

Reno Flotilla 3 News

Sierra Division 11, District 11 North



Dave Melroy

The Melroy, the Reno Flotilla's Search and Rescue Facility, was named in honor of Reno Flotilla 3 member, Dave Melroy.

Dave was in charge of renovating the Melroy for use as our flotilla's patrol boat when he developed pulmonary fibrosis and died six years ago.

Our patrol boat has had problems with its engines but we are about to remedy that situation. This issue of the Reno Flotilla 3 News is dedicated to Dave Melroy.

Renovation of the Melroy



The Reno Flotilla is thrilled to announce that because of a generous grant to our flotilla from the Helen Close Charitable Foundation we are now able to purchase new engines and fuel tank for the Melroy. Renovations are actively underway. Once completed, we will be able to take the Melroy to Alameda, California for installation of the new Mercury outboard engines in September.

The Melroy is a 1986 Boston Whaler Guardian series boat that is renowned for its sea keeping abilities. The Nevada Department of Wildlife kindly donated the Melroy to our Flotilla when they acquired a new boat.

The United States Coast Guard District 11 North, donated two engines for use on the Melroy and we used the Melroy for Flotilla patrols until those engines failed. During our initial renovation in 2005, our flotilla purchased a new trailer, seats, hard T top, and had new gel coat sprayed on the hull. We also replaced batteries, hoses and other items needed to get the Melroy operational. Many members of our flotilla have worked on the Melroy in the past including Mike Lawrence, John Boyne, Jim Kreamsner, Tom Komadina, Dave Young, Jim Hartfiel, Dave Melroy and Dennis Harms.

The Melroy will be back on the water once the new engines and fuel tank are installed. Reno Flotilla 3 Coxswains will be able to request orders to take the Melroy on patrol in October, 2012.

Upcoming Flotilla 3 Events

- August 18th
Pyramid Lake Tribal Training, Pyramid Lake.
- August 25th
Crew Training Two Boat, Lake Tahoe.
- September 15th
Optrex Lake Tahoe
- September 15th
Presentation of Phifer Award & Division Picnic
CG Station Lake Tahoe
- September 16th
Stand Up Paddle Board Race, Lake Tahoe

Moving Forward with the Melroy!

One of the problems our flotilla had was the twenty five year old original equipment fuel tank. We felt that it would be best to replace this fuel tank before the new engines are installed. Reno Auxiliaries Mike Lawrence, John Boyne and Tom Komadina removed the T Top, center console and deck plate over the weekend of August 10-12th. A new aluminum marine fuel tank is on order and being fabricated in Florida. In this photo Auxiliaries Mike Lawrence expertly operates his Caterpillar backhoe to remove the T Top and console while John Boyne (R) steadies them during removal.



After the deck plate was removed, the next step was removal of all of the polyurethane foam around the tank. This foam had to be removed so that the tank could be extracted. "Foaming" fuel tanks was popular at one time but now has been largely discontinued because of crevice corrosion associated with this method.



After several hours of foam removal Mike, John and Tom finally had all of the foam extracted. Fifty gallons of fuel also had to be siphoned from the tank which went smoothly. It was then time to remove this old tank!



Once the T Top and center console were removed it was time to extract the original fuel tank. This tank had old fuel in it and was corroded after twenty five years of service. Here, John Boyne removes all of the deck plate screws in preparation for fuel tank removal.



The old tank was removed and measured so that the new tank could be ordered. This tank holds seventy seven gallons of fuel and was common to Boston Whalers of that era.

Nautical Lore

Pete Rast

I was recently given a copy of **When a Loose Cannon Flogs a Dead Horse There's The Devil to Pay – Seafaring Words in Everyday Language**. It seems that many common expressions have nautical origins. So, I'll present for our edification and entertainment one of these nautical terms or phrases each month or so and explain where the terms came from. This month, the first term from the book: grog. Grog is a rum drink, but what is its derivation? Grog: a spirituous drink. Groggy: dazed, unsteady condition sometimes produced by grog.

Known as "Old Grog", Royal Navy Admiral Sir Edward Vernon (1684-1757) always appeared on deck in a coat made from grogram, a coarse fabric. Among other traits, he favored strict discipline and temperance, not an endearing trait. He also didn't seem to be well-regarded by his superiors so you have to wonder how he got to be an admiral. Until 1770, Royal Navy vessels served a daily ration of one pint of rum to sailors. Old Grog ordered the ration watered down: three water to one rum. Sailors, somewhat upset, named the concoction grog after guess who? The name lives on. For more on Old Grog: <http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/naval/p/War-Of-Jenkins-Ear-Admiral-Edward-Vernon.htm>