



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

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

Very respectfully,

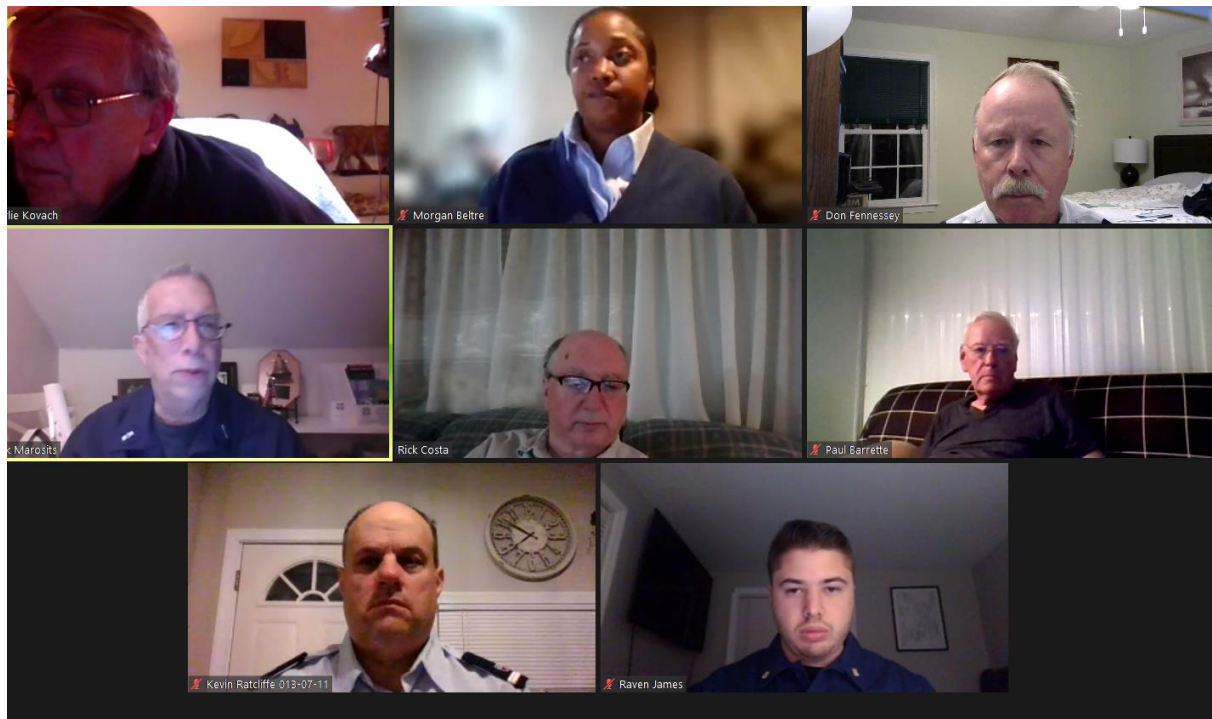
Don Fennessey

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

COVID policy changed and allowed us to meet in person finally, but snow forced us to Zoom again. We're pretty good at it, but look forward to our April meeting. Keep your fingers crossed. Here are the eight members who Zoomed.



Here's a recap of the meeting:

- **Welcome, Initial Remarks, Call to Order**
- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Introduction of Guests:** No guests tonight.
- **Adoption of agenda:** Approved.
- **Approval of prior meeting minutes:** Approved.
- **FC's Report (Morgan Beltre)**
 - If anyone is interested in doing **vessel examinations**, contact Gary Davis or Morgan. We can always use more examiners.
 - **Public Education:** We hope to do a boating safety class at the Barrington Yacht Club this year. We have done classes there before and it is an excellent facility.

- o **Awards:** We received letters of appreciation for Paul Duarte, Charlie Kovach and Don Fennessey for their assistance at an open house day at ANT Bristol in August 2019. The flotilla set up a booth and passed out boating safety brochures and other materials. It was well attended and the public and station appreciated our participation.
- o **Dues:** Please pay them if you haven't already.
- o **New England Saltwater Fishing Show** takes place 11-13 March in Providence. Our division will share two booths with the active-duty Coast Guard. We supplied lots of boating safety materials. They are looking for watchstanders. Please contact Charlie Jenison if you can help.
- o **D-Train Comments:** Impressions were quite positive about virtual D-Train, especially after the initial bugs in the scheduling program were fixed. Generally very good instruction and on-line experience. You should have gotten an email from the D-Train folks citing some statistics - 770 members took advantage of this training opportunity, signing up for 3,897 sessions and attending 2,803 classes over the 9 days. Pretty impressive! Hope everyone took advantage of the opportunity.
- o We are expecting an **awards ceremony** on 24 April. Venue TBD.
- o If anyone is **ailing or grieving** a lost relative, you are invited to contact Jan Koleszar, our former Division Commander.
- o **COVID Policy:** Unvaccinated members may not attend meetings in person.
- o **Change of Watch luncheon** will be on 1 May from 1200-1600 at Finn's Harborside Restaurant in East Greenwich, RI. The food there is excellent and so is the view from the dining room. Morgan will be our flotilla rep on the committee, so we know it will be a great event.
- o **Boat crew training** is available on Wednesdays at Flotilla 07-06 in Warwick.

VFC's Report (Mark Marosits):

- o Discussed the **AUX Paddlecraft Program** and working with other flotillas ashore and afloat. This is a great way to educate the public.
- o **Newport Yacht Club** has accepted the idea of working with the AUX in presenting public education classes and doing vessel exams. Dates and details to come.
- o **Recruiting:** Mark attended a recruiting webinar during D-Train which gave him some good ideas, including recruiting folks for specific flotilla needs.

- **Staff Reports:**

- **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** There is a new **avian flu** that has appeared in RI and southeastern Mass. It is 100% fatal to birds which contract it. Anyone who does patrols where contact with bird poop is possible, make sure you wear PPE, especially gloves.



- **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** will review our flotilla **website** layout for appeal and easy access to visitors.
- **FSO-MA (Raven James)** will make an excel spreadsheet for inventorying our boating safety brochures.
- **FSO-MT (Mark Marosits)**
 1. Don't forget to set up your account in the **AUX Learning Center** on line. Mark can talk you though the process if you need help.
 2. Mark, Brian, Raven and Kevin have taken the **boat crew course** but need to get their afloat quals signed off. Rick Costa can assist. Jay Koleszar can also help with small groups.
 3. We are expecting an in-person **Sector Training (S-Train)** on 30 April at Mass Maritime Academy. We had a good discussion about which courses would likely be taught. More details to come. This is another very good way to get training in a variety of subjects.
 4. Most flotilla members are current in their qualifications, but not everyone. Please check AUX DATA II to verify that you are up to date.
- **FSO-FN (Paul Duarte)** Finances are in order.

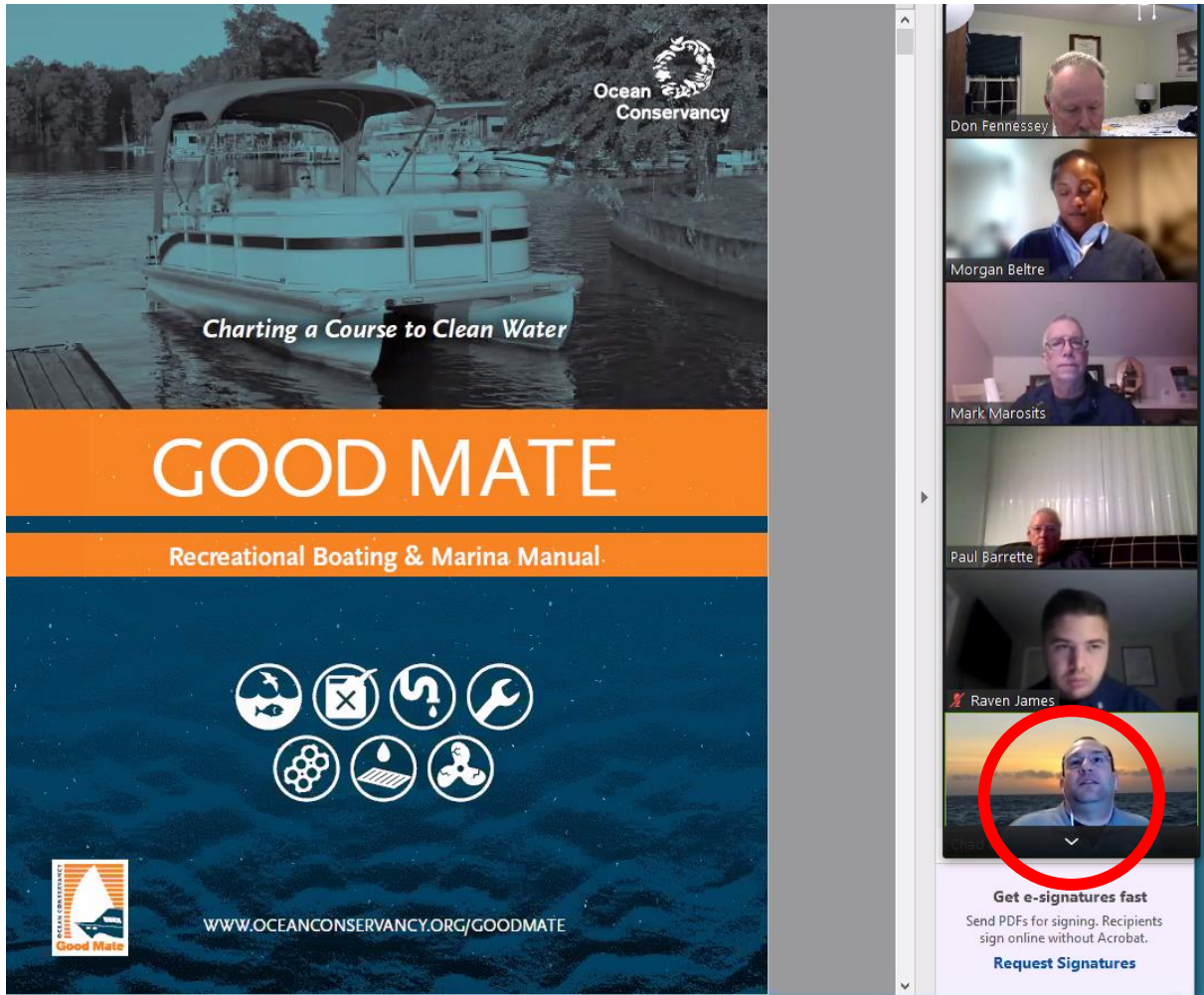
- **General Business**

- **Update on Lynette:** She is doing well, but is tired.


- Adjourn business meeting

Featured Training: Chad Cavanaugh (photo at bottom right) is our Division's Maritime Safety Officer. Chad is new to the job but is learning quickly. We will see him in future training sessions. As far as we know Flotilla 07-11 has never had

a marine safety program, so this is all good stuff for us. He gave a presentation on the CG Maritime Safety Program. He suggested a good first course to take would be the Good Mate Course. You download a 74-page booklet from the noodle site and take an open -book exam.



Other courses may be accessed through the AUX website under the Marine Safety heading. If you are really ambitious, you can go for the Trident device for AUX Marine Safety Professional. It's a five-year comprehensive program.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Marine Safety <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MS Courses ∅ MS Insignia ∅ MS PQS ∅ MS Training Ribbon ∅ Members Only ∅ Navigation Systems Outreach Programs Publications and Notices Resources Safety Lines Newsletter Skills Bank Uninspected Vessels What's New Contact Us Enrollment Keys ∅ National Help Desk 	<p>There are four Divisions in the Prevention Department devoted to the Marine Safety program:</p> <p>Commercial Vessel Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspected Commercial Vessels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Foreign Flagged Vessels ◦ Domestic Vessels (i.e. T-Boat, K-Boat, Passenger, Cargo, Tanker) • Uninspected Vessel Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Uninspected Passenger Vessels ◦ Uninspected Tow Vessels ◦ Commercial Fishing Vessels <p>Port and Facility Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Container Inspections • Marine Safety oriented MOM Patrols • Regional Exam Center Support • Waterways Management <p>Prevention Outreach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • America's Waterway Watch • Sea Partners • Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Resources: • Living Marine Mammals Resources: • Good Mate Program <p>Communication and Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine Safety Ribbon • Marine Safety Insignia Training Program • Marine Safety Insignia Device • Marine Safety Grant Support
<p>MEMBER ZONE</p> <p>Member ID: <input type="text"/></p> <p>Password: <input type="password"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="LOG IN"/></p> <p>SEARCH NATIONAL SITE</p> <p>Enter Search Term(s):</p> <p><input type="text"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Search"/></p> <p>SECURITY LEVELS</p> <p>National Terrorism Advisory System</p>  <p>BULLETIN</p> <p>READ MORE</p> <p><i>Put this widget on your web page</i></p>	
<p>Contact National National Help Desk Website Policies Accessibility FOIA</p> <p>U.S. Coast Guard U.S. Department of Homeland Security USA.gov</p> <p><i>CGAUX.ORG is the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary official web portal.</i></p>	

Breaking news: Paul Barrette reports from Florida that fuel prices for boats is \$7.00 per gallon! Sailboats are becoming more popular.



- **Motion to Adjourn:** Approved heartily and quickly!

Next Flotilla Meeting – Wednesday, 13 April at 7:30 PM, probably in person with Zoom backup. Please join us for fellowship, fun and service.

Semper Paratus!