

USPS/America's Boating Club Cooperative Charting Committee Newsletter

June 2022 Edition

Marina Surveys

Fellow members of the United States Power Squadrons, America's Boating Club and participants in Cooperative Charting, here's an introduction to Marina Surveys.

Back in 2019 upon a visitation with a representative (Winston Fowler) from Cruisersnet.net, it became obvious that we, as members of a large boating group, could add to our Civic Service commitment by doing in person marina surveys for them. In the process, we helped promote USPS to the cruising community. Cruisersnet.net is a widely used free service that provides all kinds of information to the cruising world. For each marina that we survey in their database or add to it, USPS/America's Boating Club gets recognition and a link to our website.

Unfortunately, timing is everything, and Covid reared its ugly head calling a halt to doing things in person. Thus, getting out and visiting a marina was not most people's mind. But now, hopefully we're more willing to enjoy the opportunity to interact with people and thus provide a service to our fellow boaters.

So, what do you do to perform a marina survey? There are two opportunities: first, by using the cruisersnet.net database or second, by adding to it by visiting a marina that is outside the area that they currently cover. Originally cruisersnet.net only included marinas that had been visited by their founder, Claiborne Young. He was very prolific and covered just about every marina from the Chesapeake Bay area down and around Florida and over to Mobile Bay, but that's where he stopped. Thus, there are many regions in the US that have marinas that are ripe to be added to their database now.

The first thing to do is visit the National Co-op Charting Committee website under the Executive Department section. There you will see the link to [Cruisers Net Utilities](#). Click on that and enter the username of **AmericasBoatingClub** and password **USPS1914**. You'll then see a page that asks for how you want to search for marinas in their database, or optionally, access to a blank form that you can then take to a new marina to gather the necessary information to be added.

If you choose to survey a marina already in their database, select by region or name, and there you will see a listing (if by region) of all the marinas in that area to visit! You can then check as many as you want and potentially print out the information already archived and then take that printing to the marina. At the marina you can ask for any changes, take a photo with date/time/coordinates and be done. If it's a new marina, there will be more information to gather but not hard to do. We don't concern ourselves with gas prices. But do add any names missing for facility manager or dockmaster. The marina ideally should offer transient (overnight) dockage to the general public, but if it just has temporary tie-ups for gas or pump-out or has tie-ups to go their ships store or restaurant, if they have one, those might be acceptable too.

Next, it's time to submit your findings. If a marina is in the database, there will be a Cruisers.net facility number. With that number you can enter it into our reporting form and it will self-populate the current information. Then you either add to or make any corrections that you found. Make sure that you check the box stating either no changes or corrections in the reporting form. There is only one marina survey per report. But there is a link at the end that takes you back to a new form to report another.

Again, this is a great opportunity to help the cruising community and also promote USPS/America's Boating Club – and, you don't have to have a boat to accomplish it. The land yacht works just fine.

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If you have any questions, please reach out to any member of the National Cooperative Charting Committee and we'll be glad to help.

Submitted by:
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