



CERT



NASSAU COUNTY

BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

March 2023

Choosing The Compass That Is Right For You

(Continued from last month)

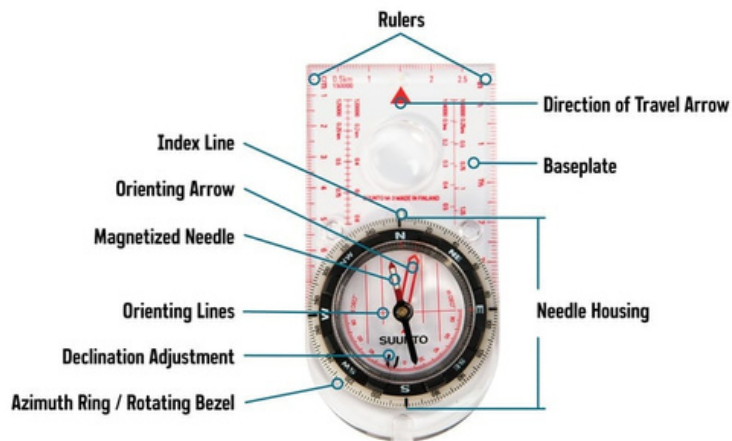


Over the last two issues, we have become familiar with the different parts of a compass and its basic usage. In this issue, we will talk about selecting the right compass for your needs. On a Blue Sky Day, the last thing we typically think about is the use of a compass. Why would we bother with such an "outdated" device when we have all of this modern technology right at our finger tips? Let's think about this for a minute. In the event of a disaster with the potential large scale power outages, would you want to depend on a battery powered device that needs connectivity to the internet to function? Yes, you can cache maps in your phone if GPS is down but you still have the battery issue to deal with. The compass needs nothing else but the floating magnetized needle to function properly.

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COUNTY, STATE
&
FEDERAL
ONE TEAM



Example of declination for Acadia NP

Dedicated GPS receivers and cellphone apps are amazing tools, but should never be solely relied upon.

There are four main features to look at when choosing a compass:

- **Declination adjustment** - A capable compass for hikers and other trail users should have this. As discussed in previous issue, with adjustable declination, you set it and forget it until you travel to a new region.
- **Sighting mirror** - Move up to a model with both declination adjustment and this feature if you plan to travel off trail or want more precise navigation. Helps you aim more precisely when following a precise bearing on a distant landmark. Also doubles as an emergency signaling device.
- **Clinometer** - For mountaineering and back country skiing, a compass with a clinometer can help you assess avalanche hazards. Allows you to measure the vertical angle (steepness) of a slope; helpful for assessing the heights of objects. Field scientists and search-and-rescue professionals like to have a clinometer.
- **Global needle** - If you're a world traveler or simply going on a trip that takes you south of the Equator, get a model with a global needle. This feature compensates for magnetic-field variances and allows a compass to work smoothly and accurately worldwide. Otherwise, a compass is either North- or South-America specific.

While all compasses point in their designated direction, they can also have a wide array of additional features. Generally a more feature-rich compass costs more, though the build quality (precision and durability) also factors into the price you pay.

Continued in next issue.

Smoke alarms: Where to put them, how often to replace batteries*

*New smoke alarms use a 10 year lithium battery that does not need to be changed.

A working smoke alarm cuts your risk of dying in a home fire in half.

Nearly all alarm failures are caused by missing or dead batteries. For the best protection, install a combination hard-wired alarm with battery back-up.

1. Where to put alarms

- Have smoke alarms on every level of your home and in each bedroom and hallway.
- If you mount alarms on the ceiling, place them 4 inches from the wall. If your alarms are on the wall, they should be 4 to 12 inches from the ceiling. Don't install alarms near windows, vents, or drafty areas. Call your fire department if you aren't sure where to put them.
- If anyone in your home is hard of hearing, use alarms with features like strobe lights or bed shakers.

2. Maintain your alarms

- Test smoke alarms every month by pressing their test buttons.
- If your alarms use regular batteries, swap in fresh batteries at least once a year. A "chirping" sound means that it's time to change batteries.
- Because alarm sensors wear out, replace each alarm at least every 10 years. Also, alarms have labels showing when they were made. If you don't see a label, the alarm is old and must be replaced.
- Dust and cobwebs make it harder for alarms to detect smoke. To preserve your alarms, dust them with a vacuum cleaner attachment.
- The latest smoke alarms use a 10-year lithium battery. They are a fraction of the cost of previous detectors and offer 10 years of reliable service. Still check these alarms monthly by pressing the test button to ensure proper function.

3. Have an escape plan

- Prepare and practice a home fire escape plan. Choose a place outside to meet that is permanent, like a mailbox or light pole. Just like schools do fire drills, families should practice what to do when a smoke alarm sounds.
- If your alarm goes off, crawl under the smoke and leave your home. Don't take anything with you; just quickly get out. Once outside, go to your chosen meeting place and call 9-1-1. Never go back in a burning building.



Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES)



On February 2nd we held our general membership meeting and as some of you may be familiar with the term Murphy's Law well it visited us this month. Due to some issues beyond our control, we were unable to bring the ICS training for 202 and 203. We will bring both the 202 and 203 as roll over to our next meeting in March along with the scheduled ICS, forms of the 204, 205 and 205a. Don't worry it will be keep the additional training on point while keeping you at the edge of your seat.

While this development kept us from bringing the ICS training we did manage to conduct our Plain Language training. Bob KC2PSN (me) as the only officer left standing this month conducted it but credit for developing this training goes to our planning and training officer, Mike KD2KOE who always does an excellent job. Those in attendance missed not having Mike conduct this training but our Chief Radio Officer did his best to fill in.

All our general membership meetings and trainings are always open to all, so please take advantage of updating a skill set or learn a new one as well as getting your questions answered by one of our officers.

If you are interested or just curious about Emergency Communications we invite you to attend our meetings and trainings. The next RACES / CERT Communications meeting will be held on Thursday March 2nd at 7:30pm in the lecture hall, 510 Grumman Road West, Bethpage NY. Hope to see you there.

73

Bob Long, KC2PSN

RACES Chief Radio Officer

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If you SEE Something SAY Something

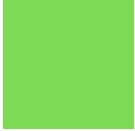
Calendar of Events

March

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 CERT DIV1 Meeting	2 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Flood Insurance	22	23	24	25
26	27 DIV 2 Meeting	28	29	30 FSA Leadership	31	

April

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2 RACES Meeting 7:30pm	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	



CERT Division Meetings
7:00pm



RACES Meeting
7:30pm

Important Dates

RACES Meeting - 7:30pm Thursday February 2nd, March 2nd

CERT Division 1 Meeting - 7:00pm Wednesday March 1st

CERT Division 2 Meeting - 7:00pm Monday March 27th

Fire Service Academy Leadership - March 30th



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