

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
District Eleven North Region
Division 113-07
DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT

To: Wally Smith, Commodore
District 11 North Region
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

November 2017

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Patrol Season Ended
2. PA Events
3. Disenrollments
4. Division 7 COW
5. Summary of 2017 Operations Patrols and Activities

DETAILS:

1. The 2017 Operations season in Utah has ended. Vessels have been taken back to winter storage. PPE is being put out of service for the year.
2. As reported in the SO-PA report, Flotilla 07-06 Ogden did an outstanding job supporting safety fairs in Layton, Sunset City, West Point, Clearfield, and South Weber. Most of these were in conjunction with National Fire Prevention Month and were sponsored by the local fire departments. An estimated 4600 kids and parents attended all these events.
3. Disenrollments - the Division 7 SO-HR received nine disenrollments requests from our flotilla commanders.
4. Division 7's COW for 2017 has been rescheduled to February 17, 2018 because of uncertainty about the federal budget.
5. A summary of the 2017 Division 7 Operations Patrols and Activities is at the end of this report.

PROJECTS:

1. Redesign the Boat Show booth; make and implement plans for booth activities and seminars to be taught during the Boat Show.

AGENCY INTERACTION:

1. none

3 UPS – STRENGTHS OR HIGHLIGHTS

1. Auxiliarists who are active are all proficient, extremely well-trained and qualified, and dedicated to the Auxiliary missions.
2. Solid Operations program with highly trained coxswains and crew

3 DOWNS – CHALLENGES

1. Recruitment continues to be a major issue.
2. New leadership stepping up
3. Member Involvement in other missions

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Increase our number of vessel examiners and the number of vessel exams we do by 10% - *I believe we have three new vessel examiners (need to confirm)*
1. Hold one boating education class per quarter - *missed the first quarter goal, but held boating class in 2nd and 3rd quarter*
2. Increase our Program Visitors by 10% and identify marine and boat dealers along the Wasatch Front who are not being visited and make sure they are having a visit by a Program Visitor - *have surpassed goal. Need to work on project to identify marine and boat dealers.*
3. Increase our Division participation in Public Affairs events. - *little progress*
4. Offer more leadership training to our flotilla FC and VFC and any other interested Division member to increase our trained leadership pool and to encourage participation in leadership opportunities - *DCDR will be working with SO-MT to schedule some leadership classes this fall.*
5. Encourage all FSO-OPs to participate as lead coordinator/POC for a special event to develop capacity, experience, and confidence to assume additional responsibilities. - *little progress*
6. Encourage more qualified boat crew to participate in summer patrols - *struggling*

	2017 Goals	YTD Totals as of 11/4/2017
Marine Patrols	3,500	3,303
Search and Rescue (hrs)		1,609
Marine Dealer Visits (#)	100	226
Public Education (hrs)	35	41
Vessel Safety Checks (#)	200	185
Facility Inspections (#)		8
Vessel Safety Checks (#)		102
Paddle Craft Inspections (#)		75
Member Training (hrs)	200	446
Public Affairs (hrs - community relations)	150	171
Total Hours for Division 7		
All Missions <small>(some missions not listed above)</small>	13,200	8,978

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Visser
DCDR
Division 07 Utah

Division 7 Operations Summary for 2017

Personnel: Coxswains - 20
Crew - 12
PWC Operators - 5

Operational Facilities

- 13, including 4 State Vessels as part of our MOU with the State of Utah and 2 PWCs

268 Patrols Conducted from April - September 2017

- Bear Lake - 43 patrols - 1 vessel, 2 coxswain
- Bullfrog - 36 patrols - 1 vessel, 1 coxswain
- Deer Creek - 7 patrols, 1 vessel, 1 coxswain
- Jordanelle - 94 patrols (26 patrols were in conjunction with ranger training and our OPTREX) 10 vessels, 12 coxswain
- Strawberry - 16 patrols - 3 vessels (1 for coxswain QE sign-off), 3 coxswain (1 coxswain for QE sign-off)
- Utah Lake - 10 patrols - 1 vessel, 1 coxswain
- Wahweap - 1 patrol - 1 vessel, 1 coxswain (2 PWC Operators)
- Willard Bay - 65 patrols - 5 vessels (3 boats, 2 PWCs) 6 coxswain (1 PWC Operators)

3779 patrol hours (coxswain, crew, trainees)

- 1608 patrol hours - coxswain
- 2069 patrol hours - crew
- 102 patrol hours - trainee

1608 Vessel Hours (underway)

199 SAR Vessel Hours

217 Assists

13 lives saved

870 persons assisted

\$5,922,500 property value

BEAR LAKE REPORT

Submitted by Pam Berger, FC - Flotilla 113-07-08

Flotilla 78 had a good patrol season in 2017. The 2017 Patrol season began on May 10, 2017 and continued every weekend and Holiday through September 16, 2017. Four flotilla members participated in the Operations program. While working closely with Rich County Sheriff Dispatch, Utah State Parks Rangers and Bear Lake County Rangers at Bear Lake flotilla members conducted 43 patrols aboard the facility Mama Bear.

- 2 Patrols for Ranger Training at Jordanelle
- P Berger - 23 Patrols as CX and 20 as crew
- W Rouleau - 20 Patrols as CX and 15 as crew
- L Visser - 40 Patrols as crew
- J Stocking - 13 Patrols as trainee and crew
- 928.7 Coxswain and Crew hours
- 307.7 vessel hours
- 46 Assists

- 152 Persons assisted
- \$886,000 estimated property value assisted
- 1 new crew qualification
- 3 Coxswain/Crew re-qualification

Supported activities included:

- Participated in Utah Ranger Training at Jordanelle as part of Division effort. Mama Bear was assigned as a transfer platform for rangers-in-training waiting for their next scenario. We took the opportunity to instruct the rangers in some basics of boating, since many of them admitted to having little or no boating experience. We showed them how to tie off to a cleat, some basic knots such as clove hitches and bowline, and a few tips on basic close boat handling.
 - Flotilla member Bill Rouleau, who also crews and coxswains on Mama Bear, provided his personal COMMS trailer and served as radio guard for the event.
- Participated in SAR training as lead instructors for Utah Park Rangers, Rich County UT Search and Rescue personnel, Garden City UT Fire Department, Rich County UT Sheriff personnel, and Bear Lake County ID Sheriff personnel. Taught classroom and practical on-the-water SAR patterns and multi-vessel search techniques. During the on-the water training, an Auxiliarist was on board on each of the ranger boats to continue the training with several training scenarios to reinforce the skills learned in the classroom training.
- A 7 mile swim across the lake – 26 swimmers swam from the west shore at the Bear Lake State Park Marina across Bear Lake to the east shore at Cisco Beach. Mama Bear and crew provided a security zone for the event and a rescue platform if needed.
- 2 triathlons – both triathlons were hosted by Idaho State Parks for the first time this year, and Mama Bear and crew were asked by Idaho State Parks to provide perimeter patrols for both events and assist with rescues if needed. We assisted two swimmers in the second triathlon who were struggling with cramping and possible anxiety about swimming in an open body of water, and a few other swimmers who needed to just grab onto a surface to get their breath. Our newest crew member who had passed his initial QE qualifications was onboard for both events, and his EMT training was valuable in assisting the distressed swimmers who were brought aboard.
- Raspberry Days Parade of Light and fireworks display – perimeter control, reminders to vessels who didn't have their navigation lights on to turn their lights on at all times, and sweeps after the fireworks to verify all vessels got off the water after the event.
- Perimeter patrol for brush fire at the water's edge, assisting the Fire Department with their fire boat. Mama Bear was in the area when the fire first started. We contacted the Garden City Fire Department to notify them of the location of the fire and to suggest the fire boat be dispatched as the fire was close to shore. Garden City Fire Department dispatched their fire boat to the scene, and Mama Bear and crew assisted with keeping boaters back from the area so the fire boat could operate safely. As the fire grew and the fire crew on board the fire boat were needed on shore, the Garden City fire chief requested an Auxiliarist come aboard the fire boat and station watch to keep the boat in a position to keep it off the beach, keep the pumps in deep enough water to keep the pumps free from sand and rocks, and allow the pumps to pull water from the lake to the tankers to fight the fire.
- Educating the boating public about boating laws, especially PFD requirements on paddle boards

Type of assists

- Overheating engines
- Starter issues
- Vessels out of fuel
- Dead Battery
- Vessels taking on water
- Overtaken PWC
- Overdue vessels after storms
- Missing children, last seen in water
- People on inflatable toys drifting away from shore and vessels, unable to return to beach under own power
- Night searches for disabled vessels
- Overdue PWC's
- Assisted numerous PWC operators and passenger who were unable to reboard PWC's – several without PFD's
- Assisted several swimmers during triathlons – unable to continue due to muscle cramps or anxiety over open water swim
- One member assisted another flotilla with a perimeter patrol during the recovery efforts of a drowning victim

Memorable Assists

The 2017 patrol season at Bear Lake thankfully had no boating fatalities this year. We did have a higher number of searches for missing vessels than we have had in past years, include one night-time search, which put all our spring training with the Utah and Idaho rangers, sheriffs, and SAR teams into practice.

- Out on a patrol, we spotted a very odd sight: a turtled Hobie Cat with its pontoons five feet above the water, two people in the water and a couple of PWCs trying to assist. We took a mildly hypothermic youth and the other rider aboard. It was determined that the Hobie Cat, with a 25-foot mast, was turtled in 20 feet of water, with the mast stuck in the mud. There was also a very frantic owner of the Hobie Cat bearing down on the scene on a PWC because his son had been on the Hobie Cat. Keeping the teenager on board, the two older men back into the water and attached a line to the Hobie Cat, and Mama Bear's crew were able to assist them with freeing the Hobie Cat mast from the mud and right the Hobie Cat.
- A Utah Park Ranger radioed Rich County Dispatch about a boat dead in the water, drifting into the rocks, and taking on water just outside the marina. The park ranger was assisting from shore and asked for Auxiliary assistance. Mama Bear and crew responded and quickly put the vessel in a stern tow to get the vessel away from the rocks. The crew quickly brought the boat alongside, deployed two dewatering pumps, and rigged for a side tow to get the boat back into the marina. The coxswain put the boat on the trailer from the side tow. We later found out the boater had failed to put in the midship plug. I would like to add the crew this day were both female Auxiliarists!
- Upon resuming our patrol after an afternoon thunderstorm, we were waved down by two employees on PWCs who were out looking for an overdue rental boat. We obtained as much information as possible and relayed that information to Rich County Dispatch. Mama Bear and crew commenced a search of the lake from Gus's Point north to the Bear Lake State Marina – an area approximately 5 miles long and 8 miles wide. Two Bear Lake State Park vessels were launched. Rich County Dispatch also notified Bear Lake County ID Dispatch, and two Idaho park rangers commenced a search of the

northern part of the lake. Additionally, a few Rich County Search and Rescue team members were positioned at various vantage points around the lake searching for the missing vessel with spotting scopes. After an hour of searching, the vessel was located at the north end of the lake - aground, damaged, and well outside the designated area they were authorized by their rental agreement to be in.

- One unique assist involved one boat that we assisted three times in two days. The first call came from Rich County Dispatch reported as a disabled vessel which the occupants were trying to paddle to shore. We located the vessel and jumped their battery to get it going. Three hours later Rich County Dispatch called on another distress call, which turned out to be the same boat – with a dead battery. This time we towed them back to the beach and advised them of a couple places in the area to get a new battery as theirs seemed unable to hold a charge.

The following day we were alongside one of the Utah Parks patrol boat talking to the ranger when Dispatch called with two needed assists at the same time--one with an engine that would not start and one reported as taking on water. Deciding that the vessel taking on water took priority, we both commenced the search for the sinking vessel, The Utah Parks ranger found the sinking vessel, which turned out not to be taking on water. Mama Bear and crew turned our attention to the second boat, which we quickly located, and to our amazed amusement discovered it was the same vessel we had assisted twice the day before. They informed us they could not get their boat started because their battery was dead, but didn't know why their battery was dead because they were using their electric trolling motor – not their gas motor! Instead of purchasing a new battery, they had bought a jump pack which possibly had not been initially charged because it would not work. We successfully jumped the battery, but then they couldn't get their boat into gear. At this point we put them into a stern tow and took them back to the beach.

- Just before we completed this assist, Dispatch called out on an overdue PWC which had left Rendezvous Beach heading towards the marina. While we finished our tow, Utah Park rangers commenced a shoreline search starting at the marina and south. We were then assigned to continue with a shoreline search starting 8 miles south of the marina around the south end of Bear Lake and up the east side. After finishing an unsuccessful search of the shoreline, we went back to the south end of the lake and commenced a north-bound wide-track parallel search with the Utah Parks vessel. A second Utah Parks vessel was searching from the marina south. Idaho had been notified as well and was also on the lookout for the missing PWC. After missing for over three hours, a good Samaritan brought the missing PWC and rider to the marina. Being unfamiliar with the lake, she had gone over a mile past the marina, fallen off her PWC, and could not re-board. The good Samaritan had come across her in the water, brought her aboard, took the PWC in tow, and treated the PWC operator for mild hypothermia on the way to the marina.

WILLARD BAY REPORT

Willard Bay was exceptionally busy the summer of 2017. New restrictions at Pine View Reservoir had moved a lot of the camping and beach activities to Willard Bay, and consequently there was a lot more boating traffic. Add in a ranger shortage, and then new rangers, and the boats and crews patrolling Willard Bay were kept very busy all summer.

- Participated in patrols for Ranger Training at Jordanelle
- C Henning - 25 Patrols
- K Halls - 5 Patrols
- M Robertson - 3 Patrols
- T Diamond - 9 patrols

- T Zocchi - # patrols unknown
- A Zocchi - # patrols unknown
- 1 coxswain and 1 crew re-qualification

Willard Bay Assists:

- **submitted by Tony and Ann Zocchi, Keith Halls - crew of Z Boat**

The park ranger woke Ann and Tony Zocchi up early one morning. The ranger reported that they had received a 911 call from bystanders on the beach that they could hear people screaming for help out in the water off the point of Eagle Beach. The park ranger was still 20 to 25 minutes out from reaching the park and lake and asked if we could start the search for the victims in the water.

We quickly dressed and jumped into our vehicle to head to the dock for our awaiting vessel . Keith Halls, a fellow Auxiliarist who was staying on his boat tied up at the dock met us to help with this rescue. The marina was very cold that morning with high winds and the water had whitecaps and large swells for this lake.

On approach to the last reported location we spotted another vessel some fairly shallow water - approximately 5 feet deep. They had the two victims from a capsized boat on board and had their capsized motor-powered canoe draped across the back of their vessel. The two fishermen had been in the water for over an hour and a half in frigid temperatures. They were shivering uncontrollably in the open-bow 17-foot vessel in the wind wearing nothing more than their soaking wet clothes and a life jacket.

We made attempts to get alongside the Good Samaritans vessel and took on board the two fishermen. We quickly took them below deck into the cabin where it was warm and covered them with blankets. We instructed the Good Samaritan to take their vessel to shore and report it to the Ranger. We then notified the park ranger that we had the two missing fisherman on board, were heading back to the marina, and we would need medical assistance.

We tied up to the dock and waited for medical personnel to arrive, who then took over and assessed the men's condition. By this time, the men (who were hypothermic) were starting to warm up and were a lot more responsive and coherent. They expressed their deep appreciation for our help on the lake. They were released from the ambulance with no serious injuries and proceeded to gather their gear and head home to tell their story of their unbelievable fishing trip that cold morning.

- Two boaters overturned on a PWC and were unable to re-board. They had been in the water for over 30 minutes with mild hypothermia and dehydration when pulled from the water.

JORDANELLE RESERVOIR REPORT

Supported Activities:

- Scheel's Paddle Demo – July 8 at Jordanelle Reservoir – perimeter control
- Fire On The Water – July 15 at Jordanelle Reservoir – highly popular event, estimated attendance of 8,000-10,000 visitors, with extremely heavy boat traffic, ramp congestion assistance, wakeless area closures, closure and control during fireworks display that night.
- Outdoor Retailers Event – July 25 at Jordanelle Reservoir – perimeter control
- Doxa Threelay Triathlon – July 28 at Jordanelle Reservoir – perimeter control, swimmer safety

