



News Release

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February 22, 2008
NR08022

GPS course to help recreationalists use technology to keep from getting lost

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College is offering a GPS course on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, March 6th – 13th, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., that will show participants how GPS technology works and teach them to operate their own GPS units.

The Global Positioning System, or GPS, can show users their exact position on Earth any time, anywhere, in any weather. The system consists of a constellation of 24 satellites that orbit 11,000 nautical miles above Earth's surface and continuously send signals to ground stations that monitor and control GPS operations.

Although the GPS system was developed to meet military needs, new ways to use its capabilities in everyday life are continually being found. The hand-held units available today are an invaluable tool to those who spend a good deal of time outdoors, whether it be hiking or hunting, ATVing or snowmobiling, or taking part in the new adventure of geocaching.

For novice GPS users, it can be a challenge to learn how to properly read and use the equipment. Topics in the upcoming NMCC course will include navigational waypoints, latitudes and longitudes, physical features and their attributes, satellite tracking and positions, distance and bearings, mask angles, and selective availability concepts.

Participants are asked to bring their handheld GPS unit and associated software, along with a DeLorme Maine Atlas and Gazetteer.

For more information or to register for this or other courses being offered through the College's continuing education division, please call 768-2845.

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