

Plane Finder

So what the heck is this?

This is a pelorus, a device to take a bearing of an object.



To take a bearing, sight over the top of the pelorus, lining up the centre pin with the object you want a bearing of. In this case the tree top in line with the pin is just a little to the left of the mark which is left of the 3 mark. Each mark is 10 degrees, so the bearing is between 40 and 50. I would call it 43.

The pelorus is oriented to Magnetic North, so when you take a bearing, it is actually a magnetic bearing that you can follow with a compass (add 20 to get a true bearing).

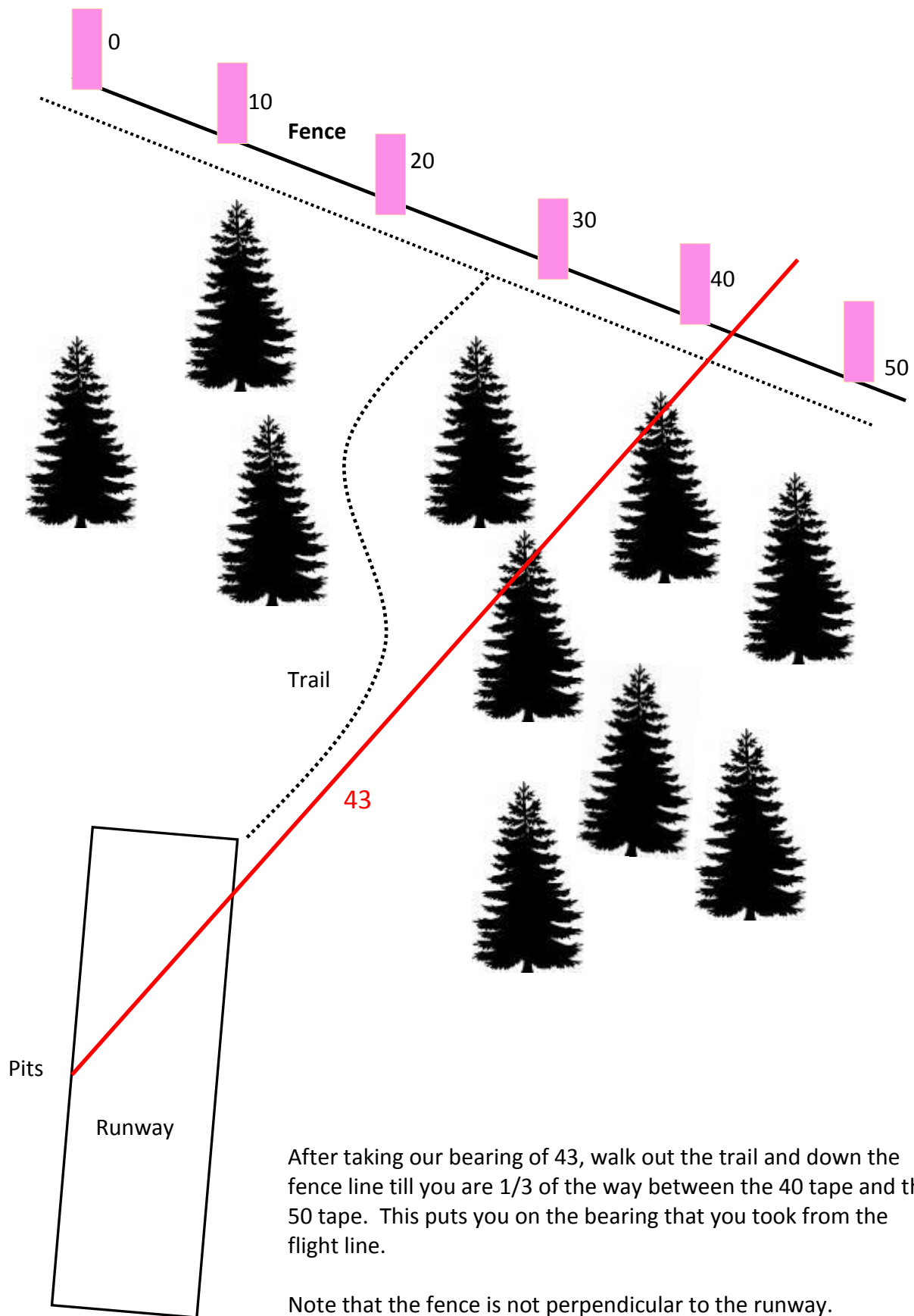
However it isn't very often you can directly follow the bearing because of the trees around the runway blocking the sight line. You can pick up the bearing at the north fence line (because the trail runs along the fence), or on the other trails using marks made of pink flagging tape. For example, at the left end of the runway, you take one of the trails to the fence line. Then walk fence trail until you find the tape marked 40m. Farther ahead you will see the next tape, which will be 50m. Standing about a third of the way between them, you will be on the bearing line we took. (see diagram)

This is a work in progress, so please let me know of any improvements you can think of.



Geoff Sanders - Aug 2016

Fence tape 10



After taking our bearing of 43, walk out the trail and down the fence line till you are 1/3 of the way between the 40 tape and the 50 tape. This puts you on the bearing that you took from the flight line.

Note that the fence is not perpendicular to the runway.