



GPS is Out! Radio is Out! And I'm WAY Out! Home is...??? (2 of 4)

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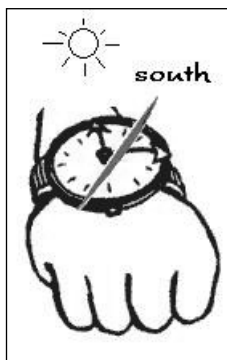


When I wrote recently about the medical kit (see SSP, "Calling Dr Skipper - Onboard Medical Kit", 3/11/09) and using scotch whiskey instead of alcohol for cleansing my wound, it reminded me that it is the sail boaters ("rag tops" as they are sometimes called by the "stink pot drivers", powered boaters) that often have the best safety procedures, ideas and home remedies. Why? Because when you're 2,000 from land, you are "IT" when it comes to fixes and rescues, at least for quite a while. Well, if you're fishing the Hudson Canyons 100 miles out, you're just about as lonely. What if your electronics get fried by a storm? What then? Well, you may recall that we wrote about what to do when your GPS fails but you can see land (see SSP, "My GPS Broke - Oh Jeez! (1 of 3)", 9/23/09.) This column starts answering what you might do when you are far at sea - celestial navigation with "string and bailing wire." Except we need to take 4 weeks to do it, not 3 as I thought back in September!

Water, Water Everywhere - and No Street Signs!

Face it. If some of us lost our electronics, we'd be hard pressed to figure out how to get home. And, if your electronics are fried, you can't call the USCG since your radio is gone and your cell phone isn't within 30 leagues of a cell tower. Back on August 27,

2008, the column was about why you need a simple compass (see "I have a GPS - Why Do I Need a Compass", SSP, 8/27/08.) In that article, I gave you a quick and dirty way to get home when your GPS AND compass have failed. It is reprinted here so you have it all in one place:



My GPS Has Failed and I Don't Have a Compass!

Well, happily for this sorry skipper, there is a way to create a crude compass with a watch if you find yourself in such a state. Simply point the hour hand at the Sun. Halfway

between the hour hand (the Sun) and 12 on your watch lies South. If you know where South is, you know where North, East and West are... Don't have an old fashioned watch..? Draw one and line it up as if it were on your wrist. It works!

And, as we wrote about back on Jan 7, 2009, your cell phone isn't working when you are really out at sea (see "Can You Hear Me Now - Cell Phones and Boats", SSP, 1/7/09.)

But what if you need more information than which way is South? How about where you are in terms of latitude and longitude, at least within a

couple of miles on God's Great Sea..? Read on...

The Poor Man's GPS!

If all you had left aboard was a wrist watch, a piece of paper, a ruler/straight-edge, a poem, something to use as a Sun-dial-like shadow caster (a gnomon in tech-speak) and 4 simple numbers, you can get a pretty good fix of where you are (OK, keep this article folded in the back of your log book.) A critical item in getting home is knowing where you are starting from! So, let's start.

First, set your watch to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT), also called Universal Time Coordinated (UTC), or Zulu-Time. For we New Yorker's, that is local time + 5 hours when on Standard Time and +4 hours when on Daylight Savings Time. Next, using your ruler/straight edge, reduce your piece of paper a ratio of 5 x 6. Huh? Well, a standard piece of paper in the US is 8 1/2 x 11. Take 1 1/2 inches off that piece of paper and now it is 8 1/2 by 10 - almost "spot on" 5 x 6 ratio!

Making Your Quadrant

Now you are going to create a Quadrant to figure out the Sun's position relative to the Equator (its Declination.) (Sextants, Octants and Quadrants are all devices for measuring angles so you can figure out where you are!) To make lining things up easier, draw a line from one corner to the diagonal opposite, "long ways", and

then fold the long side down to the drawn line. Take the new long edge and fold it again to the drawn line. See Figure #1.

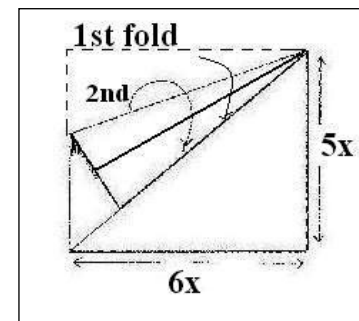


Figure #1

Now you have 4 sectors of 10o each. Soon we will have 9 folds of 10o, adding up to 90o. Stop! How can making 4 folds in half of the paper, implying 8 folds in total, add up to 9 folds and 90o? The answer lies in the proportion of 5 x 6. If you just take folded side of your Quadrant and fold it across the drawn diagonal line, you will see a "tail" sticking out the other side. Next week, we'll continue with our Quadrant making.

BTW, if you are interested in being part of USCG Forces, email me at JoinUSCGAux2010@aol.com or go direct to John Blevins, who is in charge of new members matters, at FSO-PS@emcg.us and we will help you "get in this thing..."

New York Jet Charter offers "Taxi in the Sky"

Economic Air Charter to and from 50 Airports in 250-Mile Range of Islip.

It is no secret that the economic downturn has impacted the aviation industry. Paying thousands of dollars for ultra-luxurious comforts on a one-to-three hour flight is not as prevalent as in previous years. New York Jet Charter offers an efficient and more cost-effective alternative to expensive jet charter flights. The service targets business and pleasure travelers, flying to and from 50 airports based in a 250-mile range of Islip, New York. Right now, Albany, Martha's Vineyard and Easthampton top the company's list for most popular destinations.

The parent company, Mid Island Air Service, established in 1946, re-entered the charter business as New York Jet Charter. They are now offering clients an alternative to the higher operating cost of multi engine Turbine or Jet Charters. Vincent Basile, co-owner of New York Jet Charter, Inc. said, "There are few Charter companies doing air taxi like we do air taxi. We're taking a pilot approach versus a business approach."

Why drive to Albany from Long Island in four hours when you can charter the company's cost efficient Cessna 182 Skylane and arrive refreshed in less than one hour and 10 minutes... and depart when you choose. This sleek time proven aircraft is simply the best all-around four place piston single ever built. New York Jet has a 20 thousand hour FAA Pilot Examiner as the Chief Pilot of their growing fleet. Outfitted with the most updated avionics the Cessna Skylane is safe and comfortable. "You can see moving GPS mapping, terrain, weather - everything," said Robert Osinski, chief pilot. "It brings a sense of comfort to passengers."



"During the week, it's mostly business travel," Basile said. "On the weekend, it's people traveling to their weekend homes or going on a mini vacation." For some couples, paying hundreds of dollars to bypass traffic getting off the Island on a Friday evening is money well spent.

"You don't have to go through air terminal security or worry about flight delays or go through the stress of traffic if you drive," Basile said.

New York Jet combines its experience with air-travel amenities so you get the "charter-feel" - definitely not your run-of-the-mill air taxi service. No jet could do it for the same low price. "We can move our clients in a fairly reasonable time frame and at a fraction of the cost because we use smaller equipment that suits the flight profile requiring less fuel. This allows us to maintain a lower overhead enabling the savings to be

passed onto our customers" said, Vice President and co-owner Gail Jensen about the Cessna Skylane.

New York Jet is presently in negotiations to lease a brand new Cessna 8 passenger single engine Turbine Caravan. The Caravan is the unequaled king of the air when it comes to cost-efficiency, flight ability and the transportation of people and cargo within a 400-600-mile radius. Our staff can also arrange a turbo prop or jet charter, if that suits your travel needs.

For more information contact:

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