

FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions

How do I become a member?

To register as a member, look at the Login box at the top of the nav bar, under the Username and Password fields you'll see;

Not a member yet?
Click here to register.

Click on "Click here" which will bring you to the registration form. Fill in the form and click "Register". You will then shortly receive an email which contains an Account Activation Link. Click on it and you're account will be activated.

Remember to write down your choice of Username and Password and keep them in a safe place.

At the top left of the nav bar on the site, enter your Username and Password.

How do I Login?

Once your account has been activated, enter the Username and Password you've chosen into the Login box and click the Login button.

Make sure you enter these details correctly or nothing will happen.

What's the box beside the Login button for?

Tick this box if you wish to remain logged, so that everytime you visit you'll automatically logged in until such time as you click "Logout". This is **not** recommended for public computers as the next user would have access to your account.

Please note that due to the vagaries of computers and security software that from time to time you may have to manually login even though you ticked the box.

Why can't I post a message in the forum?

Only logged in members can post in the forum. This is a necessary precaution to keep out the hordes of spammers and other ne'er-do-wells.

How do I sign up for the newsletter?

Once you're logged in, in your Profile box click "Edit Profile" and choose Yes beside the Newsletter field. You'll automatically be added to "The Coastguard Cutter" newsletter mailing list.

How come when I click a link it just brings me to the front page?

There are certain sections only available to logged in members, if you're not a member or are a member but not logged in, you will not be able to visit these sections.

I've lost or forgotten my password, what do I do?

Under the Username and password fields at the top of the nav bar, theres a link;

Forgotten your password?
Request a new one here.

Click "Here" and a new password will be sent to you by email. Write it down and keep it in a safe place.

What is Private Messaging?

The Private Messaging [PM] system allows members to contact one another without the need for email. Click on Private Messages in the profile box, this will bring you to the PM facility.

You will see a menu at the top left:
Inbox [?/50] Outbox [?/50] Archive [?/50] Options

This tells you how many messages you have in your inbox, etc. You are allowed a maximum of 50 messages in each folder. The options are whether you wish to receive an email notification of new message, [the site default setting is No] and whether you wish to save sent messages for future reference.

When you login to the site, if someone has sent you a PM, you'll see a message in the profile box;

You have 1 new messages, click this and it'll bring you straight to the message, if you wish to reply to the sender, just click "Reply" and write you're message.

The message will not be read until that person next visits the site unless they have email notification enabled.

If you want to write a message to a member there are two ways of doing it.

1. Go to the PM page and click "Write new message", choose the recipient from the dropdown box and write your message.
 2. Click on the username of the person you wish to contact whether in the forum or Photogallery or wherever you came across their username. This will open that members public profile. Under the space for the avatar you'll a [PM] link, click this and a message screen will open for that member without the need to search for it.
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If you receive any messages that are offensive or inappropriate, do NOT delete it, report it immediately [Here] and that person will be dealt with accordingly. We will then delete the message.

To date this has not happened, nor do we expect it to. However, we have no way to "vet" new members.

Will my Profile information be accessible to everyone?

No, your profile information [location, email address, etc] is only accessible to logged in members. If you do not want your email address to be seen by other visitors, click "edit Profile" and select yes in the hide email field.

What are Avatars?



Avatars are small graphics can attach to their profile that appear above their username in the forum and other places on the site. They would generally be a symbol or picture that the user might identify with or it could be just a bit of fun.

The graphic or photo should be no heavier than 30Kb and no bigger than 100x100 pixels otherwise it will not upload successfully. Or you can use the [Avatar Gallery](#) and follow the 3 simple steps. We have a small selection at the moment and will

add more over time.

What is Disabling Smileys all about?

At the bottom of most articles, photo's, forum posts, etc you'll see a box marked "**Disable Smileys**" or something similar.

If you're using brackets, semi-colons, colons, etc in your post the software thinks you're entering a smiley.

To prevent this tick the box and your brackets will be left alone

eg, :) translates as: 😊

:(translates as: 😞

What is the Theme Switcher

Simply put, the Theme Switcher enables a logged in member change the colour scheme of the site.

Select a Theme from the dropdown menu and that's it!

You may need to refresh* the page if it goes blank.

*Click Refresh on your browser toolbar or press F5 on your keyboard.

What's "Please select your Rating" all about?

At the bottom of each article page as well as the photogallery there's a drop down menu called "Please select your Rating:".

The five choices are;

Excellent [5 Stars]

Very Interesting [4 Stars]

Interesting [3 Stars]

Average [2 Stars]

Poor [1 Star]

We encourage members to "Rate" each item as this lets us know what's hot and what's not as well letting those who submitted the material whether it's hit the spot or not.

The more items rated, the better the "Top Rated Articles" works.

This facility is only available to logged in members and is anonymous.

Why can't I log in?