



**US Coast Guard Auxiliary
East Bays Flotilla 7-11
Aids to Navigation Team, Bristol, Rhode Island
June 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. Please be patient as new information comes to us.

Flotilla Meeting Notes

We met in person and on Zoom. We had a total of eleven in attendance.

Here is Rick Costa on Zoom, watching contentedly from home.



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) Morgan sent out an email with several attachments dealing with many subjects including:

- New Mishap Updates and Procedures
- New COVID Guidance – Restrictions are relaxing. Masks are required for high-risk areas. Bristol is medium risk.
- New Auxiliary COVID-19 High Risk Assessment Form – AUX members are required to fill out a new form. This April 2022 version has a space in it for booster information.
- REYR- Is everyone aware of their status? See Morgan or Mark if you are unsure.

- Use Google Department Communications groups to communicate concerns
 - Division really wants to hear from everyone and it will improve coordination among all the flotillas in Division 7.
- Public Education Instructor Seminar- Monday, 13 June @7:00 pm via Zoom. Let Morgan know if you are interested and she will put you on the list. Zoom info will be sent to you. Charlie and Raven will attend.
- VE Workshop – Tuesday, 14 June @7:00 pm via Zoom. Same as above. Morgan, Brian, Dennis and Paul Matthias will attend.
- TCT Class – Part 1: 6:45 PM Tuesday, 21 June via Zoom (2hrs). Part 2: 6:45 PM Thursday, 23 June at North Star Flotilla in Warwick. (2hrs) (includes Ops)
- Food Service Training - Contact Morgan if you are interested.
- **VFC's report (Mark Marosits) - FC in VFC's Absence**

Let Mark know what courses you are taking and what your status is. He can offer any assistance you need when navigating around the CG AUX training website.

- **Staff Reports:**

- **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** Boating season is in full swing. Buoys and speed limit signs are going in. Marinas are filling up. Kevin monitors a radio scanner and already there have been reports of missing kayaks, boat fires and groundings. It promises to be a busy summer because any recreational activity where people don't want to interact with strangers because of COVID is perfect for boating and paddlecraft.
- **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** The website is up to date and there is no evidence of hacking (that we know of...).



- **FSO-FN** Charlie Kovach was rapidly and unanimously elected as the new FSO-FN, replacing Paul Duarte. He is already asking for **dues which need to be sent to him no later than July 1!** We should get a note from him soon specifying the amount, but it is likely to be the same as in previous years - \$38.00. You received a dues form from Morgan in one of the many attachments. Please be prompt and send payment to:

Charles Kovach
28 Greylock Rd.
Bristol RI 02809-1626

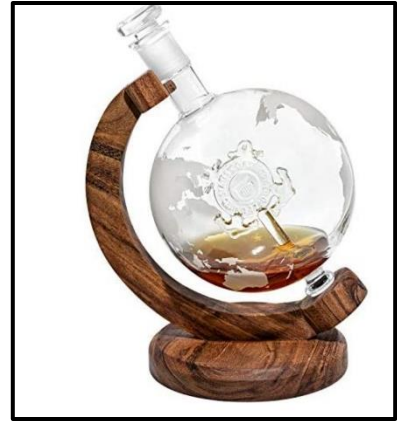


- **FSO-OP (Brian Welsh)** Brian hosted an informal Zoom workshop with the other flotillas in our division to better understand what assets we have available, such as facilities and cox'n's, etc. This is another initiative for more coordination among the flotillas. Brian is trying to arrange a guest lecturer from a maritime archaeologist who is in Flotilla 07-06. He is working on the wreck of the British customs schooner Gaspée which was famously burned by Rhode Island merchant seamen in Narragansett Bay in 1772. That would be fascinating.



- **ANT Station Bristol Comments:** Chief Maiocco said farewell to us and expressed his thanks for everything the AUX does. He has been very good to us. We wish him fair winds and following seas.

- The **ANT Change of Command/retirement ceremony** was at 11:00 on 10 June. Senior Chief Nardillo took over from Chief Maiocco who has retired. Morgan, Brian, and Nick attended. We authorized Morgan to buy a gift for him. She found this very classy and appropriate decanter with the Coast Guard insignia. Here are Morgan and the Chief after the ceremony.



General Business

Awards: Mike Doherty, who works at Lowe's, made an informal award of two Coast Guard flags – one to Lynette for her fighting spirit (accepted by Morgan), and one to Charlie in honor of his 20 years of service to the AUX (and rugged good looks). Thanks Mike. That was very thoughtful.



Mike brought three nice binders with lots of Coast Guard news. Vice Admiral Linda Fagan has been installed as the first female Commandant. The binders also included the latest unclassified maritime strategy document, *Advantage at Sea*, which describes how the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard will work together to ensure our maritime security. You can download it at:

<https://media.defense.gov/2020/Dec/16/2002553074/-1/-1/0/TRISERVICESTRATEGY.PDF>

Public Education: We'd still like to conduct some public boating safety courses this year, perhaps working with instructors from other flotillas. Potential venues are Bristol Library and Barrington Yacht Club. Stay tuned.

Featured Training: Filling out the new COVID Risk form. Please fill out the new one (you got a copy as an attachment to the email from Morgan) and email it or snail mail it to Morgan and she will send them up the chain for us.

Update on Lynette: She's home after receiving excellent treatment. She is doing fine, and her spirits are good – as always! She is so awesome!

Motion to Adjourn: Approved heartily and quickly!

Next Flotilla Meeting – Wednesday, 8 July13 at 7:30 PM, in person with Zoom backup. Please join us for fellowship, fun and service.

Semper Paratus!