

Lake Murray Mariner

Newsletter Publication of U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray, SC

MAY 2020



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray, South Carolina
www.uscgaux-lakemurray.com
Flotilla Island, Johnson Marina Road, Chapin, SC





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Public Affairs
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Vice Commander
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LAKE MURRAY MARINER

Editor Barbara Burchfield

LAKE MURRAY MARINER is the official newsletter of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 and is intended as a publication to keep the membership apprised of the activities of the Auxiliary. All articles and photographs submitted must be consistent with the policies of the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary and may not be returned.

Personal information of members is protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. The use of these rosters, addresses and telephone numbers on any computer or online service including the Internet is prohibited by the Act.

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On the cover: Coast Guard photo with graphics by Rafael Baez, District 7 RBS Committee, developed for National Safe Boating Week social media messaging.

HONOR ♦ RESPECT ♦ DEVOTION TO DUTY



Lake Murray Mariner



CLAY GOODWIN, Flotilla Commander



Hello Shipmates!

I hope this note finds you all in good health.

The social distancing concept can and does cause one physical and mental hardships. I want to encourage you to use your resources, catchup with family and friends via the phone. We now have technology that will allow you to see each other using your mobile device or computer. My family is on a conference call almost every day with friends and family. I spend my entire day teaching via Microsoft teams. And don't forget you have shipmates in the same predicament that you are in - call them as well.

Fresh air and exercise are also important to your wellness. You can get out and walk around your neighborhood or one of the empty school parking lots - I am sure your dog would appreciate this. Now that the boat ramps have been reopened, we can once again enjoy boating and fishing, and still observe physical distancing and group restrictions that are in effect.

Some good news is that Flotilla 12-3 has received a donation from a stranded boater in appreciation for the assistance they received from our boat crews in March. We will put that to good use in our surface operations program.

I encourage all members to do online training courses during this down time. John Bradley, FSO-HR/MS, has advertised a training challenge to members with a prize for the most classes completed. Turn of the television and enrich your knowledge.

There is a great deal of uncertainty with this virus. All I can say is that we will get out of this a much stronger, even smarter country. I wish you all well and I am here for you as well.



Bob Falsetti, Flotilla Vice Commander

We are facing another challenge this year with the coronavirus pandemic, something we must take seriously, not only for ourselves, but for everyone. During this time of restricted activities, we are still planning for National Safe Boating Week using all kinds of technology, including teleconferencing, social media, video productions, and new graphic images.

Please be reminded that the Coast Guard and Auxiliary national leadership will determine when we are authorized to conduct normal activities.

Because of the stand down, there will be a big push this year to ensure all members remain certified as Instructors, Program Visitors, Vessel Examiners, Boat Crew members, etc. We'll also be training for a triennial Qualification Exam for several Boat Crew members before year end. Refresh your skills by reading and studying for these recertifications.



AUXILIARY ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY	Calvin Bowen	5 years
JANUARY	Hiroko Bowen	5 years
FEBRUARY	Susan Ecklund	10 years
MARCH	Robert Falsetti	5 years
MAY	Roger Deaton	25 years
JULY	Philip Ryder	5 years
AUGUST	Mike Mikutaitis	15 years
OCTOBER	Barbara Burchfield	15 years
OCTOBER	Festus Burchfield	15 years



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STAYING ENGAGED



[DISTRICT 7 FAMILY FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Private FB page for USCG and Auxiliary members.
Sign in required to join.



[NEW Vessel Exam Practice Test](#)

The practice test is a great tool for members wanting to become a vessel examiner and should be taken before attempting the on-line exam. It is also a great refresher for existing vessel examiners.



[NEW AUXDATA Training Videos](#)

For all you geeks out there, a sneak peak at the new AUXDATA II system, not yet released!



[District 7 Paddle Sports Train-the-Trainer](#)

May 8, May 22 or June 5 from 1800-1930
Join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/730877717>



AUXLMS
<https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/>

T-DIRECTORATE TRAINING
<http://www.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=T-DEPT>

ONLINE CLASSROOMS
[Course catalog & classrooms](#)

NATIONAL TESTING CENTER
<http://ntc.cgaux.org/>

PROGRAM VISITORS & VESSEL EXAMINERS
[Exam Information](#)

BOAT CREW
[To Become Qualified](#)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
[To Become Qualified](#)

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TIPS FOR NAVIGATING SOCIAL DISTANCING RESTRICTIONS WHILE BOATING

April 7, 2020 National Safe Boating Council

COVID-19 is forcing everyone to navigate uncharted waters, including boaters. Many people are wondering if they can go boating, who they can boat with, and where they can go once they leave the dock. Unfortunately, there is no simple answer as many states have issued Stay-at-Home orders, with some prohibiting outdoor recreation and recreational boating, and permitted in others. The United States of America are in a public health crisis, and it is critical that guidance is followed. As responsible boaters, it is important to understand that the primary purpose of Stay-at-Home orders is to limit the spread of the virus. Risking unnecessary exposure is not just a hazard for you – it puts law enforcement, emergency responders, seniors, and vulnerable populations in danger.

Here are some tips for practicing social distancing and safety while boating:

1. Follow state and local guidance from public health officials, marine law enforcement agencies, department of natural resources, park services and others. For example, some areas prohibit powerboating while allowing paddling (e.g. kayak, SUP, canoe) as exercise. Check with your state and local community for the latest advisory as information changes daily.
2. Limit the people aboard your boat to people in your immediate household. No guests, no friends, no grandparents that don't live in your house, you get it.
3. Stay at least six feet away from other people who do not live in your house.
4. Maintain safe distance at the fuel dock or loading up at the marina.
5. After touching a marine gate, fuel pump or something someone else may have touched, wash your hands or use a hand sanitizer to disinfect them.
6. Don't raft up to other boaters or pull up onto a beach next to someone else as it could put you in close proximity to others. Some states are requiring 50 feet between vessels.
7. Go right from your house to the boat and back to avoid unnecessary contact with anyone.
8. Wear a life jacket when you're on the water. You never know when an accident may happen, and a life jacket can help save you until search and rescue assets can arrive.
9. Carry all required boating safety equipment such as flares, navigation light, a horn or whistle, a first aid kit. Learn more about required equipment.
10. File a float plan. Make sure a friend or loved one knows the details of your trip in the event of an emergency.
11. Pack food, water and other things you may need as restaurants and marina stores may not be open.
12. Maintain proper handwashing.
13. Be sure to have at least two communication devices that work when wet, such as satellite phones, emergency position indicating radio beacons (EPIRB), VHF radios and personal locator beacons (PLB). Cell phones are not reliable in an emergency situation.
14. Don't go boating if someone in your household is sick.
15. Don't drink and boat.



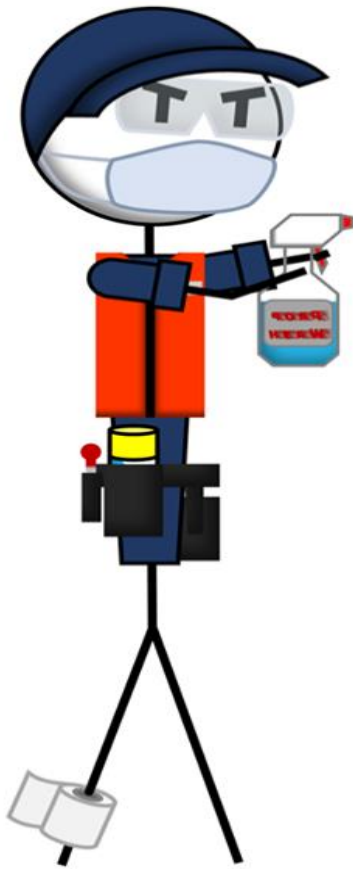
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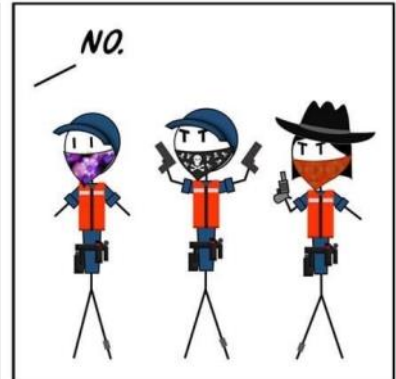


It's okay - laugh out loud!



The Claw of Knowledge is Brian Runion, former Coast Guard member - now famous for his online humor.

THE CLAW OF KNOWLEDGE



@CLAWOFKNOWLEDGE

CLAWOFKNOWLEDGE.COM



New Coast Guard-Approved Boating Safety PSA Available

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
The short video, posted by the Water Sports Foundation, is an important reminder for boaters that operating a boat while impaired is dangerous and could be costly.

< Click on the image to view the 30-second PSA



LIFE JACKET ASSOCIATION <http://www.lifejacketassociation.org/life-jackets/covid-19-virus-cleaning-storing-your-pfd/>

COVID-19 Virus: Cleaning & Storing your Life Jackets

If you think your product has been exposed to a virus, clean as recommended by the manufacturer and then let dry in a warm, low humidity environment for at least 72 hours before reuse.

Manufacturer's recommendations for cleaning your Personal Floatation Device (PFD):

CLEANING AND STORING YOUR PFD: To clean your inflatable PFD, hand wash or sponge down in warm, soapy water, taking care not to submerge the inflator. Rinse your PFD with clean water and hang to dry on a plastic coat hanger. Do not dry-clean, use chlorine bleach, or apply direct heat. Always store your fully dried PFD in a warm, dry, well ventilated place out of direct sunlight.

If you must reuse your product within 72 hours, the following precautionary guidance is suggested.

- COVID-19 virus may exist 3 days on or in clothing. Virus can exist longer on porous surfaces.
- Synthetic fabrics, plastic and metal surfaces may harbor the virus longer.
- Buckles, zippers, other hardware and hook/loop fasteners (e.g. Velcro®) are hard to clean due to crevasses and metal/plastic construction.
- Using 60 – 90% solutions of alcohol sprayed/wetted on these components is acceptable.
- Avoid spraying inflatables with specific disinfectants that are detrimental to the fabric. e.g. bleach-based products.
- Do not machine launder life jackets.
- Life jackets should be hand-washed with gloved hands – wash as hot as possible (< 60C) to kill virus.
- Ensuring complete drying is critical, heated air drying is encouraged < 60C
- Virus likes moisture and can survive in cold – virus dies by drying out and by heat, which some fibers can enhance.
- This pandemic is a new challenge and it is truly not known how all materials and the virus respond to laundry.
- If hang to air dry, allow 72 hours (3 days) before reuse.
- Do not share garments.

DISCLAIMER: Remember it is not possible to carry out or guarantee complete disinfection, the goal is to minimize risk.





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Jeffrey D. DaMotta

APRIL 4, 1966 – JANUARY 24, 2020

U.S. Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer #261
Class# ASM 39-90, Class Date 20 AUG 1990

Feature Story by Barbara Burchfield.

Sometimes life brings a person into your life unexpectedly. This happened to me in March when a TSA agent at the Greenville/Spartanburg Airport called me for help in trying to locate a family member of U.S. Coast Guard (retired) Jeffrey DaMotta. She got my name and number from a Coast Guard Auxiliary friend in Division 2 that showed his USCG Auxiliary ID at the airport gate. The TSA agent explained that a rescue swimmer patch with Jeff's name had been found in the baggage area and they wanted to get the patch returned to its owner. They began an internet search and discovered that Jeff had passed away in Florida on 24 JAN 2020. Glad to help, I started my research online and found that Jeff was Rescue Swimmer #261. There are only 975 names on that roster – what an extraordinary group of professionals! Finding his obituary, I read every entry – most of them from other Coast Guard personnel. All of them had something personal to say about Jeff - what a great guy, how dedicated he was and what a pleasure he was to be with. Anyway, I was able to locate the next of kin for the TSA supervisor so the rescue swimmer patch could be sent to relatives. I later learned that Jeff's mother lost the patch at GSP airport and was so thankful to have it returned to her that she cried when the TSA agent called her. A good ending to a story involving a lot of people who didn't even know Jeff but wanted to do the right thing. Still yet, he is fresh in my mind as one of our shipmates and I wanted you to know him at little, too. Farewell and rest in peace, Jeff.



OBITUARY

Jeffrey David DaMotta passed away peacefully at his home in Tarpon Springs, FL on January 24, 2020. He was born in Hartford, CT to Joseph R. DaMotta and Jeannette Dube DaMotta on April 4, 1966. Besides his parents, Jeff leaves behind his brothers Joseph E., James M. and his wife Tina Gagnon, and Jeremy M. and his wife Jorie Butler. He also leaves behind nieces and nephews: Anthony and Karen DaMotta; William, Storm, Chance, and Carrolline Butler; and Margaret and John DaMotta. Jeff was predeceased by his brother John.

As a kid Jeff loved to play and watch baseball, and he loved to fish in the Farmington River behind the house where he grew up. He was an enthusiastic reader and a talented cook. A good steak from Jeff's grill was something to savor. But mostly he liked being with people and having fun.

Jeff announced that he wanted to join the USCG when he was 10 years old and never wavered from that decision. He enlisted soon after graduation from the University of Hartford in 1988. He was a dedicated Rescue Swimmer and spent 23 happy years serving his country with his fellow Coasties before retiring in 2012. After retirement, he resumed his education at the University of South Florida St. Petersburg, earning a second Bachelor's degree in 2015, this time in Accounting, and finally a Master's Degree in Accountancy in 2017. The following year he passed the Florida CPA exam.

Jeff was serious about setting and pursuing goals, and yet he managed to see humor in everyday situations. He kept his family and friends laughing. He will be sorely missed.

Jeff was dedicated to his Coast Guard family. For those who would like to make donations in his name, Jeff would be pleased to sponsor support of his beloved Coast Guard mates through the Coast Guard Foundation or other Coast Guard charity.



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National Safe Boating Week May 16-22, 2020

This year, we may have a different approach to National Safe Boating Week while we navigate through the challenges of the Covid-19 corona virus pandemic.

As of this writing, many states are reopening for business - some gradually or in phases. Please note that the USCG Auxiliary continues to STAND DOWN until U.S. Coast Guard or USCG Auxiliary national leadership reauthorizes our important mission activities.

Instead of providing boating safety patrols, performing vessel safety checks, conducting program visits, hosting public affairs tables and instructing boating safety classes, we may rely on social media and technology to send important boating safety messages to the public.

A combined effort by the District 7 RBS Committee, NSBW Chair and Public Affairs has developed a new depository with graphic messages on the district website. Click on the blue button below for two folders: "NSBW & Wear It" and "Social Media Messages".

Specialized and localized "Wear It" images with USCG Auxiliary logos are available for download, courtesy of the National Safe Boating Council (NSBC). All images in the Depot can be used for social media, publications, business cards, posters and other RBS outreach.

Members are encouraged to download the images and post to social media sites during National Safe Boating Week.



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Stay safe & healthy, everyone!



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