

Re: Wind Directions?

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.physics/2005-12/msg00675.html>

- *From:* "PD" <TheDraperFamily@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 8 Dec 2005 09:51:54 -0800
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W. Watson wrote:

> It seems like a weird rule in that N and S take precedence. I wonder if
> there are other ways of designating these directions. Perhaps in S. America
> or Asia, they do it differently? Probably not. I find it odd that very
> seldom, as in close to never, does anyone bother to state the rule. I have a
> book titled Compass by Aczel and he doesn't give a clue. I guess someone
> decided on the rule millennia ago, and everyone has just gone with it.
>

Actually, sea navigators had a much easier time determining north-south position (and orientation) than they do east-west position. Mystic Seaport, CT, has a lovely planetarium exhibit that explains this problem and the interesting history of its resolution (including the invention of a very reliable clock!). Exploring the history of this now-taken-for-granted business is something I'm sure you would find fascinating.

PD

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- *Follow-Ups:*
 - ◆ ***Re: Wind Directions?***
 - ◇ *From:* W. Watson
- *References:*
 - ◆ ***Wind Directions?***
 - ◇ *From:* W. Watson
 - ◆ ***Re: Wind Directions?***
 - ◇ *From:* Dirk Van de moortel
 - ◆ ***Re: Wind Directions?***
 - ◇ *From:* W. Watson
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Re: Wind Directions?

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