

United States Coast Guard Auxiliary

FIRST SOUTHERN AID TO NAVIGATION TEAM

JULY ATON NEWSLETTER

July 2007



Notes From The DSO-AN

The D1SR Aids to Navigation Department is very lucky to have such a dedicated staff. The three ADSO's who have been in the program for years have worked tirelessly every year to get the program up and running . This year was one of the most problematic years with problems such as no formal qualification system, shortage of ADSO's , no uniform program etc.

Thanks to Jim Reznik for getting together with the Sector NY Atons office and working out the bugs an establishing a workable plan for the Sector Gold & silver. Jim's expertise in the ATON PATON field never ceases to amaze me .Jim has also taken Division 10 into his jurisdiction therefore easing some of the confusion with the AN Teams

Tom Fisher has been working with the SFO Moriches AtoN Team since last winter trying to set up a system that would have the Auxiliary making the entries into the Harbormaster.com program and also sending out the Discrepancy reports to the PATON owners. That would relieve the ANT of a task that they do not have the personal to handle.

Kevin Redden has been working with the bridge program trying to set up a system for online reporting. He has been advertising for a computer person who can help him with it. Kevin is also involved with the National AtoN program besides taking care of our web site and the newsletter.

We are happy to welcome Jim Wilson into the Team as ADSO-AN Sector NY North Burlington and Richard Kinch as ADSO-AN Sector LIS North. All we need now is for someone to take the ADSO-AN NY North Saugerties position and we will be fully staffed.

So far the program is working well and we have already surpassed the whole report record for Bridge Discrepancies of 2006 and it's only the end of July.

Richard Mullare
DSO-AN, 1SR

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AV Qualification

By DSO-AN Richard Mullare

With the help of many people including The Director, The OTO and The DDC-R (Gail Venizio) we now have a workable AV qualification system in District 1SR. The DSO-AN, ADSO-AN and any member of the AN Teams are qualified to give the training program and each member will have to complete a PQS. The completed PQS will then be sent, along with a request letter from the Trainer to the DIRAUX office, and the candidate will be entered into Auxdata and receive a certificate from the Director of Auxiliary D1SR. Once qualified, there will be no need to re-qualify unless there is a major change in the program.

Congratulations!!!! “It’s a Buoy”

By JAMES A. REZNIK



Photo: Rose Covert

It took approximately a year and a half of being persistent along with many phone calls, photos and meetings with the NJ State Police Marine Division, NJ AtoN Unit, NJ Fish & Game and the DEP, but it finally happened. A “NO WAKE” buoy has been put into use in Matawan Creek this month.

Matawan Creek is in a marsh area located in Monmouth County, NJ. This marsh is plagued with jet skis, wave runners and speedboats that venture where they don’t belong and cause damage to the marsh and it’s wildlife.

The true test now is to see if boaters will obey the new “no wake” zone and if it will be enforced.

It took awhile, but it was well worth the wait.

News From SectorNY-North - Burlington

As the newest member of the D1SR ATON team, I want to say how excited I am to begin work in this important area. The more I look into the details of this job, the more I realize just how much effort it requires to do it well. I sincerely hope that I am up to the task, and am looking forward to giving it my "best shot". On the positive side, I've already been offered help by all the other ATON team members as well as the staff at Station Burlington, and for this I am most appreciative. With this, I feel a tremendous level of support, and, based on this, I hope that I can report much progress in the next newsletter.

On 28 April, eight members of the division have completed the ATON Verifier class at Station Burlington. Because of a paperwork glitch, the certifications for these members has not been issued at this date. BM2 Rucker, the course instructor, and I have discussed the problem, and it should soon be resolved.

In early May I traveled to Station Burlington. BM2 Rucker and I spent most of the day going through PATON files and calling the people responsible for the PATONS not currently listed with the Coast Guard. We discovered that many PATON permits have been issued by USACE (United States Army Corps of Engineers) without notifying the Coast Guard. This has led to some problems with our ability to keep up-to-date records. District is currently working on an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with USACE to try to rectify this problem.

In early June, Craig Hammer (FSO-AN 15-09) and I attended the ATON C-School at the U.S. Coast Guard Training Center (CG TraCen) located in Yorktown, Va. There we received intensive training in ATON/PATON verifying, Bridge inspection, Chart Updating, and Small Craft Facility updating. Our instructors were from D1NR, D1SR, NOAA and Sector Northern New England. Based on the information received in the training sessions, it is hoped that we can establish and maintain a viable, self-sustaining ATON/PATON verification program in the Division.

I have been informed that the Coast Guard is receiving verification forms on Federal ATONS that are legally the responsibility of the Coast Guard. The practice of inspection of Federal ATONS is actually a waste of time in that the Coast Guard is mandated by law to check these ATONS regardless of whether or not the Auxiliary has verified that they are "watching properly". We should concentrate all our verification efforts on PATONS, Bridges, Small Craft Facilities and Chart updating. This would be of great benefit to the Coast Guard.

Jim Wilson
ADSO-AN SectorNY-North Burlington

News From SFO-Moriches

Divisions 1, 13 and 18 have commenced their Paton Verification mission, for about 1,000 Patons in their AOR. Volunteer Database Updaters are awaiting instructions and guidelines from ANT Moriches on this new formidable task, which updates the previous years Database with the results of this year's verification.

Thomas Fisher
ADSO-AN SFO-Moriches

The 1SR Bridge Program

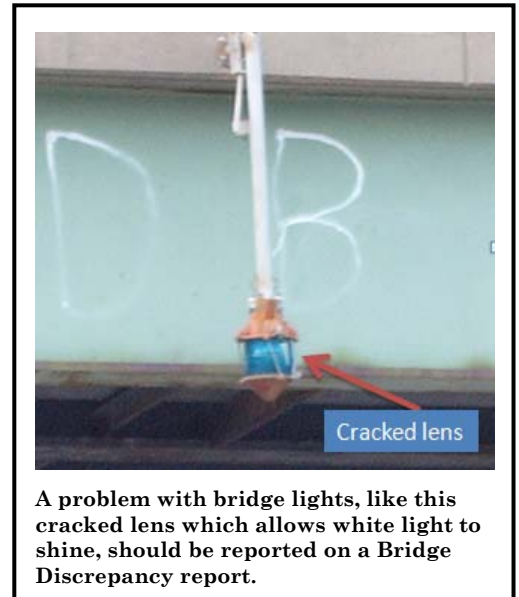
Division 10 has been going strong in checking the numerous bridges on the Hackensack and Passaic Rivers. Between David Salt checking many of the Passaic River bridges, and Bob McHugh and Al Olsen doing the Hackensack River bridges, the majority of the bridges on these two busy rivers have now been checked, with Division 10 now having submitted more bridge discrepancy reports than all other divisions combined!

As of result of this work, the Coast Guard has ordered numerous bridge owners to make repairs on the bridges, many extinguished bridges lights have now been relit, and even a chart update is in process to correct how the Rt. 46 bridge at Lodi is charted (it's a bascule bridge not a fixed bridge as the chart says).

Divisions 2 and 4 have also been active checking the bridges on the Raritan and Shrewsbury Rivers and the Arthur Kill.

The south shore of Long Island and the coast of Connecticut both have a high concentration of bridges, but so far the divisions in these areas have not yet become active in the bridge program. If facility owners keep some blank bridge discrepancy reports on board their facilities, it becomes easy to report problems that are found on patrol.

When you report a problem on a bridge, if the Coast Guard bridge office orders the owner to make repairs, a copy of the repair order letter comes back to us. This will let you see the outcome of your actions, as well as letting you know when to look at the bridge again and check if the repairs have been completed.



Web Help Wanted

The ATON Department is looking for a web programmer to help take the district's Bridge Program to a new 21st century level of operation, moving away from paper reports to using the web for direct on-line entry of bridge discrepancies. The job candidate should have strong experience with web based data entry development, HTML, ASP, SQL and Dreamweaver or Expression Web. Must have strong technical web development skills as well as being a good team player. Members interested in working on this interesting and rewarding project should contact ADSO-AN Kevin Redden.

News From Sector-NY South

- PatoN Verification and AtoN / PatoN Discrepancy Reports are needed from Divisions 10, 11 & 12. No reports have been submitted.
- The regular A/Vs from Divisions 2, 4 & 14 have been submitting their reports as usual. Keep up the good work!
- There will be a minimal amount of PatoNs to be verified for Divisions 2, 4 & 14, because the CG is requiring that the PatoNs be verified according to their classification.
- The AtoN program will now be maintained by SECNY leaving the local ANTs to concentrate on the repairs and placement of aids.
- The CG has also taken over my web based PatoN list and will be maintain it.
- All PatoNs that need to be verified for 2007 on listed on the following web site. <http://www.uscg.mil/d1/units/actny/mrd/paton.html>
- All Critical or Urgent AtoN Discrepancies must be called in to the Command Center at 718-354-4353 immediately, so that repairs can be made as soon as possible without delay.
- The A/V Course PQS have been completed and are posted on the District web site. If you are a coxswain, certain sections of the PQS have been approved to be waived, since you have been already trained in these areas. All others and non-coxswains will have to complete all of the required PQS.
- A written A/V test is still under development along with updating the A/V Power Point program.

James A. Reznik
ADSO-AN SectorNY-South

D1SR Aids to Navigation Web Site

www.boatmoves.com/CGAux/aton.htm

The District 1SR ATON web site has been updated with the latest ATON and Bridge discrepancy report forms. Members should be aware that the Form 5074 on the National Forms web site is not used in 1SR. Please use the more detailed form on the district web site.

After some confusion regarding the proper routing of ATON discrepancy reports surfaced this spring, a page has been added to the web site to detail the routing of all discrepancy reports (ATON, PATON and Bridge). This page is reachable for the main page of the ATON web site. All AN program reports submitted should follow the flow detailed on this page.

YOUR FIRST SOUTHERN AID TO NAVIGATION TEAM LEADERSHIP

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SO-ANs and FSO-ANs: Please forward this newsletter down the chain to all flotilla members!

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