

DARIEN SAIL & POWER SQUADRON
DISTRICT 2, UNITED STATES POWER SQUADRONS®

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Fog Horns

Did you know that the fog signals on all light-houses in Long Island Sound no longer operate automatically?

In 2019, the Coast Guard completed installation of Mariner Radio Activated Sound Signal (MRASS) devices at 82 lighthouses across the Northeast — including eight locations on the Connecticut coast and three locations on Long Island.

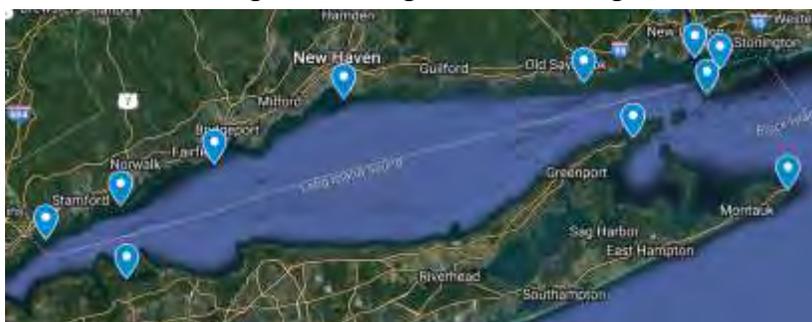


Fog at Greens Ledge Light

The purpose of the modernization was to replace the less reliable and less efficient VM-100 fog detectors with a Coast Guard-designed, radio-controlled system. The process also eliminated several 24/7 continuously sounding horns. Click [here](#) for an explanatory video.

You now have to use a marine VHF radio to activate the fog signal. Key your radio five times consecutively on VHF channel 83A. The sound signal will then sound for 45-60 minutes following each activation. In locations other than these eleven lighthouses, the VHF channel to use may be different and the duration of the signal may be 15, 30, 45, or 60 minutes, so consult the appropriate [Light List](#) for the area in which you plan to navigate.

The Long Island Sound lights affected are: Southwest Ledge Light, Greens Ledge Light, New London Ledge Light, Great Captain Island Light, Penfield Reef Light, Saybrook Breakwater Light, North Dumpling Light, Race Rock Light, Montauk Point Light, Huntington Harbor Light, and Orient Point Light.



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Paper Charts

All traditional NOAA paper nautical charts will be canceled by January 2025.

NOAA has already started to cancel individual charts and will shut down all production and maintenance of traditional paper nautical charts and the associated raster chart products and services by January 2025.

See [Farewell to Traditional Nautical Charts](#), [Cancelled Charts](#), and [Pending Chart Cancellations](#).

Keep Up To Date

As many DSPS members know, we're currently teaching our well-known Basic Boating course. We think our course is far better than the short courses given by other organizations because, among many other things, we teach our students how to use a nautical chart. During the course of the classes covering charts, a couple of interesting discrepancies turned up.

One of the homework questions asked for the clearance of the railroad bridge over the Mianus River at Riverside/Cos Cob. Unfortunately, the new edition of the Waterproof Chart that we give to our students has changed the margin of the relevant inset and the railroad bridge is no longer shown (the horizontal clearance is 67 ft and the vertical clearance is 20 ft).

A different question asked for the Latitude and Longitude of the Whistle Buoy RW "BH" at the entrance to Bridgeport Harbor. Once again, that item was not on the chart. This, however, is the result of quite a different issue, one that is important to all DSPS members and indeed to all Long Island Sound boaters: there is no more whistle buoy at the entrance to Bridgeport Harbor and the buoyage there has changed significantly.

This situation points out the necessity of using up-to-date charts—or at least updating your charts by using the appropriate Local Notices to Mariners.

Local Notices to Mariners (LNMs) are published weekly by the U.S. Coast Guard. Among other things, LNMs advise about changes on charts. Sometimes, the changes are temporary, for example, a buoy has been blown off station by a storm. Sometimes, an LNM advises that the Coast Guard is planning to make a change ... and then advises when the change has been or will be made. That's what happened to the red & white "BH" whistle buoy at Bridgeport.

Here's how the buoy was described in the 2017 Light List, as of early January 2017:

24545	- Channel Approach Lighted Whistle Buoy BH	41-06-14.450N 073-11-44.101W	Mo (A) W	4	Red and white stripes with red spherical topmark.	AIS: MMSI 993672154 (21)
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The "Mo (A) W" means that the buoy had a white light that flashed in a Morse code letter A pattern, i.e., short-long. The "4" means that under normal visibility, you should have been able to see the buoy up to 4 nautical miles away.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

And here's what the District 1 September 13, 2017, LNM had to say (emphasis added):

CT-LONG ISLAND SOUND-STRATFORD POINT TO SHERWOOD POINT (Chart 12369)-BRIDGEPORT HARBOR-Revised

The U.S. Coast Guard will be making the following changes to Aids to Navigation to this waterway on or about 15 November 2017, weather and operations permitting:

DISCONTINUE the following aids:

Bridgeport Harbor Channel Approach Lighted Whistle Buoy BH (LLNR 24545)
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 2 (LLNR 24550) Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 3 (LLNR 24555)
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 4 (LLNR 24560) Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 5 (LLNR 24651)
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 6 (LLNR 24570) Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 7 (LLNR 24575)

RENAME the following aids:

Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 9 (LLNR 24585) Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 1 (LLNR 24575) and CHANGE flash characteristic to Flashing Green every 2.5 seconds (Fl G 2.5s)
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 8 (LLNR 24580) to Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 2 (LLNR 24580) and CHANGE flash characteristic to Flashing Red every 2.5 seconds (Fl R 2.5s)
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 11 (LLNR 24595) Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 3 (LLNR 24585)
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Bell Buoy 10 (LLNR 24590) to Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Lighted Buoy 4 (LLNR 24590) and REMOVE Bell
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 13 (LLNR 24605) to Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 5 (LLNR 24595)
Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 12 (LLNR 24600) to Bridgeport Harbor Entrance Channel Buoy 6 (LLNR 24600)
Bridgeport Harbor Light 13A (LLNR 24615) to Bridgeport Harbor Light 7 (LLNR 24605)
Bridgeport East Breakwater Light 12A (LLNR 24610) to Bridgeport East Breakwater Light 8 (LLNR 24610)
Bridgeport Harbor Channel Buoy 14 (LLNR 24620) to Bridgeport Harbor Channel Buoy 10 (LLNR 24620)
Bridgeport Harbor Channel Buoy 15 (LLNR 24625) to Bridgeport Harbor Channel Buoy 11 (LLNR 24625)
Bridgeport Harbor Channel Lighted Buoy 16 (LLNR 24630) to Bridgeport Harbor Channel Lighted Buoy 12 (LLNR 24630)
Bridgeport Harbor Channel Lighted Buoy 19 (LLNR 24640) to Bridgeport Harbor Channel Lighted Buoy 13 (LLNR 24635)
Bridgeport Harbor Channel Buoy 21 (LLNR 24645) to Bridgeport Harbor Channel Buoy 15 (LLNR 24645)

This change was advertised as a proposal in LNM 11/17 as project number 01-17-030.

Charts: 12363 12364 12369

LNM: 11/17

You can find the current editions of the Light List here: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/light-list-annual-publication>

You can find LNMs here: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Featured-Content/Mariners/Local-Notice-to-Mariners-LNMs/>

There's a current summary of the updates to the current Light List here: <https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/light-list-summary-of-corrections>

Coming Attractions

- **Sunday, February 19, 2:00 pm**—Speaker Series at Rowayton Community Center: Tom Andersen discusses his book “This Fine Piece of Water.” Details [here](#). Questions/RSVP to [Mark Bodian](#).
- **Tuesday, March 7, 7:00 pm**—Boat Handling Course starts at Noroton Yacht Club. Details [here](#).
- **Sunday, March 12, 5:00 pm**—Speaker Series and Change of Watch at Norwalk Yacht Club: Dick Woods on “Cruising in the Northeast—How Things Have Changed Over the Years.” Details [here](#). RSVP to [Mark Bodian](#).