# Rose Point ECS 2011 Documentation Addendum

Introduction

Rose Point is committed to continual improvements of its products. This document describes changes that have been made to Rose Point ECS since its documentation was printed.

Miscellaneous Enhancements

Screen Brightness Control

A new screen brightness control has been added to the "clock" menu in Cruise Mode near the Daylight, Dusk, and Night options. To access the new screen brightness control, click on the clock displayed in the top-right corner of the Cruise Mode screen and this panel will appear:
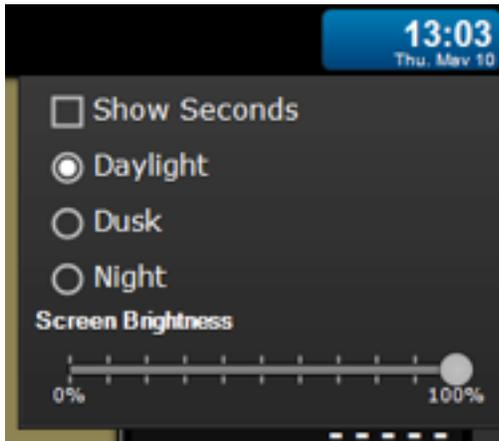
Use the slider at the bottom to adjust the overall brightness of your screen.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Not all PCs support this type of brightness adjustment. If moving the slider does not have any affect, then your PC is incompatible with this feature and you will need to use the monitor's controls to adjust the brightness.

Mark Creation

A new button for quickly adding one or more marks with a selection symbol has been added to the chart panel.

When you click this button a panel appears above it:
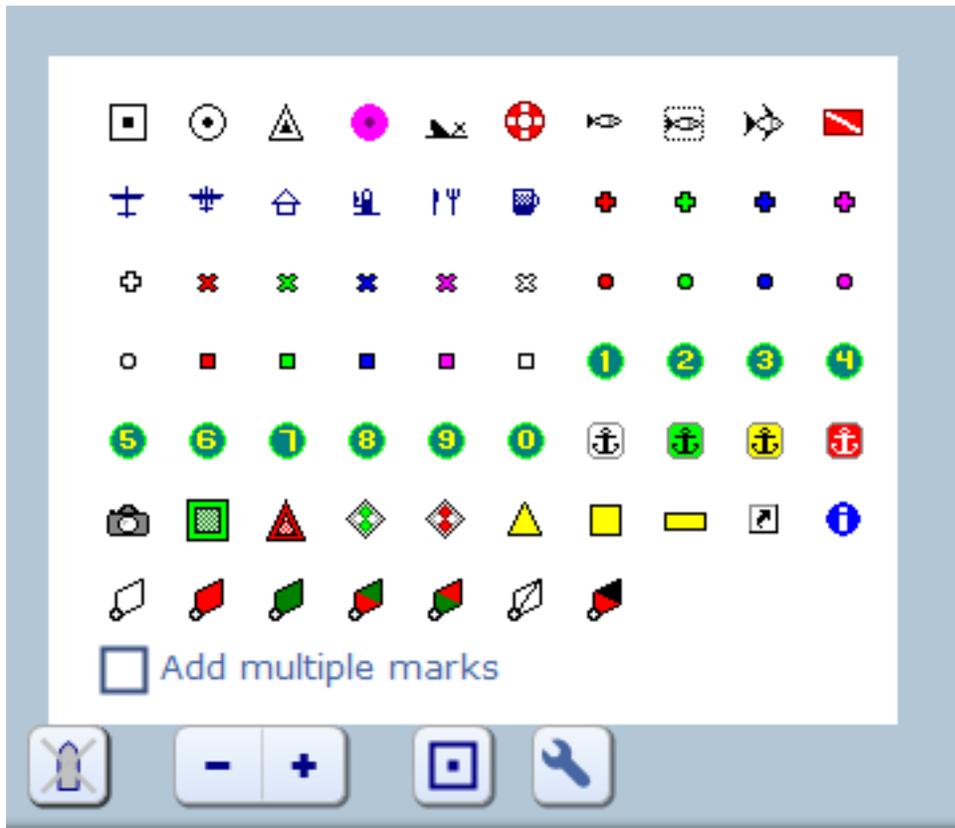
To add a mark using this panel, first click the symbol you want the mark to have and then click on the chart where you want the symbol to appear.

If you need to add more than one mark, click the Add multiple marks option before clicking on a symbol. Then each time you click the chart a new mark with the selected symbol will appear. When you are done adding marks, press the Esc key or use the Cancel button on the toolbar.

Additional Importable File Formats

Arinc PilotMate® Route Files -- These files do not show up in the list of file types in the Import window because they do not have a unique file type, but they may be imported nonetheless. Simply leave the "All Compatible Files" option selected and find the file exported from PilotMate.

AIS Enhancements

Continuous AIS Target Tracks

Rose Point ECS has always had the ability to convert the track of an AIS target to a standard track object that is treated just like an own-ship track. However AIS tracks have limitations on their length and the converted track was similarly limited. This feature has been replaced with a new "continuous AIS tracks" feature which will first convert the existing AIS track to a standard track as before, but will then continue to track the selected target until you disable tracking.

To enable continuous AIS target tracking, right-click on the vessel you want to track and select the Enable Tracking command from the popup menu. When you are done tracking that vessel, use the same command again to turn off continuous tracking.

Follow Vessel

Sometimes you may want to keep track of a particular AIS target even if it leaves the area being displayed on the chart. You can do that by right-clicking on the AIS target and selecting the **Follow Vessel** option. When enabled, this option will automatically scroll the chart panel in order to keep the vessel in the view. Vessel following is disabled if you manually scroll the chart or activate Follow Boat mode to start following your own-ship.

Improved Vessels Task Pane

The Vessels Task Pane has been improved to be much more useful and readable than previous versions. The new design uses larger text and a cleaner presentation of the same information as before. In addition, the vessels you will meet are now sorted based on how soon you will meet them rather than how far away they are.

Several options have been added to the Vessels Task Pane that allow you to adjust how much information is displayed. To access these options, right-click on the Vessels Task Pane and use the menu that appears. The options include:

• **Show Stationary Vessels** -- Controls whether or not stationary vessels are included in the list (vessels are considered to be stationary when their speed is less that 1/2 knot)
• **Show Vessels We Won't Pass** -- Controls whether or not to include the "Not Passing" group
• **Show Call Signs** -- Controls whether or not vessel call signs are shown next to their names

If the +Inland add-on is installed, the Vessels Task Pane now has two modes: **Open Water Mode** and **River/Inland Mode**. You can select the mode that is most appropriate for you by right-clicking on the Vessels Task Pane and selecting the mode from the menu that appears.

Open Water Mode uses standard CPA/TCPA calculations based on the current speed and course of your own-ship and other vessels. AIS targets that your own-ship will pass within your selected Danger CPA threshold (set in Main Menu > Options > AIS) are shown at the top of the panel in a group labeled **Passing Inside 0.25 NM** (or whatever your set Danger CPA threshold is). Vessels that your own-ship will pass outside of the Danger CPA threshold are listed next in a group labeled **Passing Outside 0.25 NM**. Finally, vessels that you will not pass (or have already passed) will be listed in a group labeled **Not Passing**.

River/Inland Mode calculates the points along a waterway that your own-ship will meet other vessels based on current courses and speeds. In this mode, the Vessels Task Pane will show two groups of vessels labeled **Passing** and **Not Passing**. Vessels in the passing group are displayed with their current position on the waterway, the distance along the waterway from your own-ship to that vessel, and the time it will take to meet at your current speeds. The time is displayed as a link and clicking on that link will show you the predicted passing point for that vessel.

Click on the blue underlined text to show the passing point on the chart. Click anywhere else in the box to show the other vessel's current location.

Passing Point Predictors

The **Y** key can now be used to turn automatic Passing Point Predictors on and off. (An easy way to remember the key is to think of the Passing Point Predictors as the **Y**ellow lines on the chart.)

Instrument Panel Enhancements

New Rate of Turn Instrument

A new style of instrument for showing rate of turn has been added. It looks like this:

To add this instrument to one of your Instrument Task Panes:

1. Right-click on the instrument task pane and select the **Add another panel** option (or the **Change panel type** option)
2. Select **Rate of Turn (ROT)** in the **Data to display** list
3. Select **dial** in the **Display Type** list
4. Click the **Add** button and then close the window (if you chose the Add another panel option)
5. Click OK (if you chose the Change panel type option).

Cursor ETA

A new instrument panel has been added that shows the distance from own-ship to the mouse cursor along with the ETA for that location at the current speed (assuming your own-ship was heading towards the cursor).

Distance to Cursor

1.83 NM

ETA

12:58

When the +Inland add-on is installed and your own-ship and the mouse cursor are on a river or inland waterway, the distance and ETA will be calculated along the waterway rather than along a straight line. In that case, the label will change to River Distance to Cursor.

To add this instrument to one of your Instrument Task Panes:

1. Right-click on the instrument task pane and select the **Add another panel** option
2. Select **Cursor ETA** in the **Data to display** list
3. Click the **Add** button and then close the window

Conditions Browser Enhancements

The Conditions browser can now provide live observations, river stages, and NAVTEX information. (The observations and river stages require an Internet connection or AIS receiver and nearby stations reporting over AIS, and the NAVTEX display requires a compatible NAVTEX receiver.)

Observations

If your PC is connected to the Internet, Rose Point ECS will download observations from the National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) as well as METAR reports from around the world.

In some areas, environmental condition observations are being broadcast via AIS and Rose Point ECS can also use that information when an AIS receiver is connected to your PC.

The NDBC and METAR observations appear as "station plots" on your chart when the Conditions Browser is open. You can show or hide these stations using the **Show** menu on the browser's toolbar. The AIS observations appear on the chart even when the Conditions browser is not open.

A "station plot" is a standard meteorological symbol that concisely displays wind speed and direction, air temperature and pressure, and possibly some other information. At the center of the symbol is a wind barb indicating the direction and speed of the wind. In the top-left corner is the air temperature and in the top-right corner is a number representing the air pressure. The air pressure is in millibars, but has the leading 9 or 10 removed and is multiplied by 10. For example, 410 in a station plot means 1041.0 mb and 987 means 998.7 mb. If you click on a station plot, a popup tip will appear to show all of the information received from the station without this encoding.

This station plot shows a westerly wind at around 5 knots, an air temperature of 50 degrees, and an air pressure of 1018.0 mb.

River Stages

The River Stage page of the Conditions browser displays information collected from hundreds of river stage monitoring stations around the United States. Each station appears as a small colored square on the chart and at scales below 1:1,000,000 the station names appear.

The colors of the squares indicate the flood stage at that station the last time the station map was updated (for the most current information, use **Options > Update Station Map** on the browser toolbar). Purple represents major flooding, red is moderate flooding, orange is minor flooding, yellow is near flood stage, green is no flooding, and gray indicates that the station is not providing data at this time.

To get more details about a particular station, click its symbol to open the station's page which will show a graph similar to a tide prediction. A river stage graph shows a combination of observations and predictions; observations show up as a thick blue line and predictions appear as a thin green line with small green squares that indicate the times of the actual predictions.

NAVTEX

If you have a compatible NAVTEX receiver connected to your PC, Rose Point ECS will receive, store, and display any messages it receives.

Rose Point ECS is compatible with any NAVTEX receiver that outputs raw messages to an RS-232 port as well as receivers that use the standard NMEA 0183 "NRX" sentence. To configure a NAVTEX receiver, use **Main Menu > Configure Vessel and Electronics > Data Ports** to configure the appropriate COM port to use either the NAVTEX interface (for raw messages) or the NMEA 0183 Interface (for newer receivers that output the NRX sentence).

To view NAVTEX messages, open the Conditions browser and select the NAVTEX page. A list of messages will appear along with all of the selected message. The list will display unread messages in **bold**. You can click on a message to read it, or use the spacebar to read the next message (or scroll the current message if it doesn't fit on the screen).

Installing Charts

Several new ways of installing charts have been added and all methods are now available in the Chart Portfolio. (Previous versions of Rose Point ECS had an Install Charts command on the Main Menu, but this command has been moved to the toolbar in the Chart Portfolio.)

Changes to the Chart Portfolio

The Chart Portfolio now has a list on the left side that you select what chart collection to display. (This replaces a drop-down list that used to appear on the toolbar.) This new list lets you select not only from types of installed charts, but also charts that are ready to be installed (if you have a Rose Point Chart Disc in your drive) or charts that you can download (if you have an Internet connection).

Installing Charts from a Rose Point Chart Disc

If you insert a Rose Point Chart Disc into your PC while Rose Point ECS is running, the charts or chart regions on that disc will be displayed and you can select which ones

you'd like to install. Different discs can have different installation options, so instructions for the disc you've inserted will appear at the top of the list.

Installing Charts from the Chart Store

Near the bottom of the new list of collections is a group called the Chart Store. Items in this list represent collections of charts that you can purchase or, in some cases, get for free. To purchase or download charts, select an entry from the store to see what that collection includes, then select the chart or charts you want, and use the Download or Add to Cart buttons that appear in the Property panel. Downloads will start immediately, but if you are purchasing charts you will need to use the **Check Out** button to complete your purchase.

New Licensing and Add-Ons Window

Rose Point ECS 2011 has a new window that is used to view and change product license and version information and to find and manage software "add-ons." To access this window, use **Main Menu > Licensing and Add-Ons**. The window has several pages and you can select which page to use by clicking on the tabs at the top of the window.

The first tab is called About and is very similar to the About Box found in most applications. It shows the version of Rose Point ECS you have, provides access to the end-user license agreement, and a way to "activate" the software on your PC.

The next tab is called Add-Ons and it lists the add-on modules that you currently have either installed or associated with your license. From here you can remove some types of add-ons that are installed or install some add-ons that you have associated with your license but are not yet installed on this PC.

The third tab is called Store and is the place where you can find new add-ons to install. Some of the add-ons in the store are free, some are not. Most of them are currently enhancements to the Guide Book, but Rose Point has many more planned.

The final tab is called Downloads and this shows the progress of any add-on (or chart) downloads that have been performed during the current session. Use this tab to find out when all of your add-on or chart installations have been completely downloaded before disconnecting from the Internet.

Range and Bearing Line Improvements

It is now possible to create range/bearing lines from nine different locations on your vessel to a fixed geographic point.

Please bear in mind that the accuracy of this feature greatly depends on the accuracy of your GPS, the configured position of the GPS on your vessel, and your heading sensor. If any of these data points is even slightly off, so will the calculated range and bearing from your vessel.
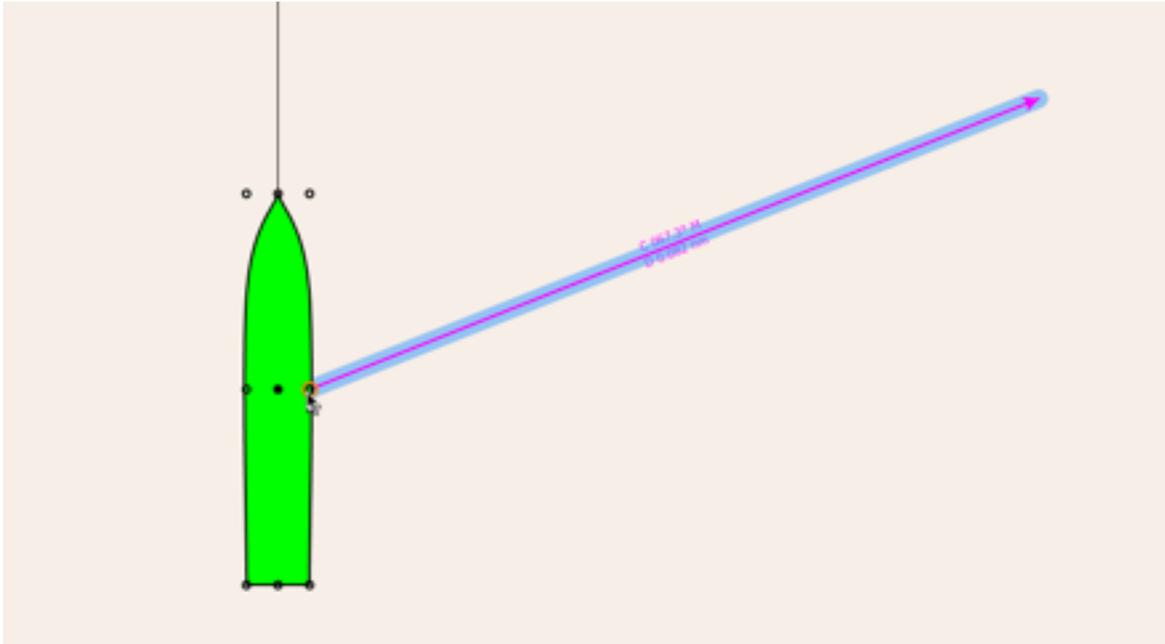
To use this feature:

Create a range/bearing line from boat using the New menu on the Home toolbar. Notice that eight circular "handles" appear around the boat symbol on the chart. These represent the eight new locations that a range/bearing line may start from, and the GPS position on your vessel is the ninth option.

You may now click on the chart to create a range/bearing line from your GPS position to that point on the chart (just like in previous versions of Rose Point ECS).

Or you may drag from one of the handles to the location on the chart to create a range/bearing line from that handle's location to the point on the chart.

Once you have created a range/bearing line from boat, you can change the position on the boat by selecting the range/bearing line and dragging the boat end of it to a different handle or by selecting a starting position with the **Ref Point** option on the Property panel.

ETA Calculator

The new ETA Calculator helps you perform speed, distance, and time calculations. It is a tabbed window and each tab performs a different calculation.

To start the ETA Calculator, right-click on the chart at the desired destination. When the calculator is started, the origin is assumed to be your current location but that can be changed.
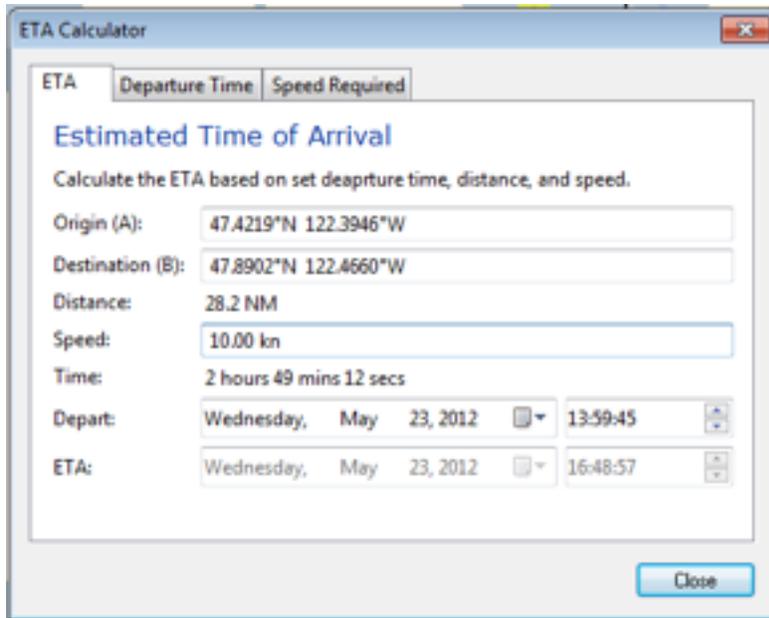
The first tab, ETA, is used to calculate the estimated time of arrival based on a set departure time and speed. The second tab, Departure Time, calculates the time to depart in order to arrive at a set time with a set speed. The final tab, Speed Required, is used to calculate the speed that would be required to arrive at a set time based on departing at a set time.

In each tab, you can adjust the origin, destination, and the values that are not being calculated for you. Any adjustments will immediately result in a new calculation.

While the ETA Calculator is on the screen, the path between the origin and destination will be shown in the chart as a red dashed line with a yellow highlight. The ends of this path are labeled (A) for origin and (B) for destination. You may drag the ends around on the chart to adjust the origin and destination points in the calculator.

Normally the ETA Calculator uses the straight-line distance between the origin and destination, but with the +Inland add-on installed, the calculator is capable of calculating paths along most inland waterways in the US.

When you are done using the calculator, click the Close button.

Route Monitor Improvements for Inland Navigation

The Route Monitor instrument has been enhanced to support inland navigation where routes are not usually used. You can add mile markers to the route monitor in order to have Rose Point ECS calculate and display distances and estimated times of arrival for those mile markers.

To add a mile marker to the Route Monitor, right-click on the Route Monitor (or click the **Mile Marker ETA...** button if the Route Monitor is empty). Enter a river code and mile number along with an optional comment. If you add a comment it will by shown next to the mile marker name in the monitor. You may add as many mile markers as you want to monitor.

When you no longer need to monitor a mile marker, right-click on that marker and select the Remove Mile Marker option from the menu.

Tow Configuration Window

Rose Point ECS +Inland can be used to create tow configuration diagrams which then augment your vessel symbol on the chart to show the full extent of your tow. To access this feature, click the Boat tab on the right side of the screen and click the **Configure Tow** button.

The Tow Configuration window opens showing your collection of saved tow configurations. From this screen, you you can create a new configuration or select an existing one to use, change, or delete. When you select New Configuration, or to change an existing configuration, you will be taken the configuration editor screen that is described below.

To create a new configuration, click on the first item labeled "New Configuration".

To use an existing configuration, click on the configuration you want and select the Use menu option.

To delete a configuration, click on it and then click the red X in the upper-right corner.

To lock a configuration in order to prevent it from being changed, click on it and then click the lock symbol in the upper-left corner. When a configuration is locked, attempts to change it will create a new copy of the configuration so that the original remains unchanged.

The edit a configuration, click it and select Change from the menu that appears.

Editing Tow Configurations

The tow configuration editing screen has two main parts: on the left side is a list of barges and on the right is the tow configuration being edited. You build a tow configuration by adding the appropriate barges to the list and then dragging them into position in the tow configuration.

You can change the name of a tow configuration by clicking on the name in this window and entering a new one. If you don't name a configuration, it will be called (no name).

If you need a barge type that is not already in the list, click the **Add a new barge** type button and fill in the form describing the new barge.

Barges may be dragged from the list to the tow configuration diagram or from one location on the diagram to another. If two barges are overlapping on the diagram, a red box will indicate where the problem is.

You can remove a barge from the tow by dragging it away from the configuration (drop it anywhere away from the other barges).

To get back to the configuration selection screen, click the back arrow in the top-left corner of the window and to close the tow configuration window, click the red X in the top-right corner. All of your changes are saved automatically.

MSR Maps Discontinued

Rose Point ECS has had an undocumented feature known as "MSR Maps" which could be used to combine aerial photography and topographic maps with the chart display. This feature relied on a service being provided by Microsoft Research for the actual imagery. Microsoft discontinued this service on April 1, 2012 and, as a result, the feature in Rose Point ECS will no longer function. The MSR Maps feature will be removed in a future software update.