

## **News and Announcements**

### 1) Upcoming Events:

4/28-29 La Vuelta de Bisbee Bike Race  
5/5 CARA Hamfest  
5/8 Weather Spotter Training  
5/9 Ft Huachuca Safety Day  
7/5 Bisbee Coaster Race

2) ID Cards – I have asked Ruben to come to the CARA Hamfest but have not received a reply yet. I'll let you know when I find out. For those on the east side of the county (Bisbee/Douglas/Portal), you may make an appointment and go to Ruben's office in Bisbee. He works out of the Health Department Building off Melody Lane in the County complex. You may call him at (520) 432-9438 to set up an appointment.

3) La Vuelta Bike Race – We are just a couple days away now. You should have received safety briefs and instructions to those of you have signed up. Saturday morning, please meet in the parking lot next to the old convention center in old Bisbee. The MCU will be set up at the Finish line. On Sunday, meet at the same place but the MCU will be at the top of the tunnel, again at the finish line for that race. Everyone needs to be in place and operational at 0730. First bikes depart at 0800.

4) Pager Reminder – Please review Appendix 1 to the RACES Manual. Occasionally we will get a false page due to someone dialing a wrong number. In the past two weeks we have had at least three. At least one came from Lawley Motors who simply had a wrong number and then a second page that no phone number showed up. How can you tell if it is a false page? Easy, it will usually have a real phone number or be blank. The only pages that are sent by the RACES team will start out with a frequency, such as 147-02 or 146-76 followed by a 3 digit code identifying a mission activation, a test code or simply 777 indicating the end or completion of a mission. Don't waste your time calling back a wrong number.

5) Weather Spotter Training – The National Weather Service will conduct weather spotter training on Tuesday evening, 18:30 on May 8 at the Oscar Yrun Community Center in Sierra Vista. Training sessions are usually about an hour and a half long. It is a good idea to refresh yourself if you have not been to one of these for awhile.

Training:

Tonight we will briefly go over the safety briefing for the La Vuelta de Bisbee Bike Race.

On the morning of the race, remember to show up at the parking lot beside the Bisbee Convention Center. You will get your race assignment, Magnetic Race Sign for your vehicle, 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 will usually 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 be asked to carry some spare bicycle tires with you to allow riders to exchange tires if they get a flat. You may also be asked to allow an APRS Tracker to be installed in your vehicle. 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.

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 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 off their bicycles almost in front of me and needed to avoid these conditions. Your primary assignment is to stay safe. Cyclists that have fallen back will occasionally try to use your vehicle to their advantage and will draft behind you. "Drafting" means they will follow you very closely and hope you can pull them along with the breeze and they save energy. Watch out for that. First, race regulations make that illegal for them to do it, but some will try. Second, 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. We are using the following frequencies:

147.02 (PL 162.2)

146.52 Simplex (Used for direct vehicle to vehicle communications)

144.39 APRS

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, K7HVV".

When you arrive on the scene you will receive a copy of the safety briefing. You should write down your duty assignment and Tactical Callsign. Remember to do a comm check with the Race Command before you leave the Start Line. This will be the persons operating in the Mobile Communications Unit or MCU. Also remember that during the race you should have your **Headlights and flashers on**. 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 Net Control Operator to acknowledge your emergency and respond to his/her questions. All other stations should immediately cease transmitting until the emergency situation has been handled or you are asked specifically for assistance. To speed dispatch of emergency responders to your location, try to have good cross street or mile post information. Remember to display your RACES/ARES ID Card. Be sure you sign out with the NCS 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 room before you take off. Do you have any questions? Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to assist during this event. Have Fun, Stay Safe.

Bob  
Robert L Hollister