



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

## Flotilla Meeting Notes

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



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)

- The Division needs a **Certified First Aid Instructor** to teach an upcoming class. If qualified, please contact Nick Butziger ASAP.
- **Division elections** are on October 4. If anyone is interested in running for Division Commander or Vice Commander contact Charlie Jenison. Both positions are open.
- There was a **USCG/AUX BBQ and training day at Castle Hill** on August 27. All reports said it was good.
- You can take an **Online Leadership Course** on October 3.
- If you are in IQ Status, challenge the BS test and get BQ certified.
- There will be a **Boy Scout Jamboree** at Fort Adams in Newport on October 22 from 0800-1700. **Auxiliarists are needed** to staff the

Auxiliary Info Booth and run the Damage Control trailer. If you want to participate you need to have completed BSA Youth Protection Program.

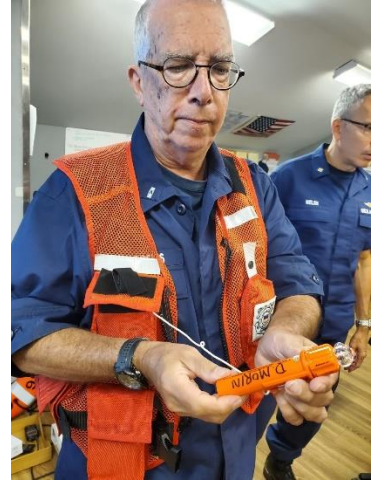
**VFC's report (Mark Marosits) -**

- The **Division website** is being revised to include Flotilla pages. This should make sure that AUX policy info and forms are the most current and reduce redundancy.
- We can always use **more vessel examiners**.
- It would be great to have a **Public Affairs expert** in the Flotilla. If you know any – let's recruit them.
  
- **Staff Reports:**
  - **FSO-CS (Kevin Ratcliffe):** **Fixed links on the boating resources page** for RI DEM and cleaned up formatting. In the Members Only area, **added links to CGX and AUXCEN online stores for uniforms and supplies**. Also posted Mark's email notice of the upcoming election. Newsletters are up to date.
  
  - **FSO-NS (Kevin Ratcliffe):** **Downloaded the PATON gpx file** from the Division Group and investigated the data. All PATONs in our AOR and the entire east coast are listed graphically. Suggested identifying any areas that could use warning markers or regulatory marks such as rocks, obstructions, or danger buoys to deploy, possibly obtained with grant money.
  
  - **FSO-FN (Charlie Kovach):** There are still several members who have not paid their **dues**. Time is running out! If you incur any **reimbursable expenses** in your AUX duties, submit your request to Charlie.
  
  - **FSO-OP (Brian Welsh):** Every flotilla needs a **nominating committee** review candidates for Flotilla officer positions. Rick Costa has been the best one-man committee for years! Division says the **AUX has 30% more in the budget for operations** this fiscal year!!!
  
  - **FSO-PV (Don Fennessey):** Supplying a total of five marinas and marine suppliers with **boating safety brochures**.
  
  - **FC Emeritus (Marcus Mitchell):** **Gave a presentation last month at a RI Emergency Management Agency conference** which was held at the State

Archives on Weybosset St. in Providence. He was very impressed with the place and said they offered it for use for meetings. Maybe someday we can take advantage of the offer. It's almost as nice as the ANT station.

- **FSO PE (Charlie Kovach): It's on!** We're teaching a **Boating Safety Course** at Rogers Library in Bristol on Saturday, October 22 from 0900 to 1700. Cost for the course is \$45 and will include lunch and snacks. Calling all instructors! **We need your help.**
  
- **ANT Station Bristol Comments:** SCPO was not present but says we are **not required to wear masks at meetings, and we are allowed to bring food!** Time to get our culinary specialists back in practice. Morgan has invited members of the CG to attend our meetings and events.
  
- **General Business**
  - **Awards: None.**
  - **Comments by guests: None.**
  - **Good of the Auxiliary: Update on Lynette:** She's had COVID but is at home and feeling better. Send cards to:  
Lynette Lopes  
135 Abbott St.  
Providence RI 02906
  
- **Adjourn business meeting**
  
- **Feature event for the meeting:** PPE Demo – Brian Welsh and Mark Marosits. A good overview of survival equipment issued to AUX and AUXAIR members.





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

## **Other Coast Guard News**

**We have two more cutters in Newport to go along with the three buoy tenders already stationed here**

**Coast Guard Aims to Make RI Waters Safer by Adding to Fleet at Naval Station Newport**

Newport RI.com/Newport Daily News Aug 22, 2022

NEWPORT — A pair of 270-foot Coast Guard vessels involved in search-and-rescue operations, military exercises and maritime law enforcement are now based in Rhode Island, authorities said Friday.

The cutters USCGS Tahoma and USCGS Campbell, each with a crew of about 100, were welcomed to Naval Station Newport at a ceremony attended by Democratic U.S. Sen. Senator Jack Reed, Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Linda Fagan and other dignitaries.

“Saving lives, stopping drug smugglers, supporting national security missions overseas, and keeping commerce flowing across the waves are all in a day’s work for the Coast Guard, and we are grateful for the unwavering dedication and professionalism of our Coast Guard members,” Reed said in a statement. “The Coast Guard has an active presence here in Rhode Island, and we’re pleased to see it grow even stronger.”



Both cutters had previously been based at Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in New Hampshire.

The medium-endurance cutters are part of the Famous-class of vessels that began service in the late 1980s. Both are equipped with sophisticated communication

and navigation equipment and armed with a 76mm deck gun and carry an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter.

This was homecoming of sorts for both vessels, whose keels were laid at the now defunct Derecktor shipyard in Middletown, Rhode Island in 1983 (Tahoma) and 1984 (Campbell).

The Coast Guard has a considerable presence in Rhode Island, with about 300 active-duty personnel, 50 Reservists, and another 45 civilian employees. The Coast Guard is responsible for patrolling over 384 miles of Ocean State shoreline and has an annual operating budget in the state of about \$58 million.

Currently, Newport is home to Coast Guard Cutters: CGC Oak, CGC Sycamore, and CGC Ida Lewis. In several years, these vessels will be joined by two brand new state of the art 360-foot Heritage-class vessels that are currently under construction in Florida.

These multi-mission assets service aids-to-navigation, conduct search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, ports and waterways security, living marine resources, and defense and homeland security missions.

“We have invested considerable federal assets in upgrading Naval Station Newport’s waterfront and I am making it my mission to help Rhode Island gain more ships and personnel,” Reed said.

**Click and paste the link in the article below and play the video. This shows why we have rules about opening windows while refueling boats. Scary!**

## **Boat Ignites and Explodes at Daytona Beach Marina; Woman Flown to Nearby Hospital**

By [Stephanie Buffamonte](#) and Neisha Molina

Published August 21, 2022 4:15PM

Updated August 22, 2022 11:56AM

Four people hurt in boat explosion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=74xv8PCI0uk>

A boat explosion was reported on Sunday afternoon at the Halifax Harbor Marina, according to the Daytona Beach Fire Department.

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. - In a matter of seconds, the back half of a speed boat exploded Sunday at a marina in Florida on Sunday, sending flames and debris into the air, and a woman to the hospital to be treated for burns.

Surveillance video from a nearby building – and released by Daytona Beach Fire Department – captured the moment the explosion happened. It happened at Halifax Marina in Daytona Beach.

A boat that was being refueled at a marina near Daytona Beach exploded on Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022, sending debris into the air. One person was taken to the hospital with burns, and three others were hurt, but declined to go to the hospital, according to officials.

In total, four people were hurt, including a woman in her 50s, officials said. Three others who were hurt were treated on scene and declined to be transported to the hospital.

Police said the explosion happened shortly after a boater finished refueling his boat, and then turned the engine on. The boater told authorities that he had the blowers on, which help to eliminate gas vapors. Officials said those vapors apparently ignited, though the specific cause remains under investigation.

## **Another Bizarre Story**

### **Louisiana boater arrested after firing at Coast Guard helicopter**

By Michelle Watson and Zoe Sottile, CNN

Updated 12:54 PM ET, Sun September 18, 2022

**(CNN)** A boater near Venice, Louisiana, was arrested Friday after allegedly firing a weapon at [Coast Guard](#) personnel who responded to a distress call, officials say.

The Coast Guard responded to a distress signal from a 40-foot sail boat on Thursday that was "approximately 75 miles south of Southwest Pass, Louisiana," according to [a Saturday news release](#). The Coast Guard sent in a helicopter with a crew to help the distressed boater.



But when officials arrived to the scene, the person "pointed what appeared to be a firearm at the helicopter," according to the release. "The aircrew heard objects striking the aircraft and immediately departed the scene due to aircraft and crew safety concerns."

The Coast Guard crew returned to the Air Station in New Orleans and found the helicopter had been shot, according to the release.

The boater was eventually arrested on Friday "without incident" when FBI agents and Coast Guard Investigative Service returned in a fixed wing airplane and a response boat, according to the release. The Coast Guard did not name the boater or specify the charges.

"Safety of life was our number one priority during this challenging incident," Lt. Phillip VanderWeit, spokesperson for the Eighth Coast Guard District, said in the release. "Through the professional and skillful work of our crews and interagency partners, we were able to bring this incident to a peaceful resolution."

"The Coast Guard will continue to work across multiple levels of government to thoroughly investigate this incident," the release said.

Venice, Louisiana, sits west of the Mississippi River -- about 75 miles south of New Orleans.

**Next Flotilla Meeting – Wednesday, 12 October at 7:30 PM. This will be our Annual Member Dinner at Jacky's Galaxy Restaurant in Bristol.** Please join us for food, fellowship, fun and service.

**Semper Paratus!**