

Foreword

Modern Marine Weather—like a “Brave New World”—takes a bold step forward, and takes on today’s challenges of the complexities of weather over the marine environment. This text is unique. It is a sorely needed and powerful upgrade to existing marine weather resources currently on the market! There are no hidden agendas with this outstanding text.

Author David Burch has provided the mariner with a balanced solution to this complex subject. From long standing traditional approaches to basic weather fundamentals (as one would find available in Bowditch), Burch then integrates discussions and examples of modern resources. He combines today’s traditional human intelligence generated graphical weather charts and text forecasts with more newly available sources, such as Gridded Binary Data (GRIB) data, which is usually a singular weather forecast solution garnered from one of many computer generated forecast models. Both sources of weather data are now easily available to the mariner, as an integrated approach for marine weather forecasting and self-reliant decision making.

From the very beginning of the book, the reader is exposed to the words “National Weather Service” as being the provider of traditional weather forecast services. In practically the same breath, he also provides an overview of today’s hot button issues where the reader is informed of the U.S. Coast Guard’s recent abandonment of its latest attempt at eliminating long standing HF voice and single sideband radiofax signals, used by mariners to acquire weather information at sea. An action that defies logic! Right around the corner he mentions the importance of marine weather knowledge, the cornerstone of what I do for a living these days (teaching and training mariners on marine weather). After 33 years of hands on govern-

ment and private sector forecasting and routing experience, I can tell you that the knowledge gained from *Modern Marine Weather* will stick to you as no other resource can do.

The detail of this text ranges from understanding all elements of charted ship reports (including subtleties of wind-feather symbols), conversion factors of meteorological parameters, time keeping (local times, valid times, GMTs, UTCs), to even the use of 10-point dividers—a handy tool to help determine wind strength on a surface pressure chart. Weather systems and navigation strategies... they are all there. The attention to detail in *Modern Marine Weather* reflects the integrity of the author, determined to get it right. I was really sold and literally overwhelmed with amazement that *Modern Marine Weather* is the only text I found that accurately covers the three cell theory—in my opinion, this is huge!

I strongly endorse this text as an invaluable resource that belongs in the wheelhouse along side of Bowditch as a mariner’s reference on marine weather. The title alone suggests what today’s mariner needs in this world of high technology—but do not forget the lesson learned from 2001 Space Odyssey. Hal must be monitored for good behavior. Only the weather-wise mariner is in a position to do so. *Modern Marine Weather* shows you how to become one!

Fair Winds.

Lee Chesneau

—retired senior marine forecaster at NWS’s Ocean Prediction Center, popular lecturer and teacher, and co-author of *Heavy Weather Avoidance—Concepts and Applications of 500-mb charts.*

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