

SPECTRUM

SAFETY NEWSLETTER

GPS

→ Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS)

- There are 3 GNSS...
 - The Russian system (GLONASS)
 - The European system (Galileo)
 - The USA system (GPS)
- We use the USA system: GPS (Global Positioning System)



→ How it Works...

- Your GPS receiver uses the signals from four satellites to calculate a three dimensional position
- Most GPS receivers can calculate your speed, direction of motion, and required track/heading to a fix

→ Buying a Portable GPS Unit

- Try before you buy...
 - Borrow a friend's
 - Go to an aviation show and watch the demo presentation
 - Go to an aviation supply store and look at the unit, then watch the Manufacturer's demo presentation on the Internet

WHERE TO BUY:

- The best place to purchase a unit is at an aviation or air show – they usually have sale prices
- If you know the exact unit that you wish to own, Spectrum Airways may be able to order one for you
- You can purchase units over the Internet
- You can purchase a unit at an aviation supply store (like Aviation World)

- If it is such a great unit, why are they selling it?
- The data base may no longer be current, or update services for the data base may no longer be available
- **MAKE SURE** that all of the features work and that all of the pieces are included (battery charger, panel mount, antennae) before you hand over money
- The Warranty may have expired

Warranty:

- The warranty will be provided through the manufacturer, not the place of purchase
- Read the small print – some units have an excellent warranty service

- Although you may be good at “figuring it out”, a good manufacturer will have courses online that demonstrate all of the features that your unit can perform
- Ensure that the **size** is right
 - *That it will fit where you want it mounted*
 - *That you can read the display*



Remember...

- **GPS should be used to supplement map reading when you are VFR**
- **Your GPS unit may fail or become unreliable at any point**
- **Unless you have an IFR certified unit with a current database, the information displayed may not be accurate – do not rely on your GPS unit to keep you out of restricted or controlled airspace**