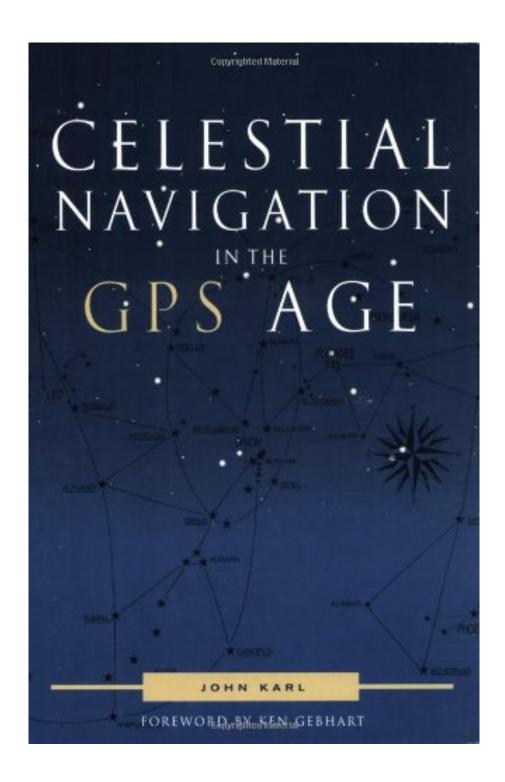


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### About the Author

John Karl is a physicist, artist, pilot, writer, and a sailor. He learned celestial navigation 50 years ago and has been sailing for 60 years. He s taught celestial navigation workshops at the University of Wisconsin and aboard the 3-masted S/V Denis Sullivan. He s conducted marine research in the Great Lakes on the R/V Salmo and in the Gulf of California aboard the R/V Melville. Karl has sailed the Pacific Ocean, East Coast, Great Lakes, Florida Keys, and the Bahamas.

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Celestial Navigation in the GPS Age by John Karl This revised and expanded edition of this popular CN book now introduces simple tabular sight reductions first, followed by calculator methods for those wishing to take full advantage of their flexibility. Of course it retains the same unprecedented clear and accurate explanation of CN mysteries, such as the role of the assumed position, and how positions and celestial LOPs can be plotted with no assumptions. The section on stars has been expanded, and star and planet identification and viewing have been added. It explains nine special sights, such as Polaris sights, meridian sights, and even sights without a sextant. Lunar distance sights are explained from the ground up, using only basic concepts, with no special formulas or tables. The book has a unique chapter on sextants and their properties, explaining the workings and effects of different horizon mirrors and telescopes, and their associated advantages and disadvantages. Related topics include: integrating CN with GPS for improving skill and safety; constructing plotting sheets; making superior running fixes; designing special LOPs for landfalls; and performing compass deviation checks at sea. Beginners will like the clear and authoritative explanations, arriving at a complete sight reduction in just 40 pages, accompanied by 72 exercises for plenty of practice and confidence building all in the most comprehensive CN book ever written. Experienced navigators will appreciate the comprehensive fresh treatment of all topics, many never seen elsewhere. SC, 2011, 310 pages.

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Not For Beginners

By Ron DiGiovanni

This book is possibly not the best introduction or a first reading of celestial navigation. The author apparently attempts an intuitive approach to the subject by throwing a lot of minimally explained concepts

and nomenclature at the reader in order to demonstrate how sight reduction with a calculator is not that difficult at all. In so doing, he may be scaring a few novices into thinking that the learning curve for celestial is unreasonably high.

That being said, it's quite valuable to the advanced student of celestial. It's formulas for both Hc and azimuth are reasonably well explained as is the formula for clearing the lunar distance. In addition, for all readers, both novice and advanced, in a most gratifying way the author explains several basic concepts and realities in celestial navigation which for some reason have always been left out of even the best starter books, probably since the days of Sumner and St. Hilaire. Perhaps these omitted concepts may have been one of the author's pet peeves in his own learning of celestial, and he seems bent on filling in the missing info, and teaching the subject right. He does a good job of this.

If you like an intuitive approach, you can make out with this book as a first reading on the subject. However, if you prefer the pedantic approach of thoroughly learning the concepts and nomenclature first, and then working the problems, the best books for beginners are still Mariner's Celestial Navigation by William P. Crawford (the ridiculous used prices reflect the quality of this book) and the old standard American Practical Navigator (Bowditch). These books offer more details and explanations first, and then the problems are solved.

In all fairness, if you are a beginner in celestial, it pays to buy this book and read it in conjunction with another book on the subject. That is, when you complete a chapter by Crawford or Bowditch, look for and read the same information in this book for a second explanation and then go back to the next chapter in Crawford or Bowditch.

For this second explanation alone, it's worth a lot more than \$25.

Ron DiGiovanni Easton, PA

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

Celestial navigation in the gps age

By Alan Schultz

I've read through,looked at several books on celestial navigation, a subject that has captured my interest. Mr. Karl's book offers about the clearest explaination of "the navigational triangle" that I have come on. Historical comment on the sad fate of Capt. Sumner, of Sumner line navigation is also interesting. A small reproduction of the painting, Capt. Sumner Discovers the Celestial Line of Position catches the viewers eye too.

Most interesting and encourageing to me was the following. In the section on the navigational triangle, the author made a statement that seemed wrong. Curious about this, I e-mailed the author, c/o his publisher, Paradise Cay Publications of Arcata California and Celestaire of Wichita, Kansas jointly, the people at Paradise Cay sent my inquire on to Mr. Karl, who was kind enough to respond, in effect, turning on the light in a poorly lit room.

25 of 26 people found the following review helpful.

An absolute "must-have" for offshore navigators and a readily accessible self-teaching tool.

By Midwest Book Review

Written by physicist, pilot, sailor, and fifty-year veteran of celestial navigation John Karl, Celestial Navigation in the GPS Age is a practical guide to the skill and science of celestial navigation for offshore navigators. Compact without being abridged, Celestial Navigation in the GPS Age is tailor-written for the

modern era of computers, calculators, and online resources. Though the traditional methods of "working a sight" is covered, the meat of Celestial Navigation in the GPS Age carefully instructs the reader in the use of a simple and inexpensive scientific calculator. From the basics of coordinates, to sun sight reductions and lunar distance sights, to sextant adjustments and altitude corrections, and an exhaustive wealth of appendices, Celestial Navigation in the GPS Age is an absolute "must-have" for offshore navigators and a readily accessible self-teaching tool.

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