

Sailors, Have You Heard of the Argo App?

Argo, introduced in the fall of 2019, is a free app designed to help boaters discover new destinations, get there as quickly and safely as possible, and share their adventures with friends. The app was developed locally by founder Jeff Foulk, who felt that while there are several apps that allow users to do these things on land, none were geared specifically toward boaters. Foulk hails from Havre de Grace, MD, in the Upper Chesapeake Bay.

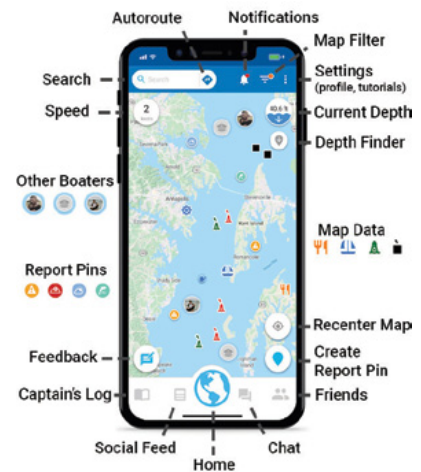
“The main idea behind Argo is to provide a platform to let boaters help other boaters,” says Foulk. “By connecting to the Argo community, users are able to quickly share and discover a lot of information that they would have had to previously find out through research or word of mouth.”

Argo users have access to real-time reports about information that wouldn't be available on a standard chart through crowdsourcing. Boaters can also pin favorite places on the map and, if they so choose, make these place pins public so the rest of the community can see them. Some other features include tap and go capability, where users can tap on destinations

on the map to preview, rate, and route; the ability to search for destinations by category (restaurants, fuel dock, etc.) or keyword; and even view where other friends and Argo users are on the water.

Sailor Don Elwell shares his experiences using the app while exploring the Upper Chesapeake Bay:

“The upper Chesapeake Bay has so much to offer. We've explored all the small inlets from Rock Hall to the C&D Canal—Fairlee Creek, Worton Creek, Still Pond, Sassafras River, and Bohemia River. We love those inlets and will often go up just gunkholing for a week or so. This year we're doing it with Argo. We've found the app's ability to estimate sailing times especially useful, and I've been surprised at how accurate the app has been in helping us calculate when we'll be anchoring. The routing feature is also really useful. Drawing five feet, we have to watch depths in some of these inlets carefully, and the Argo app has been a really nice adjunct to our chartplotter. It's becoming a go-to for all our initial trip planning and we no longer leave the dock without starting up Argo.”



Feedback like this keeps the Argo team working to integrate more and more features. “We want the app to provide as much value to boaters as possible, so we hope to get as many of them as possible involved in the process of creating this app,” says Foulk.

The Argo app is available as a free download on the Apple app store and on the Google Play store. The Argo team encourages users to send feedback via email or the in-app feedback button (lower left corner on the home screen). Learn more at argonav.io.

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