

STOKERMATIC LEG CARD

SAY IT BEFORE YOU SEE IT. THE GROUND CAN ONLY DISAGREE WITH A PREDICTION.

THE LOOP — RUN IT EVERY LEG, NOT JUST WHEN YOU'RE LOST

PREDICT	MOVE	CONFIRM	CORRECT
Before you step off, say out loud what the ground will do and when. The step everyone skips.	Walk the azimuth. Count pace. Note the time you left.	Check against three witnesses: the ground, your pace count, your watch.	If one disagrees, fix it now while it's cheap. If you can't, go back to your last known point.

LEG LOG — FILL IN THE LEFT SIDE BEFORE YOU STEP OFF

Leg	From / To	Azimuth (mag)	Distance / Paces	Est. Time	Handrail	Catching Feature	Attack Point	I Expect To See...	Confirmed Y / N
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									

MY PACE COUNT (per 100 m)

Flat: _____

Uphill: _____

Downhill: _____

Thick brush: _____

LAST KNOWN POINT: _____

Update LAST KNOWN POINT every time you confirm. It's the only place you're allowed to trust when a check fails.

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DRIFT IS NORMAL. NOT CHECKING IS THE PROBLEM.

DRIFT TABLE — HOW FAR OFF YOU END UP

Compass error	After 1 km	After 5 km	After 10 km
1°	17 m	87 m	175 m
3°	52 m	262 m	523 m
6°	105 m	523 m	1.0 km
10°	174 m	868 m	1.7 km

Rule of thumb (1 in 60): every degree of error puts you about 17 m off for every kilometer you walk.

THE SIX-DEGREE LADDER

1 km at 6° off: about **105 m** off. A football field and change. You'll catch it on the next handrail.

About 66 km without ever checking: the gap between where you think you are and where you are passes ~7 km. Start in the center of a 7.5-minute USGS quad and **you're no longer on the map in your hand**. No method can find you on a page you're not on.

All the way around the world from Helen, GA, holding 96° instead of 90°: by the time you're back around to Helen's longitude, you're roughly **2,500 miles due south of your own front door**.

THE TOOLS — LET THE GROUND TELL YOU EARLY

Handrail	Anything linear you walk alongside: a trail, a ridgeline, a creek. Every step gets checked for free.
Catching feature	Something across your path just past your target. If you reach it, you've gone too far.
Attack point	A feature you can't miss, close to the one you can. Navigate hard to it, then walk the short last stretch.
Second & third witness	Pace count and time. If ground, beads and watch don't agree, one of them is wrong. Find out which, now.

DECLINATION — IT MOVES

Declination changes with **where** you stand and with **time**. The lines that chart it bend and bunch; they aren't straight or evenly spaced. The value printed on an old map is somebody's last check, and it expires. Look yours up on NOAA's magnetic field calculator.

Map says: ____ ° as of ____	NOAA says today: ____ ° E / W
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WHEN CONFIRM FAILS

- 1. Stop.** Don't push on because it's "got to be just ahead." That instinct turns a missed creek into a search.
- 2. Go back to your last known point.** Not the last place you felt fine. The last place you actually confirmed: a junction, a crossing, a blaze.
- 3. Run the loop again** from ground you trust. It costs the last hour. That's cheaper than the alternative.

FINAL QUESTION

When did you last confirm, and against what?

Free from **stokermatic.com**. Print it, fill it in, carry it. Know where you are.