PosAid Frequently Asked Questions

This file contains PosAid Specific information.
For Loran C information visit:

http://www.loran.org/
http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/loran/default.htm
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Loran_C

How accurate is PosAid?

Depending on Loran geometry, the accuracy of the PosAid software is 1/4 to 1/2 mile. PosAid does not account for the Additional Secondary Factor (ASF). This error term is due to the differing propagation speeds of Loran signals over the varied surface of the earth from different Loran stations. ASF can be adjusted manually for a given area by using delta Lat and Lon offsets to improve accuracy. A best-case converter that considers ASF can achieve accuracy approaching 100 meters. There are commercial sources for such programs.

My results are way off, what is wrong? or What is a seed position?

This is the most common PosAid mistake. PosAid uses an iterative algorithm that has to start somewhere to begin its iteration. That somewhere is the seed position. The seed position should be within a degree (lat and long) of where you are converting positions. You can just pull it off of a map of the general area or use google maps or mapquest. **Be sure to enter the signs (N or S,E or W)**. Note for longitude West is negative, if you just enter a positive number you get E longitude. This is the common mistake.

How do I download and set up the program?

I would suggest you start by creating a new folder for PosAid on your computer.
Right click on the PosAid link at the RDC website.
Use *save as* to save the PosAid.exe file from our website to this folder.
Double click on or run the PosAid program.
The files should extract (3 files)
Double click or run the posaid2.exe program to run PosAid.
When you double click on PosAid a DOS or command window should open up. If it does not go to start and use run.
Enter cmd in the run command line. This will open a command window. Change to the posaid folder by using the cd command.
Once in the posaid folder type posaid to extract the files and posaid2 to run the posaid program.

Is the source code for POSAID available?

Send an email request to TIS-PF-NISWS@uscg.mil

What coordinate system do I use, NAD27, WGS72, NAD83, WGS84?

WGS 84. Loran C stations are positioned in WGS 84 which is interchangeable (within 2 meters) with NAD 83 (the nautical chart datum).

Why doesn't my mouse work?

The menus are character driven using letters and numbers from the keyboard. This program predates mice.