Overview of the new Geodetic Mark Recovery program

The new geodetic program works considerably different than the old one that was discontinued quite a few years ago. The way it is done now:

1.       The participant searches the internet site or his cell phone app (called *Benchmark*) to find locations of the marks. Each mark has a Point ID of two letters followed by four numbers. If working from a computer, the data sheet should be printed out to take to the field. Since this is the most complicated part of the whole process, sometimes the squadron COOP charting chair volunteers to supply the data sheets.

2.       The participant may take several other members with him to the field – they can be listed on the submittal form along with the principle observer and all get a share of the credits. The marks are located according to the “go to” directions at the end of the data sheet. A 50 or 100 foot tape measure is almost always needed.

3.       Upon locating a mark, the participant needs to document his find with the date and the Lat/lon on a closeup photo of the mark clearly showing the stamping (designator) on the disk or rod cover . You can place your GPS (with date and Lat/lon showing) near the mark and take a digital photo to be sent in with the report. A better way is to use an app such as *Solocator* – it uses the cell phone camera and imprints the date and Lat/lon directly on to the image.

4.       Once back home and on the computer, open the submittal form and fill out the information online. Up to 5 marks can be included in one report. If the mark is not found, either don’t report it, or write a description of why the mark cannot be found in which case you will get 2 credits but the reasons listed has to be sound and definitive.

5.       A USPS reviewer will check your report and either return it for correction of errors, or send it on to NGS for publication in the database, in which case you will be awarded credits in the USPS devised system of credit tracking.

**Here is the new credit awarding criteria:**

Landmarks (tower, cupola, etc.) – 0 credits

Horizontal Mark found - 5 credits

Vertical Mark found – 10 credits

Mark "not found" when previously found - 2

Bonus for Mark not recovered in the past 5 years. – 4

Bonus for Mark not recovered in the past 25 years - 25

Bonus for Mark recovered when previously noted "not found" - 15 credits

Generally it is not beneficial to research which marks earn the most credits… just search for any thing that’s not just a useless landmark such as towers, steeples, water towers, etc.

Locations of the most used internet items:

USPS Geodetic Mark Recovery webpage: <http://www.usps.org/national/coch/CoChPage45.htm>

NGS map of stations by city, county, zip code (Data Explorer): [www.ngs.noaa.gov/NGSDataExplorer/](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/NGSDataExplorer/)