

www.TraditionalMountaineering.org

A three-hour hands-on indoor class!

Backcountry Navigation: map, compass and optional GPS!

The Central Oregon Environmental Center, 16 NW Kansas Street in downtown Bend

Class Description:

This class is about safer backcountry navigation with map, compass, optional GPS and altimeter. This class is based on traditional Basic Mountaineering Training provided by major outdoor clubs in the North West.

Participants will learn about:

1. Topographic and other maps used with the compass and GPS, their topo contours, scales, slopes and profiles and UTM location grids, **2.** About inexpensive modern base plate compasses/protractors required with maps and GPS receivers, their important Central Oregon magnetic declination correction, compass and GPS bearings to define desired directions of travel and use the bearings on the ground, and **3.** About inexpensive hand held GPS receivers, their usefulness, accuracy, required basic individual setup changes, important features and simplified use in the field.

Students will learn how to use the GPS receiver with map and compass; tips and time savers; about optional wrist altimeters and how to minimize navigation errors caused by the effects of stormy weather, darkness, fatigue and stress on the navigator. Students are expected to have read the manual for their personal GPS *if they have one*, and at the minimum, know how to turn it on and off and how to save a waypoint.

Hands-on training includes:

The required setup changes to GPS factory defaults that are necessary for the most basic use of a GPS; simplifying the marking/saving/creating, finding of landmarks/waypoints in UTM position coordinates; using a simple route back to camp or truck; setting up the modern hand held baseplate compass to eliminate the large 17 degree Central Oregon magnetic declination error; finding topographic maps and other maps of types used with the GPS; using the map, compass and GPS together for planning and in the backcountry; area familiarization and planning before the trip; and optional advanced use of the modern wrist altimeter/barometer/computer/watch. We will practice all these skills in the classroom.

Robert Speik, your instructor,

Is an experienced backcountry leader/instructor, writer and editor of student and leader handbooks. Throughout the years, he has taught popular Wilderness Navigation, Mountaineering and Alpine Rambling classes at Central Oregon Community College. Bob is the author of the world wide website www.TraditionalMountaineering.org. He is working toward his four hundredth Geocache.

Individual instruction and basic to advanced training -

can be completed in an afternoon or evening of two to three hours depending on the optional information desired by students. Handouts include an eleven page printed summary, a five page workbook and a sample USGS Quad map of an Oregon location. ***Use your compass and GPS or try ours.***

There is a maximum class size of five and a minimum of two students. Make up your own group or join a class.

The cost per student is a \$30.00 donation benefiting non-profit www.TraditionalMountaineering.org.

For more information or to arrange a class: email Navigation Class or call Robert Speik at 541-385-0445.