

THE VALLEY BEACON

The Official Newsletter of US Coast Guard Auxiliary Division 113-03
Greater Sacramento • The Delta • Gold Country • AUX Air

Volume 6

August 2022

Number 8

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“A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE” by Don Anderson, DCDR

Welcome aboard shipmates to another outstanding edition of the *Valley Beacon* and my “View from the Bridge” of Division 3. Here I share my perspective on our recent Auxiliary activities as we travel sometimes unfamiliar waters together and chart new courses.

This summer Division 3 is *full steam ahead* with activities. To name a few you might have missed:

- Boat America class held at SYC
- Speaking engagement at Auburn Navy League meeting
- Paddle craft exams at the Cosumnes River Preserve
- OPTREX at SYC where Darren Procida and Pete Hnat passed initial crew, and Fred Black and Don Anderson re-qualified. Well done!
- MEES/MESAM training at CG Station Rio Vista
- VSC’s at Englebright Lake by Jim Goff and Don Anderson
- Tour of Sector San Francisco Command Center and VTS
- Tour of Air Station Sacramento
- SAREX at CG Station Rio Vista

A few of the key members that continue to “make things happen” are VCDR Doug MacPherson, John Hardin, Jeff Fite, Richard Celia, and Pete Hnat. A Bravo Zulu to everyone for all your efforts and dedication to the division and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Yes, we are “Semper Paratus”

Upcoming Division Activities **DON'T BE A BYSTANDER-STANDBY TO HELP!**

20 Aug	BOAT AMERICA Class Riverview Marina-Contact Richard Celia
30 Sept-2 Oct	CA Capital Airshow Mather Field
3-11 Oct	Fleet Week, San Francisco

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is said *a picture is worth a thousand words*. Without further ado:
We are off to the races.

HONOR

RESPECT

DEVOTION TO DUTY

The SAREX from the view of AUXAIR Observer Russ Kaiser.

I was contacted by DCDR Don Anderson to fly with Civil Air Patrol as an AUXAIR asset was not available. I was then contacted by Pete Hnat who is both a AUX and CAP member. I was instructed where and when to pick up the CAP crew and transport to Station Rio Vista. I met Pilot Mike Prusak and Aircrew Rex DeMartini at Rio Vista airport and were transported to Station Rio Vista for the mission briefing. During the briefing were notified of two "target" boats which were twenty-sixes operated by Gold Side CG. Aux had a total of five surface assets including 4 boats and one PWC. After a briefing Mike, Rex and I went back to Rio Vista Airport and departed after doing CRM, GAR score review and aircraft safety briefing. Also discussed was the similarities and differences between AUX and CAP including insignia, training, responsibilities, and equipment.

We located the first twenty-six within 5 minutes of arriving within the search area. Pictures were taken and a location report made. The second "target" boat took a bit longer as it was tucked away but that target was located.

Pictures were taken of the surface assets and Gold Side "targets." A report was given.

3 ups:

- 1) The orange "A" on top really made a difference when trying to pick out AUX vs. NONAUX boats
- 2) The signal mirrors, when used properly were absolutely the best in trying to locate boats
- 3) Comms and com co-ordination worked well

3 downs:

- 1) Lots of assets communicating at or about the same time which made it a bit congested at times
- 2) Not all assets had the "A"
- 3) The asset pictures did not always show the vessel the way it would look on patrol IE: picture did not show a Bimini or Bimini color but underway, the Bimini was up and no "A" shown. This added a few minutes to the identification process.

SAREX CGSTA Rio Vista. What an adventure. Personnel from Aux Divisions 3 and 5, Aux Air, and the Civil Air Patrol joined forces on shore, aloft and afloat to conduct our first ever Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. Our host was BMC Mike Bennett, the Station's OIC and his able crew of Coasties who staff this vital River Station. AND..we were all fed due to the marvelous efforts of our AUX-FS experts- BRAVO ZULUS TO ALL WHO WERE THERE.

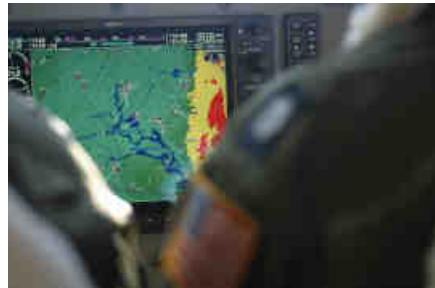
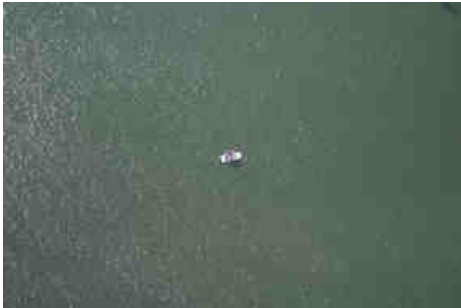
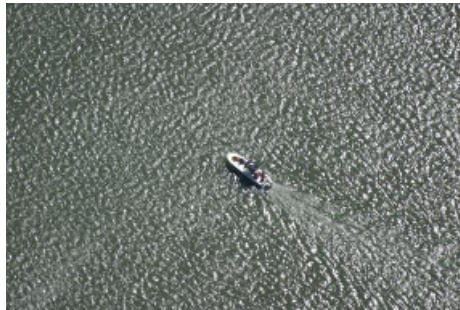


MODEL PATIENT

While the Auxiliary is a non-Militarized organization, we work hand in glove with our Military counterpart, our Brothers and Sisters of the USCG. When one of our own suffers an injury while on orders and engaged in an operation with the USCG, all assistance to help the injured Auxiliarist is rendered. In this case, at our recent SAREX, our own John Hardin of Flotilla 1 13-03-05, (and one of the best Coxswains in both the UCGG and USCG-AUX) suffered an injury. A Coastie of USCGSTARioVista swung into action, rendered medical aid, and got John squared away. Always good to know good help is on hand. Bravo Zulu Coast Guard and heal up John

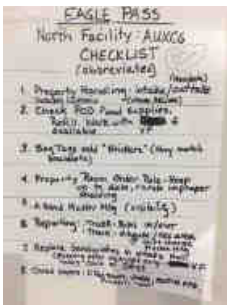


With a hard deck of 1,000 feet, here are some stunning shots of the action on the water below from the eyes of the pilots and observers of Civil Air Patrol and AUX AIR at our recent joint SAREX. Its's called teamwork Ladies and Gentlemen



IMPRESSIVE DON'T YOU THINK?

Several Auxiliarists from our Division flew to Texas to help with the **ADMINISTRATIVE** tasks along the Southern Border at Eagle Pass, TX, where I learned almost 2,500 people are crossing illegally into the U.S. daily. Overwhelmed by the workload, the Goldside asked the Silverside to help the Border Patrol all of us being “family” under the DHS. Our role has been support and administrative only and there is almost no interaction with the people coming into the United States. However, the Border Patrol had been most appreciative. Primarily, our mission is to box, store and catalog the personal effects of the crossers in large tent-style units and keep accurate records of the property so that when the Border Patrol needs to retrieve the effects, our people can readily access them. Longs hours, a hot Texas Sun with high humidity have added to the challenges but our people have met every challenge with flying colors. They are to be commended and saluted for their spirit of volunteerism, commitment to Patriotic duty, and their support of a vital National mission **BRAVO ZULUS TO ALL!**



**SEMPER
PARATUS**

This is a situation that will not go away. Our LE friends on our southern borders need help. Our administrative only role has been extended into November. if you have the time and feel you can be deployed for one week, contact

From: "Puckett, Eddie" <eddie.j.puckett@cgauxnet.us>
Subject: EXTENDED SWB