

Safety Organizations and Responsibilities

01/04/2006

Response From: William Axson

Name of Organization: Columbia Fire Department

Safety Activities Involved In: Swiftwater Rescue

Geographic Area Covered: City of Columbia City Limits & Within Richland County-
Outside Richland County when called

Number of Personnel: 36-40

Response From: Jerry Wise

Name of Organization: US Power Squadron, Safety Officer; Hollow Creek Fire Department, Rescue 2 and EMS First Response; Lexington County EMS, CPR training and EMS (Work with them on lake safety)

Safety Activities Involved In: Boater Safety; CPR Training; Rescue; EMS First Response

Geographic Area Covered: For the Power Squadron—Lake Murray Squadron; For EMS and Fire Rescue—Lexington County

Number of Personnel: Power Squadron – 3; Fire Rescue at Hollow Creek – 24; EMS - 100+

Response From: Lee Barber

Name of Organization: Lake Murray Association/Lake Murray Power Squadron

Safety Activities Involved In: The LMA is an organization representing all homeowners and users of Lake Murray. We have been organized for nearly 12 years. Safety is one of our issues/concerns and we have a committee dedicated to this subject. A report is made to our board at each monthly meeting as it is a standing agenda item. We are interested in safety education and laws. We were quite instrumental in the enactment of "Drew's Law". Working with DNR we have sponsored Ladies Day on the Lake for several years. This is a hands on boating course that has been especially successful. For a couple of years we also brokered a county fair safety program at the dam that was not well attended and thus interest was lost. Several years ago a number of agencies and activities involved or interested in Lake Safety met on a monthly basis to exchange information. For various reasons this activity ceased to function. As you probably are aware I want to see this reactivated. I have been involved in the LMA for about 10 years. For the first five I chaired a very active safety committee. I have a 50 ton master's USCG Captain license for 200 miles off shore and have owned boats for 55 years. I have a personal and keen interest in safe boating. I see boating as a wonderful recreation but one that has great potential for disaster in the hands of the wrong persons.

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Geographic Area Covered:

Number of Personnel:

Response From: Malcolm Leaphart/Norm

Name of Organization: Saluda River Chapter Trout Unlimited

Safety Activities Involved In: River fishing safety, both by wading and by boat, paddle and motor; water flows for both recreation and for the fisheries; river safety education through articles and meeting programs; and river rescues

Geographic Area Covered: Lower Saluda River

Number of Personnel: 325 chapter members

Response From: Aaron Small

Name of Organization: Lake Murray Coast Guard Auxiliary—Lake Murray Station

Safety Activities Involved In: boating safety, education, and water rescue on Lake Murray

Geographic Area Covered:

Number of Personnel: 48 members and eight equipped boats that meet USCG requirements; Helicopters and additional boats (if available)

Response From: Karen Kustafik

Name of Organization: City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department

Safety Activities Involved In: COC-Instruction, whitewater kayak program; boating safety information; Park Ranger staff patrol. I also teach and volunteer on the LSR personally, outside of my COC duties.

Geographic Area Covered: Lower Saluda River and Three Rivers Greenway

Number of Personnel: Whitewater: ~10 volunteer coaches; Park Ranger Staff: 18
The park ranger staff will begin duties mid-December. They will cover Riverfront and Granby Parks at present. It is reasonable to assume that, as the Saluda portion of the 3RG is built, the ranger staff would also cover that area.

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Response From: Charlene Coleman

Name of Organization: American Whitewater (Regional Coordinator)

Safety Activities Involved In: Training: Rescue 3 International Whitewater Rescue Technician; Tennessee Association of Rescue Squads Swiftwater I & II Technician; American Canoe Association Swiftwater/Whitewater Rescue; American Canoe Association Whitewater Kayak Instructor; 17 Years Whitewater Boater Class V (that includes 15 years of "on time" whitewater rescue experience); Safety/Councilor and guide Canoeing for Kids (charity); Palmetto Paddlers Safety & Instruction Director; River Safety Consultant for SCE&G; Lower Scenic Saluda River Advisory Council; Volunteer Oconee County Tactical Special Rescue Team (Whitewater Technician); National First Responder Response Organization; American Whitewater consultant on access, recreation, safety, water quality, etc; USFS Chattooga River safety consultant as AW representative; National Whitewater Team judge and safety/rescue boater.

Geographic Area Covered: Southeastern US; Chattooga River; Saluda River; Wherever I teach; Wherever I'm boating; Wherever requested.

Number of Personnel: 1 and the entire whitewater boating community

Response From: Patrick Moore

Name of Organization: American Rivers and Coastal Conservation League

Safety Activities Involved In: None

Geographic Area Covered: Full area of project impact

Number of Personnel: 0

Other: While we do not have any personnel exclusively dedicated to safety, enhancing the public value of recreational safety is a goal of both organizations.

Response From: Bill Marshall

Organization: Lower Saluda Scenic River Advisory Council in partnership with the SCDNR, River Conservation Program

Safety Activities Involved In: Provide river-user safety information at kiosks located at public access sites; Provide safety information on website and in a river-map/brochure product; Established water-level safety marker system painted on poles at access sites and on bridge supports (blue, yellow, red color-coded bands convey increasingly hazardous conditions with rising waters)

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Geographic Area Covered: Lower Saluda River and access sites, which include Hope Ferry (Metts) Landing, Saluda Shoals Park, Gardendale Landing, and Riverbanks Zoo.

Number of Personnel: One staff person to periodically update and maintain information and water-level marker system described above

Response From: David Price

Name of Organization: Lake Murray Power Squadron (LMPS)

Type of Safety Activities Involved In:

- Mission of the LMPS

The Lake Murray Power Squadron (www.lmpsonline.org), a unit of the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) (www.usps.org), is a non-profit boating organization dedicated to making boating safer and more enjoyable through education, civic service and fraternal boating activities among our members.

- Education
 - **Boating Safety Courses for the General Public** - LMPS offers a basic boating safety course (Boat Smart®) to the public in the fall and spring of each year. This course consists of 4 two-hour classroom sessions, followed by a proctored exam. Individuals unable to attend the classes can order America's Boating Course from the USPS website and contact a local squadron (LMPS for the SC midlands area) for assistance as they study the course material. A proctored exam is provided for the course ordered from the internet.
 - **Courses for LMPS Members** - Once a member of the LMPS, many other educational courses are available to enhance one's boating skills. A list, along with a brief description, is as follows:
 - Seamanship - types of boats (motor and sail), trailering, maintenance, weather, navigational rules and aids to navigation, medical emergencies, and nautical customs
 - Piloting - course plotting, dead reckoning, marine radio use, chart reading, compass adjustment
 - Advanced Piloting - advanced navigational and charting skills, use of deviation tables, danger bearings and angles, tides and currents, fundamentals of electronic navigation
 - Junior Navigation - working knowledge of celestial navigation, concept of celestial sphere, identification of celestial bodies, and advanced plotting techniques
 - Navigation - advanced concepts and skills of navigation
 - Engine Maintenance - operating principles of gasoline and diesel engines, trouble shooting, temporary remedies, and safety procedures

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- Instructor Qualification - practical skills and use of teaching aids for teaching courses
 - Marine Electronics - essential knowledge about electrical and electronic systems
 - Sail - terminology; types of hulls and rigs; running standing rigging; techniques for adjusting to wind and waves; sail handling, storm survival, sail instrumentation; marlinspike techniques; and sailboat emergencies
 - Weather - awareness of weather phenomena and impact upon boating
 - Compass Adjusting - various methods of ensuring precision of compass
 - Skipper Saver - basic skills of operating a boat safely in an emergency
 - Preparation for Coast Guard License - rules of the road, seamanship, weather, piloting, and damage control in preparation for USCG license exam
 - Principles of Water Skiing Safety - basic techniques, safety procedures, types of skis, and skier responsibility
 - Additional courses are listed on LMPS website.
- **Future Boating Courses for the General Public** - The USPS is considering making available to the public several of the above courses which are currently available to members only.
- Civic Service

In addition to the boating safety courses, the LMPS performs a number of other civic service activities which are as follows:

- **Reference lights** - LMPS spends many hours each month inspecting and repairing the reference lights on Lake Murray to ensure they are operating within prescribed functional limits and are compliant with federal, state and local regulations.
- **Shoal marker inspection** - LMPS conducts annual checks of all shoal markers on Lake Murray to ensure presence, positioning. Any problems are reported to the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) for repair.
- **Vessel Safety Checks** - LMPS has many certified inspectors that examine recreational vessels to ensure the presence of functioning marine safety equipment, clarify boating regulations, emphasize safety procedures, and encourage boater education. This inspection program originally was conducted solely by the Coast Guard Auxiliary; however, in an effort to expand this important inspection program, the US Coast Guard enlisted the help of the USPS.
- **Adopt an Island Program** - LMPS conducts an annual clean-up of Rock Island in cooperation with SCDNR.

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- **Geodetic Marks** - ensure presence of small brass plates that provide geographic framework for mapping and charting, boundaries and property lines, and setting precise positions of space craft and satellites.
- Additional Information About LMPS and USPS

For additional information about LMPS and USPS, and the activities mentioned above as well as our fraternal boating activities, please visit our websites at: www.lmpsonline.org and www.usps.org.

Geographic Area Covered: Midlands of South Carolina with emphasis on Lake Murray

Number of Personnel: LMPS has over 300 members who volunteer their time and resources to carry out the mission of the LMPS.

Response From: Suzanne Rhodes

Name of Organization: South Carolina Wildlife Federation

Safety Activities Involved In: River Sports - Fishing, Canoeing, Overnight Camping On Lower Saluda

Geographic Area Covered: Lake Murray and Lower Saluda River

Number of Personnel: No dedicated personnel

Other: Concern that there is woefully insufficient notice below the dam when the water is released for power production. This puts citizens at risk - those who are not paying attention, who are using the waters recreationally - perhaps for the first time - and also those who are then called upon to rescue. The Federation's primary concern is wildlife habitat, but habitat of persons is also of concern. The Federation has raised this issue previously.

Response From: Steve Bell

Name of Organization: Lake Murray Watch- Committed to protecting and enhancing the project's environmental and recreational resources

Safety Activities Involved In: Lake Watch Volunteers report unsafe conditions and activities

Geographic Area Covered: Lake Murray and the Lower Saluda

Number of Personnel: Approximately 16 members on the Lake and 2 on the river.

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Other: Our goal in this committee - To seek changes in Saluda Hydro operations that will protect public safety for recreational users in the lake in the lower Saluda

Response From: Harvin Brock

Name of Organization: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Safety Activities Involved In: Richland and Lexington County Officers are trained in Swift Water Rescues. This training was done in conjunction with the Columbia Fire Dept. and incorporated the DNR helicopter. The helicopter was been given to SLED so our involvement is by boat and from the river bank. Lexington County has a river rescue boat with a jet motor and Richland has a Zodiac boat.

Geographic Area Covered: Richland and Lexington County Officers respond to emergencies in LSR and Lake Murray.

Number of Personnel: Lexington County has 5 Officers with 1 a member of the DNR AIR Team (Ken Simmons)

Richland County has 5 Officers with 1 member of the DNR AIR Team (Tony Walker)

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U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY LAKE MURRAY STATION

WHO ARE WE?

Since its creation by Congress in 1939, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary has served as the civilian, non-military component of the Coast Guard. The Lake Murray Flotilla, which was chartered in 1947, is part of a 35,000 member force of volunteer men and women who are active on the waterways and classrooms in over 2,000 cities and towns across the nation. The Lake Murray Station is considered by U.S. Coast Guard Charleston Sector to be their presence on Lake Murray.

WHAT ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

The Lake Murray Station provides the following services for boaters on Lake Murray and the surrounding area residents:

**For twenty five plus years, the Flotilla has conducted safety patrols on the lake. These patrols are conducted from privately owned vessels which are specially equipped, inspected and certified by the USCG for handling emergency operations such as collisions, fires aboard and sinking boats.

**In 2004, the Flotilla was assigned a dedicated patrol boat by the Coast Guard for use on Lake Murray. This facility, Unit 1, is on 24/7 standby at Flotilla Island in the event of an on-water emergency.

**The Flotilla maintains the marine radio network for use by boaters on Lake Murray in the event of an emergency. This elaborate communications system allows for communications even in the far reaches of the lake by boaters who are in need of assistance.

**The Flotilla, through a mutual agreement with the National Weather Service, provides for a site and communications link to collect weather data on the shore of the lake. This data is collected and disseminated by the NWS on weather radio frequencies to boaters and residents on the lake.

**In the event of an emergency, the Flotilla will assist boaters who otherwise cannot receive towing services from the commercial tow boats now operating on the lake.

**The Flotilla has developed special skills through constant training to handle special events in conjunction with the law enforcements agencies on the lake. Such events as sailing regattas, triathlons, boat races, holiday events, etc. are handled when requested and require a high level of nautical skills on the part of the Auxiliary in order to perform those duties.

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**The Flotilla has members who have completed U.S. Coast Guard developed training in crew, coxswain, pilot, air observer, radio watchstander, weather, search and rescue, advanced navigation, patrol operations, etc. The Flotilla membership has expended hundreds of volunteer hours in this training to assure that we are ready when the call comes to assist boaters on the lake.

**The on-water activities are only a portion of the services provided to the boating public. The Flotilla conducts numerous training classes each year which are available to the public for a minimal fee. We are in the process of adding to the number of available courses.

**The Flotilla inspects recreational boats as a courtesy to the owners when requested. This program assists in eliminating a problem before it develops into an on-water emergency. We schedule Vessel Courtesy Inspections at each of the major marinas and launch sites on the lake each year to assure public access to this important program.

**The Flotilla, after the September 11 disaster, now serves as the eyes and ears for the Coast Guard and law enforcement for suspicious activities on and around the shores of the lake. During the Sept. 11 crisis, at the request of the U.S. Coast Guard, we provided 24/7 patrols of the major inland lakes where critical power generation equipment is located.

**The Flotilla maintains a service of distributing water safety literature through periodic visits to the area marinas, marine supply stores, visitation centers, etc. where we furnish counter displays stocked with the brochures. This is another Auxiliary effort to educate and reach out to the boating public in order to prevent accidents on the lake.

WHAT ARE OUR CAPABILITIES?

**We maintain seven patrol boats including the dedicated Unit 1. In addition, we have two other patrol boats, one each located at Lake Greenwood and Lake Wateree that can be transported to Lake Murray as required.

**We maintain six radio operational units in addition to the marine radios which are required equipment for each operational patrol boat.

**We currently have 41 members on our active roster and they can be responded through the use of our alert communications tree. Most members live on or close to the lake and can be under way in minutes.

**Each patrol boat is equipped with and annually inspected for a detailed list of U.S. Coast Guard required items such as towing bridles and lines, advanced first aid kits, PEP-IRP location device, VHF radio, depth sounder, GPS, extra PFD's, signal flare kits, heaving lines, night operations equipment, etc. Each crew member who serves during the winter months is equipped with winter survival suits.