



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
April 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 D11N surface activities for the month of March.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Antlers OPTREX is ON! ★
2. 2022 Operations Workshop and TCT Refresher are available.
3. OPTREX Calendar
4. Some patrol reimbursements continue to be delayed ... but some are arriving!
5. “MiniOPTREXs” will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.

DETAILS

1. Repeat from last month ... 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. **IT IS ON!** 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 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).

2. Reminder ... 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. TCT Refresher 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:



OPTREX CALENDAR - 2022

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
8	Lake Shasta, Antlers Resort	28-30 April
12	TBD	24-25 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 recommended 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 some patrol reimbursements with some dating back to September ... seven months ago! Obviously this is frustrating many coxswains some of whom are awaiting significant reimbursements for patrols as far back as Fleet Week and some before. **THE MONEY IS STARTING TO FLOW!** Check your record in E2 Solutions to see if your orders have been scheduled for reimbursement.

5. While we were hamstrung during the pandemic with severe surface operations restrictions, “miniOPTREXs” were a great way to get a few members certified or recertified in the boat crew program. At the Qualification Examiner (QE) meeting at D-TRAIN, this topic received a good amount of attention. It was agreed that miniOPTREXs would be approved only on a case-by-case basis and only for good cause e.g., a new facility owner needs coxswain qualification, or there is a crew shortage in a particular area and a couple of check rides are necessary to get facilities underway. Candidates should prepare and plan to qualify or requalify at organized OPTREXs and not rely on a miniOPTREX for qualification.



Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update & FSO-OP Communication
2. On the Water Operations Update
3. Two Boat QE Check Ride Event 4/23.



Details

1. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update & FSO-OP Communication: A detailed outline of our OPTREX event was sent out to our FSO-OPs today with the QE Check Ride Due Dates list prepared by the DSO-OP, a discussion of the Annual Ops Workshop and RM/TCT Refreshers (all due by June 30) and the list of all OPTREXs currently scheduled in D11NR.

I am pleased that we have three local OPFAC's who have committed to provide event support for the Div-1 OPTREX training day on July 9th and the QE Check ride day on July 16th:

- 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 the first week of May.

2. On the Water Operations Update: Cox Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM was busy in March with the following activities:
 - a. 2/28 through 3/11: Conducted patrols in support of USCG Air Station SF and the Stan Team Review.
 - b. 3/23: Participated in Helo Operations in support of Air Station SF.
 - c. 3/25-27: SILVER CHARM along with Tommy Holtzman on OPFAC SHADY LADY provided support for course security during the 2022 Sail GP practice and races.
3. Two Boat QE Check Ride Event 4/23: SILVER CHARM in tandem with Jim Losi's OPFAC SERVANT will be conducting a two boat QE check ride. Both boats have been training their respective crews in preparation for this event.

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

No report submitted

Division 4

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

No report submitted



Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP

As we get ready for a busy patrol season, I am working with Glenn Hunter SO-MT 5, Randy McCormick FSO-MT 53 and Station Vallejo to put on either one or two boat crew academies as we have 12 candidates that indicated interest in becoming Boat Crew Qualified. We are also working on scheduling a Division 5 OPTREX sometime in June at the new Station Vallejo—the date will; hopefully be finalized and put on District calendar in the next week

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 AUXFAC's Coxswains and Crews we need to work together to maximize opportunities and fill our AUXFAC on as many patrols as possible. Flotilla 53 sometimes have some open opportunities for crew and trainees. Take advantage of these opportunities

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP

- 4 patrols occurred in March.

Division 7

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

Highlights:

1. Facility Prep
2. Continue to practice and study for all operations activities
3. Attached is the District Operations report or you can find it here.
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=surface-operations>
4. Upcoming events
5. OPTREX is Aug 5-6 at Jordanelle State Park

Details:

1. For those who have facilities, please get your inspections done now so you can pull orders when we start patrolling.
2. 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 in May when we can get out on the water, here are some suggestions that you can do now while our water is starting to melt that are different from last month's report.
 - a. Review and practice your radio skills; we are not the only ones hearing each other.
 - i. Refamiliarize yourself with phonetic alphabet by reading license plates, words on road signs, and other random words out loud using the phonetic alphabet.
 - ii. Review the pro-words and their use such as when to use OUT vs OVER.



- iii. Work with your communications officer and setup a practice time using the radio.
- b. 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>
3. The District Operations report is an important way to get information on all thing operations that is coming up in the District that we need to be aware of. Her is the link to it and the past reports. All the Division reports that are sent in are included with the District report so you can see what other Division are doing besides ours.
<http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=surface-operations>. Please read it.
4. We currently have one event on June 18th that the Parks have requested us to assist with barrier duty. If you have any event that get request, please let me know so we can coordinate support.
5. Our OPTREX is Aug 5-6 at Jordanelle State Park. We have 11 members who will be up for requalification. Flotilla commanders, please find out who is if any in your flotilla is currently planning on going for a new qualification. They can of course change their minds, but this will help with the planning of our OPTREX. More info to come.

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

Redding F39: No activity nothing to report.

Mendocino F87: No report.

Clear Lake F88: No report.

Crescent City F11: No report.

Division 10

From Rod Rollins, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Minimal Activity due to funding and season.

DETAILS:

No reported activity.

PROJECTS:

1. Planning for OPEX May 13-16 at Lake Millerton. Cost to participants will be \$25.00. Five full hook up sites have been reserved. Flyer was distributed via E-mail. 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
 - (1) There were no Div 12 surface operations patrols during the month of March
- miniOPTREX – 23 April 2022
 - a) QEs for miniOPTREX will be:
 - Angelo Perata
 - Mark McLaughlin
 - b) We will have 2 members on OPFAC SERVANT and 2 members on OPFAC SILVERCHARM going for their check rides and dockside orals. They are:
 - OPFAC SERVANT
 - Olsen – Initial Coxswain check ride
 - Kovalevsky – Initial Boat Crew check ride
 - OPFAC SILVER CHARM
 - Gorenberg – Initial Coxswain check ride
 - Mitchell – Recertification Boat Crew check ride
- Patrol Order Requests
 - a) Patrol orders have been approved for 23 April miniOPTREX
- 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 three 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
- 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.

Projects

- Check Ride Program for coxswains and boat crew members and trainees
- Recruiting members with prospective OPFACs

Future Activities

- Running maintenance on OPFAC SERVANT

Challenges

- Allocation of time with only one OPFAC and many requests
- Demands from members requesting check rides earlier in the year rather than the 4Q21.

Goals and Objectives

- Get as many members as possible ready for their check rides.
- Training excellence and mission excellence.

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

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



SEMPER GUMBY!

QE Corner

New this month - the Qualification Examiner Corner (Q.E. Corner) where various tips on best practices will be featured monthly (hopefully). Please send me your best tips / suggestions for an



on-the-water evolution and ... maybe ... your write-up will show up here. For our first offering (Thanks to COMO Angelo Perata, CQEC, and QE Wayne Farnholtz):

Person In the Water (PIW) Recovery

Verbal: **Coxswain Commands** / **Crewperson Responses**

FIRST SIGHTING OF PIW (port side used in this example but could be port, starboard, bow, or stern)

Crew: MAN OVERBOARD Port side!!!! (Loudly – repeated until acknowledged)

Coxswain: Man overboard port side Aye

Action: Crewperson continuously points with open hand to the PIW while carefully moving to a position in sight of the coxswain *never taking eyes off the PIW*. Crewperson continues giving clear, loud, verbal directions as well as the condition of the PIW (conscious / unconscious, injured, etc.) to the coxswain. Crewperson remains as a pointer until relieved by the coxswain.

Action: Coxswain turns to port (or same side as the PIW went overboard), marks position on GPS (MOB), sounds five or more short blasts on the horn, returns boat to the vicinity of the PIW, and alerts Order Issuing Authority (OIA) when able.

Note: Throw a ring buoy or Type IV pfd (or anything that floats) over the side as quickly as possible as a datum. If crew loses sight of the PIW for more than a few minutes, broadcast an emergency call PAN-PAN requesting assistance from additional boats in the area and commence appropriate search pattern.

Action: Crewperson #1 (first reported PIW) is deemed the pointer and continues to keep eyes on the PIW (unless coxswain appoints someone else or says he (or she) himself (or herself) has the PIW in sight).

Coxswain to Crewperson #2: You will be the recovery / pick-up person.

Crew: I will be the recovery person Aye.

Action: Crewperson #2 moves to the appropriate location for recovery.

Note: The coxswain makes a recovery heading normally up wind, up swell, or up current, whichever is predominant.

Coxswain to Crewperson #2: Prepare to pick up the PIW on the starboard side.

Crew: Preparing for pick up on the starboard side Aye.

Action: Crewperson #2 prepares heaving line, buoy, boat pole, or collar, etc. on the starboard side.

Action: Crewperson #1 gives verbal directions e.g., speed good, track good, PIW is alongside.

Action: Coxswain determines direct or indirect pick up and makes approach 'rapidly', then as the boat nears the PIW, reduces speed and wake sufficient to stop headway with a short backing down burst of throttle. PIW should be next to the recovery area and the boat should be making no way. Coxswain puts engine(s) in neutral alongside the PIW.

Coxswain to Crewperson #2: Stand by to recover the PIW

Crew: Standing by for PIW recovery Aye.

Coxswain to Crew: Recover the PIW

Crew: Recover the PIW Aye.

Action: Crewperson(s) recovers PIW using boarding ladder, line, collar, etc.



Crew: PIW is onboard

Coxswain: PIW is onboard Aye.

Action: Crew checks for any medical issues and reports condition to coxswain.

Crew: PIW is OK. If not OK, condition is reported to coxswain.

Coxswain: PIW is OK Aye. Or coxswain repeats condition ... then Aye.

Action: Coxswain notifies OIA that PIW has been recovered. If not OK, then a brief description of medical condition is reported.

Coxswain: Crew secure the deck

Crew: Securing the deck Aye

Action: Crew inspects all recovery equipment and stows it in proper stowage areas.

Crew: Deck is secure.

Coxswain: Deck is secure Aye.

Note: Don't be surprised if, during a QE checkride, there is a M.O.B. evolution in the midst of a towing exercise.