

Reno Flotilla 3 News

Sierra Division 11, District 11 North



Commodore Robert Phifer Award Presented to Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe

Leon Borden (R), the Division Commander for Sierra Division 11 and BM1 Travis Fraser accept the annual Phifer Award on behalf of small boat Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe.

The Phifer Award is given to the Coast Guard Small Boat Station that has the best relations and cooperation with the Auxiliary. Factors that determine the award are participation and cooperation in specific projects, events, trainings and fellowship events. On behalf of the Sierra Division 11 Auxiliary, congratulations to Station Lake Tahoe!

Upcoming Flotilla 3 Events

- October 6th
Boating Safely Class
Cabela's, Reno.
- October 17th
Flotilla Meeting
Election of Officers
- November 3rd
Change of Watch Luncheon
Casino Fandango,
Carson City, NV

Stand Up Paddle Board Race at Lake Tahoe

The annual Fall Classic Stand Up Paddle Board Race was held on September 16th at Lake Tahoe. Reno Auxiliarist John Boyne mans the helm of vessel Following Sea at the beginning of the event.



Other Auxiliarists on the boat included Jerry Gilmore from Flotilla 1, Leon Borden and Tom Komadina. The early morning was relatively calm but later in the day, the wind picked up presenting a challenge to the boarders. Many had to drop to their knees to stay on their boards.



This event presents a challenge to the organizers and to the Auxiliary. Although the organizers of the event are primarily responsible for the safety of the participants, the race is over 17 miles long and the help of the Auxiliary is greatly appreciated. This is a maximum effort for the Auxiliary and included two boats from Flotilla 1, one boat from Flotilla 4 and an Auxiliary airplane.



This photo shows Reno Flotilla members on the *Following Sea* maintaining a watch over event participants. Despite increasing seas, all one hundred of the participants safely finished the event. Thanks to Reno Flotilla 3, South Shore Flotilla 4, North Shore Flotilla 1, Auxiliary Air, the Sheriff's department and TRPA, this large event went off without a hitch.

Sierra Division 11 Picnic



Reno Auxiliarists Leon Borden (L) and Paul Miner (R) generously pitched in and barbecued the burgers and hot dogs at the annual Division picnic held at Coast Guard Station Lake Tahoe on September 15th. The picnic coincided with the award of the Phifer Trophy and an Optrex.

Moving Forward with the Melroy



The Melroy's deck plate had dry rot and had to be replaced. After 20 years of service, the deck felt soft to walk on and after removal, it was clear why this was so. This photo shows the rotted deck plate after removal from the boat.



The deck plate had to be stripped of the old plywood down to the fiberglass deck. This was completed by gently prying up the old deck to separate it from the fiberglass. Some areas were still adherent to the fiberglass and in those areas the old plywood had to be removed by Auxiliarist Tom Komadina by using a portable electric planer.

Finally, the whole fiberglass deck had to be finish sanded with a random orbit sander.



The new deck was fabricated from a piece of marine grade plywood. The deck plate is nine feet long and since standard plywood sheets are eight feet long, this created a problem since we did not want to use multiple pieces. Reno Flotilla Auxiliarist Mike Lawrence did some clever detective work and was able to locate a piece of marine grade plywood that was ten feet long and had it shipped to a local Reno lumber yard. This cut production time and fit perfectly after cutting it to fit the existing fiberglass deck. To boot, Mike and his wife Carolyn were generous and donated the plywood to our flotilla.

Nautical Lore

Pete Rast

Three Sheets to the Wind: what you become when you've had too much grog. (See August Edition)

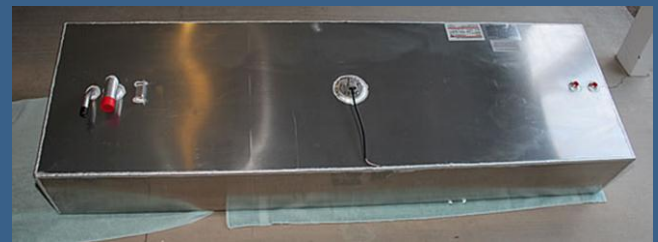
A sheet is a line attached to the lower corners of a square sail on a square-rigged ship – used to trim the sail. Sails lose the wind when the sheets aren't fastened, the sail flaps and flutters, forward motion stops, steerage is lost, and the ship becomes uncontrollable. If one is three sheets to the wind, one is said to be highly drunk and out of control. Lesser states of inebriation are 'shaking the cloth in the wind' and 'being over the bay'.

Trivia Question:

In 1944, Congress created the rank of Fleet Admiral and General of the Army – five stars. Who was the only officer to hold that rank in two services?

Answer: Hap Arnold. General Arnold was awarded the five star rank in December, 1944 while in the Army Air Force. When the Air Force was created as a separate service in 1947, he carried that rank with him to the Air Force.

The New Melroy Fuel Tank Arrives!



One of the biggest issues facing our flotilla was replacement of the old fuel tank. The old tank had considerable corrosion and prior to replacing the engines, we felt it would be wise to replace the tank.

This new tank arrived on September 18th after being fabricated at Custom Marine Fuel Tanks in Florida and is an exact replacement for our old tank. This new tank has an electric fuel sending gauge instead of the old manual gauge on our old tank. The welding is quite beautiful and the tank passed pressure testing at the factory and is, of course, Coast Guard certified. The tank will be installed in the Melroy the first week in October.