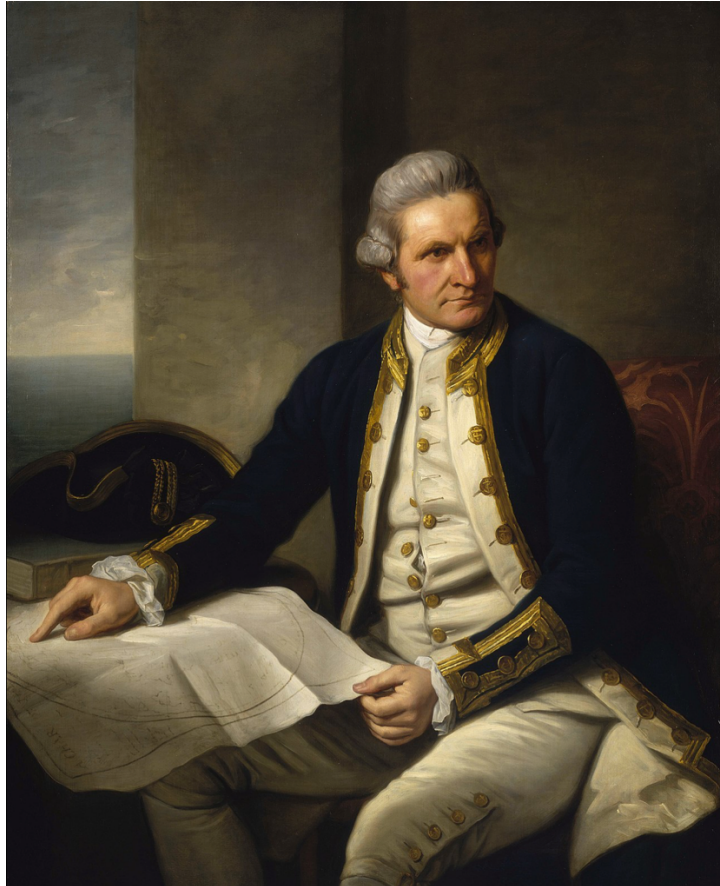


WANTED: Cook's Cadre

ABCHH Cooperative Charting

By Bob Newbert

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Capt. James Cook is the greatest naval explorer & cartographer in history. Without modern instruments, he created accurate charts of unexplored seas and the lands they embraced.

Indeed, Cook paved the way for modern charts with Aids to Navigation (ATONs) that need to be verified; and, in some cases, corrected.

That's where you come in. I am looking for ABCHH members to participate in our Cooperative Charting Program to improve the accuracy & safety of nautical charts.

Co-op Charting is a partnership between the United States Power Squadrons (aka America's Boating Club), the National Ocean Service (NOS), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG).

HOW IT WORKS: We navigate to a charted ATON; photograph it; note its Longitude & Latitude; and complete an online evaluation of the ATON's condition. Our report is shared with NOAA and, in some cases, the Coast Guard, to initiate repair or replacement of the ATON, update charts etc. In short, we are "on site" inspectors for NOAA and the Coast Guard.



I have been doing this for several years. It is a fun and rewarding activity that takes me to a wide range of local & regional waters. I feel good after a job well-done like the time I found two missing ATONS in a hazardous channel near Ossabaw Sound. I recorded the danger and reported it. The next time I went through the channel, the "AWOL ATONS" had been replaced with two new beacons. I was proud to see them shining brightly.

There are two ways to be part of Cooperative Charting: (1) Individually on solo voyages, and (2) In a group, as crew or captain, on scheduled charting expeditions.

NOTE: I am planning special trips in 2026 for the sole purpose of evaluating ATONs. This will be a separate program from my Adventure Cruises and available only to ABCHH members who are: (1) Approved by the United States Power Squadrons for Cooperative Charting; and (2) Actively Document & Report their findings to USPS after every charting expedition.

To participate, all Co-op Charting captains & crew must register with the United States Power Squadrons Cooperative Charting Committee. Contact me below if you want to join the team I call "Cook's Cadre."

Together, we will sail in the wake of Capt. James Cook to explore new waters; improve maritime charts; and perhaps carve out a small piece of history as someone who protected mariners by correcting missing ATONs.

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