BETA TESTING OF NAVPAC4
CELESTIAL NAVIGATION SOFTWARE

At the Royal Institute of Navigation, Small Craft Group (RIN SCG) members have been invited to participate in the beta testing of NavPac4, a new version of a celestial navigation software produced by HM Nautical Almanac Office (HMNAO).

The message below has been received by the Royal Institute of Navigation (RIN) from Dr Susan Nelmes of HMNAO at the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office in Taunton.

Readers wishing to take part are invited to contact HMNAO directly as below*.

The messages reads: ‘HM Nautical Almanac Office is pleased to announce that the development of the new version of our celestial navigation software, NavPac, has now been completed. This version, known as NavPac 4, is a complete redesign of the software, retaining all the current functionality, while providing a much improved user interface along with some new features, including interactive star charts, route maps and position line plots. The software is currently being tested by the office but we hope to complete this testing within the next few weeks. After that we shall begin the process of beta testing by selected experts.

‘We are writing to ask if you would be willing to take part in this beta testing stage. This would involve sending you a copy of the newly developed software, either on CD by post or by direct download, and giving you approximately six weeks to test the software to the extent that you have the ability and time to do. Even if you only have the time to look over the software and comment on what you feel could be improved this is still valuable to us, although more thorough testing of the data and solutions produced by it would be much appreciated. Knowledge of the current version of NavPac is not necessary. All that we would then require from you is a short report of the testing that you had carried out along with any remarks on any issues found or suggestions you have.

‘If you are interested in taking part, please reply to this email and we will send you the new software along with more detailed instructions within the next few weeks.

‘If you don’t feel you can participate, but know of other people who would be interested then please pass on this email and ask them to contact us.

‘Thank you for your time.’
*HM Nautical Almanac Office

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