



**U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY**  
**District Eleven North Region**  
**DIVISION COMMANDERS REPORT**



**To: Dean McFarren, Commodore**

**2 August 2022**

**Cc: District Board and Staff**

**From: Georgie Scheuerman, Division Commander**

**Division: 113-12**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

1. Div 12 Victory OPTREX a Success: The Division 12 OPTREX was conducted on 22 & 23 July at the Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond, CA. 6 members were initially qualified or requalified at the OPTREX.
2. Fellowship and Collaboration: Div 12 flotillas have worked together on a number of events this year and are planning more events that will tap the skills in both flotillas. Some of these events are Auxiliary missions and some are fellowship events. The division will have a BBQ on August 20<sup>th</sup> at Coast Guard Island and Flotilla 12-91 will have a Fellowship Event in September at a member's home.
3. Member Training: We continue to help members complete required workshops, AUX Core Training, and BQC II. Recent members are continuing to help even newer members complete much of the required training to attain BQ Status. This is being done under the guidance of experienced members in both flotillas.

**DETAILS:**

1. Div 12 Victory OPTREX: Div 12 conducted the Victory OPTREX on 22 & 23 JUL at Marina Bay Yacht Harbor in Richmond, CA. 6 members representing 4 divisions successfully completed Checkrides. One member completed his Initial Coxswain Checkride. Div 12 now has a new Coxswain!! 1 other member completed his Coxswain Requal Checkride. 4 members completed Boat Crew Requal Checkrides. Weather provided some challenges and one of the OPFACs developed engine trouble. Despite this the OPTREX completed its missions of Training and Checkrides.
2. Fellowship and Collaboration: Members of Div 12 (both flotillas) collaborated in several missions that tapped skills from each flotilla. Examples include the Div 12 Victory OPTREX, a Beach Cleanup, the San Ramon Art & Wind Festival, Vessel Safety Checks, and PA Events. Members are also participating in joint fellowship events. One is a Division 12 BBQ in August at Coast Guard Island. Also one flotilla will conduct a Fellowship Event in September at a member's home. In addition, Division 12 will continue with its Division Newsletter (Neptune News) containing articles and pictures from both flotillas.
3. Member Training: We've continued sending reminders to members about required workshops and assisted members needing to complete both Core Training and BQC II. Some of our recent new members continue helping brand new members complete online training under the guidance of experienced members. Additional training was offered at the Division 12 OPTREX and some will be offered in late Q3 and early Q4.

**PROJECTS:**

1. Victory OPTREX – The Victory OPTREX was conducted on July 22-23. 6 Checkrides were successfully completed. Div 12 now has a new Coxswain! We will be conducting a survey to seek out suggestions for our 2023 OPTREX. It should be noted that help for this OPTREX came from 7 different divisions in

our District. Checkrides were provided for members coming from 4 different divisions. This represents great collaboration and coordination throughout our district. Div 12 appreciates this assistance.

2. Training for SOs started in February with more training planned for later in the year. This is part of our efforts for Succession Planning. The first training was for SRs and was conducted for all District SRs. More communications are planned for SRs based on new efforts at the National level to provide standard forms for meeting minutes and training for SRs. The new W Directorate has just been approved and resources from this new directorate will be communicated when ready for use. Training for other FSOs & SOs are planned for later in the year.
3. Scheduling speakers at both Division & Flotilla Meetings to encourage members attending meetings. Speakers are planned for several future meetings and Hybrid Meetings are being use by both flotillas.
4. Member Training began with the Surface OPS Workshop, RM/TCT Refresher, Vessel Safety Checks, and training for SRs. The VE Training program (VE Study Group) which started in March and continued for 2 additional months is now complete and several members are now qualified VEs. All training is offered to both flotillas and so far each class has had members from both flotillas. Training has also started for Instructor and Coastie. We will be emphasizing Core Training in August and September to improve Div 12 performance.
5. Elections: Both the division and the 2 flotillas are preparing for elections. Division 12 will have elections in late September. The 2 flotillas will have elections in October. Election Committees are now in place in preparation for these elections. Div 12 has candidates for both division elected offices. One flotilla already has candidates for FC and VFC. The other has a candidate for FC and is looking for candidates for VFC.

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

1. Challenge: Increasing attendance at Flotilla and Division Meetings. Our initial meetings this year have had a quorum present. But unfortunately one flotilla did not have a quorum at 2 recent meetings. We're using specific actions to make meetings more attractive to members, including speakers and training. Our efforts so far have been reasonably successful but additional plans are needed and underway to provide more fun activities at meetings to keep member's interest. Planning is underway for joint division and flotilla Fellowship Events mentioned above. The September 12-91 Meeting will be a fellowship event at a member's home.
2. Challenge: Improving members' training for Core Training (CT) and Risk Management (RM) through additional personal outreach to members. (At least 3 forms of contact have been used to alert members who are overdue for CT or RM. Our next step is to contact members needing to take their 5 year refresher CT classes in 2022. We have a large number of such members who took Core Training in 2017. This outreach started in April. As noted above CT will get special attention in August and September.

#### **AGENCY INTERACTION:**

1. City of Berkeley: Based on our first successful interaction at a Beach Cleanup on May 7<sup>th</sup> members are now planning a Non-Native Species Cleanup, working again with the city. The date for this is August 27<sup>th</sup>. Details will be communicated through our District Marine Safety group. Representatives of Berkeley are excited to have us as partners working on Marine Safety.

**PHOTO GALLERY:** Pictures from the Division 12 Victory OPTREX (July 22 & 23, 2022)

### AUXCOM at the Victory OPTREX



**Bob Torio & Stephen Busch handling Victory OPTREX AUXCOM**



**Bob Torio in front of the Auxiliary Communications Vehicle at the Victory OPTREX**



### Three OPFACS at Victory OPTREX



**OPFAC Intrepid: Tommy Holtzman (Coxswain & OPFAC Owner) conducting Patrol Briefing**



**OPFAC Silver Charm: Terry Blanchard (Coxswain & OPFAC Owner) at Victory OPTREX.  
OPFAC Servant (Jim Losi Coxswain & OPFAC Owner) in the background at the next dock.**



## Thanks and Congratulations at the Victory OPTREX



**OPTREX Coordinator Georgie Scheuerman thanking Culinary Assistants Linda Haynes & Pat McSwain**



**Terry Blanchard (Silver Charm Coxswain & Owner) receives thanks from Victory OPTREX Coordinator**



New Coxswain Greg Olsen congratulated by OPTREX Coordinator