



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

**Happy New Year to everyone in the Flotilla!  
Looking forward to seeing you in 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 nine members in attendance in person and on Zoom. In a major leap forward, Mark brought meatballs, rolls and soft drinks. First time we've had communal food at a meeting in ages. Even though he's not a qualified AUX Food Service Specialist, we all survived. Thanks, Mark!

Here's a recap of the meeting:

- **Welcome, Initial Remarks, Call to Order**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Introduction of Guests:** None tonight
- **Adoption of agenda:** Approved.
- **Prior meeting minutes:** Approved.

### FC's Report (Morgan Beltre)

- **2023 Division Change of Watch** will be done in a ceremony with all Division Flotillas. Morgan, Mark and Maureen, and Brian and Colleen will attend.
- There's a handy new memo from Morgan explaining who does what in the Division – Boston or the Cape Office. It should save some duplication of effort.
- There is a push in the Division about social media. This can make a big difference in attracting younger potential AUX members. Social media posts need to be updated often to hold the audience's attention and keep interest going. Suggestions for our Flotilla social media pages (we don't have any yet) are posts of the parts of a vessel safety check. Stills and videos can work. Paddlecraft safety tips are another idea. Morgan suggested that she might be able to recruit an intern from Roger Williams to set us up initially. All good ideas. Expect more discussion next month.

## VFC's report (Mark Marosits) -

- Thanks to all who served as officers in 2022 and will serve in 2023. Our new FSO-VE is Dennis Chaves. Thanks for stepping up, Dennis.

## Staff Reports:

- **FSO-FN (Charlie Kovach):** Looking at members who haven't paid dues. Charlie has done a great job trying to contact these members and some responded positively. Others may be retired or disenrolled. Our Flotilla Commander is the ultimate authority. We are in good shape financially.
- **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe): Website:** Discovered that newsletter size is restricted to 1 meg on the website. Don will revise a couple of oversized ones.
- **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe):** It's winter and things are quiet on the water. No ice so far, but it's only January.
- **FSO-MA (Raven James):** NTR.
- **FSO-PV (Don Fennessey):** Contacted the Newport Harbormaster office and Ida Lewis Yacht Club. Both are interested in the reflective orange adhesive stickers that have contact info of the owner. Will deliver as many as they want. Plan to work with Brian and Mark to set up Vessel Exams at Aquidneck Island marinas next spring.

## General Business

- **Planning:** We had an excellent session on things we can do as a Flotilla and in conjunction with others in 2023 now that COVID has (mostly) abated. Mark drew up a spread sheet with many scheduled and potential boating safety classes and Vessel Safety Check locations. We've all got homework to contact these organizations and confirm who's interested. So far, we have classes scheduled at Newport Yacht Club/Navy Coasters Harbor Island Yacht Club in March and April. Bristol Library and Barrington Yacht Club are other likely customers. Mark is doing several paddlecraft classes. We

expect to be asked to help with Save the Bay Swim and boat race patrols. Newport Boat Show is coming in September and is an opportunity for watchstanding and recruiting. More discussion next month.

- **Awards:** Don Fennessey survived five years in the AUX. Upside is getting a ribbon. Downside is that it's time to re-do all the core courses.
- **Comments by guests: None.**
- The 2023 **New England Boat Show** will be held on 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 for this annual event, contact Elijah Reynolds, FL 5-3 at: [ebreynolds12@yahoo.com](mailto:ebreynolds12@yahoo.com).
- **Good of the Auxiliary: Update on Lynette:** Morgan says she is doing pretty well but is in RI Hospital recovering from holiday stress. She expects to be home soon.

• **Adjourn business meeting**

• **Feature event for the meeting: CG AUX Uniforms**

Brian (nattily clad in Service Dress Blue uniform) gave a great presentation on different AUX uniforms and pointed out some things that need to be corrected.



Here's Mark in Winter Dress Blue



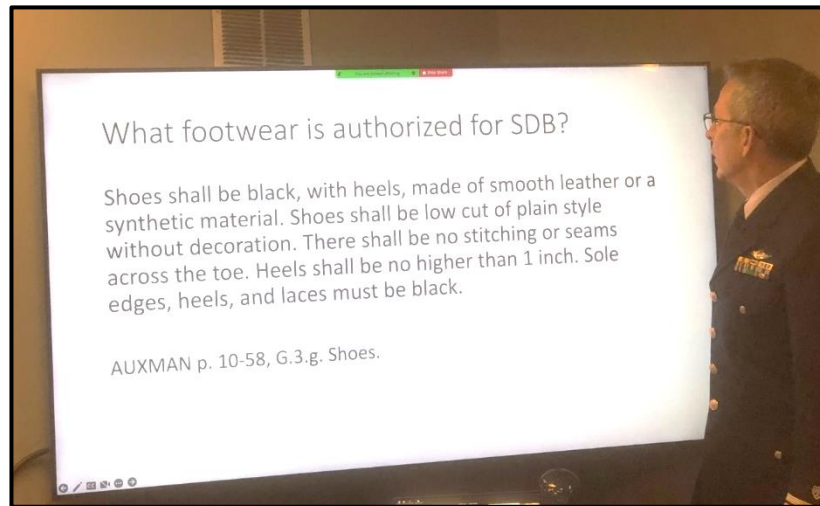
Raven in Operational Dress Uniform



Here are Brian (Service Dress Blue) and Don (Tropical Blue)



Then we had a uniform quiz. No one got 100%. All good for everyone.



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

**Semper Paratus!**