

Net Notes for April 14, 2010

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events

4/24-25 La Vuelta de Bisbee Bike Race

5/1 CARA Hamfest

7/4 Bisbee Coaster Race

7/16-17 Williams Hamfest

2) La Vuelta de Bisbee – We are only 10 days away from the annual Bisbee Bike Race. Please sign up with RB (K7HVV) so we can finish filling in assignments. This is always a fun event and is scheduled this year on the weekend of 24 & 25 April. If you can work either or both days, please let RB know. Email: rb_rice@cox.net

Training – For training tonight I want to go over some basic information for the bike race.

On the morning of the race, all volunteers should be in place at the City of Bisbee parking lot at 7:30 on either day you are working. Event B kicks off at 08:00 and Event A kicks off at 08:20. Optimally, each support vehicle will generally carry either a Race official or a medic. You may be asked to carry some spare bicycle tires with you to allow riders to exchange tires if they get a flat. We also provide a SWEEP vehicle to pick up stragglers and their bicycles if necessary. Pickups or vans are best for that duty.

You will get your race assignment, Race Magnetic Sign for your vehicle, Amber Top Light and find out who will be riding with you. Under normal conditions, the following will occur. Each Race will have a Lead police car and a Trail police car. There may be a motorcycle official as well to help control and report race violations. We usually have at least two amateur radio equipped vehicles for each race: One with an Official to observe the race, and one with a medic and/or bike mechanic.

You may also be asked to allow an APRS Tracker to be installed in your vehicle. If you have one in your vehicle, that is also good so we can watch your progress in the MCU at the finish line on the map. Please set your transmitter for "**High Power**". This will allow the Net Control Station to follow your progress with little voice communications. Unfortunately, we have seen in the past that there are dead spots where the trackers do not get reflected so you may be asked periodically to give your location and status.

The Race Official may also have a business-band hand-held radio with them and ask you if they can plug into your cigarette lighter. That is up to you, it is your car.

Bring food and water for yourself. As neutral participants in the event, we are not supposed to give it to the riders. There are designated "Feed Zones" or food & water points that all riders have equal access to. For us to give them water, other than for an emergency situation, they could be disqualified from the race. Obviously if they are injured or out of the race then that is a moot point and you can give them water if they ask.

Remember to do a comm check with the Net Control Station (NCS) before you leave the Start Line. Turn your **Headlights and flashers on and plug in the Amber top light.**

The chain of command and command post callsign for this event is: "**RACE COMMAND**"

In the event of an emergency on the course transmit: "**BREAK, BREAK, BREAK**".

Briefly identify the nature of the emergency and type of assistance required. Wait for the NCS to acknowledge your emergency and respond to his/her questions. All other stations should immediately cease transmitting until the emergency situation has been handled. To speed dispatch of emergency responders to your location, try to have good cross street, mile post or GPS Lat Long information.

Part of your assignment involves being observant to dangerous situations within your line of sight. Examples are: passing automobiles, dangerous or illegal maneuvers by the bike racers. Be alert and try to observe license numbers and or racer shirt numbers. These occurrences should be reported back to the Net Control Station. If your ride-along official asks you to do something that you feel is unsafe, politely refuse. They can get pushy so you may have to be firm. You know your vehicle and reflexes better than they do if you have to stop quickly. I have had bicyclists drop almost in front of me and needed to avoid these conditions. Your primary assignment is to stay safe.

Be aware that cyclists that have fallen back will occasionally try to use your vehicle to their advantage and will draft behind you. DRAFTING means they follow you very closely. Watch for that. It is illegal for them to do it, but some will try it anyway. It is particularly dangerous when they try to pass you, sometimes on both sides of you. Gradually slow down until they are forced to go around you. Sudden changes of direction or speed are bad for everybody. Also be aware there may be other team vehicles on the course with you. They are frequently referred to as "Support and Gear" or SAG vehicles and may encourage their riders to draft to catch up if they fall behind.

We are using the following frequencies:

Primary: 147.02+ (PL 162.2), Backup 146.76- (PL 162.2),

Car to Car - 146.56 Simplex, APRS 144.39

Law Enforcement vehicles will probably be on County Mutual Aid (CMA) channel (153.98). If you have a scanner, you may wish to monitor them. AZ DPS may also use their car-to-car channel (460.225). I have found them to be amusing to listen to when I have driven a support vehicle.

Under incident command we use plain language only. No Ten-Codes or other short cuts should be used. Remember, if you have to repeat the message for understanding, you have not saved any time by using short cuts. Although we will use tactical call signs to simplify identification of your assignment/location, do not forget the FCC requirement to

sign off with your amateur callsign at least once every ten minutes. Example: "RACE Command, N7INK" or "Men's Senior Race Sweep, N7BIL".

Please remember to display or wear your RACES/ARES ID Card. Be sure you sign out with the Net Control Station before leaving the scene for any reason. For your safety we must have 100 percent accountability of all our volunteers. It's a long race so be sure you take advantage of the rest rooms before you take off. Do you have any questions? If so, please ask them as we go down the roster for comments or drop me an email.

Don't forget our next Net will be on April 28 at 2000 Hrs. Don't forget the CARA net on Thursday evenings at 1900 hours on the 146.76 repeater. This is N7INK and the net is closed.