



16790
03 AUG 2022

MEMORANDUM

From:  Dale Fajardo
Division Commander, Division 1 (113-01)

To: COMO Dean McFarren
District Commodore, D11NR

Subj: DIVISION 1 REPORT: AUGUST 2022

Highlights:

1. OPTREX
2. Division 1 Elections

Details:

1. OPTREX

This year Division 1 decided to try an original approach to our OPTREX scheduling by holding the Training Evolutions and QE Check Rides on successive Saturdays. Both cycles of the OPTREX were held at Station San Francisco. Despite several equipment challenges, the event was an immense success, with all seven candidates completing their respective qualifications. Here is the final summary of the evolution:

Saturday, July 9, TRAINING

Eleven Auxiliarist registered for Crew Training. The event was supported by the following four OPFACs:

- SEAHORSE, Coxswain Peter Shamray
- SILVER CHARM, Coxswain Terry Blanchard
- 76, Coxswain Bruce Martin-Trailerred from South Tahoe for the event
- SERVANT, Coxswain Jim Losi & Tommy Holtzman

Two training evolutions were launched over the course of the day, allowing everyone to get out on the water twice and on different OPFACs. Jim Losi, as the QE, was also able to complete the Oral Boards for our two Initial Crew Candidates, allowing us to launch our QE Check rides without delay on the following Saturday.

Communications for both days were coordinated by Carol Paz (SO-CM), who arranged for the use of the ACV on both days. Carol Paz provided OPCOM for our OPFACs and TCO training for several members throughout the two-day event.

Saturday, July 16, QE CHECK RIDES

Seven candidates registered for QE Check Rides, including two for Initial Crew Qualification and five for Crew Re-certification. These members represented three Division 1 Flotillas, and members from Divisions 4 and 6. Our QEs for the day included Paul Verveniotis (Lead QE), Steven McCann, and Jim Losi.

While we had planned to have three OPFACs for this evolution, SEA HORSE encountered oil pressure issues on the way home from the July 9th event, and repairs were not available in time for July 16th. This left us with SILVER CHARM and SERVANT. Despite SERVANT encountering intermittent engine issues throughout the day, through the exceptional efforts of Jim Losi and Tommy Holtzman, SERVANT was able to contribute the needed sea time to ensure all QE Evolutions were completed. As a result, a total of seven (7) Auxiliarists (from Divisions 1, 4, and 6) successfully attained initial qualification or recertification for Boat Crew. Congratulations (in alphabetical order) to:

- Boat Crew Qualification
 - Dale Fajardo (113-01-09)
 - Steve Guttman (113-04-06)
- Boat Crew Recertification
 - Herman Haluza (113-01-09)
 - Ken Louie (113-01-04)
 - Bard Mansager (113-06-04)
 - Kristan Verveniotis (113-04-06)
 - Jim Whipple (113-01-02)

Special Thanks go to the following individuals without whom the event would not have been a success:

- **Nancy Marion** (SO-OP) for her focused dedication, superb preparation, and steadfast leadership managing the Division 1 OPTREX. With numerous challenges related to logistics, scheduling, and the environment, she executed this OPTREX successfully and accomplished the mission with aplomb!
- **LT Natasha Kenney**, who was extremely supportive and helpful as our AUXLO in securing the various approvals for the event, including arranging for Bruce Martin to bivouac with his trailered OPFAC at Station San Francisco the night before the training event.
- ACV Drivers and Support staff **John Brandenburg** and **David Sequeira**.
- Coxswains **Terry Blanchard**, **Peter Shamray**, **Jim Losi**, **Bruce Martin**, and **Tommy Holtzman**.
- **Carol Paz** (SO-OP) who managed OPCOM for both event days. Though the ACV went down for repairs the week leading up to the event, Carol had her land mobile unit as Plan B. Fortunately, the ACV was repaired in time for the event. Carol also spent an additional hour working on radio procedures with a new crew trainee following the event.
- Bruce Martin, as our DCAPT, for graciously volunteering to bring his OPFAC (76) down from South Tahoe to participate in our training day. 76 gave our crew

members the opportunity to work on a twenty-four-foot RIB, broadening their OPFAC experience.

- Qualifying Examiners **Paul Verveniotis** (Lead QE), **Steven McCann**, and **Jim Losi**.
- **Jim Losi** and **Tommy Holtzman** for their extraordinary efforts to get SERVANT back up and running for the event and keep her running through the QE Check Rides.

Analysis

Following the event, we sent an email to all participants, requesting their opinion on the benefits of the two successive Saturday schedule. We received responses from members who had registered for the event, Coxswains, and crew members. All agreed that the new schedule was beneficial and made participation easier. Specific observations indicated that this bifurcated approach:

- Eliminated the need for our members to take time off from work and family demands for a Friday training day.
 - Reduced transit time by avoiding peak rush hour traffic.
 - Gave our members an opportunity to recharge between on the water evolutions.
 - Allowed participants ample opportunity to digest lessons learned during the training day prior to taking their check rides.
 - Gave our OPFACs & crews a needed and longer turn-around time.
2. **Division 1 Elections.** Elections for Division Commander (DCDR) and Division Vice Commander (VCDR) for the 2023 term will be held at our 28SEP22 Division 1 meeting. An intent to run notice has been received for each position (DCDR and VCDR) by the Division 1 Screening Committee, which, in turn, confirmed that each candidate is eligible to run.

Projects:

1. OPTREX. Completed.
2. Develop deeper fellowship and member engagement.
3. Leverage HR development opportunities.
4. Focus on professionalism.
5. Continue to support member training requirements to include AUXCT currency requirements and AUXDATA II competency.

Goals & Objectives:

1. Attain the NACO Three Star Award for Excellence in Diversity. Completed.
2. Provide training opportunities based on need.
3. Rotate members into training patrols for OPTREX preparation and to build underway hour. In addition, provide training opportunities for current crew members and initial qualification candidates.
4. Increase interaction, communication, shared events, and training between flotillas.
5. Increase AUXDATA II reporting of member hours.
6. Improve member recruitment and retention.

Challenges and Opportunities:

1. Reduce membership attrition while emphasizing recruiting opportunities.

2. Threat from COVID variants may limit activities in the future. Will continue to leverage remote meeting capabilities as needed.
3. Monthly division meetings will ensure good lines of communication across division flotillas.

Photographs:

The following photographs are from the Division 1 OPTREX at USCG Station San Francisco. (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary photos courtesy of Mary Kirkwood, Jim Losi, Nancy Marion, and Louis Sarto).





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FC (113-01-09)