

Chapter 3 discusses options available through the main menu bar which appears on all pages of the course.

Chapter 3

Menu Options

File

The file menu includes:

Log in,
Log out,
Delete,
Score, and
Exit Weather Trainer

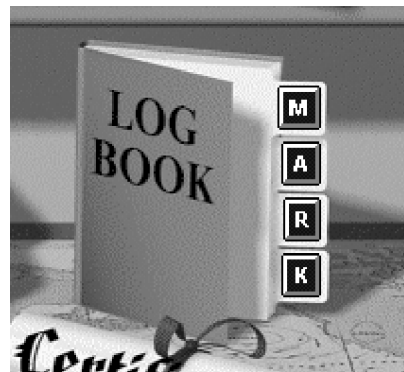
Each of these functions is discussed below.

File	Library	Bookmarks	Tools	Help
Log in...			Ctrl+L	
Log out			Ctrl+Q	
Delete...				
Score...				
Exit Weather Trainer				

Log in

Weather Trainer can keep track of your progress during individual sessions and over successive sessions — a session being anytime you load and run the program. The log-in procedure is the way you assign a unique name to your records of progress in the course. Your data is stored in what we call your log-in file. Once you have logged in, you can re-open your file and continue with it when you return to the course. With this procedure, several readers can use the same program. You have the option of assigning a password to your records so only you can change or delete your records.

You can log in at any time from the File menu or with the accelerator keys Ctrl+L — or you can, of course, use the program without logging in, but if you do not log in, no records will be kept. If you have not logged in, you will be reminded of this whenever you enter the Practice Questions, Certifications Page, or Ask-me



Logging in allows you to set and save the bookmarks M-A-R-K, sort questions and track your score as you move toward certification.

questions, since these are areas with results that can be stored. Bookmark settings are also stored in your log, as well as other progress in the program.

To log in, select Log in from the File menu or click the Log book on the Library Page or use Ctrl+L anytime. For a new reader, doubleclick "New" or select "new" and press OK. Enter a reader name, and press enter or OK. You will be prompted for a password.

Passwords

Passwords can be used to protect individual reader files from accidental manipulation when multiple readers are using the same program. If you choose to not use a password, just select OK and you will not be asked again. If you do choose a password, write it down immediately, as you will not be able to access your file or remove it without this password. If you do not need this protection, it is best to skip this option since it just slows down your getting started each time.

Once you have logged in, your reader name will appear in the caption bar of the main program window. This provides a quick way to check who, if anybody, is logged in when multiple users have access to the course. If no one has logged in, the caption will say "Reader = <unassigned>". The caption bar also tells what book you are in.

Blue and Red reader names

Once a reader achieves a Basic certification, that reader name appears in the list in blue letters. Achievement of Advanced certification, will change the color to red.

This is a sample step of the tools used and instructions on solving wind triangles.

The screenshot displays the Starpath Weather Trainer software interface. At the top, there is a menu bar with options: Library, M, A, R, K, Tools, and Return. Below the menu bar, a title bar reads "Solving for true wind graphically – upwind example".

On the left side, there is a vertical toolbar with a question mark icon at the top. Below it, there are two radio buttons: "Upwind" (selected) and "Downwind". Underneath these are seven numbered steps, each with a small icon: 1 Get tools, 2 Record data, 3 Boat speed, 4 Apparent wind, 5 True wind speed, 6 True wind angle, and 7 Wind direction.

The main area of the window shows a graphical representation of a wind triangle. A vertical line represents the boat's path. A diagonal line represents the apparent wind vector, labeled "AWS = 12.5". The angle between the vertical line and the diagonal line is labeled "AWA 40°". A horizontal line segment represents the true wind vector, labeled "S = 8.2". A protractor is placed over the triangle, with its center at the vertex where the vertical and diagonal lines meet. The protractor's scale is marked from 0 to 12, with the 40-degree angle clearly indicated.

At the bottom left, a text box contains the instruction: "Step 4. Use protractor to mark apparent wind angle and then mark off apparent wind speed in the same units used for boat speed."

At the bottom right, there is a "Wind index" button. In the bottom right corner of the main area, the following values are listed: C = 280°, S = 8.2, AWS = 12.5, and AWA = 40°.

Logging into an existing reader file

Once a reader file has been established by logging in, subsequent sessions of the course can be started by selecting Log in and then double-clicking on your name in the list of users. Then select Return from the Bookmarks menu and you will go back to where you were when you logged out. Note that you can log in to a new or previous reader file without logging out of the current file. All records will be saved.

Value of logging in

If you have not logged in by the time you enter a part of the program that generates information that could be saved, you will be reminded once that this is occurring and given the opportunity to log in at that time.

The results that are saved in the reader file include:

- Accumulated score on practice questions
- Number of times you have logged in
- Record of questions answered
- List of tagged practice questions
- Certification qualifications or results
- Record of Ask-me questions viewed
- Locations of bookmarks
- Status of Code Book entries

It is not necessary to log in and establish a reader file — all aspects of the course are available under the “unassigned” reader name. There are, however, definite advantages to keeping a personal record. If you wish to avoid receiving particular Practice Questions more than once, or if you wish to keep track of which Ask-me questions you have read, then you will need to log in. More important, however, if you wish to test your knowledge with the Certification function, then you will need to log in and answer a certain number of Practice Questions under the reader name you intend to use for certification. The certification tests cannot be taken until their qualifications have been met.

Once you have logged in, all results of your work that can be saved are saved immediately as the changes are made. There is no way to cancel the accumulated changes from a particular session in the program, although most of the changes can be altered individually as explained in the various specific sections of these Help notes.

You can for example, change a question from the category of “answered right” to “answered wrong” by simply answering it a second time. Likewise, you can reset your tagged list or your list of viewed Ask-me questions. If you reset your score, however, you will lose certification qualifications. Notes on these details appear in the course as the decisions are offered.

Logging out

Logging out is the way you close your reader file but leave the program open for others to use, or to use yourself without keeping records. Select Log out, and then OK.

When you log out, all program records are reset to those that the <unassigned> reader had prior to your logging in. In other words, <unassigned> behaves like an unnamed reader. These <unassigned> records, however, are not saved when you exit the program and you do not pick them up when you log in as a new reader. A new reader is all new.

Value of logging out

Note that all records in the program are stored as they are created. Hence, if you are to leave the program unattended while others might use the program, it would be best to log out and then log back in when you return. This would prevent any changes to your records that you were not aware of and save the time of reloading the program. If you wish to exit and close the program, then use Exit in the File menu instead of Log out. It will do both steps in one.

Delete

To remove a reader name and all of its associated records from the list of readers shown in the Log in list, select Delete from the File menu, select the name to be removed and click Delete. If the reader name has a password protecting it, then this password must be entered when requested in order to delete the name. You must log out before any records can be deleted. *Note this process cannot be reversed. Be sure you are right before deleting a user.*

Notepad files are not associated with the Weather Trainer reader files. They are not affected by Delete. These are separate .txt files from the Windows program Notepad.exe and will remain in your Weather Trainer directory unless you move them or delete them using File Manager.

Alternatives to deleting a user file

Deleting permanently removes all records of the user and takes the user name off the list of users. Be sure of yourself before deleting. This process cannot be reversed. You can always open another file with a different name and have more than one on file without removing the older one. Then come back later when you are certain the records are not needed and clean up the list by removing the old ones.

Score

This option displays the Score Page with your records of answers to the Practice Questions and your certification status. See Score Page under Help topic Library of features for details.

Exit Weather Trainer

This option closes and exits the program. You can exit without logging out and all your records will be saved. You can exit from any place in the program, but in some cases you must press Done to reactivate or show the menu bar. In most cases, however, alt F X will close all files and exit the program.

Library

The Library menu lets you go directly to various parts of the course without passing through the Library Page. Note that in the submenu "Resources" only selected resources are listed. To access the full set of resources choose Index or select Contents from the Tools menu. Use of the Library Page for navigation is discussed in Chapter 4.

Bookmarks

Four bookmarks can be set in the course. They are labeled M, A, R, and K on buttons of the navpad which appears on most pages of the course. Once a mark is set you can return to that page with the click of a button in the navpad. Green letters have been set, white letters are unassigned. Bookmarks are discussed in Help topic Navigation (Chapter 4).

Return can also be accessed from the Bookmark menu. See discussion in Help topic Navigation.

File	Library	Bookmarks	Tools	Help
		<div> <div>✓ Mark M...</div> <div>Mark A...</div> <div>✓ Mark R...</div> <div>Mark K...</div> </div>		
		Return	Do it F4	
			Show it... Ctrl+F4	

Tools and computers

Tools of the course include various automated functions that assist with marine weather computations or with the use of the course. Tools are available from the menu bar or from the Tools button in the Navpad, which toggles on and off the toolpad, discussed below.

Toolpad is a palette of tools that can also be toggled on and off with the Tools button in the Navpad (see under Help topic Navigation). It includes:

Gloss (glossary)

Units (units converter)

Notes (notepad)

Abbv (abbreviations)

Calc (calculator)

These items are discussed in detail in RES-11.

File	Library	Bookmarks	Tools	Help
	<div>Library page</div> <div>Practice questions</div> <div>Ask me Book</div> <div>Glossary</div> <div>Articles</div>			
	Resources	Index		
	Certification	<div>Beaufort scale...</div> <div>Cloud Atlas</div> <div>Code Book</div> <div>Radio Primer</div> <div>Sea state...</div> <div>Source Book</div> <div>Symbols...</div> <div>World Atlas</div> <div>Weather maps</div>		

Tools	Help
Toolpad	
Computers	True and apparent wind...
Schedules	Baro corrections...
Quick	Speed-time-distance...
Contents...	Storm avoidance...
Graphics...	Dew point...
	Wind from Isobars...
	Wave computer...

Computers available in the course include:

True and Apparent wind

Barometer corrections

Speed-time-distance

Storm Avoidance

Dew point

Wind from isobars

Wave computer

These items are discussed in detail in RES-11.

Schedules (Facsimile, NAVTEX, High seas voice) and Beaufort Scale are menu bar options for opening these specific resources.

Tools	Help
Toolpad	
Computers	
Schedules	Facsimile
Quick	NAVTEX
Contents...	High seas voice...
Graphics...	

Contents is a tool for quick reference to the resources and articles, along with an overview of the topics covered in the Practice Questions. Use this as another way to have a quick look for particular subject matter. See Research under Help topic "How to use the course."

Graphics Index is a tool that lists most of the graphics used in the course and gives you the option to view them individually, away from their context in other parts of the course. A "Find" and "find Next" option is available in a palette to search for keywords in the titles of the graphics, which have been elaborated to facilitate this search. See Graphics under Help topic Navigation and Research under Help topic "How to use the course."

Help

The Help menu includes:

Quick Help,

Help Index,

Run Demo,

Study Guides,

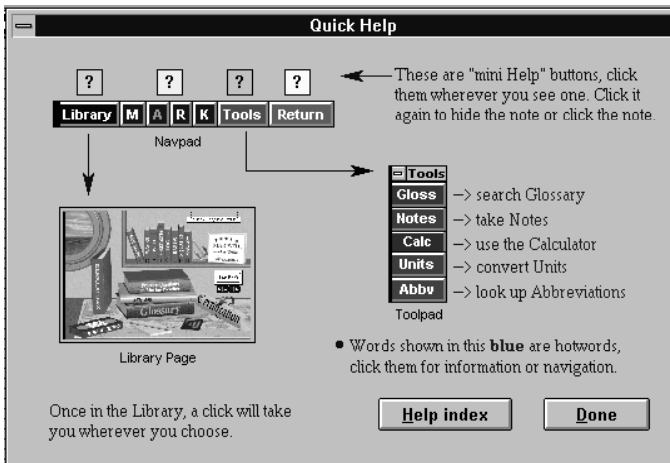
Standards,

Technical support, and

About Weather Trainer.

ols	Help	
	Quick help...	F1
	Help index...	F10
	Run Demo...	
	Study Guides...	
	Standards...	
	Technical support...	
	About Weather Trainer...	

Each of these and related points are discussed below, following a few notes on this Help book and a discussion of the all-important Mini help buttons which appear throughout the course.



Quick Help under Help on the Menu bar gives you fast access to the areas of the program where facts, figures, computers and graphics are stored.

Mini-help buttons indicate there are more notes/illustrations for that particular page

Mini HelpButtons

A small square with a question mark inside indicates that there are notes available for that particular part of the page or illustration. To view these mini help screens just click the square and they will appear. To put them away, mouse click the button again or click the shadowed text note that it presented. In this course, we use the convention that shadowed text boxes close when you click them.

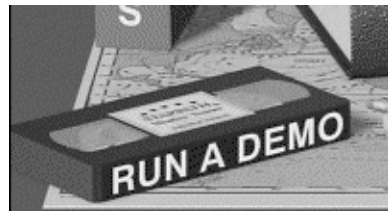
Quick Help is a pop up with notes and cross references that deal with navigation and graphics presentation in the program. It can be called from the menu bar or with the F1 key.

Help Index and **Help Book** are the same in this course. The “index” is the two fields to the left of this text; the “book” is the window and text you are looking at now. This Help Book can be called from the menu bar or from the F10 key.

Help buttons

Buttons marked Help generally bring you to the part of this Help Book that is related to the place where the Help button was located.

The **underlined words** in the Help book are the keyword locations that are found with the items listed under All topics. Click “Help buttons” from the All topics list, for example, and you will go to the paragraph just above this one.



The number just below the text on your screen is the line number of the top-most textline showing at the moment. There are six pages of text in the Help Book, one for each topic. The selected topic and line number tells where you are in the on-line Help book.

Run Demo

Each copy of Weather Trainer includes a self-running demo of the features and options of the course. The demo can be run in a continuous mode or in a step mode. Start the demo from either the menu bar under Help or by clicking the video tape on the Library Page. The full demo running in continuous mode takes approximately 16 minutes. Relative progress through the demo is shown by the length of the red bar in the "Demo is on..." sign. The full red scale represents the full length of the demo, regardless of where you chose to start the demo. All starting points cycle through the entire demo.

Starting the demo at the Library Page is the recommended procedure for seeing the entire presentation in logical order. You can, alternatively, start from other places in the presentation. This can be used for repeating specific regions without viewing the entire demo.

Once underway in the demo, you can stop it (press Controls then Done) at any time. The escape key will also interrupt the demo. If you stop a running demo and change the starting point, you must select Start New; Continue will no longer be an option.

Step mode prompts the reader for the next step in the demo presentation. This way you can proceed through the presentation at your own pace. You can switch back and forth between step mode and continuous mode by pressing the Controls button and then making this choice. The Next button will turn green when the new presentation is complete. A mouse click or the enter key will advance the demo on to the next step.

Continuous mode runs demo without user actions, pausing at each screen for a preset time for text to be read. When completed, it automatically repeats from the beginning. To manually pause a continuous presentation press Controls. Continue will resume it; Done will end it.

The demo is intended for an easy quick overview of the program, as if an experienced user were explaining its features to a new user. It does not, however, cover all aspects and resources of the course. To learn more about the course, simply browse through the books, clicking question marks ("mini helps") when they appear and using the Help Index function as needed. Check Quick Help for notes on navigation.