



United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
PREVENTION (Marine Safety) DEPARTMENT
NAVIGATION SYSTEMS DIVISION
AN MONTHLY REPORT 08-04
FIRST NORTHERN AID TO NAVIGATION TEAM
August, 2008



This newsletter is distributed to all Division Captains, Vice Captains and all Aid to Navigation Staff Officers. Please distribute to all your members

"THE GUARDIAN ETHOS"

I AM AMERICA'S MARITIME GUARDIAN.
I SERVE THE CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.
I WILL PROTECT THEM.
I WILL DEFEND THEM.
I WILL SAVE THEM.
I AM THEIR SHIELD.
FOR THEM I AM SEMPER PARATUS.
I LIVE THE COAST GUARD CORE VALUES.
I AM A GUARDIAN.
WE ARE THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD.

**AN News from
around the First
District**

Division 1 has about a dozen new Aids Verifiers as of July 26th. It's always impressive to see Auxiliarists turn out for training on a Saturday during the summer. Also in the Class were a member from Florida and Maryland who are helping us out this summer. Congratulations are in order for *Burnett Radosh, Les Bex, Joan and Charles Foote, Al Eggleston, Libby and Frank Wiswall, Doug*

Robertson, Alice and Tom Lambert and Tom Sawyer, Jr. Many thanks to the Wiswalls and Nancy Plunkett for coordinating a great event at Orland ME. It's only four and one -half hours from Boston with a good tail wind. Also, Division 1 has completed bridge checks on all their bridges so far this year and have identified about ninety non-permitted private aids so far. Nancy Plunkett, Steen Merryweather and BM3 Doherty at CG ANT SWH are managing your verification reports for Division 1.

Division 5 – SO-AN *Tony Silvestri* has been conducting a series of ATON Patrols on Mondays this

summer. The latest patrol took him back to the New Inlet off Scituate and the verification of all of the PATONs on the North River and Herring River. The weather was great this year. Last year, this patrol had to slog home to Boston in dense fog and didn't get back to home port until after 2330 that night. It was noted this year that the PATONs, barring a few exceptions, were well deployed by the harbor masters this year. Only a few exceptions were noted. Future trips this month will be to the Pines River in Saugus, the Charles River for the 14 bridges and the Mystic and Malden Rivers. Also planned are a few trips to Plymouth Harbor and Duxbury Harbor.

Division 6 has completed verifications on the Westport River private aids. All the reports reflected our goals of accuracy and professionalism. We are looking forward to more reports from these AV's. Standouts were *Frank MacKinnon*, *Barry Novek* and *Ralph Dlouhy*. We're happy to have these dedicated Auxiliarists back on the ATON Team.

Division 7 ATON training continues every Wednesday evening in Narragansett Bay generating Bridge, ATON and Small Craft Facility reports, contact Mike Quinn @ michaelsquinn@gmail.com if you'd like to get involved. We have three new Bridge verifiers: *Frank Cotter*, *Jim Collinson* and *Mary Anne Moran*. Also, Frank Cotter and

Jim Beardsley have found 32 non permitted aids around Block Island this year and have submitted Non-Permitted Aid reports to ANT Bristol. On August 23rd the Division 7 ATON Team will be working with Auxiliarist *Craig Hammer* from First Southern District Division 15 on Chart Updating training. There is still an opening for anyone else who'd like to participate. Contact *Mike Quinn*, SO-AN 7 if you're interested.

Division 8 – *Frank Lucca* has completed a number of PATON verification missions over the last several weeks. Eight PATONS were checked in Bullock's Cove and over 25 PATONs in Newport Harbor. In addition they did some work and training in the COLES RIVER with Scott McNary on his boat. Frank Lucca is presenting member training at Flotilla 84 August meeting on BRIDGE Discrepancies. Frank is available to present Bridge Programs to other Flotillas in Division 8 to start to set an ATON mindset in the Division.

Division 9 is planning an ATON Patrol on the Connecticut River. ANT Boston has offered their boat and SO-AN Charlie Lydon is looking for another Auxiliary OPFAC for the annual Patrol.

Division 11 is producing a mass of high-quality PATON verification reports. They have a long row to hoe with over 1,000 PATONs deployed throughout their AOR. *Don Abt* and ADSO *Bob Nolan* are quite active,

along with *Ernie LeBlanc*, *Howard Gosten* and *Bud Walls*. Recently, *Bob Nolan* obtained the fixes for the Parkers River Entrance buoys for NOAA.

CG ANT Woods Hole - Joe Marshall has been awarded the "*Sailor of the Quarter*" award. This is an award that is only given to regular Coast Guard personnel, by the ANT Team at Woods Hole. The presentation script follows:

From: **BMCS Eric Guerette**,
Officer in Charge: USCG ANT
Woods Hole
TO: **Joe Marshall**, USCG
Auxiliary
Subj: **SAILOR OF THE
QUARTER NOMINATION.**

1. USCG Ant Woods Hole has selected USCG Auxiliary member Joe Marshall as the SAILOR of the Quarter for the third quarter of 2008. Joe Marshall is responsible for maintaining the accuracy and record keeping of over 1200 private aids to navigation. Mr. Marshall, being an auxiliary member, donates his time for the benefit of this unit and the

local mariners. Mr. Marshall volunteers over 40 hours a week from his home and from his office allowing more time for active duty members of this unit to be available for operational tasks when the need arises.

Joe has served this unit for more than 17 years. This nomination is long over due. Hopefully the choice of this unit to select Joe Marshall as Sailor of the Quarter shows how much his hard work and dedication is appreciated by the crew and how vital a role he plays on this Aids to Navigation Team.

Congratulate Joe for his well deserved recognition for 17 plus years of dedication to the ANT Team at the Station when you next see him.

ADSO-AN, Boston, Jeff James is working with **Division 3 and 4** to document the many non-permitted aids in these AORs. There are many patrols being scheduled here to complete this job for ANT Boston.

It's time to get out and join the fun. We have hundreds of Federal Aids, Private Aids, Bridges, Small Craft Facilities and Chart Updating opportunities waiting for you.

For training materials, check out www.uscgaaan.com

For the Bridge Database, check out www.uscgauxnh.org/bridges/

For Flotilla and Division training sessions, contact your ADSO-AN or the DSO-AN. Check out www.uscgaaan.com/meet_the_an_team.htm

Get a strong sense of satisfactions by helping the Coast Guard.

“Will’s Gut”

Tom Raynor, ADSO-AN Maine says, “If I’ve ever seen a place where ATONs are needed, this passage (Will’s Gut) is it.”



How do you report this aid?

We often hear about problem aids to navigation that have been discrepant for many years. Want to get them corrected? Contact your Aid to Navigation Staff Officers and let them know your problem. We know how to get them fixed! The same goes for bridges.

Want to learn how to make a report that gets things fixed, read the new “Federal Short Range Aid to Navigation Study Guide” that can be found on the ATON Web Page on the AN Web Site at www.uscgaan.com .



NOTE to all AN Staff Officers:

August is a prime time to execute your ATON/CU Program for 2008. This is when you get the job done?

Executing your plan is essential! Without a plan, nothing ever gets done. As AN Staff Officers, you must provide the leadership to get the ATONs, PATONs, Bridges, Small Craft Facility checks and

Chart Updates done this summer. The Coast Guard is depending on you to get this important job accomplished.

AUGUST AN STAFF OFFICER ACTIVITY CHECK LIST



Here are the AN Tasks that you should be reviewing with your team members during August. Include the progress that you make as part of your monthly AN report. If you don't blow your own horn, often people think that you are not doing anything.

- Schedule and conduct ATON, PATON, and Chart Updating patrols. Get your ATON Program plan in full swing.*
- Continue to encourage your volunteers to perform their assigned PATON and Bridge verifications. August is the time to wrap up your lateral Private Aids to Navigation so there is time to get the owner to make the corrections.*
- Encourage your volunteers to perform Small Craft Facility Updating – invite your MV qualified members to participate.*
- Get interested AN and AV volunteers underway on OPFACs for on-the-job training on Federal Aids and Bridges.*
- August is the time of execution. So get out there observing and reporting.*

Auxiliarists, while underway on an OPFAC, should be checking every ATON, PATON and Bridge that they encounter for discrepancies, and also be checking the shoreline for charting errors as well as providing update reports on all Small Craft Facilities.

Navigation Systems Program updates

The Navigation Systems Division has been working to review and update guides, forms and training materials for use by AN staff officers in training their team volunteers and for developing and enhancing their local Aids to Navigation programs. An “Aids to Navigation Staff Officers Guide” has been developed and is currently in trial phase in the First District, Northern Region. In addition, review of guides, forms, training presentations, kits and handouts and background informational materials have been reviewed for current practices and accuracy for each of the five program areas – Federal Short Range Aids to Navigation, Private Aids to Navigation Program, Bridge Administration Program, NOAA Chart Updating Program and NOAA Small Craft Facility Updating Program. The goal is to replace existing outdated materials with up-to-date information. Approval has been received from NOAA for the new CU and SCF guides and user forms. Additionally, the goal is to minimize the requirement for paper reports and convert as many forms as possible to on-line preparation and submission. National review and approval is pending. **STATUS:** Program materials are at Aux Legal and concurrently being reviewed by Navigation Systems Division at CG Headquarters.

PATON Program Verification Tip

Often some Regulatory Buoys are described with a number, such as, “*Ocean Bay Regulatory Buoys 3.*” This is an indication that there are three regulatory buoys in the area. In this case, the AV only has to report that three buoys exist in this area. The only reportable discrepancy is when a regulatory buoy is located in a channel or fairway.

Renaming of the AN Department and AN Staff Officer positions.

At the June NEXCOM meeting the renaming of the Aids to Navigation staff officers to Navigation Systems was approved. No effective date for this change was established do to the need for changes to the Auxiliary Manual and AUXDATA. Additional name changes will remain open pending action by the National Board. The designation “AN” will be changed to “NS.” The Division’s name was changed to “Navigation System Division” last year and the Division Chief designation was changed to “DVC-MN.” Don’t order your letterhead or business cards yet – wait until this change is implemented.

**Bridge
Program
changes and
updates.**

If you haven't submitted a Bridge Report recently, you probably haven't seen the new screens nor received the new acknowledgement e-mails. The Bridge Branch in New York is also posting to the Bridge Database. They update each record when they inform the owner of your discrepancy report and when the owner notifies the Bridge Branch that the bridge has been repaired. You can check the progress of your report on the Bridge Database.

Access the database at www.uscgauxnh.org/bridges/. Use your access codes for the AUX E-Directory to log on.

Light List Notice

The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that, in order to adjust to a new printing cycle, it will not publish the 2008 editions of the Light Lists, except for Volume 5 (Mississippi River System). The agency is changing the publication cycle so that annual editions are available early in each calendar year. Since printing of the 2007 editions occurred in November 2007, they will remain effective for approximately 14 months.



**Please distribute this newsletter to other members of
the Coast Guard and Coast Guard Auxiliary.**

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Distribution of this Newsletter to other members of the Coast Guard and Auxiliary is encouraged.