

Waypoints

DIVISION 15, 8TH WESTERN RIVERS REGION May 1

Lake Dardanelle Flotilla Disestablished

The Lake Dardanelle Flotilla 15-6 that was chartered on February 8, 2003 at the Holiday Inn in Russellville is in the process of being disestablished. Members were transferred primarily to the Fort Smith Flotilla at the end of 2020.

Originally a detachment of the Fort Smith Flotilla, Chris Cutler and Blaine Selby were the driving forces in obtaining the charter and were the first and second Flotilla Commanders. Clara Meyer and Mina Alber of Fort Smith and Terry McKee of the Central Arkansas Flotilla were instrumental in assisting in the development of the unit.

The flotilla hosted operational exercises as well as the District Search and Rescue Competition in 2009.

The flotilla met at the Lake Dardanelle State Park catch and release facility. The flotilla often struggled with retaining an adequate membership and as of 2010 only three charter and 8 other members remained active and efforts began to revive the unit but were ultimately unsuccessful.

Governor Proclaims Safe Boating Week

At a proclamation ceremony on May 4 Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson declared May 22-28 as Safe Boating Week in Arkansas. The proclamation states that it is essential for boating enthusiasts to recognize the importance of taking certain safety precautions, including always wearing life jackets and never operating a boat under the influence of alcohol.



Pictured from left to right: Attorney & Owner of Rockwater Marina North Little Rock Jim Jackson, Central Arkansas Flotilla Staff Officer-Operations and Division staff Officer-Operations Michael Strobel, Hot Springs Flotilla Assistant District and State Liaison for Arkansas Deborah Blackburn, Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson, Hot Springs Flotilla Vice Flotilla Commander Wanda Thorp, Little Rock District Deputy Commander Maj. ChaTom "CT" Warren and Arkansas Game and Fish Public Education Officer Joe Huggins. [Text and photo courtesy U.S. Army]

Hot Springs Flotilla

David Keyser, FC

Despite the continuing issues with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hot Springs Flotilla has been very busy.

We welcomed in a new member, Tim Parker, and are working with another individual that is interested in joining.

The yard sale held at the station on April 24th raised \$1,250. Coffee and donuts were available. We took the opportunity to meet our neighbors, hand out boating safety literature and kayak/boat trash bags, and explain what we do.



Photo provided by David Keyser

On May 15th we set up a vessel safety check station at the flotilla boat ramp and spent the day talking with boaters. We also got our station boat out of the shop and it is ready for patrols.

The flotilla is moving forward with plans for National Safe Boating Week. Debbie Blackburn was in charge of getting Governor Hutchinson to sign the proclamation declaring May 22-28 Safe Boating Week in Arkansas and we have plans to do vessel safety checks and dealer visits during that time.

Our next meeting will be held electronically on June 7th, but we are looking forward to having an in-person meeting at the station in the near future.

Central Arkansas Flotilla

The flotilla held its first in-person meeting since April, 2020 on May 4th. In order to be in compliance with COVID-19 recommendations the meeting



*Flotilla members from Left to Right: John Foreman, Frank Wilson, William Woodell, Michael Strobel, and Ray Porter were among the members present.
Photo by Blake Sasse.*

was held at the pavilion across from the Auxiliary station at the North Little Rock RV park. As might be expected, attendance was somewhat light, but everyone enjoyed seeing our shipmates again.

Flotilla Commander Zach Taylor swore in our newly elected Flotilla Vice Commander Mikaela Felcher. He reported on progress towards completing the new station sign and other station issues including replacing the flagpole line and replacement of the gravel walkway were discussed. Long-delayed awards were distributed to many members.



Frank Wilson (left) received the 8th Western Rivers Region Aid Verifier of the Year Award for 2020. Central Arkansas Flotilla Commander Zach Taylor (right) presented him with the award and noted that primarily due to Frank's efforts both the flotilla and Division 15 earned awards for helping maintain accurate information on the status of navigation aids on the Arkansas River. Photo by Blake Sasse.

Division 15 April Meeting

The Division 15 spring meeting was held at the pavilion at the North Little Rock RV park apart from the Central Arkansas Flotilla station on April 24th.

While Division Commander Rick Barnes met with the Flotilla Commanders, SO-IS Phil Hunkins

discussed entering "99" time into the new AUXDATAII system. Bob Evans, Central Arkansas Flotilla, cooked lunch for the assembled members and afterward the business meeting was conducted.



Ken Pevehouse (right), Fort Smith Flotilla Commander celebrates after by Division Commander Rick Barnes (left) and District Captain (S) Julie Carey (middle) presented him with a certificate recognizing the 50th anniversary of the chartering of the unit. Photo by Blake Sasse

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