



TELL TALES

U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary East District - Southern Region Flotilla 26-2 Lake Wylie

14 July 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

The monthly meeting was held at 1000 Cabela's Drive, with approximately 15 in attendance and online. The usual staff officer reports were made with several notable subjects.

Name Change

The Coast Guard has changed all operational districts. Fifth Southern Region is now East District, Southern Region.

Flood Disaster

Beverly Butlin and Dave Wascher have been busy working with FEMA, documenting the flood damage in Texas and New Mexico. This high-visibility work that the USCG Auxiliary is doing assists with FEMA documentation and is sent by a FEMA representative directly to our Commander in Chief, President Trump. When presented to him it provides a valuable resource that allows FEMA to quickly respond to damaged areas,

Geospatial Damage Assessments using USCG and FEMA-provided software were used. NOAA GPS coordinates and real-time mapping helped to determine the extent of flood damage. Beverly and Dave completed specialized FEMA training to work on this mission.

Social Meeting

Coming up 1730, 27 June 2025, location in email from Georgia Axiotis.
July birthdays, get your vote in!!

New Member Spotlight

Social Chair

Georgia Axiotis



Hello! My name is Georgia and I have been a part of the Lake Wylie Flotilla for almost a year now!

At about age 12 I first started looking into military service as a possibility, and throughout high school it became a passion that permeated my hobbies and carried through to my volunteer work. I moved back to the U.S. last summer after completing my first year of college overseas; I was hungry again to jump back into my original plan of pursuing a military career after college.

Although I was transferring to UNCC to continue school

full time, I decided to start looking for a place where I could begin jumping into training and volunteering for the military mission as soon as possible – that's when I discovered the Coast Guard Auxiliary! I discovered I was able to join Lake Wylie's Flotilla and enroll in the Auxiliary University Program for students planning to apply for OCS after college. Working with the Auxiliary since last July,



I have gained a great deal of knowledge, discovered a love of emergency management, and now I get to work in it part-time for the City of Charlotte while completing my degree. I look forward to continuing to work with the auxiliary to give back to our beautiful boating community here in North Carolina!

I have now enlisted and will be leaving for basic training in the United States Marine Corps!

Red Cross Workshop
28 June 2025
Waxhaw, North Carolina
Reported and Photos by Beverly Butlin

Rick Croasdale, Larry Hoover, Aspen Nairn, Rob Starnes, Jim Francisco and Beverly Butlin, all from Flotilla 26-2, and Betty Limiak, 26-3, attended the practical portion of the American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED and Administering Emergency Oxygen instructed by George



Manos today. Students had to take the online portion of the course prior to taking this hands-on skills course and evaluation.

All members passed! These potentially lifesaving skills are good to have for any USCG Auxiliary operations, such as boat crew, and also in everyday emergency settings that may occur.



**This type of training helps ensure that we are
Semper Paratus ... Always Ready!**

**Boat America Class
28 June 2028
Fort Mill, South Carolina**



Our monthly Boat America class was held at 1000 Cabela's Drive in Fort Mill. Taught by Mark Briggs and Tom Edwards, another dozen joined the ranks of safe boaters. Rodney Dutton, a new flotilla member, passed and is now BQ!

**Independence Day Parade
5 July 2025
Lake Wylie, South Carolina**



The Lake Wylie Independence Day Parade had a small, but spirited group of attendees traveling around the lake where Windjammer Park was lined with well wishers. There were a half dozen support boats, two of which were from our flotilla! Of course, Dave Wascher was out on his PWC having the most fun! Darren

Sanchez, Rick Croasdale and Tony Marciano, 26-4, supported the parade on Darren Sanchez's boat.



Huntersville Youth Camp 9 July 2025 Lake Norman, North Carolina

The Huntersville Police Department sponsored a summer camp and planned on a boating safety class for 10 campers. Unfortunately, there was a calendar mix-up and there was no one available to teach this class. Two days before the class, Rick Croasdale was called and he grabbed Tom Edwards and the two were able to save the day! We had a class of eleven thirteen-year-old children and one police officer take the Boat America class with most passing with flying colors! The police department even gave the kids a ride on their lunch break!



10 July 2025 Cornelius, North Carolina Reported by Tom Edwards



Steve Riggan, 26-4 met the Executive Director, Katie Yost, from the Cornelius YMCA at a meet and greet. Their discussion led to a way the Auxiliary and the YMCA can join forces in enhancing water safety. The Cornelius YMCA is unique that it has waterfront property, steps from the building and a very active boating

program.

Sharon Eifried, 26-4, and I, met with Katie and toured the facilities with their waterfront directors. Using the Boats 'N Kids and Water 'N Kids USCG Auxiliary programs, Sharon and I will come up with a program to meet the YMCA's for a boating safety class for campers. We would like to implement this program for their camp next year and hope we can get many volunteers to help teach this program. We will return and teach a class on 6 August 2025 and are looking additional auxiliarists to join us.

11 July 2028

Stallings, North Carolina

Reported and photo by Beverly Butlin



Beverly Butlin, Mark Briggs, and I presented a Water 'N Kids program at a private school. There were 14, eight-year-old children eagerly paying attention to everything we said. They all learned how long it took trash to decompose, always swim with a buddy, and wear a PFD!

Public Affairs and Vessel Inspection
Allison Creek Landing Pier Boat Ramp
York County, South Carolina
12 July 2020

Flotilla 26-2, presented a public affairs and vessel exam session at Allison Creek last Saturday. Mark Briggs worked on recruiting a past Coast Guard member while Beverly Butlin and Jim Francisco performed vessel exams. Jim passed three and failed one. He even gave his extra fire extinguisher so one boater could pass! Bev failed two out two but it was a learning process for all the boaters.

Photos by Jim and Beverly

Reported by Beverly Butlin



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

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