



U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
District Eleven North Region
DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT



To: Dean McFarren, Commodore

8 Sept. 2021

Cc: District Board and Staff

From : Lewis C Derfuss, Division Commander

Division: 5

HIGHLIGHTS/"3 UPS":

1. Working with Division and Flotilla staff to prepare for upcoming elections
2. Division 5 and our Flotillas faces new setbacks with live meetings with spike in Covid cases.
3. All Programs resuming within stated guidelines with emphasis of completing Coxswain and Boat Crew qualifications and annual 12-hour minimums.

DETAILS:

1. Our Division and Flotilla meetings have focused on selecting qualified candidates for both Division and Flotilla elected leadership positions and looking forward to finding staff members as well. Guidelines for conducting electronic elections have been communicated and discussed. All elections will again be electronic as directed by DIRAUX and senior leadership with candidates submitting intent to run letters 14 days prior to elections.
2. After celebrating of the lifting of many of the Covid Restrictions at the well-received Division Luau, we now have to take a step back and regroup due to spike in Covid cases and updated guidelines from CG and CGAUX Leadership. While we had gotten clearance from the Vallejo Yacht Club to again start meeting in-person and planned to do that on 5 Aug in the interest of safety of our members we elected to keep our meetings on-line for a bit longer. Our Flotilla's were also preparing to transition back to live or hybrid meetings, but also delayed that for the time being. We all want to error on the side of caution to keep our membership safe and hope we can transition to live meetings in the upcoming months if the Covid situation allow us to safely do that. We continue to check on members health.
3. We hope our program activities don't move backwards because on new Covid spikes. These activities include Patrols, Boat Crew Training, VE's, PV's, PA, and PE events. We encourage all members to take advantage of Webinars and live activities. FL 55 and FI 53 continue to have multiple approved patrols including crew and trainees from other flotillas as well as our flotillas. We successfully completed a Mini-OPTREX on 4 Sept with Curtis Han as QE and requalified 2 Coxswains Randy McCormick and Lew Derfuss as well as 3 crew James Minkle and Ron Nathan of 52 and Kit Galvin of 53. BRAVO ZULU to Curtis and all the requalified boat crew members. If you need to get your 12-hour minimums and or prepare for 3-year QE check rides contact Wil Sumner FL 55 or Lew Derfuss SO-OP 5 and make your needs known. We have lost several qualified Coxswains and Crew due to moves, health issues and crossing the bar and need to work hard to replace these losses with newly qualified members so we properly support the CG and CG Station's needs. We have also lost some AUXFAC's so are now working with more limited resources. We are gearing up for FL 55 OPTREX in Bodega Bay 24-25 Sept. Wil Sumner and I have been working closely to address all the details and the list of candidates requiring QE has been submitted. We have also started recruiting sign-ups for Fleet Week Patrols and shoreline duties. It was highlighted in Steve Harrison AUC Sta Rio Vista, report that the highest citations during boardings are for no fire extinguishers or PFD's This is another area we can address through PE classes on-line, PV's and VE's, which I refer to as

Preventable SARs. I encourage those who are qualified and feel safe to do so to hit the boat ramps in the Delta and perform VE's—They save lives! by ensuring boat have proper safety equipment to deal with emergencies that may arrive as well as preventing them from happening in the first place.

PROJECTS:

1. We have scheduled on District calendar--2021 COW for Division 5 for 5 Dec. Have been in communications with new TRACEN Leadership and working on details to plan another great event.
2. Continue planning for our Fall OPTREX hosted by FL 55 at Sta Bodega Bay 24-25 Sep.
3. We are working on preparing members to take on positions of leadership as both elected and appointed staff officers as the election season for 2022 is rapidly approaching.

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Time and funding constraints
2. Phase 3 has again given us more flexibility to perform some traditional missions. Emphasis on importance of considering Covid vaccinations to further remove restrictions on missions we perform.
3. Emphasis on OPTREX's, and COWS. Fall PCA Fair Cancelled.
4. Training and scheduling 29 required 2021 requalification check rides as well as initial qualification of Coxswains and Boat Crew members.
5. Focus on individual Flotilla strengths and combined and open up and communicate training opportunities among Flotilla's, combining efforts to achieve maximum results.

AGENCY INTERACTION:

1. Looking forward to again working closely with Sta Vallejo, Sta Rio Vista and Sta Bodega Bay staff in providing Operational Support with Joint Patrols to support both CG Station and Division Boat Crew Training, Qualification, and Currency by providing AUXFAC's and Crews upon request as well as routine support to AOR as allowed.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Most have been previously highlighted in this report: To summarize: Retain, attract, train members. Increase support to CG Missions by use of increased qualified members working toward some focused goals. Have Fun in doing the above and Fellowship. Addressing and working towards breaking down the barriers working against our success. Lead Division 5 to be the Premier Division. Strive to win NACO 5 Star award across the Division—achieved 4 of 5 Flotilla submitted and approved

PHOTO GALLERY: Mini OPTREX Candidates lined up on dock with SAR DOG and KOKUA II in background



Kit Galvin and James Minkle stand tow watch on KOKUA II during Stern tow of SAR DOG on Napa River



KOKUA II and SAR DOG performing side tow evaluation with Randy McCormick aft and Kit Galvin at helm

SAR DOG with Lew Derfuss at helm, Ron Nathan and Curtis Morgan on aft deck



Kit Galvin demonstrates knot tying on KOKUA II with SAR DOG in background

