VarAC Wednesday GPS Working Aid

Jason Johnson, K3JSJ

Last Update: September 17, 2025

VarAC Wednesday GPS Check-In

- We use the following order to determine your location
    - GPS in your check-In message
    - Look-up callsign in QRZ.com to get GPS
    - Look-up callsign in QRZ.com to get Grid square and convert to GPS
- Our software will <mark>only</mark> detect user provided GPS formats in this PDF
- Test your GPS string using our "GPS Coordinate Format Checker"

https://www.varacwednesday.net/gpsChecker.html

Will we accept other GPS formats?

- Manual GPS
  - No – use formats in this document

- Auto GPS
  - Yes - users cannot control what GPS devices output

  - Please gather your callsign and exact GPS string VarAC reports

  - Use our "Contact Us" form to send that information to us

  https://www.varacwednesday.net/contact.html

GPS Coordinate Format Checker

GPS Coordinate: 44° 58.451N 93° 15.439W   CHECK FORMAT
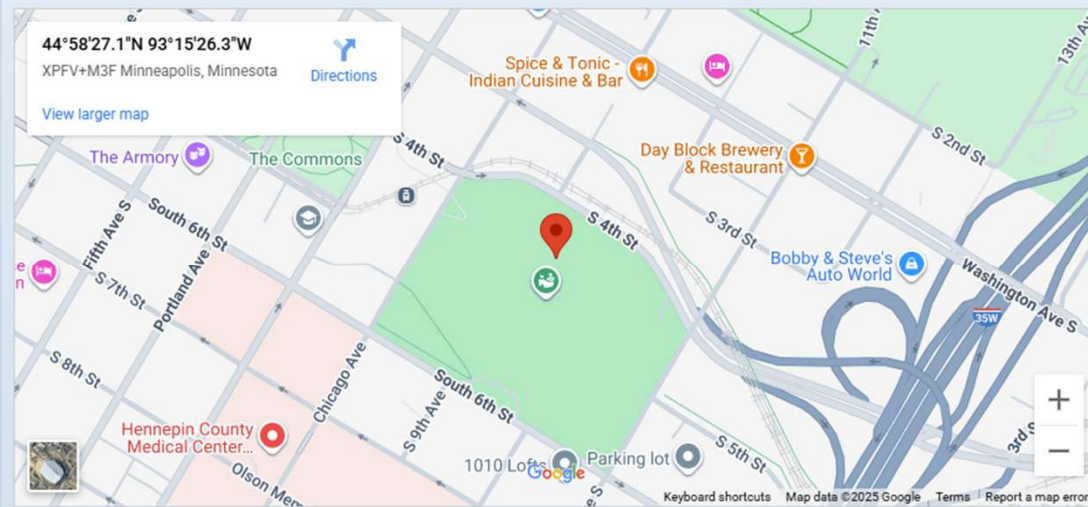
Found Degree Decimal Minute Format

Latitude Checks

✓ Degrees provided
✓ Degree symbol provided
✓ Minutes provided
✓ Hemisphere provided
✓ Latitude in valid range (0 to 90)

Longitude Checks

✓ Degrees provided
✓ Degree symbol provided
✓ Minutes provided
✓ Hemisphere provided
✓ Longitude in valid range (0 to 180)

Delimiter Check

✓ Space delimiter between Latitude and Longitude

44°58'27.1"N 93°15'26.3"W
XPFV+M3F Minneapolis, Minnesota
Directions
View larger map

Accepted GPS Formats

Select the format

- There are three major formats
  - Degree Decimal
  - Degree Decimal Minute
  - Degree Minute Second
- Pick one of the formats for your GPS check-in

Degree Decimal

Degree Decimal accepted format

44.97419, -93.25732

1. Lat/Lon degree must be decimal number. Do not include degree symbol

2. Must include single space where yellow highlight appears

3. Must include "-" for Southern and Western hemispheres
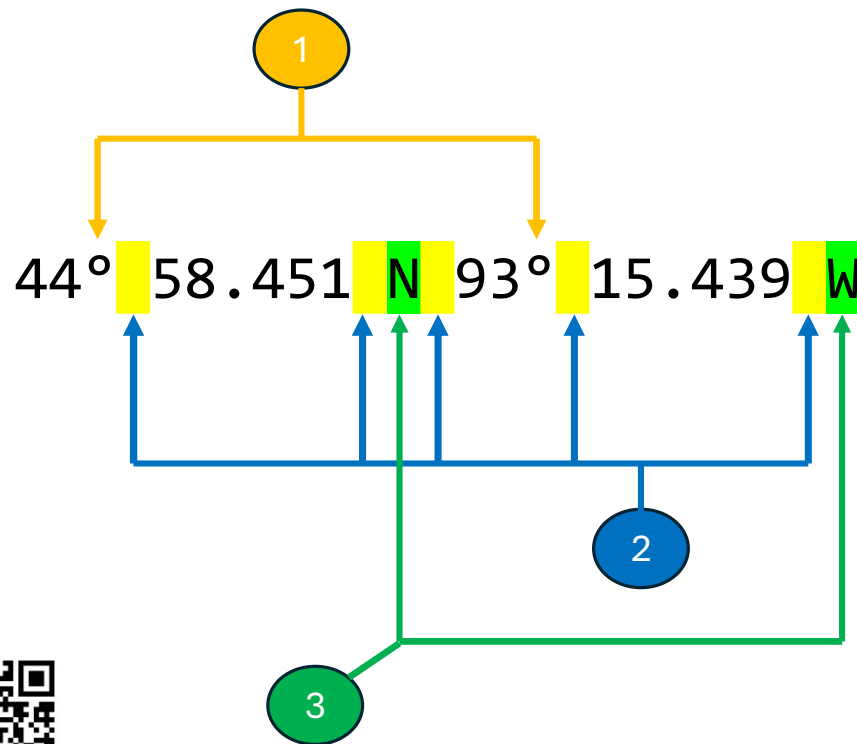No "+" implies Northern and Eastern hemispheres

VarAC
Wednesday

Degre Decimal Minutes

Degree Decimal Minutes accepted format #1
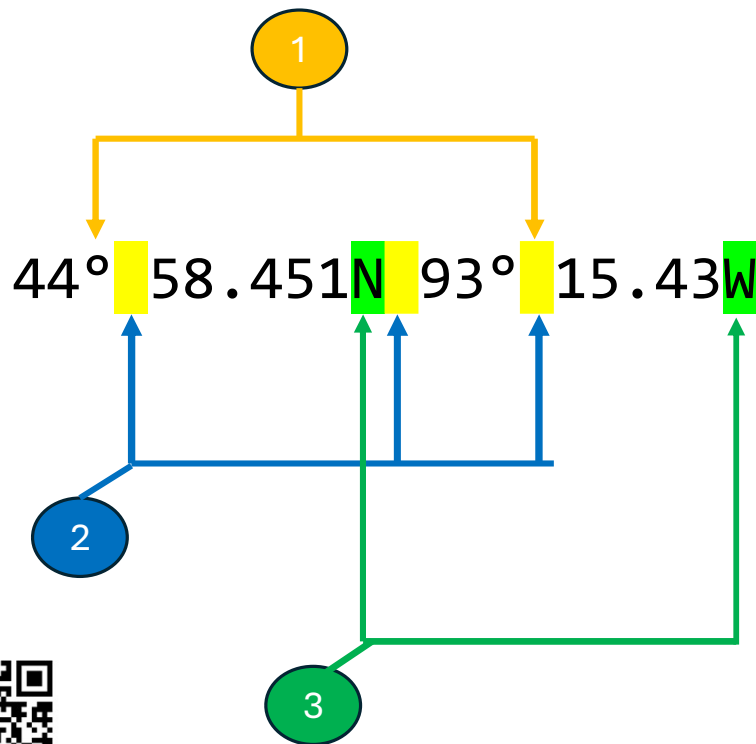
44° 58.451 N 93° 15.439 W

1 — Must include degree symbol

2 — Must include single space where yellow highlight appears

3 — Must include hemispheres
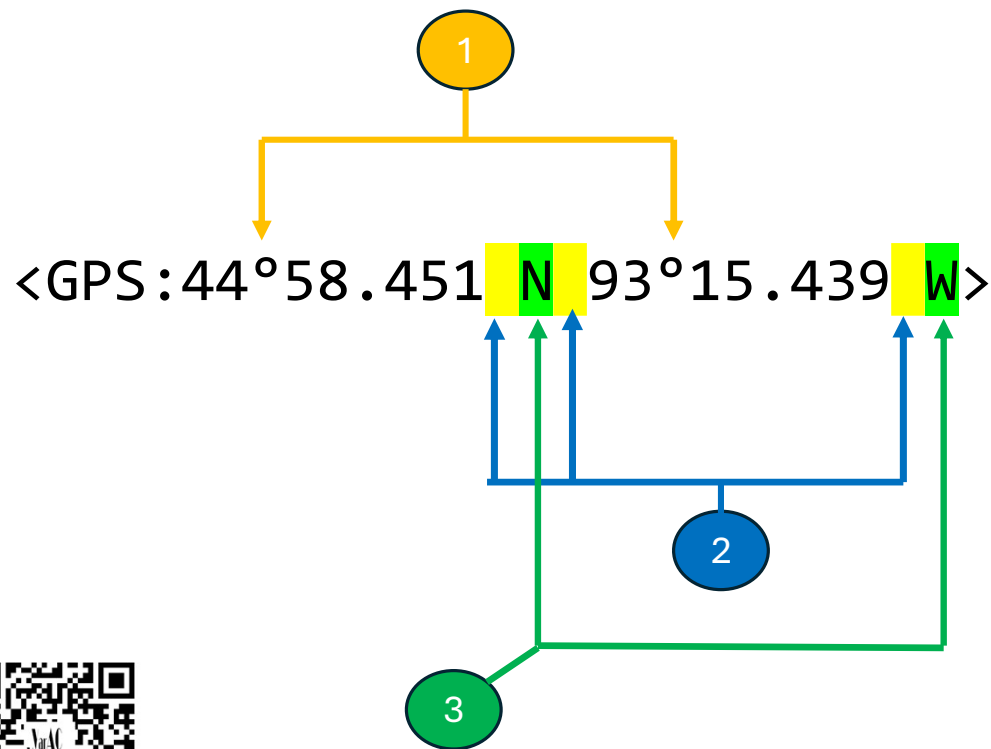
Degree Decimal Minutes accepted format #2

44° 58.451N 93° 15.43W

1 — Must include degree symbol

2 — Must include single space where yellow highlight appears

3 — Must include hemispheres

VarAC Wednesday

Degree Decimal Minutes required format #3

<GPS:44°58.451 N 93°15.439 W>

1 Must include degree symbol

2 Must include single space where yellow highlight appears

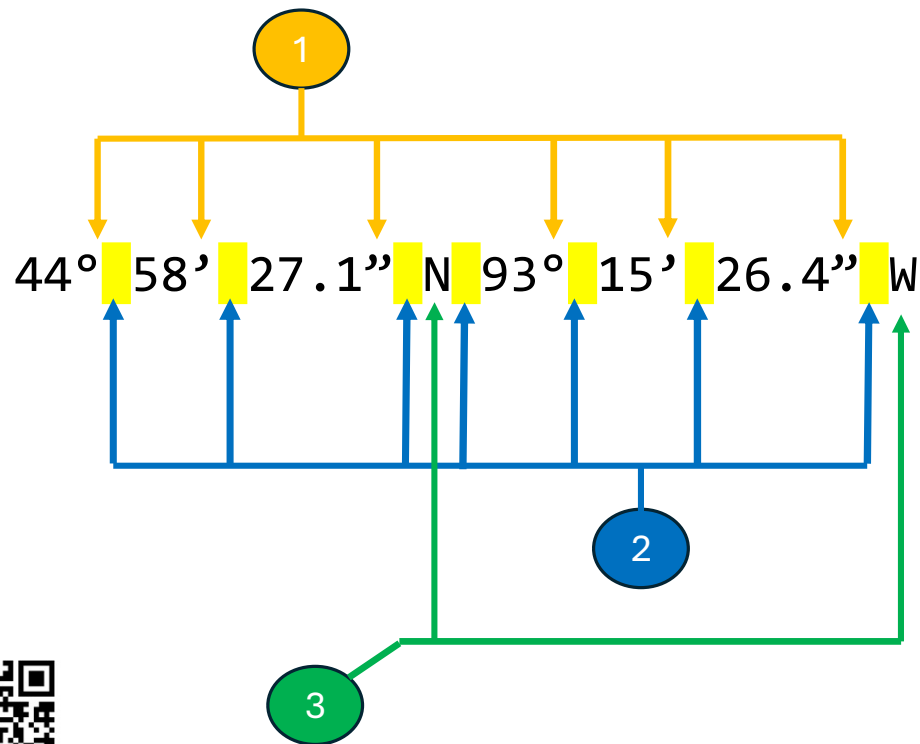3 Must include hemispheres

Degre Minute Second

Degree Minute Second accepted format #1

44° 58' 27.1" N 93° 15' 26.4" W

1 — Must include degree, minute, second symbols

2 — Must include single space where yellow highlight appears

3 — Must include hemispheres
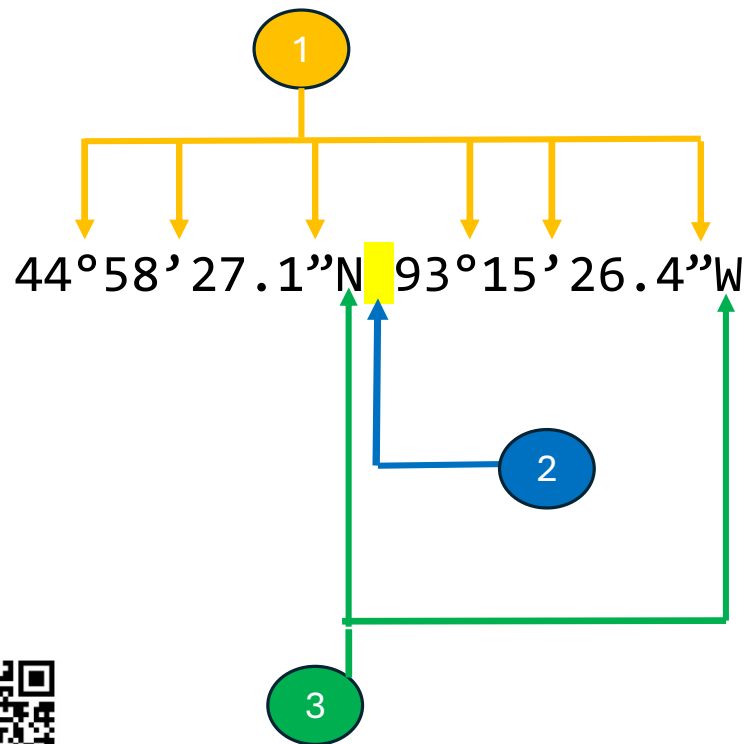
YarAC Wednesday

Degree Minute Second accepted format #2

44°58'27.1"N 93°15'26.4"W

1 Must include degree, minute, second symbols

2 Must include single space where yellow highlight appears

3 Must include hemispheres

Check-in Do's and Don'ts

✅ "Do's" for your Check-in

- ❑ Use the requested format
- ❑ Include information on own line
    - Check-in
    - Weather report (when requested)
    - GPS report
- ❑ Include your email in "To" for carbon copy
- ❑ Verify GPS coordinates

❌ **"Don'ts" for your Check-in**

❑ Pick your own format

  Will make our software "miss" your check-in

❑ Add information that is not requested

  Could result in missing your check-in

YarAC Wednesday

In conclusion...

- Manual GPS
  - You control what get entered
  - Please - use one of the formats in this document
  - Verify your information
- Auto GPS
  - You can't control what gets entered
  - Please contact us with your callsign and GPS information
- <u>References:</u>
  - https://www.varacwednesday.net/about.html#aboutMap
  - https://www.varacwednesday.net/training.html#StaticGPS
  - https://www.varacwednesday.net/gpsChecker.html

YarAC Wednesday