.

## Get Started This Winter with America's Boating Club

Don't wait for spring to start learning with a boating safety course. Take a Coast Guard approved boating safety course this winter with America's Boating Club. Be fully prepared for the spring boating season to enjoy a safe and confident boating experience.

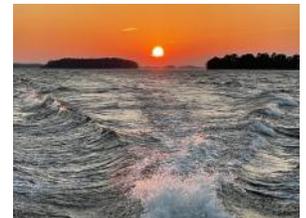
Explore in-person and online boater safety courses today! Make this winter count, making you a smarter and safer boater!

Don't wait for spring to start learning. Taking a boating safety course this winter to build the confidence you need!

# Change of Watch



# October-December Event Highlights



# Holiday Party & Awards



# January-March Activities

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## For ABC/Lake Murray Members and Invited Guests

(All activities at Flotilla Island unless otherwise noted)

### January

- 17— Boating Activities Planning Meeting
- 24 — Chicken Bog
- 31— Operation Hamburger to Help the Homeless

### February

- 1— CPR Class
- 7 — Chili Bowl
- 9-15 — ABC/USPS Annual Meeting, Myrtle Beach
- 20-22 — Boat Show at the State Fairgrounds
- 21—Island Cleanup 9 am
- 28 — Oyster Roast

### March

- 5-8 — Camping/Boating at Dreher Island, come by RV, boat or car
- 13 — First Flotilla Friday — Irish potluck 5:30 pm
- 14 — Commanders Bowling Tournament 2-4 pm
- 15— Island Cleanup 2-5 pm
- 21— March Striper fishing sunrise until 9 am
- 20-22 — Georgetown Cruise (Sarah Trawick)
- 27-29 — D/26 Spring Conference and Change of Watch

# The Ship's Store



**Makes a great gift or  
treat yourself!**



Many are sporting their new ABCLM 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**



## Log Jam Editor

**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

2026

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**Secretary:** Lt/C Becky Weiler (secretary@lmpsonline.org)

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