



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



To: Curtis Han, Commodore

11 September 2023

Cc: District Board and Staff

From: Georgie Scheuerman, Division Commander

Division: 113-12

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Fellowship and Collaboration: Div 12 continues its efforts for fellowship and collaboration. The flotillas continue conducting many joint events (PE, VE, MT, MS, and PA). In August a Fellowship Event was conducted.
2. Member Training: Training is being conducted for AUXDATA II (AD2), OPS (Surface & Aviation) and VE.
3. Marine Safety: Division 12 continues Marine Safety missions. Our first MS Mission was a shoreline cleanup at Coast Guard Island (CGI) which had members from 4 divisions participating. Another cleanup at CGI is scheduled in late September.
4. Division Goals: Division goals are being met. Among these are: VE, PE, PV, MT, and Surface & Air OPS. Significant progress has been made on these goals. Both Surface and Air OPS Patrols are underway.

DETAILS:

1. Fellowship and Collaboration: Div 12 is emphasizing even more collaboration in 2023. Events for PE, VE, MS, PA, MT, and Fellowship have been and are being conducted. A joint Division Calendar is in place. An in-person BA class is scheduled for Caltrans. More VE Events are scheduled. The division had a Fellowship BBQ at CGI on the 19th of August (Pictures below).
2. Member Training: We're encouraging members to regularly enter their hours into AD2 and are conducting training for AD2. Efforts are also underway for increased training for Instructors, Boat Crew, Coxswain, Air Observers, and Pilots. In addition, more training is being done for VE with some training aids being developed to help with this.
3. Marine Safety: Division 12 had our 1st Cleanup at Coast Guard Island (CGI) on 24 June and another is scheduled for late September. We'd also planned to do cleanups in other locations. However, given we're in Q3 of 2023, it's not clear if we'll be able to schedule any more Clean Ups this year.
4. Division Goals: Goals are being met for PE, VE, PV, MT, and Surface & Air OPS. Both Surface and Air OPS are very active with regular patrols. Of particular note, our VE Goal of 300 VEs has been met and exceeded and we still have more VEs planned. (See photos below showing VEs at work) We've also exceeded our PV and PE Goals with more PE classes planned before the end of the year.

PROJECTS:

1. Training for FSOs and SOs: Nothing to report this month because the majority of our efforts have been on MS, PE, and VE Missions and needed Member Training to get members active again with in-person missions.

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Challenge: Increasing attendance at Flotilla and Division Meetings. Both flotillas have used Hybrid Meetings to make it easy for members to attend and participate in meetings. Flotilla 12-91 has continued this approach. Flotilla 12-01 was conducting in-person meetings with no webinar connection, starting in March. This was being done to get members together again. Flotillas have had some guest speakers to provide more information relevant to our Auxiliary Missions. So far 12-91 has been able to get a quorum at all their meetings. 12-01 was still having issues consistently getting a quorum at their meetings so they returned to using Hybrid Meetings in July and had a quorum at that meeting. The return to Hybrid Meetings in 12-01 has definitely improved attendance. Most encouraging.

AGENCY INTERACTION:

1. City of Berkeley: Division 12 members participated in 2 Marine Safety missions with the City of Berkeley in 2022. In 2023 we'd planned to continue doing Cleanup events with Berkeley, with a target of 2 Cleanups. Our 1st cleanup with Berkeley was scheduled in May. But due to other commitments it was moved to later in the year. Unfortunately, given we're now in Q3 of 2023, it's unlikely we'll be able to organize a Clean Up with Berkeley. We'll try again in 2024.
2. Caltrans: Caltrans has requested we conduct a BA class and it was scheduled as an in-person class on 26 July. Unfortunately it had to be moved and is now scheduled for September. We anticipate at least 12 students, but it may reach 20 students. We've conducted this class previously for Caltrans prior to the Pandemic.

Photo Gallery: Missions/Events:

Fellowship (Div 12 BBQ – 19 August, 2023):



Div 12 BBQ

Photo: Div 12 Members and family enjoying great food and company at the Chief's Hut on Coast Guard Island (Photo by Doug Beckstein)




Auxiliary CA who prepared the food for the Div 12 BBQ, (Pat McSwain, Linda Haynes, and John Foley) (Photo by Doug Beckstein)

VE:

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We normally see 50-60% of yacht club members' boats sign up to receive a decal, often at a yacht club-sponsored event for that purpose. However, we have not seen the general marina population participate at these levels for reasons that are not clear to us.
We've heard that having a decal on either mast or windshield will cause the USCG to cease boarding. Is that true?
Displaying the vessel safety check decal indicates that the vessel complied with the applicable safety regulations and equipment, and that the owner/operator exhibited an interest in recreational boating safety. However, a vessel that has a vessel safety check decal is not exempt from enforcement actions for obvious violations, the observance of unsafe practices, and boardings for random law enforcement purposes.
I hope that your readers view the Vessel Safety Check as a no-cost/no-risk opportunity to learn how their boat complies with mandatory equipment requirements regarding safety and the marine environment, as well as an opportunity to have a conversation with a knowledgeable examiner about any aspect of their boat that might be of concern to them.
— gerry gragg



Getting your Vessel Safety Check by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary Examiners is quick and easy. Go to www.cgaux.org/vsc to make an appointment.

VE:

Article by Gerry Gragg which was published in Latitude. VEs Anna Stevens and Adrienne Kuehneman conducting a VSC. (Photo by Gerry Gragg)



Photo: Hanley Chan has just awarded a VSC Decal to Mr. and Mrs. Kaleda at Marina Village, Alameda on Sat Aug 12. (Photo taken by Adam Kovalevsky.)