



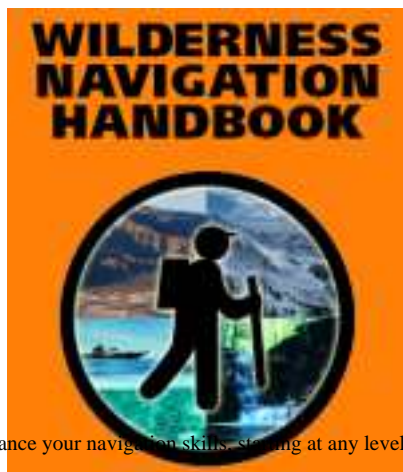
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Wilderness Navigation Handbook

nomad

- Skills and guides - Library -



Publication: Wednesday 6 April 2005

Description :

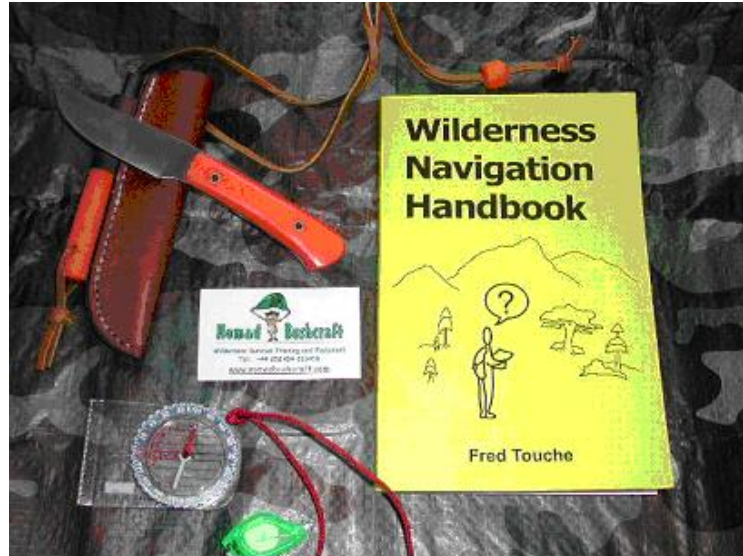
A recommended book to enhance your navigation skills, starting at any level.

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It must be said that I consider myself to have above average navigation skills, I have trained in mountain leadership and seafaring navigation and I have spent a lot of time putting these skills into practice in a useful way through my recreation activities and more importantly over my career as an environmental scientist and survival instructor.

Wilderness navigation handbook, Fred Touche ISBN: 0-9732527-0-7



Wilderness navigation handbook An excellent navigation book. Here shown with the old cover.

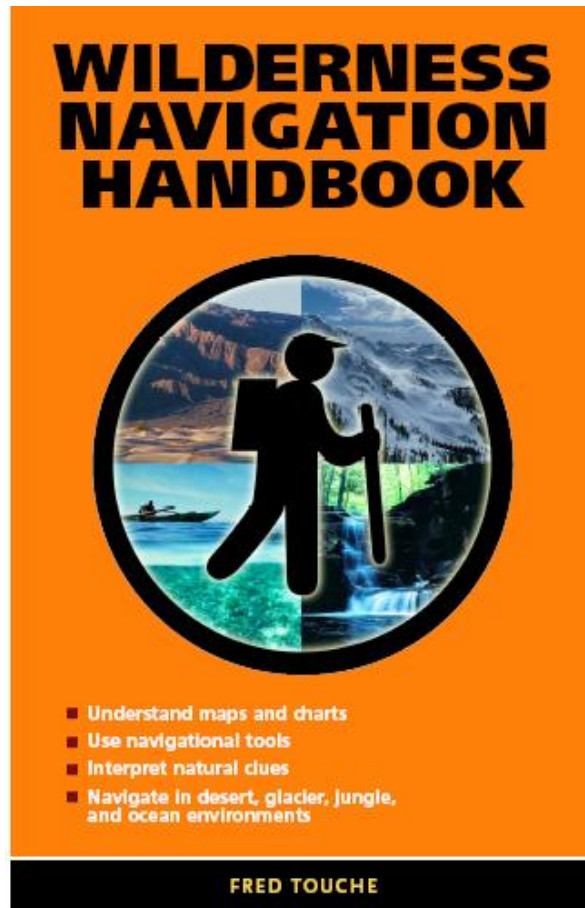
I was thrilled when JM gave me the opportunity to review Fred Touche's first book for OM. And eagerly awaited it's arrival. I am glad to say that I wasn't disappointed. Fred Touche has always been fascinated by exploration and wild places. He has completed several long, unsupported ski traverses through Canada's Coast mountains, as well as climbed the highest peaks in North America. This is a pedigree which validates the information before you open the covers of the book.

Navigation is a tricky subject mostly glossed over by survival training courses and books, the intricacies of navigation tend to be limited in these instances to 'north star points north' and the basics of how to read a compass without explaining that after hypothermia, the second most common cause of a survival situation endangering life is poor navigation.

Bad navigation skills and reliance upon electronic gadgetry are a fundamental threat to anyone spending time in the outdoors. When teaching navigation skills I tend to focus on two main aspects: 1 how not to get lost in the first place and2 what to do when you eventually do get lost (and this happens to everyone sooner or later)!

Fred Touche's book truly satisfies these requirements and elegantly leads the reader through the basics of navigation to highly advanced skills in such a way that the information is learned naturally by building upon previously learned facts in a logical fashion. Fred's writing style links the factual information to anecdotal evidence in such a way that displays genuine wisdom and passion for the subject material. The book covers the following areas: maps, compass, altimeter, GPS, celestial navigation, natural navigation, emergency communication, natural navigation and scenarios designed to illustrate and reinforce the learning.

The first four chapters: maps, compass, altimeter & GPS detail the concept of, mechanics, advantages and disadvantages of each. By explaining these concepts Fred teaches how to anticipate inadequacies or environmental effects on maps and navigation tools and how to interpret the actual readings from the perceived. The illustrations link the concepts to the text in a way which seems obvious but undoubtedly indicates a deep understanding.



Wilderness Navigation Handbook New book cover.

The next 5 chapters cover advanced navigation, using contours, slopes, terrain changes, back tracking, dead reckoning , resection and triangulation. Emergency skills such as ground to air communication improvised compasses and solar/celestial bearings are also covered. By far and away the most interesting feature of this book and one which I have not come across before; namely the use of scenario based practical navigation examples such as: descent off a mountain, what happens when you lose a trail, finding your way out, ski trails, desert navigation and much more, having experienced such types of situations in the course of expeditions etc I found these scenarios excellent ways to remember the right things to do.

This book is excellent if you have never used a compass or a map, it is excellent if you are a fully trained mountain leader and it is excellent as a resource for teaching adults and children up to advanced level navigation techniques. The concepts are very well explained and presented in an understandable way which allows fast assimilation of the facts and speeds recall of those facts when the skills are required. The celestial navigation contains the best and clearest explanations that I have read.

In short this is by far the best navigation book I have read. It holistically explains navigation in a way which will appeal to those looking to learn navigation for the first time or those like me who wish to advance their understanding. It certainly earns it's place on any outdoors person's bookshelf - buy this book!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Nomad from www.nomadbushcraft.com Survival Training

Wilderness Navigation Handbook

Post-scriptum :Editorial note: This is part one of the review, please expect part II from a different reviewer to be merged in very soon. Also the book has changed cover from the time we got it from Fred and the time this first review was written.