COMPASS DEVIATION CHECK

2 METHODS

SIMON S. BRADSHAW **YACHTMASTER OCEAN 2010**

Simon Bradshaw

Cell: 079 22233384
Email: simessail@yahoo.com

Schooner
Talisman of Fambridge
East Cowes Marina
Britannia Way
East Cowes, Isle of Wight
PO32 6UB

2 Methods

The 2 methods both use the "True Bearing" of the Sun at a given time. The Ideal time is just as the Sun lifts above the Horizon. The Distance above the Horizon is important as if too low then there will be too much Refraction and if too High then only the Sight Reduction Tables Method will work.

REEDS NAUTICAL ALMANAC

- This method is fast and easy works for Lats between 30ª and 60ª
- Need to know your Lat'
- Need to be able to see the SUN
- Work out the SUNs DEC (tabulated in Reeds, Table 3(4))
- Apply LAT, DEC to the Table "True Bearing of Sun at Sunrise and Sunset" (Table 3(5)) in Reeds
- Once you have your True Bearing of the Sun you must apply Variation to it, now you have the Magnetic Bearing of the Sun.
- Sight over the Compass Rose when the Sun is a Semi Diameter above the Horizon, Note the Bearing.
- Compare the Compass Bearing of the Sun against your Magnetic Bearing
- Any difference is Deviation.
- Name it using the East is Least, West is Best rule

SIGHT REDUCTION TABLES

- You already know how to do this. Its a Sun Sight
- Sight the bearing of the Sun.
- Make careful note of the Time you took the bearing.
- Find the GHA and Dec of the Sun for that time.
- Work through Chosen Longitude and LHA.
- Go to Vol.1 or 2 of the Sight Reduction Tables with the Argument; LAT; Dec; LHA.
- Extract the Azimuth (True Bearing) of the Sun. Apply Variation to the Azimuth (= Magnetic)
- Compare the Azimuth of the Sun against your Magnetic Compass Bearing.
- Any difference is Deviation
- Name it using the East is Least, West is Best rule