



TELL TALES

If it isn't in Aux Data II it didn't happen!

***U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary
Flotilla 26-02
Division 26 – 5th Southern Region
Lake Wylie***

Lake Wylie Change of Watch

Flotilla Staff Officers

Mark Briggs, FC

Beverly Butlin, VFC,
CS, MT, PA

David Ray, IPFC, HR

Patrick Hughes, CM

Mike Ellis DV

Steve Whittaker FN,
IS

Mike Silva, MA

Mark Wilson MS

Ray Webber NS

Tom Edwards, PB

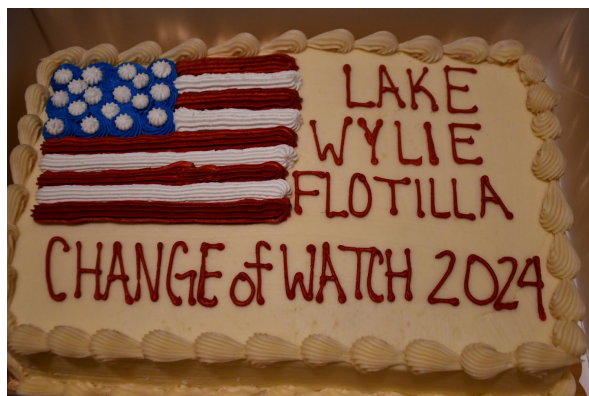
Rick Croasdale, PE

Mark Valdez, PV

RB Starnes, SR

David Wascher OP

On December 9, 2024, Flotilla 26-02 met at the Shore Club in Tega Cay. Attended by close to twenty-five members and guests a great meal was had by all, along with a good supply of tall tales and camaraderie.



Mark Briggs was sworn in as Flotilla Commander and Beverly Butlin as Vice Flotilla Commander by VCDR David Ray. New and old FSOs were sworn in as

well! (See sidebar for current officers).

Special Awards were also awarded to:



Beverly Butlin as Auxiliarist of the Year for outstanding work in all areas! She wore many hats, filling in for many open staff positions and stepped up to fill in the vacant VFC position during a short time as a member. I'm sure Bev has reached out to every member of 26-02 to twist arms to get your help!

Mark Briggs received the Paddle award for appreciation of his leadership and all he does for the flotilla.



Adam Deluca received a silver challenge coin because he showed incredible devotion to duty in the face of an incredibly difficult personal situation, as his wife took ill leading to her death. During this difficult time, Hanna encouraged Adam to excel and he complete his AuxOps, Program Visitation and Vessel Examination Certifications. He attended almost all VSC and PV events. He performed 28 vessel safety checks all while Hanna was ill and he continued even after Hanna passed.

Financial Audit Completed!

January 9, 2025 the audit committee met and dissected the books for 2024 and Steve got a clean bill of health! A budget was prepared and was made public at January's flotilla meeting. Those present were: Croasdale, Edwards, Briggs, Ray and Whittaker.

Mid Atlantic Boat Show

Volunteers are needed!

Signup are now open for the Boat Show, February 6-9 with setup on Wednesday afternoon (4 or 5 needed) Please send **David Ray** the days and hours you can work the show. The uniform of the day will be ODU's. Dave will coordinate to ensure there is coverage for all shifts. Shifts should be a min of 4 hours. Dave said first come, first served so get those prime spots! The best way to get to the convention center is by Lynx Rail!

Mission Statement for Lake Wylie Flotilla (2025)

FC Mark Briggs

Our goal is to continue the work of building our flotilla into professional, competent, and willing to serve team. That by our initiatives we will provide superior community service and continue to foster boating safety through all our missions thereby reducing boating injuries and fatalities. To that end, we will continue the on-going process of rebuilding our operations teams by qualifying coxswains, crews, & TCOs into our ranks. We will continue our

outreach to the public and boating community through Vessel Exams, Public Education, Program Visitation, and all aspects of Public Affairs. Finally, I our flotilla will strive to be sharp and relevant ambassadors for the USCG on Lake Wylie and in the Western North Carolina Division.

Calendar

1/8 Coastie Training @ Baxter
YMCA contact David Ray

1/25 Boat Crew Orientation
Training contact Elfried or
Wascher

1/26 Social Dinner
CANCELLED!

1/27 Lake Wylie Marine
Commission Meeting in
Clover

2/1 Division Change Of Watch @ Shore Club contact David Ray

2/6-8 Mid Atlantic Boat Show

2/10 Flotilla Meeting 18:30 - 20:00 Cabela's!

2/15 Division Meeting Denver Fire Department 9-11

2/15 RM-TCT Training following Division Meeting contact
Wigginton





Reminders!

Uniform Inspections.

PPE Inspections

**Suicide Prevention class is due this
year**

**VE Workshop mandatory for New
Certification or REYR. Not required if you
completed last year!**

This issue written by Tom Edwards.

Photographs by Heather Briggs