



TELL TALES

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 26-2

Division 26 – 5th Southern Region

Lake Wylie

9 June Flotilla Meeting

Flotilla Staff Officers

Mark Briggs, FC

Beverly Butlin, VFC,
CS, MT, PA, PV

David Ray, IPFC, HR

Patrick Hughes, CM

Steve Whittaker, FN,
IS

Mike Silva, MA

Mark Wilson, MS

Ray Webber, NS

Tom Edwards, PB

Rick Croasdale, PE

Bob Starnes, SR

David Wascher, OP,
RS

Adam DeLuca, VE

This month I joined the online portion of this month's flotilla meeting along with a few other members. The meeting was well attended and several announcements were made.

Please regularly check the district calendar!

PayPal is still having issues; have patience!

Registration for D-Train is open for the 4-7 September session.

Get your E2 account for payment reimbursement.

Three CPR spots are still open for the 28 June class.

Dave Wascher, FSO-OP can update AuxData 2 for PFDs.

Beverly Butlin is now FSO-PV.

Social Meeting is 1730 29 June 2025, location in email.



Jim Francisco, 26-2 received his Vessel Examiner Certification and is fast at work performing vessel checks!

Mark Valdes, 26-2, belatedly received the U.S. Coast Guard Meritorious Service Award for USCG Auxiliary Kayaking 101. He along with Mark Wilson, FSO-MS, from our flotilla worked hard as a part of a team planning a paddlecraft safety education program.

24 May 2025

Fort Mill, South Carolina

It was a family affair at 26-2's Boat America class held at 1000 Cabela's Drive in Fort Mill. The Winburn Family attended and all four members

passed. There was intense competition for the best grade with the parents besting their children and the younger sister beating her older brother. They were joined by a certified USCG Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels (six pack) holder wanting to reduce his insurance rates, and four teens to ride their PWCs. All passed with flying colors! Class was lead by Rick Croasdale, SO-IT, with instructors Beverly Butlin, VFC, DSO-CS, DSO-SR, FSO-CS, FSO-MT, FSO-PA, FSO-PV, Rick Teufel and Tom Edwards, FSO-PB.



**Meet your editor
Tom Edwards FSO-PB**

I was born on the banks on the Hudson River, across the street from Sing Sing Prison in Ossining, New York. I was introduced to sailing through our family's purchase of an

International 420 club racer, 4.2 meters of pure fun. I raced primarily in the New York City area and in the 420 Junior Championships!

Our family also built a 28 foot lake scow schooner from plans in *Rudder* magazine. We sailed "Homebrew" on the Hudson River and moved her through the New York State barge canal (Erie Canal). to Cayuga Lake in the finger lake region of New York and finally trucking her to a small lake where we had a family cottage.

My experiences allowed me to crew on many different sail and power boats for many years. I raced many different classes of sailboats on the Hudson River and Lake Champlain in Vermont. I joined a team on a 49 foot Valiant and raced on the Great Lakes and moved the boat through the canals and Intracoastal Waterway to Charleston.

I also followed in my father's footsteps and obtained my ham radio and pilot's licenses. I hold Amateur Extra Class (AC4EA) radio license and private pilot license single-engine land.



So why the auxiliary? I attended the State University of New York Maritime College due to my love of the water. Working for my deck license and a majoring in oceanography and meteorology were my goals but the family business called me home. At Maritime I would have joined a service of my choice and started as the equivalent ensign. This didn't happen, and now is my time to pay back for my lost service.

As a pilot (civilian aviator) and a ham operator I wrote many newsletters for ham radio and flying clubs. Now I'll continue the tradition, writing for our flotilla.

I ask everyone to send me their pictures, articles, and even a bio to assist me in putting out a first class newsletter! I'll edit or write it for you!

26 May 2025

Lake Wylie, South Carolina

Lake Wylie Flotilla, 26-2, performed its long-standing annual inspection of YMCA Camp Thunderbird's watercraft and presented the camp with a plaque of appreciation for their steadfast dedication to boating safety and partnership with the USCG Auxiliary. Examiners Adam Deluca, FSO-VE, and Mark Briggs, FC, completed 100 vessel safety checks: 57 paddlecraft, 25 power boats, and 18 Sunfish sailboats ensuring Camp Thunderbird's continuing tradition of boating safety.

31 May 2005

Rock Hill, South Carolina

In celebration of Ebenezer Park's, South Carolina re-opening, The Lake Wylie Flotilla, 26-2, held a vessel exam and community relations day, featuring the Auxiliary mascot "Coastie." With a large contingent including Beverly Butlin, VFC; Adam Deluca, FSO-VE; Jim Francisco, 26-2; David Wascher, FSO-RS; and Mark Briggs, FC. They conducted 12 vessel safety

checks, conversed with boaters and the general public on boating safety, and entertained children and adults with the antics of “Coastie”. The team was strategically located between the ramps and the playground which resulted in high interest and interactions with the public. York County and Ebenezer Park were so pleased with the event that the flotilla has been invited back and will hold another event on 2 August 2025.



Photos by Beverly Butlin, VFC and Mark Briggs, FC



7 June 2025
York, South Carolina

Lake Wylie Flotilla, 26-2, held a Vessel Exam and Public Affairs day at Allison Creek Park in South Carolina promoting boating safety. Beverly Butlin,VFC; Adam Deluca, FSO-VE; Jim Francisco, 26-2; and Mark Briggs, FC, made up the event team that interacted with numerous families and the boating public. They passed on

valuable boating information and completed 9 vessel safety checks. Both the Auxiliary and the York County Park Service felt the event was beneficial and successful, leading to a request for another event to be added to the summer schedule for July 12, 2025.

Photos by Beverly Butlin, VFC



14 June 2025

Lake Wylie, South Carolina

Tom Edwards, FSO-PB; and Beverly Butlin, VFC; setup the monthly public affairs and vessel examination opportunity at a Tega Cay Marina. Ten vessel exams were held along with many conversations with the public.



Many captains were surprised at how important it is to carry a second emergency cutoff switch (ECOS) lanyard!

Photos by Beverly Butlin, VFC



Reminder!

This issue I couldn't use several pictures because they didn't meet auxiliary requirements. I can't publish a photograph unless the auxiliarist is in proper uniform. Phones on belts, neck jewelry, improper footwear, writing implements visible in pockets, and shirts outside the belt are not allowed (females allowed.) I need a ANSC 7020 form for kids unless no part of the face is

showing, no partial profiles! If have the originals I can sometimes crop out the offending problem. I am not allowed to photoshop!

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

Calendar

Make sure you check our website for an up-to-date look at all events. Beverly Butlin, VFC, and Mark Briggs, FC, work hard at keeping the calendar current. There are Boat America classes the fourth Saturday of every month and many VSC and PA events listed. It is impossible for me to list all the dates together, so please check the public and members-only areas on our website for current information!

Flotilla Calendar

Edited by Tom Edwards, FSO-PB