



## July 2011 NS NEWSLETTER

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### **“There’s nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer!”**

This is especially true of the Aid Verifiers (AVs) and Navigation Systems staff officers of First Northern. They are currently submitting high quality reports and photographs which are clearing up much of the missing data in the PATON records. Just look at the number of corrections being reported in the LNM – Local Notice to Mariners. Now they are starting work on a potential 500 Non-Permitted Aid problem for the Coast Guard by posting Non-Permitted Spreadsheets on the NS Web Site and reporting monthly status. A copy of the new Non-Permitted PATON Guide accompanies this newsletter.

They are working at the ANT and DPW to provide data and evidence to the Coast Guard and, then are working with owners and harbormasters to get the PATON’s positions correct in the Light List and NOAA charts.

One of the major innovations this year is that the AVs are accepting personal responsibility for the PATONs and Bridges within their individual areas and are following up to insure that everything is watching properly using the new “PATON Problem Resolution Matrix” as a guide. This is making a big difference. A copy of this matrix accompanies this newsletter.

When you see the bridges in your area properly lighted and the private aids are watching properly, thank the devoted AVs in your Flotilla and Division for their service. They have very large hearts.



## **New Features on the PATON System:**

### **Can't find a PATON?**

For AUX Access only. Click on the One Page Verification Report. Drill down to the bottom of the report and you will now find a Google presentation showing the PATONs location. You can zoom in and out and access a satellite and a hybrid image. The system uses the Permitted Latitude and Longitude. This is also a good tool to take a quick look at whether the aid's position is correct. We already found a bunch of PATONs that were plotting on land and out to sea.

### **Official Image Photos?**

Submit Official Image Photos to the DSO-NS 013 or to Mike Quinn in the ANT Bristol AOR. The photo will appear at the end of the One Page Verification Report after the Google feature. Only photos showing no discrepancies will be updated. However, all photos will be used to help update the PATONs specifications. The photos already received have been great tools for correcting the PATON records. If there are problems with the PATONs, special reports will be prepared for the Coast Guard as evidence so that they can get the message to the owners.

Labeling photos correctly speeds up the process and cuts down on the work. Reference the Division where the PATON is located as the first two digits. Next list the LLNR (Light List Number) or the Aid Number. Add a brief description of the aid. For example 05-12230 Dor Bay 3 represents LLNR 12230 Dorchester Bay Channel Buoy 3 in Division 5. (Fictitious aid)

It is always a good idea to take a "Shutter Bug" from your flotilla with you on your NS Patrols. These members love to take pictures and a day on the water. Be sure to train them in proper photo labeling. Tell them to use the lowest pixel rate as possible on photos to save memory.

### **Discrepancy Photos?**

You now have the capability of adding discrepancy photos to your 7054 AV Verification Reports. These photos are valuable evidence to the Coast Guard not only as a help in clearly understanding the problem but also as evidence of any PATON violation. There is nothing better than a series of photos for explaining a complex issue. If you want to see fast results getting a PATON corrected, attach plenty of discrepancy photos to your reports.



**Only a discrepancy photo with your report could do this aid justice.**

## Now is time to start verifying and surveying!

As AVs, you have a big job to do this year. Here is a criteria reminder:

1. Verify all of the Bridges in your area.
2. Verify one-third of the PATONs in your area using the following priorities:
  - a. Verify the PATONs that were not verified last year as you first priority.
  - b. Verify all of these PATONs even if it is more that one-third of the aids in your area.
  - c. Verify lateral aids over regulatory aids.
  - d. Take Formal Image photos and send them to the DSO-NS.
  - e. Attach discrepancy photos to your verification reports.
3. Follow the new guidelines for locating and reporting Non-Permitted Aids to Navigation. (Guideline accompanies this newsletter.

### 24 Hour AV Assistance is Available

The DSO-NS is available 24 hrs a day to respond to your problems.

E-mail at [FrankJLarkin@verizon.net](mailto:FrankJLarkin@verizon.net). E-mails are checked many times daily.

Phone at 978-263-3023. This is my home phone so leave a message if I am out.

Cell phone at 617-997-7423. I usually carry this phone with me.



*Under the Privacy Act of 1974, all information in this newsletter may only be used for official purposes. Any other use is a violation of law. This newsletter was prepared and published by the First Northern Navigation Systems Team. [FrankJLarkin@verizon.net](mailto:FrankJLarkin@verizon.net)  
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