

NAVIGATION SYMPOSIUM: The History and Future of Celestial Navigation



November 3 - 5, 2017
Mystic Seaport, Mystic, Connecticut USA

Join practical navigators, experts in navigation theory, and historians of science for the *Celestial Navigation Symposium*, a conference devoted to celestial navigation, both historical and modern, and related topics. Opening events will take place on the afternoon of Friday, November 3, and presentations and papers will occur through Saturday and Sunday, November 4 – 5.

- Keynote: Friday afternoon, Tamara Plakins Thornton, author of the new biography *Nathaniel Bowditch & the Power of Numbers* will talk about her book and Bowditch's sometimes exaggerated significance to celestial navigation as well as his influence on the developing numeracy of business in early 19th century America.
- Other presentations, schedule to-be-determined, will focus on wide-ranging topics in celestial navigation and traditional navigation, both in historical, current, and future practice. Some presentations will investigate mathematical details and principles. Others will cover software and hardware tools of the trade. Others will focus on historical topics like lunars, the development of sight reduction methods, and historical voyages. If you have an idea for a paper or presentation, please let us know by September 30, 2017.
- There will be opportunities to explore Mystic Seaport's many exhibits and historic vessels both independently and in guided tours. Of note, the whaleship Charles W. Morgan, the centerpiece of the museum's collection, recently completed a \$7-million restoration. Originally built in 1841, the Morgan is the oldest commercial vessel in the world and the last of the great New England whaling fleet which numbered over a thousand vessels in the 19th century.
- There will be a group dinner Saturday evening, details TBD, sampling New England's fine seafood (food and drink not included in registration fee).
- To register for the conference, contact the Mystic Seaport Education Department's Registration desk by phoning 860-572-5322, or email reservations.desk@mysticseaport.org. Registration is \$75 and covers admission to the museum for the entire weekend plus all events of the conference on-site at Mystic Seaport (excluding food and drink). Register early. The registration fee rises to \$100 on October 1.
- Mystic Seaport is located 40 minutes from T.F. Green Airport, one of the most convenient airports in the USA, and it is also within walking distance of the Mystic Amtrak station. By car, Mystic Seaport is one mile south of exit 90 on I-95.
- For general inquiries and presentation proposals, contact Frank Reed, by email at frank@reednavigation.com or by phone at 401-644-6012.

CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

NAVIGATION SYMPOSIUM:
The History and Future of Celestial Navigation

MYSTIC SEAPORT
THE MUSEUM
OF AMERICA
AND THE SEA

49.44
52.26
36.32
2.23
14.16

Nathaniel Bowditch
and the Power of Numbers

LAT 41°N

$d' = d + A \cdot \delta h_1 + F \cdot \delta h_2 + Q$
 $d' = d + \cos \alpha \cdot (R \cdot \cos h_1 - r_1) + \cos \beta \cdot r_2 +$

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Do you have a navigation story to tell? Join practical navigators, experts in navigation theory, and historians of science for the *Celestial Navigation Symposium*, a conference devoted to celestial navigation, both historical and modern, and related topics. Opening events will take place on the afternoon of Friday, November 3, and presentations and papers will occur through Saturday and Sunday, November 4 – 5.

- Papers and presentations, from formal academic papers to visual presentations of instruments and navigation techniques are welcome. Openings are available either for 25 minutes or 50 minutes with time for questions after. Topics should be related to celestial navigation, positional astronomy, as well as other forms of traditional navigation, both in historical, current, and future practice. Presentations discussing mathematical details and principles are welcome. Other presentations related to software and hardware tools of the trade would be appropriate. Papers focused on historical topics like lunars, the development of sight reduction methods, and historical voyages are also welcome. The range of acceptable topics is broad. Be creative! If you have some idea or some research, either formal academic research or private research, that you would like to present at the Navigation Symposium, please let us know as soon as possible. Final deadline is September 30, 2017. Submit your proposal to Frank Reed, by email at frank@reednavigation.com or by phone at 401-644-6012.
- See examples of past topics from earlier conferences at Mystic Seaport at <http://fer3.com/Mystic2006> and <http://fer3.com/Mystic2010>.
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- Further information on the Navigation Symposium will be available at <http://fer3.com/Mystic2017>.
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