



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

HIGHLIGHTS

1. 2022 Operations Workshop and TCT Refresher are available.
2. OPTREX Calendar
3. OPTREX Planning
4. “MiniOPTEXs” will be approved on a case-by-case basis only.
5. ‘QE Corner’ reviews Mishap Reporting & Readying Candidates for Qualification.

DETAILS

1. **Final 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 for the TCT Refresher. The Ops Workshop is open enrollment and will be presented on 20 June starting at 1900 PDT; here is the link: <https://meet.goto.com/8843610>

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

OPTREX CALENDAR - 2022

<u>Division</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
3	Sacramento Yacht Club	25 June
1	CG Station San Francisco	16 July
12	CG Station San Francisco	22-23 July
5	CG STA Vallejo	29-30 July
7	Jordanella 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.

3. As we approach “OPTREX Season”, please contact our Chief QE Coordinator COMO Angelo Perata at least 30 days in advance ... more advanced notice is preferable ... and let him know how many candidates are expected, the dates QEs will be needed, and the venue. This information will provide for adequate staffing of QEs. Also, please be sure that all candidates are fully vetted prior to an attempt to qualify; this is the responsibility of the Flotilla Commander.

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.

Mishap Reporting

From the Operations Policy Manual, Chapter 2 Section D: **An individual or unit with first-hand knowledge of an accident or incident while assigned to duty must report all available information in accordance with district requirements. This report is normally made to the OIA, who then must pass the information to the appropriate Coast Guard commands and Auxiliary leadership. The Coast Guard will direct appropriate investigations as necessary.**

As clearly stated in this year’s required “Ops Workshop”, all mishaps must be reported to Order Issuing Authority (O.I.A.) and the Chain of Leadership & Management (CoLM) “immediately”. A mishap is defined “as any unplanned, unexpected or undesirable event that causes injury, occupational illness, death, material loss or damage. Additionally, the Auxiliary requires any incident which causes a disruption or alteration of the mission be reported”.

We are aware of two mishaps involving a grounding and damaged lower unit / propeller that have occurred this year during “ordered” patrols; one was properly reported and the other was almost properly reported. As noted in this year’s required Operations Workshop, the Coast Guard is applying “just culture” to mishap reporting, in other words, the purpose is to improve our safety and performance; not looking to punish. This is not a free pass for reckless or



dangerous operations. By logging all mishaps, common causes may be identified that may lead to improvements to policies and/or guidelines that will reduce the chances of similar mishaps occurring in the future.

Readying Candidates for Qualification

Last year a couple of Initial Crew candidates arrived at OPTREXs ready to complete their ‘orals’ and check rides with a QE. Upon review, the QEs found that their **AUXILIARY BOAT CREW QUALIFICATION GUIDE, VOLUME I: CREW MEMBER** book was not entirely complete with sign-offs. This resulted in the candidate not getting an ‘oral’ or checkride. Flotilla Commanders are responsible for verifying, in advance, that candidates are have met all requirements prior to a qualification event. Please see the **Pre-QE Requirements – 2022** document that is attached to the DSO-OP’s email. Also, please remember that the **BCM-08-02-AUX: Perform As A Crew Member During A Night Navigation And Piloting Exercise** is no longer “waiverable”.

Division Reports

Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

Highlights

1. Division 1 OPTREX Planning Update
2. NSBW Participation
3. 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 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

As of this date we have 8 Crew Members registered for re-certification check rides on Saturday July 16th. 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. NSBW Participation:

- a. Flotilla 113-01-04 held a large NSBW event at Station Golden Gate on Saturday May 21st with more than three hundred members of the public attending. Among the many event elements, there were Active-Duty boat tours. This included dockside orientation and tours of two Division 1 OPFACs: COX Peter Shamray brought OPFACs SEAHORSE, and Cox Terry Blanchard brought OPFAC SILVER CHARM.
- b. On Sunday May 22nd, OPFAC SILVER CHARM made a tour of three local marinas, spending two hours each at the Coyote Point Marina, Oyster Point Marina, then back to her home port at Sierra Point Marina, Brisbane. Several members of the public came for a look at the vessel and to talk about the Auxiliary. VSCs and Boating Safety classes were also discussed with the public and sign-up sheets were provided.

3. **On the Water Operations Activities Update:** Cox Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM participated in several Helicopter Training patrols in support of Air Station San Francisco.

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

OPTREX Div. 3 will be conducting an OPTREX at the Sacramento Yacht Club on Saturday June 25, 2022. The contact person is John Hardin, Div. 3 SO-OP. Currently, Don Anderson and Fred Black will be crew re qualifying, and Daren Procida and Pete Hnat will be initially crew qualifying. Other candidates from Div. 10 maybe qualifying.

SAREX Div 3 and Station Rio Vista are planning to hold a SAR Exercise (SAREX) on July 20, 2022 at the Station. This SAREX will provide the participants practical experience working together as a team in the prosecution various SAR scenarios.

2022 Iron Man Race The second annual Sacramento Iron Man Race is scheduled for Sunday Oct 23, 2022. The swimming portion of this race involved the partial closure of the Sacramento and America Rivers. Auxiliary facilities from Divisions 3 and 5 will be assisting Station Rio Vista. The contact person is John Hardin, Div. 3 SO-OP.



Division 4

From Paul Verveniotis, SO-OP

Highlights

1. MOM patrols continues almost weekly in Redwood City.
2. Working with the Port with respect to Aux involvement in multi-agency training exercises.
3. Preparing members for upcoming OPTREX to maintain and achieve boat crew quals.

Details

1. MOM Patrols were conducted on some Wednesdays in Redwood Creek in support of Sequoia Yacht Club and Spinnaker Sailing weekly sailboat races. We used the opportunity to have presence if needed for the fleet and also training evolutions. Participating crew included Kristan Verveniotis, Stephen Guttman, Alvin Cura, and Kevin Quinn. Both SEARCH ENGINE and SENSE THE MOMENT were used.
2. The FL46 Radio Facility at the Tower was used for radio guard for the first time in many years. Manned by Shawn Cooley. TCO training continues at the Tower.
3. Working with Jimmin Chang to try to get his facility inspected and active in the area.
4. Steve Guttman's facility SENSE THE MOMENT has been reinspected following expiration of his annual cycle. Sent in to DIRAUX and awaiting approval.
5. Met with Steve Longoria who owns a security company and has been working with the Port of RWC for years. There was AUX activity with them in past training events with multiple agencies at the Port but it has been years. We intend to work with him in an upcoming port-wide training event later in the year.
6. Working with a couple of our boat crew members to prepare for an upcoming OPTREX.

Goals

1. Lose no quals
2. Get Jimmin's boat WILLY WILLY back on the water.
3. Continue to support sailboat races in South Bay.
4. Continue to enhance relationship with the Port of RWC.

Division 5

From Lew Derfuss, SO-OP

SO-OP 5

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. Additionally, Tom Hurley FL 52 has been conducting patrols on Audrey L -so more opportunities. 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. The OPTREX will be here before you know it so it is important for trainees to participate in as many patrols as possible when they are offered so you will be successful during QE check rides.

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.

Division 6

From Mark McLaughlin, SO-OP
No report submitted

Division 7

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

Highlights:

1. TCT and OPS refresher need to be completed by June 30
2. Continue to practice and study for all operations activities
3. The District Operations report
4. Mini OPTREX / Valkyr Race Support Jun 18th
5. OPTREX is Aug 5-6 at Jordanelle State Park

Details:

1. 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 risking having all the classes fill up.
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**. Here is this month's suggestion that you can do now.
 - a. Line handling commands. If everyone on a crew uses the same terms, then the chance of a mishap is greatly diminished, and the patrol runs smoothly. Line handling is an integral part of being on and around vessels. It is in your best interest to learn and use the line handling terms outlined in this month's District Operations Report which is found [here](#).
 - b. Practice the knots found in the Check Ride Qualification guide.
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 operations reports, including this one, are included with the District report so you can see what other Division are doing besides ours. Please read it, it is also attached.

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. We are working on having a mini OPTREX after the support of that event. More information to come.
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.

Division 8

From Dave Johnson, SO-OP

The May OPS reports are as usual, slim pickens.

Redding F039: The main OPS activity was the Annual Whiskeytown Lake Sailing Regatta. REDJET and Eagle One provided safety patrols both Saturday and Sunday, May 28 and 29. One disabled vessel not associated with the event was towed.

Division 10

From Rod Rollins, SO-OP

HIGHLIGHTS:

1. Patrols and training.

DETAILS:

OPEX was held at Millerton, 3 facilities participated with 15 members present.

10-02-See above.

10-03- See above.

10-05- See above.

10-06- See above.

PROJECTS:

1. OPEX was held May 13-16 at Lake Millerton. 3 facilities were present, 15 members from D11N were present. All 4 flotillas in Division 10 had at least two members present. T. Holtmann used the weekend to give the RM 2.0 Annual Workshop and the Operations Annual Workshop.
2. JollyHo patrolled Lake Millerton Saturday and Sunday the 21st and 22nd at Millerton and Flotilla members from 10-02, 10-05 and 10-06 participated. Each day ended with one or two tows of disabled vessels which had ran out of gas.



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.
- Respectfully Submitted:

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 Division 12 Patrols conducted during the month of May
- Time was spent working with LT Kenney and SO-OPS Nancy Marion to finalize Station SF involvement in the planning of the Div 1 OPTREX scheduled for Saturday, 9 July, and Saturday 16 July.
- Time was spent working with LT Kenney and DCDR Georgie Scheuerman to finalize Station SF involvement in the planning of the Div 12 OPTREX scheduled for Friday, 22 July, and Saturday, 23 July at the Richmond Bay Marina.
- Adam Kovalevsky and I have been working with Mark Evans of Flotilla 113-12-91 to convert his boat into an OPFAC. Mark is in the following stages of completing the outfitting of his boat and should be ready for an inspection in July.
- Progress is being made in repairing OPFAC SERVANT. The replacement engine repair should be completed during the month of June,
- **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.

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!

BONUS MATERIAL



30 May 2022 – Capitola, CA – A “Fire” helicopter with a large American flag suspended beneath circles the Memorial Day Veterans Paddleout off of Capitola Beach. OpFac 301219 (center) assisted in providing a safety zone at the request of the Santa Cruz Harbor Patrol (pictured between the participants and the beach).