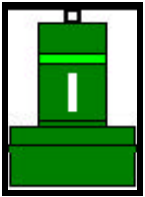# Welcome to the
United States Coast Guard Auxiliary
Private Aid to Navigation Program - PAtoN

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

Guidelines for the Private Aid - PAtoN Verification program . . .

As with the other four 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 measuring equipment used for high-quality observations of an aid, and for professional on-line report preparation.

This training guide features fixes taken with 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. A revised *NS-PN03-PAtoN Discrepancy Report* format is provided that further enhances the professionalism of PAtoN discrepancy reporting to the Coast Guard from the Auxiliary. Some districts use I-ATONIS Aid Verification Reports, PIDs, and on-line PAtoN reporting systems.

New PAtoN tools are <u>temporarily</u> provided for download to your home computer at www.uscgaan.com until the Navigation Systems Division PAtoN Web Page is developed.

NS-PN01 **PAtoN PROGRAM HAND OUT** Use this hand-out to promote your Private Aid to Navigation program with your members.
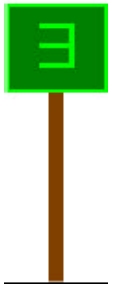
NS-PN02 **33 CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS – Private Aids** This excerpt from the Code of Federal Regulations is full of information about the various classes of Private Aids to Navigation and the rules governing private aids. Guidelines for taking and reporting fixes and depths are the same as explained 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 is also a great tool for documenting Non-Permitted Private aids.

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) used in First Northern. It takes you through the initial registering process to the verification of the private aid and the report to the ANT Chief. 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 will need an access code to use the system and you must be AV Qualified to perform verifications on private aids.

NS-PN07–**NON-PERMITTED PATON REPORT** Use this form to report non-permitted private aids to your Auxiliary CG ANT Liaison (ADSO-NS or designate). Instructions are included at the right hand side. Note, that without the name of the owner and a means to contact the owner, the CG ANT is at a loss to contact anyone who will get this problem resolved. Specifications on non-permitted aids are only corrected in the Light List when the owner submits an application for a permit or application correction to CG DPW. These corrections are usually initiated by Auxiliary verification reports to the Coast Guard.

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 PATON that they pass while underway for discrepancies. Now, there is provision to take credit for your underway time and your NS activity in AUXDATA whether or not you observe a discrepancy on a Private Aid to Navigation. 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.

Checking Private Aids to Navigation-PAtoNs is a seasonal activity in some areas. Generally, you need access to a OPFAC-operational facility to participate. 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, and your desire to make a difference.

"EVERY AUXILIARIST, WHILE UNDERWAY ON AN AUXILIARY OPFAC SHOULD BE CHECKING AND REPORTING ALL DISCREPANCY(S) TO THEIR CG ANT ON EVERY FEDERAL AID, PRIVATE AID AND BRIDGE THAT THEY OBSERVE. ALSO, THEY SHOULD BE CHECKING THE SHORELINE FOR CHARTED ERRORS OR OMISSIONS AND REPORTING THEM TO NOAA."