

Lake Murray Mariner

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

JULY 2020

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



Lake Murray Mariner

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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.

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Vice Commander (VCDR) William Hayes

On the cover: Operational Facility "Voyager" launches from South Shore Marina on June 28, 2020, after receiving reauthorization for safety patrols. During the Covid-19 virus pandemic, patrols were not authorized from mid-March through late June. Photo by Barbara Burchfield.

HONOR ♦ RESPECT ♦ DEVOTION TO DUTY

Lake Murray Mariner



Clay Goodwin, Flotilla Commander



Things were looking up with a return to Auxiliary activities in June. We were able to conduct some missions with COVID guidance and restrictions, however that changed recently as Coast Guard set new guidelines for operations and assignment to duty. For boat crew members this includes two additional online courses required in order to conduct patrol operations. Please talk to Festus Burchfield, FSO-OP, prior to taking the courses for helpful information on how the system works.

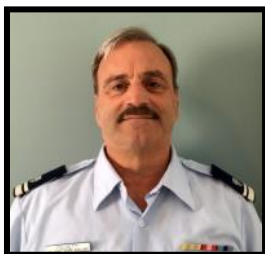
Other casualties of the COVID virus global pandemic are the cancellations of the Auxiliary National Convention (NACON) in August and District 7 Training & Conference (DTRAIN) in September. And, sadly, all Flotilla 12-3 sponsored free 2020 *About Boating Safely* courses have been cancelled. In a gesture of goodwill and to promote boating safety learning at home, we mailed complimentary ABS textbooks to the students who had registered online.

Also, because of COVID restrictions, our flotilla meetings are now conducted online. The good news about meeting online is that our members from out-of-state are able to attend in the video meetings. Our next meeting is **Thursday, July 30**, and I hope you can join us. Look for an invitation with instructions in your email.

Congratulations to Roger Deaton who received a Congressional Certificate for 25 years of Auxiliary service, and welcome aboard to our newest member, Skip Hudson.

I encourage all members to take any of the great online training available to you as a member of the Auxiliary. In addition to Core Training courses, there are leadership and value-added training courses that can enhance your business and personal life skills. In this newsletter you will find a page with direct links to many training options and opportunities.

As we continue to adapt to the changing conditions, please continue to take care of your personal health, well-being and safety.



Bob Falsetti, Flotilla Vice Commander

Safe boating should be a must.

I've been around boating my whole life and thought I knew all I needed. After joining the Coast Guard Auxiliary, I realized that what I knew was very little. Have a float plan - tell someone where you are going. Always make sure to have enough proper life jackets for the people on your vessel and DO NOT DRINK ALCOHOL while operating the vessel. Watch the weather - today's technology is easy to use. Take a safe boating course. Please always watch for the other vessel. Boating safety should always be a must....



Lake Murray Mariner



Roger Deaton honored for 25 years of service



Lake Murray Coast Guard Auxiliary member honored for 25-year service

News Release June 28, 2020, by Barbara Burchfield, Public Affairs Specialist 3

Local resident K. Roger Deaton was recognized for 25 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary on June 28, 2020, by fellow Auxiliary members at Southshore Marina on Lake Murray.

Deaton was presented a framed congressional certificate honoring his 25 years of volunteer service with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. A letter of appreciation and congratulations from South Carolina Congressman Joe Wilson was read by boat crew coxswain Festus Burchfield in the presence of boat crew members Clay Goodwin and John Bradley just prior to departure of a Lake Murray safety patrol mission. Because of restrictions for Auxiliary members caused by the Covid-19 virus pandemic, the local Lake Murray flotilla has not held a member meeting or conducted safety patrols for several months. Recently some restrictions have been eased and patrol missions re-authorized, so arrangements were made for Deaton to receive his service recognition with fellow Auxiliary members just prior to the first lake patrol mission since early March.

During his Coast Guard Auxiliary membership, Deaton earned qualifications as both boat crew member and boat crew coxswain, logging nearly 400 underway hours conducting marine patrol missions and providing assistance to local boaters. He also served as flotilla staff officer in operations, marine safety, and navigation systems and received several unit and meritorious team commendation awards for exemplary service.

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Flotilla 12-3 "Wear It to work (or home) contest"

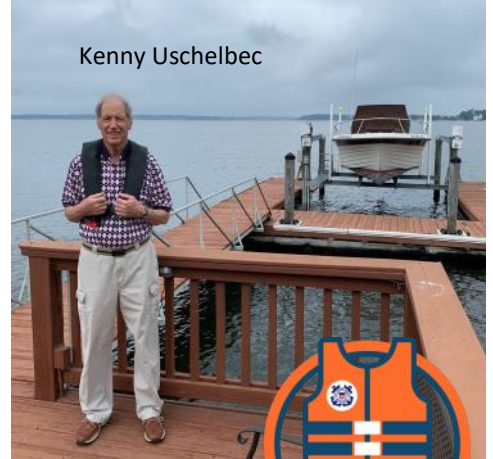
Everyone's a winner that sent a photo wearing a life jacket for the "Wear It to work (or home) contest" in May! Thanks for participating and being good sports! As soon as we have our next in-person meeting, you'll be rewarded in person.



Bob Falsetti



Festus Burchfield



Kenny Uschelbec



WEAR IT

A program of the National Safe Boating Council



Barbara Burchfield



Burnette Sheffield



John Bradley



Clay Goodwin



Clay Goodwin

Lake Murray Mariner



Boat crew training and skills pay off as a “Good Samaritan” to assist kayakers during the Auxiliary stand-down.

Bradley, at the helm, with daughter Katharine Fester, and wife Charmaine found themselves assisting three people on a kayak during poor weather on June 3, 2020.

Story by John Bradley
Photo by Barbara Burchfield

It was a beautiful spring day in South Carolina and a perfect day to take the family out on the boat. We filed our float plan with friends and headed out on Lake Murray. Weather conditions were perfect with air temperature at 89 degrees and water temp at 69 with no wind (at the moment). After a fun day on the lake, we decided to stop for ice cream at Dreher Island and stretch our legs.

I was watching the skies to the East and noticed dark clouds forming, so it was a good time to start heading in. From the time it took to go from the “Fish Bowl” to “Big Gap”, things went south quickly with winds at 10 to 15 knots and one to two foot swells. Everyone had their PFD’s on and braced for a rough ride.

As I scanned the water, I noticed a small low profile kayak off the starboard bow with 3 POB (2 adults and 1 child), having a lot of trouble navigating the rough water. As I approached them, I asked if they needed any help. They quickly replied “YES PLEASE”.

They indicated this was their first time in a kayak and had already turned it over once. They were camped at Dreher Island but wanted to get towed to a nearby island to go fishing. That was not going to happen. We assisted them onto our boat and secured their kayak for a side tow back to their camp site, all while the weather conditions continued to deteriorate.

I identified myself as off duty Coast Guard Auxiliary and explained to them the weather conditions were way above their skill level and they should wait for another day to go out. They agreed and one of the kayaker’s said he was a Marine and thanked us for our help. I told him the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary is always happy to come rescue the Marines when they get in trouble.

After they were safely on shore, we recommended they take a kayak class, bid them farewell and headed back to our home port ahead of the main storm.

On a follow up note, they took the kayak back out later that afternoon in the same wind conditions, flipped it two more times and wound up swimming it back to shore.

Semper Paratus!

Lake Murray Mariner



SCDNR BAT-mobile for Boating Under the Influence

Excerpt from an article published by National Association of Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) June 23, 2020

BUI enforcement efforts have also gotten more efficient – and more visible – thanks to the addition of a critical tool, the “BAT-mobile”. The BAT-mobile is a blood alcohol testing lab on wheels that can be deployed to a boat landing or other convenient place during festivals, regattas or high-traffic weekends. The BAT-mobile not only shaves a tremendous amount of time off of the process of making a BUI arrest, allowing officers to get back on the water faster, but also is a highly visible reminder to all who see it that SCDNR and the B-SAF team are on the water. [Read more here.....](#)



How YOU Could Drown Quiz

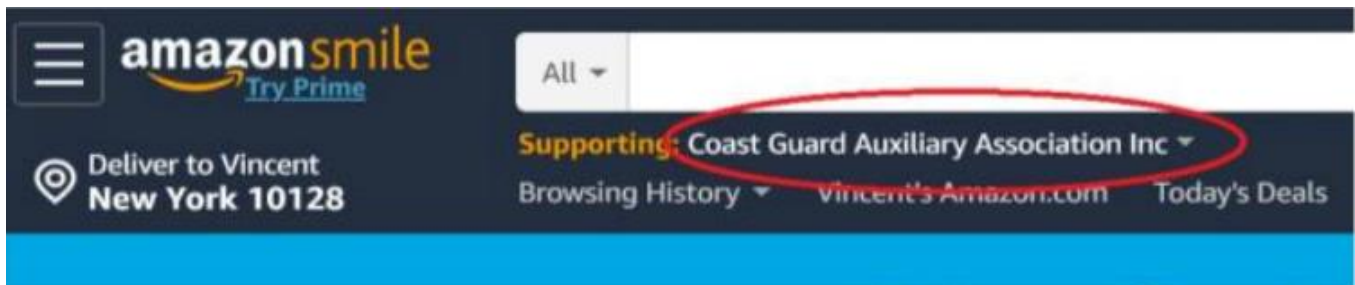
The month of July is when most boating and swimming accidents and fatalities happen in open waters (lakes, rivers, ponds, and oceans). The Fourth of July holiday weekend is the most hazardous. Take this five-question quiz to see if you can prove why drowning isn't likely to happen to you. You may learn some tips that could help save your life or the life of someone you love. [Take the quiz here.....](#)



The Coast Guard Auxiliary Association provides the financial stability that the Coast Guard Auxiliary must have to ensure readiness to meet its mission.

REMEMBER: AMAZON SMILE WILL MAKE A DONATION TO AUXA FOR EVERY PURCHASE YOU MAKE.

[CLICK HERE](#)



If it doesn't say “**Coast Guard Auxiliary Association**”, you're missing an opportunity to support the RBS mission at zero-cost to you.

Lake Murray Mariner



81ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD AUXILIARY

ALCOAST 244/20



Congratulations to the Coast Guard Auxiliary on its 81st birthday. Since inception in 1939, the men and women of the Auxiliary have been steadfast shipmates and invaluable assets to our Service.

Our 23,000 uniformed volunteers are profound examples of selfless devotion to duty who have not only embraced and exemplified my watchwords of "Ready, Relevant, and Responsive," but have proudly added "Resilient" to that list.

The Coast Guard has always upheld a solemn promise to serve our Nation, conducting operations under the umbrella of eleven statutory missions, including responding to disasters, rescuing boaters in distress, and educating America's boating public. These missions were performed in exemplary fashion this past year, enabled by superlative Auxiliary involvement. Examples include two Auxiliarists with emergency management expertise providing expert support to the Coast Guard's Hurricane Dorian response center and briefing the White House; an Auxiliary boat crew in the Fifth District (Northern Region) saving the lives of six passengers on a small boat that capsized in the Delaware River; and Auxiliary flotillas across the Nation establishing specialized training and partnerships with Sea Scout youth under provisions of the new AUXSCOUT program. Even more impressively, against the unprecedented constraints imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Auxiliary supported myriad Coast Guard missions throughout the year while remaining the vanguard for Recreational Boating Safety (RBS). Auxiliarists delivered over 2.4 million hours of support, performed more than 121,500 vessel safety checks and marine dealer visits, and taught over 6,800 boating safety classes, significantly enhancing safety on America's waterways.

The aforementioned accomplishments and characteristics reflect a highly dynamic, diverse and dedicated organization of servant leaders, experienced counselors, and true patriots. It is our privilege to include them on our Coast Guard Watch, Quarter, and Station Bill, and have them serve alongside for every mile we steam.

On June 23, 2020, I strongly encourage all Coast Guard units to hoist the Auxiliary colors in recognition of the exceptional Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty that are consistently displayed by our Coast Guard Auxiliarists. On the 81st anniversary, we thank them for their exemplary service.

ADM K. L. Schultz
Commandant of the United States Coast Guard



HOLDING THE LINE

Boat crew members Festus Burchfield, John Bradley, Roger Deaton and Clay Goodwin, were back on the water Sunday, June 28, with new Covid-19 safety guidelines. New guidelines and training requirements have since been announced for air and surface operations.

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STAYING ENGAGED

New!

NEW COURSE REQUIREMENTS FOR BOAT CREW
Emergency Response, First Responder Awareness
Level Training (Course #501538)

Blood Borne Pathogens Training (Course #100293)

Contact Festus Burchfield, FSO-OP, before taking
these courses to learn more helpful information.

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

DATA

NEW AUXDATA Training Videos

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



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.

VIDEO MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

District 7 Chief of Staff, Pat McMenamain speaks
to members about safety with the reauthoriza-
tion of many activities in June. Click the image to
watch the short video message.



AUXLMS

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

T-DIRECTORATE TRAINING

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

ONLINE CLASSROOMS

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NATIONAL TESTING CENTER

<http://ntc.cgaux.org/>

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[Exam Information](#)

BOAT CREW

[To Become Qualified](#)

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

[Training & PQS](#)

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HAPPY AUXILIARY ANNIVERSARY!

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



[DISTRICT 7 FAMILY FACEBOOK PAGE](#)

Private FB page for USCG and Auxiliary members.

Sign in required to join.



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