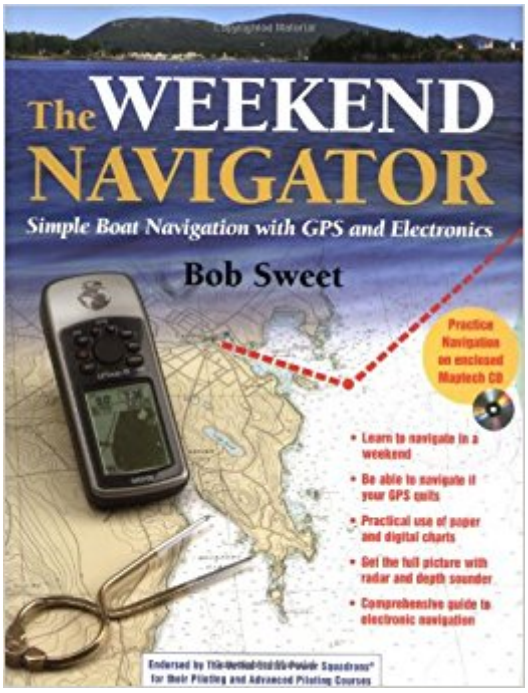
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The Weekend Navigator: Simple Boat Navigation With GPS And Electronics



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Synopsis

Can piloting a boat really be this easy? Traditional navigation with its chart plotting, compass errors, and current vectors requires years to master. Serious boaters learn it eventually, but with $100 GPS receivers offering 50-foot position accuracy anywhere in the world, itÃ¢â ¬â„¢s no longer necessary to master the art before enjoying the sport. The Weekend Navigator is the first book to recognize that affordable, simple-to-use electronics demand a radically new approach to teaching navigation. Bob Sweet lets you find your way on the water immediately, learning by rather than before doing. This innovative guideÃ¢â ¬â„¢s quick-reference format shows you how to: Pinpoint locations at all times Determine the precise ranges and bearings of destinations Compensate for wind and current effects Avoid underwater hazards

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Fast, Easy Way to Master Boat Navigation Thanks to modern electronic navigation tools, getting from one place to another on the water has never been faster, easier, or safer. And thanks to The Weekend Navigator, learning to use these tools quickly and correctly is now easier than ever! This completely practical, step-by-step guide gets you out on the water quickly and lets you perfect your navigation skills as you enjoy your precious hours afloat. Ideal for inland and coastal cruisers, sportfishers, and aspiring recreational boaters, this innovative handbook features an easy-to-use, quick-reference format that helps you operate your GPS, depth sounder, and radar and interpret what they tell you. With the help of over 300 full-color illustrations, you’ll learn how to use your

electronics to navigate even the most treacherous waterways with little or no risk, and discover waypoint navigation techniques that let you choose a destination, plot a course, and monitor your progress as you go. You’ll also learn how to: *Plot GPS positions on paper and digital charts *Determine the precise range and bearing of your destination *Evaluate and compensate for wind and current effects *Avoid reefs and other underwater hazards *Make a seamless transition to chart-and-compass navigation if your electronics fail *Praise for GPS for Mariners: "[Sweet] has the solid and fundamental mastery of the subject that lets him guide the reader step by step through the entire system. . . . Nothing is left out, and nothing is wrong."—Good Old Boat "Useful for those looking to buy a GPS, as well as current owners who want to use theirs more efficiently. . . . The information is tailored specifically for boaters and boating uses."—Soundings Bob Sweet has more than thirty years’ experience in boating and the electronics industry. He is a former systems engineer and senior executive who helped develop GPS for the U.S. Air Force and numerous naval systems. Now a business advisor to high-tech companies and a navigation instructor, Bob holds a Senior Navigator rating with The U.S. Power Squadrons. He is the author of GPS for Mariners.

The Fast, Easy Way to Master Boat Navigation Thanks to modern electronic navigation tools, getting from one place to another on the water has never been easier or safer. And thanks to The Weekend Navigator, learning to use these tools quickly and correctly is now easier than ever! This completely practical, step-by-step guide gets you out on the water quickly and lets you perfect your navigation skills as you enjoy precious hours afloat. Ideal for inland and coastal cruisers, sportfishers, and aspiring recreational boaters, this innovative handbook features an easy-to-use, quick-reference format that helps you operate your GPS, depth sounder, and radar and interpret what they tell you. With the help of over 300 full-color illustrations, youÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll learn how to use your electronics to navigate safely in all conditions, and you'll discover waypoint navigation techniques that let you choose a destination, plot a course, and monitor your progress as you go. YouÃ¢â ¬â„¢ll also learn how to: Plot GPS positions on paper and digital charts Determine the precise range and bearing of your destination Evaluate and compensate for wind and current effects Avoid reefs and other underwater hazards Integrate GPS information with compass courses, visual bearings, dead reckoning, and the other techniques of traditional piloting Make a seamless transition to chart-and-compass navigation if your electronics fail The Weekend Navigator provides a strong foundation in the time-honored skills of piloting, and with this book you can practice those skills on the water, using GPS to keep you pointed in the right direction. Praise for Bob Sweet's

GPS for Mariners: "[Sweet] has the solid and fundamental mastery of the subject that lets him guide the reader step by step through the entire system. . . . Nothing is left out, and nothing is wrong."Ã¢â ¬â •Good Old Boat "Useful for those looking to buy a GPS, as well as current owners who want to use theirs more efficiently. . . . The information is tailored specifically for boaters and boating uses."Ã¢â ¬â •Soundings Adopted by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for its GPS seminars Bob Sweet has more than thirty yearsÃ¢â ¬â„¢ experience in boating and the electronics industry. He is a former systems engineer and senior executive who helped develop GPS for the U.S. Air Force. Now a business advisor to high-tech companies and a navigation instructor, Bob holds a Senior Navigator rating with The U.S. Power Squadrons. He is the author of GPS for Mariners.

For most boaters, power or sail, this is your best bet for a single, clear, comprehensive guide to piloting and navigation. The author, Sweet, is very knowledgeable and takes a straightforward approach to navigation in the electronic age. He makes a strong case for developing the skills to navigate without relying on electronic Chartplotters and Global Positioning Systems (which CAN and DO fail, like any other electronic device); however, he does not condescend to the reader on this issue, nor does he exclude those electronic devices from consideration. On the contrary, the nicest aspect of this book is the way it INTEGRATES electronic and traditional means of piloting, showing you how each can complement the other in useful ways. The result is a book that will teach you how to understand and use your electronics better, while developing traditional navigational skills that may save your life (or at least save you some inconvenience) the next time your electronics go down.I've read a lot of books on navigation in the last 20 years. Sweet does a better-than-average job of explaining traditional piloting techniques in an accessible manner, with very nice illustrations that allow the reader to reflect on and absorb some of the abstract concepts involved. (Piloting is not hard, but it can feel overwhelming and confusing at first until you really "get" it.) Sweet is also one of the only authors I've come across who talks about electronic navigation methods as the normal reality for day-to-day navigation among most boaters (which it is!). Most other books relegate electronic devices to an isolated chapter, seem hopelessly out of date with regard to modern GPS innovations, and/or discuss electronic navigation as if it is an afterthought. Sweet talks as if he understands, realistically, that GPS will be the primary source of navigational information for the boaters he is addressing, and that is why his tone and approach come across so well. Along the way, he makes good recommendations about other resources to consult, such as Nigel Calder's definitive guide to reading a nautical chart, and to the free Coastal Explorer software that provides an excellent way to view NOAA raster charts for free on your computer. I am convinced of his

credibility. This is a resource I would not hesitate to trust. Highly recommended to anyone looking for a clear and comprehensive guide to modern navigation.I would NOT buy the Kindle edition, since the illustrations in this book are very important to developing a full understanding of certain concepts, and would not likely display well on the Kindle (smaller, without color, etc.).

I used this book as a text for a boating safety course given by the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Both the book and the course were outstanding

I've got a half dozen books on coastal navigation (piloting actually) and all are good, but Bob Sweet's book integrates GPS with traditional piloting methods in a way none of the rest do. Most books are either all about getting the most out of your GPS, or they concentrate on traditional charting methods then update the subject with separate chapters on GPS, RADAR, LORAN, etc.This book approaches 21 first century piloting as an integrated plan for most conditions that shows the roles played by your charts, your electronics, and your common sea sense in a balanced, minute by minute situational awareness where no single tool predominates.In short, Sweet's book answers the question I always had after reading other books: "OK, so how to I put all this together on the bay with only two hands, two eyes and one brain? This book shows how to do it without overloading yourself.A well planned book, manufactured nicely with good paper and color.I recommend this book.

I boat in the cold, rocky, unforgiving waters of coastal Maine where safety is ALWAYS a concern. The Weekend Navigator is worth every penny; it is well written with colorful graphics and has helped to greatly expand my navigation skills. If/when the GPS quits or the fog rolls in unexpectedly, I want to know how to safely get back home.

A great book for how most people navigate today. I completed the ASA navigation course, but its complete lack of GPS use and focus on complex math made for a steep learning curve, and I was not comfortable relying on it in practical applications without much more time on the water. This book uses a nice combination of paper charts and electronics, that actually works on the water. Being six years old, much of the specific tech has changed, but I was still able to use it with a new Garmin handheld chart-plotter to navigate my first three day charter in the Tampa Bay area. I wish I would have read it before purchasing a GPS as I would have purchased a more simple unit and invested more in other navigation areas.

If you want a rare combination of smart tech and understandable language, this is the navigation user manual for you. In fact, it displays the handheld GPS I am using as my backup on the front cover. Can’t say enough about how this book as integrated theory, practice and practical examples.

I just completed navigation course and wish I had this book as the course book. They did mention it and I decided I needed more information and bought the book. It is well written. great graphics and examples. I highly recommend the book and the knowledge and writing style of Mr. Sweet.

This is a great resource for the recreational boater that wants to know the essentials of navigating using the electronic tools that are available to the boater today. It explains the principles of navigation in an easy to understand manner and is quite comprehensive.

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