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Hartwell Lake News

Volume 24, Number 2 • Spring 2022

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DUE TO COVID-19,
PLEASE VERIFY EVENT DATES WITH VENDORS.

New U.S. Coast Guard Fire Extinguisher Regulation Effective are in Effect April 20

By BoatUS

A rite of passage for every boater is the annual spring commissioning. Newly added to the boat owners to-do list this spring will be to check all disposable (non-rechargeable) fire extinguisher dates of manufacture, as well as the label for their U.S. Coast Guard classification.

That's because a new U.S. Coast Guard regulation beginning April 20 for disposable fire extinguishers mandates a 12-year expiration



Above: PA new U.S. Coast Guard regulation for disposable fire extinguishers mandates a 12-year expiration date from the date of manufacture.

date from the date of manufacture. Boaters can find the manufacture date stamped into the bottom of the bottle or near the UL label. This may be two or four digits — if it is two, as in 08, that means 2008. Additionally, while the new regulation does not change the type (U.S. Coast Guard-rated) or quantity or requirement for USCG approved fire extinguishers aboard, it does specify the minimum Underwriter Laboratory (UL) classification of extinguishers to be carried aboard certain vessels — depending on the boat's model year.

This is the result of phasing out older "B-I" and "B-II" labels for newer "5-B" "10-B" and "20-B" extinguisher classifications. The number in this new rating refers to the size in square feet of the potential fire the device is suitable to extinguish and not the exact weight of the dry chemical inside the bottle.

Vessels on the water today that are less than 26 feet and model year 2017

or older may continue to carry older, dated or undated "B-I" or "B-II" disposable extinguishers. However, when they are no longer serviceable or have reached 12 years of age since manufacture, they must be replaced with newer class "5-B" or greater extinguishers. Boats less than 26 feet and 2018 model year or newer must carry unexpired "5-B" "10-B" or "20-B" fire extinguishers. Having older "B-I" and "B-II" types do not meet the new carriage requirements.

Many retailers today offer "10-B" class fire extinguishers, which may be a good choice as they exceed U.S. Coast Guard minimum carriage requirements for boats under 26 feet, while at the same time giving boaters more extinguishing coverage. For boats 26 feet or greater, however,



Above: A new U.S. Coast Guard regulation aims to increase use of a newer class of disposable fire extinguishers. A "5-B:C" class is shown here.

having one "10-B" aboard does not equal two 5-Bs. Only a "20-B" classification meets the requirement to carry two "5-B" extinguishers. For a look at how many and what type of fire extinguishers are needed aboard all recreational boats up to 65 feet, go to BoatUS.org/Fire-Extinguishers.

BoatUS strongly recommends going beyond the regulation's minimum requirements. The results from a Foundation-sponsored boat burn showed that one extinguisher may give very little time to make an emergency call or potentially prepare to abandon your vessel.

BoatUS also notes that most U.S. Coast Guard disposables on the market today carry at least a dual B:C rating, able to douse both liquids and

continued on page 4

New Law Increases Distance Limits Between a Boat, Docks in Many S.C. Waters, Prohibits Wake Surfing Within 200 Feet

By SCDNR

A new law signed into effect March 14 by Gov. Henry Dargan McMaster establishes on most of South Carolina's major reservoirs a new 100-foot distance limit that boats underway must observe when approaching a dock, a person in the water or an anchored vessel.

The new law, which doubles the previous distance of 50 feet, applies to the waters of Lake Greenwood, Lake Hartwell, Lake Jocassee, Lake Keowee, Lake Marion, Lake Monticello, Lake Murray, Lake Robinson, Lake Russell,



Lake Secession, Lake Thurmond, Lake Wateree, Fishing Creek Reservoir, Parr Reservoir, or the portion of the Savannah River from the Interstate 20 Savannah River Bridge to the New Savannah River Bluff Lock and Dam. The 100-foot distance limit does not

continued on page 4

New Name, New Location! Same Run, Same Fun!

By Josh Overstreet

Boating enthusiasts and lake lovers from all over the U.S. will converge on Green Pond Landing June 9th - 11th for the Hartwell Lake Charity Run.

Formerly known as the Hartwell Lake Poker Run, this event benefits Meals on Wheels - Anderson and their mission of delivering hope to elderly and disabled homebound individuals in Anderson County.

"The Charity Run brings people who love the lake and boating together to support our mission," says Laurie




Ashley, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels - Anderson. "It's a great way to have fun, fundraise, and help people understand our mission of delivering hope for our senior and disabled neighbors."



The Hartwell Lake Sail and Power Squadron originally organized the Hartwell Lake Charity Run in the summer of 1999 and over time, Meals on

Wheels - Anderson became a recipient

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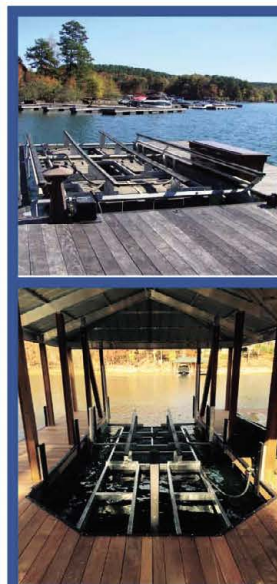


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New U.S. Coast Guard Fire Extinguisher Regulation Effective are in Effect April 20- continued from pg. 1

electrical fires, and some boat owners wisely prefer triple rated A:B:C extinguishers, adding a third protection for combustible fires.

To be serviceable, a portable extinguisher must have a pressure gauge indicating an operable range, lock pin firmly installed, clean discharge nozzle, and no significant corrosion or damage. Some more recently manufactured portable fire extinguishers aboard boats today may carry both old and new labeling, for example, having simultaneous "B-I" and "5-B" classifications.

There are no changes to rechargeable or fixed-mount (i.e., engine room) extinguisher regulations. They continue to require regular maintenance and servicing, typically done annually by a technician.

"This new U.S. Coast Guard expiration date regulation aligns with the 12-years recommended by the National Fire Protection Association," said BoatUS Foundation Assistant Director of Boating Safety Ted Sensenbrenner. "We expect that the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and United States

Power Squadrons vessel safety check program will soon include this new regulation as part of their free, no-penalty vessel exams. Because this change affects a critical piece of safety equipment aboard your boat, we also expect the U.S. Coast Guard will initially focus on education. You may want to start checking extinguishers now while your boat may be ashore this winter."

Sensenbrenner adds, "Also take a look now to ensure your fire extinguishers are readily accessible. You can buy only the bracket if you

don't have one and mount your extinguishers where they need to be — at points of egress, at the helm, and near the engine and fuel supply. Burying them in the bottom of a compartment ensures they will be hard to reach when you need them the most. Familiarizing yourself with the PASS method (Pull, Aim, Squeeze, and Sweep) will prepare you for fighting a small fire aboard."

For more information on the new requirement, as well as frequently asked questions and an infographic, go to www.uscgboating.org. ■

New Law Increases Distance Limits Between a Boat, Docks in Many S.C. Waters, Prohibits Wake Surfing... – continued from pg. 1

apply to Lake Moultrie.

The new law also prohibits "wake surfing" on all S.C. waters within 200 feet of a dock, a

person in the water or an anchored watercraft. Wake surfing is defined in the new law as "a vessel that is ballasted in the stern so as to create

a wake that is, or is intended to be, surfed by another person."

Colonel A. Chisolm Frampton, SCDNR

deputy director for law enforcement, said: "This is a much-needed change that will increase boating safety for all South Carolina boaters." ■

New Name, New Location! Same Run, Same Fun! – continued from pg. 1

of funds raised by the event and would later become the sole charity supported by the event.

Due to low water levels in 2008, the Sail and Power Squadron cancelled the event and decided not to renew it for 2009. Ashley, along with boating enthusiast Terry Young brought together a group of his friends and business associates, including Todd Campbell and Doug Curry, to hold the event in 2009.

Since then, a committee comprising of Ashley, Young, Campbell and Curry meet, plan and direct the event each year.

The Charity Run has made pivots over the years, most notably not being able to play poker under South Carolina gambling laws, which led to its rebranding.

"A few years ago, we received word that we could no longer play the game of poker," says Ashley. "Fortunately, we already had applied for and received our raffle license from the South Carolina Secretary of State's office, so it was a natural transition."

The Hartwell Lake Charity Run announced its new name and new logo earlier this year, along with a new home of Green Pond Landing and Events Center.

"Anderson County is excited to host The Hartwell Lake Charity Run at the Legendary Green Pond Landing. The addition of the amphitheater and weigh-in dock

will help grow boater participation, lakeside spectators, and support of Meals on Wheels - Anderson for our local community," says Matt Schell, Parks Department Manager for Anderson County.

Green Pond Landing was the launch point for the 2022 Academy Sports + Outdoors Bassmaster Classic presented by Huk held this past March and according to Schell, the Charity Run will be given the same treatment as the fishing tournaments Green Pond hosts.

"I am very excited," says Ashley. "Green Pond Landing is a beautiful, centrally located event center and should be accessible to anyone on the lake. Anderson County is providing a wonderful opportunity to help us grow the event."



The weekend's highlights include Thursday night's "Social on the Green" event, Friday's morning "Fun Run" to Clemson Marina and kickoff party and live auction, and Saturday's main event. Food trucks and product vendors will be set up throughout the weekend, along with live music from the likes of Spencer Rush and DJ Mitch Mack.

"Even if you don't have a boat, I think you will enjoy being out at Green Pond," says Ashley.

For more information and on the Hartwell Lake Charity Run, visit the event website at Hartwelllakecharityrun.org. ■



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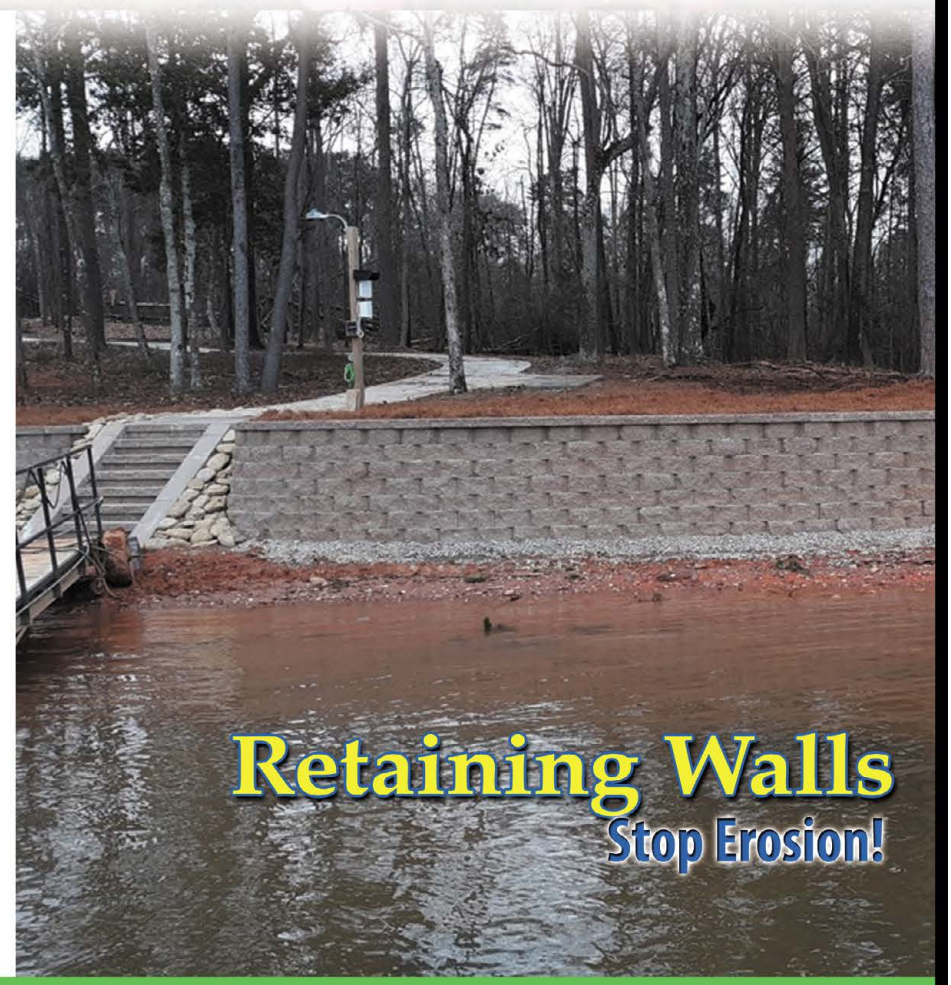




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2022 The Hartwell Antique Boat Festival

By Blue Ridge Chapter of the ACBS

Spring is quickly showing her head here in the South. The daffodils are blooming, some were even up last month, and the days are getting warmer. You should be well underway on your winter boat projects. The Hartwell boat Festival Committee has been working hard to plan a show for 2022. We have run into one problem after the other in trying to find a location where we can host a show. The bad news is, we have been unable to come up with a location for this year, but things are looking up for 2023. For some reason, a whole lot of people have purchased a whole lot of boats in the last two years, and they all want boat slips. Who knew?

The Hartwell Antique Boat Festival has once again been canceled for 2022. In the Festivals place, we will have a rendezvous on the lake and not a show. What is a rendezvous you may ask? Well, it is a group of boaters who happen to show up at the same time and same place, boat together, and happen to end up at the same place for lunch. This is not a ACBS activity, just a group of boaters having fun. If you would like to join us the weekend of April 22-24th, please come. Come for one, two or three days your choice. We are planning on having Scott Ouderkirk from the "Wooden Boat Experience" (<https://www.glassboat.com/wooden-boat-experience>) attending the show. He will be recording the event for his pod case. If you have not watched any of his

shows go to YouTube and look up his channel. The plan if there is such a thing, will be to meet for dinner Thursday evening at 6, location to be determined. Friday and Saturday we will leave from the Hartwell Marina around 10:00 AM and cruise to lunch and explore the lake. Sunday, if there are still boaters around, we will leave around nine for an hour and half cruise to nowhere being back at the Marina by 10:30 to haul out and head home. Please feel free to join us for one, two or three days of fun. Please email just2more@aol.com so we know how many boats to plan on. As our plans firm up, we will let you know.

The Lake Lure boat show May 20-21st is in the final planning stages. This will be our third show on Lake Lure and our first official boat show for this year. For those who might not know, the Blue Ridge Chapter was founded at the Lake Lure Inn so many years ago. I understand the Inn is full currently. There are plenty of other motels in the area. Registration for this show should be available for our members by the middle of March. Remember when you fill out the registration form to include a copy of your boat's insurance showing you have a min. of \$300,000 liability. Lake Lure is a private lake, and this is their requirement for any boat on the lake. On Friday, we are planning a boat outing on the lake. That evening there will be a cocktail party to kick off the event. Saturday is the boat and car show. ■

Victoria Jordan Joins Northeast Georgia Physicians Group in Lavonia

By Northeast Georgia Health System

Patients in Lavonia now have more access to care – and it's care provided by one of their own. The staff and providers at Northeast Georgia Physicians Group (NGPG) Lavonia Clinic welcome Victoria Jordan, FNP, to the Family Medicine practice.

Hard work and dedication are at the core of Victoria's journey back to Lavonia – the community she grew up in and is honored to serve once again.

"I'm just a local girl that wants to care for the community I was raised in," Victoria said. "I have always known I wanted to take care of others, so I'm excited to join NGPG and continue doing that right here in my own backyard."

After graduating from Franklin County High School in 2001, Victoria began working full-time at a local hospital while attending Piedmont College as she worked toward her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. After graduating, she started work as Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) nurse.

"I poured my heart and soul into my career," Victoria said. "I became a lactation counselor, a charge nurse and eventually an assistant manager."

Then it was time to take all she had learned working with babies in the NICU and apply it

to her own life. She and her husband, John, had a baby girl, Claire, which led to a career change for Victoria that offered a more stable schedule. She started work as an Operating Room Nurse and went back to school at Columbus State University to become a Nurse Practitioner (NP).

Because of the demands of working in the operating room, going to school and being a new mom, Victoria went back to her roots working as a NICU nurse at Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Braselton, which allowed her to only work on the weekends.

"I knew that my time would be limited, but I gave it 110%," Victoria said. "It was hard. There were days when I felt like throwing in the towel, but my husband pushed me to keep going and supported me every step of the way. I'd look at Claire and I knew I had to show her she could do anything if she put in the work."

With that hard work she put in, Victoria graduated in 2021 and started work as a NP. And when she saw the opportunity to return home to the community that raised her near Lavonia, she couldn't pass it up.

When she isn't working, Victoria enjoys spending as much time as possible with



Above: Victoria Jordan, FNP

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Victoria Jordan Joins Northeast Georgia Physicians Group in Lavonia – continued from pg. 6

her family – which includes a miniature dachshund, Penny, and a chocolate lab, Doc. They all enjoy the summer and look for any opportunity to get outside or make a trip to the beach. Victoria also enjoys fishing and recently

joined a bass fishing club with her husband.

NGPG’s physicians and advanced practice providers diagnose and treat multiple medical problems for patients of all ages, ranging from sore throat to heart

disease and everything in between. NGPG is honored to care for families when they’re well and when they’re not well.

NGPG Lavonia Clinic is open Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and is located

at 12192 Augusta Road. Call 706-356-1072 to schedule an appointment with Victoria or visit ngpg.org/jordan to learn more.

NGPG is an affiliate of Northeast Georgia Health System. ■

SCDNR Board Vice Chairman Awarded Order of the Palmetto

By SCDNR

South Carolina Gov. Henry Dargan McMaster has awarded Lexington businessman Michael E. Hutchins, vice chairman of the S.C. Department of Natural Resources Board, the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto, the state’s highest civilian award for extraordinary lifetime service and achievements of national and statewide significance.

“Mike has a passion for conservation and for getting young people outside to hunt and fish,” said SCDNR Board Chairman Norman Pulliam. “He has a strong business

background and has been a positive face for SCDNR with the legislature. That has reaped many benefits for conservation in South Carolina. Mike is a true public servant and is very deserving of the Order of the Palmetto.”

Hutchins is among the most experienced of the current SCDNR Board members, having been originally appointed in 2011 by then-Gov. Nikki Haley. In the intervening 11 years, he



Above: Michael E. Hutchins (left) receives the South Carolina Order of the Palmetto from Gov. Henry Dargan McMaster (center). They are joined by Norman Pulliam, chairman of the SCDNR Board. (SCDNR photo by Joey Frazier)

has taken an active role in overseeing policy direction for SCDNR, serving on the agency’s Migratory Waterfowl, and Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division advisory committees, of which he is currently chairman, and leading efforts to protect thousands of acres in South Carolina. Hutchins’ background and experiences as an avid big- game hunter – across four continents and 22 countries; including time spent working with

as a volunteer with wildlife agencies in South Africa, Texas and other U.S. states – prepared him well to take on a leadership role with SCDNR, according to Pulliam.

Hutchins, formerly principal owner of the well-known regional Franks Carwash chain, resides in Lexington with his wife, Paula, of 46 years. The Hutchins’ have three children and eight grandchildren.

The SCDNR Board is comprised of seven members representing each of the state’s seven Congressional districts. The Board meets monthly, normally on the third Thursday of the month, and members of the

continued on page 10

Lake Hartwell Coast Guard Auxiliary Offers Free Vessel Safety Checks

By Steve Siske, U.S. Coast Guard

The most cautious boater can sometimes experience unexpected problems on the water. That’s why the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary recommends that all boaters, including personal water craft and paddle sport users, take advantage of the free Vessel Safety program every year.

What is a Vessel safety Check? The

VSC is a complimentary check of your boat and safety equipment, confirming that your vessel meets the minimum federal and state requirements. There are no fines and no penalties if your vessel does not meet those requirements. The results are not reported to any enforcement agency. Instead, Auxiliary Vessel Examiners will make recommendations and let you know what you need to be legally compliant.

Vessels that pass the safety check will be awarded a VSC decal, placed on your vessel that confirms it has passed a safety check.

Safety checks can be performed at your boat’s location – whether in a slip, at the launch ramp, or in your driveway – by a certified Vessel Examiner, at a mutually convenient



Above: Members Larry Cole and T Jay Harlos

time and place. To make an appointment, contact J. Steven Siske, siskejs@bellsouth.net, 828-230-5248.

The safety check includes inspecting life jackets, registration and numbering, navigational lights, ventilation source, fire extinguishers, distress signals,

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Being a third generation Andersonion, she has watched this area develop for over forty years and is very familiar with the demographics of Anderson County as well as the surrounding area. Much of her knowledge is derived from studying current economic conditions and markets that affect property value as well as personal assets. She is very optimistic regarding the future of the market in my area, and eagerly embrace opportunities to serve as a buyer’s agent or be of service to sellers in my hometown.

Not only is Caroline a real estate agent, photographer but also a personal and group fitness training for over 27 years, league tennis and golf. Caroline loves, her profession but when asked how she balances work and personal life the answer has been

the same for over 40 years! She said, “I am and always have been 100% committed to a cardio/muscular/stretch program.” In her teens she started jogging for weight loss and fell in love with the way exercise and fitness made her look and feel. That led to better food choices and a healthier lifestyle at an early age. After 33 wonderful years of fitness and nutrition, she also owns her own virtual, “online” fitness business, FitOver50. Every morning with her students they get ready for a safely led, energetic online classes, in private, paid Facebook Groups. Her participants range from 58 years to 80 years of age. “It isn’t easy to make it happen some days, but once they show up for class and complete it, the world certainly looks more positive, and we are ready to conquer it, Caroline said.”

Having the fitness commitment out of the way before my day full of real estate begins, gives her the mental sharpness, energy, and competitive advantage to command her day to you! If you are looking to buy a new property, list your home or know friends or relatives looking to move, CALL CAROLINE! Caroline Sullivan Realtor® Western Upstate Keller Williams, 864-202-3134 or email Caroline at callcaroline@kw.com. ■

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SCDNR Board Vice Chairman Awarded Order of the Palmetto... – continued from pg. 7

public interested in issues affecting management of South Carolina's natural resources are welcome. Meeting times, agendas, minutes and other information about the Board's activities are available on the SCDNR website. ■

Lake Hartwell Coast Guard Auxiliary Offers Free Vessel... – continued from pg. 7

electrical connections and items currently required by state and federal laws. If these items are missing, not in compliance or non-operational, it can result in a citation if your vessel is inspected by the Coast Guard or local authorities. As always, the USCG Auxiliary recommends that all boaters take a boating safety class, wear their life jackets when around or on the water, file a float plan, and get their vessels inspected. The Coast Guard Auxiliary is the uniformed civilian component of the U.S. Coast Guard and supports the Coast Guard in nearly all mission areas. The Auxiliary was created by Congress in 1939. For more information please visit www.cgaux.org or contact 828-230-5248. ■

How Does the BoatUS App Shorten On-Water Response Times from TowBoatUS? Helping Boaters on the Water Get Home

By BoatUS

When boats break down or run aground, many recreational boaters use the free BoatUS App to request TowBoatUS on-water assistance. It's the only on-water towing app with the ability to link the captain of a recreational boat with the closest local TowBoatUS towing captain, eliminating the need to call to BoatUS national dispatch.



Above: Boaters shouldn't leave the dock without the BoatUS App.

Said John Condon, BoatUS vice president of towing services, "The BoatUS App can be a time saver when time really counts, automatically providing the closest nearby TowBoatUS

captain with the disabled boat's confirmed GPS location. Just hit the "request a tow" button and you're on your way to get a tow home."

Once the app is activated it asks a few short questions to confirm the vessel type, how many are aboard, anchoring status, the nature of the problem and desired destination.

The App helps keep the boat captain and crew informed, lowering stress levels. Within seconds, a text message is sent to the disabled recreational vessel confirming the information and request was received, and a few minutes later a follow up text provides an estimated time of arrival. A

call or text message from the local TowBoatUS towing captain advising they are underway follows.

The app also offers hurricane alerts, weather and tides; helps BoatUS members find discounts on fuel, transient slips, and marine services.

Much like an auto club for recreational boat owners, BoatUS offers on-water Unlimited Towing Memberships for boaters and anglers for freshwaters for just \$99 per year and \$165 for saltwaters. Included are more than 25 benefits and discounts, a subscription to BoatUS Magazine, free DSC-VHF radio registration, and more. For more information go to BoatUS.com/Towing.

About TowBoatUS:

Boat Owners Association of The United

States (BoatUS) is the nation's leading advocacy, services and safety group for recreational boaters. We are the Boat Owners Auto Club and provide our more than 800,000 members with a wide array of helpful services, including 24-hour on-water towing that gets you safely home when your boat won't, jump starts, fuel delivery, and soft ungroundings. The TowBoatUS towing fleet is North America's largest network of towing ports with more than 300 locations and over 600 red towing assistance vessels, responding to more than 80,000 requests for assistance each year. The BoatUS App makes it easy to summon water and road assistance 24/7 and can speed response times (BoatUS.com/App). For more information go to BoatUS.com/Towing. ■

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Tap Into a BoatUS Foundation Grassroots Grant To Improve Local Waterways and Support Boating Safety

By BoatUS

Does your local organization or group wish to keep waters clean or improve boating safety and could use some money to make it happen?

The BoatUS Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water Grassroots Grant program provides local groups up to \$10,000 each to help educate boaters on safe and clean boating topics. There is no annual deadline to apply — a 365-day rolling grant application process allows applicants to apply at any time throughout the year. To get started, simply submit a short letter of intent explaining a clean water or boating safety grant idea.

The goal of the Boat Owners Association of the United States (BoatUS) member-funded program is to help make behavioral changes in the boating community through grassroots projects. Some previously funded programs have included hands-on education about the effects of marine debris, video public service announcements on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species, and a unique pilot study of fiberglass recycling.

“Think big. Think never-been-done-before



Above: Projects that improve local water quality or support boating safety can be funded with a BoatUS Foundation Grassroots Grant (credit: Rozalia Project).

when submitting your letter of intent,” said BoatUS Foundation Director of Outreach Alanna Keating. “How does your idea include outreach to boaters? Is there hands-on volunteer work with the boating community? How can we measure success? Is the grant project potentially scalable?”

Boat and yacht clubs, environmental groups, nonprofit organizations, student groups or local chapters of national organizations such as BASS, U.S. Power Squadrons and U.S. Coast

Guard Auxiliary are encouraged to apply. The timeline for grant projects is one year or less.

Grant funding is not designed for capital improvements or general operating funds, projects that include lobbying efforts or political action, or those that provide specialized training or equipment for the recipient group members. Expenses for transportation, meals or lodging, purchase of electronic hardware/software, or boats and other boating gear are also not covered.

Since 1989, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1.3 million in boating safety and clean water grants to organizations. For more information or to apply, go to BoatUS.org/Grants. ■

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District has Projects Funded Through the Infrastructure I



By USACE, Savannah District

SAVANNAH, Ga. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced in January, the studies, projects, and programs that will be initiated in Fiscal Year 2022 with the \$22.81 billion in supplemental funding provided in two recently enacted laws — the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); and the 2022 Disaster Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (DRSAA).

The IIJA provides a large boost to

the normal appropriations process for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers projects, Savannah District, and is the largest single investment ever to restore and revitalize the infrastructures associated with the rivers and lakes in Georgia and South Carolina.

The DRSAA includes funding for qualifying natural disasters where losses were suffered due to droughts, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, etc. The Savannah District didn't receive funding through this Act.

SAVANNAH DISTRICT FUNDING

DETAILS: Hartwell Lake, Georgia and South Carolina (\$1.475 million), restroom repair at Singing Pines and Broyles Recreation Areas, camp site repair at Springfield Campground, procure and install new catenary and bar screen trash racks with automatic mechanical trash rake system, and replace failed Clemson Pump Station diesel pumps and right-angle drives. J. Strom Thurmond Lake, Georgia and South Carolina (\$1.551 million), Replace spillway gate controls and road paving at West Dam Visitor Center Observation Area

Richard B. Russell Dam and Lake, Georgia and South Carolina (\$4.502 million), Replace oxygen line diffusers and replace South Carolina bank fish deterrent system lighting. Savannah Harbor, Georgia (\$4.150 million), Purchase and install two additional oxygen generator system, bathrooms and breakrooms, and oxygen generator shelters. Savannah Harbor Expansion, Georgia (\$48 million), Fully fund environmental monitoring (two years during construction and 10 years post construction). ■

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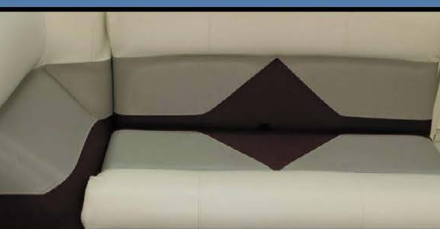
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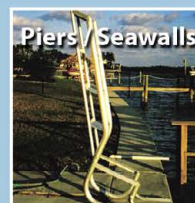
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SCDNR's K9 Rio Receives Donation of Body Armor

By SCDNR

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' (SCDNR) K9 Rio has received a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s Inc. K9 Rio's vest was embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of K9 Gabo, Jonesboro, AR - EOW 1/16/20."

SCDNR's K9 team is used in the investigation of hunting and fishing violations statewide, as well as frequently being called upon to assist other law enforcement agencies with a wide range of calls including missing persons or evidence searches.

"We are so appreciative of this donation by Vested Interest in K9s," said SCDNR's Sgt. Freddie Earhart, Rio's handler. "It will help keep Rio safe as she performs her daily law enforcement duties." Earhart and Rio are based out of SCDNR's Region Four and generally cover the coastal counties, although their assignments may range over the entire state.

Vested Interest in K9s Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and



Above: K9 Rio Receives Donation of Body Armor.

related agencies throughout the United States. This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted, and NIJ certified. Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided more than 4,601 vests to K9s in all 50 states at a value of \$6.9 million, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old and actively employed and certified with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate. There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Vested Interest in K9s Inc. accepts tax-deductible contributions in any amount, while a single donation of \$960 will sponsor one vest. Each vest has a value of \$1,744-\$2,283, weighs an average of 4-5 pounds, and comes with a five-year warranty. For more information, or to learn about volunteer opportunities, call (508) 824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts donations at www.vik9s.org, or you may mail your contribution to PO Box 9, East Taunton, MA 02718. ■

Hunters Who Harvest a Tagged Coyote Can Earn Free Lifetime License

By SCDNR

The S.C. Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) released 16 more tagged coyotes statewide recently as part of the Coyote Harvest Incentive Program, and any hunter who successfully takes and reports one of these tagged coyotes will be rewarded with a free lifetime license.

The Coyote Harvest Incentive Program was created in 2016 by the General Assembly, which directed SCDNR to develop and implement a coyote tagging and reward program. Annually, SCDNR traps, tags and releases four coyotes per game zone (16 total). Anyone who successfully takes and reports a tagged coyote will be rewarded with a free lifetime hunting license. The person reporting the tagged coyote has the option to designate anyone for the lifetime license such as a child, relative, or friend.

Over the last five years, a total of 96 coyotes have been tagged and released, including the 16 that were recently released.



Above: Any hunter who successfully takes and reports a tagged coyote will be rewarded with a free lifetime license. (USFWS photo)

To date, about half of the tagged coyotes have been reported taken. Coyotes tagged in any year are eligible for the lifetime license incentive. The specially marked tags



Above: Only the uniquely identifiable SCDNR coyote tags are eligible for the lifetime license.

provide contact information directly on them. Only the uniquely identifiable SCDNR coyote tags are eligible for the lifetime license as there are potentially some coyotes that have been tagged for research purposes.

For more information on the Coyote Harvest Incentive Program, visit <https://www.dnr.sc.gov/wildlife/coyote/coyoteincentive.html>. ■



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Lake Hartwell Wildlife Safari

By Lyndsey Pirro

Looking to talk a walk on the wild side one weekend? The Lake Hartwell Wildlife Safari is one way to do it! Located at 915 Boleman Hill Road in Hartwell, GA, the drive-thru adventure is open Friday-Sunday from 10am-5pm (September-November hours) and gives people the chance to see some exotic animals from the safety of the car. The price of admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, with a bag of feed being \$5; outside food is unsafe for the animals and is not allowed. Monday-Thursday the Safari is open for school field trips, providing open air buses for children to get a great view of the denizens of the park.

There is a huge variety of animals to be seen on the drive through the park, including ostrich, American bison, zebras, camels, water buffalo, kangaroos, antelope, African watusi, and many more. Vehicle rental is available

for \$20 if you don't want to drive your own vehicle through the park, and for large groups of 10 or more people busses can be rented with reservations. Some of the animals come to greet people in their cars, with others hanging back and roaming the areas rather than approaching. Many visitors describe how friendly the animals are, especially Taco the zebra.

The Safari does have rules for the safety of both guests and animals. It is important to stay in your vehicle the entire time, keep speed to less than 5 mph, refrain from littering and feeding the zebras. Some animals are okay to be fed but should only be fed the special feed from the Safari. One mom laughingly relayed "Definitely buy plenty of feed and save some for the kangaroos at the end!"

The park opened for the season in March 2022 with the additions of a gift shop, birthday area, and indoor restrooms. For the latest information, check out www.lakehartwellsafari.com or call (706) 961-1364. ■

Where the Kids Are: Split Creek Farm in Anderson

By South Carolina Tourism

Do your children (or, let's be honest, you) love those videos of baby goats romping around in pajamas? Or baby goats snuggling with stuffed animals? Or baby goats playing with little pigs?

There's no arguing that the baby goats in those videos are adorable. But baby goats, or kids, are even more adorable in real life. And getting to play with those baby goats yourself? It's just about the most adorable afternoon a person can have.

At Split Creek Farm in Anderson, you can do just that.

Split Creek Farm always has a bunch of kids-sometimes more than 200-who jump, shake, leap and wiggle around the farm. Visitors are welcome to come and see the kids and the mamas, as well as the half dozen loving and patient farm dogs who protect them. It's just about impossible not to fall in love with all the animals. The kids are playful and comical as they spill all over their fields and enclosures. The milking does are curious and gentle, and the guardian and shepherding dogs patiently try to keep it all together.

Located in rolling and leafy Anderson, Split Creek has been a goat dairy farm since 1985. The farm's founder, Evin Evans, died two years ago, but co-owner Pat Bell and her

daughter Jessica Bell decided to carry on. We're lucky they did.

The farm began producing its award-winning goat cheeses in 1988. Since then, their cheeses have won numerous national and even international awards. In 2017, Split Creek's feta marinated in olive oil won a Good Food Award from the Good Food Foundation, based in California. And unlike

many other food awards, this one judges not just the deliciousness of the cheese, but on the health and well-being of the animals and the practices of the farmer, as well.

It wasn't Split Creek Farm's first time winning a prize for their marinated feta. This particular cheese has been winning prizes for more than a decade.

The farm now produces a full line of dairy products from its goat herd, including raw milk, yogurt and even fudge. All are available in the farm store located right in the middle of the fun. The store also carries products from other local South Carolina farmers, from honeys to jams to folk art.

While the overwhelming adorableness of the kids might be what draws you in to Split Creek Farm the first time, it will be the cheeses, fudge and yogurt that will bring you back.

To place an order online go to order@splitcreek.com ■



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21 Gas Saving Tips for Boaters

By BoatUS

Gas prices are up. What can boaters do to prepare for a summer of boating? The 800,000-plus member Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) has 21 fuel-saving tips boaters can do to help save on fuel and still enjoy a fulfilling season on the water. While some of these techniques may sound obvious, there may be some you never considered.

Before Heading Out: 1) Tune your engine now. A once a year for a tune-up and service will help it run more efficiently. 2) Match the boat's prop to the boat and activity. Propellers are most efficient when they're matched to the kind of boat you have and what you use it for (e.g., towing water skiers, fishing). Ask the pros at a propeller shop for recommendations and experiment with different models. The right prop can potentially increase fuel efficiency by as much as 10%. 3) Check your WOT. Take your boat out on a calm day and run wide-open throttle (WOT). The WOT rating is the RPM range the motor should achieve when running at wide open throttle. If it's not able to reach WOT — or overruns it — you've got the wrong prop and you're not getting the most bang for your fuel buck. 4) Check for propeller damage throughout the season. A dinged or broken propeller will hurt your fuel economy, so regularly inspect yours and replace it if it's damaged. 5) Keep the prop clean. Barnacles and other growth can attach to the propeller, which will slow it down and impact fuel economy. 6) Keep a slick hull. For boats that spend a lot of time in the water, barnacles or stuck-on grass can

create drag on the hull and make the engine work harder. Boats in warm places will probably need to be cleaned weekly, while those in colder waters may be able to go a month or two. 7) Measure your fuel flow. Install a fuel-flow meter, which can show you in real time how many gallons per hour your engine is burning and allow you to dial in the most efficient speed for your boat. 8) Upgrade your motor — if you can. With the pandemic, engines have been hard to come by, but newer engines tend to be significantly more efficient than older models. The fuel savings alone might not be enough to justify an upgrade, but you're likely also benefitting the environment. If your vessel is suitable, there are more options for electric and hybrid propulsion than ever before. 9) Join BoatUS. Yes, this is a pitch, but it will save you gas money. Members receive exclusive marina fuel discounts at nearly 400 BoatUS Partner Network marinas across the United States that offer BoatUS members up to 10 cents off per gallon of fuel. 10) Refuel smartly ashore. Most recreational boats in the U.S. are refueled at roadside gas stations, mini-marts, and other retailers. It may be wise to enroll in the retailer's customer loyalty or "cash back" program. Just read the fine print on how your discount is delivered. Your credit card company or grocery store may also offer percentage-based "cash back" program on fuel.

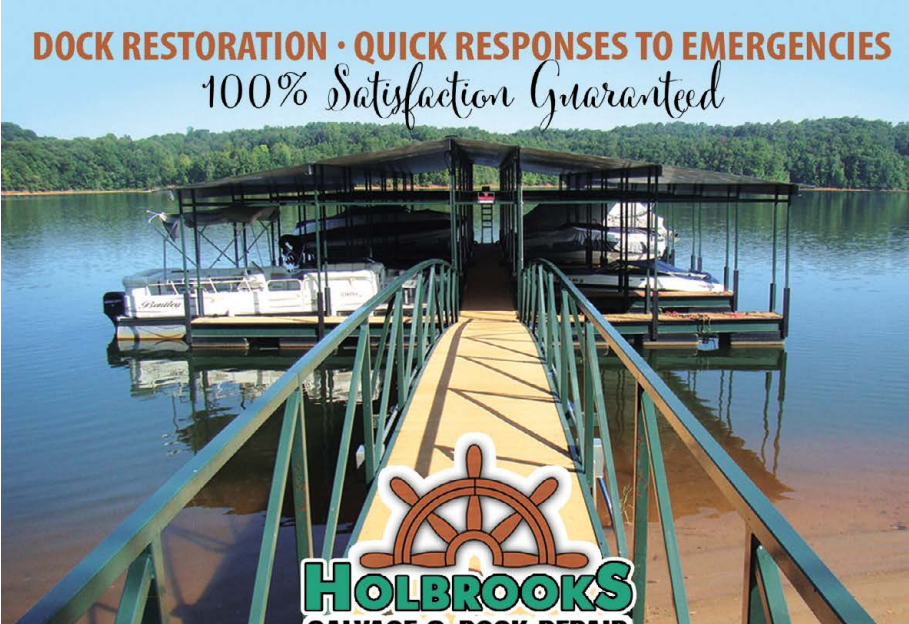
At The Dock 1) Ditch extra stuff. Take stock of what's onboard; additional weight means more drag. Clean out anything you won't need, from extra anchors to old, unused lines and tools. Of course, this does not include safety

gear or necessary ground tackle. 2) Lighten your tanks. Don't run with a full freshwater or fuel tank unless you absolutely need it. Water weighs 8 pounds per gallon, and some boats have freshwater tanks that can hold 100 gallons, so emptying half can add up quickly. Gasoline weighs 6 pounds per gallon, so if you don't need a full tank to safely return (you obviously don't want to worry about getting stranded), lighten your load and bring less. A rule of thumb when planning for fuel use on any outing is you need to have one-third of your fuel to your destination, one-third back home, and one-third in reserve. 3) Avoid excess idling. It's a common misconception that engines need time to warm up. Modern engines are fuel injected, so when you start them, they're ready to go in a minute or two. 4) A note on safety: Self-refueling your boat while it's in the slip at a marina with portable containers may be prohibited due to fire hazard or potential for a spill and depending on the volume of fuel needed for a fill-up may be impractical. It's also problematic as the risk of fire and explosion goes up when gas is transported in your vehicle. This type of refueling is better suited to small vessels with portable tanks that can be removed, filled at a gas station, and returned to the boat. Regardless of how you refuel, follow all safety guidelines.

On The Water 1) Rearrange your passengers. Evenly distributing the load aboard your boat is the simplest way to help you boat run most efficiently when the boat's trimmed, which is roughly parallel to its at-rest waterline and not leaning too far to one side or the other. 2) Get on

plane. Most recreational boats run most efficiently when they're on plane, so once you're out of the no-wake zone, safely get on plane as soon as you can. If your boat has trim tabs, experiment with the up/down switch to find the sweet spot where your boat moves most efficiently and achieves the best trim. 3) Watch your wake. One sign you're blowing gas is the size of your wake. While sometimes you have no option, slowing down to no-wake speed saves fuel. It's a matter of plowing a wall of water rather than efficiently slipping over or through it. Of course, wakesurfers will take umbrage to this tip. We get it. 4) Try slowing down. Yeah, that's a hard one for a lot of us, but in addition to stretching a tank of gas, it's safer. You'll see more things and have more time to react in the water, such as other boats or approaching traffic. 5) Reduce wind drag. A canvas or bimini top is great for protection from the sun, but you can improve fuel efficiency while underway by taking it down if you can. Just be sure to bring — and apply — sunblock. 6) Navigate smartly. The ultimate trick to saving fuel, of course, is running your engine less. Travel to closer destinations or drop anchor somewhere nearer to home to enjoy your fun afternoon on the water. If possible, take the shorter route and route trips in synch with current and tide, and try to avoid a lot of banging into head seas. 7) Share your angling outings by "buddy boating." Head out this weekend by inviting the guy in the slip next to you, and then rotate on the next weekend's angling outing. This fuel-saving technique is especially popular with anglers who fish canyons far offshore. Of course, this also improves your social aspects of fishing life as well. ■

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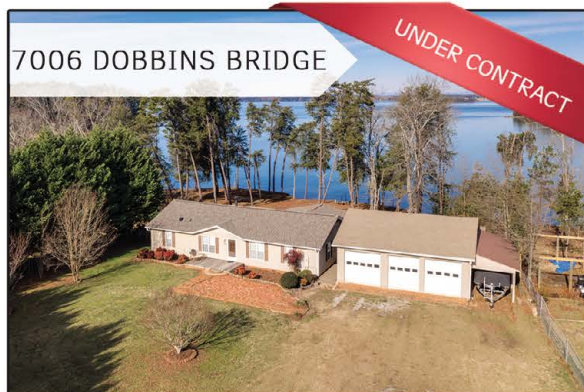
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