

Reno Flotilla 3 News

Sierra Division 11, District 11 North



Dee Walter

Reno Flotilla Staff Officer - Communications Services, Operations

Dee is relatively new to boating but shortly after joining our flotilla, she started her Crew and PWC training. She quickly became accomplished at both and is now a Coast Guard Auxiliary Crew and a PWC operator. Dee is one of two certified PWC operators (Flotilla 3 Immediate Past Commander Jim Kreamsner is the other) in our Division. Dee completed 66 underway operational hours during 2011 and had the most PWC operator hours in District 11 North. Dee was recognized for this at the District Training Conference on March 17th in Monterey.

Upcoming Flotilla 3 Events

- March 23-25th
Reno Outdoor Recreation Travel & Vacation Expo (Reno Boat Show included).
- March 31st
TCT Course – 8 Hour Class at St. Mary's Urgent Care, Reno. Sponsored by Sierra Division 11.
- April 7th
Boating Safely Class Cabela's Store in Verdi.
- April 14, 15, 21, 22nd
2nd Annual Spring Catch & Release Fishing Tournament- Pyramid Lake.

Boat Crew Currency

Completing Boat Crew or Coxswain Training, as rigorous as it is, is only the beginning. Because the Coast Guard requires that we practice and continue to maintain our skills, we have to perform a minimum of 12 underway hours each year. Keith White and Robin Morgan successfully completed currency hours while on the Polar Bear Swim and Pyramid Lake Fishing Tournament patrols. Because of illness last year, they were not able to complete their hours, but they are now back in active Crew status. In this

photo Robin Morgan stands ready on foredeck of *Following Sea* ready to pull a swimmer in with a skiff hook.



Reno Auxiliaries Attend District Training Conference



Several members of the Reno Flotilla attended the annual District 11 North Training Conference (DTrain) held last weekend at the Portola Hotel in Monterey, California. Kathy and John Boyne (photo left) attended many of the instructional sessions. Kathy is the Flotilla's IS, Finance and Member Training Officer while John is a past Flotilla Commander and currently holds the Navigational Systems, Public Education and Communications Officer Position. Snowy weather over Donner Summit made it difficult to get to Monterey, but John and Kathy made it and attended the formal Awards Banquet on Saturday night.

Phifer Award 2012



Coast Guard Liaison Jack Leth from Flotilla 1 & Division 11 Commander Leon Borden (right) accept the Phifer Award on behalf of CG Station Lake Tahoe from Coast Guard Captain Stowe (left).

Polar Bear Swim Gar Woods Dock Carnelian Bay, Lake Tahoe

Four Reno Flotilla 3 Boat Facilities patrolled the Polar Bear Swim. Three swimmers had to be pulled from the 40 degree water after they were unable to complete the swim. Dee Walter, Jim Kremsner and Leon Borden manned 3 PWCs while Tom Komadina, Keith White, Pat Walter and Robin Morgan crewed Reno Boat Facility *Following Sea*. Coast Guard Boat 578, a Placer County Sheriff's boat with diver and Flotilla 1 members on the dock helped ensure the safe passage of this event. Falling in this cold of water rapidly causes skeletal muscles to become immobile, long before hypothermia sets in.

After a job well done, Leon Borden (foreground), Jim Kremsner (middle) and Dee Walter (back) depart the scene of the swim to return to dock.

Polar Bear Swim, March 3, 2012



Upcoming Events

TCT 8 Hour Training Session March 31st, 2012

The 8 hour Team Coordination Training Session will be held at the St. Mary's Urgent Care Center on Mount Rose Highway on Saturday, March 31st. Thanks to Sierra Division Member Training Officer, Dee Dee Kincade for organizing this event. This training session is required for all flotilla members that want to qualify for Auxiliary Crew status. Although the class is almost filled, contact Dee Dee if you would like to attend the course.

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. Some Reno Flotilla members plan to attend the commissioning. Record crowds are expected at the event.

Polar Bear Swim



Reno Auxiliarist Keith White (at the helm) and Flotilla 1 Auxiliarist Pat Walter stands at the ready to rescue any Polar Bear participants that might not be able to complete the event. Note that both are scanning the event and that Auxiliarist Walter has the type IV PFD ready to throw to any participant needing help. The type IV has an attached line so that a swimmer in distress can be pulled to the boat.