

Cooperative Charting Committee April 2023 Newsletter

MARINA SURVEYS

Happy Spring, fellow Cooperative Charting participants! Now's the time to get out and start enjoying beautiful weather and boating activities! With that said, here is your chance to provide valuable time in visiting Marinas that are either already located in the Cruisersnet.net database or new ones that could be added to it.

First, a little history about Cruisersnet.net! It was started by a fine Southern gentleman by the name of Claiborne Young. He made it his passion to provide as much valuable information to the cruising community as possible. And because he wanted it to be as accurate as possible, he only published those marinas that he himself visited. Thus, his coverage was somewhat limited to the southeast Atlantic coast and around Florida to Mobile Bay. Even at that, there are a great number of marinas within that geography. He wrote many books and even produced some videos about cruising and the sites to see along the ICW. Sadly in 2014, he suffered a serious motorcycle accident that took his life. After that, those that were a part of Cruisersnet.net took over and have continued publishing and updating valuable information to the cruising community. However, they are few in number and primarily gather their information from telephone calls.

Ok, so here is where we come in. I seized the opportunity to have one of their staff speak at our Charlotte squadron meeting on two occasions, and during his presentations, it became apparent that maybe we, members of USPS/ABC, could provide valuable in-person assistance to them by visiting existing the marinas within their database and also by adding new marinas. On discussing this idea with them, they expressed interest in our participation and a partnership was soon formed. Cruisersnet.net has over 80,000 visitors to their website annually, so with our effort and contributions, we would be reaching out to a very large number of people, and our organization would be more recognized. In the current program with Cruisersnet, for each marina that we survey, USPS/ABC is given credit in their database and a direct link to our website. The existing and new marinas can be surveyed once a year or more often if you know of changes that occur during the year.

So how do you go about deciding what to do? First, realize that you don't have to have a boat to perform a marina survey. In fact, you might find it faster and less expensive to do it by land yacht. But doing them by boat can be enjoyable as well. After all, we're a boating club, aren't we?

Now, you've decided on an area that you're interested in. Go to the National Co-op Charting website located under the Executive Dept. on the USPS.org website. Scroll down to the Nautical site and click open. Go to the SOP area and look at Marina surveys. If you're in an area that most likely is in the cruisersnet.net database, use the following:

Cruisers Net database marinas: <https://cruisersnet.net/utills>

Username: AmericasBoatingClub

Password: USPS1914

There you can search by region and marina names. There are several options at each marina that you can use. I like printing out in PDF each one so that I can take that to the marina, present it to the manager or dock master, and ask if there are changes and letting them fill in what they can. Not everything associated with the marina will show up on this form, but the highlights are there. You can always go to the Cruisersnet.net website to see and compare what they show. One thing to make sure you do is get the names of the manager and dock master, as those don't always show up.

If you're in areas that were never covered by Claiborne Young, then you've got a windfall of opportunity! Just printout the blank reporting form (as many as you're going to cover) and pay them a visit. Ask the dock master or manager to please fill in the information all the while telling them that soon they'll be shown on the Cruisersnet.net website. This should make them very interested in completing this task.

Don't worry about fuel prices; we are not reporting those as they change so frequently. Cruisersnet.net people report on marinas weekly and send out this information to the community.

Doing either old or new marinas, make sure that you take a time/date stamped photo of the marina. This is to show that you were actually there. You can also gather up a business card if possible and submit both photos along with your report. There is only one marina per report, but at the end, you are given the opportunity to start a new one without having to go back to the very beginning.

Credits given for submitting a new marina is 35 and for visiting one already in the database, 25.

Again, this is a very valuable project and really worth your time, as your efforts will be seen by many people especially in areas such as New England, Great Lakes, Gulf Coast past Mobile Bay, and the Pacific coast. There are also facilities on navigable waterways that can be included such as on the Mississippi River and its tributaries. Curisersnet.net is interested in any facility on that aids the cruising community.

So happy marina visiting, and use the opportunity to spread the word about USPS/ABC. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to me or one of our other Cooperative Charting Committee members. We are always happy to help with this program, the nautical program, or geodetics.

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