



TELL TALES

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary

Flotilla 26-2

Division 26 – 5th Southern Region

Lake Wylie

Flotilla Staff Officers

Mark Briggs, FC

Beverly Butlin, VFC,
CS, MT, PA

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

Mark Valdes, PV

Bob Starnes, SR

David Wascher, OP,
RS

Adam DeLuca, VE

14 April Flotilla Meeting

A well attended meeting was held with 17 members in person and online. A couple notes from the meeting are:

- Beverly Butlin, VFC, reported there are many training opportunities available and we all need to check the websites for details.
- A member or two are needed to head up the awards committee to recommend names for outstanding service to the flotilla and USCG Auxiliary in general. The recommendations must start up the chain by 1 October. See either Mark Briggs, FC or Beverly Butlin, VFC for details.
- If dues are not paid by 1 January of each year, a letter is sent one time to the member and dis-enrollment happens. No longer is the flotilla required to continue chasing down the lost member for non-payment of dues.

Dave Wascher, FSO-RS, made a short presentation on his P/ATON class he recently attended. Among other things, he learned that Lake Wylie is a federal waterway where federal boating regulations apply, but where responsibility for P/ATONs has been delegated to the states of North Carolina and South Carolina.

The government has also ceased paper chart publications and now have gone totally electronic. Care must be taken to get government charts to work with individual chart plotters and GPSs.

Awards

Mark Briggs, FC, presented three awards to Mark Wilson, FSO-MS. First was the **Auxiliary Annual Performance Award** for service in excess of 30 public education hours in 2024. Second was a **Certificate of Appreciation** to recognize his tireless efforts as division commander of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. Finally, the **US Coast Guard Auxiliary Advanced Instructor Annual Performance Light House Award**, in recognition of more than 100 lead hours in Public Education and Member Training Instruction!



Mark Briggs, FC, was presented by David Ray, VCDR, **The Auxiliary Achievement Medal**

for superior performance of duty while serving as flotilla commander and Division Staff Officer. He was instrumental in motivating every member of the flotilla to achieve his or her best. He was an expert in AUXDATA II and held many training sessions for the flotilla and division. Mark led many PA events with Lakes Wylie and Norman



Marinas and contributed over 1469 hours while maintaining his boat crew, Instructor, Vessel Examiner and Public Affairs Qualifications!

Fun with First Responders

15 March 2025

Fort Mill, South Carolina



054-26-2.

The Lake Wylie Flotilla was thrilled to be a part of the 2nd Annual "Fun with First Responders" event in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

Mark Briggs, FC, Beverly Butlin, VFC, Ray Webber, FSO-NS, and Adam DeLuca, FSO-VE were present from the Flotilla



The team enjoyed speaking with the visiting public about boating safety classes, free vessel safety checks, and life jackets. Many children visited the booth with their families and loved receiving coloring and activity books and stickers.

A highlight of the event was the helicopter landing. This was a remarkable event with local police, fire, EMS, and other organizations.

Reported and Photos by Beverly Butlin, VFC

Suddenly in Command

29 March 2025
Fort Mill, South Carolina

The certified Instructors of Lake Wylie Flotilla 26-02 gathered on Saturday morning to learn, discuss and prepare to teach the "Suddenly In Command" training program. The program was led by Rick Croasdale, SO-IT and David Ray, DVCR. Instructors Barbara Wilson, 26-02, Beverly Butlin, VFC, and Mark Briggs, FC attended. The program will soon be taught to the public at the Joshua Murray/Blythe Landing Lake Norman location.



Reported and Photos by Beverly Butlin, VFC

Social Dinner

30 March 2025
Lake Wylie

Georgia Axiotis, 26-03's Social Chair, planned our monthly social dinner at a local Lake Wylie restaurant. Sixteen souls appeared and had a wonderful time swapping tales and a few truths! The next one is planned for 27 April at 17:30. Check your emails for the location!

Photo by Larry Hoover, FSO-PB Retired

New Assignment

2 April 2025

Lake Wylie

David Wascher, FSO-OP, has now been assigned, FSO-RS, (Rescue and Survival Systems). Congratulations to David! He has certainly rocked FSO-OP!

Reported by Mark Briggs, FC

Photo by Tom Edwards, VFO-PB



National Safe Boating Week

MAY 17 has shaped up to be a busy day as it is the beginning of the National Safe Boating Week. In order to support the Joshua Murphy Boating, Safety, Education, and Awareness Center, there is a PE event (Suddenly in Command), VHF Radio Station Grand Opening, and a VE event at Blythe Landing that day. In addition, there is also a VE event scheduled on Lake Wylie at Allison Creek Park. This means the pool of available Vessel Examiners will be stretched thin as many VEs are also instructors and TCOs plus, we have two VE events this day. To ensure at least one VE is at the two locations I will be the POC for Blythe and Beverly Butlin, VFC, will be POC for Allison Creek. If you are not involved with the PE or the Radio dedication and are available for VE your help would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Beverly if you are able to help at Allison and please contact me if you can assist at Blythe Landing as a VE that day.

Reported by Mark Briggs, FC

Inaugural Patrol

5 April 2025
Lake Wylie



Underway for the inaugural patrol of the 2025 season, Lake Wylie, 26-02 and 26-03 wasted no time renewing qualifications for this year. Intentionally planned to take advantage of warming temperatures and longer nights, all currently qualified crew and coxswains within these flotillas completed currency

requirements in a single two boat day/night patrol.



This entailed reviewing pre-checks, boat handling, navigation, man overboard, two boat towing, fire, and grounding drills several times. Additionally, the patrol gave an opportunity for another member, who is ready for their Qualification Exam (QE), to practice all the drills one more time before his final assessment for certification.



Moreover, as a reminder as to why we do this, the patrol as it was wrapping up training, encountered a vessel in the dark which had lost all lights and appeared to sit low in the

water. To ensure its safe return to port, the patrol vessels provided a forward and aft escort for the impaired vessel (it could still move on its own power) to Buster Boyd Landing, making sure it was not a hazard to other vessels. The craft's condition didn't worsen during the transit and was safely moored and trailered. All occupants arrived safely.

Completing all currency requirements in one night, helping a member be ready for his exam, and being in the right place at the right time to provide help and an impromptu safety escort instilled a sense of "pride" and reminded us of why this is still a "worthy mission."

The following patrol members participated. From 26-3: Darrin Sanchez, FC, FSO-OP, FSO-MT, From 26-2: Rick Croasdale, SO-PE, FSO-PE; Dave Wascher, FSO-OP, FSO-RS: Ray Webber, FSO-NS and Mark Briggs, FC, SO-VE.



Reported and Pictures by Mark Briggs, FC

Boating Safety Award

12 April 2025

Lake Wylie, North Carolina



Adam DeLuca, FSO-VE, had the honor to present the 2024 award for Public Education and Recreational Boating Safety to Bekka Myers, manager of the Freedom Boat Club on Lake Wylie in Charlotte . The Lake Wylie Flotilla was welcomed each month to talk to the boating public, perform free vessel safety checks and provide brochures and information on Boating Safety classes. State and Federal boating regulations and other safety information was available at the Freedom Boat Club display.

Photo by marina staff

Boat Crew Training

Dave Wascher, FSO-RS sent me a few candids from the Boat Crew training he holds at his house.

Photos by Dave Wascher, FSO-RS



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 BoatAmerica classes the fourth Saturday of every month and many VSC and PA events. It is impossible for me to meld all the dates together so please check the public and members only areas on our website for current information!

<https://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=054-26-02>

Edited by Tom Edwards, FSO-PB