

Re: From here to there

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.geo.satellite-nav/2007-03/msg00374.html>

- *From:* Mike Lane <invalid@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 30 Mar 2007 19:53:13 GMT
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On Fri, 30 Mar 2007 18:30:48 +0100, Jack Erbes wrote:

Bob Gardner wrote:

You will have Mapsource on your home computer, with the ability to designate and name waypoints along a desired route. Transfer the route to the automobile unit and you are in business. I am assuming Garmin.

Bob Gardner

A lot of the newer Garmins won't do that any more. Some only let you upload "Favorites" and then from the GPS you pick one as the destination. No uploading complete routes with via points. Some will let you add one via point after you have chosen a destination, some won't let you add any.

The 27xx and 28xx are about the last full featured models (as far as navigation features) with the exception of the zumo 550. The zumo 550 does most of the old school navigation things like multi destination routing, track recording, etc. Unfortunately, some of the features they left in on the zumo cannot be turned on and off (like automatic route recalculation) and can drive you crazy at times.

Think they used Generation X as their test market, The feedback was that they wanted to play games, listen to music, talk on their phones, and didn't care how they got there as long as they kept moving.

You know, the little fat faced girl in the car behind you? About 6 inches off your bumper, talking on the phone, eating a pizza, doing her makeup, and flipping you off because you're only doing 70 in a 55 zone.

Garmin has a software engineering department that has never seen or used a GPS receiver or spoken to anyone that has used one.

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I agree completely.

I use a 2610 at the moment which does everything I want. OK it could have a bigger, better screen and a few other improvements but basically as long as I can get the latest map updates it's just what I need. I'm terribly afraid though that when it gets to the end of its useful life, i.e. it simply wears out and cannot be repaired, I will not be able to replace it.

The 26** series has now been discontinued, and the successors, the 2720 and 2820, appear to have been dumbed down by removing a number of useful features and replacing them with silly stuff like MP3 players and the like. It seems extremely likely that even these will be discontinued soon in favour of the Nuvi and such like.

I wish I could complain to Garmin with some effect or even vote with my feet but I don't know where to turn to. It seems that the GPS is heading the way of mobile phone marketing, i.e. only catering for a stupid mass market that is totally ignorant of the most basic principles of navigation and really just wants a flashy little toy that will last a few months and then be thrown away with all the rest of last year's gadgets. I don't mind if the manufacturers make their money by producing silly toys, but where will I be able to get a proper GPS unit in the future?

Mike Lane (UK North Yorkshire)

To contact me replace invalid with mike underscore lane

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