

FIRST NORTHERN BRIDGE PROGRAM

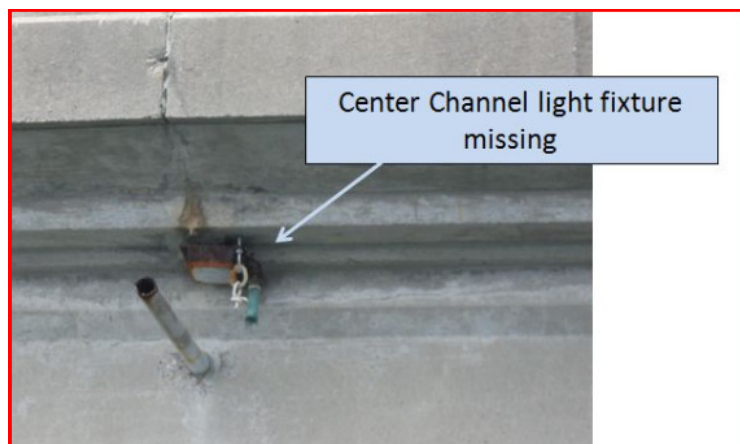
Bridge Survey and Discrepancy Reporting

On a recent trip in Narragansett Bay, an Auxiliarist discovered a discrepancy on a bridge in Newport Harbor, Rhode Island, part of First Northern. Recognizing the seriousness of the problem and observing the heavy boat traffic in the area, he surveyed the bridge and submitted an on-line discrepancy report. The great photos that are presented below were part of his discrepancy report. Note how the problems with the center channel lights on the bridge was clearly identified with close-up digital photos and pulled together with a wide-angle shot.



The above photo is a great example of the type of evidence that gets bridge problems fixed quickly. It is important to understand that when dealing with a Federal Agency, you have to develop convincing evidence before the Federal Agency to take official action. This is a key element of the Navigation Systems goals of accuracy and credibility. Digital photos are probably the best tool for presenting evidence that we have in our AV-Aid Verifier's navigation kit. Clear, close-up photos illustrate the problem to the Coast Guard.

The photo to the right shows the missing center channel light on the other side of the bridge. When you tie these two close-up discrepancy photos with the full-view photo of the bridge below, the AV has provided a clear picture of the problem to the Bridge Branch. All of the moored boats in the background complete the picture of a busy marine traffic in this area.



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First Northern uses an on-line Bridge Database Reporting System. Any Auxiliarist that has an E-Directory logon can use it. So, if you are in New England at any time, you are welcome to report any bridge discrepancy that you observe on our system that is located at www.uscgaa.com.

Physical Characteristics of this bridge			
Bridge No: 1150			
Waterway: NEWPORT HARBOR			
Local Name: Goat Island Causeway Bridge			
Location1: NEWPORT			
Location2: GOAT ISLAND			
Date when completed: 1963	Auxiliary Division: 07		
Bridge Type: FIXED	Miles above mouth: 0		
Bridge Class: 3	Use: HWY		
Latitude: 041-29-29.300N	Longitude: 071-19-30.000W		
Charted Vert. Clearance MHW: 14 ft.	Charted Horizontal Clearance: 40 ft.	State: RI	Owner: NEWPORT REDEV AGENCY

The Bridge System screen contains all of the latest information about the bridge. Auxiliary observers are asked to review these specifications against their on-scene observations and to report any changes or new information about the bridge.

Bridges are listed in the bridge database by Auxiliary Division, by waterway, by location along the waterway. There are approximately 700 bridges in First Northern, however, only 193 are reportable annually. A photo of each bridge has been added to the system. And, to insure that the correct bridge is selected, access to Google Maps is provided with a simple click of a button.

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A screen is available to define the safety equipment fitted to the bridge.

Fender System? No	Wales? No	Regulatory Signs? No	Horn or Siren? No
Fog Signal? No	Lights? Yes	Center Channel Lights: 2	Margin of Channel Lights: 0
Pier Lights: 0	Axis Lights: 0	Moveable Span Lights: 0	Preferred Channel Lights: 0
Federal Regulations and special notes about this bridge (The regulations can be found in 33CFR117):			

To complete his report, the reporting Auxiliarist simply filled in the information about the observation as is shown below.

Discrepancy Narrative (enter additional comments here)

All lights are extinguished on this bridge. Light fixtures have been broken off, leaving just the wiring behind. Photos of these discrepancies have been forwarded by e-mail.

The Auxiliarist also performed a complete light survey with this report as is illustrated below.

Enter Discrepancies with Lights (leave blank if lights all OK)					
	No. of Lights	Lights not correctly placed?	Lights not of proper color?	Lights not visible for 1 NM?	Lights Extinguished? (Describe below)
Center Channel Lights	2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Margin of Channel Lights	0				
Pier Lights	0				
Axis Lights	0				
Lift / Movable Span Lights	0				
Preferred Channel Lights	0				

Any other problems would have been simply checked off below. Explanations would have been added to the Comments section of the report. When optional safety equipment is indicated with a **NO**, the bulleted menu listing the more frequent discrepancies will not show below. The only equipment designated for this bridge is lights. The special light discrepancy section is shown above. The discrepancy details listed below are standard questions asked on every bridge report.

Enter Discrepancy Details:

Bridge hardware protruding into channel?

PIPES? LADDERS? PLATFORMS?

Anything hanging below lip of span?

CABLE? LADDER? PLATFORM?

When the AV clicked on the submit button, this report was immediately transmitted to the DSO-NS for review. The DSO-NS automatically receives an e-mail when a report needs to be reviewed. After “Discrepancy Reports” and “Annual Bridge Surveys” are quality checked, they can be transmitted on to the Bridge Branch in New York with the click of a button. The permanent bridge digital record is also updated at this time. Annual surveys, reporting a bridge as “watching properly,” are generally not transmitted to the Coast Guard but the activity is retained in the bridge’s history record. The First Northern CG Bridge Branch has access to the system and can review the activity record of any bridge at any time.

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Using this on-line system, First Northern has become the eyes of the Coast Guard Bridge Branch in the Northeast. As a result, more of our bridges are watching properly. This is a great example of Team Coast Guard in action.

New Bridge Training Web Page Updates Are Available

The Bridge web page at www.uscgaa.com is completely upgraded for 2011 with a new Bridge Program Training Guide. The on-line Bridge Reporting System with its five screens is fully explained in this manual. Since First Northern reports on-line, the manual Bridge form was converted to NS-BP04 Bridge Field Worksheet. Make copies and keep them in your Navigation Kit. This worksheet will help you make a complete survey on a bridge.

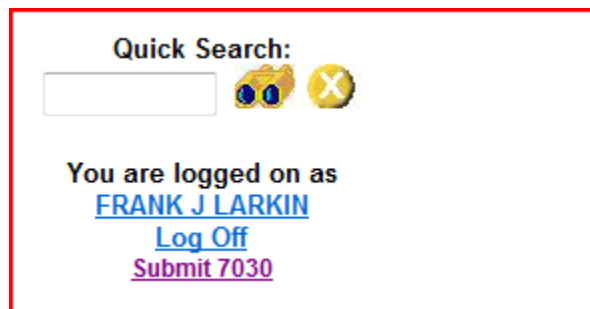
Bridge Discrepancy Tracking Feature

Each time a discrepancy is reported on a bridge, the bridge's record is highlighted in light red to alert the observer that a discrepancy is still pending on that bridge. AVs are requested to check whether the bridge owner has taken any action to correct the problem. A special screen is provided to alert the Coast Guard when a discrepancy status changes or is corrected. Correction reports removes the red highlight.

New AUXDATA 7030 Bridge Activity Report capability

A new feature has been added to the Bridge Reporting System that allows the submission of a 7030 Activity report as part of your Bridge reporting activity. The system fills in known information for you, including the e-mail addresses of your FSO and SO-IS.

Access the 7030 report by clicking on "Submit 7030." This feature appears after you submit your Bridge Report. It is found in the top-left hand corner of the screen under your logon name as is shown below.



The 7030 data entry screen appears. The system knows who you are from your e-directory file.

- If your activity was part of an authorized patrol, you do not need to enter time. This was taken care of on the POMS report submitted by the coxswain or boat owner. If not, enter your start time and your end time.
- Enter the number of bridges observed as discrepant.
- Enter the number of bridges observed as watching properly.

Note: Always enter a report that summarizes your bridge activity. Do not enter single reports for each bridge. If multiple AVs work together on a number of bridges, the rule is one bridge report by one AV. No more than one AV can claim activity for a single bridge. Allocate the activity among the participating AVs.

- Select a CG ANT from the drop down menu.

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- Enter the location where your activity was conducted.
- Enter remarks, if needed. Remarks are not recorded.
- Enter a Log Number is desired.
- The system looks up the e-mail address of your IS Officers. Click off any one that is not used in your AOR. The system also provides the option to receive an e-mail copy of your 7030 report.
- Click the SUBMIT button to transmit your report. This is a more efficient way to report your activity to AUXDATA since you don't have to log off one system and log on to another. You also save time looking up e-mail addresses and other known details.
- A sample 7030 data entry screen is presented below.

District 1 Northern Region
Aids to Navigation Team
7030 Submission

7030 Form Data	
Date of Mission:	18 ▾ JAN ▾ 2011
Time Start: *	00:01 (format: 16:01)
Time End: *	00:07 (format: 16:07)
Bridge Discrepancies:	0
Bridges Watching Property:	0
ANT:	ANT S West Harbor ▾
Location:	
Trainee ID:	
Trainee Name:	
Remarks:	
Log Number:	
Send 7030 to:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FSO-IS:	MARILYN BERG
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SO-IS:	DEBRA HIBERT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self:	frankjlarkin@verizon.net ▾
<input type="button" value="Submit 7030 Form Now"/>	

Bridge reporting is a year round activity. We urge you to check out the Bridge Reporting System. Access is available on the www.uscgaan.com web site. You can read up on the items on the bridge that the Coast Guard wants an AV to survey on the Bridge Web Page on the same web site.

The Coast Guard in First Northern requires that all Bridge Reports be made on-line using the First Northern Bridge Reporting System.

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Pending Bridge Discrepancies

The Table below lists the number of pending discrepancies in each Division of First Northern. Please make it one of your priorities this Spring to check whether these problems have been resolved by the owner. The Coast Guard wants to know the status of each bridge as soon as possible so that (if needed) they can take action with the owner to insure that these bridges are watching properly before the heavy boating season begins. This activity is a major part of our prevention role in First Northern. The table below shows the pending discrepancy status throughout First Northern. We have a lot to get done this Spring on the Bridge Program.

First Northern Pending Discrepancies (3/6/2011)

AUX Division	AOR	Total Bridges	Bridges with pending discrepancies	% Discrepant
1	Northern Maine	9	2	22%
2	Southern Maine	46	5	11%
3	Newburyport MA	13	6	46%
4	North Shore MA	13	1	8%
5	Boston MA	41	19	46%
6	Buzzards Bay MA	13	0	0%
7	Narragansett Bay	15	13	87%
9	Connecticut River MA	15	2	13%
11	Cape Cod MA	21	2	10%
12	South Shore MA	7	3	43%
District	ALL	193	53	27%

Div.	No.	Waterway	Location	State	Class	Bridge Name	Last Action	Action
12	530	FORE RIVER MA-01	QUINCY - WEYMOUTH	MA	1	S 3A BRIDGE, Quincy / Weymouth MA (FORE RIVER BRIDGE) .photo	FRANK J LARKIN 11/18/2010 (Survey)	
12	531	FORE RIVER MA-02	BRAINTREE	MA	3	S 53 BRIDGE, Braintree MA .photo	PETER F SOMERS 7/9/2010 (Survey)	
12	1165	NORTH RIVER-01	MARSHFIELD - SCITUATE	MA	3	S 3A BRIDGE, North River MA .photo	FRANK J LARKIN 8/9/2010 (Survey)	
12	1166	NORTH RIVER-02	MARSHFIELD - NORWELL	MA	3	BRIDGE STREET BRIDGE, Marshfield, MA (UNION STREET BRIDGE - PLYMOUTH COUNTY BRIDGE) .photo Discrepancies Reported on This Bridge.	FRANK J LARKIN 4/26/2010 (Discrepancy)	
12	1530	SOUTH RIVER, MARSHFIELD-01	MARSHFIELD	MA	3	MARSHFIELD AVENUE BRIDGE .photo Discrepancies Reported on This Bridge.	FRANK J LARKIN 8/9/2010 (Discrepancy)	
12	1531	SOUTH RIVER, MARSHFIELD-02	MARSHFIELD	MA	3	BAYBERRY ROAD BRIDGE, Marshfield MA .photo	FRANK J LARKIN 8/9/2010 (Survey)	
12	1795	WEYMOUTH BACK RIVER	WEYMOUTH - HINGHAM	MA	3	S 3A BRIDGE, Weymouth MA (Back River Bridge) .photo Discrepancies Reported on This Bridge.	FRANK J LARKIN 11/17/2010 (Discrepancy)	

7 Bridges Selected

The exhibit above shows the seven bridges in Division 12 (South Shore MA) with its three bridges highlighted in red with pending discrepancies. Select the screen to remove discrepancies by clicking on the “crossed tools” icon at the right.

We invite you to join with us as the eyes of the Coast Guard and assist us to keep our bridges lighted and safe for our fellow mariners in First Northern in 2011.

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Samples of various bridge lights

Plan to visit our exhibit at the April Spring Conference in Newport RI on April 9 and 10. Experienced AVs will be available to answer your questions and discuss the various Navigation Systems programs. AV check offs will be available. Look for the Aid to Navigation display of buoys and blinking lights.