

Reno Flotilla 3 News

Sierra Division 11, District 11 North



Upcoming Flotilla 3 Operational Events

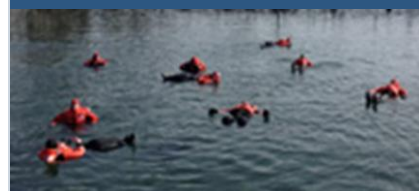
- February 18 and 19th, 25th Annual Crosby's Lodge Presidents Day Fishing Tournament. Jim Kreamsner will be patrolling.
- March 17, 18th 8th Annual Ken Hembree Fishing Tournament.
- March 3rd Gar Woods Polar Bear Swim held at Carnelian Bay.

Dry Suit Swim Held at Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe

Each year the Operational members of our Flotilla have to perform a dry suit swim at Lake Tahoe in the middle of winter. These dry suits are worn in the event an Auxiliarist should fall overboard during the course of a winter patrol. This requirement is the same one that Active Duty Coast Guardsmen must meet. These dry suits are worn when the water temperature is less than 50 degrees. On January 29th, when this swim was held the temperature of Lake Tahoe was a chilly 39 degrees! The swim has multiple functions. For Auxiliarists who have never worn the suit, it is an opportunity to learn how to put on the suit with the

help of seasoned Auxiliarists. Secondly, the 20 minute swim serves as a leak test in the event one has developed. Finally, there is no substitute for swimming under real conditions an Auxiliarist might experience during a winter patrol.

Auxiliarists participating in this Dry Suit Swim included Flotilla 1 members, Jack Leth (L), Bill Stolz (4th from left), and Pat Walter (3rd from left). Flotilla 3 members included Robin Morgan (2nd from left), Dee Walter (5th from left), Leon Borden (6th from left), Jim Kreamsner (kneeling), Keith White (2nd from the right) and Tom Komadina (right).



Reno Flotilla 3 Auxiliarists float in the water during the annual dry suit qualification swim at Lake Tahoe on January 29th.

Operational Classes to be held at March Meeting

The annual Team Coordination Training and Operations class will be held at the March meeting of the Reno Flotilla. These classes meet the annual requirement for District 11 North. All members who are involved in Operations (Crew and Coxswains) are required to attend these classes. Typically, new educational items are

presented to better prepare Auxiliarists for events that can occur underway. The goal of the Coast Guard & Auxiliary is to minimize mishaps underway and to study prior accidents that have occurred. Over time, by studying these accidents, "best practices" are established that help minimize risk and make Auxiliarists "Semper Paratus", Always Ready!

The most comfortable position is floating on your back since the PFD rights the swimmer into this position. An unconscious person would be saved from a fatal face down position. It is difficult to swim in an American crawl position with these suits, the most effective stroke being the back stroke.

President's Day Patrol at Pyramid Lake, February 13, 2012



Reno Flotilla 3 patrolled the first weekend of the Crosby's Lodge President's Day Fishing Tournament at Pyramid Lake. Keith White, Dee Walter, Robin Morgan and Tom Komadina crewed Flotilla 3's facility, *Following Sea*.

Shortly after assuming patrol, a call on VHF channel 16 was heard indicating that a boat had capsized. Despite repeated calls by Coast Guard vessel 579, and by Auxiliary Communications Officer John Boyne, no further calls were heard about the capsized vessel.

A few minutes later, the Crew of *Following Sea* saw the vessel being towed toward shore (in a capsized position) by a Good Samaritan who heard the cry of help from the lone occupant of this boat. The captain of this small pram stood up in the boat causing the capsize. The captain fell overboard and was unable to reach the life jackets sitting in the bottom of the boat. In this photo, two Good Samaritans on shore help the owner (behind the boat) empty his pram of water. Crew members from Auxiliary vessel *Following Sea* recovered some of the owner's gear that was floating on the water, including his oar, and returned it to him. Had the owner's cry for help not been heard he would likely have died from hypothermia. This is a good example of why we wear dry suits!

Upcoming Events

DTrain 2012 March 16-18, 2012

The annual District Training Conference will be held at the Portola Hotel in Monterey, California. Register soon! The deadline for registration is March 7th. Hotel registration deadline is March 2nd. For more information click [here](#).

Commissioning of the Coast Guard Cutter Stratton March 31, 2012

The newest National Security Cutter, the Stratton will be commissioned in Alameda at Coast Guard Island on March 31st. First Lady Michelle Obama, the sponsor of the Stratton, will commission the Stratton. The Stratton is named for Coast Guard Captain Dorothy Stratton. Captain Stratton served as director of the SPARS, the Coast Guard Women's Reserve during World War II.

The Stratton will join the first two National Security Cutters, the Bertholf and the Waesche. The event has tentatively been planned for 5000 guests. Auxiliaries will be welcome. Details will follow. Click [here](#) for more information about the Commissioning of the Stratton.

