

Celestial and Natural Navigation Workshop

Fort Lauderdale, Florida: March 5-7, 2010

Why bother to learn celestial navigation?

"Because it will satisfy your soul."

—Hewitt Schlereth, author of *Celestial Navigation in a Nutshell*

"The sextant is a super handy gizmo. Yes, you get a \$99.95 GPS and think that you know where you are, but you wouldn't know about the stars, the planets, the moon and the sun as you do if you are proficient at finding your position anywhere in the world with a sextant. And that is really where we are, in the midst of the stars and planets. That's where we live...."

—Phillipe Kahn, Borland Software, founder of the Camera Phone

I am happy to report that celestial navigation is making a spirited comeback. My intimate three-day workshop is both a "hands-on, how-to" introduction to celestial navigation and it's a lot more. It is also about learning to recognize natural signs that give clues to the position of your boat, and your position in the universe. Don't laugh, celestial navigation, combined with natural observations is at the very heart of why we dream of sailing across oceans. Anybody can stare at a GPS/Plotter; it takes knowledge and inspiration to navigate. Tuning in to the ocean will make you a better sailor.

In addition to learning how to take a sight, reduce it and plot lines of position, you will also learn how simple concepts like the apparent motion of celestial bodies guide almost all navigational decisions, how the presence of certain sea birds means land is in the offing, why clouds hover over distant islands and how an interrupted swell pattern can indicate land ahead. Ocean navigation, when done well, is incredibly rewarding. This workshop, limited to 8 people, is a unique, integrated approach to the concept of knowing where you are.

I have been teaching celestial navigation for almost thirty years. Yes, I am that old, and I have logged hundreds of thousands of bluewater miles. This unique workshop lets me share my hard won experience with you practically and philosophically. Each participant will receive a complete navigation notebook and practical experience at sea.

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