



**USCG Auxiliary District 11 North - Surface Operations Report  
March 2021**

To: COMO Dean McFarren  
Curtis Han, District Chief of Staff (DCOS)  
District 11 North Board & Staff  
From: COMO Wally Smith, District Staff Officer – Operations (DSO-OP)

**HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Bubbles continue and patrols are happening!
2. The annual 1-hour Surface Operations Workshop and the TCT Risk Management Refresher presentations are underway.
3. The number of boat crew members & coxswains due for requalification this year totals 149.
4. OPTREX Calendar
5. Underway hours for AUXDATA II

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1. The District continues to require that those participating in surface operations belong to a “Bubble”. To be eligible to join a bubble, one must have a High-Risk Assessment Form on file and have passed the Blood Borne Pathogens course.
2. Both the Ops Workshop and TCT Risk Management Refresher are required to maintain currency. Check the District Training Calendar for upcoming dates. Keep in mind that there are no pre-registrations necessary for the Ops Workshop; the number of attendees is unlimited. Advance signups are required for the TCT RM Refresher and class sizes are limited to eight; sign up with Ann Zocchi, DSO-MT.
3. The number of candidates due for requalification checkrides this year has fluctuated a bit but remains high at 149. Below is a spreadsheet indicating the number of coxswains and crew, broken down by Division, due this year:

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**Requalification Candidates - 11 April 2021**

<u>Division</u>	<u>Coxswain</u>	<u>Crew</u>	<u>Total</u>
1	3	14	17
3	5	4	9
4	3	12	15
5	9	16	25
6	4	9	13
7	13	9	22
8	7	11	18
10	5	4	9
11	4	5	8
12	5	7	12
	58	91	149

4. OPTREXs currently listed on the District Calendar are below:

<b><u>OPTREX CALENDAR - 2021</u></b>		
<u>Division(s)</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Dates</u>
4	Port of Redwood City	31 July
7	Jordanelle Reservoir	6 – 7 August
3	Sacramento Yacht Club	14 August
11	CGSTA Lake Tahoe	28 August
6	Santa Cruz Harbor	11 – 12 September
Flt 55	CGSTA Bodega Bay	24 – 26 September
10	Millerton Lake	24 – 26 September
12	TBD	15 - 16 October

5. There has been some confusion expressed over what mission categories are included for calculating the annual 12-hr minimum requirement and for the Operations Service Award. Only hours that are accumulated “underway” are counted i.e., 01A, 02, 03, 22A, 22B, 24, 41, 42, 43, 54A, 55A. Hours that are logged in 01D, 01B, and 23A do not count towards minimum requirements since those hours, by definition, are not “underway”.



## Boat Crew & Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Information from our District PPE Manager, Michael Brown

Shipmates, with patrol orders increasing, so are the PPE requests. I am able to get to DIRAUX about once a week to fill requests. Due to Phase II restrictions, DIRAUX is still not fully staffed on a daily basis, and personnel are on an every-other-day rotation, so the office staff are not always available to assist in this process. Most Auxiliarists are still prohibited from accessing any CG base or station. PPE gear in most cases can be mailed, but the base's mail facility is on a similar schedule, and out-going office packages and mail can languish for days before getting picked up for delivery. Another issue with mailing out PPE items is the lack of boxes available for any particular items and having one to fit a particular item is random at this time. If anyone wishes to, I can meet them outside the base by the Chief's Hut and Seawest Credit Union on CGI, as they are outside the wire/security checkpoint. Please email me to coordinate that delivery.

PPE requests only need the following information:

Surface OPS:

- **First and Last name of member requiring items**
- **Indicate whether or not that member is Crew or Trainee**
- **The items requested**
- **Sizes of: Type III, AEC (S-M-L-XL-XXL-XXXL); gear vests (M-L-XL); gloves (S-M-L-XL)**

AUXAIR:

Check with your chain first and order thru them, but the same protocols (adapted for Air Crew) apply.

All requests must be made via email your FSO-MA/OP. If those offices are not staffed, then the request should be made through your FC. My email is [m.brown.uscgaux@gmail.com](mailto:m.brown.uscgaux@gmail.com). Please contact me with any questions or concerns. Keep up with your PPE inspections, as we move closer to full operational status.



## Division Reports

(in their entirety)

### Division 1

From Nancy Marion, SO-OP

### Highlights

1. Virtual Crew Training Continues
2. Updated Requirements to Request QE Check Ride
3. Surface Operations update
4. Crew Operations Certification & REYR Policy
5. OPTREX Planning

### Details

1. **Virtual Boat Crew Training:** The SO-OP has been working with FSO-OP Alex Bennett of Flt 01-04 to develop a series of virtual Boat Crew training courses. Since my last report Flotilla 01-04 has held two classes including students from all 4 of our Division 1 Flotillas. I want to thank our Instructors:
  - a. Coxswain Steve Bustin lead the Navigation Refresher.
  - b. Carol Paz and Alex Bennett led the Physical Fitness, First Aid and Survival Refresher.

The next round of classes is being organized and announcements will be sent out to the entire Division membership when available.

2. **Updated Requirements to Request QE Check Ride:** The DSO-OP Wally Smith just circulated an updated list of requirements for anyone requesting a QE check ride for initial Crew or Coxswain certification or a re-certification. The additional items have been developed with input from our OTO Dustin Finkelson and reflect policy overlays resulting from COVID-19. The additional items include:
  - a. Filing a High-Risk Assessment Form with DIRAUX
  - b. Inclusion in an approved Operational Facility Bubble (Including completion of the Blood Borne Pathogen Class).
  - c. Coxswains must file an Assignment to Duty Request Form a minimum of one week before the event.

The full "QE CHECK OFF SHEET" has been circulated to all our FSO-OPs.

3. **Surface Operations update:** Coxswain Terry Blanchard on OPFAC SILVER CHARM (Flt 01-09) created an approved Operations Bubble some time ago and has been working very hard on both Helicopter Operations and Crew Training patrols. The culmination of



the Crew Training segment will be put to the test during a two boat QE Check Ride event on April 17<sup>th</sup>, in conjunction with Coxswain Jim Losi and his OPFAC SERVANT. Additionally we understand that Coxswain Bob Golden is in the process of organizing a crew bubble for his OPFAC RANGER out of Flotilla 01-02.

4. **Crew Operations Certification & REYR Policy:** Please pass the following requirements along to your Operational Members:
  - Any Boat Crew Member or Coxswain who went into REYR for a QE Check ride in 2020, will remain operational until the end of 2021. However, they must continue to maintain any required classes such as the annual RM Refresher, Annual Operations Workshop and Core Training.
  - 12 Hours of on the water time will be required in 2021 to maintain crew qualification.
  - Phase II Crew Bubbles will continue to be required until further notice. Crew Members wishing to be eligible for a Boat Crew Bubble must:
    - Complete the Blood Bourn Pathogen Class, which is now available on the AUXLMS website. Upon completion, print out the Class Completion Certificate and send to DIRAUX.
    - File a High-Risk Assessment form with DIRAUX. The form has been revised to reflect a Vaccination date for those who wish to confirm that a COVID-19 Vaccine has been received. No evidence of the Vaccine is required.
  - On a related note, our OPFAC Coxswains and Crews have put a great deal of time and effort into developing on-board operations protocols to conform to COVID-19 protection standards to maximize member safety.
  
5. **OPTREX Planning:** We are currently scouting locations for a tentative OPTREX to take place some time in October, should District, Coast Guard and Local Health regulations allow. The venue and date should be confirmed at the April Division meeting, then sent up the COL to set on the D11N Calendar.

### **Challenges**

1. Maintaining support for Boat Crew training and QE check rides within a virtual training environment and the limitations of “Boat Bubble” operations under Phase II.

### **Division 3**

From: John Hardin, Div. 3 SO-OP

### **Highlights**

1. Correct Cell # For Station Rio Vista
2. LE vs PE?



Details

1. Correct Cell # For Station Rio Vista - The correct cell # OOD at Station Rio Vista 707-389-0518. Again, this number is not be used in place of routine VHF or land line comms with the Station. However, it can be used to transmit pictures, Lat/Lon (location pins) for SAR Reports, to obtain PPE waivers, or when real time feedback with Sector San Francisco is required.
2. LE vs PE? While on patrol recently, we happened upon an anchored 18' vessel. None of the occupants, including a 5-year child, were wearing PFDs. If this vessel were underway and not "anchored, moored, or aground", Harbors and Navigation Code Section 658.3 would require this child to wear a PFD. Notwithstanding the "underway" requirement of the law, we were very concerned that if the child fell from the anchored vessel, the river current would very quickly carry the child downstream away from the vessel making a rescue very difficult if not impossible.

Not wanting to be perceived as LE, we approached the vessel and in a very friendly manner offered a PFD for the child. The parents thanked us and stated that they already had a PFD on board for the child but the child refused to wear it. In frustration, the parents asked for our assistance. We convinced the child to wear his PFD. The parents then thanked us very much, and we even got a happy face from the child. Of course, the adults could have set a better example by wearing their own PFDs.

**Division 4**

No report submitted.

**Division 5**

From: Lewis Derfuss SO-OP 5

FL 51 No Operations this month  
Steven Johnson, FSO-OP.

FL 52 - There have been no patrols for flotilla 5-2 during March 2021. Work continues organizing information to create a crew base and then a " bubble" for patrol purposes.

As we prepare to begin patrolling, remember that our individual skills are probably not as high as required and need improvement. Our teamwork as crew are nonexistent and we are all one year older and perhaps less physically able. If we are to be a viable asset to the Coast Guard, we must be able to reliably perform any duties they feel comfortable assigning. Some things to practice for crew and coxswains:

- Knots: Cleat hitch, Bowline, Clove hitch, Rolling hitch
- Heaving a line: Buy some rope and practice throwing, both weighted and free. Find out what your regular, competent distance is. Distance and accuracy will improve with regular practice.



Line Commands: Which is best? "Hey, tie that line" or "Put a turn on # 4"? " Let it go!" or "Take in #1 line"? "Loosen that" or "Slack away on line #1"?

Relative bearings and distance: "Buoy 21 Alpha, bearing 220 (two two zero) relative, 100 yards"

Radio: Channel 16, 14, 13, 12,10, 09 - Purposes and procedures. Which channel connects you with the bridgetender at the Mare Island Causeway Bridge? Rio Vista bridge, SF Pilots? Off shore Vessel Traffic? Huge floating log in the shipping channel. What do you do? Who do you call, which channel?

Study at charts: SF Bay to Stockton.

Read Coast Pilot

Local area Notice:

Lotta work, Lotta fun. Get busy.

M/R

Tom Hurley

FL 53

SAR DOG has conducted two PATON/Training patrols one on 14 March, a day out of Suisun City doing day PATONS on Suisun Slough. The second on 27 March, a night patrol out of Cuttings Wharf Napa doing Bridges and PATONS on Napa River and Mare Island Straits.

We also held OPS Workshop for most of our operations members after our regular Flotilla Meeting.

Lew Derfuss FSO-OP 53

FL 55 FSO

### **Flotilla 55 conducted 3 patrols in March.**

March 6 MOMS and Training Patrol on the Petaluma River with Margarita. Crew, Thomas Herbst, Frank Capuro and Therese Van Wiele. We also trained with CG Station Vallejo.

March 11, PATON Patrol on Tomales Bay with Sea Scum II. Crew Frank Capuro. We surveyed 52 PATONS, 44 were unpermitted Mooring balls, 6 unpermitted oyster leases, and one unpermitted research buoy.

March 20, MOMS/PATON patrol on Bodega Bay with Margarita. Crew, Brian Barton, and Thomas Herbst. We did some two-boat training with CG MLB 257, and surveyed 9 PATONS plus filed a 7054 on an unlit range light.

Covid Bubble Status:

*Margarita Bubble:* Wil Sumner, Thomas Herbst, Brian Barton, Doug Twitchell, Jimmy Matthies, and Therese Van Wiele



*Minnow Bubble*: Frank Capuro, Jeff Tuttle, John Teague, Steve Kilgariff

## **Operational Training**

April 5, Annual OPS Workshop, See District Calendar.

## **Patrols scheduled for April**

April 3, Margarita and SS Minnow Petaluma River

April 17, Margarita and SS Minnow, Bodega Bay

*SS Minnow bubble* has received orders to join Margarita in April 3 & 17 patrols.

Jeff and I have put in for patrol orders and have been approved for 4/3/21 on the Petaluma River. And again 4/17/21 at Bodega Bay. Both Patrols will be two boat training with AUX Vessel *Margarita*. We will need crew for both days.

Let me know if any or both can make it.

PHOTOS: 1st two-Two Boat Training with Sta Bodega Bay  
3<sup>rd</sup> Weather PATON Verification  
4<sup>th</sup> Securing to dock.







Wil Sumner FSO-OP 55  
US Coast Guard Auxiliary,  
DSO\_MS  
707 776 7237 cell

FSO-OP 57 Nothing to Report  
Bob Gallup, FSC-OP 57

#### SO-OP 5

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. Both 55 and 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. We can also conduct Virtual Inspection of our PPE and document with your FSO-MA. DO NOT TEST EPIRBs but if your battery is expired or near expiration send an email to me and I will forward to Michael Brown and he will add to list to order replacements. We can no longer use with expired batteries.

Please note: Many of our AUXFAC's inspections are now expired and we have received guidance on how we can get these inspections completed and AUXFACs inspections updated in AUXDATA II. This process is new, somewhat confusing and convoluted so work on getting these inspections and offer for use updated now so we will be ready to go when water temps and air temps allow us to start operations. Follow the process sent out from OTO Dustin Finkelson in November and if you need help with the process John Hardin ADSO Operations has offered to help walk members through the process and understands it better than me at the present time. Additionally, you will need to complete Blood Borne Pathogen training 100293 (on AUXLMS), be current in Risk Management/TCT 100202 and Operations workshop and file High Risk Covid Assessment worksheet for all crew members and trainees. Once this is completed you can form a Patrol Covid Bubble and submit to DIRAUX for approval under Phase 2 Guidance.

2021 National OPS workshop is now available. Some flotillas have already been presenting to their membership. If you haven't done this yet, please make plans for presentations.

Risk Management/TCT refresher workshop are on Webinar calendar—Please tune in and update your qualifications.

### **Division 6**

No report submitted

### **Division 7**

From Mike Thompson, SO-OP

### **Highlights:**

1. Attached is the District Operations report. Please read it and send it out to your members.
2. As the ice melts off our lakes and reservoirs we need to inspect our PPE and make sure it is in working condition and that we get it back into service. Work with your FSO-MA and Flotilla commander to do that.
3. The TCT and OPS refresher courses are now available. The District is teaching these two required courses online. Sign up for a training slot by going to the Districts Member Training calendar at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=mt-calendar> and follow the instructions on the calendar. These courses need to be done by 30th of June. Since we will not be out on the water unit May, now is a good time to take the classes.



4. COVID bubbles are still required in our District. To be eligible to join a bubble, one must have a High-Risk Assessment Form on file and have passed the Blood Borne Pathogens course. Blood Borne Pathogen training can be found at <https://auxlearning.uscg.mil/> and the High-Risk Assessment Form at <http://wow.uscgaux.info/content.php?unit=113&category=surface-operations> (District Response webpage).
5. Our OPTREX is Aug 6-7 at Jordanelle State Park. It will be a busy one since it will be two years of check rides for a total of 18 so far. That is does not include any new candidates. A lot more info to come. Just remember that we need to be able to do the tasks proficiently and without prompting. Practice makes Perfect.

### **Division 8**

No report submitted

### **Division 10**

FROM: R. Rollins SO-OP

Report for MAR 21

### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Patrols continue with DELTA FORCE
2. A new bubble has been created with 10-05 and 06 members- KAWEAH SOUTHERN
3. Members are showing interest in returning to OTW events.

### **DETAILS:**

1. DELTA FORCE had 2 patrols in March covering the delta from I-5 and the Sacramento River with a run up the American River to the 160 bridge. The other patrol was from Stockton down to Rio Vista.
2. A new bubble has been created with 10-05 and 06 members- KAWEAH SOUTHERN which will begin patrols April 17 and 18 on Lake Kaweah.
3. Members are reviewing and prepping to return to OTW events such as patrols and training on the water.

### **PROJECTS:**

1. No current projects aside from getting back on the water.
2. NSBW Event Sportsman Warehouse May cancelled this year. hold until we are allowed to meet public.

### **CHALLENGES/OBSTACLES/OPPORTUNITIES:**

1. Challenge is to have everyone return to water activities safely.



**AGENCY INTERACTION:**

1. None noted

**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To exceed numeral number of patrols for 2019.

**Division 11**

From: Tom Henderson, SO-OP

**DETAILS**

1. No activity this month.
2. I continue to stay in regular contact with Station Lake Tahoe to help in any way I can from a distance.

**AGENCY INTERACTIONS**

None

**UPCOMING EVENTS, DATES AND LOCATIONS**

**STAFF OFFICER OP GOALS**

1. To work closely with the flotilla FSO-OP's and provide them with the tools they need to complete their missions.
2. Keep the Division up to date on all special events and their need for patrols.
3. To meet all Station Tahoe's needs for two boat training & special event patrols.

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**Division 12**

No SO-OP. No report submitted.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
COMO Wally Smith, DSO-OP



**SEMPER GUMBY!**