



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
January 2022**

To: COMO Dean McFarren, District Commodore
Curtis Han, District Chief of Staff
District 11 North Board & Staff
From: COMO Wally Smith, District Staff Officer – Operations (DSO-OP)

This report covers surface activities for the month of December which were non-existent due to the Coast Guard’s software conversion and resultant lack of funding. As we continue to await resumption of operations activities, there is little to report for last month.

HIGHLIGHTS

- 1. All patrol order requests remain on hold.
- 2. OPTREX Calendar
- 3. Great “New Beginning” for an “Experienced” Operational Facility!
- 4. Division Staff Officers – Operations remain unchanged from 2021.
- 5. Looking forward to 2022

DETAILS

1. The following is an excerpt from an email (in italics) received from OTO Dustin Finkelson on 04 October: *All patrol orders and requests in ADII are to be denied regardless of status (requested or approved). There may be issues with accounting lines and future payment processing. Only “Critical Missions” will be approved and no requests should be entered into AD2 until further notice. For member who requesting orders the temporary work around is:*

- *Fill out and complete the CG-5132 attached.*
- *Forward to OTO for verification.*
- *OTO will forward to the OIA’s for signature.*
- *The OIA’s will forward back to the requesting member.*
- *After the blackout period, you will enter in ADII as normal.*

Any approved patrols after OCT 1st will need to follow the steps above as well. Please forward to your folks and as always, stay flexible as thing may change at a moment’s notice.

Addendum: Email received 07 October from OTO: After a conference call with BSX, all air/surface ops will not take place until after the blackout period 15NOV21. Unless the SECTOR/AIRSTA Commanding Officer is requesting Aux support, no orders will be issued and ADII should not be used.



The blackout period was to have ended on approximately 15 November; however, it is still in effect. A conclusion date of the blackout period continues to be unknown as of this writing.

2. Upcoming OPEX / OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

<u>OPTREX CALENDAR - 2022</u>		
<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
8	Lake Shasta, Antlers Resort	28-30 April
6	Santa Cruz	09-10 September
10	Millerton Lake	24-25 September

When the New Year’s dust settles, it is suggested to reserve a date on the District Calendar if your division is planning to hold an OPTREX.

3. The following is an excerpt from the November 2021 DSO-OP Report:

On Oct 1 the grand lady String of Pearls did her final patrol. ... String of Pearls is generously being offered as a facility to Division 5 by the owner Bob Gallup. Reported by Tom Hurley, FSO-OP 52 and included in SO-OP Lew Derfuss’ Division 5 Report.

And the great “New Beginning” - As of this writing, the String of Pearls appears to be going to be making way south to become the “ship” of Sea Scouts Ship 669 located in Santa Cruz. Final arrangements of the donation are being made at this time. The leaders of Ship 669 are very excited about their soon-to-be “new” ship. I am familiar with String of Pearls and have been underway on her during QE checkrides. She is a fine vessel, very well maintained and equipped, and well suited for her new role. She will serve well plying the waters of Monterey Bay training the youth of our local community. There are two operational facilities in Santa Cruz and the skippers of both are eager to begin working with the Sea Scouts and their new “ship” String of Pearls. Bob Gallup is to be commended for his generosity. A heartfelt Thank You, Bob!

4. The ten Division Staff Officers – Operations (SO-OP) who served in 2021 will continue in 2022. There were numerous challenges encountered last year including “Bubbles” and the 4th Quarter suspension of operational activities due to the financial software conversion. This experienced team weathered the “storm” and I am looking forward to working with each and every one of them this year. Thank you, lady and gentlemen!

5. 2022 will soon be upon us and all we can hope for at this time is a return to some degree of normalcy ... whatever that may look like! I appreciate Commodore McFarren reappointing me as District Staff Officer – Operations and I look forward to working with our “experienced” Division Staff Officers – Operations. On 06 January, I sent out a reminder about the division report format ... let’s see what comes back!



Division Reports

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Operational Activities during ADII Ops Blackout
2. OPTREX/OPEX 2022 Planning

Details

1. Operational Activities during ADII Ops Blackout: While the blackout is technically over, the integration of ADII with the new system has yet to be completed, preventing our Operational Members from completing orders and requesting reimbursement for costs. It is anticipated that this final migration/integration will be completed shortly.
2. OPTREX/OPEX 2022 Planning: Work has begun on scheduling our 2022 OPTREX/OPEX, which we anticipate will again take place at Station San Francisco. The final date and details will be subject to Division Board review and acceptance on the D11N Calendar.

Goals:

- Provide as many Operational opportunities as possible to support ongoing Boat Crew Training, completion of annual underway hours, and trainee support.
- Assist with member qualification expirations.
- Assist Members with Initial Specialty Qualifications.

Division 3

From John Hardin, SO-OP

Safety patrols in December were limited to “call outs” by the CG. Div. 3 responded to two such call outs. The first was to monitor the Lighted Christmas Boat Parade on the Sacramento River. 42 decorated boats participated in this evening event. Fortunately, there were no adverse events to note.



The second SAR involved the recovery of a totally submerged motor vehicle from the Sacramento River. The vehicle with one occupant was located just upstream of the Clarksburg Marine. The Auxiliary vessel was tasked with advising both up and down bound vessels of the need to not create wakes or otherwise interfere with the dive operation.

Deputies from three departments along with the Clarksburg FD, the Auxiliary vessel, a Yolo SO vessel, and CG Station Rio Vista all used VHF Channel 22A for primary recovery communications. Unfortunately, during Sector San Francisco's extended WX advisory on 22A, the channel was not available to the recovery team causing a breakdown in coms. This issue needs further study and consideration.

Below is a picture of a Clarksburg Firemen checking for the absence of electrical power to the docks. This was necessary for the safety of the divers. Also, pictured is the vehicle being recovered.



Division 4

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

No activities to report. Operational Facility SEARCH ENGINE is back in service after months-long engine and sterndrive work.

Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP

Report submitted. No Auxiliary related activities reported.

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP

No report submitted.



Division 7

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

All patrolled waters are frozen so no surface operations but the ice fishing is pretty good right now.

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 10

From Rod Rollins, SO-OP

Nothing to report at this time for Division 10 SO-OPS

Division 11

From Tom Henderson, SO-OP

No report submitted.

Division 12

From Jim Losi, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS

- **DIV12 Surface Operational OPFACS & STATUS**

- a) AQUAMARINE – Operational
- b) SERVANT – Operational
- c) ODYSSEY – Nonoperational

- 2) **2022 Goals and Objectives**

- a) We have started the process of planning check rides utilizing the miniOPTREX model for members in Div 12 and Div 1. As of today, we have four members, two in each Division who wish to become coxswains and seven members who wish to have boat crew check rides.
- b) We are hoping to have guest rides for prospective new members to the Auxiliary and for existing members who wish to join boat crew operations.
- c) Operational Activities:
 - 1. PATON Patrols
 - 2. Fleet Week – West TARP Boat
 - 3. Kite Surfer Safety Patrol with Station Golden Gate
 - 4. Training – Div 12 members with a focus on new boat crew members
 - 5. Joint Training with Station Golden Gate and Station San Francisco
 - 6. Joint training with Active Duty Reserve (May)
 - 7. Engage in general MOM/Training patrols on a regular basis



- **2022 OPFAC Maintenance**
 - a) SERVANT
 - a. 200 major maintenance starting 19 January
 - b. New bottom paint with date TBD

- **AQUAMARINE – AIR STATION SAN FRANCISCO (Black Out Period)**
 - a) OPFAC AQUAMARINE has been working with the rescue swimmers from Air Station San Francisco @ YBI providing them with essential training on sailboat platforms in rescue situations. Virginia Luchetti even taught the rescue swimmers how to sail the boat in the event the rescue swimmers had to operate a sailboat in certain rescue situations. Active Duty crews have expressed their appreciation to Virginia and her crew for this essential and important training.

** END OF REPORT **

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



SEMPER GUMBY!