

GPS NAVIGATION FOR MARKS OVER THE HORIZON

On a paper chart, lay the true course out to all the marks of the race with bearings and ranges to each mark before the race starts. Enter the position of each mark into your GPS unit. This procedure will serve to verify your GPS unit is indicating the correct positions of the race marks. While racing, have a designated person monitor and call out the GPS indications of the actual track of the boat and the bearing to the next mark. This technique will keep the Helmsman informed of where the mark is located and how to leave the mark on the proper side of the boat.

If the case arises during a race where the mark is missing, then by using this technique your boat crew will have the physical proof to justify that your boat properly navigated the race course while others who did not use this technique may be left wandering aimlessly about looking for the missing mark.

Please refer to the video for visual evidence of this physical technique in action as used by the *SV Free Spirit* in the last race of the 2017 Gulf Ocean Racing Circuit. In that race, as mentioned above, there was a mark missing and through the use of this technique *Free Spirit* was able to properly navigate and successfully complete the race. Congratulations to Arthur Geary, Amy Geary, Joey Stokes, and Freddy Welch Jr.; “First in Fleet” and “Best Boat in Fleet.”