

Contents

Introduction—Offshore Navigation for the Recreational Boater in the 21st Century . . . ix	The Sextant 26
Course Introduction ix	Taking the Sight 26
Welcome to the World's Oceans ix	Sights on the Moon 26
Preview of the Course x	Sights on Stars and Planets 26
Getting the Most from this Text x	Altitude Adjustments 27
Completing the Navigation Course xi	Altitude Corrections 27
Accuracy, Precision, and Practices xii	Star Sights 27
Standards Of Precision And	Planet Sights 28
Computational Practice xii	Additional Correction (Add'l Corr)
Special Note on Rounding xiii	for Venus and Mars 28
Materials and Equipment You Need	Moon Sights 29
for this Course xiv	Non-Standard Air Temperature &
References for Further Study xiv	Atmospheric Pressure (T & B) 31
Materials Provided xv	High Altitude Sights 32
Chapter 1, A View of our Solar System . 1	Summary of Altitude Adjustments 32
Navigational Astronomy 1	Celestial Coordinates 33
The Solar System 2	Sidereal Hour Angles 33
The Sun 2	Computing LHA and Dec 34
The Planets 3	Time Diagrams 35
The Moon 3	Moon Sights – Determining LHA
The Stars 3	and Dec 35
Changes in the night sky	Planet Sights – Determining LHA
throughout the year 3	and Dec 38
Changes in the Seasons - First	Star Sights – Determining LHA
Point of Aries defined 4	and Dec 39
Sidereal Time 6	Summary of LHA and Dec
SHA of a Star 6	Calculations 41
SHA of the Sun 6	Summary of Corrections 41
The Celestial Coordinate Systems 6	Latitude From Polaris 42
Meridian Diagrams 7	Reduction by Nautical Almanac
References 8	Polaris Tables 42
Homework 9	Sight Data Averaging 42
Chapter 2, SunriseSunset 11	Averaging Sight Data 42
Solar Phenomena 11	References 45
Definitions 11	Solutions to Skill Exercises 45
Local Mean Time 12	Optional Material 47
Converting LMT to ZT 15	Minor Corrections 47
Predicting Solar Phenomena 15	Magnitude 47
Moonrise and Moonset 17	The Electronic Almanac 47
Aboard a Moving Vessel 18	Reed's Nautical Almanac 47
References 20	Homework 49
Solutions to Skill Exercises 20	Polaris Form 51
Homework 23	Chapter 4, Reducing and Plotting
Chapter 3, Taking Sights and Finding	Celestial Sights 53
Ho, LHA and Dec 25	Overview 53
Overview of Sight Reduction 25	Reference Positions for Sight Reductions 54
	Sight Reduction by the Law of Cosines –
	Stars, Moon, and Planets 55

Computers and Calculators	57	Sight Planning	107
Plotting LOPs Determined by the Law of Cosines – Stars, Moon, and Planets . .	58	Choice of Bodies	108
Celestial Fixes	60	Twilight Sights	109
Two-Body Fix	60	Daylight Sights	110
Running Fixes	63	Star Identification.....	111
Fix from a Moving Vessel	63	Learning the Night Sky by Constellations.	112
Three-Body Fix.....	64	References	112
Summary	68	Solutions to Skill Exercises.....	113
References	68	Optional Material	114
Solutions to Skill Exercises.....	68	Setting the Star Finder	114
Homework	73	Finding LMT of Desired Observations	114
		Homework	115
Chapter 5, Sight Reduction and Plotting by the NASR Method	75	Chapter 7, Emergency Navigation.....	117
Introduction.....	75	Planning for Emergencies	117
Nautical Almanac Sight Reduction (NASR) Method	76	Emergency Navigation Kit	118
General Description.....	76	Most Probable Position.....	118
NASR Sight Reduction Form.....	77	Plotting Sheets	120
Precision to be Used on Sight Reduction Form.....	77	Dead Reckoning	121
Detailed Description of the Procedure..	77	Simplified Traverse Table.....	122
Sight Reduction by the NASR Method	78	Deck Log	124
Altitude Corrections	79	Life Raft Navigation	124
The Computed Altitude.....	80	References	125
The Intercept.....	80	Solutions to Skill Exercise	125
The Azimuth	80	Homework	127
Negative Altitude	80		
Plotting LOPs by the NASR Method.....	81	Chapter 8, Electronics Offshore.....	131
Multi-body fixes	83	Overview of Offshore Navigation Software Used in Course.....	132
Three-Body Fix.....	85	Automatic Identification System (AIS) 132	
Fix from a Moving Vessel	87	How does AIS work?.....	133
Summary	89	Overview of <i>Visual Passage Planner 2</i> ..	134
References	89	Loading <i>VPP2</i>	134
Solutions to Skill Exercises.....	90	<i>VPP2</i> Basics	135
Homework	95	A few functions of <i>VPP2</i>	135
		A few features of <i>VPP2</i>	136
Chapter 6, Sight Planning.....	97	Overview of <i>OpenCPN</i>	136
Sights on Stars and Planets	97	Installing <i>OpenCPN</i>	138
Sights on the Moon.....	97	Installing Charts	139
Planning Considerations.....	97	Start Using Your Charts	140
The Face of the Sky	98	Moving Around the Charts	141
Computer Resources.....	98	Charting Preferences	141
Celestial Tools.....	99	Toolbar Buttons	141
The Star Finder.....	103	Basic Features.....	142
Star Base.....	103	Right Click Menu.....	142
Red Template	103	Status Bar	143
Blue Templates.....	104	Tides and Currents.....	143
Plotting Celestial Bodies.....	104	Displaying Currents.....	144
Planets	104	Marks and Routes.....	144
Sun and Moon	105	Planning an Offshore Voyage Using <i>OpenCPN</i>	147
Setting the Star Finder.....	106	Planning an Offshore Voyage Using <i>VPP2</i>	148

Summary – Route Planning with <i>VPP2</i> and Importing into <i>OpenCPN</i>	153	Appendix A, Special Altitude	
Deleting, Inserting, and Moving Waypoints	154	Corrections	195
Underway – Using <i>OpenCPN</i> and Other Tools.....	154	Dip Short Sights.....	195
Summary	159	Artificial Horizon Sights.....	196
References	160	Back Sights.....	197
Solutions to Skill Exercises.....	161	Appendix B, Excerpts from the Nautical Almanac	199
Optional Material	163	Appendix C, Glossary for the USPS Junior Navigation and USPS Navigation Courses	243
Exporting Routes to a Chartplotter.....	163	Appendix D, Sight Folder Requirements and Forms	253
Tablets.....	164	Navigation Sight Folder Requirements ..	253
Reference	166	Run of Observations.....	253
Homework	167	Limits for Sights	264
Chapter 9, Underway	169	Standards of Accuracy.....	254
Navigational Routine at Sea	169	General Rules	255
Plotting Sheets	169	Sight Folder Contents.....	255
900 Series Plotting Sheets.....	170	Submitting Sights for Grading.....	257
Variation Changes.....	170	Sight Folder Resubmittal	257
Time Zone Boundaries.....	171	Sight Folder Forms	(following page 259)
Plotting Position Offshore	171	Appendix E, Answers to the Homework Questions	267
Plotting a Day's Work at Sea.....	173		
Plotting the LOP.....	173		
Estimated Positions	173		
Running Fixes.....	173		
Determining Current	174		
Plotting Conventions	176		
References	176		
Homework, Practice Cruise	177		
Deck Log Sheets	191		
Days Work Plot	(foldout after page 194)		