Mysticetus Theodolite User Guide

Contents

Introduction 1
Mysticetus Standard Operating Procedure: Theodolite Integration with Mysticetus 3
Project hierarchy 8
Setup Initialization of the DT205 9
Vertical Reference Point Definition 10
Horizontal Reference Point Definition 11
Creating a Theodolite in Mysticetus 14
Defining Horizontal and Vertical Reference Points in Mysticetus 17
Connecting and Reading the Theodolite within Mysticetus. 23
Steps for Theodolite Initialization with Mysticetus: 26
Change Logging 27
Setting Theodolite Height Above Water 30
Determine the Horizontal Reference (Daily) 32
Important points for theodolite operation 35
Additional Setting Options for DT205: 36
Theodolite Manuals 37
References 37

Introduction

Configuring the Theodolite for running on Mysticetus has specific steps required. Not following these steps will result in frustration, time loss, angry calls to us, and general sleep deprivation. Please read this carefully.

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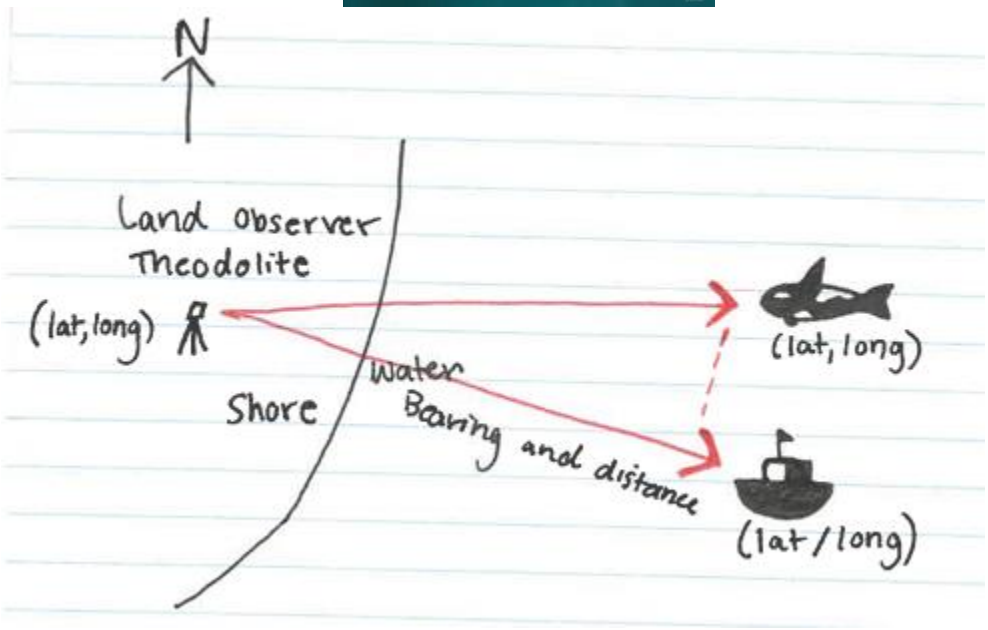

Figure 1 Drawing courtesy of Scotti-Lynn

These procedures are correct for all Mysticetus supported theodolites. Direct support currently only exists for the Topcon (also known as Sokkia) theodolites equipped with the RS232 port. Some examples below directly apply to the Topcon DT205 which is still commercially available as of 2024. Today, other devices can be used with manual data entry – reach out to us for more information.

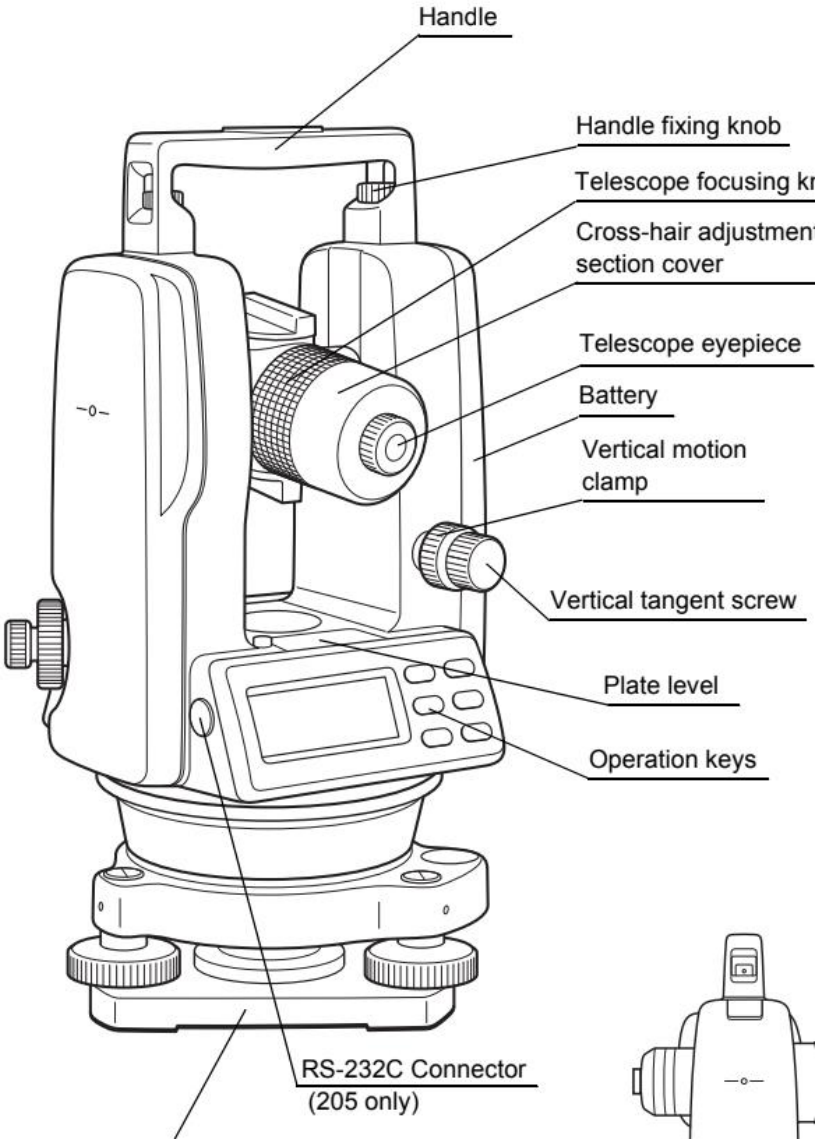

Figure 2 Image taken from the Topcon 200/200L series user manual emphasis here is the RS-232C connector.

Mysticetus Standard Operating Procedure: Theodolite Integration with Mysticetus

Purpose

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This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) outlines the procedures for integrating a theodolite (DT205) with the Mysticetus platform for accurate data collection during offshore operations. Adherence to this SOP ensures data integrity, consistency, and compliance with project requirements.

Scope

This SOP applies to all personnel involved in setting up, calibrating, and operating the theodolite in conjunction with the Mysticetus software platform.

Responsibilities

- **Field Observers:** Responsible for executing the field setup, calibration, and data collection procedures outlined in this SOP.
- **Data Analysts:** Responsible for quality control and analysis of the data collected within the Mysticetus platform.
- **Project Manager:** Responsible for ensuring that all personnel involved are trained in this SOP and that the necessary equipment and resources are available.

Equipment and Materials

- Theodolite
- Laptop with Mysticetus software installed.
- High-accuracy GPS device
- Sturdy Tripod
- Power supply for theodolite and laptop
- Theodolite user manual
- RS 232 to USB cable
- Nine pin connector to RS232 cable
- Handheld GPS
- Windows laptop computer to run Mysticetus on.
- Mysticetus installed and a license from us.
- Power supply for laptop.

- Replacement batteries for theodolite. Rechargeable batteries recommended.
- Extension cord for power of sufficient length
- Portable table for the computer is recommended.

Project Setup & Configuration (One-Time/Infrequent)

1. **Project Hierarchy Confirmation:** Verify the correct project hierarchy (Grandparent > Parent > Child) or Child only within Mysticetus. Consult with Mysticetus for details.
1. **Theodolite Communication Initialization:** Configure the theodolite's communication settings according to the manufacturer's instructions (refer to the theodolite user manual). This is a one-time setup per device.
2. **Reference Point Determination:** Establish precise vertical and horizontal reference points. Use a high-accuracy GPS device to acquire latitude/longitude coordinates for these points. Document these coordinates.
3. **Theodolite Location Determination:** Determine the precise latitude/longitude coordinates of the theodolite setup location using a high-accuracy GPS device. Document these coordinates.
4. **Com Port Identification:** Connect the RS232 cable to the laptop and identify its assigned Com port *without* Mysticetus running using Windows "Device Manager" application.

Field Setup

1. Theod**olite Placement:** Securely mount the theodolite on a tripod in a stable location with an unobstructed view of the observation area and the reference points.
2. Level the theodolite.
3. Refresh batteries as required.
4. Connect cable to theodolite.

Mysticetus Software Configuration & Testing

1. **Mysticetus Editor Mode Configuration:** Launch Mysticetus in *Editor Mode*. Configure the theodolite Com port and communication speed (baud rate) within the software. Every day plug the cable into the same USB port on the laptop to keep com port the same.
2. **Communication Test:** Test the communication link between Mysticetus and theodolite.
3. **Theodolite Definition in Mysticetus:** Create the theodolite as a "Vehicle" within the Mysticetus. Name it and input the latitude/longitude values. Input the com port.
4. **Waypoint Definition in Mysticetus:** Define the horizontal and vertical reference points as "Waypoints" within Mysticetus. Name them and input the latitude/longitude values for each.

Data Collection & Validation

1. **Mysticetus Data Collection Mode:** Switch Mysticetus to *Data Collection Mode*.
2. **Theodolite Calibration:**
    1. **Zeroing:** Aim the theodolite at the horizontal reference waypoint and zero the instrument using the zero-set button on the theodolite.
    2. **Altitude Calculation:** Use the Altitude Wizard within Mysticetus to calculate the theodolite eyepiece altitude.
3. **Test Reading & Verification:** Take a test reading and verify its accuracy on the Mysticetus map display. If discrepancies are noted, review previous steps, particularly reference point coordinates.
4. **Data Collection Commencement:** Begin taking data readings. Regularly monitor data quality and instrument stability throughout the observation period.

Data Management

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All collected data will be stored securely within the Mysticetus platform according to the defined project hierarchy. Regular data backups will occur as per Mysticetus data management protocols.

Quality Control

Data quality will be monitored continuously throughout the data collection process. Any anomalies or inconsistencies will be reported to the Data Analyst and Project Manager for investigation and resolution.

Safety Precautions

Follow all relevant safety procedures when operating the theodolite and working in the field environment.

- Do set up your theodolite in a location where the risk of dangerous falls is mitigated.
- Do set up your theodolite away from heavy iron objects where magnetic interference may occur.
- Do provide power provision such that electrical shock is prevented.
- Do be mindful of the dangers that might be present due to local wildlife. Have a plan!

Revision History

- This SOP will be reviewed and updated periodically as needed by Mysticetus and provided on our website: Https://mysticetus.com/downloads .
- Please direct any questions or suggestions for improvement to the Mysticetus, info@mysticetus.com.

Mysticetus directly supports the Topcon DT5, DT501, DT10, and DT205 series theodolites. What is important with your selected device is that the theodolite supports the 9 pin RS232 cable connection. This cable is used to connect the theodolite to the Mysticetus laptop.

Project hierarchy

Mysticetus offers two primary project models for data collection:

1. Standalone Setup:

Ideal for independent researchers, this straightforward approach involves configuring all settings, including theodolite and local machine variables, within a single project environment. To save template edits during theodolite setup, simply navigate to Data->Save->Save Template->Okay and use the default name.

2. Hierarchical Setup (Grandparent->Parent->Child):

This setup is typically used for managing multiple projects with shared data collection standards. It involves a three-tiered structure:

- **Grandparent:** Defines the overarching data collection standards, including theodolite logging function and the basic data collection template.
- **Parent:** Houses project-specific configurations, such as input devices (theodolites, handheld optical devices), per-project settings, assigned users, and data collection modifications for individual child projects. Theodolite setup tasks are performed at the parent level and then deployed to the child projects. **Important:** Ensure Mysticetus is running in “advanced” editor mode when editing the parent project. To deploy changes, navigate to Project->Save Project and Deploy to Other Projects and select the relevant child project(s).
- **Child:** This is where actual data collection takes place and local machine configuration values are set.

To navigate to the parent project, simply switch projects within Mysticetus, either in standard or advanced editor mode. For a more detailed explanation of project hierarchy, please refer to the Mysticetus Project Manager Operations Guide: https://mysticetus.com/download/.

Publish Date: September 2024

The hierarchical setup allows for efficient management of multiple projects by centralizing common data collection parameters in the grandparent and parent levels, while accommodating project-specific variations in the child projects. Independent researchers typically utilize the standalone setup, while larger organizations or projects with shared standards benefit from the hierarchical structure.

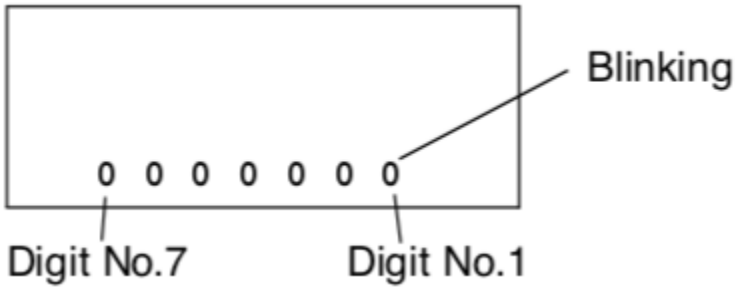
Mysticetus sets up (data collection) projects in coordination with you. Do not forget to verify!

Setup Initialization of the DT205

This is a one-time task which requires theodolite serial communication port is enabled.

The below steps are required for the DT205, older models (DT 5, DT 10, DT 501) steps may be different or not required (reference that device's user manual).

1. Enter SELECTING MODE 2 by turning the power ON while holding the [V/%] key.



2. Using the ◄ and ► buttons to select digits and the ▲ button to change the number, set Digit No. 3 to **1** and the rest to **0**.

0	0	0	0	1	0	0

3. Press and hold the [0 SET] key on the theodolite keypad and wait until you see ‘SET’ appear on the screen. Turn the power OFF.

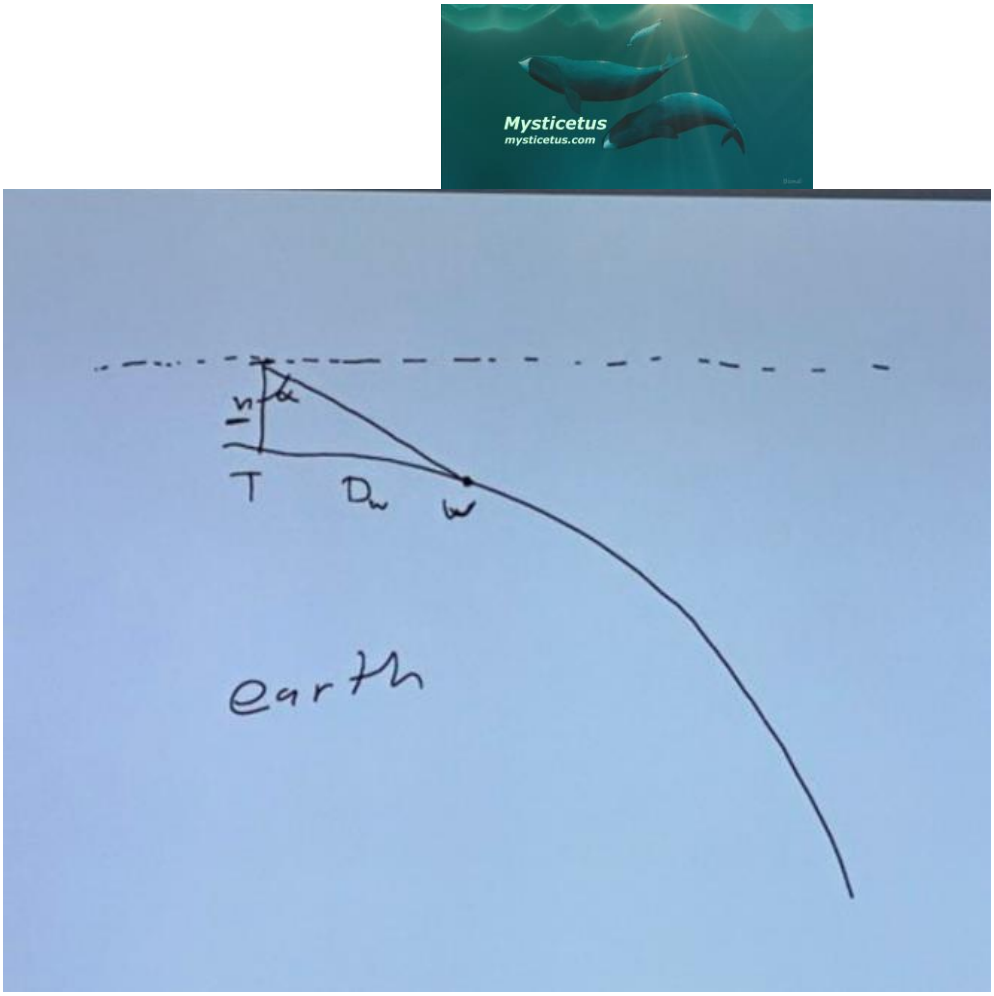
Vertical Reference Point Definition

Accurate theodolite measurements rely on establishing dependable vertical (also referred to as altitude) reference point(s) – multiple points can exist. A vertical reference point is a fixed location where the waterline intersects a stationary object. Suitable examples include a dock pylon, a firmly planted stake or series of stakes extending above the high-tide mark, or a bridge support. Ideally, this point should be located 50 to 250 meters from the theodolite, although distances up to 1-2 kilometers are acceptable.

The altitude reference, accounting for tidal fluctuations, should be refreshed typically between 15 and 30 minutes. However, in areas with significant tidal changes, such as Alaska's Cook Inlet, more frequent updates are necessary. Conversely, locations with minimal tidal activity may require less frequent adjustments. While a 30-minute interval is typically acceptable, users must determine the appropriate frequency based on the specific tidal conditions of their operational area.

To establish the vertical reference point:

1. **Identify:** Choose one or two fixed locations where the waterline meets an immovable object.
2. **Obtain Coordinates:** At the base of the chosen object(s), use a handheld GPS to record the latitude and longitude coordinates. Employ waypoint averaging in your GPS.



A critical consideration when selecting the distance to the vertical reference point is the potential for error propagation. As the distance increases, the vertical angle change (capturing tidal fluctuation) measured by the theodolite becomes smaller. This shallow angle change, combined with manufacturer tolerances in the theodolite's vertical angle measurement, can induce error in the calculated altitude. Since the vertical reference point plays a key role in distance calculation, inaccuracies in this measurement can impact accuracy of results. Therefore, careful selection of the vertical reference point distance is crucial for minimizing errors when measuring small tidal changes.

Horizontal Reference Point Definition

The horizontal reference point is a crucial element for determining accurate bearing to sightings. This point, located at a known distance, establishes a

Publish Date: September 2024

reference bearing. By using the known coordinates of both the theodolite and the horizontal reference point, Mysticetus calculates true north. This allows the system to determine the angle between true north and the reference bearing. By combining this angle with the angle measured between the reference bearing and the bearing to the sighting, Mysticetus calculates the true heading (bearing) from true north to the sighting.

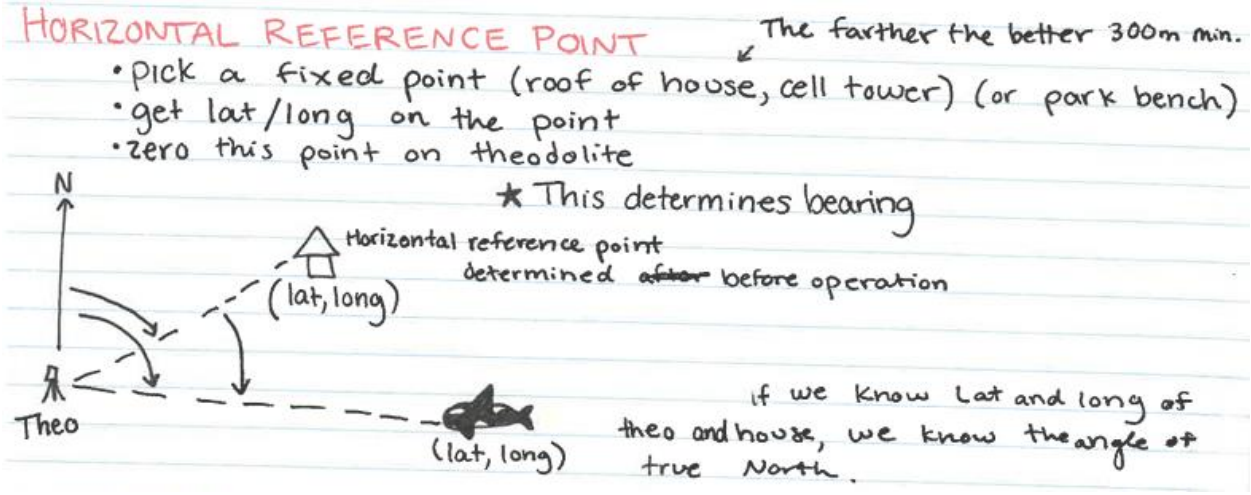


Figure 3 Horizontal reference point sketch courtesy of Scotti-Lynn

To establish the horizontal reference point:

1. **Identify:** Choose a clearly identifiable, stationary location in the distance.
2. **Obtain Coordinates:** Use a handheld GPS and waypoint averaging to accurately determine the latitude and longitude coordinates of the base of the chosen reference point.

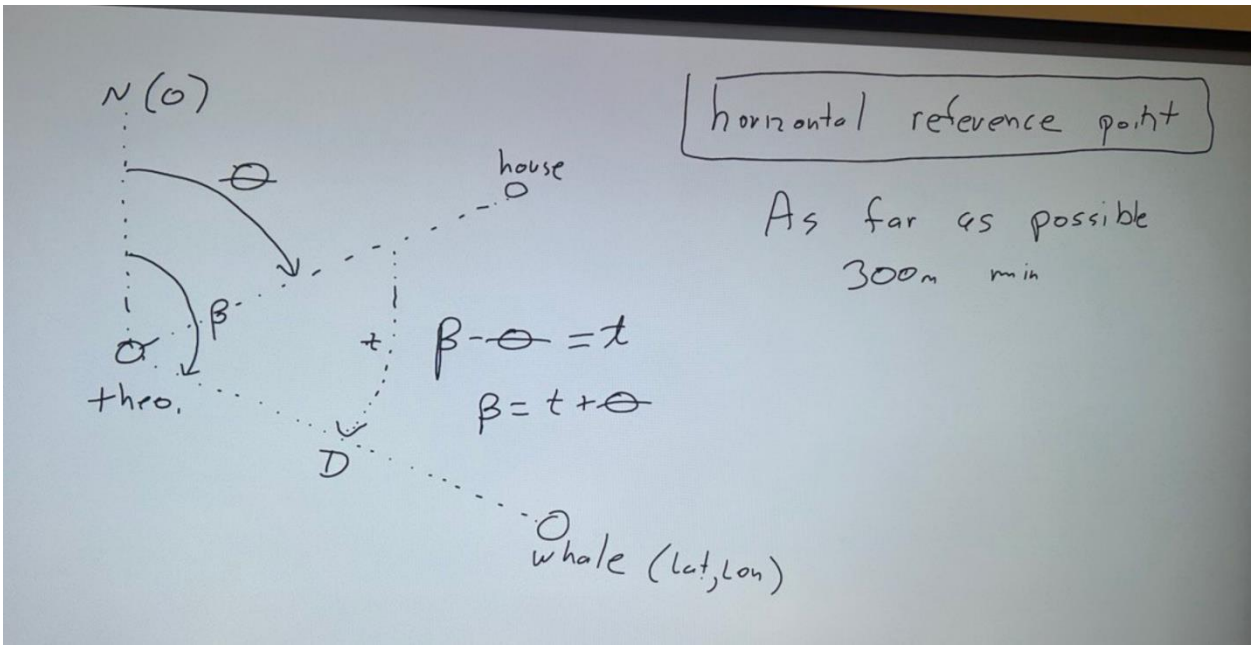
Mysticetus uses the following calculation to determine the true heading (β) to a sighting:

$$\beta = (\theta + \tau) \text{ modulo } 360$$

Where:

- **θ:** Represents the angle between true north and the reference bearing.

- **T:** Represents the angle measured by the theodolite between the reference bearing and the bearing to the sighting.
- **Modulo 360:** Ensures the resulting angle (β) remains within the 0-360 degree range. This manages cases where the sighting angle (τ) is less than the reference angle (θ), preventing negative or overly large angle values.



Horizontal Reference Point Selection: For optimal accuracy, the horizontal reference point should be a fixed, immovable structure (e.g., power pole, piling) at least 500 meters from the theodolite. Shorter distances can introduce inaccuracies.

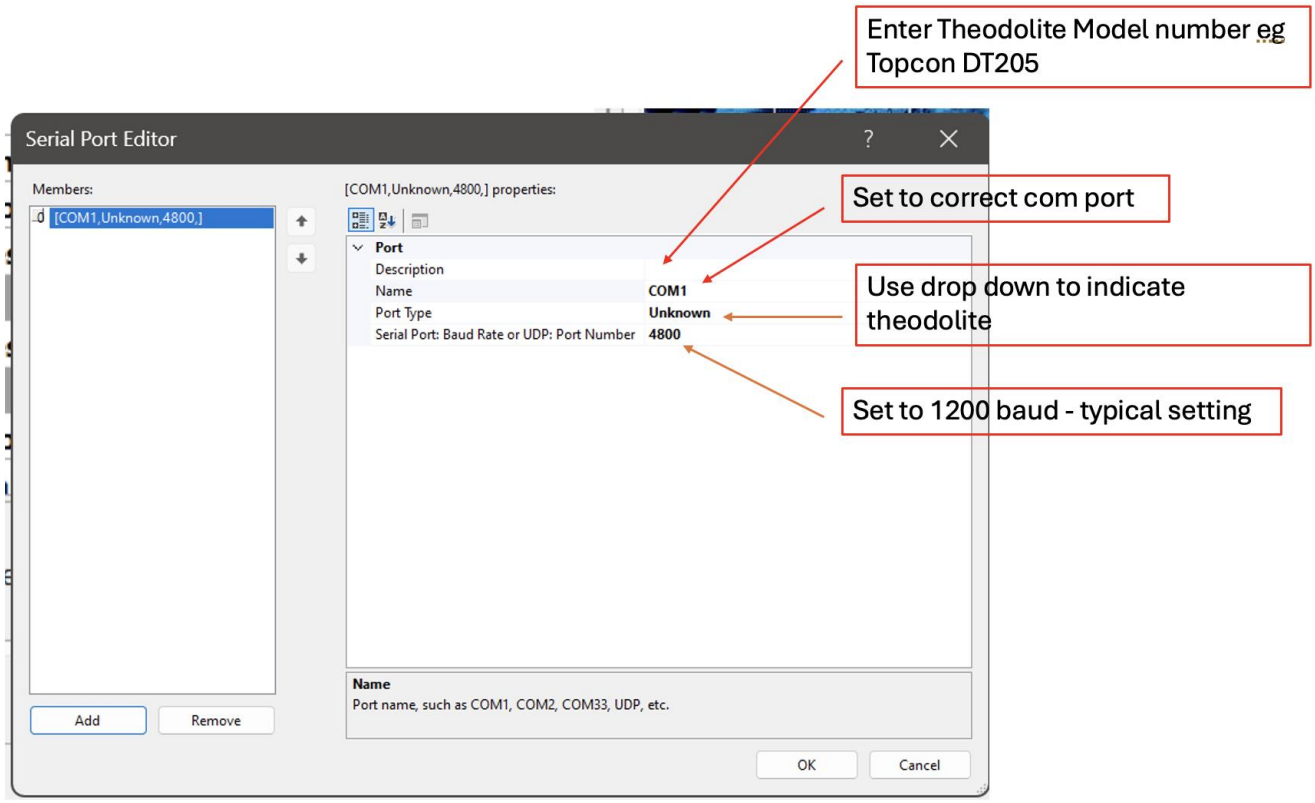
Ensure an unobstructed line of sight exists between the theodolite and the specific, clearly identifiable point. This point, once chosen, must be used consistently daily for zeroing the theodolite.

Reference: Bowditch's American Practical Navigator - dig in here to discover the derivative math.

Publish Date: September 2024

Creating a Theodolite in Mysticetus

The basic steps of setting up a theodolite is to create the theodolite as a **new vehicle**, name it, and input its measured GPS location. For projects set up with the grandparent/parent hierarchy this will be done in the parent and deployed to the child project. Otherwise, you will just do this work in your project file.



First you must define your theodolite (also known as a vehicle) by creating a vehicle and setting its lat/lon location in vehicle properties.

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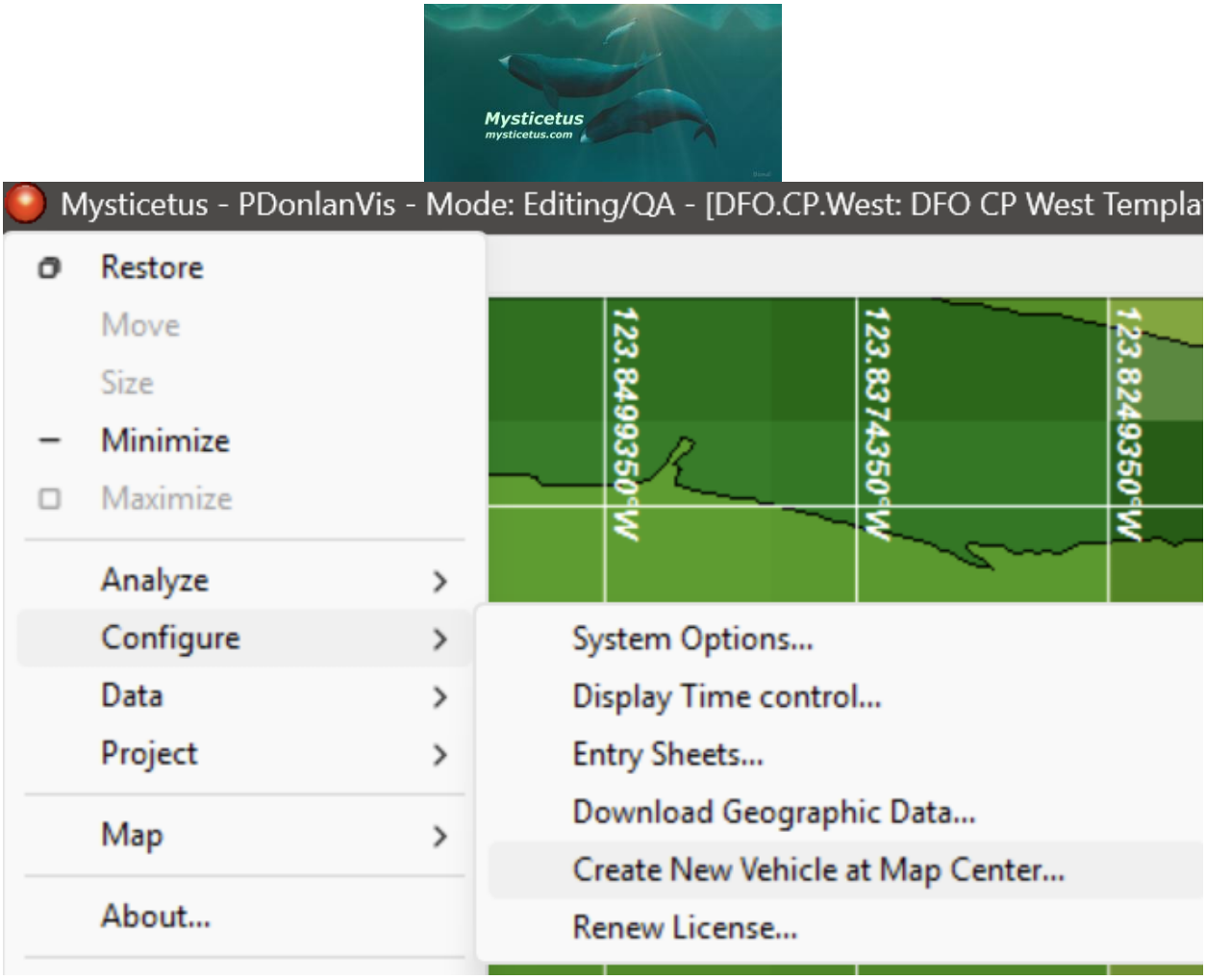


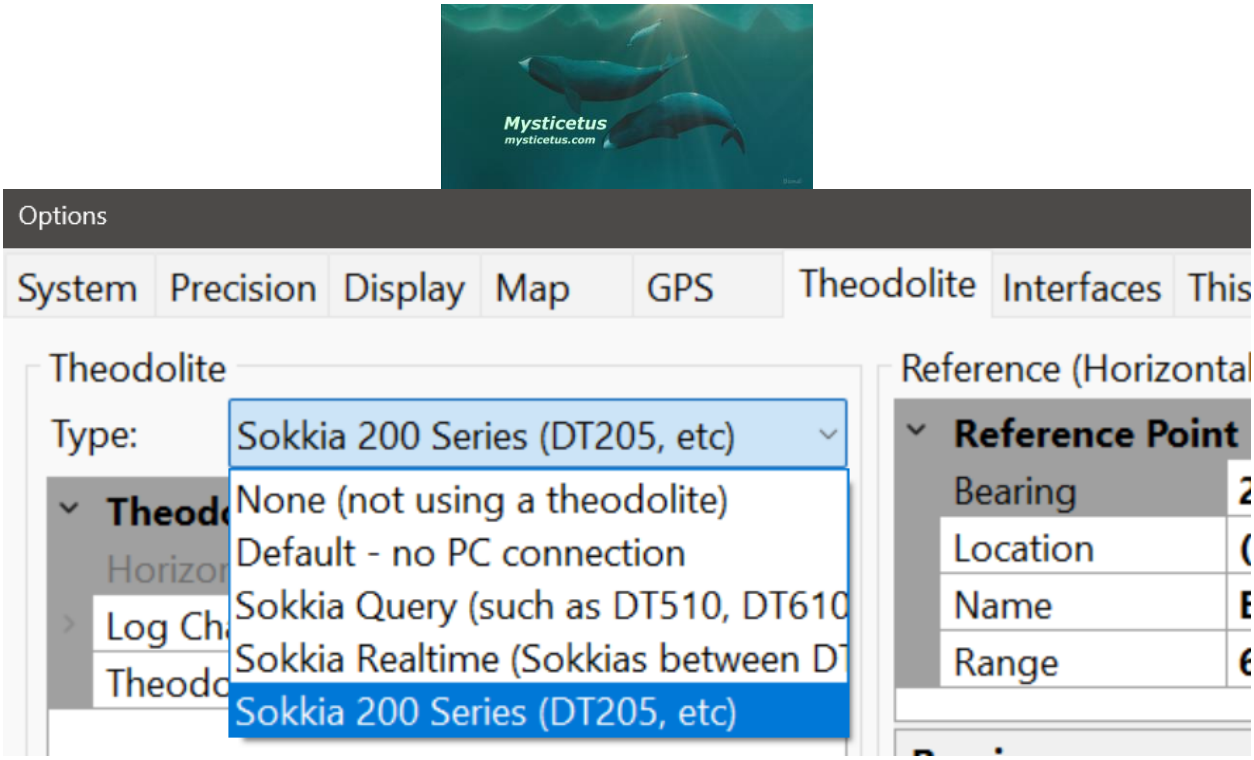
Right clicking on the new vehicle and selecting properties provides the option to name the new vehicle aka theodolite station, input its correct lat/lon location, and name the station ID appropriate to your project.

Publish Date: September 2024

Properties for 'Dodd Theo'

Zoomed Out Size	6
Identification	
Info Link	
Marine Mobile Service Identity (	0
Name	Dodd Theo
Notes	
Operator	
Station Id	DFMPOVis
Time Created	2024-10-10 15:27:35.6 PDT
Location	
Altitude Offset	N/A
Altitude/Depth	N/A
Gear	
Location	49.1335358°N 123.8132987°W
Outline	No Outline
Media	

Now define the theodolite type in the theodolite tab under configuration per the below.



Defining Horizontal and Vertical Reference Points in Mysticetus

The creation of the vital horizontal and vertical reference points in Mysticetus must follow the steps below. In summary you must define waypoints and their properties – Lat/Lon coordinates and an intuitive name.

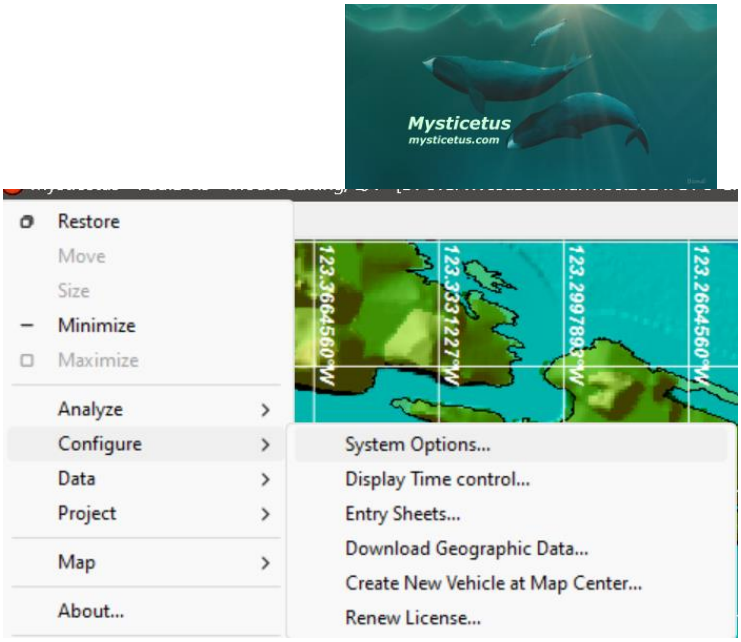
NOTE: If your project is a child project these steps must be performed in the parent project then deployed to your child project while running Mysticetus in “Advanced” editor mode.

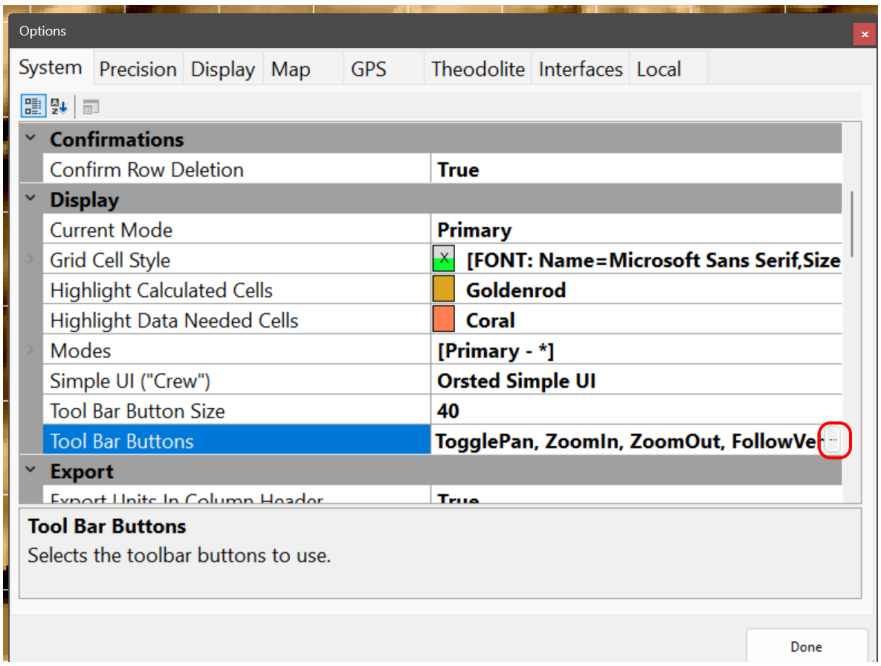
To create waypoints, use the following steps with Mysticetus running in editor mode.

First, update your tool bar to add the option to create waypoints. This is a one-time action per computer.

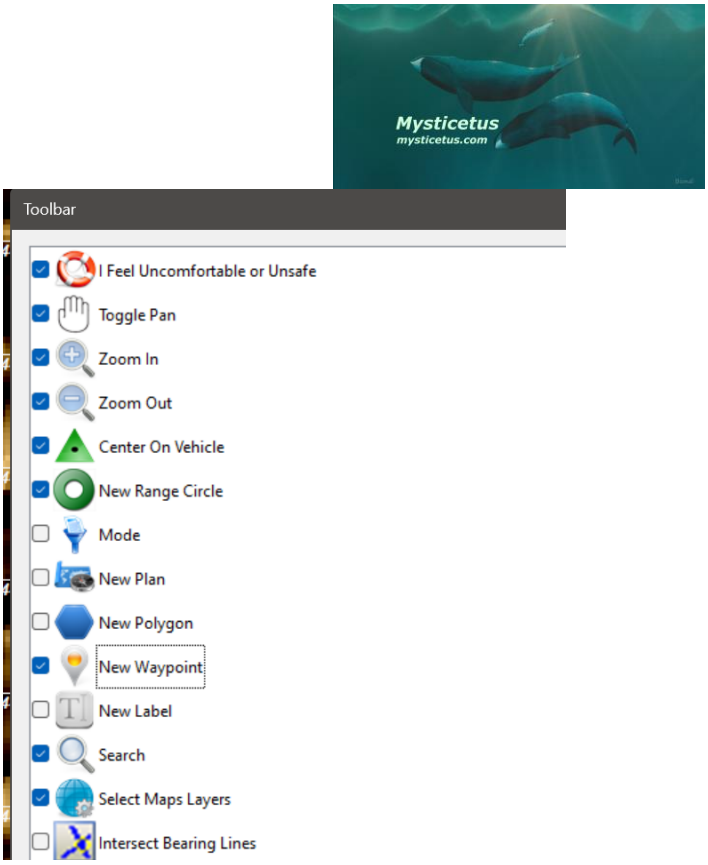
1. Choose Configure -> System Options -> Toolbar Buttons.

Publish Date: September 2024





2. Scroll down to the display category. Select the ellipses to open the Toolbar configuration window.

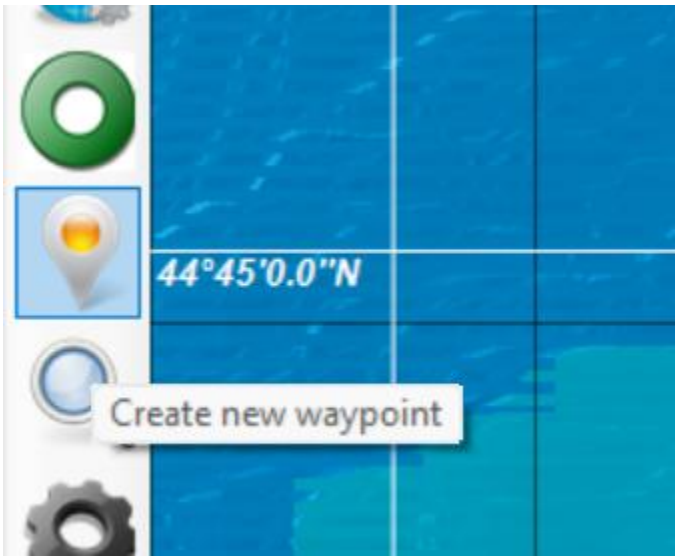


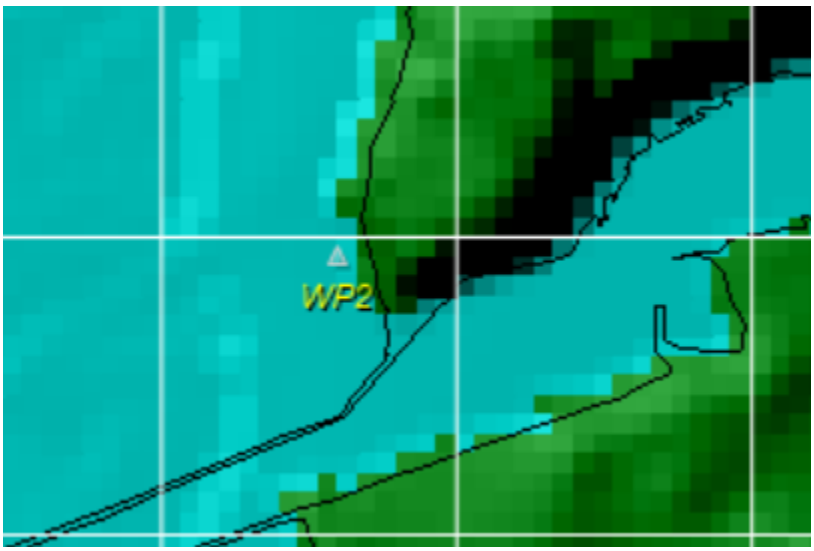
3. Enable the Create New Waypoint Toolbar button by clicking the box (this may already be enabled on your computer).

Now Create Waypoints in Mysticetus.

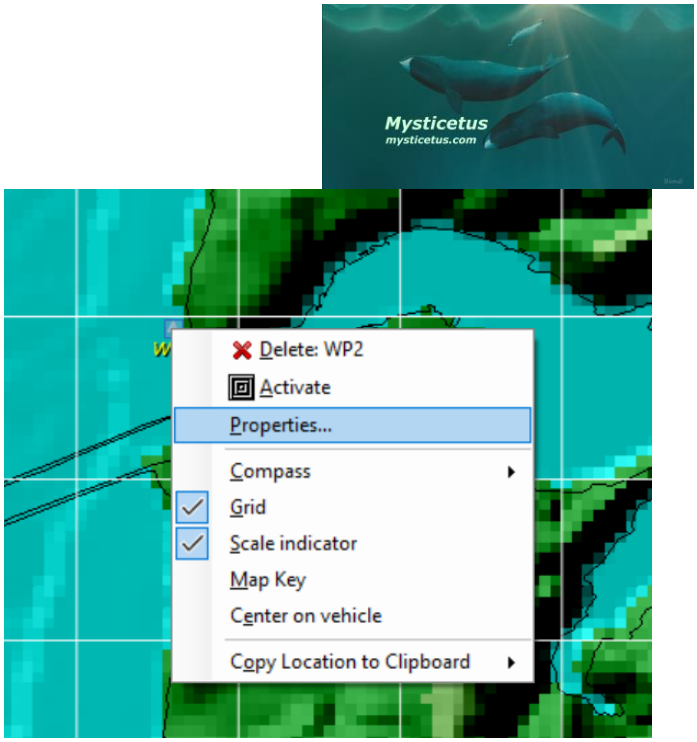
1. Quick check - when you hover the cursor over the map, the cursor looks like a small hand on the map you will need to change its mode by clicking “toggle pan” option on the toolbar.

2. Go back to the map, click the Waypoint toolbar button, this will cause the cursor to change shape. Then click on the map near where the waypoint will ultimately end up. It does not have to be exact.

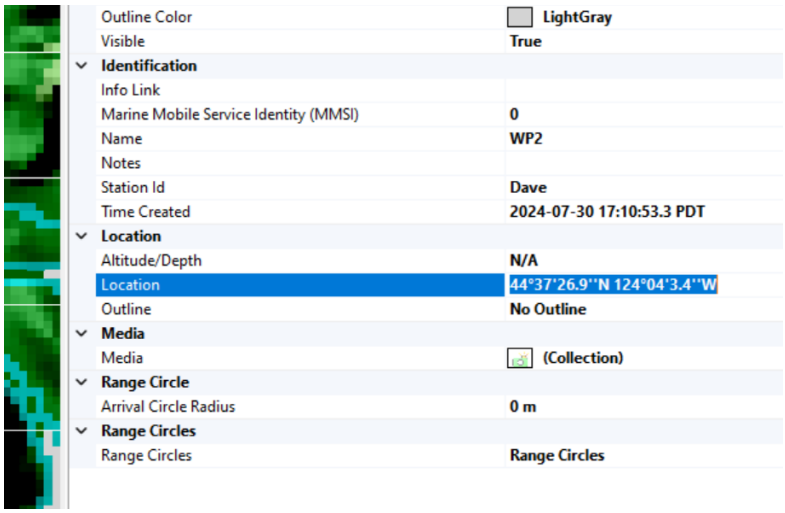




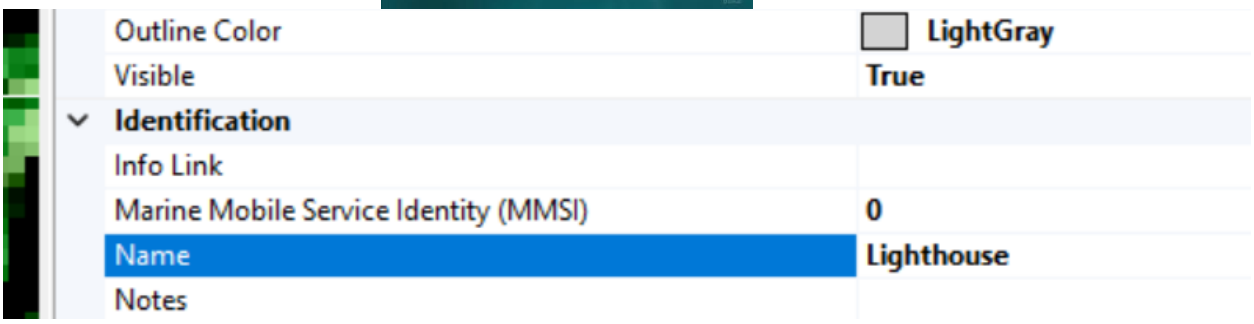
3. Right click on the new waypoint icon on the map (you may have to zoom in close to do so), choose Properties



4. In the Properties window on the right, select the Location item, and paste or type in the correct latitude and longitude.

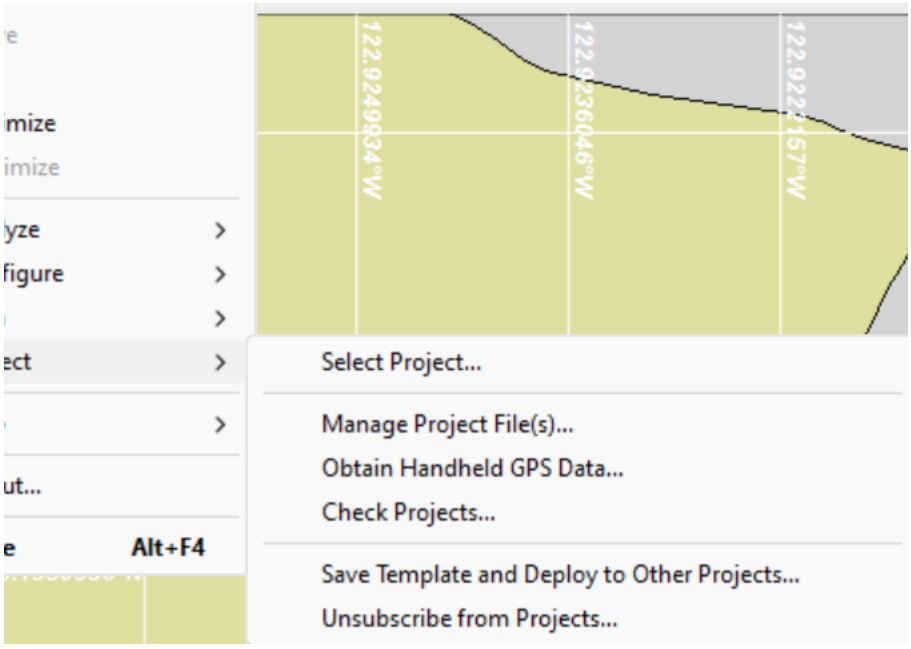


5. Select the “Name” field in the Location item, and enter a name for the waypoint (such as “Dock 17 Pylon”, “Granite rock vertical”, “Crack in seawall horizontal”, “Lighthouse”, etc. These reference points are what you will use when applying either horizontal or vertical calibrations.



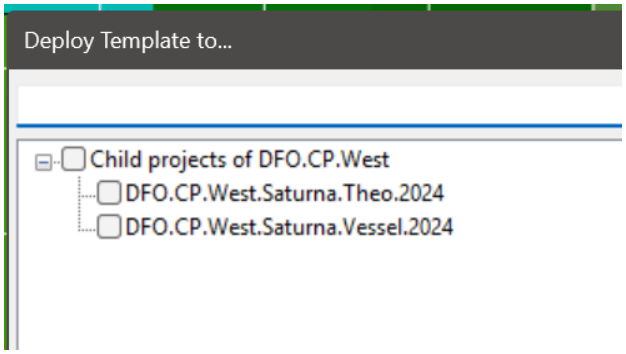
Once the theodolite “vehicle” and respective waypoints have been defined then save the template with these updates.

Click redball->project-> ”Save Template” and save this new information into your project’s (or parent if in use) template. **Note:** If you have been set up in the Grandparent->Parent->child relationship you will, instead, click redball->project-> ”Save template and deploy to other projects” per the below.



This will give you the option to deploy to your respective child project or projects as appropriate. Check the correct box and click on the deploy button.

Publish Date: September 2024

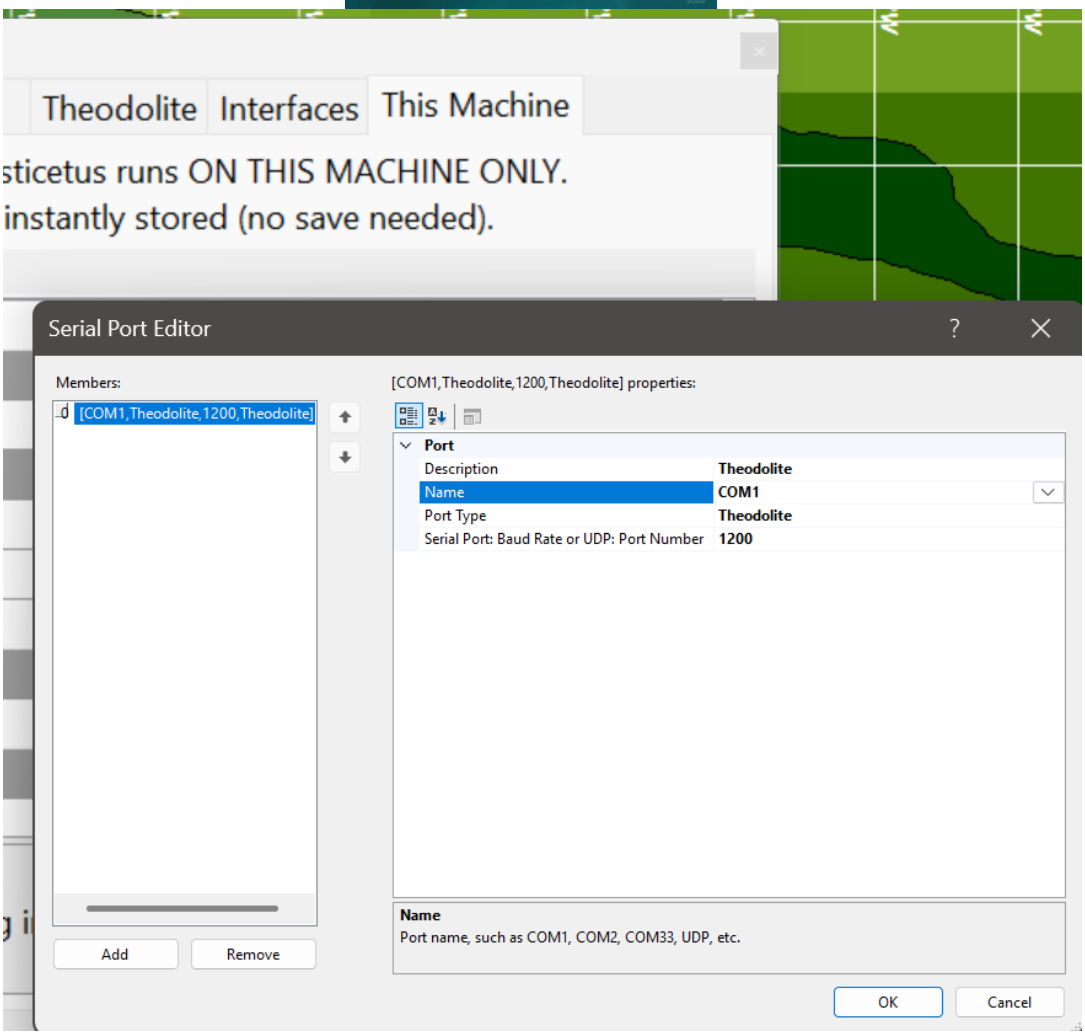


Connecting and Reading the Theodolite within Mysticetus.

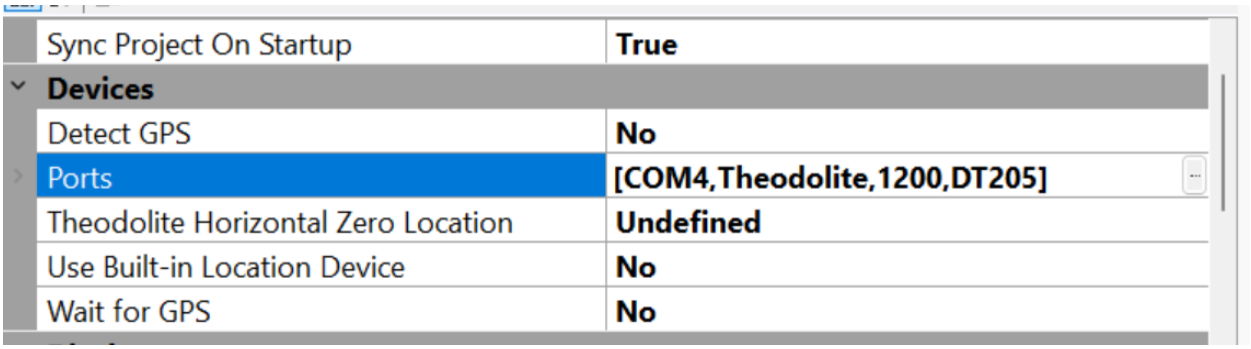
Theodolite/computer configuration is a daily one-time setup process. However, at the beginning of each day, you must recalibrate your theodolite using the horizontal and vertical reference points. These steps are further detailed within this document.

1. **Identify Com Port:** In Windows Device Manager, determine the assigned Com port number (e.g., COM5) for the connected theodolite. This information is crucial for configuring Mysticetus.
2. **Configure Mysticetus Port Assignment:** In Mysticetus *Editor Mode*, navigate to the "This Machine" tab under System Options, then to the Serial Port Editor. Assign the identified Com port to the theodolite. **Important:** To maintain consistent Com port assignment, always connect the theodolite's RS232 cable to the same USB port.
3. While in the child project, running editor mode you will navigate to system options “This Machine” tab and navigate to the serial port editor.

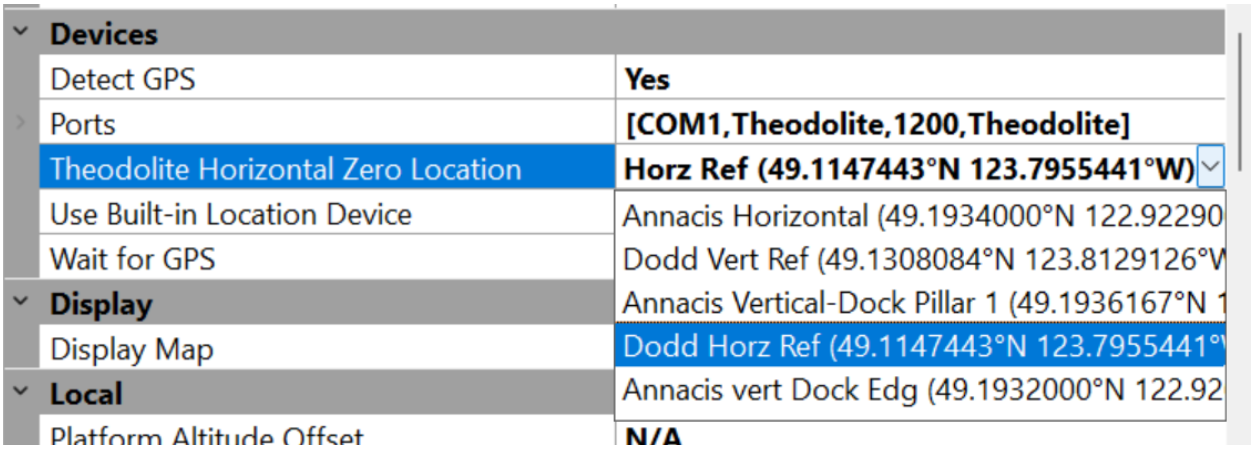
Publish Date: September 2024



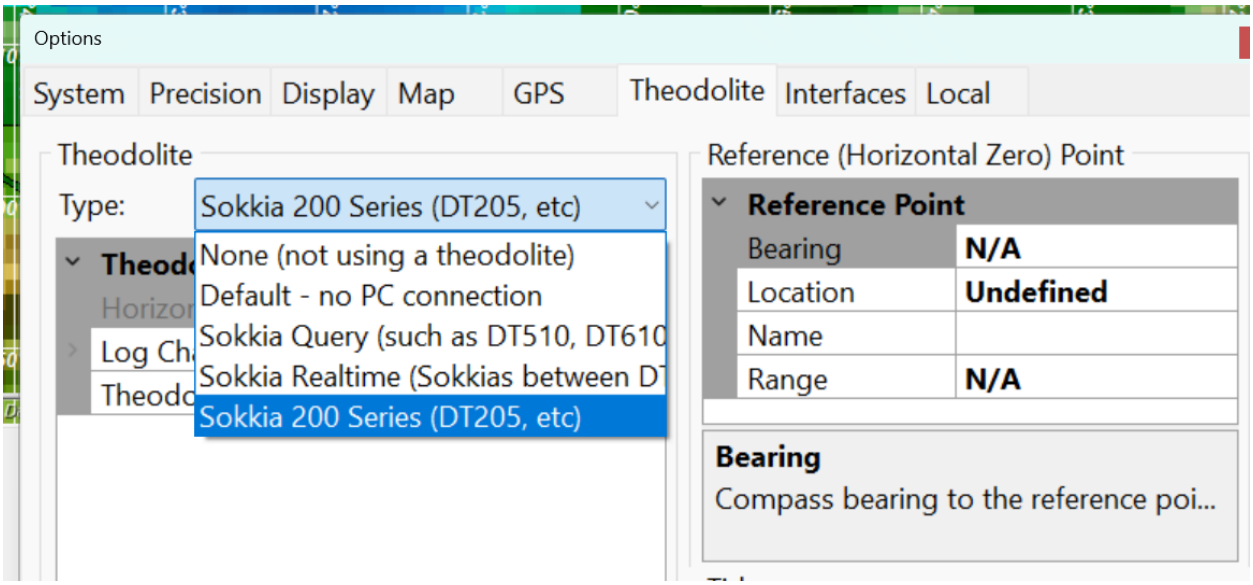
4. Define your theodolite device which Mysticetus will use.
5. Click on OK, you should see it now in the “This Machine” tab per below:



6. Note: theodolite communication speed of 1200 Baud is typical for all supported theodolites.
7. Now set the horizontal reference point which you've previously defined.



8. Under the Theodolite tab indicate which supported theodolite type is in use. Remember, these settings are inherited from the parent in the case where your project lives in a project hierarchy!



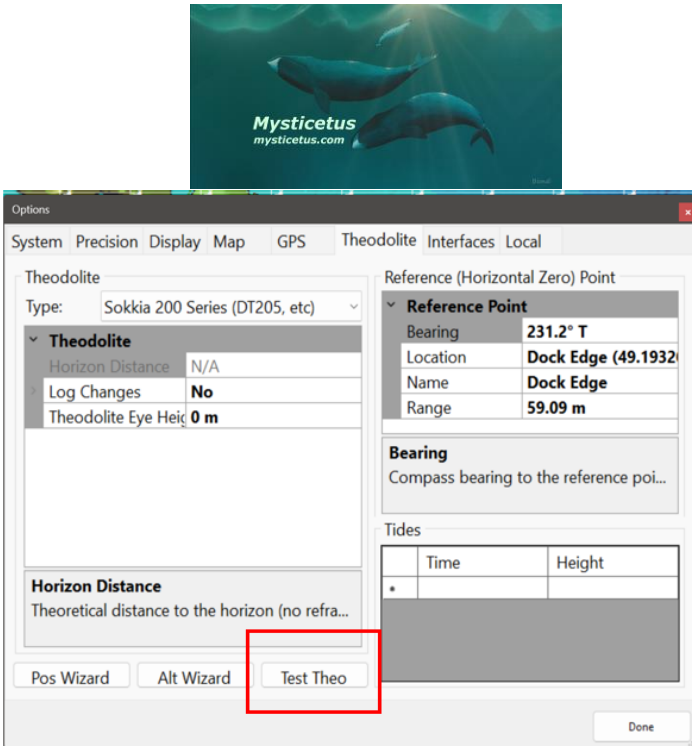
The theodolite interface should be tested must be performed whenever the theodolite is reconnected with the Mysticetus computer, typically daily.

Steps for Theodolite Initialization with Mysticetus:

Important: Complete the following steps in order. Please read and understand all steps before proceeding. The steps are fully detailed in this document for deeper reference.

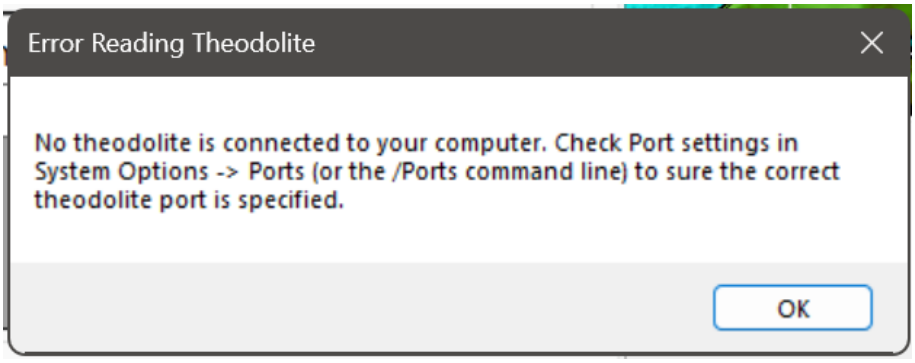
1. **Verify Mysticetus Status:** Ensure Mysticetus is not running.
2. **Connect and Power On:** Connect the theodolite to the computer and power on both devices.
3. **Theodolite Readiness (DT205):**
    - Wait for a horizontal readout to appear on the theodolite display.
    - Press the [V/%] key to display a vertical readout.
4. **Launch Mysticetus:** Start Mysticetus in *Data Collection* mode. Mysticetus will automatically detect the connected theodolite.
5. **Test Communication:** In Mysticetus, navigate to the *Configure/Options* tab, then to the *Theodolite* section. Click the "Test Theo" button to verify data capture functionality.
6. **Zero the Theodolite:** Pointing the theodolite viewer at the horizontal reference point then press the “Zero Set” button.
7. **Determine Theodolite Height:** Click on the Altitude Wizard then point the theodolite viewer at the water line of your vertical reference point and click acquire.
8. **Evaluate the Theodolite Calibration:** Point the theodolite viewer at a known, measured waypoint and record the sighting in the sighting detection sheet within Mysticetus. View the mapped result to see the detection icon overlays this waypoint.
9. **Validated Sighting Agreement:** With the test sighting overlaying your test waypoint the Mysticetus-theodolite integration is ready for operational use.

Publish Date: September 2024



Pressing the **Test Theo** button will give you theodolite vertical and horizontal azimuth angles if the connection is correct. It will agree with what is shown on the theodolite built in display if you have not moved the theodolite viewer - it will be very close regardless.

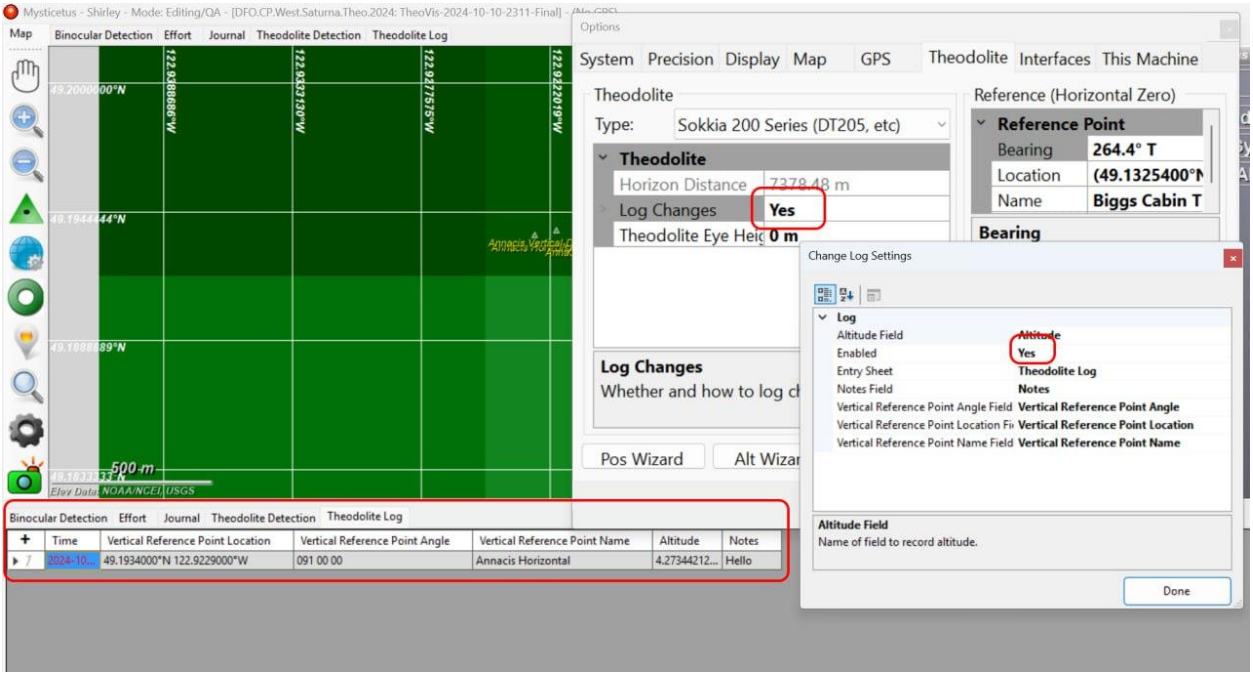
If there is a read error, you will receive an error message.



Change Logging

Publish Date: September 2024

Having the option to “**Log Changes**” set to true will guarantee your updates to theodolite altitude calculation will be a recorded in Mysticetus. This feature’s use is strongly recommended.

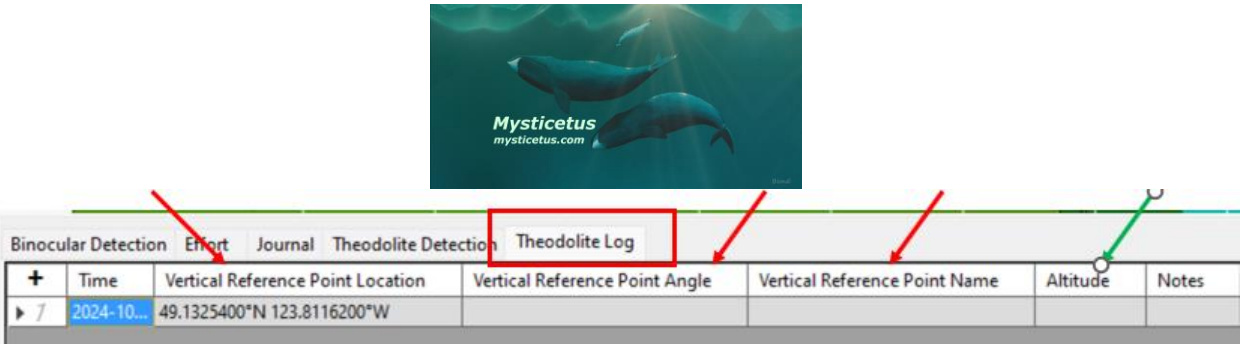


The above “Change Log Settings” arguments (eg fields, entry sheet) must strictly represent the arguments that you need to input information too.

1) It is literal, typos will render that field non-functional.
2) Mistype the entry sheet (aka tab seen in data collection mode) name and it will not write out the data.
3) Mistype a field name and it will not write out the value.

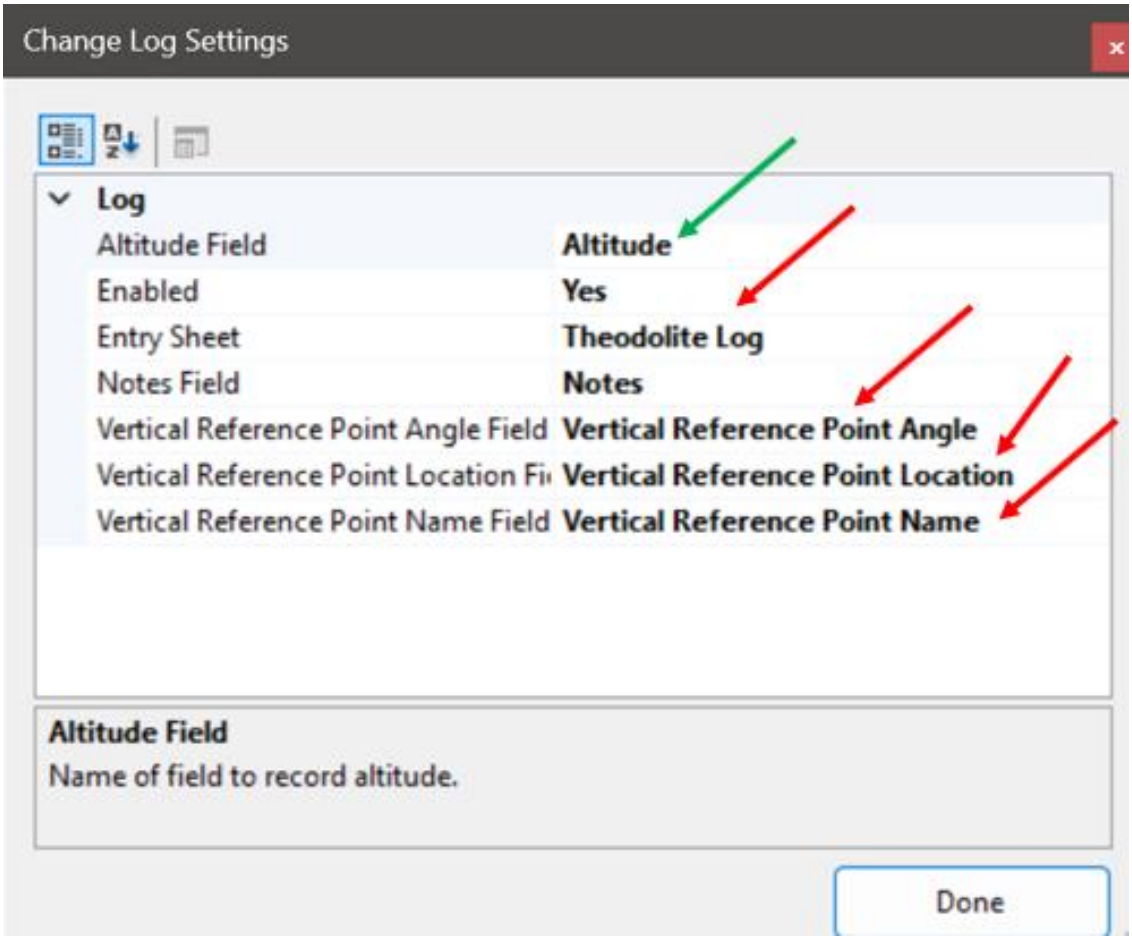
In this example the entry sheet (or tab) titled “Theodolite Log” is where calibration data is written out to per the above image. If we have helped you create your project up it should be the same.

Publish Date: September 2024



Again, all set values in the Change Log Settings dialog must be exact to what is seen in the Theodolite Log. When in doubt, check your spelling!

Note: Change Log Settings **are set in the Grandparent** for projects in the hierarchal structure.



Publish Date: September 2024

Setting Theodolite Height Above Water

The Vertical reference is a known location at the water line - that is where water meets an immovable object. There may be multiple reference points. This could be a dock pylon, a stick pounded into the bottom sufficiently long to protrude above the water for all tidal conditions (or multiple sticks) or it might be a bridge pylon. What is important is with tidal changes the water does not recede from that object(s). This may not always be possible, hence having multiple objects for reference could be required.

Periodic updating captures water height change due to tidal action - this is important in calculating accurate sighting record distance computation. Again, update frequency of the theodolite height is recommended to be at least every 30 minutes except in cases of extreme tidal behavior such as seen in Cook's Inlet Alaska which is an extreme example.

An ideal distance from the theodolite to the selected object is 50 to 250 meters. But it can be up to 1-2 kilometers.

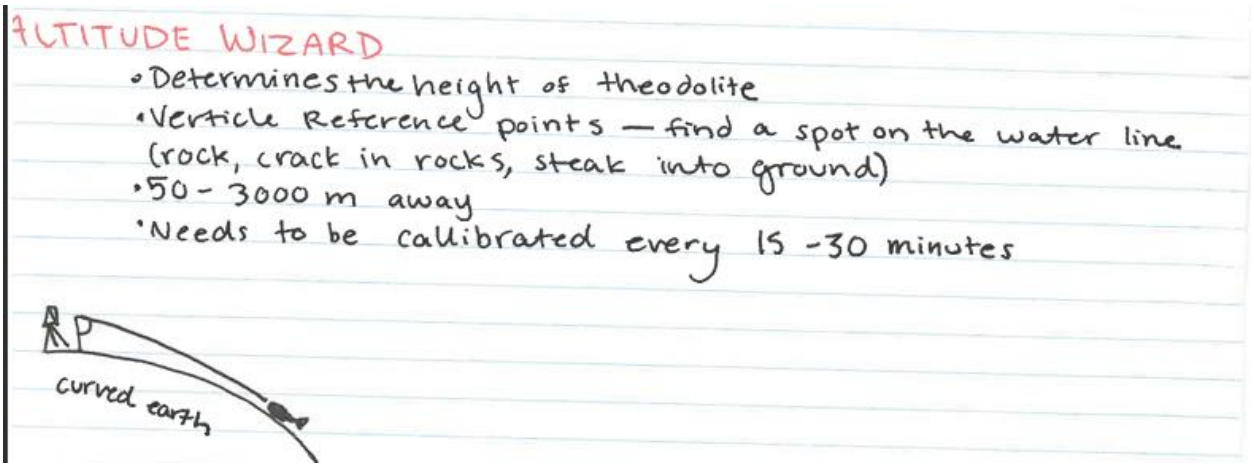
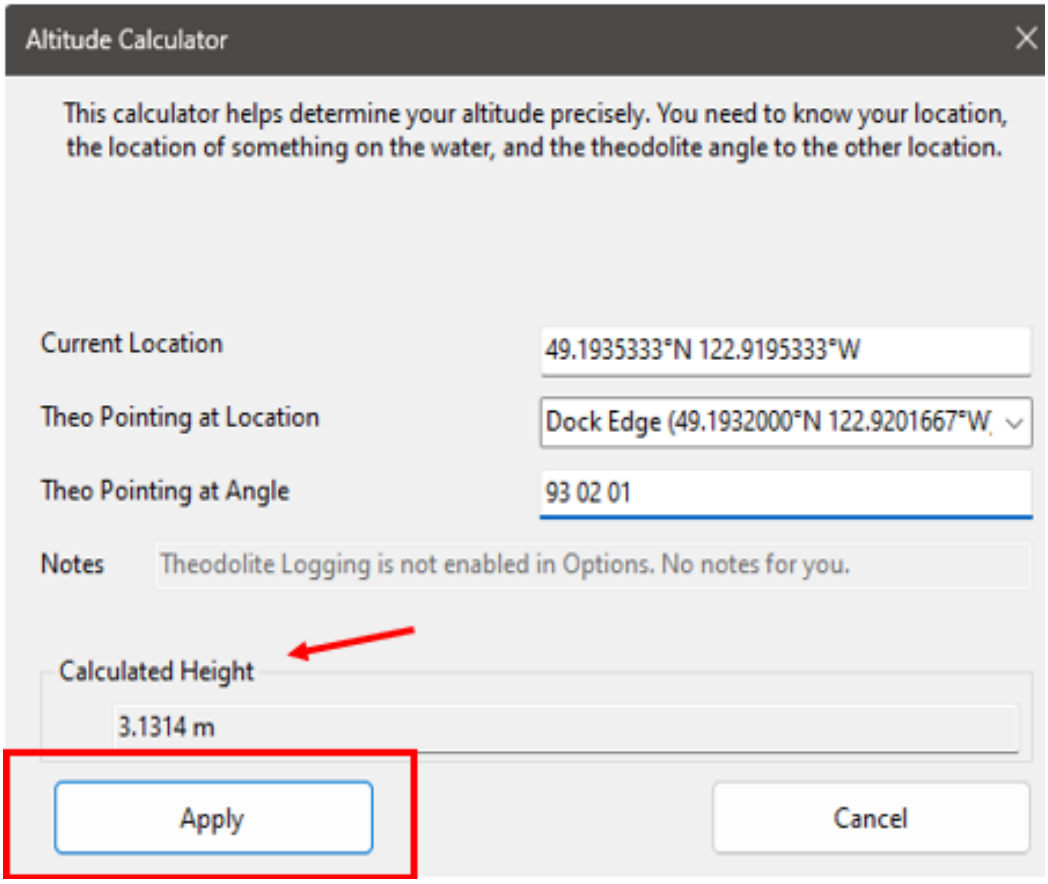


Figure 4 Running the Altitude wizard courtesy of Scotti-Lynn

NOTE: The theodolite's indicated vertical angle should never exceed 180 degrees as seen either in Mysticetus or on the theodolite built in display during daily setup. If your angle is greater than that you simply need to

rotate theodolite viewing head (aka eye piece)180 degrees, then rotate the theodolite.



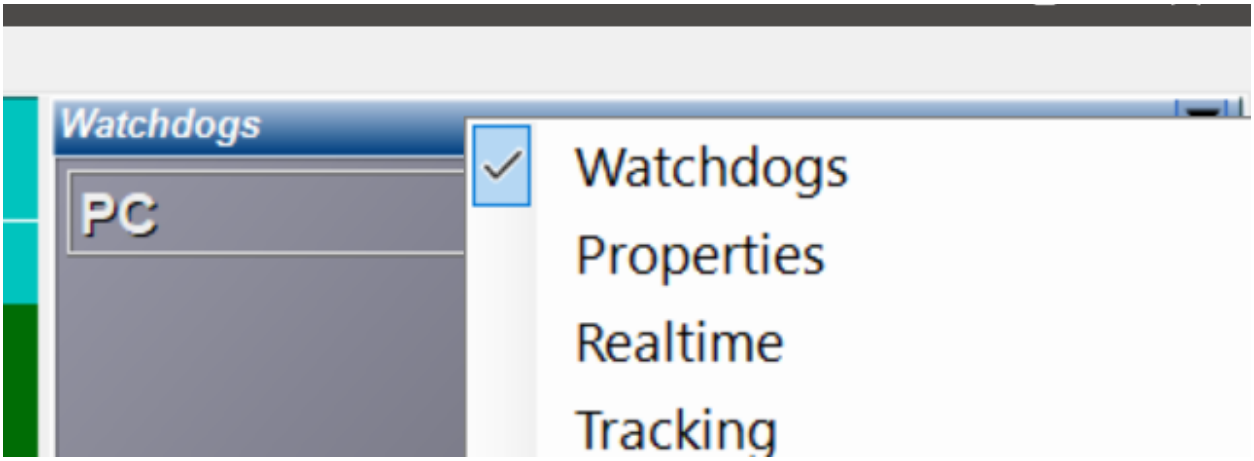
Once you have the theodolite viewer directed at the vertical reference point's water line hit apply. The updated height will be reflected in calculated height and can be viewed in the theodolite log entry sheet (data tab) if the theodolite logging is enabled (it should be) plus the watchdog will update to reflect the new value.

<u>NOTE: REMEMBER TO HIT APPLY BUTTON</u> (Something the author forgot once :-s).

Publish Date: September 2024

Mysticetus keeps a watch dog displaying the most recently calculated altitude value. This serves to remind you that it was set, the calculated altitude, and **what time** it was last computed. All especially important points!

Selecting the watchdogs is performed in the dropdown window to the right of the map view.

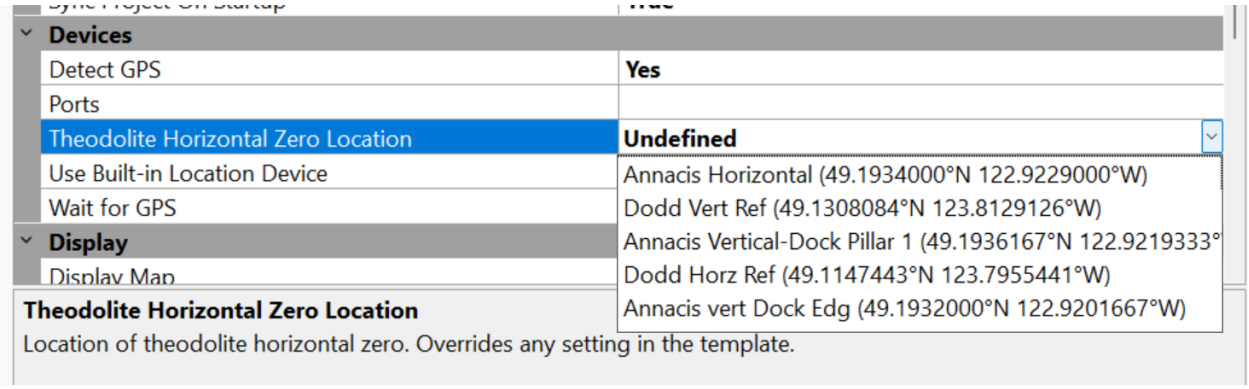


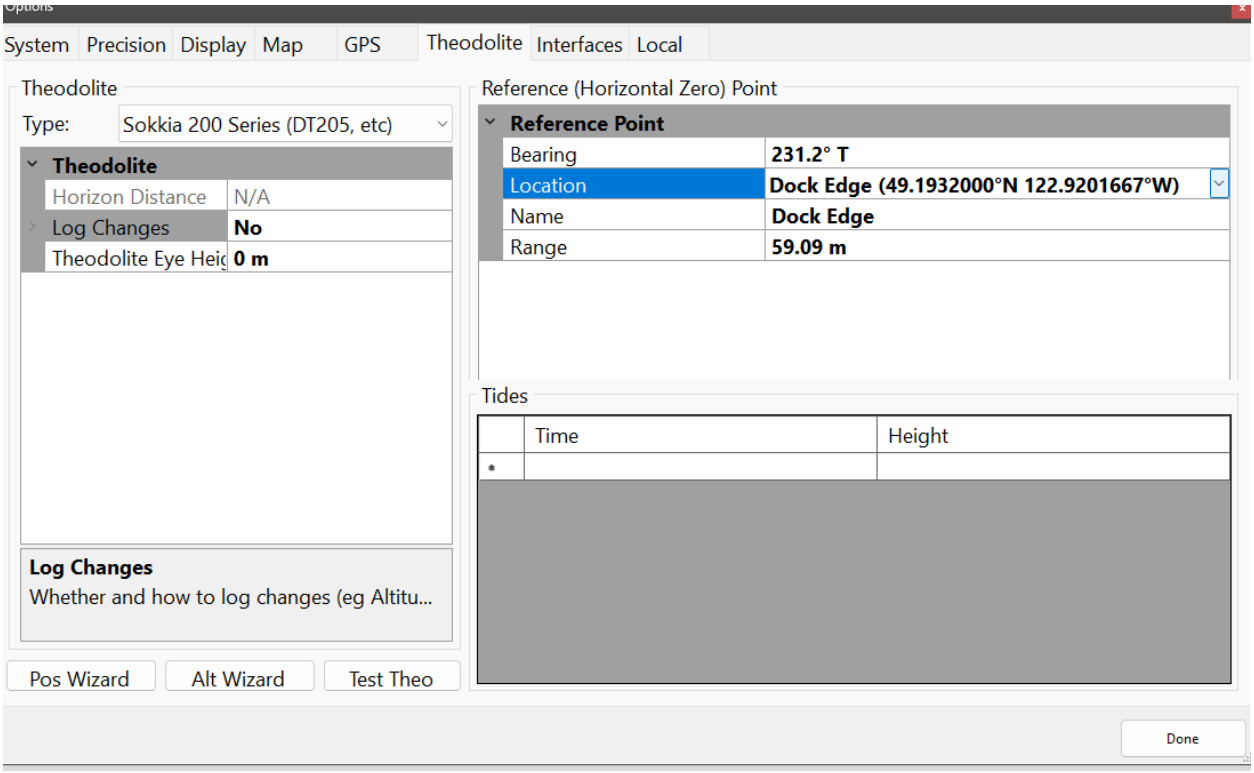
The watchdog system is extensively discussed in the “Mysticetus PSO and Lead PSO QA QC Guide” available at https://mysticetus.com/downloads.

Determine the Horizontal Reference (Daily)

Horizontal reference is a known location in the distance as discussed earlier. Zeroing the theodolite to this reference point enables determination of true bearing to a sighting. By using two measured points, theodolite position and the reference point position Mysticetus calculates true north and leverages the angle between true north and the angle between the

reference bearing and bearing to the sighting to calculate angle from true north.





For the daily setting of the horizontal reference point align the theodolite to the ***correct*** horizontal reference location, select that location in the dialog drop down, then press the “zero set” (0 SET) button twice on the theodolite. Run Mysticetus in editor mode to perform this step. This step is required whenever the theodolite is moved. Moved could be the case where

someone stumbles over the theodolite resulting in movement of the theodolite - when in doubt reset the horizontal reference point.

Figure 5 The zero set button on a DT205.

After hitting the “zero set” button twice the horizontal will read out as 0000 - Zeros on the keypad. Make sure your referenced location, when there are

Publish Date: September 2024

multiple reference points, is correctly selected. In the above example a dock edge is the defined reference point.

Next step is to take a sample data point. This data point will show up on the map view which can then be reviewed for correctness – either it is in the right location or clearly wrong. The more prudent operator might consider having an additional waypoint of another known location. The sample reading icon will overlay the waypoint icon if the reading is correct. Creation of waypoints is defined elsewhere in this document.

Now you are ready for data collection!

Important points for theodolite operation

Orientation of the theodolite viewer. When the theodolite is pointing straight up it should read zero, 0, degrees. When straight down it should read 180 degrees.

Publish Date: September 2024

Your vertical angle should never be greater than 180 degrees. This is an easy mistake. Simply spin the viewer and rotate theodolite around to fix.

When determining Lat/Lon of your reference points with a GPS using the waypoint feature in your handheld GPS set the waypoint averaging setting. This eliminates GPS “bounce” in your reference value within a few feet or less.

Using multiple waypoints for your horizontal reference point is recommended in the case of one point or another can be obscured by weather, sudden arrival of construction material, etc.

Multiple vertical reference points must be provided in the case where the water level can recede away from a given reference point.

Additional Setting Options for DT205:

Selecting mode 2				
Digit No.	**Items**	**Contents**	**Setting value = 0**	**Setting value = 1**
1	[0 SET] key pressing once / twice	Choose once or twice for pressing the [0 SET] key.	Twice	Once
2	Compass ON/OFF	Set the function of compass (Vertical angle scale).	OFF	ON
3	RS-232 Output *1)	Set the function of sending the measured data.	OFF	ON
4	H Angle Memory	Horizontal angle set can be retained after the power is turned off.	OFF	ON
5	Tilt correction ON/OFF *1)	Set the function of the tilt correction.	OFF	ON
6 7	Unused	---	---	---

Publish Date: September 2024

Theodolite Manuals

We have manuals for the DT200 series, DT510 series, and DT5 series theodolites if you cannot find them online. Just ask.

References

- Mysticetus Project Manager Operations Guide - https://www.mysticetus.com/downloads
- Mysticetus PSO/Lead PSO Operations Guide - https://www.mysticetus.com/downloads
- Math derivation for distance calculations - Bowditch's American Practical Navigator
- Theodolite use research paper, Alaska - https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/marine-science/articles/10.3389/fmars.2019.00710/full
- Theodolite use research paper Gulf of Mexico - https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/13/22/3441

Publish Date: September 2024