

# Argo – Finding Your Way Around the Bay By Jeff Foulk

Had it not been for a conversation with other boaters, I would never have discovered a small cove along the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, nor how to navigate through the tricky inlet that led my Grady White to this floating paradise of sorts. Once through the narrow cut, I was able to tie up next to other boats, head over to a tiki bar and then bask all day on a sun-soaked Eastern Shore beach.

Fairlee Creek is glorious... and these little boating meccas exist all around the Bay, but they're not always easy to find. If you're not in the boating community and talking to fellow boaters, you might never experience some of the amazing restaurants, hot spots and scenic anchorages that can be found on the water.

It got me thinking that there has to be a better way, an easier way to find out about hot spots, find the safest way to get there, and know what boating etiquette to expect once I got there. Can I tie up next to a complete stranger's boat? Is it OK to walk onto someone else's vessel? When does the karaoke start?

That's why I designed and developed Argo, a free app that aims to connect the boating community by helping them safely navigate the waters to little known fun places, plan trips with friends and share information with fellow boaters.

What's the best place to eat in Rock Hall? Where should you go to grab a drink and watch the sunset? What's the quickest route to a popular raftup? What does the community think of that spot?

There are multiple apps that help answer these questions and guide you on land, but no singular tool that I could find to help me on the water. I began working with Bytelion LLC, a custom software development company in Hunt Valley, MD, that helps startups develop and design mobile and web products.

Together, we created an app that allows boaters to share information in real time whether on the water or at home.

I wanted boaters to have the ability to find out where their friends are on the water and share experiences with friends and family. I wanted Argo to use crowdsourcing to not only get the latest hazards, weather and map issues, but also find interesting places to go and see. I also wanted Argo to offer a clean, customizable map with point-to-point navigational capability.

With its Touch and Go navigation feature, Argo will calculate the best course based on your boat's requirements and the water depth needed to get you where you want to go.

While on your trip, Argo will track your speed, show water depths at your location and give you an estimated time of arrival. It will even save your favorite voyages by logging the route, reports, photos and any comments you enter.

It's still early yet. Argo launched at the beginning of September as a beta test for iOS and Android. Over the next few months, we're hoping to get feedback through the app and emails on what works, improvements needed, and any addition features boaters want Argo to offer. We've had 50 boaters sign up already. And while our testing group is initially focused on the Chesapeake Bay area, Argo is designed to work anywhere in the United States.

As more members of the community sign up, we hope to see Argo grow into a robust social platform that will be a useful companion to all boaters on and off the water.

If you're interested in joining the community, additional information about the app can be found at [www.argonav.io](http://www.argonav.io), and you can download the free Argo app on both the App and Play Stores. Feedback is encouraged and can be provided either within the app itself or via email to [info@argonav.io](mailto:info@argonav.io) or [jeff@argonav.io](mailto:jeff@argonav.io).

*Jeff Foulk is a resident of Havre de Grace, MD, who has been cruising the Chesapeake Bay for 36 years. He is founder and owner of Argo Navigation LLC based in Belcamp, MD.*

**Argo™**

### In-App Features

- Social Boating**  
Connect and share experiences with other boaters. Argo lets you invite friends, plus share your location, places and journeys.
- Real-Time Reporting**  
View and report hazards, local advice, weather, marine life and more! Argo provides you with the most updated info around you in real-time.
- Smart Points of Interest**  
Plan your trip before you get out on the water. Argo lets you see what the boating community thinks about local beaches, marinas, restaurants and more!
- Touch & Go Navigation**  
Find the quickest and safest route for your journey. Argo calculates the best path based on your boat's draft and the depth of the water.

DOWNLOAD TODAY! Learn more at [argonav.io](http://argonav.io)

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