

Division 1 – Terry Blanchard – VCDR and Coxswain of Silver Charm

Friday, June 17 2022

I attended the Change of Command Ceremony (COC) at the air station. Some of you were there but left before the festivities ended and I thought others of you might be interested in several aspects of this event. Roger Bazeley documented it officially, but I don't know if he ever posts all or most of his photos for anyone to look at, or if you only see one when it is selected for publication. I just took a few shots of special interest.

The Cooper family meant more to some of us than previous COs, and their families who we never met. Several weeks after he assumed command of the air station in the summer of 2019, my flotilla happened to be holding one of our annual flotilla picnics where we brought prepared food to the air station and invited the duty crew and anyone else on station that day to join us for lunch. All we ask for in return is a tour of the hanger, unless the duty crew is off on a SAR case.

On this Saturday CAPT Cooper, his older daughter, Mary Kate, and the family dog happened to be on base as he had some work to complete and they all joined us for lunch where we got to know them more so than would be usual. Herman Haluza got to monitor the family dog while CAPT Cooper and Mary Kate ate and talked with us. Not long after this CAPT Cooper came along on a helo ops patrol on Silver Charm and worked the deck for hoisting. I had him at the helm on the way back to YBI afterwards and we even had a minor SAR case. He seemed to enjoy that! In the helo ops photos, CAPT Cooper is on the left in one photo and CDR McKinney, the Ops Boss, is 2nd from the right he stayed dry! The man on the sailboat was having mental issues and kept demanding to get off the grounded sailboat immediately, and threatening to jump off. We stood by until Station SF sent a RBS.

This COC/retirement ceremony was different from others that I recall. I've been fortunate to be invited to all of them since Silver Charm started working with the air station in 2000 (usually every three years). They went through the formal activity of handing command from CAPT Cooper to CAPT Huberty with Rear Admiral Penoyer (D11) presiding. I didn't notice it at first, but all the active duty then drifted off and came back having changed out of their trop blues, or dress whites, into flight suits or ODUs for a few. They were going to be more comfortable than we guests, still in trop blues or appropriate civilian attire for family guests.

CAPT Cooper has an identical twin brother who took over as master of ceremonies. Both are graduates of the Coast Guard Academy, but his brother retired a few years ago and had fun kidding his brother about now being able to grow a beard as he now has. It wasn't mentioned on Friday, but CAPT Cooper had alluded to the two of them being misidentified as the other while at the Academy with funny outcomes. Another important member of the family also came out, the family dog. He looked a bit older than I recall him from three years ago with some white around his muzzle. What was so funny and also enjoyable was he would lay quietly until there was applause, on many occasions during the speeches, when he would become very active and start barking. Otherwise he seemed happy to doze at the CAPT's feet.

Some of the other different activities included CAPT Cooper's wife and two daughters all being presented with certificates by Admiral Penoyer. I didn't quite hear how they came about, they might have been Admiral Penoyer's doing, or even Admiral Fagan's. The admiral gave a very moving speech

about the importance of the spouses and families of military members, of all the services, not just the Coast Guard and elaborated on the hardships they face. I later told him he could go on a one person tour of Coast Guard installations making that speech to families as it would likely spur retention, one of the perpetual problems for all the services along with recruitment. I also have to mention that once again Rick Pizio's famous photo of the AST with the setting sun and the Golden Gate Bridge in the background was used in the COC program. The large version hangs in the wardroom but they use it in every COC program since it was taken, must be three or four now.

The older daughter made a very impassioned speech about her father and what he meant to her and her sister as they grew up. Mary Kate has graduated from Stanford and will attend Oxford for a program in astrophysical/aeronautical engineering. In 2019 she was a "walk-on" for the Stanford women's rowing team and they were the PAC-12 champions for 2022. She has a good memory as she stopped and talked with Cassandra, as they have rowing in common, having discussed it at a holiday function several years ago. You can tell they are a very close and loving family. They will take up residence in FL. CAPT Cooper has 28 years in the CG. He had a major role while stationed at USCG Air Station New Orleans during Katarina.

I'm attaching five photos I took which show the family dog for those who like dogs and several others of the unofficial activities. Those who left early missed the light lunch and nice cake prepared and served by our own AUXCA folks. In several of the photos you may notice that CAPT Cooper somewhat severely damaged his foot while playing hockey on the ramp a few days ago. You may also notice Mary Kate has an artificial leg. She never seemed reluctant to let people see it the handful of times I've seen her over the past three years. Then there are several photos of the CAPT on our helo ops patrol.



CAPT Cooper with family at his retirement ceremony with RADM McAllister

Division 3 – Rich Celia – SO-PA

No report submitted

Division 4 – SO position vacant

No report Submitted

Division 5 – Jim Matthies – VFC/PA -5-5

Happy Summer and 4th of July everyone! Flotilla 55 is preparing and has plans to have an RBS booth and VE station set up on July 2nd at the Lake Sonoma Visitors Center. Participants are Therese Van Wiele, Thomas Nguyen, Steve Jette and Jim Matthies. The event is planned to start at 0800 in parking lot in front of the Dam and end at 1500 or maybe 1600 depending on business. We will also bring life jackets to the Public Launch Ramp and the Marina.

Division 5 - Kit Galvin – NSBW – PA

AUX Galvin received this recognition standing shoulder-to-shoulder with Active Duty officers and enlisted personnel, being cited for her various accomplishments in the Auxiliary's primary mission of Recreational Boating Safety.



BASE ALAMEDA, CA – ADM Linda L. Fagan, Commandant of the Coast Guard recognizes and congratulates AUX Kit Galvin, FC of Flotilla 113-05-03 at the District 11 All Hands Meeting, July 7, 2022.



BASE ALAMEDA, CA –AUX Kit Galvin, FC of Flotilla 113-05-03 with ADM Linda L. Fagan, the 27th Commandant of the Coast Guard, July 7, 2022.



BASE ALAMEDA, CA —AUX Kit Galvin, FC of Flotilla 113-05-03 with VADM Michael F. McAllister, Commander of Coast Guard Pacific Area & Defense Forces West (PACAREA), July 7, 2022.

Division 6 – Jane D. Smith – DSO-PA2

Steve McCann – Coxswain # 474 Patrol - May 21st

The operational facility #474 (Sundiver) completed two patrol days during May. May 21st was a MOM patrol and Aux training.

May 28th the #474 provided safety support for the annual Memorial Day Hoe WA’A Outrigger races. The outrigger race was a successful event with over 40 outriggers competing in three different race series.

Prior to the start of the first race, the #474 crew responded to a scuba diver in distress at San Carlos Beach. Upon arriving on station, the diver in distress was being helped onto shore and was received by the Monterey Fire Department emergency responders.

At approximately 1345 hours the 201474 responded to the location of a 21’ cuddy cabin power boat that was DIW. The DIW vessel was approximately 1.5 miles off Lovers Point in Monterey Bay. All 4 POB were asked to put on lifejackets, and it was determined that there were no medical concerns. The #474 provided a stern-tow back to Monterey Harbor. Upon arrival at the harbor area, the harbor patrol vessel took the DIW vessel in side-tow and moored at the Monterey fuel dock.



Coxswain Steve McCann, Facility #474 on helm while Tracy Schultz is watchful as lookout on towing vessel



Helmsperson Tracy Schultz with crewmember lookout Robb Kay in support of the outrigger race.

June 16, 2022 Practice Patrol Moss Landing on #322 – Owner Tracy Schultz-Flt 64

This was a training day with this new facility for Station San Francisco Helo Ops. It was our first practice but the waters were rather rough as we attempted the outing and had to abort about 200 yds from the Harbor.



On board the '322' Bruce Krogstad, Jane Smith, Wally Smith, Tracy Schultz (Photo by Chuck Cobery). The new facility will be supporting helo ops for AirSTA SF out of Moss Landing starting in July.



**Chuck Cobery, DCAPT – “Comms”, and COMO Wally Smith at the Helm,
Flt 6-10**



Outside on the deck, Tracy Schultz, Flt 64 and fully suited up FC Bruce Krogstad, Flt 6-10



Jane Smith, Flt 6-10 – DSO-PA as “Safety Officer”



June 25th Patrol – Coxswain, COMO Wally Smith, with all women crew (from left to right) Gwen Hammer, Ingelise Rowe, Jane Smith, Wally Smith, COMO Mary Kirkwood and Casandra Mani out of Santa Cruz for training for newest crew Ingelise Rowe and Gwen Hammer to prepare for her OPTREX..

Alex Urciuoli – Flt 64 – Watchstander – Station Monterey

On June 16, 2022, for the second week in a row, AUX member Marius Landauer of Santa Cruz Flotilla 67 travelled to USCG Station Monterey to continue with his Watchstander break-in with fellow AUX member Alexander Urciuoli of Flotilla Monterey 64.

During his time in the Comms Center, Landauer practiced his radio voice, and also completed PQS tasks in microphone work.

While doing training, Landauer also observed a possible SAR case. While this turned out to be a false alarm in the end, the many tasks that a Watchstander is called to do--working with the crew, other agencies, with phones ringing and simultaneous broadcast messages coming in over the radio, all while trying to log complete and accurate information-- were every much in evidence.

It's not busy--until it is. Never half measures it seems.

Both Landauer and Urciuoli were greatly assisted during this time by BM1 Brenan Howard whose experience, expertise, and insights were greatly appreciated by both Auxiliary Watchstanders --old and new!

Division 8 – Dorothy DeLope – FSO-PA – 8- June 2022 -At the top of Mt. Konocti, Flotilla Commander Kevin Kealey and his crew of John McAlear and Nicole Caldwell held up a large mirror and reflected the image back down to the schools. The youngsters were fascinated and so excited in seeing the huge mirror reflected back down to them.



The main purpose of the Flotilla's Mirror Project is to teach the children safety by carrying a mirror and a whistle with them when walking or hiking in unfamiliar countryside and to use should they become lost. Also, a whistle and mirror should be attached to their lifejacket in case of a boating emergency in which they end up in the water.



Members of Division 8 talking with the children



The Flotilla reminds parents to review safety habits with their children and to always wear their lifejacket.

Division 10 – Rebecca O’Brian-Witt- SO – PA

Nothing to Report

Division 11 – Bill Stolz – SO – PA – Flotilla 11-01

Linda Ravetti from 11-03 has been doing a great job in Public Affairs. She will be setting up a display and greeting customers the last Friday of each month at West Marine, Reno, during the boating season.



Division 12 - Jim Losi - Public Affairs, PCA President & DSO-HR

No report submitted

Very respectfully submitted,
Jane D. Smith,



District Staff Officer - Public Affairs 2

