

13 July 2023

TO: Board and Staff
FROM: Larry Olson, DSO-AV
SUBJECT: AuxAir Report for June 2023.

AuxAir continues to fly three to five missions a week in support of the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary and our allied agencies. Our most noteworthy flight in June was on the 27th, when Sector assigned us to assist with a SAR case near the Antioch Bridge. On this date auxair had two aircraft on patrol. One was staffed by Trent Bachman, Jeff Grave and Ron Darcey. The second aircraft was staffed by Doug Kerr and Larry Olson. Sector advised both teams that two persons had fallen off a raft the night before just East of the Antioch Bridge. The male subject had been rescued that evening, but the female had not been rescued. Her whereabouts were unknown and the Coast Guard had launched a search for the woman. We were given a description of the missing woman and were requested to go to the area and assist in the search. A Coast Guard helicopter from Air Station San Francisco was on scene and was searching in a low level pattern. The aux aircraft flown by Trent Bachman was also involved in the search and was maintaining a safe altitude above the helicopter. The second aux aircraft also assisted in the search and maintained a safe altitude about the helicopter and first aux aircraft. During our search, a second helicopter, from East Bay Regional Park District, arrived on scene to assist with the search. The search covered a large area, both east and west of the Antioch Bridge, however no trace of the missing woman was found. After an hour or so of searching Sector released the two aux aircraft and both continued on with their assigned patrols. Later in the day we learned that the missing woman had made it to one of the islands in the Delta and had apparently gone to sleep. When she woke up in the morning, she was able to get the attention of a private boater who rescued her and brought her back to safety.

During June, two of our aviation members attended and completed the AUX-18 course presented by the FAA in Oklahoma City. This is a required course for pilots and recommended for aircrew personnel. The AUX-18 course covers a variety of subjects, including spatial disorientation, hypoxia, cold weather operations, medical concerns, and water survival. The FAA does an excellent job presenting this course, which is required for all auxair pilots and also taken by most aircrew members.

AuxAir is now preparing to participate in a SAREX with Division 3 and Station Rio Vista, which will be held on Tuesday, 18 July.

We continue with our training of pilots, aircrew and observers and expect to bring one or two additional aircraft online in the next few weeks.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Olson, DSO-AV