

RACES Notes for 10/8/08

News and Announcements

1) Upcoming Events:

- 10/11 – Cochise County Cycling Classic
- 10/18 – Tucson Hamfest
- 11/05 - Saint David School Career Fair
- 11/13 - Ft. Huachuca Safety/Preparedness Day at TMAC

2) Cochise County Cycling Classic – As most of you know this weekend is the Cochise County Cycling Classic and sponsored by the Perimeter Bicycling Association of America. This race is the longest perimeter bicycling event in the United States. Start/finish lines for all events are at Castro Park at 10th Street and D Avenue in Douglas, Arizona. This actually consists of four different events: 252, 157, 92, or 45-mile events. Start times are: 252-Mile event 2:00 am, 157-Mile Event 6:20 am, 92-Mile Event 6:30 am and the 45-Mile Event 8:00 am. The 45 mile event goes west from Douglas along Highway 80 to Double Adobe Road, turns back east along Double Adobe Rd to Hwy 191 and then south on 191 to Highway 80 and returns to the Start/Finish line in Douglas. The 92 mile route follows Highway 80 west through Bisbee to Davis Road, turns back east to Highway 191, again south to Highway 80 and returns to the start/finish in Douglas. The 157 mile course goes west on Highway 80 through Bisbee, St David, to Benson and then along I-10 to mile post 318 and then turns east on Dragoon Rd to Hwy 191 and then south again through Pearce/Sunsites, Elfrida, McNeal to Highway 80 and returns to the Start Finish in Douglas. The grand daddy 252 mile race starts out like the 157 mile race but continues on I-10 through Willcox, Bowie, San Simon to Road Forks New Mexico and then turns south on Highway 80 through Rodeo, Apache, Silver Creek to Douglas. Our primary mission is to provide safety and accountability communications support for the cyclists and ensure prompt response by emergency services personnel when required. Secondly we will help event staff ensure that appropriate supplies are available at the various checkpoint and feed zones. Accurate milepost, cross street, or landmark information is required when requesting emergency response by law enforcement or medical staff to expedite response.

3) Ft Huachuca Safety Day – We are looking for a few volunteers to assist this display up at Ft Huachuca. Usually requires answering questions and experimenting with some of the equipment. We usually conduct some training as well during the day. We try to run a couple shifts though, one before lunch and one after lunch. Let me know if you can provide some support.

4) St David Career Day – Similar to the Ft Huachuca Safety Day but this is my first so am a little less informed. Probably provide tours of the MCU and again conduct training during the slow periods.

Training - In addition to the Safety Briefing that was sent out with the course assignments for Cochise County Cycling Classic Bike Race, I thought we would go over some points for emphasis. Our mission during this race is to provide a safe race environment. The way we do that is to keep our eyes and ears open and to report any safety issues to the race organizers. We will be staffing several control points along the race course. In most cases there will only be a single chase vehicle behind the last rider of a group. Our members will pick up chase duties once the last rider passes your specific check point. For example, when the last rider passes your assignment, the chase from the previous check point will drop off and you will then follow the last rider to the next check point. At that point you are normally relieved and the RACES member from that check point picks up chase to the next check point. As you can see, the support basically collapses behind the final rider.

Additionally, you may be told of emergencies by riders as they come past your control point. You will normally be asked to track back to the point of the emergency unless there is another RACES member closer. When you arrive, do an assessment of the situation and advise net control of the situation and any specific emergency response requirements. If medical or law enforcement personnel are required, ensure that the NCS is told of the specific requirements and location, please remain on scene until they arrive.

We are frequently asked to assist in replenishing supply points by relaying their request to the Race Support staff.

Some other basics to remember, keep the chatter down. We are only interested in knowing who the group leaders are and last rider(s) numbers. Try to keep a count of the riders who have passed our location. That is trickier than it sounds. We may be asked to track the whereabouts of any handicapped riders. The Start/Finish station should advise those numbers at the beginning of the race.

Some of you may not be familiar with the use of tactical callsigns. Tactical callsigns are used in addition to your FCC callsign to help NCS quickly identify your location. The way it is used is this. The Net Control will probably call you first using your tactical call sign. Just remember that at the end of that contact or after 10 minutes if it is a long exchange, you should finish that contact using your FCC Callsign. For example;

"L3 this is Net Control

This is L3, Go Ahead.

L3 this is Net Control, please advise the support staff that the supply truck is enroute.

Net control this is L3, Roger. This is KD7OED.

This Net control / N7INK Out."

Also remember, the initial calling station is usually the one that should use the proword "OUT" when the communication is complete.

That's it for training tonight, if you have further questions about the procedures, feel free to ask as we go down the roster for comments.

Bob

Robert L Hollister

Thought for the day:

"I have found that if you love life, life will love you back."

Arthur Rubinstein