

America's Boating Club

Nautical Marina Survey Program

A few years ago, conducting Marina Surveys was one of the Cooperative Charting activities that USPS members could do within the nautical program. We are happy to report that after some revision and development by the Cooperative Charting Committee in conjunction with Cruisers.net, this nautical activity is back. Once again, we as USPS/ABC members will have an opportunity to provide a valuable civic service to the cruising community, have fun doing it, and receive award credits for the effort.

Previously, our marina surveys reports were submitted through a NOAA portal called CCWeb. That portal was withdrawn by NOAA due to concerns about security. In the new marina survey program, report forms will be obtained from Cruisers.net. The reports will then be submitted directly to USPS for review and award of credits. Information from the surveys will be provided to Cruisers.net for the benefit of the boating community. The new marina survey program will not only help Cruisers.net with updates on existing marinas in their database, but with our efforts, many more marinas will be added in geographic areas that they do not currently cover.

Below is a narrative on how to perform a nautical marina survey. More information can be found in the SOP for this program by logging into the USPS Members Site / Executive Department / Cooperative Charting Committee website.

Preparation and Information Gathering:

To perform an update or add a new marina will require a personal visit (no phone solicitations) and a time/date stamped photo of the marina or surrounding area that shows the marina. For new marinas, you should print out a blank worksheet from the following link:

https://cruisersnet.net/utills/Marina_Forms/pdf/178663_new-marina-name-.pdf

For existing marinas in the Cruisers.net database go to:

<https://cruisersnet.net/utills>

There you will sign in using the following:

Username: AmericasBoatingClub (not case specific)

Password: USPS1914

Once there you can either select a marina by name or region. Then go to the area that you want to explore and you'll see that there are 3 ways to view the marina information: download, print or view on line. You'll also see that there will be a date of last survey. A marina can be surveyed once a calendar year unless there are changes that have occurred in the meantime. We suggest you print out the 2 pages per marina and then take them with you and resent them to the Marina

manager or Dockmaster. Ask them to review the information and write down any changes that may have occurred since the last update.

If the marina that you want to survey is not included in the Cruisers.net database, then print out the blank form and use that to fill in as many fields as the management of the marina wishes to complete. Or if you're so inclined, you can use the online submission on a tablet or phone to fill in the information provided.

Then for either category, take your photo and you're done with the collection step.

Report Submission:

When you are back at your computer, log on to the Co-op Charting website on the National USPS website. Once there, scroll down to the Marina Survey section where you will see an additional link to the blank survey form and also the link to the form for submitting your information on JotForm. There is a limit of only one marina per report and can include up to 5 additional members plus the submitter. Remember that all percentages must add up to 100% when deciding how much credit goes to each participant. Now input all the information you have collected as well as that which shows on the original datasheet that you printed out minus the existing notes that may be there. You should not offer opinions on conditions that might be found with your visit; however, you can offer the names of local facilities, such as restaurants, rental cars, etc. Make sure to upload your photo(s) before hitting the submit button.

One big help in preparing the JotForm submission for existing marinas is to put the Cruisers.net marina ID listed on the form, hit verify, and the current information will populate the form. Then just go to the sections where you have an update and overwrite the field. If there are no updates, then check the box at the beginning that indicates that. Also, if you're so inclined with a tablet or smart phone, you can bring up the JotForm submission form, populate it for existing marinas or blank for "new" and actually fill out the form on site. Do remember to attach your photo before hitting the submit button. WIFI is required for this step, and you're done!