

# Navigational ATONS

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Aids to Navigation ATONS are waterways' road signs which can provide information similar to that which drivers get from street signs, road barriers, detours and traffic lights. Learning about these ATONS will help you recognize, understand and navigate by the colors, shapes, numbers and lights that you will encounter on the water.

Buoys are aids that float on top, Beacons are aids that are permanently fixed to the bottom. They can be lighted or not. They are colored Red and Green. The shapes are "Can" Flat on top or "Nun" Pointed on top and they have Odd or Even Numbers. A lot to know right. Have you ever heard the phrase "red, right, returning", which refers to the fact that when you are returning (proceeding upstream) a boater must keep the red aids to the right side of the boat.

Here is how we memorize them. A Nun is pointed on top; because they are folding their hands to pray, even tempered; so even numbers and blushes easily; they are red. Else they are Cans. This little saying works for us.

There are many more ATONS safe water markers, danger markers, range markers, special markers. Understanding them on the water is one thing seeing them on your chart plotter and how they are identified there is also very important.

Things to Remember:

- **Post a lookout:** Designate someone to watch for dangers that may come from any direction. They should know the Rules of the road and ATONS
- **Maintain a safe speed:** Except where speed is restricted by regulation or "No Wake". Speed you must judge for yourself based on visibility, traffic, ability to maneuver and weather conditions
- **Avoid a collision:** Rules of the road and ATONS include actions to take when encountering another vessel or dock on the water.

Boat Responsibly:

- Always wear your life jacket and require the same of your passengers
- Never boat under the influence
- Take a boating safety course
- Get a free Vessel Safety Check

This is just a taste of what you need to know while boating and the more you learn the safer you will be. Interested in learning more about Navigation? America's Boating Club of the Pamlico is offering an "Introduction to Navigation" Seminar on Tuesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. To register or to learn more information, contact Kelly at [pspsed@gmail.com](mailto:pspsed@gmail.com) or give her a call at 551-427-0585. This will take you further in understanding ATONS