



NOVEMBER 2011 NAVIGATION SYSTEMS NEWSLETTER

LATEST STATS ARE IN FOR THE 2011 AUXILIARY PATON PROGRAM

The 2011 PATON goal was the verification of one-third of the aids. Great job!

PATON Program Status as of 11/03/2011



Sector	Total Aids	Total Verified on system	Missed Must be Verified	Estimated Percent Complete In 2011
Boston	494	337	49	68.2%
SENE	1,690	706	241	41.8%
Woods Hole	1,250	512	199	45.8%
Bristol	440	194	42	44.3%
NENE	410	144	158	35.1%
Southwest Harbor	183	57	125	31.1%
South Portland	227	87	33	38.3%
TOTAL	2,594	1,187	448	45.8%

How's that for taking a load off the Coast Guard's back! Great Job!

THE NAVIGATION SYSTEM PROGRAM SEASON IS NEVER OVER!

Contrary to popular opinion, the Navigation Systems Program operates year round. Here are some options for your consideration:

Annual designated PATONs can be verified all year. Some of these aids are fixed lights that are located on land. Check the PATON listing for your AOR. Click on the “One Page Verification Report” and review the “Action Requested” field. If it indicates, “ANNUAL,” the PATON can be verified all year long.

ACTION REQUESTED:	Annual
AID DURATION:	Set: Pull:

Bridges can be verified all year. Bridges that show open discrepancies or have not been surveyed will appear when you check the “Not Checked” option.

U.S. COAST GUARD AUXILIARY
District 1 Northern Region
Aids to Navigation Team - Bridge Database
Select Division: 05 Select Flotilla: All
Exclude Class 4 Bridges? Yes No
Filter: Discrepancies? Flagged? Not Checked? No Filter

The Bridge system shows a variety of options. You can *check on existing discrepancies* and report whether or not they have been corrected. You can *perform a survey* on the bridge. Or, you can *correct the specifications* on the bridge.

Many Divisions have not yet checked all of their bridges this year so there is still a lot of work to do. There are many great days for a quick day trip this time of year.

Chart Updating is a year round activity. Just scan your local chart and I am sure that you will find a lot of chart updating opportunities. There will be name errors, new facilities, abandoned facilities, shoreline changes, wrecks, etc. Check the **Chart Updating Guidelines** on the CU Web Page at www.uscgaan.com for details.

Small Craft Facility Updating is another year round activity. Check your local area for these marine facilities. There is a **Small Craft Facility Guideline** for this program on the SCF Web page at www.uscgaan.com.

Keep your Navigation Systems plan active by enhancing it with chart updating and small craft facility programs in your area.



NEW AV PQS Approved by National

National has issued an AV PQS recently. Any Auxiliarist who now wants to become AV Qualified must comply with this instruction as well as First District requirements focused on using the On-Line PATON System. There will be a full day Aid Verifier Qualification Workshop at the [April District Workshop](#). E-Mail your ADSO-NS for a copy of the AV PQS and the D1 requirements. Use the information provided on the D1 NR Navigation Systems web site at www.uscgaan.com for self training and orientation on the bridge program requirements.

GET YOUR PATON VERIFICATION REPORTS TRANSMITTED!

If you are sitting on any PATON verification reports that have not yet been transmitted, please get them done as soon as possible. If you don't time to process them, stick them in an envelop and mail them to the DSO at "[Frank Larkin, 107 Concord Road, Acton, MA 01720](#)" and we will get them entered on the PATON System for you. The important goal is that they get recorded and any discrepancies get acted upon by the PATON owners before next Spring before the boating season starts.

If you participated in the 2011 PATON and BRIDGE program this year, be sure to get your 7030 AUXDATA Activity reports to your SO-IS ASAP!

There is a possibility of an AV activity award this year and you don't want to miss out. Don't wait for the last minute and overload your IS Officer. Reporting our activity to AUXDATA is the main method that we get recognition for our Navigation Systems activity by the Coast Guard. By withholding this information, you are actually hurting our program.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR ALL NEW AID VERIFIERS:

The New AV-PQS involves a new competency that requires all **NEW** Aid Verifiers (AV) to have the 8 Hr TCT every 5 years and the 1 Hr TCT in between to maintain annual AV Certification.

AUXDATA will be tracking this requirement. This requirement is not required for grandfathered AV's at this time.

AV's who are not Boat Crew or Coxswain qualified, you may want think about taking the 8 Hr TCT and do the 1 Hr TCT in between. This TCT requirement can change at any time for all AVs.

**“All Auxiliaries
when underway should be checking all
Aids to Navigations
for any type of **Discrepancy**
and, also should be checking the
Charts, Coast Pilot & Shoreline
for any type of **Charting Errors**
as well as providing update reports on
Charts, Small Crafts Facilities & Coast Pilots.”**

Many AVs get freaked out by the idea of being wrong. It makes them feel insecure. If you can be wrong about this or that, what about the all the other stuff that they think they know? And, the more important the subject, the more unnerving this emotion becomes. It may not be too scary about a math concept, but how about what other people may think? What will the Coast Guard think?

This problem goes to the heart of much unsound thinking and their lack of action. After we leave school, people tend to head down one of two paths.

1. They close their minds to new or different information and activity while becoming surer of themselves.
2. They watch, listen and learn as they get older. This second road has a lot more pitfalls and curves, but it is also the path to wisdom and knowledge.

Perhaps this problem is at the core of non-participation in the Navigation Systems programs. If feel that you have taken the first path, now is the time to break out and take advantage of the NS educational opportunities that we are offering in 2012.

What type of aid is SHOWN in this photo?

How is it used in the waterway?

What does it mean with the red top band?

What would it mean with green top band?

Is this aid lighted?

As shown, what is its light characteristic and color?



Winter Training Conference – January 7 and 8, 2012

All Navigation Systems Staff Officers should plan to attend this important training opportunity so that you will fully understand what is required of you during the 2012 season. Here is what is planned for the weekend.

Saturday, January 7, 2010

Senior Navigation Systems Staff will be available all day Saturday to answer your questions, do AV/PQS testing and check offs, and to provide answers to your PATON and Bridge System computer problems. We will have on-line computers available on site. Bring your laptop computer in and get it upgraded to the **CPN** on-line chart system at no charge to you. Look for the lighted aids to navigation.

Sunday, January 8, 2010 10:30 to 1300 – Navigation Systems Officers Workshop.

All Navigation Systems Staff Officers are urged to attend this important workshop that will outline and briefly explain what is expected of them during 2012. All five Navigation System programs will be included – **ATONs, PATONs, Bridges, Chart Updating and Small Craft System Updating**. If you are a newly appointed staff officer, this session is a must for you.

DID YOU KNOW?

During 2011, 85% of the appointed Navigation Systems Staff Officers in First Northern have not shown any activity or submit any reports. This is a disgrace. Come to the January Conference and find out that you have been assigned to an important job and that the Coast Guard is depending on you for information and support. *Don't let them down this year!* Just imagine the results that could have been achieved with their assistance.

Navigation System Training Programs will be offered on “WebEX” in 2012.

WebEx is a web-based service, that can be used from any computer (Windows, Mac, Linux, or Solaris) – as well as your iPhone, BlackBerry, or any other Wi-Fi or 3G-enabled mobile device. There's no complicated installation. You just log into your WebEx account to start or schedule a session. AVs don't need to be WebEx subscribers to join the online training sessions.

Some of the planned training topics will be:

- Using the PATON System
 - Logging on.
 - Registering.
 - PATON applications.
 - AV system orientation.
 - One Page Verification Report orientation.
 - Preparing and transmitting an AV Verification Reports.
- Using the Bridge System.
- Chart Updating.
- Small Craft Facility Updating.
- Checking ATONs.

The training process will be conducted on line on your home computer from the comfort of your home.

- The various training sessions will be published in this Newsletter on the First Northern Web Site.

- Participants will sign up for specific sessions and will be given passwords for the specific sessions.
- At the scheduled time, participants will log-on to the session.

Participants will view the training presentations on their home computer. The remote instructors will make the presentation from their home.

This training approach will save wear and tear on the NS instructors and provide training to Auxiliarists throughout the District. There will be more on this program at the January Conference. In the meantime we will be learning more about the system.



*We are so thankful for all of you
Auxiliarists who helped make 2011
such a successful year!*

PLEASE PASS OR E-MAIL THIS NEWSLETTER ON TO YOUR FLOTILLA COMMANDER AND USE THE INFORMATION AS PART OF YOUR NS MONTHLY DIVISION REPORT.

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Distribution is encouraged to other members of the Coast Guard and CG Auxiliary