



# Lake Murray Mariner



## Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla volunteers serve Lake Murray

By Barbara Burchfield,  
US Coast Guard Auxiliary

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 12-3 Lake Murray membership exceeded its pledge of volunteer hours in 2014 in support of the Coast Guard in South Carolina.

More than 8,936 hours of support by flotilla members were volunteered, far exceeding the original pledge of 5,000 hours by 78 percent.

The Coast Guard Auxiliary is primarily tasked with services related to recreational boating safety. The services provided by the Auxiliary include surface and air patrols, pollution response, boating safety classes, courtesy vessel safety checks, boating safety education and outreach, community relations, and many other missions on behalf of the U.S. Coast Guard.

In 2014, Lake Murray Auxiliary members performed 156 vessel safety checks, a free service to recreational boaters to check the required safety equipment onboard. There were 172 marine dealer visits during the year, providing local businesses with boating safety materials and information for recreational boaters. The Flotilla was credited for 580 underway hours by boat crew members and 137 hours by air crew members. Two boating safety classes were completed with 39 students.

Volunteer hours by Auxiliary members allow the Coast Guard to focus on protecting our homeland ports and waterways, law enforcement, maritime safety and the marine environment.

Flotilla Commander Festus Burchfield says, "We've been told repeatedly by the Coast Guard that the Auxiliary is the best return on investment for the Coast Guard. I believe that. Lake Murray Auxiliary members are local citizens and your neighbors who volunteer their time for boating safety. Their contributions to the community and the boating community are significant, financially and otherwise. You'll see us on the lake providing safety zones for regattas and special events, like the Navy Sea Cadets annual Great Portage Race or the Lake Murray SUP Classic."

Chartered on February 1, 1947, Lake Murray Flotilla 12-3 was the first Coast Guard Auxiliary unit in South Carolina. The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed, civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard supporting the Coast Guard in nearly all its missions.

<http://thelakemurraynews.net/coast-guard-auxiliary-volunteers-serve-lake-murray#!prettyPhoto> (posted 19JAN 2015)