

Lost in the FOG

Are you lost in the fog of life?

Some people are lost in the fog of life.

Several years ago, I was racing my boat from Newport, RI to Cuttyhunk Island off the coast of Massachusetts. There was a great deal of fog, and we kept one person on the bow (front of the boat) to watch out for other boats. It was that foggy.

We sailed on towards Cuttyhunk using our GPS navigation system. While we could see nothing but fog, we had the electronics to confirm we were on course. We were fine, and we raced on in the fog for four hours.

As we approached the island and the buoys around the island, we were slightly concerned when we could not see the first two buoys along our path. Then, when we should have been at the entrance to the harbor, we still saw nothing and became extremely concerned. Immediately, we stopped the boat.

One sailor had an iPhone with a new (at the time) navigation application. He searched and yelled, 'turn 180'. We were heading for the rocks off the southern end of the island! As the iPhone led us into the harbor we watched the GPS system installed on the boat, and it said we were on land. Clearly the boat navigation system was wrong.

Once safely in port and tied to a mooring, we started to review the situation. For hours we sailed believing we knew where we were. We didn't! Once we knew our navigation system was wrong, we realized we could be anywhere. We had no idea of where we were and no way, except for that iPhone, to find out where we were. Not knowing where we were, there was no way to get help or be found. Frightening!

The iPhone was a life saver. Now, we sail with redundant systems. Yet, the memory of thinking we knew where we were, but in reality had no clue, still haunts me.

How about life itself? How many of us are in the fog? How many have no idea where we are heading, where the port is, or how to get there?

Too many people drift along in the fog of life with no plan, no port of call to head for. Others have an idea of where they'd like to go, the port to head for, but have no idea of where they are, nor how to chart the course to navigate to the desired destination.

How about you? Do you know where you are? Do you know where you are going, where your next port of call is? Do you have a plan, a course to follow, to get to your next destination?

First, we need to find out where we are. Then, we need a plan, a real plan of the steps needed to move towards our destination. Without it, we drift in the fog of life.

Look around. If you are lost in the fog, do something about it before you hit the rocks.