

Chapter 2 Adopt-A-Chart Program

2.1 Introduction

The 'Adopt-A-Chart' program is an organized comprehensive effort to keep a chart, or a portion of a chart, up-to-date on an ongoing basis. This program covers nearly every aspect of the cooperative charting program from nautical chart updates, depth surveys, range line surveys, small craft facility reports, and *US Coast Pilot* updates. The adopt-a-chart program offers squadron members a variety of opportunities to participate either in on-land or in on-the-water activities. **Adopting a chart does not preclude members of other squadrons from performing charting activity in that area.**

2.2 History

The Adopt-A-Chart program was started in late 1997 with a pilot project being conducted, as part of the Cooperative Charting Program, by the Richmond Power Squadron, District 5, US Power Squadrons. The Richmond Power Squadron chose to adopt the National Ocean Service chart 12235, *Chesapeake Bay, Rappahannock River Entrance, Piankatank and Great Wicomico Rivers*. This squadron systematically examined approximately 98% of the area of the chart within the period of about one year. Reports submitted by squadron members included new items that were not previously charted, items that were charted but were no longer visible, and areas of the chart that appeared to be correct as charted.

More than 40 members of the Richmond Power Squadron participated in this extensive project. In January, 1999, a new edition of chart 12235 was issued. The following note was added to that edition of the chart:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The National Ocean Service acknowledges the exceptional cooperation received from members of the Richmond Power Squadron, District 5, United States Power Squadrons, in continually providing essential information for revising this chart.

Figure 2.1 NOS Acknowledgment for Cooperative Charting

To date, more than 100 squadrons of the US Power Squadrons have indicated their interest in participating in this part of the Cooperative Charting Program.

National Oceanographic Service (NOS), the Federal agency responsible for keeping nautical charts up-to-date, never seems to have a large enough budget. NOS does not have sufficient funds to keep charts of recreational waters up-to-date. Even commercial waters are not surveyed as frequently as NOS would like. In the past, USPS has assisted NOS by submitting nautical chart corrections. These corrections have been valuable but they have not given NOS a systematic or complete survey of all features on their charts. This is where the Adopt-A-Chart program was developed.

When a squadron adopts a chart, it makes a long-term commitment to perform and report continuous, complete, and systematic evaluations of all charted information and new features pertinent to navigation on their adopted chart. The adopted chart may be an entire chart or just a particular section of a chart. The squadron pledges, as an organization, to go over their adopted chart with a fine tooth comb year after year.

Adopt-A-Chart reports include data from all of the in-the-field activities within the assigned chart or portion of a chart area. When making a report, be sure to indicate that it is part of the Adopt-A-Chart Program.

2.3 Getting Started – Submitting the Application for Squadron Participation

Charts are adopted by squadrons, not by individuals. A squadron must commit itself to the present and future work involved regardless of which members may do the work at any given moment. When selecting a chart to adopt, visit the list of adopted charts, on the Internet at <http://ocsdata.ncd.noaa.gov/usps/LatestAdoptAChart.asp>, to see which charts have already been adopted. This Adobe-Acrobat file lists squadrons throughout the country who have adopted all or part of a chart. To find if a chart has been adopted, look first by District, then Charts and then Squadrons who have adopted a chart. A copy of the application for squadrons to participate in the Adopt-A-Chart Program is at the end of this chapter. **You must submit at least one report each year to retain parenthood of your chart. The date of your last report is the key date and begins the one year period.**

For a squadron to participate the squadron commander must submit a written Adopt-A-Chart Program application form to your district cooperative charting chairman. The District Cooperative Charting Chairman will review the form and submit it to the Chairman of the National Cooperative Charting Committee. The request should contain:

- 1) A statement to the effect that the squadron's executive committee has reviewed the request, voted on it, and approved it.
- 2) The number(s) of the NOS nautical charts, chart, or part of a chart the squadron wants to adopt. Where part of a chart is involved, a copy of the chart with the desired area outlined should be attached to the application.
- 3) An estimate of the number of squadron members who will be involved in the Program over a long period of time.
- 4) An estimate of the number of boats that will be involved in the program over a long period of time.
- 5) Name/address/phone number of person to whom Adopt-A-Chart materials should be sent.

NOS and the National Cooperative Charting Committee evaluates each application and assigns charts or chart sections, in terms of the urgency of NOS' need for data from the areas involved and

the long term commitment of resources the applying squadrons are prepared to assume. These assignments are made in coordination with the districts, as well as, the squadrons.

The process of assigning a chart or chart section starts with a squadron's request, considers the requests of neighboring squadrons and district-wide planning, weighs the number of individuals and boats a squadron is prepared to commit in relation to the work involved, etc. The District Chairman, the Squadron Commander, and the Squadron Cooperative Charting Chairman will be contacted by the National Cooperative Charting Committee on the application in regard to any questions which may arise. The squadron requesting to adopt a chart will be notified of the National Committee's decision. Applications which appear to be candidates for rejection will be discussed with the district and squadron chairmen before finalization.

If your squadron has already adopted a chart, you can determine if another report is due by viewing the latest Adopt-A-Chart at <http://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/usps/LatestAdoptAChart.asp>. See if the chart you're interested in adopting is listed.

2.4 Squadron Adopt-A-Chart Requirements

Squadrons who have adopted a chart must submit at least one report each year to retain parenthood of your chart.

When looking at the CCWeb "Latest Adopt-A-Chart Report" page (described below) you may notice some squadrons with color codes.

A yellow highlight shows charts that have 90 days to submit a report before the chart is removed from that squadron.

A red highlight shows charts that will be removed from the squadron because they have not submitted a report after 1 year and 3 months.

An asterisk after the chart number indicates a partially adopted chart.

A blank edition, investigation date and report shows charts on which there have never been reports.

2.5 Individual and Squadron Credit for Adopt-A-Chart Surveys

When entering a report on a computer, the CCWeb program will, on the "Enter A Report" screen, ask if your report covers an area of a chart that has been adopted by any USPS squadron by selecting either Yes or No (Toggle Y or N).

If you are uncertain whether the chart has been adopted or by which squadron, go to the USPS.org website and click on Site Index. Then click on CCWeb. After you log-in the first page to display is the CCWeb "Main Menu" page. On the left side of the screen click on "Latest Adopt A Chart Reports." This report is organized by District, Squadron, Chart, Edition, Adopted On, Last Investigation Date, and the Report Number. See if the chart you're interested in adopting is listed.

If the chart has NOT been adopted, you should select, or toggle, N for NO and continue entering your information. You will get the same credit for your work regardless of whether the chart has been adopted or not adopted.

If the chart HAS been adopted, and you or anyone on your survey team IS NOT a member of that squadron that has adopted that chart, you should select, or toggle, N for NO and continue entering your information. You will get the same credit for your work regardless of whether the chart has been adopted or not adopted. **No credit will be given to the squadron for Adopt-A-Chart work done by members of another squadron.**

If the chart HAS been adopted, and you or any one member on your survey team IS a member of that squadron that has adopted that chart, you should select, or toggle, Y for YES and continue entering your information. In this case, members will receive credit for their cooperative charting work and the squadron who has adopted the chart will get credit towards being recognized by NOAA as mentioned above in paragraph 2.2.

NOS-USPS COOPERATIVE CHARTING PROGRAM
USPS NATIONAL COOPERATIVE CHARTING COMMITTEE
ADOPT-A-CHART PROGRAM
APPLICATION FOR SQUADRON PARTICIPATION

DISTRICT: _____ **SQUADRON:** _____

Only squadrons may apply for participation in this program. A requirement for participation is that an applying squadron's executive committee review the proposed long-term commitment involved and vote affirmatively on it. Has this been done? _____

CHART(S) REQUESTED FOR ADOPTION:

Chart # _____ (Entire chart, Y / N)

If (N), indicate portion of chart desired. If part of a chart is to be adopted, a copy of the chart with the proposed area outlined should be attached to this application.

NUMBER OF BOATS AVAILABLE ANNUALLY FOR USE IN THIS PROGRAM? _____

NUMBER OF SQUADRON MEMBERS AVAILABLE ANNUALLY FOR PARTICIPATION IN THIS PROGRAM? _____

NAME AND ADDRESS TO WHOM ADOPT-A-CHART MATERIALS SHOULD BE SENT:

Phone: _____ **E-mail** _____

**SQUADRON COMMANDER'S
SIGNATURE** _____

DATE: _____

Forward to your current District Cooperative Charting Chairman.

Confirmation of your application and/or receipt of Adopt-A-Chart materials from NOS will be within four weeks of receipt of your application. Contact your Area Representative should this not be the case.

RESERVED FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEE USE:

NATIONAL COMMITTEE SIGNATURE: _____

NOS SIGNATURE: _____

Figure 2.2 NOS-USPS Adopt-A-Chart Program Application

