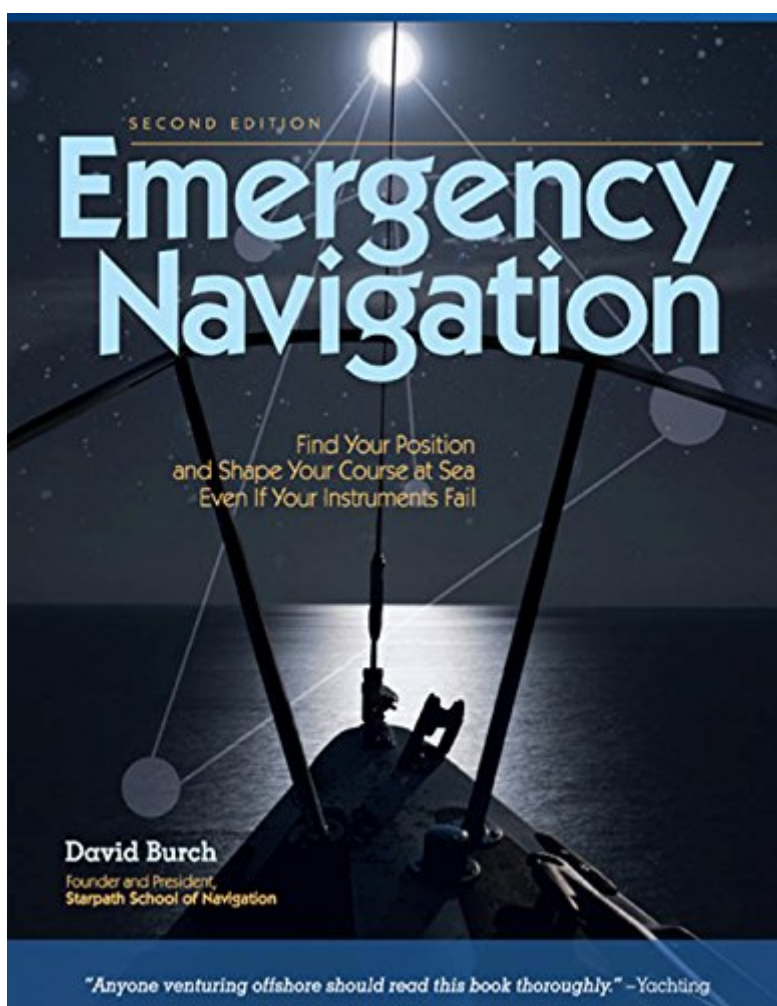


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Emergency Navigation, 2nd Edition: Improvised And No-Instrument Methods For The Prudent Mariner (International Marine-RMP)



Synopsis

Find Your Way at Sea, No Matter What is inherently interesting and fun to read . . . provides the clearest understanding of general navigation principles we've seen yet. --BoatU.S. is thorough and authoritative. --Sea Kayaker is a definitive work of instant appeal to seamen of all levels of experience. --The Navigation Foundation Every sailor knows that instruments can fail. Things get wet, break, fall overboard. Whether you're safe on your boat or drifting in a life raft, let David Burch show you how to find your way no matter what navigational equipment you have. Often relying on common materials like a small stick, a plastic bottle, even a pair of sunglasses, Burch explains how to make use of all available means--from the ancient skills of Polynesian navigators to the contrails of airliners overhead--to calculate speed, direction, latitude, and longitude and to perform all aspects of piloting and dead reckoning. Learn how to Steer by sun, stars, wind, and swells Estimate current and leeway Improvise your own knotmeter or plumb-bob sextant Find the sun in a fogbank Estimate latitude with a plate and a knotted string And more vital information

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Customer Reviews

For starters, I have the Kindle edition which is fine and I can see no noticeable loss in readability. In fact it's probably one of the better Kindle formatted books I've come across. This book is not a secret list of simple techniques that will guide you around the world safely if your GPS packs in and your sextant cracks in half. Navigating without GPS is just as difficult as it always has been, and even more so without handy devices like sextants and scientific calculators. The knock on this book is that it correctly reflects the reality of emergency navigation. You're likely to lose some, but not all, of your navigational gear. Maybe you have a sextant but no almanac. Maybe you have compass and a fried GPS. Maybe you're in the polar regions, but chances are you're in the tropics or middle latitudes. Maybe you have nothing but a wrist watch. Because each of these scenarios presents different variables, your approach needs to be flexible and as such so is the format of the book. There is a lot of "you could do it this way if you have x and y but not z". It's a bit confusing at times, but it's also representative of what a true emergency navigation experience will be like. Martians won't beam down and take all your gear, instead a lightning strike or rollover will render most of it inoperable. Additionally, you'll need to practice these techniques. This isn't something that you keep in your ditch bag, instead there is a lot of information that you will need to regularly practice in order to have a realistic chance of using successfully.

This book is not about what to do in an emergency, it is about what to do always. All of the techniques should be practiced all the time while on board. Electronic navigation should almost only be used for confirmation purposes. The message in the book is quite powerful and the techniques to the point. The book is well written in easily understandable terms. I used some of these techniques on two Atlantic crossings and was quite pleasantly surprised at the accuracy of one's plots once you get the techniques under the belt. A good book to read for all those who venture out on the wide blue sea. A must read before you depart and a good read even for experienced sailors. Very useful indeed.

Another name for this book might as well be, "Essential Navigation". The book is mainly geared towards open ocean navigation. However, many sections would be of interest to anybody interested in an awareness and understanding of the mechanics of the natural world around us. Although the author suggests some basic items for an emergency navigation kit, many of the discussed techniques don't require much more than your own hands and observation. One should read this book and begin applying the knowledge in everyday activities. Much of the material is relevant even outside of emergencies. If you don't already know this material, you should.

I only do coastal sailing during the day so I bought the book more out of interest than necessity. I love the section covering celestial navigation. The author's description of using the Orion constellation as well as the north star was a pleasure to read. I've reread it multiple times. The section on navigating by the sun is a little more complex but equally fascinating. The author describes methods that involve having and not having an astrolabe. I would definitely recommend and I bought it for my father.

This is a GREAT book on emergency navigation. It should be well read BEFORE you set sail. The book explains how you can navigate in almost any situation... and relies heavily on reading the stars, not instruments and electronics. If you can perform the basics, at least you will always know where you are.... and where you are going.

great book with tons of interesting information. I've practiced ship navigation my entire life, and have taught celestial nav for years... and I learned things from the book I had never known in my 30 plus years

Totally recommendable for anyone going offshore, or wanting to learn how to really navigate. Electronics are great for convenience, but we're getting dumber: buy this book and study it regularly to expand the tools at your disposal within your own brain. A must-have for sailors and power-boaters alike.

I am an aspiring tramp sailor. Because of that I am trying to read some books that will make me salty. This one is very good. The claim is that the time to learn what to do in an emergency is before the emergency. Here are methods for dealing with missing elements to one's navigational kit. For anyone who dreams of sailing over the horizon, I recommend that you study this book first.

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