U. S. Department of Homeland Security United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Communication Services
District 11 Northern Region
Supporting Utah, Nevada,
and Northern California





TO: COMO Mary Kirkwood, DCO

Dean McFarren, DCOS

Jim Losi, DCAPT-S

FROM: Mart Gardner, DSO-CS

CC: District Board, Staff, ADSO-CS, SO-CS & FSO-CS

SUBJ: February's District 113, Communication Services (CS) Report

#### **Topic Summary:**

1. Reorganizing District Web Pages

2. DTRAIN 2019

#### **Topic Details:**

#### 1 Reorganizing District Web Pages

- 1.1 We have completed most of the reorganizing of the District's web site. The temp pages showing the move will go off line on April 15.
- 1.2 Now we hope that all members of the District's Board and Staff will let the CS team know how best to show off there area of support.

## 2 DTRAIN 2019

- 2.1 Outside of working on moving things around on the web site, time was put into the three DTRAIN Class to be presented by the CS team.
- 2.2 Class Discretion (Free Apps for the Auxiliaries)
  - 2.2.1 The cost of software has gone up 34% over the past few years. In order to keep end users coming back most of the big boys have gone to pay as you go to hide the real cost. To keep users coming back Internet roamers are pushed out about how dangerous it is to use free or open source software.

In this class, we are going to take an in-depth look at some of the best open source software out there. We will talk about the real risk of using free software and we will expose the truth about using open source software and the inherent shortfalls. This class may save you \$100s of dollars without giving up any ability. You may just deceiver that open source software can do more for you. This class is a bring your own device (BYOD) if you want to play along, not required. You will need to have either OpenOffice or LibreOffice pre-loaded. The other free software that we will be looking into is Google Photo, Google Drive and Google Calendar.

- 2.3 Class Disruption (Google Photo, More Than Just a Photo Album)
  - 2.3.1 In this class we are going to look at what Google Photos offers and what you can do with it. We going to look beyond the unlimited storage and into such things as albums, adding text, and even using Google Photos as a presentation package. We are going to talk about how your unit can build up a library of how-to videos and/or photos. Just how to share albums and allow anyone to upload photos into your album. When your done with this class you'er going to see a new and more powerful way to move, store, share, and even use your photos, videos, and presentations. You will never again attach photos to an email and wonder if it's to big to send. You will know how to make a real time shared album that others can see and use your photos as you upload them. This class is a bring you own device (BYOD) if you want to play along, not required. You will need to have Google Phots pre-loaded we will not be installing it in class.
- 2.4 Class Disruption (Communications Services (WOW))
  - 2.4.1 If you are a CS officer or you want to know more about what the CS team does. This is the class for you. The class is designed to take anyone from beginner to expert as a WOW technician. You will learn how the WoW website actually works. Learn what the pitfalls are and how to work around them. How to use the inbedded tools to make it work for you. We will cover Smart Tags and how they can make your site work for the users. WoW is the public window, displaying your unit and an information portal for the members of your unit in just one common place. In this class, you learn how to make the site fill both roles. We have been given access to a WoW training site so this will be a hands-on class. You don't need a computer as the class will be packed full of good information. This class is a bring your own device (BYOD) if you want to play along, not required. You may work on your own site, but it's not recommended the risk is high when you just learning.

As a plus, I will be included some code parts in HTML that work with WoW that are tested and proven to work.

# ADSO-CS Staff; The District ADSO-CS (ADSO-CS reports are included in the DSO-CS report)

Mart Gardner, 7-2

(DSO-CS, WoW Sections E, L, O)

• Christopher Ince Jr., 10-6

(Deputy DSO-CS, WoW Sections D, R, I, M)

BK Barr, 4-6

(Reports & Minutes, WoW Sections P, S)

• Glenna Gardner, 7-2

(Calendars)

• Mike Thompson, 7-2

(ePostmaster)

• Carl Henning, 7-6

(On-Line Reg., ePostmaster)

## Division and/or Flotilla CS Report Summaries; (Summary of reports received from SO-CS and FSO-CS)

- 1 Division 01, SO-CS Kevin Luke, report received
- 2 -No Division-
- 3 Division 03, SO-CS Ernest Shih, report received.
  - 3.1 Division 3 No new development.
  - 3.2 Flotilla 3-1, 3-3, 3-5, & 3-10 all had nothing to report
- 4 Division 04, SO-CS Ryan Brown, no report received.
- 5 Division 05, Jon Sargent, report received.
- 6 Division 06, SO-CS Kim Huynh, report received
  - 6.1 Updated Division websites with information about the Valentine's Party
  - 6.2 Rebuilding of Monterey website is underway. Inside WOW menu, it's a real mess with so many hidden pages. IT's been 8 years since the website was built with last update was in 2015. Working through all the hidden pages to see if anything is worth saving.
  - 6.3 Santa Cruz website is up-to-date, Scott is maintaining it.
  - 6.4 The wormy characters observed on the Monterey website are a type of font "FixedSys" that's not viewable when the website is opened on older versions of O/S and browsers.
- 7 Division 07, SO-CS Rex Miner, report received
- 8 Division 08, SO-CS [Open Position], no report received
- 9 -No Division-
- Division 10, SO-CS Christopher Ince, report received
  - 10.1 Flotilla 10-3, New images and a link to the Bravo Zulu newsletter I got from Roger Bazeley added.

End of DSO-CS Report Respectfully submitted, Mart Gardner, DSO-CS