

GPS Your Club Trails

You can use this process with any GPS. These instructions are specific to the Garmin eTrex Legend.

“Tracking” is a process that automatically logs your location at certain intervals. By putting these markings together, we can map out a very accurate trail. “Waypoints” are specific marks you tell the GPS to make. For our purpose, waypoints can be used for intersections, road crossings, and points of interest. Waypoints are not automatic; you must tell the GPS to make a waypoint. Most GPS devices automatically keep a “tracking” log without you having to do anything other than power the unit on. You should verify that tracking is turned on by default and that no one has turned it off. The device supplied has tracking turned on automatically.

The simple instructions:

1. Turn on the device with the lower button on the right side of the device (while looking at the screen).
2. Wait for the few introductory screens to pass.
3. You will see a screen appear with a few circles and markers that indicate possible satellites the unit will use. The message at the top will tell you to “Wait..... Locating Satellites”.
4. Once the satellites are located, all you need to do is have the device with you and begin travelling the trails.
5. For best results:
 - Travel at fairly consistent speeds (but you don’t need to get carried away, the unit will adjust).
 - Do not travel over 20 MPH.
 - In areas of Hemlock trees, go slower (Hemlocks are the worst blocker of satellite signal). Other trees shouldn’t have an effect.
 - Keep the unit visible to the sky. Put on the dashboard or hold by a window. Handlebar mounts work well.
 - Do NOT put the unit on the seat (utility vehicle), in a glove box, saddlebag, etc. The unit needs to see ‘up’ to the sky. If you put it in the middle of a car for example, it wouldn’t get a signal through the roof, but it would through the window on the dash.
6. If you stop and don’t move for a period of time the unit may turn itself off to conserve battery. Be sure to check that it’s on from time to time. If it’s off, just turn it back on and follow the same instructions above, it will catch up from where it left off.
7. When you are done travelling the trails, simply use the same button on the right to turn off the device.

If you’re feeling adventurous, mark “waypoints”:

These instructions are not necessary, but will make for a more accurate map, especially intersections and points of interest. Making “waypoints” will clearly identify intersections and points of interest. This will also allow you to have GPS coordinates of your intersections (helpful for rescue).

While you are travelling trails:

1. Use the button on the face of the device to mark your waypoints.
2. Simply HOLD DOWN on the button, this will indicate you want to mark a waypoint (you must hold, not just push).
3. You will then see a "Mark Waypoint" screen. Simply push the button again (the OK button is already highlighted) and it will mark that point in the log.
4. For best results you should create a waypoint for the following. If you back track and go to an intersection more than once, you do not need to create another waypoint.
 - Make a waypoint when you start tracking your trails (start point).
 - Make a waypoint at every intersection.
 - Make a waypoint at every road crossing.
 - Make a waypoint at points of interest (gas, food, parking, etc).
 - Make a waypoint when you end your tracking (stopping point).

When you are done tracking your trails simply return the unit. We will pull the data off of the receiver and use it to make 'trails' on a map. We can then return this rough version to the club so that you can verify the information, name intersections (number them), mark points of interest, and make changes to the trails.