

COMMUNICATIONS SETUP & INSTRUCTIONS

This year the command post will be at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas and the race will again be operating with the club call sign W7RBV.

Our operators through the courtesy and effort of the Nellis Radio Amateur Club the race will once again be operating on a linked repeater system this year. The net control frequency will be 147.060+. Stages 1 - 9 will use 447.100- with a PL tone of 100. Stages 10-16 will use 446.200- with a PL tone of 100. In our preliminary testing Stages 7 and 8 could hit either of the link sites and we will assign these to the one that offers the clearest communications for the race just prior to race weekend. As an added effort to improve communications, there will also be a cross-band repeater in place *if* Stages 7-9 and 16 can not hit their assigned repeaters. If you choose to use the cross-bands please also monitor the clearest repeater to you. Stages 17 - Finish Line and the Command Post will use 147.060+ also with a PL tone of 100. Since this will be a linked system care should be taken to allow the links time to come up. Please make a special effort to remember this fact and wait for the tone before speaking. It is also a good idea to let the carrier drop before speaking. Larry Simon, KC7QJO is our Communications Technical Director and will attempt to visit each stage prior to operations to help make sure all the equipment is functioning properly and all the stages can communicate with the Command Post location.

We will use designated frequencies for simplex operations at each stage again this year. If, as a Stage Leader, you have a particular frequency or band you would like to use please check with Larry or myself to make sure that the frequency has not been coordinated for use by someone else during the race.

Emergency traffic has first priority on the system. This includes emergency traffic of all kinds and should not be limited to race related traffic. We have a duty to provide emergency communications through the net for whoever is in need. The net and all communications have worked smoothly and all the priority traffic has been handled in a very professional manner.

This will be a controlled net for all stages and participants. Please speak in a normal tone of voice and if you are asked to repeat information remember to repeat only the information that has been asked for. (**NOT the entire conversation**) Pause before beginning to talk to make sure that there is not a conversation in progress. This is especially important with the longer wait for the courtesy tone on the repeater. Be sure to use verifiable locations, land marks, and/or mileage signs when passing information that needs follow up action. For example a tow company or medical aid can not be sent to a generalized location, such as a stage number. You must be specific in order to get the aid requested.

Disabled vehicles or vehicles requesting tow service do not count as priority traffic. Please pass this traffic when the net is clear and operating normally **NOT** in the middle of priority traffic.

When passing traffic please remember to follow accepted net procedures and protocols.

Who is calling	Your call letters
Where	Your stage or location
Location of emergency	Be as exact as possible
Who is requesting aid	Individual, team, etc.
Additional Information	Only what is important to the situation

Net Control will determine the priority of all transmissions. Net control will also place any needed 911 call into emergency services. They will also have a land line connection with the information center at the Hilton Hotel and will have a computer so that they can monitor the APRS traffic and can pass along location requests if necessary. Be brief with your transmissions and remember that people have to write down what you pass as traffic. Speak clearly into the microphone and pay attention to details and instructions.