



Puls-R reverses degradation in batteries for Coastguard Watch Station!

Puls-R 12V units were fitted to two banks of batteries at the NCI station at Froward Point in March 2012. These batteries have been scrupulously tested over the last few months showing amazing results.

Phil White, who looks after the customer's Electrical Systems, and who has an HNC plus 45 years experience in Electrical Engineering, was so pleased with the performance of his Puls-R 12V units that he sent us an email and lots of images to show the installation etc. Below is an excerpt from the email:

"Since March, Lee Harris from Darthaven Marina, (Puls-R Distributor for the South-West), has been testing our batteries every month and they have shown a constant improvement in the CCA rating.

As we can only charge our batteries while they are under load, this is more like a back-up situation than a normal starter battery situation. Our original set of station batteries lasted about 4 years under this routine before they needed replacing, which would suggest a monthly degradation of about 1.5%/ month. A second set installed for the weblink were not properly monitored, (the station batteries were), and were allowed to become fully discharged and never fully recharged. They only lasted 18 months, suggesting a monthly degradation of over 4.5%/month.

Last October I installed better monitoring for the weblink system and improved the charging facilities for both banks of batteries, as well as replacing the dud weblink batteries. Since then, both banks have been properly monitored and kept properly charged up, with neither bank showing less than 55% on the monitors.

*The initial rate of degradation on both banks of batteries would appear to have been about 1.5%/month, before the PULS-R units were installed. Since then the **degradation appears to have been reversed** with up to 5% improvement in CCA at times on the weblink batteries, which were newer. This would suggest we may get 6 years or more lifetime out of our weblink batteries and about 5 years out of the older station batteries.*

*If this should be the case, **we will have recovered the cost of the PULS-R units in one year's extra lifetime from the station batteries.** Most satisfying!*

*As we also have solar panels to back up the station generator, **any reduction in charging times is also beneficial as our diesel costs are £3,000/year. This also seems to have happened** as the solar panels are coping well, despite the typical Devon Summer! :-)"*

Phil White, Senior Watch Keeper.



The National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) is an entirely voluntary organisation keeping a visual watch along UK shores. Each station assists in the protection and preservation of life at sea and around the UK coastline.

As with other NCI stations, Froward Point, which is located east of the mouth of the River Dart in Devon, is manned by unpaid volunteers who maintain a watch for emergencies at sea and are a contact point for emergencies on shore.

Watches are maintained visually, with radio and with radar. The station is totally dependent on the generosity of individuals, companies, and other organisations for funding. Over £30,000 was raised to get this station operational.

Can you help keep it running? If so, please see their website: <http://www.nci-frowardpoint.org.uk/>
Another way in which you can help is to become a member of NCI Shorewatch: <http://www.nci.org.uk/>



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