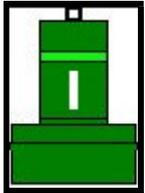


# Welcome to the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary Private Aid to Navigation Program - PATON



The Navigation Systems Division Private Aid to Navigation (**PATON**) program encourages the observation of every Private Aid to Navigation by any Auxiliarist at any time and the verification of Private Aids by AV-Aid Verifier qualified Auxiliarists at the direction of the Coast Guard. While nothing restricts any Auxiliarist from observing and reporting discrepancies on a Private Aid to the Coast Guard, as they do for federal aids, an Auxiliarist must be AV/PQS-Aid Verifier qualified in order to verify a Private Aid to Navigation (**PATON**).



## ***Guidelines for the Private Aid - PATON Verification program . . .***

As with the other Navigation Systems programs, the emphasis of the **PATON** program's approach is on prevention, accuracy, credibility, professionalism and service to the Coast Guard. The focus of this program is directed toward building the competence level of each AV-Aid Verifier in the eyes of the Coast Guard. Guidelines are provided for taking and reporting fixes and depths, for pre-underway and for the on-scene evaluation of any electronic measuring equipment used for high-quality observations of an aid, and for very professional on-line report preparation.

This training guide features fixes taken with marine-grade GPS sets using WAAS, depths corrected to the charted vertical datum, physical measurements, digital photographs, and the validation of observations to the Light List, the Coast Pilot and to the current NOAA Nautical Chart. Formal scheduled CG-7054 PATON Reports are made on-line on the Harbormaster System that further enhances the professionalism of PATON discrepancy reporting to the Coast Guard from the Auxiliary. Finally, your screened CG-7054 PATON Reports are transmitted to the PATON owner.



## **NS-PN01 PATON PROGRAM HAND OUT**

Use this hand-out to promote your Private Aid to Navigation program with your members.

## **NS-PN02 33 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS – Private Aids**

This excerpt from the Code of Federal Regulations is full of information about the various classes of Private Aids to Navigation and the rules governing private aids. Guidelines for taking and reporting fixes and depths are the same as explained in the ***NS-AN02 Federal Short Range Aids to Navigation Training Guide*** as well as are the reporting of your NS activity to AUXDATA. These guides should be included as training tools for your Private Aid to Navigation AV - Aids Verifier Program.

## **NS-PN04 PRIVATE AID TO NAVIGATION REPORT**

Download this form and keep copies in your NAV Kit for recording data on discrepancies that you observe on Private Aids to Navigation. This form is not in general use in First Northern except as explained below.

This is also a great tool for documenting **Non-Permitted Private aids**. Use this form to report the existence of non-permitted private aids. Without the name of the owner and a means to contact the

## ***NAVIGATION SYSTEM DIVISION – PRIVATE AID TO NAVIGATION PROGRAM***

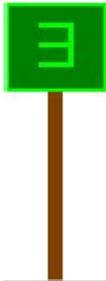
owner, the Coast Guard is at a loss to contact anyone in order to get this problem resolved. Specifications on non-permitted aids are only approved and added to the Harbormaster System when the owner submits an application for a permit or application correction to CG DPW (**Department Prevention – Waterways**). These corrections are usually initiated by Auxiliary verification reports to the Coast Guard.

### **NS-PN05 PRIVATE AID TO NAVIGATION TRAINING PRESENTATION**

This PowerPoint presentation depicts the various discrepancies that are commonly observed on Private Aids to Navigation. Use it as an annual review in PATON Workshops and for the training of Aid Verifiers.

### **NS-PN06 WEB-BASED PATON SYSTEM TRAINING GUIDE**

This new guide provides the latest screen-by-screen information on the operation of the Web-Based PATON System (***Harbormaster***) that is used in First Northern. It takes you through the initial registering process to the verification of the private aid and the CG-7054 PATON Report to the Coast Guard and the aid owner. This system is on-line and is operated from your home personal computer. The basic aids to navigation training programs found on the ***Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation Web Page*** are also part of AV-Aid Verifier training. You need a *system* access code to use the system and you must be AV/PQS Qualified to perform verifications on private aids (**PATONs**).



***If the Private Aid to Navigation Program interests you***, talk to your FSO-NS or SO-NS. Each Flotilla and Division is encouraged to check each Federal and Private Aid for discrepancies while underway. You can start contributing quality discrepancy reports to the Coast Guard in the time that it takes you to familiarize yourself with this program's forms, guidelines and procedures.

**Verifying Private Aids to Navigation-PATONs and surveying bridges** is a seasonal activity in First Northern. New members are encouraged to contact their SO-NS to join their Division Auxiliary Aid to Navigation Teams. All we want is your skill, knowledge, time and your desire to make a difference. On line training programs and procedure guides are available on the First Northern Navigations Systems Web Site. ***Call DSO-NS Frank Larkin at 617-997-7423 if you have any questions.***

**Decide to become an Aid Verifier, today!**