

Poor Man's Guide to Ship Plotting

by Antonio

You can easily plot and save the positions of vessels on a map. Just create your own Google Earth KML file (Keyhole Markup Language) and open it in Google Earth. It is simple to do this when you follow the instructions below.

What do you have to do?

1. Download and install Google Earth. Google Earth is free software. You can download a copy from <http://www.google.nl/earth/>
2. Create a "dedicated" directory in your documents folder.
3. Write a KML file for each ship that you want to trace and save the file with the extension ".kml" in the dedicated folder. Example: "RJC20.kml"

You can use the following script to create your KML:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<kml xmlns="http://www.opengis.net/kml/2.2">
  <Placemark>
    <name>the placemark name shown in the map</name>
    <description>description shown by clicking on the placemark</description>
    <Point>
      <coordinates>longitude(E or W),latitude (N or S)</coordinates>
    </Point>
  </Placemark>
</kml>
```

Example: the script below plots the position of RJC20 on 25 October.

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<kml xmlns="http://www.opengis.net/kml/2.2">
  <Placemark>
    <name>RJC20</name>
    <description>Russian Navy RJC20, position at 25 October</description>
    <Point>
      <coordinates>23.1E,35.1N</coordinates>
    </Point>
  </Placemark>
</kml>
```

Save the file in the dedicated folder and give it a self-explanatory name and the extension ".kml", like this: "RJC20-25-oct.kml"

Please note that when you are using programs like Notebook etc, the standard extension is .txt. So you need to change that to .kml otherwise it will not work.

Now double click on the .kml file or launch Google Earth and click File > Open, navigate to the dedicated directory, select your .kml file, and click Open. The file will be added to the Temporary Places section of your Places panel and the position will be imported and displayed. You can edit the map in Google Earth and save it again.



Enjoy !!

73s

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