



## **DIVISION COMMANDER'S REPORT**

To: DCO Dean McFarren, D11NR  
Cc: District Board and Staff  
Date: March Report  
Division: 6 – Gold Coast  
From: COMO Wally Smith

### **March Report covering February activities**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Surface & air patrols have resumed after being on stand down since early October.
2. Division 6 and all three Flotillas have earned the NACO 3-STAR AWARD.
3. Flotilla 6-10 is actively engaging with the Sea Scouts.

#### **DETAILS**

1. Patrol activities remained “on hold” for most of January due to the Coast Guard’s software conversion that affected funding for Auxiliary activities.
2. The Division and Flotillas 64 (Monterey), 67 (Santa Cruz), and 6-10 (Capitola) have earned the NACO 3-STAR AWARD. This is the first Division and all included Flotillas in the nation to have 100% inclusion in earning the AWARD.
3. Members of Flotilla 6-10 Capitola have been actively working with the local Sea Scouts Ship. As a result, plans are underway to develop a training program both on and off the water. Auxiliarists interacting with the Scouts have completed the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) “Youth Protection Training” (YPT) that is required prior to engaging in any face-to-face and/or other contact e.g., email, phone, etc. More details are included in Flotilla 6-10’s report below.

#### **PROJECTS**

- 25 – 27 March – D-TRAIN – Work to maximize the number of Division 6 attendees.
- August – CG Birthday Barbeque for CG Station Monterey, the crew of the CGC Hawksbill, and Auxiliary personnel
- Division 6: 9-10 September – OPTREX – Santa Cruz
- Change of Watch: 19 November at Bayonet / Black Horse Golf Club.

#### **AGENCY INTERACTION**

- Nothing additional to report.

#### **GOALS OF DIVISION 6**

- Retain and Recruit – Contact inactive members, encourage activity, learn roadblocks to activity
- Conduct PA & VE combined events (PAVE) to present the Auxiliary to the public. Goal – minimum two in 2022.
- Continue to offer training to members as requested.
- Engage with the local Sea Scouts Ship 669.



- Maintain operational readiness.
- Add new Operational Facilities.
- Increase interaction, communication, shared events, and training between Flotillas.
- Continue the excellent rapport with CG Station Monterey, USCG Cutter Hawksbill, the local harbors and other local agencies and always looking for ways we can help by our interaction.
- Plan multiple events involving more than one flotilla allowing for great fellowship and awareness. This allows for timely acquisition of information from many entities and allows for timely dissemination to the flotilla member.

## **FLOTILLA REPORTS**

### **Flotilla 64 – Monterey**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Working on Recruitment.
2. Working on re-engaging members.
3. A new facility has been added.
4. National Safe Boating Week Activities are being discussed with Station Monterey.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **DETAILS**

1. Five new members have joined in the past two months.
2. More members are participating in activities, including more members returning to the in-person meeting.
3. A new facility has been added that is capable of working with USCG Helicopters has been added to the flotilla.
4. The flotilla will be working with Station Monterey to plan National Safe Boating Week Activities. We are aiming for high participation.

#### **GOALS**

1. By March 2023, we will recruit at least 10 new members.
2. By March 2023, we will complete 100 vessel exam/marine visits,
3. By March 2023, we will increase participation in National Safe Boating Week by at least 10%, as measured by the number of members who attend the event.
4. By March 2023, all members will have knowledge of and be able to input their own hours in the system. Ben Fowler will train all.

### **Flotilla 67 – Santa Cruz**

#### **Goals**

- One Program Visitor qualified
- Two Vessel Examiners qualified
- Two Boat Crew Ops qualified, 50 hours support of Ops
- Participation in National Safe Boating Week
- Participation in D-TRAIN
- Training Courses Reports



## Flotilla 6-10 - Capitola

### Highlights

1. Feb 1 Flotilla meeting – included Holland Mac Laurie with an update on Harbor recovery post tsunami and Kevin Melrose and Rebbie Higgins from SS Ship 669 with an update on the transit of their new ship “String of Pearls” (or perhaps renamed – “Pearl”) to Santa Cruz.
2. Surface Operations resumed with 2 patrols - one on 2/5 and two on 2/19
3. Jane Smith received the prestigious Coast Guard Achievement medal for her contribution while serving as Division 6 Commander.
4. Wally Smith, Jane Smith, and Chuck Cobrey were awarded a new created (informal) *Semper Gumby* award for their flexibility in aiding the harbor patrol the day after the recent tsunami.
5. Initial discussions and applications distributed to 6 potential new members from the Sea Scout Ship including 2 youth scouts and 4 adult leaders.
6. We also received final acceptance for another new member, John Chesson, a student at VMI who is enrolled in a unique recruiting program for university students interested in a Coast Guard career. We hope to meet John this summer.

The other good news was the lifting of Covid19 protocols in Santa Cruz County. This enabled in-person meetings with greater number of members and the announcement that the Boating Skills and Seamanship training that had been postponed is back on! The restart date is April 6 and will run the normal 13 weeks until the first week in June. We hope many of our new members will take advantage of the “free” training and potential enrollment in boat crew qualification.

**\*\*END OF REPORT\*\***

Respectfully submitted,  
COMO Wally Smith  
DCDR – Division 6

**SEMPER GUMBY!**

