

District Eleven Northern Region  
DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORT – 113-03

MONTH ENDING: 31 AUGUST 2019

TO: DCO Mary Kirkwood

FROM: DCDR 03 Jeff Fite

**Highlights:**

- Intro to SAR class a rousing success
- Two members newly crew-qualified who represent the ends of a spectrum
- AUX-FS continues to “knock it out of the park” for STA Rio Vista

**Details:**

- On 24 August 2019, Auxiliarists from Divisions 3, 5, and 10 gathered at Station Rio Vista for a daylong class entitled “Introduction to and Refresher Training in SAR Fundamentals.” The class was developed and coordinated by Division 3 SO-MT Don Anderson, and was based on the Auxiliary Search Coordination and Execution (AUXSCE) C-school. AUXSCE is usually a 3-to-5-day intensive class in SAR from the standpoint of the behind-the-scenes managers rather than the on-scene SAR assets. This training was only an introduction to the AUXSCE material, and nevertheless presented a challenge to the students to think about SAR in a new way—and also a challenge to dust off those old navigation tools and plot complex search patterns on a chart!. (Photos at the end of this report)
  - The topics covered and the instructors were:
  - SAR communications and documentation (AUX Steve Harrison)
  - SAR organization, On Scene Commander duties, and Rescue (BM2 Norman)
  - SAR policies and Legal Aspects (BM2 Norman)
  - SAR Response Stages, Phases, and Data-Gathering (BM1 Montoya)
  - Search Patterns (BM2 Baird)
  - AUXAIR and SAR (AUX Russ Kaiser)
  - Search Pattern plotting exercises (AUX John Hardin)
- Two members of Division 3’s surface OPS team deserve special recognition, as they represent two very different ways of achieving success in the Auxiliary. Both attended the Stockton OPTREX hosted by Division 10’s Karl Keller on August 31.
  - Bob Waterman perhaps set a record for speediness, having joined the Auxiliary on June 17th and qualified as BCCREW on August 31st—77 days!
  - Debbie Bernard perhaps set a record for determination, having been working towards her BCCREW qualification for at least three years, and overcoming at least one personal obstacle to earn it.
  - BZ to both!
- Division 3’s SO-FS, Nancy Holtzman, has had a leading role in supporting our active-duty partners at Station Rio Vista, providing ‘morale meals’ for station personal once a month for all of 2019 (along with a generous load of leftovers). This started during the Federal funding hiatus in January, and has continued ever since. Nancy has been supported by many FS specialists for Divisions 3 and 10 in this effort. I am also proud of the members of Division 3, who over the last four months have provided voluntary donations in excess of \$679.
- FC 3-10 Marla Moura resigned her position effective immediately at the Flotilla’s August meeting. She has retired, and is moving to South Carolina in September. VFC Larry Stanton volunteered for interim appointment as FC, and AUX Christine Lay volunteered for interim appointment as VFC.

**Projects**

- Division Commander's member preparedness initiative: CERT preparedness course TBD
- Complete assembly of the Photo Op Banner frame

#### **Future Activities**

- California Capital Airshow, October 5-6th
- Division 3 COW, January 11th. Sacramento Yacht Club docks and clubhouse

#### **Challenges**

- Additional surface facilities needed
- Air facilities are struggling to get mission hours (maintenance, aging of aircraft owners)
- Insufficient IS officers, and little interest by members in becoming IS qualified
- Recruitment and retention

#### **Agency Interactions:**

- State Parks Folsom Lake (ongoing radio guard for patrols)
- Galt Sea Scouts with Flotilla 3-10. (Ongoing introductory contact)

#### **Goals and Objectives**

- Implement the recruitment and retention strategies being developed by HR and EXCOM
- Establish an ongoing presence at California Capital Airshow
- Increase the number of surface facilities by 2
- Increase the number of Marine Safety-qualified members by 3
- Advance all members in IQ status to BQ (and scan for 'stuck' AP members)

<end of report>

Respectfully Submitted,



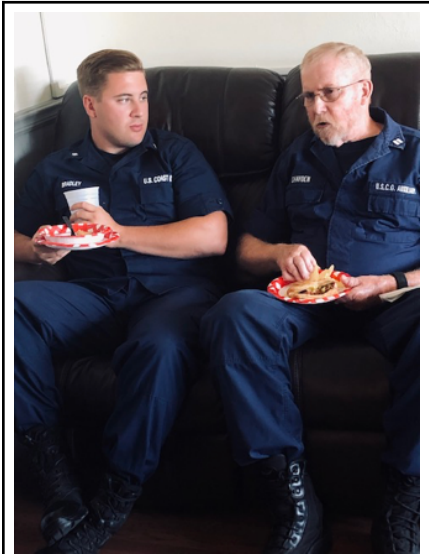
—Jeff Fite, DCDR 03  
Division 113-03 (Greater Sacramento and the California Delta)



Don Anderson presents Russ Kaiser with a coffee mug, in appreciation for teaching a portion of the class. The mug reads, "Support Search and Rescue—Get Lost!"



Lunch was BBQ hot dogs and several side dishes, prepared by AUX-Food Services. Pictured: Nancy Holtzman and Linda Haynes.



The class was attended not only by Auxiliarists, but also by Active-duty Coasties who were striking for Watchstander or OOD qualification. Here, SN Bradley shares lunch and Fellowship with AUX Joseph Chavoen.



Division 3 SO-OP John Hardin has a twinkle in his eye as he leads the class through several search pattern plots on their charts.