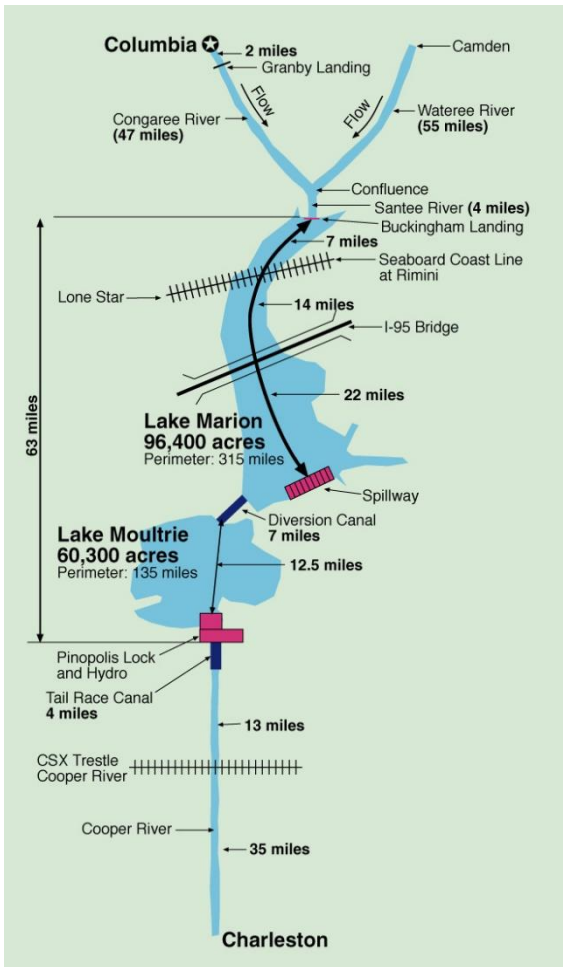
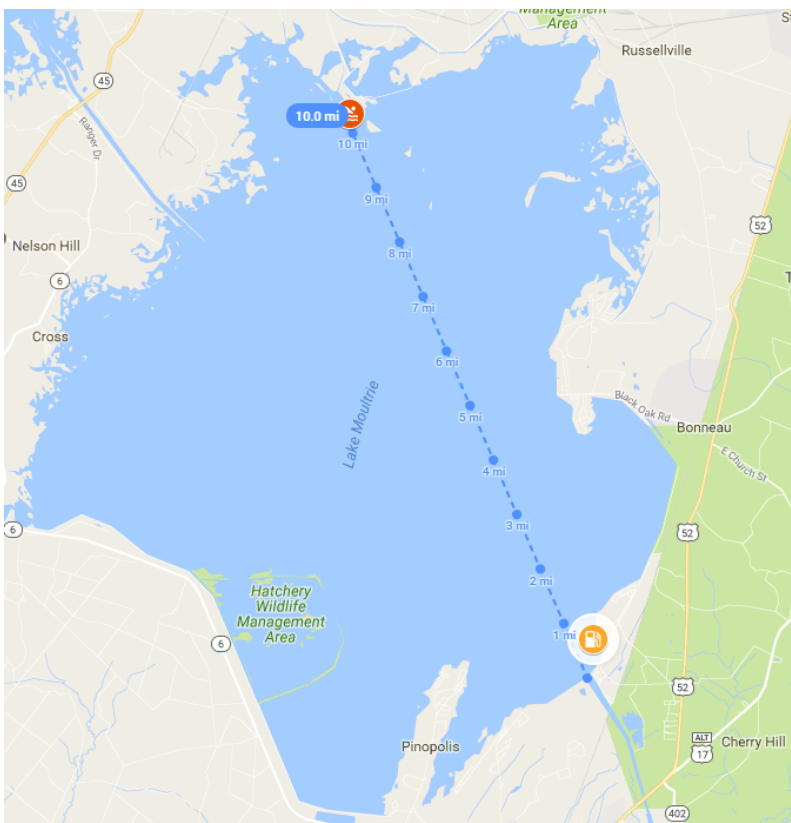


Cruise up the Copper River, through the Pinopolis Lock in to Lake Moultrie



Several members have requested a cruise up the Cooper River, and through the Pinopolis Lock to Lake Moultrie. Due to the various size and range of member's boats, we are looking at a couple of options. Larger boats kept in the Charleston Harbor waters, can cruise the entire length of the Cooper River to the Lock (option1). Smaller trailered boats may choose to launch further upstream near Cyprus Gardens (option2). Still others may decide to launch directly on Lake Moultrie (option3). Either way you get there, the end result would be to have a raft up at Sandy Beach, about 10 miles across the Lake from the Lock, on the north end of Lake Moultrie; for lunch, swimming, and maybe some tubing. The Cooper River is well marked till a few miles upstream of the **Railroad bridge at Strawberry**, which has a closed **vertical clearance of 10'**, and can be opened with a 1-hour lead time, once they have been notified 6 hours in advance of the pending transit. The bridge near the dam has a vertical clearance of 15' with a max of 50'. It is normally maned by the same **bridge tender 843-899-7647**. The Lock does NOT operate during thunderstorms or rough water 843-899-5625. The upper Cooper River has good depth, just remain at least 75' from the shore as there are piles near the shore which remain submerged at high tide. Lake Moultrie is only marked in the center channel. There are not as many submerged trees as Lake Marion, but navigating into shallow areas less than 10' should be done with extreme caution. The center section of the lake, which has a depth of 25'-50' is reasonably safe. I will lead the group from the Cypress Garden ramp at 0900. We will meet up with any boaters coming up from the harbor just before the bridge at Strawberry at



0930. Does anyone need the bridge opened?? We should make it to the base of the Lock between 1030 and 1100. This should put us at Sandy Beach by 1200, depending on how long the Lock takes, and whether anybody needs the bridges opened.

Option 1 The distance from the Ravenal Bridge, to the Lock, is approximately 40 miles. There is no fuel available upstream of the Ravenal Bridge. Fuel is available at several locations on Lake Moultrie, the closest being at **Navy Short Stay** which sells non-ethanol, no diesel **(843) 761-8353**, just over a ½ mile from the Lock. The Lock may not operate if there is a thunderstorm, or a strong NW wind producing large waves against the Lock. Therefore, it is advised that vessels using this option have a minimum range of 80 miles in case the Lock cannot be used, and there can be no refueling on Lake Moultrie.

Option 2 From the Cypress Gardens ramp to the Lock is about 25 miles.