



**US Coast Guard Auxiliary
East Bays Flotilla 7-11
Aids to Navigation Team, Bristol, Rhode Island
February 2023**

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

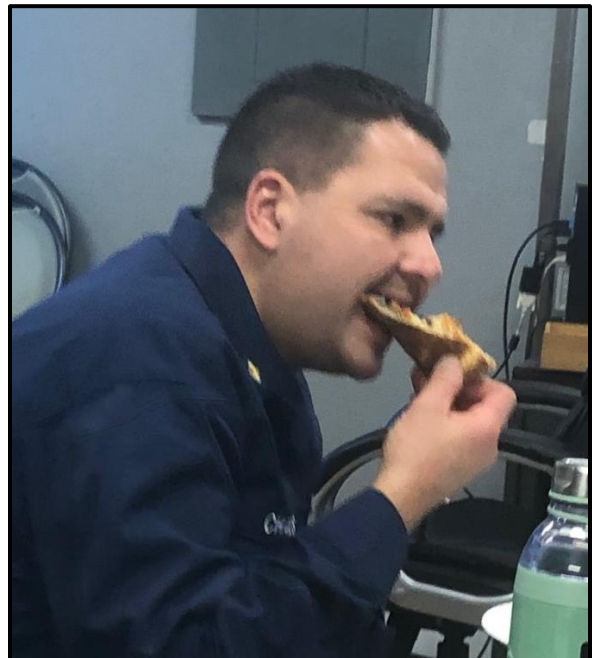
Very respectfully,

Don Fennessey

Your humble FSO-PB editor

Flotilla Meeting Notes

We had a total of ten members in attendance in person and on Zoom. Best part was the return of the Pizza Program! Mmmmm. Pizza! Awesome AUX appetites abounding.



Here's a recap of the meeting:




- **Welcome, Initial Remarks, Call to Order**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Introduction of Guests:** We happily welcomed Trisha McIlroy back after a long absence – and she even brought cookies! She is an active sailor and advocate for boating safety on Narragansett Bay. She's a perfect fit for our flotilla.
- **Adoption of agenda:** Approved.
- **Prior meeting minutes:** Approved.



FC's Report (Morgan Beltre)

- **2023 Division Change of Watch** was a very nice event. Morgan and Zeus, Mark and Maureen, and Brian and Colleen all enjoyed a fine luncheon.
- Trisha has invited the flotilla to form a team to compete in **nautical trivia every Monday at JB's on the Water in Jamestown** from 6:30-8:00. Proceeds benefit Seamen's Church Institute in Newport. Sounds like fun! Contact Trisha at sailortrisha@yahoo.com or just show up.
- We will submit the flotilla for the annual **NACO 3-Star Diversity Award**. We have won this prestigious award several years in a row.
- Please see the attachment that Morgan sent with all the AUX **mission codes**. They clarify some of the confusion. That's also a hint to keep submitting your hours, either directly using AUXDATA II or just send them to Morgan.
- The **Boston Marathon** is looking for **HAM radio volunteers** on April 15. You need to be qualified and have your own radio.
- There is a push in the Division for more **social media**, especially facebook and Instagram. This can make a big difference in attracting younger potential AUX members.



Nautical Trivia

Sailors, Boaters, Beachcombers
JB's on the Water
150 Conanicus Ave., Jamestown, RI
Specials on drinks & food for the night!!



Every Monday 6:30 - 8 PM

Gather your crew together to test your knowledge of Sailing Terms, Poetry, Nautical Books, Movies, TV Shows, Racing Rules, Race Management, The Islands, Sea Shanties, Cruising Destinations, Nautical Drinks, Beers, Food, anything with a nautical theme!

You will learn some interesting nautical facts.....
Teams will be competing for bragging rights & prizes.
Benefit for Seamen's Church Institute
A Nondenominational Charity for all those who work on the sea and waterfront...

If you don't have a team, you can come and we will find your people!! Great chance to make new water friends!

www.jbsonthewater.com
For more info email: NauticalTriviaFun@gmail.com
Brought to you by Local Sailors
Ahoy Matey!!! All Aboard for Fun!!!



VFC's report (Mark Marosits) -

- **Thanks** to all who served as officers in 2022 and will serve in 2023. AUX Paddlecraft is gaining visibility in the AUX and will be incorporated into boating programs, especially in our area.
- We'll keep updating our spreadsheet of scheduled and potential **boating safety classes and vessel safety checks**. If you have any suggestions for venues this year, send them to Mark at mmarosits@e-worldways.com.

Report from Division (Brian Welsh):

- Division is looking for **mentors** who can provide skills and subject matter expertise. What talents do you have?
- Looking for **watchstanders at Castle Hill and Point Judith**. Training is ten days of classes in radio procedures and orientation. Dennis Chaves is interested.
- Expect another **Sector Training (S-Train)** day. Not sure when yet. These have been excellent training opportunities. What subjects would you like presented? Let Brian know.
- RI DEM is conducting training June 14-15 on how we should respond to **boating accidents**. Again, let Brian know.
- The 2023 **New England Boat Show** will be held February 15-19 at the Boston Convention Center. AUX volunteers are needed to staff the exhibit, greet the public and distribute boating safety information. If you're interested in volunteering, contact Elijah Reynolds, Flotilla 05-03 at: ebreynolds12@yahoo.com.
- Same idea for the **New England Salt Water Fishing Show** March 10-12. Here's how to sign up. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094bafa623a3fdc43-risaltwater#/>

Staff Reports:

- **FSO-FN (Charlie Kovach):** Flotilla **annual financial report** has been submitted to and audited by National. The format is all electronic now and

Charlie worked hard to figure it out. It must have been acceptable because he isn't in jail. Thanks, Charlie!

- **FSO-PA (Brian Welsh):** In support of the **Division website**, we need to compile a list of **subject matter experts**. Give some thought about how you could help. Expect more AUX info to be published on **Instagram**.
- **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe):** Lots of discussion about the **Division website**. The idea is that it could contain info on everything for boaters everywhere in Narragansett Bay. This would be **one-stop shopping for info on restaurants, where to get fuel and supplies, etc**. The website will include a **Division Calendar** (Brian is our POC for input). There will be links to each of the five Flotillas in the Division. That way we/they don't have to post redundant material. There may be a **Division youtube channel** with videos of helpful hints like how to tie knots, how to dock a boat, etc. It all sounds great, and Kevin is all over it. As always, he has our Flotilla site all squared away.
- **FSO-PB: (Don Fennessey):** Monthly **newsletter** published. Submitted four newsletters from 2022 to an **AUX competition**.
- **FSO-PV (Don Fennessey):** Contacted five marinas and one yacht club to see if they are interested in **boating safety classes of hosting vessel safety checks**. Awaiting responses.
- **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe):** Although we had that really bad cold snap, and there was some ice in the water, generally it's been a mild winter, and some harbor masters are **starting to move floats and buoys onto the water** in anticipation of an early start to the boating season.
- **FSO-MA (Raven James):** NTR.
- **FSO-VE (Dennis Chaves):** Contacted **Swansea** Harbor master who is interested in **vessel safety checks**.
- **FSO-PE (Charlie Kovacs):** Discussion about whether we would be able to conduct **boating safety classes in Massachusetts** because part of the exam includes state-specific regulations.

General Business

- The **Ocean Race** (formerly Volvo Ocean Race) will stop at Fort Adams in **Newport May 13-21**. This is an ideal opportunity to set up an AUX booth.
- We are looking at creating **Flotilla challenge coins** as souvenirs. Brian will investigate the cost.
- **Charlie broke four ribs** recently and is still sore. It takes weeks for complete recovery. Shall we cut him any slack?
- Mike Doherty prepared two **impressive binders on ADM Linda Fagan, the Coast Guard Commandant, and her vision for the service**. He also reported that the active-duty Coast Guard is giving more and **more credit to the contribution of the AUX**.
- **Awards:** Don Fennessey received an award for **750 hours of service**. The secret is diligently reporting all your hours.



- **Comments by guests:** Trisha recounted a day in 2019 when there was a severe 60-knot microburst on Narragansett Bay during a regatta where five boats were knocked over and swamped. Post-event investigation

uncovered a **lack of safety awareness and planning** on the part of the club that hosted the regatta. A group of yacht clubs including Ida Lewis, Newport, New York, and Coasters Harbor Island Navy has formed **Better Bay Alliance to address these shortcomings**. We may get involved with them.

- **Good of the Auxiliary: Update on Lynette:** She will be going to Tufts Medical Center in Boston soon to await a heart transplant. There is no forecast as to when that will take place, but she needs to be at the hospital and ready for surgery whenever a heart becomes available. She's in good spirits and good physical condition. Please continue to pray for her.
- **Paul Barrette reported from Florida that the temperature is 75 degrees.** He really knows how to make us feel bad.

• **Adjourn business meeting**

• **Feature event for the meeting:** Nothing tonight.

Next Flotilla Meeting – Wednesday, 15 March at 7:30 PM in person and on Zoom. Please join us for fellowship, fun and service.

Semper Paratus!