

## *Of checks and way points*

**A**n interesting question as asked by a long time Seletar hashman, Shades, on a run recently – why use a GPS device for the hash run? After all, we all know Singapore like the back of our butts, and we are not about to get lost, other than Navigator, Sgt Bilko, Up Yours, Bollocks and ... never mind, you get the picture. Perhaps the bigger question to be asked was “hey, how to use a GPS, ah?”.

For the acronym-challenged, GPS is the global positioning system which is a constellation of 24 satellites that orbit the earth and send out signals which allow those with the GPS receivers to know precisely where on earth and how high above sea-level they are. The GPS devices of today cost about S\$100 and gives you a whole host of useful information when you are outdoors – compass direction, distance travelled, position on earth (and height above ground). Mind you, GPS *only* works outdoors - anyway, you knew that.

I think the GPS is excellent for those of us running in areas we have never gone before and/or areas that are deceptively easy (such as the every-angle-looks-the-same problem in the plantations of Malaysia). With a clear sight of the sky (which is a really important criteria), you will be able to track how far you have traveled from the starting point, the direction you have gone and be able to back track if you need to.

Perhaps sometime in the future, a Seletar run will be set solely by GPS and each runner will use a GPS device with the trail already entered in by the hares and then go on the run. Think about the number of chapatis our Bhai brothers can make from the flour saved!

On On to the next way point! - **Never Come**

