



**US Coast Guard Auxiliary
East Bays Flotilla 7-11
Aids to Navigation Team, Bristol, Rhode Island
May 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 for those who couldn't join us and for training. We had a total of ten in attendance.



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.
- **Approval of prior meeting minutes:** Approved.

FC's Report (Morgan Beltre) News from the Division meeting:

- **Sector Training (S-Train)** was held at Mass Maritime Academy on 30 April. Brian Welsh not only attended, but taught a class about the AUX Air program to nine students. Well done!
- **Division Change of Watch luncheon** was on 1 May. Morgan and Brian attended. Morgan was officially sworn in as our Flotilla Commander.
- **Check AUXDATA to see if you are REYR** (out of qualification). Many of you are out of currency. We know this can be difficult to determine using AUX DATA II. Please contact Morgan or Mark if you are unsure and they can find out your status and what you need to do to get current again.

- **Vessel Examination Day events:** Mark has worked with the Newport Yacht Club and Flotilla 07-06, and we expect to conduct Vessel Examinations at NYC on 21/ 22 May. Details forthcoming.
- There will be **RBS Trailing Training** at the Cape Cod office parking lot at 9:00 AM on 22 May. Bring a vehicle with a trailer hitch.
- There will be a **Vessel Examination class** at North Star Flotilla 07-06 in Warwick at 6:30 PM on 17 May. This will be a good refresher for those who are already qualified.
- The **ANT will have a Change of Command/retirement ceremony** at 11:00 on 10 June. Chief Maiocco is retiring. He has been very good to us. If you would like to attend, uniform is Tropical Blue. We authorized Morgan to buy a gift for him not to exceed \$150.
- We received a **new Coast Guard Uniform SOP**. It includes two new AUX uniforms which will be part of a pilot program. The first is the **Auxiliary Coast Guard Utility (CG-U)**. It includes the dark blue CG-U blouse with grey name tapes with blue lettering. There is an Auxiliary patch on the left shoulder and a full-color U.S. flag patch on the right shoulder. Dark blue CG-U trousers, work boots (boat shoes are authorized as allowed for ODU wear) and AUX ball cap. It looks like this:



- Another new uniform is called the **Auxiliary Work Uniform (AWU)**. It has a dark blue polo shirt with embroidered Auxiliary emblem on the left breast and embroidered Auxiliarist's last name on the right breast. Dark blue 5.11 Tactical Pants and work boots (boat shoes are authorized as allowed for CG-U wear), and AUX ball cap. It looks like this:



With supply chain issues, don't expect to see either of these for quite a while.

VFC's Report (Mark Marosits): (Absent but submitted this report)

- Our flotilla and Flotilla 07-06 jointly provided a boating safety class at the Newport Yacht Club last month. Twenty persons attended, all passed, and we have 15 on a waiting list for another class. This was good for public safety and good for public relations. We also made some money teaching the class. We split the proceeds with 07-06.
- I am also working with 07-06 to conduct a Vessel Safety Check weekend at the Newport Yacht Club on May 21/22. Final schedule and plans will be completed this week. Thanks to those of you who offered to help; I will provide details.
- The Paddlecraft Safety team is moving to next stage, as I passed my instructor exam and can now begin building the local training program.
- The Tall Ship USCGC *Eagle* is coming to Newport in September. This should present many special opportunities for us across various interests. There will also be the Newport Boat Show and other events.
- **Staff Reports:**
 - **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** Watching marinas set out their no-wake buoys. Memorial Day is coming, signaling the start of a busy boating season. Mike Quinn of Flotilla 07-06 is starting his weekly ATON patrols. This is a great opportunity to get crew quals.

- **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe)** There was a cyber intrusion incident on the District website. Apparently, a hacker from Romania obtained the credentials of an AUX member. Perhaps they were trying to hack into the active-duty Coast Guard site. There was no damage or intrusion to our flotilla website. However, if any of you hold a Division staff office position, it is recommended that you change your password.
- **FSO-MT (Mark Marosits)** We have a number of members who are behind in their qualifications. Three members are working on attaining their BQ status - mainly just needing to complete the boating safety certificate. I would ask that everyone do their best to get, and stay, qualified. WE HAVE A LOT TO DO in the way of public education, vessel safety and more, and we need QUALIFIED PEOPLE to do it.

All CGAUX courses are on line. You have to set up an account, watch the tutorial video, and everything you need is right there. I will do my best to help you troubleshoot if necessary. For those needing the boating safety course, this is available on line through the RI Department of Environmental Management with an in-person test, or by attending a CGAUX-led in-person class. If you can attend an AUX class, it is easier to pass on the first round because the instruction is more in depth.

For those of you working on Boat Crew, I have asked 07-06 for dates and plans for final dockside and underway sign-offs. You also need a current first aid/CPR class, the online CGAUX bloodborne pathogen class, and the swim test. Working on getting a venue and dates for the swim test.

- **FSO-FN (Paul Duarte)** No report.
- **FSO-OP (Brian Welsh)** As Division Vice Commander, Brian will host a Zoom meeting on 16 May with all Division FSO OPs, VEs, and VFCs to find out what everyone is doing and to coordinate our activities with each other better.

General Business

Awards: In January 2021, the Coast Guard received the Department of Homeland Security's Outstanding Unit Award (OUA) for outstanding service during multiple hurricanes, the national response at the Southwest Border, and the COVID 19 global pandemic for the period of Aug. 25, 2017 through Nov. 30, 2020.

The Coast Guard expects to receive its first shipment of ribbons by June 2022. All Coast Guard active duty, reserve, Auxiliary, and civilian personnel who were affiliated with the service at any time during the award period and served honorably are eligible.

Brian received an **Operational Service Award** for flying more than 30 hours in the AUX AIR program. Well done!

Charlie received an award for **20 years of service in the AUX**. Outstanding!

Good of the Auxiliary: Brian wanted it to be known how much Mark Marosits has done for the Paddlecraft program. Mark flew to North Carolina at his own expense and participated in a strenuous Paddle Smart class. His is one of a small handful of instructors qualified to establish a local program. Great work, Mark!

Adjourn Business Meeting

Featured Training: Don Fennessey presented a Coast Guard History quiz. It was not easy, and no one scored 100%, including him. It was a good reminder of our Coast Guard heritage. The test is attached. Have fun.



Coast Guard History Test

Flotilla 07-11

Source: Military Officer Magazine, August 2021

Update on Lynette: She's at Tufts Medical Center 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 June at 7:30 PM, in person with Zoom backup. Please join us for fellowship, fun and service.

Semper Paratus!