



**US Coast Guard Auxiliary
East Bays Flotilla 7-11
Aids to Navigation Team, Bristol, Rhode Island
April 2022**

I hope you find this newsletter useful, informative, and maybe even amusing. Suggestions and comments are always welcome.

Very respectfully,

Don Fennessey

Your humble FSO-PB editor

Coronavirus is affecting all of us in the Auxiliary, but things seem to be improving. Please be patient as new information comes to us.

Flotilla Meeting Notes

We finally met in person and we used Zoom for those who couldn't join us and for training. A very good turnout. Ten in person and four on Zoom. So good to see each other.

Here's a recap of the meeting:

- **Welcome, Initial Remarks, Call to Order**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Introduction of Guests:** Dennis Chaves has been a boater since he was 3. He grew up on the Cape and lives in Swansea now. He's thought about being part of the Coast Guard since he was in high school – and here he is!
- **Adoption of agenda:** Approved.
- **Approval of prior meeting minutes:** Approved.

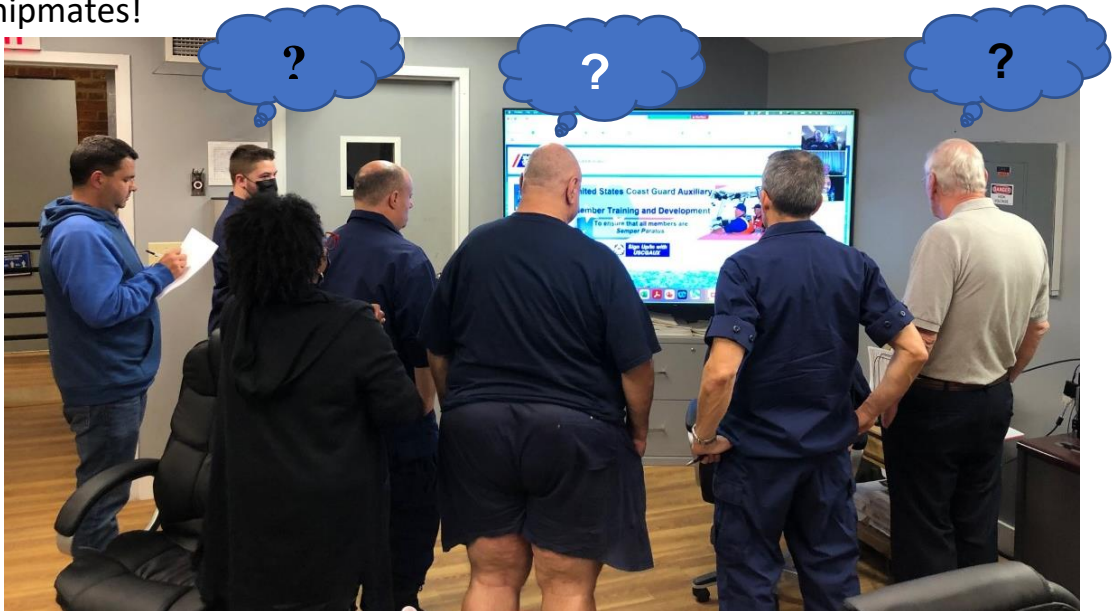
FC's Report (Morgan Beltre) News from the Division meeting:

- There will be an **awards banquet** on 24 April – by invitation only.
- **Sector Training (S-Train)** will be held in person at Mass Maritime Academy on 30 April. Everyone should have received an email with instructions how to establish an account and schedule your courses. Classes are free. Lunch costs \$12.00. Based on past experience, this is another excellent training opportunity. Way more fun than doing it home alone on line.
- **Division Change of Watch luncheon** will be at Finn's Harborside in East Greenwich on 1 May. If you want to go, let Morgan know quickly. Deadline is 16 April.
- **Check AUXDATA to see if you are REYR** (out of qualification). 41% of the flotilla members are past due for core courses. Get on line or be at S-Train to get current again.
- We are expecting **new COVID guidance** soon. Again...
- Morgan attended a very good **CPR/First Aid/AED certification course** this month. There will be others in the future. This is a great qual to get.

VFC's Report (Mark Marosits):

- We are making progress on becoming operational this year. Mark, Brian Welsh, Kevin Ratcliffe and Raven James are all pursuing boat crew quals. All we need is a boat/facility...

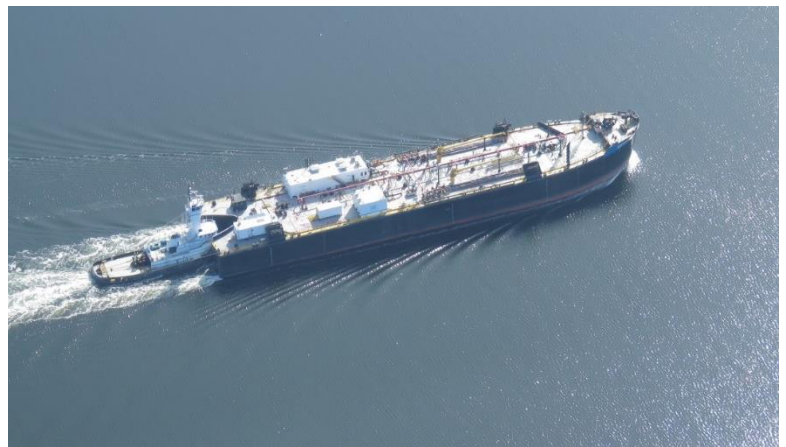
- Mark, Brian, and members of flotilla 07-06 presented a boating safety class to 20 students at the Newport Yacht Club on three nights this month. There are 20 more students ready to go at a second class on 21/22 May. Nine of those in the class are interested in paddlecraft safety. This is very encouraging.
- **Staff Reports:**
 - **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** Marinas are setting out local aids to navigation, buoys and markers. A sure sign of spring and the boating season ahead!
 - **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** Our website is up to date. Division is hoping to standardize all the flotilla websites, but that will take a while to implement.
 - **FSO-MA (Raven James)** has ordered RI DEM boating safety regulations, paddlecraft safety brochures and reflective ownership stickers.
 - **FSO-MT (Mark Marosits)** Newport Yacht Club will host a Youth Career Day on 16 May. Morgan will give a pitch for the Auxiliary. We should expect a flood of new recruits after that! New member David Harris is getting Basic Qualified, and Jake Francis has resurfaced after an absence and is getting more courses done. Mark gave a demo on how to log in and use the new AUX Classroom site. It is not intuitive and will require practice. There is a video tutorial to help you. All of the AUX courses are there. Good luck, shipmates!



- Brian Welsh and Don Fennessey spent a day and a half at AUX Air training at the Cape Cod Air Station 26/27 March. They are the two steely-eyed guys on the ends of the second row. Seventh from the right in the back row is Carl England, the Division Aviation Staff Officer who just stopped active flying as a pilot at age 90!



- **FSO-FN (Paul Duarte)** Finances are in order. No expenses recently.
- **FSO-OP (Brian Welsh)** Went on an AUX AIR patrol today around Rhode Island and the Cape. Here are some photos. They even got a bonus shot of the Mayflower being towed from New Bedford back to Plymouth.





- **FSO-PA (Brian Welsh)** We did some excellent relationship building at the boating safety class at the New York Yacht club!
- **FSO-DV (Morgan Beltre)** We want all flotillas in the division to qualify for the NACO Three-Star Diversity Award. We have done so for several years.
- **Update on Lynette:** She is doing fine and is on the heart transplant list.

Next Flotilla Meeting – Wednesday, 11 May at 7:30 PM, in person with Zoom backup. Please join us for fellowship, fun and service.

Semper Paratus!