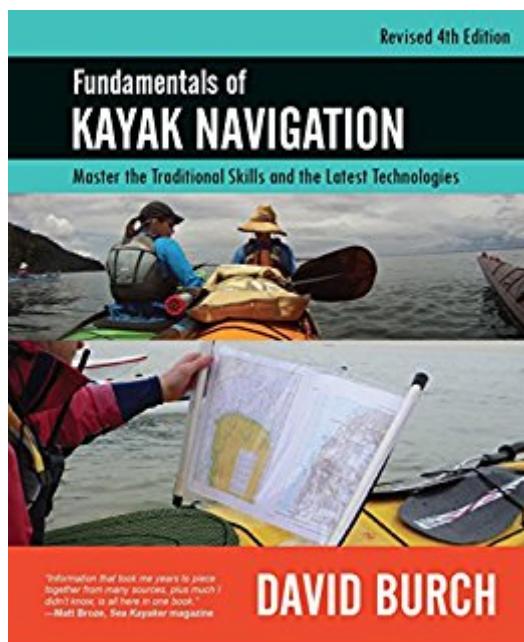


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# Fundamentals Of Kayak Navigation: Master The Traditional Skills And The Latest Technologies



## Synopsis

For the past 30 years, this book has been the authoritative source for all matters of small-boat navigation. Learn how to find and keep track of your position, adjust to changing conditions, and paddle the seas safely and confidently. Includes how to chart an accurate course and maintain it underway—whether touring locally, on open water, or between islands. This updated text includes everything you need to know, from traditional map and compass navigation through state-of-the-art electronic navigation. Knowledge gained here will enhance the safety and efficiency of any outing. If you are a sea kayaker or long-distance paddler of any craft, this is definitely a book to have and to study. Most kayak instructors nationwide would agree. It covers the principles of navigation that are pertinent to kayaks in clear practical terms, with special emphasis on the effects of wind and current. Piloting techniques are distilled down to those that can be done from the seat of a kayak. The treatment of tides and currents is more thorough in this book than in most others on the market, especially when it comes to reading the water to interpret currents and for estimating the effects of wind on progress to weather. There are also convenient tricks included—such as how to quickly predict the current at times between peak flow and slack—that do not appear in other books. The section on the Navigation Rules is a unique treatment of the subject that applies to all self-powered craft, including canoes and paddle boarders, as it addresses the issues and rules that pertain to all vessels, being "every description of watercraft used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water." This is an important perspective to keep in mind, even for sailors and power boaters, as it brings to the front the basics that underlie the details. Who has right of way in specific circumstances is a detail; evaluating risk of collision is a basic, and so on. Updates in the Revised Edition include reports on progress of the print on demand charts (gets A+); new developments in echarts and how this affects latest nav apps; and updates on technology, including, believe it or not, an actual AIS receiver the size of two 9V batteries that is perfectly usable in a kayak viewing the live traffic signals on an Android app in a phone. There are also many important developments in external battery packs, which are needed when navigating by a phone or tablet. All of the online links in the book are updated, as well as the rest of the references cited. The online support and resources page has also been greatly expanded.

## Book Information

File Size: 68169 KB

Print Length: 286 pages

Publisher: Starpath Publications; Revised 4th Edition edition (April 6, 2016)

Publication Date: April 6, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01DXCR1P8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #111,723 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #14

in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Kayaking #21 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Canoeing #290 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Water Sports

## **Customer Reviews**

I spent a career in the U.S. Navy as a ship driver (Officer of the Desk and conning officer). When in that position you learn about navigation from the perspective of someone that is on a powered craft and is at least 40 feet up off of the water surface. After 6 years in the Navy I took up kayaking. I applied the navigation principles that I learned driving ships (some of them 100,000 tons) to my kayaking and taught myself the same fundamentals that he discusses in his book. This actually made me a much better ship driver because I understood the effect that the tides and currents have upon a water craft. The tides and currents affect a 1000ft long ship the same as a 16ft kayak but it is not so apparent when you are 80 feet off of the water. David has done a superb job of discussing kayak navigation from all perspectives. I would highly recommend his book, not just for those that are new to coastal kayaking but also to those that may be more seasoned. It is a book that is best digested with on the water experience. Read a chapter and then find a place where you can kayak to test out the principals he discusses.

Everybody says this is the best kayak navigation guide. I guess I agree with that. I particularly liked the line drawings. I bought two other navigation books from , which were less technical and less useful. Each had its own strength and niche in the readership. Many great kayakers will disagree with me, but times are changing and the old ways of navigation are largely becoming secondary to

GPS. I use deck charts of course, and I own a deck compass but almost never use it, as my navigation tends towards navigating with Garmin Blue Charts from GPS waypoint to GPS waypoint, using the same GPS I use for backpacking. The day will come when I'm changing out batteries on the GPS and seawater will wash over the deck and fry the electronics, leaving me only the neglected magnetic compass and navigation techniques that Burch so well describes. This will happen. I know it. It almost happened several times already. Still, I wish the next edition of this book would contain expanded treatment of GPS techniques, electronic charts, and use of tides and currents programs now available for smartphones to supplement the traditional methods.

I am just finishing my first reading of Fundamentals of kayak navigation. If you are new to navigating from a kayak this book will provide you more than enough navigational principals and information to plan an open water expedition or tour along some coast line. Kayaks typically travel areas too close to shore for commercial and the average power boater. Other times we cross over into truly open water occupied by the big boys. In these near and off shore areas, kayakers have the same need for navigation as our big boat brethren but not the storage or equipment space; electrical power; nor their height above the water. A kayaker's needs and space for performing navigational work is severely limited in comparison to other boaters. The affects of wind current & tides can be more pronounced on self powered vessels such as a kayak. Burch provides many good tips and techniques for performing and managing your navigational tasks within our available space. When presenting a principal or technique, he goes into just enough detail to explain a little of the why along with the what that needs to be done. Burch offers techniques based on your palm or finger width to solve navigational tasks. He offers several rules of thumb that should get you close enough to solve navigational tasks. Knowing the accuracy of your compass is critical to navigation. Burch offers a method for "swinging" your Kayak compass to identify errors. He doesn't ignore the modern electronic world either. One chapter discusses GPS and other electronic navigational tools. The book includes references to on-line resources as well. I have several years experience sailing Arctic Oceans, the waters above the Aleutian Chain, and along the Northwest Coast of the US. Through Burch's book I've learned how to scale down what I know about piloting and navigating larger vessels to fit my kayaking needs. During my second reading of this book I'll begin assembling the book's tips, tools, techniques, and rules of thumb to build my own kayak navigation kit.

This is the definitive text in kayak navigation. If you kayak in remote regions you cannot afford to be without adequate navigation skill. There is more in this text than any one person can begin to

remember, but anyone can learn the essential skills of navigation from your kayak. Please don't make the mistake of thinking you can rely on others to navigate for you. Carry charts and the knowledge to survive in this environment.

Excellent book. This book and its information has helped me win canoe races--I highly recommend it.

I had expected more basic navigation advice but found this to jump straight into advanced stuff - for me anyway.. That said, more experienced paddlers seem to get what they want so for that reason alone I give it a four.

This is an excellent book on inshore coastal navigation for all small boat masters. The techniques and challenges are the same whether you paddle, sail, or [gasp!] motor. The book is easy to read but doesn't over-simplify. Highly recommended!

Fast and Fair gave me a wonderful deal on this book. Amazing, considering how many miles it had to travel to get to me(thank you). The book was in perfect condition.

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