



# MTR Update

And Valuable Life Advice



## Put Paper Maps Back in Your Car

- Paper Maps have been around for a long time
- We used to use them for travelling
- They provide a visual picture for how you can get from here to there
- Maps are critical in the outdoor environment or unknown places



## Paper Maps Power and Signal

- Paper Maps Never lose Power or Cell Signal
- Your GPS is always connected to a satellite, but the map being shown on your electronic screen comes from a network
- You may be able to download the map and romp out into the wild
- But once in the wild, you cannot download the map to get back home
- You do not have to recharge the battery on a Paper Map



## Paper Maps are Safer

- Paper Maps are less distracting than GPS devices
- When Google barks directions in the middle of your activity – it causes distraction – Or you might miss what it said
- Trying to zoom in or out on an electronic screen while driving is probably not the safest activity
  - A Map is always the same scale.
- Your GPS device shows you your next turn – not the big picture. So you are always paying attention to it.
- When you look at a paper map – you visualize or mentally rehearse your route.
  - It requires less constant looking at the map
- If in doubt, pull over to re-look at the paper map. Far safer than “recalculating”



## Paper Maps Can Get You to Your Destination Faster

- Studies show that people actually achieve their destinations faster with paper maps than with GPS
- Several Theories abound
  - City walkers tend to walk slower with a GPS
  - GPS users tend to make more direction errors and corrections
  - People who have the directions in their head are able to move quicker
- When you rely on an electronic device, you lose context (surroundings, awareness)
  - Your mind can actually process environmental information quickly
- Electronic Devices do not always account for the “real world”



## Paper Maps Create Indelible Mental Maps

- Mentally “downloading” the map, and comparing it with Actual World, creates an image that is more recallable
- GPS users following only the turn by turn directions are less able to reconstruct the route than the Map User
- Paper Map user create the route in their mind and are able to follow it efficiently
- Paper map provide surrounding context
  - How far is the next waypoint/town?



## Paper Maps Give the BIG Picture

- Using a GPS is limited to a dot on the screen and some sense of nearby features, but not the big picture
- With GPS it is hard to tell if you are north, south east or west of a particular target – without zooming out (see safety)
- Paper Maps provide the Big Picture
- Paper Maps provide multiple options for travel at a single glance
- Landmarks such as towns, monuments, populated areas, desolate areas are all on the Paper Map



## You Become the Navigator

- With a Paper Map – YOU become an active, autonomous participant in the skill and art of navigation
- How often have we followed the GPS when our gut told us different?
- Using a Paper Map enhances your Spatial Awareness
- Paper Maps become a toll for exploring your world beyond your current travel





## Paper Maps are Good for Your Brain

- More and More studies are showing use of Electronic Devices may increase our risk of memory loss, dementia, hindering creative thinking
- Paper Maps foster Spatial Navigation where your brain is more engaged in the problem set to be solved
- Paper Maps can prompt “stimulus-response” navigating
  - Turn at the Quickie Mart
  - When you see the Waffle House you are three streets away
  - When you see the lake, you know that you are within 3 miles
  - You are making your brain perform the observations that you had turned over to GPS – except that GPS cannot see the quicki mart
- Paper Maps stimulate complex problem solving – without realizing you are even solving a problem



SO WHAT?!!!!

- Maps and Land Navigation are Critical in the Wilderness Environment
- For those that want to learn more – MTR is for YOU!



The purpose of  
MTR is to Build  
Skills for Outdoor  
Living and SAR  
Participation

- Important Skills include:
- MAPS
  - How to know where you are
  - How to get where you want or need to be
- Land Navigation
  - Compass Work
  - GPS work
  - Translate compasses, maps, and GPS to real life
- Ropes
  - Rigging to secure and assist in moving patients and equipment
- Equipment
- Food, Water, and Cooking
- Fire Building
- Shelter



## MTR Plans

- MTR has been dormant through out COVID shutdowns of places, and activities
- But we are ready to start up again
- We would like to start this Fall



## MTR ROPES & MTR 1

- We are planning to hold an On-Site Ropes Course this Fall
- The plan is to have a full day of Ropes, camp overnight, and continue with problems in the AM
- Leading up to the weekend, we are looking at holding classroom training (Zoom or Moodle) for the Didactic Portions of MTR
- We might have a couple single day sessions to work on land navigation, etc.
- Then in the Spring we want to hold a two night cap weekend.
  - We will cover all modules (hands on)
- Those that participate in both will be credited with MTR 1 and MTR 2