

# AQUA MAP NAVIGATION

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Boating Navigation is critical for safe boating. Understanding where you are and what is around you while on the water is essential. Boating navigation helps you to know where you are going and what you will encounter along the way ensuring you are not putting yourself in danger.

There are many applications on the market, I use an app for boating navigation called Aqua Map. It has many features that address your needs. It is available for Android and Apple Devices on the app store or Google Play. I setup Aqua Maps on both my iPad and Iphone to communicate with my Dual GPS receiver XGPS150A via Bluetooth which gives great location accuracy. This solution is very cost effective and provides an excellent feature rich experience.

Aqua Map charts are inexpensive and are updated frequently and automatically. You can easily create, edit and share markers, waypoints, points of interest (POI), tracks and routes. Tides and currents are also included to help with your planning.

There is Active Captain Community and Waterway Guide Community support which provides detailed information from many sources and is displayed right on the chart. Live sharing with Aqua Map boating community is available as well, so you have an easy way to contact other Aqua Map users near you.

Creating a route is easy and makes planning enjoyable. Underway you can be alerted as you approach hazards or bridges. As an example; if you need to catch a bridge opening it's easy to see when you will to be at the bridge so you can adjust speed accordingly avoiding wait time at the bridge. Estimated time of arrivals are updated based on your current progress and are displayed easily. Information about marinas and anchorages is at your fingertips in case you need to make changes to your reservations on the fly.

If you decide to try Aqua Map, I recommend purchasing the Aqua Map Master option. It has functionalities which allows overlays on your charts. Examples include Marine Forecast (Wind, Wave and Current), USACE Surveys (color coding depth in shoaling areas), USCG data (Buoy's and Local Notice to Mariners), Weather Buoys, and Route Explorer Alerts (Bridges, Hazards, Marinas, Anchorages and Fuel Prices). AIS, Heading information, and Wind Information can also be displayed if you have WIFI connections. The USACE survey information is especially helpful when

navigating thru areas with shoaling such as the channel into Ocracoke or the impact of inlets along the Inter Coastal Waterway.

In future articles, I will show these features in more detail so you can see how Aqua Maps can help you with boating navigation and safety on the water.

This article is given the courtesy of your local America's Boating Club of the Pamlico. Keep us in mind for your boating education and skill building that includes advanced courses as well as 2 - 4 hour seminars. To learn more about our boating courses, email our Education Officer at [psps@gmail.com](mailto:psps@gmail.com). We also invite you to reference our website at <https://pamlicosailandpowersquadron.org> to learn more.