United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

First Northern Navigation Systems
We verify the AtoNs and PATONs, check the Bridges, and update the Charts
of First Northern

January 2013

Navigation Systems Newsletter
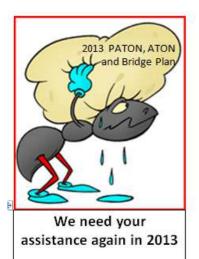
From the DSO-NS 013

We are beginning a new year of working with the Coast Guard and NOAA. Our Navigation Systems 2013 Goals and Objective have been established. We are launching many training opportunities for our AVs using WebEX on-line training. We are also adding commentary to our PowerPoint training presentations on our Web Site at www.uscgaan.com. Take a look at your 2012 AV performance statistics. Our thanks go out to all of the AVs who contributed to our great achievements and goals in 2012.

USCG AUXILIARY

NAVIGATION SYSTEMS

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2012 PATON System results – **1.**

2013 Navigation Systems Goals and Objectives – **1, 2.**

New Release of Federal Regulations – PATONs – **2.**

Paddle Smart Announcement – **3.**

Navigation Systems Bridge Training – WebEX – **3 4.**

Annual Navigation Systems Workshop – **5.**

The Suggested Navigation Systems Activity Calendar for February and March – **6.**

It was a great year in 2012 . . .

	Total	Verified	Percent
Sector NNE			
ANT Southwest Harbor	166	65	39.1%
ANT South Portland	263	90	34.2%
STA Burlington	78	13	16.7%
Total Sector NNE	**507**	**168**	**33.1%**
Sector Boston			
ANT Boston	479	371	77.4%
Total Sector Boston	**479**	**371**	**77.4%**
Sector SENE			
ANT WoodsHole	1,327	479	36.1%
ANT Bristol	476	253	53.1%
Total Sector SSNE	**1,803**	**732**	**40.6%**
Total First Northern	**2,789**	**1,270**	**45.5%**

We started with a goal to verify 1/3 of the PATONs but actually verified over 45% of the PATONs during 2013. Thanks to every AV who participated. Thanks for your service to the Coast Guard.

2013 PATON, ATON and Bridge Plan

We need your assistance again in 2013

The 2013 NS Goals and Objectives
PATON GOALS FOR 2013:
Priority 1 - Verify one-third of the scheduled PATONs in each Division and Patrol Area.

These scheduled PATONs are now showing in the Check Out section on the AV screen that appears when you log on using AV access codes. The scheduled PATONs are listed by Patrol Area by PATON name, alphabetically. You are required to submit on-line 7054 AV Verification Reports for these PATONs.

Priority 2 – Check every PATON in each Patrol Area.

The checking process is simpler than a regular verification. Only those PATONs that are observed with a discrepancy(s) are reported to the Coast Guard. However, AUXDATA credit may be taken for every PATON that is checked.

Priority 3 – Review the PATONs with missing or wrong owner information.

Each owner must have an assigned "*Local Authority*" in order for the POC to be able to log on and view, update and correct their online PATON permits. AVs should check this owner data and supply any information or clues relating to the current owner. If you don't know any information, it is not a problem. Most of this owner information has already been corrected.

BRIDGE GOALS FOR 2013

Survey all Class 1, 2 and 3 bridges in your Patrol Area.

Submit a Bridge Survey Report or Bridge Discrepancy Report for every scheduled Bridge that you survey. You may take credit for your activity for every Bridge that you report. All Bridge reports must be submitted on line using the Bridge Database System. If a bridge is not navigable from the sea, submit a Bridge Update Report to change the Class Code to a Class 4 and we will not need to survey that bridge again. Do not survey Class 4 Bridges unless specifically requested to by the Coast Guard.

FEDERAL AID (ATON) GOALS FOR 2013

Check all ATONs (Federal Aids) within your AOR

While you are checking all of the PATONs in your Patrol Areas, we want you to check all the Federal aids in the area. You would report all observed discrepancies to the Coast Guard. These aids would be checked not verified. Activity credit is allowed in AUXDATA for every ATON that you check.

When an Auxiliary Staff Officer doesn't make a detailed plan for achieving their assigned goals and objectives, it's a *sure bet* that nothing will get accomplished in that Flotilla or Division during 2013.

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This is a new release of a Federal Regulation that affects aids to navigation.

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS -TITLE 33 PART 70 - INTERFERENCE WITH OR DAMAGE TO AIDS TO NAVIGATION

No person, shall take possession of or make use of for any purpose, or build upon, alter, deface, destroy, move, injure, obstruct by fastening vessels thereto or otherwise, or in any manner whatever impair the usefulness of any aid to navigation established and maintained by the United States. Recently several offshore NOAA data buoys parted their moorings and became adrift due to excessive strain on the mooring. These navigational data buoys collect valuable on scene weather data for all mariners. These buoys are anchored to the seabed, and some have a watch circle radius of over 1 nautical mile. Once the mooring is parted and the buoy is adrift only certain Coast Guard resources can reset the aid back on its intended station. Coordinating of resources to retrieve the buoy, and place it back on station is time consuming and sometimes take weeks, thus valuable weather information cannot be obtained and relayed to mariners in need of it. Mariners are advised not to interfere with these aids to navigation and report any sightings of vessels tied off to them to the U.S. Coast Guard. Interference with or intentional damage to Aids to Navigation is a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine not exceeding the sum of **$500** for each offense. (33 CFR 70.0l).

Our Navigation Systems Staff and AVs are urged to assist with the "**Wear It**" and "**Paddle Smart**" programs during 2013 as part of their affiliation with the Prevention Department. AVs and Coxswains are being asked to promote these programs by handing out brochures and boat stickers in sealed polybags to marinas, yacht clubs, boat ramps and any other place where kayakers and canoeists congregate. AVs and Staff will be asked to make up a few kits and have them available on their OPFACs or their personal vehicles for hand out as opportunities are presented. The DSO-NS is preparing some suggested activities that can easily be managed as part of our regular Navigation System activities. More instructions, ideas and guidelines will follow in the February Navigation Systems Newsletter.

Navigation Systems Bridge Training Announcement

For: **Tuesday evening, February 5, 2012 – 8:00 to 10:00 PM.**

Place: **The comfort of your home.**

How to Survey Bridges - AV Training Session

- **Bridge Lighting and Safety Equipment.**
  This PowerPoint presentation explains the different types of bridges, explains the lighting standards for bridges and highlights the typical discrepancies that may be found on bridges.

- **Logging on to the on-line Bridge System in First Northern.**
  The logging on process and required access codes are explained.

- **Review of the five Bridge Program screens:**
  - **Show Bridge Details Screen.** Provides a view of the bridges specification and photo. No reports can be sent from this screen.
  - **Bridge Discrepancy Reporting Screen.** Learn how to report a discrepancy to the CG Bridge Branch.
  - **Bridge Discrepancy Resolution Screen.** Provides a means to report when discrepancies are observed as corrected in the field.
  - **Annual Bridge Survey Screen.** Provides a simple method to submit an annual survey report when the bridge is watching properly.
  - **Update Bridge Physical Characteristics Screen.** Provides a method to report corrections to the bridge's specifications.
- **How to prepare an AUXDATA 7030 Activity Report on the Bridge System**. Provides a quick way to submit a 7030 report while still logged onto the bridge system. This is a convenient time-saving tool for the AV. Only bridges can be reported using this feature.

In preparation for this session, read the *Navigation Systems Bridge Training Guide* before attending this session. It is available on the Bridge Web Page on the Navigation Systems Web Site at www.uscgaan.com.

This Bridge training is part of the Aid Verifier Qualification process.

Performing Bridge Surveys is an all year round Navigation Systems program. Bridge goals require that every class 1, 2 and 3 bridges be surveyed by AVs.

"*It's always a lot easier to report discrepancies on ATONs, PATONs, Bridges and Charts than to have to respond to a serious boating accident.*

Prevention is our number one job as members of the First Northern Navigation Systems Team.

ANNUAL NAVIGATION SYSTEMS WORKSHOP NOTICE

It's important, as an active AV, that you attend an Annual 2013 Navigation Systems Workshop so that you clearly understand what is required of you in 2013. We have taken a lot of confusion out of the plan this year. The Goals and Objectives have been published on page 2 above. In order to insure that every AV has an opportunity to attend a workshop this year, we are offering a variety of attendance options.

1. We already presented the workshop at the January District Conference.
2. We are offering the Navigation Systems in a WebEX presentation on Tuesday, March 20. Notices will follow.
3. A Navigation Systems Workshop will be presented on Sunday, April 14th at the District Awards Conference at the Marriot in Newport, RI.
4. Workshop PowerPoint Presentations with voice over commentary will be available.

We understand that many AVs still live far away and will not be able to get to the April Conference. Also, there are those AVs who will not be able to participate in the March WebEX training due to schedule conflicts and the 25 person limit on the session. Then we have the annual Florida migrations. *So, in order to reach out to every AV, we are adding voice over commentary to all of the slides in 2013 Navigation Workshop PowerPoint presentations*. This provides the following additional training options:

1. AVs will be able to download the Workshop PowerPoint presentation that have the voice commentary to their own PC and click through each presentation at their time and place. A "Speaker" icon appears on each slide. You just have to click on the icon to listen to the commentary.
2. AV Staff, using a PC with speakers and a PowerPoint projector, can present the NS workshop using the special PowerPoint presentations to a group of AVs at a Division or Flotilla meeting.

We are trying to reach out to every AV in the District so that they feel part of the NS Programs and receive the most current information. The 2013 Navigation Systems Works contain the following presentations.

1. Navigation Systems Goals and Objectives with commentary – 20 training slides.
2. Part 66 – Federal Regulations – PATONs with commentary – 23 training slides.
3. Navigation Systems Operations Guide Presentation with commentary– 52 training slides.
4. Vertical and Horizontal Error Calculator – Excel.
5. Is this PATON Watching Properly with commentary – 22 training slides.
6. Using an Accuracy Statement Presentation with commentary – 22 training slides.
7. How to properly report your NS activity to AUXDATA with commentary.

We are working hard to communicate to our AVs and keep them up to date. We need your help to make Navigation Systems the best organization in the CG Auxiliary.

For now, contact the DSO-NS for copies of these new presentations by e-mail. They have not been added to the D1NR Web Site yet.

The Navigation Systems Staff Activity Calendar For February and March, 2013

FEBRUARY

1. Start compiling a list of your AV volunteers and Operation Facilities (**OPFACs**) that will be available for ATON patrols during the year in your AOR. Each SO-NS will receive 2013 Navigation Systems Report from the DSO-NS.

- Review your AV-qualified list and encourage these members to attend the annual AV Workshop(s).

- If anyone has lost their AV Qualifications, have them notify the DSO-NS if they want to become active in 2013. Most AVs who have been inactive for a few years need to attend an AV Workshop. AVs who have been inactive for five or more years will have to re-qualify as an AV under the new AV/PQS.

2. Review the NS training needs of your Auxiliary NS volunteers. A set of PowerPoint presentations are available on the First Northern (P)ATON/CU Web Site at www.USCGAAN.com. Many of these presentations are being converted to voice-over slides with commentary for self training.

3. Keep an eye on the First Northern Web Site for scheduled ATON, Bridge, and Chart-Updating training programs. Pass the word to your NS volunteers.

4. Ask your NS Staff Officers to assist you with the training and to keep you informed of any special (P)ATON Training programs that will be held in your AOR. Also, keep an eye on the NS Newsletter for training information.

5. Let everyone know that Corrected Light Lists, LNMs, and updated Coast Pilots are now available on the Internet. Check the First Northern Navigation Systems Web Site for links. Because these documents are being corrected and updated, plan to print out only the pages that you need as close to the Patrol Date as possible.

6. Let everyone know about the free Open/CPN charts that are available for download from the Navigation Systems Web Site at www.uscgaan.com. The charts from Maine to New Jersey are in the pack. These charts are updated every two weeks on line on the web site.

7. Finalize and publish your 2013 Navigation Systems Plan.

8. Your Bridge Checking program, Chart Updating, and Small Craft Facility programs should be on-going.

MARCH

1. Make plans to attend the April Awards Conference.

2. Get commitment from your Aid Verifier (AV) volunteers and explain to them how to print out the Bridge Safety Check / Survey Reports on their home PC.

3. Set dates for your Division NS Workshops. There are plenty of PowerPoint NS training programs available for this purpose. Powerpoint presentations are available with voice over commentary for self training and local NS Workshops. E-mail the DSO-NS for copies of these special training tools.

4. Plan to attend the Navigation Systems training programs at the District Awards at the Marriot in Newport, RI on April 13 and 14th. Watch the NS Newsletter for details.

5. Your Bridge Checking program, Chart Updating, and Small Craft Facility programs should be on-going during MARCH.

Navigation Systems Staff Monthly Reports

Every Navigation Systems Staff Officer is required, upon accepting their office, to make monthly reports up their chain of command – FSO to SO to ADSO to DSO. These monthly reports should also be sent to your elected officers – Flotilla Commanders, Division Captains, and District Prevention Staff.

Here is the standard report format:

Accomplishments of Note:

List the significant things that you did during the month relating to your Navigation Systems responsibilities – planning – meetings – workshops – Av training - patrols, etc.

Programs:

Report the status of special Navigation Systems programs that you are working on in your AOR – Wear It – Paddle Smart – assisting the CG ANT, etc.

For the Good of the Auxiliary:

List anything that needs to be improved.

Monthly reports keep everything informed about the activity you are instigating in your AOR as part of your Staff Office's assigned responsibility. It is extremely important that we all promote our program and the monthly report is an effective tool to accomplish this goal. We have a lot of work to do this year and, you, as a NS Staff Officer, are a critical link to our success. If you do not perform these responsibilities, you can leave a large hole in our program or cause others to have to fill in and do your job for you.