

## Marina Reporting for D21

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### Overview

As of January 1 or 2020, a new program has been added to the Cooperative Charting effort. Marina Survey reports will be accepted with reporting done similar to the Nautical and Geodetic reporting. In the old program of eight years ago, NOAA sponsored this activity – now it is private group of boaters called Cruisersnet. We have partnered with them. Members will find forms for adding new, unreported marinas and forms for updating marina information already existing in a database developed and maintained by the crowd-sourced online website <https://cruisersnet.net/utills>

A report (in about the same format of the familiar Nautical and Geodetic online forms) is sent in to National for review. Upon acceptance, National will forward the information to the Cruisersnet organizers. Credits will be awarded as in the other two programs of Coop Charting.

### Preparing for the visit

When opening the website <https://cruisersnet.net/utills> it appears that no Marina's have yet been input into Cruisersnet in the area covered by District 21. We are assured that as we report them, we will be given credit and they will eventually be listed on the site and open up an entire area of the Gulf coastline not presently covered.

Please remember that several squadrons have adopted charts and have priority on anything covered by that chart. As a matter of courtesy, contact them; they may have plans of their own or want to work together.

Austin - 11314

Galveston - 11322, 11324, 11327

Houston - 11326 (partial), 11328, 11329

Lake Charles - 11347

Lower Rio Grande Valley - 11302, 11303

## Doing the Fieldwork

With the website's form on your clipboard and a cell phone capable of collecting a GPS coordinate on a photo, simply head to the Marina and start asking questions (or if the manager is open to the idea, he/she can fill out the information). Now take a picture of the marina. Use *Solocator*, *Camera Timestamp* or other app for printing the Time and Coordinates on the face of the image as a proof of having made the visit.

In the old program, we measured approach and alongside depths ourselves; get this information from the manager or leave it blank on the form. Do not include judgemental comments such as "dirty restrooms" or "helpful staff" etc. Most likely visitors will bring up this type of comment in their reviews. Our job is to supply just the facts called for on the form.

## Reporting the Results

After the visit, go to the USPS Coop Charting page and bring up our reporting form for Mariana Surveys. Notice it is similar to the forms used in Nautical and Geodetic reporting and will also require the person submitting to be certified; this is just an instant check of your certificate number... anyone ever having turned in a report previously will see that they can access the form without this step.

You will notice the form is very similar to the Cruisersnet form you used at the marina. You don't have to worry about your scribbles, doodles, and rain soaked, wrinkled form – it is all transferred to the online form. The original form is not asked for.

You will need to attach the digital photo (taken near center of the marina) with date/time stamp of manageable size (a .jpg or .png is preferred and less than about 2 Mb in size). For consistency, you might want to rename the file with the name of the Marina. You may include other attachments that would be helpful to the general public as they gather information for their trip... such as a photo of a business card, sign, or photo of the marina from a distance.

Submit the report... you should receive a confirmation and later, after the review, you should receive an email confirming your credits earned or request for other information if the report is not accepted.

The information will then be sent by the National Cooperative Charting committee to Cruisersnet for posting on their site. Do not bypass USPS by sending it via the Cruisersnet website.

## Earning Credits

As with the Nautical Charting program, credits are given by the USPS National CoCh Committee to provide a "friendly" competition between individuals, squadrons and districts. Credits are determined solely from the online report made to USPS by the member.

The credits awarded will be: **New marina 35**    **Existing marina 25**

The Cooperative charting year will be from 01 January to 31 December and reports must be submitted within 30 days of the observation, except for reports done near the end of the year. To be counted in the current year, reports will need to be submitted no later than 15 January of the following year.

The totals for the calendar year are used for ranking individuals, squadrons and districts. Results are then made available soon after January 15 when all reports are in for the year and have been reviewed. Interim totals are usually posted on the website every few months.

## **Awards**

Individual Honor Roll Requirement Calculated annually

Squadron Honor Roll Requirement Calculated annually

District Honor Roll Requirement Calculated annually

#1 Individual Based on percentage of honor roll requirement

#1 Squadron Based on percentage of honor roll requirement

#1 District Based on percentage of honor roll requirement

The Honor Roll certificates will be distributed at the National Convention in the spring following the calendar year's report submissions.