



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



To: Curtis Han, Commodore, District Board and Staff

Date: June 10, 2023

From: Bill Ross, Division Commander

Division: 113-07 Utah

HIGHLIGHTS:

Division 7 Participated in Three PA Events

1. The Wasatch County Safe Kids Fair
2. National Safe Boating Week “Paddle With Care” Event at Utah Lake
3. NSBW Tips
4. Bear Lake Northern Utah Healthcare Coalition
5. Division Newsletter

DETAILS:

1. **The Wasatch County Safe Kids Fair** was held on May 4, 2023, in Heber City, Utah. Thanks to the efforts of our SO-PA Lana Visser, Division 7 Flotillas 76 and 78 have participated in this safety fair for several years. It was estimated that over three hundred kids, along with their parents, participated in the event.

Twenty-four safety organizations participated in this program, including Utah Division of Recreation, EMS and Fire Departments, Wasatch County Sheriff, Wasatch Search and Rescue teams, and others. Despite having to be *semper gumbly* because of the wind and storm fronts that were passing through, our team talked to many kids and parents about water safety and wearing life jackets when around water and participating in water sports. As seen in the photo, Panda was a big hit with the kids. (See below)

2. **National Safe Boating Week “Paddle With Care” Event at Utah Lake**
Flotilla 7-3 hosted the PA event at Utah Lake May 20th in conjunction with Flotillas 76 and 78. Individuals with kayaks, canoes, or paddleboards, with all required safety gear, paddled 2.5 miles from the Lindon Marina to the American Fork Marina, under the watchful eye of volunteers on PWCs ready to aid if needed. (See Photos)
3. During **National Safe Boating Week**, Auxiliarist Michael Bowser sent out daily safety tips from the National Safe Boating Council to every member of Division 7. These daily reminders were effective ways to give our members boating and water safety information and ideas to talk about to family, friends, co-workers, during vessel checks, and other

opportunities. He also shared the *Proclamation on National Safe Boating Week 2023* from the White House with the Division members who might not have seen it.

While the paddlers were on their way, the Utah Lake Commission hosted a celebration with educational booths, food trucks, and games at the American Fork Marina. As part of this event, the Utah Lake Commission provided information and donor opportunities for the Utah Lake Life Jacket Loaner Program, an initiative to promote water safety awareness and make life jackets more readily available for public use at the lake.

Division 7 provided an educational booth on water and boating safety and partnered with the Sea Scouts from SSS Neptune Ship 1000 in Utah Valley, who sponsored a booth as well. (See Photos)

4. Bear Lake Northern Utah Healthcare Coalition

This event was held June 6th, 2023 at Bear Lake, Utah. There were 28 partner agencies from Utah and Idaho which included one Federal Agency (U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Division 7 Utah), four state agencies from Utah and Idaho, eleven county agencies from Utah and Idaho, three Utah city agencies, six health care agencies from Utah and Idaho (including one helicopter), and three communication organizations from Utah and Idaho. The purpose of this drill was to assess communications between federal, state, county, city, and health agencies responsible for safety and SAR response for Bear Lake, a federally-recognized body of water which involves both Utah and Idaho. (See Photos)

The drill was divided into four operational periods. The initial scenario was an overdue boat with 9 people on board (which eventually increased to 16 POB) reported by the family on shore with no contact for two hours in an increasingly severe weather event with water temps near 50 degrees. Despite the drill being considerably shortened for safety concerns of severe thunderstorms in the area, the objectives of the drill were achieved. There exists a disparity in the communication equipment and abilities of various agencies in the Bear Lake area which complicates communications between them. The responders were commended for finding “work-arounds” to be able to communicate with each other. The communication issues were documented by the organizers of the event, and work will now begin to find ways to correct disparities and improve communication abilities between government, health, and civilian entities.

Auxiliarists Pamela Berger, Lana Visser, and Don Moyle participated in this interstate/interagency drill aboard Don Moyle's boat, since the boat normally used by the Auxiliary under the MOU agreement with the State of Utah was not yet ready due to servicing constraints by the state shop trying to get all the state-owned boats serviced.

5. Division 7 Newsletter

Our SO-PB Michael Bowser was able to complete several months efforts in publishing our summer Division Newsletter. The publication included articles by Paul Custance, Carl Henning, Michael Bowser and the Division Commander's comments. We are striving to

reach every division member through this digital document to stimulate interest and motivate our less active members to participate in a variety of areas of service.

PROJECTS:

1. Utah Lake Paddleboard Event
2. National Safe Boating Week
3. Bear Lake Northern Utah Healthcare Coalition
4. Division 7 Newsletter

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES:

1. Delay getting the State Boat Momma Bear serviced and available for patrols at Bear Lake
2. Delays getting a grant proposal for funding a facility for Flotilla 73
3. Delays getting Mark Robertson qualified to serve as FC

AGENCY INTERACTION:

Pamela Berger and Lana Visser patrol Bear Lake every weekend during the summer months. They have established good relationships with the Bear Lake State Park rangers, Idaho State Park rangers, and Rich County Dispatch through the Sheriff's office.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Get Momma Bear from the State shop and into patrol service at Bear Lake
2. Get Mark Robinson qualified to serve as FC ASAP
3. Assist 73 to get a grant to purchase a facility
4. Finalize a location and caterer for COW
5. Implement training to qualify new coxswains and crew members at OPEX in August

PHOTOS

Wasatch County Safe Kids Fair



Heber City, UT - Auxiliarist Tony Zocchi talks to safety fair participants about wearing life jackets and the different types of jackets available. May 4, 2023. Photo by Lana Visser.



Auxiliarists Don Moyle and Michael Bowser hand out coloring books to the kids while Tony Zocchi talks to parents. May 4, 2023. Photo by Lana Visser



Utah Lake, Utah – “Paddle With Care” participants enter the American Fork Marina after completing a 2.5-mile paddle from the Lindon Marina. May 20, 2023. Photo by Lana Visser.



Utah Lake, Utah - Division 7 booth at the "Paddle With Care" festival. Pictured (from l-r) is Auxiliarist Paul Custance, Michael Bowser, Mate Joe Devereaux and Skipper Brenden Taylor, SSS Neptune Ship 1000, Auxiliarists Ammon Thompson, and Carl Henning. May 20, 2023. Photo by Lana Visser.



Utah Lake, Utah - Auxiliarist Paul Custance explains how to complete the VE form to Sea Scouts Jacob and Ephraim Devereaux while Auxiliarist Ammon Thompson also listens and learns as part of his VE training. May 20, 2023. Photo by Carl Henning. (Consent forms from the boys' parent are on file.)



Bear Lake, UT - Auxiliarists Pamela Berger and Don Moyle prepare for launching prior to communications drill at Bear Lake, Utah. June 6, 2023. Photo by Jamie Petersen.



Bear Lake, UT - Auxiliarists Pamela Berger, Lana Visser and Don Moyle prepare for launching prior to communi-



Bear Lake, UT - Auxiliary vessel dispatched during Operational Period 1 of communications drill Period 1

ations drill at Bear Lake, Utah. June 6, 2023 Photo by Jamie Petersen.



of communications drill. June 6, 2023. Photo by Jamie Petersen.



Bear Lake, UT - Auxiliary training aids ready to do their part, and "victims" deployed for SAR teams to find. June 6, 2023. Photos by Jamie Petersen.



Figure 1 Bear Lake, UT - EMS personnel respond to receive "victims" from Idaho State Parks vessel. Figure 2 Auxiliarist Joseph Stocking (2nd from right), a Garden City EMT, participated in this drill with the Garden City SAR team. May 6, 2023. Photo by Lana Visser



Figure 1 Bear Lake, UT - AirMed touches down at Bear Lake State Park marina. Figure 2 AirMed personnel explain to EMS personnel how a patient is transferred from the ambulance to helicopter. June 6, 2023. Photos by Lana Visser.



Figure 2 Bear Lake, UT - one of the thunderstorms on Bear Lake that contributed to shortening the communications drill due to safety concerns for personnel on the water. June 6, 2023. Photo by Lana Visser.