



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report
May 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 April

HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Antlers OPTREX was a great success!
2. 2022 Operations Workshop and TCT Refresher are available.
3. OPTREX Calendar
4. “MiniOPTEXs” will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.
5. This months ‘QE Corner’ is expanded to two important inclusions:
 - Line Handling Commands for D11N
 - Trailer Operating PQS

DETAILS

1. The “Antlers OPTREX” at Lake Shasta was a great success thanks to the efforts of several Auxiliarists from Division 8. The logistical issues created by extremely low water levels at Lake Shasta were overcome by holding on-the-water activities on Whiskeytown Lake ... a 40-mile drive from Antlers Resort. Multiple shoreside training activities were offered in the Antlers Resort clubhouse which was ours for the weekend. Six boats, eleven candidates for checkrides ... all were successful ..., and about thirty-five Auxiliarists thoroughly enjoyed this most productive weekend filled with great activities and wonderful fellowship!

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.** Several upcoming online presentations are listed on the ‘District 11NR Calendar’; advance registration is required.



3. Upcoming OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

OPTREX CALENDAR - 2022

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
12	TBD	24-25 June
1	CG Station San Francisco	22-23 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. Repeat Item: 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.

QE Corner

5. The Qualification Examiner Corner (Q.E. Corner) contains various tips on best practices that 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.

This month:

1. Line Handling Commands for D11N

The need for standardization has been demonstrated more times than one can count in the past. Several years ago, the list of commands was trimmed from the ‘standard’ line handling commands issued by the active duty because many do not apply to Auxiliary facilities e.g., Avast, Back Easy, Up-Behind, Take To Power, and a few more. The list of ‘Line Handling Commands’ that we should practice and use without deviation are found below and are attached as a pdf to this email for easy printing, training, and keeping on board for reference. The list contains two sections: one “Approved Line Handling Commands” and the lower portion includes “Additional D11N Line Handling Commands”. The list has been reviewed and discussed with our Operations Training Officer (OTO) BOSN Dustin Finkelson.



Approved Line Handling Commands



COMMAND	ACTION
PUT OVER / PASS (line number or name)	Pass the specified line to the pier or other vessel and provide enough slack to allow line handlers to place line over the bitt, cleat, or bollard
HOLD (line number or name)	Do not let any more line out even though the risk of parting may exist
TAKE THE SLACK OUT OF (line number or name)	Take all the slack out of a line, but do not take a strain
EASE (line number or name)	Let a line out until it is under less tension, but not slack
SLACK (line number or name)	Take all tension off the line
SHIFT (line number or name)	Move a line to the specified location
TAKE IN (line number or name)	Allow the pier line handler or line handler on another vessel enough slack to take the line off a fitting and and bring the line aboard your vessel. Used when secured with your own line
CAST OFF (line number or name)	When leaving dock, lines stay on the dock. Also, when you are secured with another vessel's lines, it means to cast off the ends of their lines.

Additional D11N Line Handling Commands

COMMAND	ACTION
WORKING TURN ON (line number or name)	Minimum number of turns on a cleat to control a line
MAKE FAST / MAKE UP / MAKE (line number or name)	Moor / attach to cleat
LINE IN THE WATER	Call out to coxswain whenever a line is unexpectedly in the water
SECURE (line number or name)	Stow / put away line(s)
RIG (line number or name) TO SLIP	Line put around dock cleat and returned to vessel with one turn so as to facilitate springing from dock or or otherwise departing dock under power



2. Trailer Operating PQS

Several minor trailering mishaps have occurred already this year in our District. Our OTO has requested that the 'Trailer Operating PQS' be included in this month's DSO-OP Report. It is included as a separate attachment. For those of you who trailer your facility or your personal vessel, it is an excellent guideline of the dos and don'ts of towing one's vessel. It is highly recommended reading.

Division Reports

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

1. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update
2. On the Water Operations Activities Update

Details

1. **Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update:** The OPTREX Registration form has been sent out to all Division 1 Members, plus all D11N SO-OPs and the DSO-OP. I am pleased to confirm that that we have three OPFAC's 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
 - "76", Coxswain Bruce Martin

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. Registration for the COMs component of the event is included in the OPTREX Registration form (Attached).

2. **On the Water Operations Activities Update:** Cox Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM was busy in April with the following activities:
 - a. **Single Boat QE event was held on 04/23/2022;** Peter Gorenberg (Flotilla 01-02) successfully initially qualified as a coxswain and Adam Kovalevsky (Flotilla 12-91) successfully initially qualified as crew. Mark McLaughlin was the QE and through the efforts of Jim Losi, we were able to work with a Station San Francisco RBS for the towing evolutions. This event was in jeopardy following OPFAC SERVANT's engine failure. But Peter Gorenberg was able to arrange for Officer Kenji Burrage of the Sausalito Police Department to come to YBI for practice on his own time, using an RHI from the Marin County Sheriff's Office.
 - b. **Master Chief Travis Cutler, Sector Command Master Chief participated on a recent patrol.** SILVER CHARM's crew benefited from Master Chief Cutler's



participation in a recent patrol. His rating is in one of the aviation fields (not AST) and he is interested in going out for future helo ops patrols.

- c. **Opening Day on the Bay on April 24th.** SILVER CHARM participated in Opening Day on the Bay activities.
- d. **Escape from Alcatraz annual swim event on June 5th.** SILVER CHARM will be participating in security zone duty for this event.
- e. **Division 12 OPTREX (06/24-25), and the Division 01 OPTREX (07/09 and 07/16).** SILVER CHARM will be participating in support of both OPTREX events.

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: Amputation While Line Handling

The M/V Orion, a 40' Pacific Northwest Trawler, is undertaking the 6,000 mile Great Loop Cruise encompassing the Intracoastal Waterways, Western Rivers, and canals of Canada. On 2/1/2022 at 0800 hrs. the M/V Orion was departing the Steinhatchee Marina in Florida. The first mate was tending lines and fenders. The fenders were large and required both hands to secure.

As the boat moved forward, a fender became lodged under the dock and the first mate's hand became jammed between the fender line and the hull of the boat. She was able to free all but her pinky finger which suffered a complete amputation and was lost in the water. The ring finger was also fractured in two spots, requiring surgery and extensive physical therapy.

This incident is a reminder to us all that line handling, along with most other marine activities, can become very dangerous very rapidly. As mentioned in a previous SO-OP report, it is reported that Mark Twain once said "It is better to be safe 100 times than to be killed once".

Thanks to Auxiliarist Pete Hnat for providing the details of this unfortunate event. The first mate is recovering and hopes that publicizing this event will save others from injury.

Division 4

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

No report submitted

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 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

AUXFAC inspection requires updated AUXFAC photos 4 shots Port side, Starboard side, Forward Port, and Forward Starboard as well as screen shot of current registration loaded into AUXDATA II. You can send these photos to OTO Dustin Finkelson if you need assistance to load into AUXDATA II.

Finally, if you didn't get your 12 hours minimum underway last year, you will be granted a pass on going into REYR if you didn't get your 12 hours, as long as your workshop and other requirements that could be done online are up to date.

Respectfully Submitted

Lewis Derfuss SO-OP 5 Blueskier@sbcglobal.net, 707 592-9040



KOKUA returning to port following the Blessing of the Fleet.

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP
None submitted



Division 7

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

Highlights:

- 1. PPE inspections**
- 2. Continue to practice and study for all operations activities**
- 3. The District Operations report**
- 4. TCT and OPS refresher need to be completed by June 30**
- 5. Upcoming events**
- 6. OPTREX is Aug 5-6 at Jordanelle State Park**

Details:

1. Now that the water is warming up, we will soon start patrolling. We need to have our PPE inspected and brought back into service for this season. Contact your FSO-MT (flotilla materials officer) or flotilla commander about inspecting your PPE.
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 as we start to get out on the water now that it has melted and is warming up, here are some suggestions that you can do now.
 - a. Review the coxswain or crew or PWC check ride qualification tasks on respective qualification guide found on the [National website](#).
 - b. Practice the knots found in the Check Ride Qualification guide.
 - c. At the end of the District Operations Report in the QE Corner, there is instruction and example of one of the skills needed to pass a QE session.
3. The District Operations report is an important way to get information on all things operations that are coming up in the District. [Here](#) is the link to the current and the past reports. All the Division reports, including this one are included with the District report so you can see what other Division are doing besides ours. Please read it.
4. The National and District annual Operation and TCT workshops will need to be taken by all who plan to participate in any of the Operations missions by June 30th. Training webinars are now offered online, check your email and the District website calendar for training dates [HERE](#) and sign up now rather than waiting to do it in June.
5. 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. We are working on having a mini OPTREX after the support of that event. More information to come.
6. 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.

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

Redding: Antlers was revived after a 2 year absence. Over 30 people attended the event that was based at Antlers Resort and Whiskeytown Lake. Lodging, organization, and meals were held at the Resort while operations were held at Whiskeytown Lake due to low water level at Lake Shasta. This may be the routine for some time to come as Lake Shasta has such a low water level. It is doubtful that it will recover anytime soon. It was a little inconvenient but overall very successful. Bill Stolz toured Keswick Reservoir on his way to Whiskeytown Lake on the first day. 11 candidates were requalified, qualified, or were on the training schedule. Members came from Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and California. The departing OTO from District 11 came up on Saturday to supervise the day's events.

Division 10

From Rod Rollins, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Minimal Activity due to 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 2 Div. 12 surface operations patrols during the month of April

- miniOPTREX – 23 April 2022

a) QE for miniOPTREX was:

- OPFAC SERVANT experienced a major engine casualty which resulted in the need to purchase two new outboard engines. SERVANT was unable to participate in the 23 April 2022 miniOPTREX. SERVANT will be unavailable until September. We are actively looking for a solution to this issue. Please stand by.
- Mark McLaughlin acted as the QE aboard SILVER CHARM. A small boat from Station San Francisco participated in the towing evolutions. That boat was 29159.

b) We had 1 member on OPFAC SILVER CHARM who went for his check rides and dockside orals and passed. Bravo Zulu to Adam!!!!!!!!!!

c) I am pleased and proud to announce that I passed my oral and check-ride and became a QE at the Antler's OPTREX.

- **Patrol Order Requests**

a) None in process.

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

- **2022 OPFAC Maintenance**

a) SERVANT

- a. New Honda 150hp engines ordered on 19 APR 2022.
- b. New bottom paint with date 23 May 2022.



- **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.

** END OF REPORT **

Respectfully submitted,
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



SEMPER GUMBY!