



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
March 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 February which is the first full month that we were “back in business”.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Antlers OPTREX is actively being planned! ★
2. 2022 Operations Workshop and TCT Refresher are now available.
3. OPTREX Calendar
4. Some patrol reimbursements continue to be delayed.

DETAILS

1. The “Antlers OPTREX” at Lake Shasta has been a tradition for well over 30 years. It has been on hiatus for the past two years due to the pandemic. There has been speculation that the event would not occur in 2022 due to low water levels in Lake Shasta and an insufficient number of organizing members. **Several members, including at least four Qualification Examiners, are planning on holding the event nonetheless!** We are seeking boats, crews, candidates for qualification, those interested in training, and (importantly) those interested in one of the best Fellowship events of the year. On-the-water activities will likely be held on Whiskeytown Lake ... a short drive from Antlers Resort. Multiple shoreside training activities are planned and will be held in the Antlers Resort clubhouse (ours for the weekend). A registration form will be sent to all members within the next few days. **It is important that we retain this annual event and not allow it to go “D.I.W.”.**

2. The 2022 Operations Workshop and TCT Refresher courses are NOT waived for 2022. The Ops Workshop is available on the RESPONSE Directorate page on the National website and must be presented by an Auxiliarist qualified in the boat crew program (Coxswain is recommended). The TCT Refresher must be presented by an authorized Auxiliary TCT Facilitator. The TCT Refresher will be offered at D-TRAIN starting at 1400 on Saturday. Training webinars will be offered online in the very near future. Both Workshops are required to be completed by 30 June.



3. Upcoming 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
12	TBD	25-26 June
1	CG Station San Francisco	16 July
5	CG STA Vallejo	29-30 July
7	Jordanelle Reservoir	5-6 August
6	Santa Cruz	09-10 September
10	Millerton Lake	24-25 September

If a Division has not already done so, it is suggested to reserve a date on the District Calendar if you are planning to hold an OPTREX in 2022.

4. There continues to be a delay for many patrol reimbursements with some dating back to September ... six months ago! Obviously this is frustrating many coxswains some of whom are awaiting significant reimbursements for patrols dating back to Fleet Week and some before. There is no 'new' information other than reimbursements with be in the pipeline 'soon'.

Cutterman's Corner

Cutterman's Corner February 2022
By Gary Kaplan

The Coast Guard Core Values

The first thing that I noticed when I first came aboard CGC ASPEN to begin training to qualify for my Cutterman badge, was how differently the Coast Guard and the Auxiliary treat the Coast Guard Core values. In short, the Auxiliary is good at reciting the words while the Coast Guard walks the talk.

Whether it is boot camp, the academy or OCS, new arrivals are introduced to the core values early on, and the meaning and implementation of those words are regularly emphasized and encouraged.

The concepts of the words honor, respect and devotion to duty are simple and straightforward. What they imply is for everyone to behave properly, treat others properly and do your job, whatever it is, the best you can.

These values, which put people first, are unusual for any organization, especially an armed service of a federal government. But the Coast Guard is a most unusual armed service. It is the only one that trains its members to save lives, not take them. This attitude is vastly different.



I enjoy talking with new non-rates when they come aboard a unit with which I'm working. Usually, they are just out of boot camp. I always ask them why they joined the Coast Guard, and usually get the same answer. They joined because they want to help people. Soldiers and marines don't say that.

Unfortunately, the Auxiliary falls short when it comes to practicing what it claims to value. For example, one thing that I have experienced is that too many Auxiliarists do not respond to emails. It happens to others to whom I've mentioned it as well.

I bring this up not to preach or lecture, but as a reminder of the importance of honor, respect and devotion to duty, and to encourage thinking about what these words mean and to work toward putting them into practice.

News from YBI

On 29 November of 2021, CGC ASPEN left YBI for the last time, after being home ported there for nearly twenty years. She has arrived at the Coast Guard Yard, in Curtis Bay, Maryland, where she will undergo a major overhaul before traveling to her new home port in Alaska.

CGC ALDER, a sister ship, is presently undergoing her major overhaul and refit in the same yard, and sometime next spring will make her way to YBI as ASPEN's replacement. After spending 18 years home ported in Duluth, Minnesota and 18 winters breaking ice on the Great Lakes, the California coast and milder winters should be a welcome change.

Next spring, ASPEN's old crew will become ALDER's new crew and will bring her to her new home port, San Francisco, where she will become one of the two buoy tenders attached to District 11. In the meantime, buoy tending duties will be handled by the other D11 buoy tender, GEORGE COBB, who is no stranger to Northern California waters as she is up here twice a year to maintain buoys in the shallower Delta waters, and also serves on alternate years for Fleet Week duty.

Division Reports

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update

Details

1. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update: Our Annual Division OPTREX has been approved by Station San Francisco, giving us the green light to proceed with event planning. The event will be held on two consecutive Saturdays:



- Saturday July 9th: Training Day
- Saturday July 16: QE Check Rides only

I am pleased to report that we have three local OPFAC's who have committed to provide event support:

- SEAHORSE, Coxswain Peter Shamray
- SILVER CHARM, Coxswain Terry Blanchard
- SERVANT, Coxswain Jim Losi

SO-CM Carol Paz has reserved the ACV (Auxiliary Communications Vehicle) to provide OPCOM for our OPFAC's and TCO/COMs training for both days. A formal Registration form will be circulated to all members as the event draws closer.

Goals:

- Rotating members into training patrols for OPTREX preparation and building underway hours.
- Providing training opportunities for our current crew members and initial qualification candidates.

Division 3

From John Hardin, SO-OP

Subject: Is It "Nothing", "A Family Assisted", or A Life Saved"?

While on a MOM patrol, the crew observed a small toddler sitting with both feet outboard on the stern rail of the P/V CAPITAL HORNBLOWER while it was underway. We promptly notified a very appreciative captain via VHF 16 of the unsafe condition, and the toddler was safely removed from the rail. The CAPITAL HORNBLOWER is pictured below absent the toddler.

So was this nothing, a family assisted, or a life saved. For the crew of the facility, it didn't really matter. They all felt great that they had made the waterway safer.



CAPITAL HORNBLOWER underway.



Division 4

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

We are having an operations training day on Sat 19 Mar. Sponsored by Flotilla 46 but open to all of Div04. Shoreside and water activities (not under orders).

Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP

We have scheduled a Division 5 OPTREX 29-30 July at the new Station Vallejo—it is finalized and on District calendar

Anyone interested in Boat Crew Operations or getting patrol time please advise Lew Derfuss SO-OP 5 with your contact information and I will try to find slots on upcoming patrols as space allows. With our Operational Fleet of OpFac’s Coxswains and Crews we need to work together to maximize opportunities and fill our OpFac’s on as many patrols as possible. Flotilla 53 sometimes have some open opportunities for crew and trainees. Take advantage of these opportunities

Division 6

Flotilla 6-4
Facility 201474
4 February patrols

Flotilla 6-10
Facilities
301219 2 February patrols
331522 1 February patrol

New Facility arriving in Moss Landing – Soon!



Division 6 will soon have a new OpFac patrolling Monterey Bay out of Moss Landing. DOLPHIN DREAMS is a former Coast Guard 32PWB (Ports & Waterways Boat).



The new name will soon be adorning DOLPHIN DREAMS. In the photo above, she is undergoing maintenance in the Santa Cruz Harbor Boatyard.

Division 7

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

Highlights:

1. Practice now for our surface operations and our OPTREX
2. Attached is the District Operations report or you can find it here.
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=surface-operations>
3. OPTREX is Aug 5-6 at Jordanelle State Park

Details:

1. Practice and prepare for yourself for surface operations and for requalification with a QE this summer. The standard is that you must be proficient and able to do all tasks without prompting or hesitation. Since we will all be a bit rusty, here are some suggestions that you can do now while our water is still frozen solid.
 - a. Review line handling commands.
 - b. Practice your knots. There are some nice free knot tying apps for your electronic device that show animations of each knot. Suggest that you download an app and practice the five required knots and then learn a few more. Know the Square (reef), bowline, round turn and two half hitches, clove hitch, and sheet (becket) bend knots so you can demonstrate them without hesitancy.
 - c. Review the coxswain or crew or PWC check ride qualification tasks on respective qualification guide found on the National website.
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=R-DEPT&category=surface>



2. Attached is the District Operations report.
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=surface-operations>. This is where we get all our pertinent information for our District. Please read it.
3. Our OPTREX is Aug 5-6 at Jordanelle State Park. We have 11 members who will be up for requalification. That is does not include any new candidates. More info to come.

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

Very little to report except to assume that Flotilla 87 is continuing activity at the helo fuel facility.

Division 10

From Rod Rollins, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Minimal Activity due to funding and season.

DETAILS:

Only report of activity was T. Holtzman conducted one land mobile patrol.

PROJECTS:

1. Planning for OPEX May 13-16 at Lake Millerton. Will need approval for funding. Cost to participants will be \$25.00. Five full hook up sites have been reserved. Flyer will be distributed upon funding approval. Will need facilities for training. Radios, boats, etc.

CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:

1. Challenge is to have everyone return to water activities.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To exceed numeral number of patrols for 2022.
2. To ensure all OTW events are conducted safely after being off the water for a year.

Division 11

From Tom Henderson, SO-OP

No Report submitted

Division 12

From Jim Losi, SO-OP



HIGHLIGHTS

• **DIV12 Surface Operational OPFACS & STATUS – No Change from February**

- a) AQUAMARINE – Operational
- b) SERVANT – Operational
- c) ODYSSEY* – Nonoperational
 - 1. Greg Gleeson of Flotilla 12-91 has stated that he wants to renew his OPFAC’s status to operational.

• miniOPTREX – 23 April 2022

- o Submitted the request for a QE for miniOPTREX

• We will have 2 members on OPFAC SERVANT and 3 members on OPFAC SILVERCHARM going for their check rides and dockside orals.

a)

2022 Goals and Objectives

- d) 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 three members, two in each Division who wish to become coxswains and seven members who wish to have boat crew check rides.
- e) 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.
- f) 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

**** END OF REPORT *****

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



SEMPER GUMBY!

