

Reno Flotilla 3 News

Sierra Division 11, District 11 North



Aux Chefs

Optrex July 2012
CG Station Lake Tahoe

District 11 North Aux Chefs Linda Haynes (L), Cheryl Messenger (middle), and Ken Messenger (R) prepared a feast for the members of Sierra Division 11 who just completed their Optrex requalification with the District 11 North Qualification Examiners. Ken and Cheryl worked with Linda as one of the final steps toward their Aux Chef certification.

Upcoming Flotilla 3 Events

- August 4, 2012
Boating Safely Class
Cabela's, Reno.
- August 2012
On the Water Crew Training
- September 15th
Optrex at Lake Tahoe Crew Certification
- October 2012
Flotilla Elections

Optrex July 2012



The first Optrex, or Operational Training Exercise, was held at Lake Tahoe on July 14th. Three QEs or Qualification Examiners traveled from the Bay Area to recertify members of the Sierra Division. Every three years, Coxswain and Crew must be recertified. The QEs review the proficiencies of the candidates during several hours on the water.

Flotilla 3 Auxiliaries Keith White (L) and Dee Walter (next to Keith) were candidates for Crew re-certification while Jim Kreamsner (R) along with Tom Komadina (not in photo) were candidates for Coxswain re-certification. QE Wally Smith (left of Jim Kreamsner) spent several hours on the water with the candidates performing search & rescue patterns, anchoring, towing and other required items for re-certification. The Flotilla 3 Crew & Coxswains did a fine job and passed their requalification.

Ken and Cheryl Messenger, along with District 11 North Aux Chef Linda Haynes prepared a luncheon of hot dogs, hamburgers, pasta salad, potato salad, cookies along with all the trimmings for a great lunch after Optrex at Lake Tahoe. Thanks to Ken, Cheryl and Linda for a fine job and meal!



Optrex at Lake Tahoe July 2012



Flotilla 3's Crew returned to the Tahoe City Public Utility Dock after a successful day on the water with QE Wally Smith. The Flotilla 3 Crew have their fenders out and their lines ready to tie up safely at the dock. Flotilla 3 members Jim Kremsner, (on the

bow), Tom Komadina (at the helm), Keith White (middle back) and Dee Walter (R) keep good situational awareness while coming into the harbor.

Sierra Division 11 had eleven candidates that successfully re-qualified. Our training together and with Station Lake Tahoe has been invaluable.

Our QE, Wally Smith, gave us a debriefing at the end of the day and made suggestions that will help us continue to improve our skills. We discussed variations on side tows, at length.

Admiral Papp, the Coast Guard Commandant emphasizes that we don't want to just meet minimum standards, but to be proficient. That is exactly the standard we aspire to in Flotilla 3.

On the Water Crew Training

The last shore side class on navigation and firefighting will be held on Tuesday, July 17th. Starting in August we will begin the on the water training for prospective crew members. These may well be in conjunction with regatta events at Lake Tahoe.

Flotilla Dues!

Kathy Boyne sends us her reminder that it is time again to pay the Flotilla 3 dues. These are due now with the last payment date of September 19th. The dues of \$50 per year fund our flotilla website, course materials, upkeep on the Melroy and Li'I Toot as well as fellowship events.

Thanks to Pat Walter

Like her sister Dee, Pat Walter is an excellent photographer. Thanks Pat for the Optrex photos you provided for this newsletter. Pat is a member of North Shore Flotilla 1.



Division Vice Commander Bill Stolz (holding life jacket) talks with members of Flotilla 3, 1 and 5 about the responsibilities of being a Crewman on an Auxiliary boat. The class on July 3rd went through the equipment needed to be a Crewman. The class also learned the medical problems that might be encountered by an Auxiliarist while on patrol and how to treat these problems. Reno Flotilla 3 Auxiliarist Tom Komadina taught the medical part of the class.