

FAQ Source Page

WHAT IS COOPERATIVE CHARTING?

Cooperative Charting is the name of the program of civic service conducted by the United States Power Squadrons (USPS) in close coordination with the Marine Chart Division, National Ocean Service (NOS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The Program is administered cooperatively by the Marine Chart Division and the national USPS Cooperative Charting Committee.

The Program is a major public service of USPS. Under it, USPS members supply information to the Marine Chart Division leading to the production "of accurate and up-to-date nautical charts" and related publications. Cooperative Charting is recognized as the most effective user-participation program in all of the Federal services.

WHAT TYPES OF CIVIC SERVICE ARE PERFORMED?

The Program provides a variety of services in support of our nation's charting authority! We supply information leading to corrections to nautical charts, small craft charts and Coast Pilot publications. It has been estimated that each year USPS contributes an estimated value of service to the U.S. Government of \$15 to \$20 million of effort through our reporting program. In a time of continually decreasing NOAA budgets, this figure could increase as requests for our services grow and NOAA resources shrink.

HOW DOES USPS EFFORTS IN THIS PROGRAM BENEFIT THE PUBLIC?

USPS members act as field observers for NOAA. They are uniquely suited to this role because of the outstanding education and training they receive through the USPS educational program. As the number of official NOAA observers decrease through budget stringency's, USPS members report on many items that would otherwise go undetected and unreported. Many of these reports are of a critical nature requiring immediate distribution through the Coast Guard's broadcast and published "Local Notice to Mariners."

Without these USPS observations, many hazards would go undetected until tragedy strikes through a nautical mishap. Thus, USPS members save lives and property, as well as furthering boating safety through these efforts to improve the quality of our nation's charts. The Cooperative Charting Program is a highly successful, public service effort dedicated to the advancement of safety on the water for both the boating public and USPS members.

WHAT KINDS OF ACTIVITIES CAN INDIVIDUALS DO IN CoCh?

Nautical Chart Corrections

Observing and reporting differences between charted information and that which is currently observable. For more information see USPS CoCh website.

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage31.htm>

Small Craft Facilities

Observing and reporting the characteristics of marinas, boat yards, and other marine facilities that service small nautical craft. For more information see USPS CoCh website.

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage32.htm>

Depth Surveys

Measuring depth and position at various areas of interest where shoaling may be occurring. For more information see USPS CoCh website.

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage33.htm>

Range Line Surveys

Similar to Depth Survey except measurements are position readings taken along tracks identified by Range Markers. For more information see USPS CoCh website.

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage34.htm>

Coast Pilot Revisions

Examining those sections of the Coast Pilot covering your area and determine where changes should be made to reflect current reality. For more information see USPS CoCh website. <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage35.htm>

Aids to Navigation Inspections

This involves cruising around your favorite areas and observing the buoys and other markers. Items to check are: proper functioning of light and sound characteristics, legibility of identifying marks and that the ATONs are in proper position. For more information see USPS CoCh website.

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage37.htm>

CAN THIS COUNT TOWARDS A MERIT MARK?

Yes. A CoCh activity is a great way to participate in squadron events and is worthy of merit mark consideration.

WHAT IS THE CoCh HONOR ROLL?

Individuals who earn cooperative charting credits equal to or greater than their individual requirement will be on the National Honor Roll for that year. All individuals on the National Honor Roll will receive a certificate from NOS for that year. In addition to a certificate, the top 75 individuals on the Honor Roll shall receive special recognition. The first year an individual is in the top 75, he/she shall receive a round patch, depicting the program logo. The second and succeeding years, the individual shall receive a star, to be displayed around the original patch.

Squadrons that earn credits equal to or greater than the Squadron Honor Roll requirement and that have had a predetermined number of members participating in the program will be on the National Honor Roll. These Squadrons shall receive a certificate from NOS.

Districts that earn credits equal to or greater than the District Honor Roll requirement and who have 75 percent Squadron participation, shall be on the National Honor Roll. These Districts shall receive a certificate from NOS.

Individual Honor Roll requirements are based on the latitude location of the Squadron with which the member is affiliated. For individuals in Squadrons north of 25 degrees latitude, the requirement is based on each Squadron's location. For individuals south of 25 degrees latitude, the requirement is based on 25 degrees. This "cut-off" latitude was adopted by the National Committee due to the length of the boating season for Squadrons located at 25 degrees and those located south of 25 degrees is the same (12 months). Therefore, there should be no difference in the requirements for individuals located in the southerly latitudes.

$$I_r = 220 - (3 \times L)$$

I_r = Individual requirement
220 = constant
 L = Latitude of Squadron in whole degrees
3 = constant

Squadron Honor Roll requirements are computed by using both the Squadron's individual credit requirement and the Squadron's membership.

$$Sr = IR + \frac{Sm}{5}$$

Sr = Squadron requirement
 Ir = Individual requirement
 Sm = Squadron membership
 5 = constant

In addition, the Squadron must have individual participation as follows:

Squadron Membership	Individuals Need to Participate During the Year
>or = 40	1
41 - 65	2
66 - 90	3
91 - 110	4
111 - 170	5
171 - 275	6
275 - 425	7
426 - 615	8
616 - or <	9

District Honor Roll requirements are equal to 75 percent of the total credits of the Squadrons in the District, plus, the district must have 75 percent Squadron participation.

$$Dr = 0.75 \times Ss$$

Dr = District requirement
 Ss = Sum of Squadron credit requirement
 0.75 = constant

For more information see USPS CoCh website.
<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage60.htm>

HOW ARE CREDITS ACQUIRED?

PROCEDURES FOR AWARDING CREDITS -- April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010

Nautical Chart Items

If the following items are reported as Add, Delete, Change, Relocate, Change & Relocate=40 credits will be awarded.

Aid to Navigation—Federal or Private (incorrectly charted, damaged, illegible, inoperative flash or color sequence and the US Coast Guard is notified)

**If the US Coast Guard is not notified then only 10 credits will be awarded.

Artificial Reef	Public Ramps
Bridge	Pier Dock
Dam	Pile/Dolphin
Depth Legend	Platform
Discrete Point Data	Rock
Duck Blinds	Shoal
Fish Stakes	Sign/Marker
Geographic Name	Subm Cable
Landmark (stacks, towers, spires, tanks)	Wreck
Obstruction	Ovhd Cable

Note: Change (Includes telephone numbers or any other charted text)

Time – 6 per hour

Distance – 1 per mile

Supporting Documentation – 6 per document

Note: A chart section must be submitted showing the location of the feature.

Nautical Chart (Depth) Surveys for DepthWiz Submissions

Time (on the water) – 50 per hour

Time (processing) – 6 per hour

Distance – 1 per mile

Supporting Documentation – 6 per document

Nautical Chart (Depth) Surveys for Manual Submissions

Time (on the water) – 40 per hour

Time (processing) – 6 per hour

Distance – 1 per mile

Supporting Documentation – 6 per document

Small Craft Facility Report

Per facility – 15

Time – 6 per hour

Distance – 1 per mile

Supporting Documentation – 6 per document

Note: Private yacht clubs that do not allow transients and do not sell fuel to non-members receive 0 credits. *Note:* A chart section must be submitted showing the location of the facility.

Coast Pilot Items

Per item – 15

Time – 6 per hour

Distance – 1 per mile

Supporting Documentation – 6 per document

Range Reports

Observations on Range – 10 per observation (position)

Time – 6 per hour

Distance – 1 per mile

Supporting Documentation – 6 per document

Note: Please refer to the Navigational Range Initiative Handout (online) for the number of observations allowed.

Inspection Reports

Time – 2 per hour

Distance – 1 per mile

Supporting Documentation – 3 per document

WHAT IS ADOPT-A-CHART?

When a squadron adopts a chart, it makes a long term commitment to perform and report continuous, complete, and systematic evaluations of all charted information and new features pertinent to navigation on their adopted chart. The adopted chart may be an entire chart or just a particular section of a chart. The squadron pledges, as an organization, to go over their adopted chart with a fine tooth comb year after year. For more information see USPS CoCh website.

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage40.htm>

ONCE AN ACTIVITY IS DONE, HOW IS IT REPORTED?

The Cooperative Charting Web based reporting program is called CCWEB. It is an Internet website provided by the Marine Chart Division of the National Ocean Service, NOAA, for use by USPS Cooperative Charting participants in submitting their Cooperative Charting reports to NOAA. For more information see USPS CoCh website.

<http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage50.htm>