



**US Coast Guard Auxiliary
East Bays Flotilla 7-11
Aids to Navigation Team, Bristol, Rhode Island
March 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 eleven members in attendance in person and on Zoom, one of our best turnouts in months. Sadly, no pizza this month. Maybe in March. Come and find out.

Here's a recap of the meeting:

- **Welcome, Initial Remarks, Call to Order**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Introduction of Guests:** We welcomed Dennis Nicole, who is returning home to Rhode Island to be close to his grandchildren in Bristol after a successful international career with Ford. He joins us from Flotilla 18-05 in Michigan and is a qualified cox'n. Now if we only had a facility...
- **Adoption of agenda:** Approved.
- **Prior meeting minutes:** Approved.



FC's Report (Morgan Beltre)

- **Nautical trivia night takes place every Monday at JB's on the Water in Jamestown** from 6:30-8:00. Proceeds benefit Seamen's Church Institute in Newport. It's a lot of fun. Brian and Don competed two weeks ago and finished 2nd, but were soundly thrashed last week. We need your help. Contact Trisha at sailortrisha@yahoo.com or just show up.
- Morgan will submit the flotilla for the annual **NACO 3-Star Diversity Award**. We have won this prestigious award several years in a row.

- Morgan sent an attachment with [proposed changes to the 2023 RI Boating Regulations](#). Most are clearly good ideas. Not sure when or if they will be approved.
- Morgan and Charlie attended the [funeral of John Capobianco](#) on February 20. It was an excellent service with military honors.
- Morgan and Charlie are going through the Flotilla rolls to determine which members have retired and update our roster.
- There are [very few COVID restrictions](#) for AUX members. We are all cleared to participate in all courses.
- Division says you don't have to be [Instructor](#)-qualified to teach a class. However, you would need to take a 2-hour class. If you are interested, contact Morgan.

VFC's report (Mark Marosits) –

- It looks like everyone is current with their required training. Well done!
- We are pushing hard to get all our members who are training for [boat quals](#) complete. That's Brian, Mark, Dennis, Kevin and Raven. This is impressive progress!
- Mark has been named [State Director, American Canoe Association](#). He can do anything!
- Mark is compiling a very ambitious [schedule of boating safety classes and vessel safety checks](#). Looks like it's going to be a very busy season. If you have any suggestions for more venues this year, send them to Mark at mmarosits@e-worldways.com.

Report from Division (Brian Welsh):

- Kevin and Brian will attend the Better Bay Alliance meeting at Barrington Yacht Club on March 28. This group is dedicated to improving boating safety – just like the AUX! They are looking to develop an interactive map app which will show boating events on the bay of which we might not be

aware. A 2019 collision and fatality could have been avoided if a system like this had been available.

- **Calendar events:**

- March 10-12 - **New England Saltwater Fishing Show** at the Providence Veterans' Auditorium. Here's how to sign up to help.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094bafa623a3fdc43-risaltwater#/>
- March 14, 15 and 21 – Boating Safety Course at Newport Yacht Club. Mark, Morgan and Brian will help.
- March 18 - TCT and Ops Workshop at Flotilla 07-06 in Warwick from 8:45 to 15:30 and includes lunch. This is required for anyone who is in boat crews or is a food specialist.
- March 25 - Vessel Examiner refresher training at Kent Hospital.
- April 11 – Paddlecraft class at Newport Yacht Club led by Mark.
- April 15-23 - Virtual Division Training (D-Train). Expect an email with sign-up info. This has been a painless way to get solid training.
- April 18, 20 and 25 - Boating Safety Course at Newport Yacht Club.
- May 20-21 - Vessel safety checks at Newport Yacht Club.
- May 20-26 - National Safe Boating Week.
- June 4 - Vessel safety checks at Swansea and New England Boat Works in Portsmouth.
- June 14-15 - RI DEM training on how we should respond to **boating accidents**. Let Brian know if you are interested.

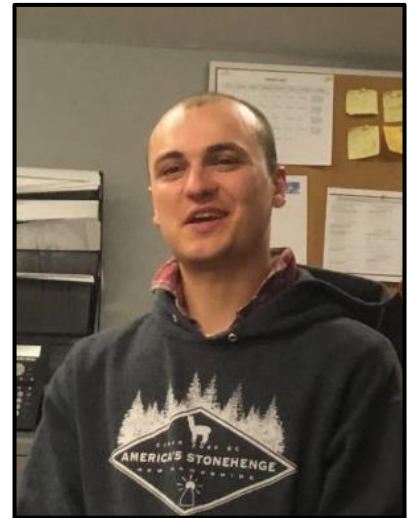
- Expect another **Sector Training (S-Train)** day. Not sure when yet. These have been excellent training opportunities. What subjects would you like presented? Let Brian know.

Staff Reports:

- **FSO-PA (Brian Welsh):** NTR
- **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe):** Continuing discussion about the **Division website**. It's taking shape well, adding more and more features. Take a look at cgauxri.org 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.** There could be contests with gift cards for prizes. Lots of good ideas. The website will include a **Division Calendar** (Brian is our POC for input). There are 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. We're looking at facebook, Instagram, and the nextdoor app. 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 completed and distributed.
- **FSO-PV (Don Fennessey):** Added Newport Harbormaster to the list of PV partners. Will start springtime visitations soon and see if any are interested in vessel safety checks. Awaiting responses.
- **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe):** More and more activity around the harbors and marinas. Bridge lights are working and recreational fishing is starting.
- **FSO-MA (Raven James):** NTR.
- **FSO-VE (Dennis Chaves):** Working with **Swansea** Harbormaster who is interested in **vessel safety checks**.
- **FSO-PE (Charlie Kovacs):** We are most likely to do a **boating safety class at Barrington Yacht Club**.

General Business

We bade farewell and good luck to Jake Francis who started to get involved with the AUX before COVID hit. Jake has enlisted in the Coast Guard and is off to boot camp at the end of the month. After six weeks there and a quick leave period, he'll attend Boatswain's Mate school in Yorktown, VA. He's very excited and wants to be assigned to a ship right after training. He will be an awesome shipmate. We look forward to his next visit with us as a Gold Sider!



- **Awards:** None
- **Comments by guests:** Dennis Nicole is happy to be back in Bristol and will start the transfer paperwork to become a full member of 07-11.
- **Good of the Auxiliary: Update on Lynette:** She's home and in good spirits and good physical condition. Still waiting for a new heart. She is so upbeat! Please continue to pray for her.

• **Adjourn business meeting**

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

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

Semper Paratus!