

Mariner's Weather Handbook (Book/CD-Rom set) by Linda Dashew, Steve Dashew



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Author: Linda Dashew, Steve Dashew

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Reviews of the Mariner's Weather Handbook (Book/CD-Rom set) by Linda Dashew, Steve Dashew

Xangeo

Without a doubt the best weather guide/handbook that I have come across. It should be required reading for any serious sailor and especially for anyone planning an offshore passage.

Mezilabar

excellent resource for full time live aboard sailors

Risky Strong Dromedary

When I read the caption to the diagram on page 59, I found myself wondering whether the author actually understood what he or she was writing about, since I felt that the explanation in question seemed "woolly" and seemed to me to contradict long-established meteorological knowledge. When I

came to the caption to the diagram on page 123, which described the opposite of what the diagram showed, and also contradicted text elsewhere in the book, I'm afraid I became rather irritated with it. I found the section on higher-altitude meteorology (with a lengthy discussion of 500mb charts) interesting enough, and I've given it a second star only because that section motivated me towards further research, but I personally felt that - for me anyway - it didn't tell enough of the story. I have since found a lot of good (and very well-presented) information on the subject at no cost on the internet. My opinion is that the Dashews should withdraw this first edition from sale, go through it with a fine-tooth comb and proof-read it very carefully before issuing a corrected new edition, which should be half the price.

Opimath

Mariner's weather Handbook is the first book about marine weather I've found (in more than 20 years of reading about and struggling with the subject) that has actually allowed me to (finally!) understand the constantly changing three-dimensional relationships between differing air masses and their fronts. Steve Dashew explains the world's weather in a systematic and logical progression that kept me firmly on a heretofore slippery learning curve.

With quotes and examples from leading meteorologists as well as his own experiences (over 100,000 miles under sail), Mr. Dashew explains the mechanics of the weather and the tools available to forecast it. More importantly for mariners, he details what the real concerns are during voyage planning and 'at sea'.

The book also focuses on the rules-of-thumb, routines and on-board equipment that enables one to sail prudently and safely - if warily - across the world's oceans. He details several of his own voyages, with copious log excerpts, available weatherfax charts and satellite images to cover the developing situation day by day.

The only reason for not giving the book the highest marks is the poor editing and occasional indifferent and inaccurate illustrations. It's possible that the occasional misstatements and errors in the text and my subsequent backpedaling and rechecking to identify the discrepancies and 'gett it straight in my head again' are actually responsible for my finally 'getting' the weather. In that case, I owe the editor - or lack thereof - some serious gratitude. In any case, the book made me feel that I could understand it and - by golly! - I finally did! The plentiful weather charts, photographs and diagrams more than make up for the few confusing illustrations.

The book finishes with valuable internet addresses that enable one to begin to gather current and historic weather data, charts and satellite images on the internet. Personally, I'm buying a barometer and hope to begin what will be a life long understanding, study and forecast of the weather, possibly in preparation for my own ocean crossings - thanks to Steve Dashew's very good book.

Authis

I purchased this book several years ago and attempted to read it. There were so many spelling errors that in many cases I couldn't figure out what the author(s) were trying to say. After straining my brain for about 75 pages I gave up the effort. It was the first edition and I hope they've put some effort into corrections.

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