

CREATING CUSTOM POINTS OF INTEREST IN A 430N GARMIN BASED NAV

PRELIMINARY REQUIREMENTS

- A computer/device capable of creating/editing/saving a Comma Separated Variable (CSV) file such as a text editor or Excel.
- A program to convert the .csv files to .gpi. Such as "Garmin POI loader" available for free at garmin.com.
- A USB memory stick with the file architecture: Garmin\poi

Obtaining/Creating your custom poi's

A number of programs will allow downloads of poi's created by others or will allow you to create your own. Some are free while others require purchase or paid subscription. MapSource and BaseCamp by Garmin are examples of programs you can obtain for free. My preference is Google Earth. I simply create Google Earth placemarks for my trail checkpoints. I can then copy the name, latitude, longitude and optional comments from the placemark and paste them directly into Excel. I then save the file in .csv format.

At the computer

Using Excel or another application capable of creating/editing/saving a Comma Separated Variable (.CSV) file, enter the poi information (formatted as text and having no header labels) into cells as follows: **Longitude, Latitude, Name** (You may also append name with @35 (ie Shell Station@35) for a speed alert. In this example a speed alert of 35MPH would be added [within .25 mile] to the poi Shell Station. You may optionally add a **comment** field after name). When all entries are complete, save the file in a directory that you will subsequently point the POI Loader to. The POI loader will process ALL .csv files in the folder, so name your files as you would like it's folder to appear in your device (ie "Drinkwater.csv" will create a folder(category) "Drinkwater" on your nav.) You may save multiple .csv files in this directory with each file containing a separate set of poi's. However, be aware that each time you perform a custom poi download to your device, all previous custom poi's not included in the current batch will be erased. This means that if you move or delete files from this directory they will NOT be included in subsequent downloads to your device and will no longer exist in your device after the download is performed. I do not know the limit but I have successfully loaded almost two dozen trails that created almost 550 custom poi's using multiple .csv files in the same directory with no problem.

Insert the USB memory stick with the architecture: "Garmin\poi" into the computer having the ".csv" file(s) created above.

Launch the POI loader application

At the "Welcome to POI Loader..." Screen Click Next

From the "Please select where..." screen of save options: "Garmin Device" or "Computer" select Garmin device. Click Next

At the "Select the device..." screen ignore to Find Device "GARMIN (E:\)". (Mine is drive E but yours may be different) Click Next.

You may be prompted to select to "Install new custom POIs onto your device" or "Remove all previously installed custom POIs from your device". Select "Install new..." Click Next

At the "Please select the folder..." screen:

Browse to the folder containing the ".csv" file(s). (this folder should default on subsequent sessions)

Revise the "Choose a name..." from "POINTS OF INTEREST" file to "poi"

What units should be used... leave default of "Feet and MPH"

In Express mode POI Loader will... select default of "Express (Recommended)" Click Next

At "Custom POI file named poi already exists..." screen click "Yes" to overwrite (will not ask on first use)

At the "Congratulations!..." screen, the quantity of Custom POI's installed is displayed. Click Finish

Remove the USB memory stick containing the file Garmin\poi\poi.gpi

At the 430N

Turn on the ignition switch and the radio to activate the 430N

Insert the USB stick. "Reading..." will appear briefly. (A "No file on USB" message may briefly appear then quickly go away.)

A screen stating: "A new custom POI has been found. Do you wish to install the update" "No" "Yes" Select Yes

A screen stating: "Installing the update will erase all existing custom POIs on your navigation system. Are you sure you wish to continue?" "No" "Yes". Select Yes

You will be returned to the screen displayed when the memory stick was inserted while files are copied.

After a few moments the following message will appear: "PND update complete" "OK". Click OK

Remove memory stick

Updated Points Of Interest may be found on the 430N at: Where To / Extras / Custom POIs

Touch "Custom POIs" on the screen to expand the newly downloaded points in alpha order of your files.

NOTES and OBSERVATIONS:

Be sure to enter the minus (-118.593095) if it applies to any of your coordinates.

Coordinates that I have successfully uploaded have been in Decimal Degrees and/or Degrees Decimal Minutes and can be mixed within the file. Each .csv file will create a separate folder in your nav with all of the waypoints of that file within that folder. ie each ".csv file" is a "trail".

The "All Categories" on your nav will display a consolidated list of all of your saved POIs sorted in "distance away from you" order and will update the list as distance to/from these points change. Therefore, the closest point is always first on the list.

The distance displayed on Custom POIs has the suffix of "T". This represents miles "**as the crow flies**" or directly "TO" that point, not how many miles it will take to actually drive to that location following a particular road. When the vehicle is stopped, an alpha designator indicates the direction. When the vehicle is moving a directional arrow indicates where the point is in relation to the vehicle.

Speed alerts will be displayed on the NAV screen within approximately ¼ mile of each poi having a speed alert. If you are within speed alert limits (regardless of posted speed) the speed alert is in white/grey. If alert speed is exceeded, the alert appears as red and white. In either case an audio alert will also be heard.

Speed alerts will appear within ¼ mile of each poi having such an alert whether you are in navigation mode or not.

Comments only appear on the "More Information" screen.

You can make all poi's within a file be speed alerts. Any number in the filename will be interpreted as a speed alert (ie "Speed Zones 25").

This from the Garmin site: POI Loader assumes a .csv file utilizes the following format for each POI (brackets [] denote optional text):

<Lon>,<Lat>,[*]<Name>[[@<Alert Speed>]][*],[*][comment][[*]] If you include quotes around the name or comment, you can include line breaks in the text.