



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

MONTH ENDING: 31 July 2020
TO: DCO Mary Kirkwood
FROM: DCDR 03 Russ Kaiser

A personal commentary from DCDR Russ Kaiser:

The report below contains individual reports from SO's which contain information about them stepping away from positions, in particular, Steve Harrison who is stepping back from his Watchstander duties at Station Rio Vista (please see his report below). His dedication to his duties there and the words of praise from all of the people that he has trained speaks volumes about his commitment to duty. It is unfortunate that the major contributing factor in this is the COVID situation and reflects the feelings of some when I speak to them about their frustrations with the ever continuing situation. To be clear, to a person, they understand and appreciate the difficulties that the stand down has placed on the AUX management in their quest to protect us during this difficult situation.

Highlights:

- 3-1: 1. CHALLENGES – The Obvious – ‘Shelter in Place’. CHALLENGES – Keeping in touch with members and keeping them ‘In the Loop’. This can be a bit of a challenge as you **MUST** know your members. You need to know which ones you can actually call too often (and annoy) and which ones need a few extra calls.
- 3-3: Don Anderson and Nancy Holtzman had the honor of sitting in on the Quartermaster Board of Review for Matt Estep. At the end of revive Chair Bill Heberger announced Matt's advancement to the level of Quartermaster in the Sea Scouts. Matt also has the level of Eagle Scout in BSA as well as Venturing level in Sea Scouts, this being called the Trifecta of Scouting. **CONGRATULATIONS Matt!! BROVO ZULU!**
- 3-5: From Steve Harrison: It is becoming obvious that this pandemic and resulting political overreach will last many more months, perhaps for the rest of my useful lifetime. It is also clear that at my advanced age of 78 the Coast Guard prefers I not stand watch at Station Rio Vista, If and when this opportunity ever becomes available again, due to their concern for my health. I refer you to Auxiliary Covid-19 Reconstitution Guidance, part 3 item c which states “All OIAs must give special consideration of age, particularly for Auxiliarists 65 years of age and older and covid-19 high-risk factors in determining the propriety of any Auxiliary assignment to duty” . This concern is shared by my family. Therefore, after serving over 12 years and donating over 18,000 hours to Coast Guard Operational Support and participating in over 500 SAR cases at the Station, I will no longer pursue Radio Watchstanding activities at Coast Guard Station Rio Vista. I have sent an E-mail to the Station's OIC and OPS Petty Officer notifying them of this decision. Steve H
- 3-10: From FC Larry Stanton: **Applied for retirement status for member Anne Ritche. Application forwarded to DSO-HR. Discussed new boating safety program. Discussion on how to most efficiently use ABS books in stock. Discussion on “virtual” boating classes. We support the concept. Discussion on virtual PPE inspection. Discussion on programs now open by DIRAUX. Discussion on updating LUCKY LOCKER. Ernest to post current inventory on Div web site. Annual Dues mailed out.**

Details:

- SO-CM Larry Stanton: Virtual radio facility process has been approved. Thank you to the OTO's and Director. We are preparing forms for use by members. Members stood watch (14 hours) on HF frequencies for Hurricane David. No emergency calls logged. Supported VTS and Rescue 21 three times in July. Preparing for October HF test continues. Kevin Sellstrom updated repeater directory information for National Staff. Maintenance completed on Vaca site. Updating code keys for Diablo. Due to current Virus restrictions/concerns AWO Steve Harrison Div 3 Flotilla 5,

has sent in his resignation to Sta Rio Vista OIC and OPS. Steve has provided 12 years and over 18,000 hours of service to the AWO program at Sta Rio Vista. Thank you Steve you will be missed.

- SO-AUC CG Station Rio Vista-Steve Harrison: It is becoming obvious that this pandemic and resulting political overreach will last many more months perhaps for the rest of my useful lifetime. It is also clear that at my advanced age of 78 the Coast Guard prefers I not stand watch at Station Rio Vista, If and when this opportunity ever becomes available again, due to their concern for my health. I refer you to Auxiliary Covid-19 Reconstitution Guidance, part 3 item c which states “ All OIAs must give special consideration of age, particularly for Auxiliaries 65 years of age and older, and covid-19 high-risk factors in determining the propriety of any Auxiliary assignment to duty”. This concern is shared by my family. Therefore, after serving over 12 years and donating over 18,000 hours to Coast Guard Operational Support and participating in over 500 SAR cases at the Station, I will no longer pursue Radio Watchstanding activities at Coast Guard Station Rio Vista. I have sent an E-mail to the Station’s OIC and OPS Petty Officer notifying them of this decision.
- SO-CS Ernest Shih: Created the Lucky Locker/Bag Inventory; Created Uniform Regulation References.
- SO-AS Gary Estep: No Report
- SO-FN David Wright: report filed
- SO-FS Nancy Holtzman:
- SO-IS Robert “Bob” Waterman: Major AUXDATA II enhancements were implemented during July. A summary of these changes is on-line at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=IT-GROUP&category=whats-new>. Following are some highlights –Significant changes were made to the Activity Log approval process. The “submit for approval” button is gone and has been replaced with a drop-down menu on the Activity Log Detail page. I will explain this in further detail at our July Flotilla meeting
The SO-IS can now make changes, corrections, or approvals in the event the FSO-IS is unavailable. Election eligibility reports and training record reports were developed and are now available under the reports tab in AUXDATAII. Some of the enhancements will necessitate changes to the user guides I have provided to you previously
- SO-MA Vacant (VDCDR Don Anderson submitting reports) **Flotilla 3–1**: No report submitted. **Flotilla 3–3**: No report submitted. **Flotilla 03–05**: Ordered one carton of Boat America books for Richard Celia for upcoming boating safety course to be scheduled. Respectfully, Bob Waterman Unofficially Acting FSO–MA. **Flotilla 3–10**: These activities were done for the month: plan to meet with Ernest to get lucky box items for inventory, added a few items to lucky box from member donation, discussed doing ppe inspection virtually
- SO-MS Jeff Fite: While some AUX missions are being authorized on a case-by-case basis, MSEP public-facing missions are not included at this time. It is difficult to identify members with training or an interest in MS through current electronic resources such as AuxDirectory. AUXDATA II may be more helpful once fully implemented. For now, the Flotillas are being polled directly.
- SO-MT: Doug Macpherson: Proctoring is now being allowed in the Phase 1 re-opening the AUX. The first proctoring session has been scheduled for the month of August following the Phase 1 proto-call with Doug MacPherson serving as proctor. Flotilla 35 conducted Trops uniform training at the July online meeting.
- SO-OP John Hardin: A closer look at the Nav. Rules After passing the rigorous Nav Rules test, coxswains proudly possess an exceptional knowledge of the Rules.



However, to gain an even deeper understanding of the Rules, check out the classic book FARWELL'S RULES OF THE NAUTICAL ROAD, by Craig H. Allen. It was first published in 1941 and is now in its 8th edition. You'll learn what the courts think the Rules say. My crew, FREEDOM, pictured below agrees that it's a great read. In a previous report I discussed the day shape or anchor ball required for anchored vessels. However, I failed to indicate the size of these shapes. Per Annex I, Section 84.06 Shapes of the Nav Rules, anchor balls shall be black and shall have a diameter of not less than 23.6". However, vessels less than 39.4' may use shapes of "lesser dimensions but commensurate with" the vessel's length. I'm using a 12" diameter ball for my 18' facility.

- SO-PA Richard Celia: No reports received from Flotilla 01 or 10. Flotilla 3-5 had nothing to report.
- SO-PB Richard Celia: Newsletter posted
- SO-PE Don Anderson: Due to the Covid-19 stand-down of all face-to-face Auxiliary activities, all Public Education classes have been canceled until further notice. A second Division 3 webinar workshop was held on 17 July for all PE and MT instructors. Emphasis was on necessary steps to hold distance learning PE training classes. The available "Introduction To Boating Safety" seminar has been localized and will be offered free on a request basis, as well as a recorded seminar available to be viewed at convenience. The full "Boat America" course has been scheduled as distance learning training to begin 01 September 2020 to run for 5 sessions over a two week period.
- SO-PV Jim Goff: There is no activity to report for the month of July, 2020. This is my last month as SO-PV. I will be resigning at the end of this month.
- SO-SR Celeste Bates: Minutes submitted
- SP-VE James Stewart: COMO Kirkwood sent out a memorandum stating our transition into "Phase 1" which allows VSC not in uniform but a Dark Blue shirt and Khaki pants this as I understand it also requires approval before any VSC. This is something for next year however I think some discussion about performing VSC at the same time and place the state is doing their inspections for foreign sea life decals. We can also have boat dealers "Call on Request" of a boat that is being prepped after winter storage for VSC.
- SO-HR: Vacant.
- SO-DV: Kevin Powers: The NACO Diversity Three Star awards were announced last month, with Division 3 doing extremely well. I spoke with Dr. Schultz, DSO-DV and ANACO-DV, and my understanding is that the criteria for these awards will be changing next year. I'll be on the lookout for those changes, and hopefully they will become public with sufficient time for our Division to assess and implement strategies for success. The Coast Guard Academy Admissions Partner program is one that has official support at the National level, but is somewhat lacking at the District and Division level. While the program has been very successful in supporting the Academy's recruiting goals (as evidenced by the recent award of the Meritorious Team Commendation), I

can't help but wonder if greater coordination at the Division/regional level could lead to better engagement, better coordination, and a nice cross-pollination of Auxiliary and Coast Guard Academy efforts. I have been thinking through opportunities for more regular Diversity engagement amongst the membership, in the form of links, information from the Coast Guard, and perhaps contributions to Auxiliary publications at the Flotilla, District, and Division level. Once I have a more concrete plan, I plan to consult with the VCDR and DSO-DV for thoughts and next steps.

Projects

- FCs and VFCs Making contacts within

Future Activities

- Unknown until holds are lifted

Challenges

- Some Flotillas struggling to complete FSO positions
- Securing enough facilities for training and patrols
- Recruitment and retention through the shut down
- To find a way to continue our momentum through the virus quarenteens

Goals and Objectives

- Trying to hold onto as many members as possible.
- Increase the number of surface facilities by 2
- Increase the number of Marine Safety-qualified members by 2
- Trying to refill vacant positions
- Secure funds for continuing lunch program at STE Rio Vista

3 ups-3 downs

- **Up:** D3 Flotillas are reaching out to members as “checkup” calls
- **Up:** Many training opportunities happening in virtual world
- **Up:** working on making more things “virtual” to keep things going such as PPE
- **Down:** Loosing valuable personal due to COVID related challenges. Members not getting sick but are tiring of the restrictions. Good members and their contributions lost.
- **Down:** Need more facilities
- **Down:** need a quarantine end.....



My crew (John Hardin) FREEDOM enjoying FARWELL' S RULES OF THE NAUTICAL ROAD



Boat Trailer Eye Simulator in Use (all courtesy of John Harden)

<End of report>
Respectfully Submitted,

Russ Kaiser

—Russ Kaiser, DCDR 03
Division 113-03 (Greater Sacramento and the California Delta)