

Errata for Starpath Weather Trainer Mar 24, 2010

Please skim through these before beginning the online course on marine weather or using the weather trainer for self study.

If you find other errors, please send them to us at helpdesk@starpath.com. Thanks.

(1) Missing link in Tehuantepecer

January 10, 2009, 12:46 PM:

In the glossary entry for this wind, there is a link to "Mountain gap wind." All of the words are hot, so this does not work. It should have been a link to mountain "gap wind," which is in the glossary. We cover "gap wind," and another term "mountain breeze," but we do not have mountain gap wind in our glossary. It is a bit redundant term in that all gap winds are mountain gap winds or big-hill gap winds.

(2) Arctic air mass temperatures

October 02, 2008, 04:46 PM:

Somewhere in the weather trainer program we state that the average winter temp in the arctic is -50F, but this is probably not the best answer to even such a vague question. A search of climatic data for the region will show a large spread of values, with some references offering an average of -32F, which is what we have adopted for this in the online course. Needless to say, temperatures can get to -80F, and often to -50F. The Navy Climatic Atlas of the World shows Jan and Feb temperatures covered by -34C to -38C as monthly means covering most waterways (though frozen)... these are -30F to -36F

(3) Dew Point and Relative Humidity tables have errors

March 04, 2007, 03:22 PM:

We have several ways to find dew point in the Weather Trainer, but they ultimately all lead back to two tables: G195 which uses Celsius degrees and an automated interface that interpolates that table, and G196 which uses Fahrenheit degrees. The Celsius table and the interpolator give wrong results in at least some cases, because the table is wrong. We will fix this as soon as possible and then make an announcement here. The Fahrenheit table is correct for dew point, but it is wrong for some Relative Humidity values. Somehow these have been mixed up. In the meantime, a very convenient way to find dew point is in the automatic calculators that we have packaged under the name NIMA Navigation calculators—this also has weather computations in it. You can download this at no charge from the Freeware section of our downloads page.

(4) Speed distributions in sea state computer

December 19, 2007, 01:46 PM:

In the sea state computer we display the distributions of periods, speeds, and wavelengths as a function of wind speed for fully developed sea states. In the display we have found an error for wind speeds of 16 kts and less. For any wind in that range, the periods are correct, but we show the wrong scale for the speed distributions. For each of the speeds shown, increase the scale by a factor of 3. Thus if a distribution shows a peak at 4 kts it should actually be 12 kts. Above 16kts wind speeds the displays are correct.

(5) Small iceberg definition.

June 02, 2005, 12:05 PM:

In the glossary we present as part of the small iceberg definition...20 to 200 ft (6 to 600 m)... but that should be 6 to 60 m.

(6) A question with the wrong answer!

November 29, 2002, 03:04 PM:

Yes, we are afraid so. Of the hundreds of questions in each of the dozen or more topics, we have indeed found one that has a glaring wrong answer. It asks about the labels on the curved lines on a 500-mb weather map, which are the elevations of the 500-mb surface expressed in deca-meters. The right answer is (D), but for now the software program weather trainer only accepts (B) as correct. If you run across this question or one like it online, please use the right answer, as it has been corrected there.

Question # 1533

On a 500-mb wx map, you see curved lines labeled with 3-digit numbers such as 535, etc. What does "535" tell us?

- (A) Pressure along that particular line is 535 mb
- (B) Temperature of the air at 500 mb is 53.5 F along the line
- (C) Wind speed at 500 mb is 53.5 knots along that line
- (D) Height of the 500 mb surface is 5350 meters along that line

Note the question number is given here, but the only way you ever see actual question numbers in the practice sessions is to Tag the question, which will save it for you.

(7) Resources Book vs. Weather Resources

November 29, 2002, 03:03 PM:

With our apologies, it has been pointed out to us that we have two products with very similar names. Within the Weather Trainer program itself, there is a "book" called Resources, which you access from the menu bar or from the Library page. This is a completely separate set of resources from what we call "Weather Resources." The former is a component of the weather trainer program that is essentially an index to a very broad group of components, and the latter is a stand alone software product that we happen to include when you purchase a new Weather Trainer or an upgrade from an earlier version. We apologize for any confusion that this may have caused.

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Needless to say, there are parts of the Weather Trainer that are outdated and some lists of data have changed. New data are covered in our online Weather Resources. New techniques and services for marine weather are covered in the text *Modern Marine Weather*.