

# 2013 Leona Divide 50-Mile Run

## Amateur Radio Operators Guide

Communications Directors: John Minger, AC6VV (323-397-3990), Chris Minger, KJ6ATL (323-630-6580)

Welcome to the Leona Divide 50 Mile/50k/ Ultra Marathon! This guide will serve as a basic overview on how to operate your checkpoint station and what your expected role is during the race. Please take the time to read it thoroughly and if you have any questions, please direct them to us. Thank you very much for your help this year!

There will be TWO races running concurrently. The 50 Mile race will use all checkpoints in order. The 50k race will run from Checkpoints 1-4 where they will turn around and head back to the finish line via 8-10 and on to the finish line.

*Please Note: In past years, the Leona Divide Race Staff has invited the amateur radio operators to the finish line for food and the awarding of prizes, after shifts were completed. We expect that invitation still stands, but will need to verify it.*

### **RACE DAY: April 27, 2013**

#### **Section 1: Checkpoint Responsibilities**

- Amateurs who are assigned to operate at any given race checkpoint are required to relay runner progress traffic back to Net Control. This information consists of two important pieces of data:
  1. The Runner's Bib Number;
  2. The Runner's time *OUT* of the Checkpoint.
- This information is transmitted to the Net Control station via Runner Track software on your laptop computer, and relayed by packet radio to the database at net control.
- **Amateur operators ARE NOT responsible for collecting this information!** Members of the checkpoint support staff will collect all bib numbers and times. HOWEVER, it is the amateur's responsibility to copy this information from the person who is collecting it, and keep track of what information has been passed via packet to Net Control.
- Amateur operators must inform Net Control should any runner "drop-out" of the race at their checkpoint. Amateurs must maintain a log of all runners that have dropped at their checkpoint until the end of the race. Drops should be entered at the last checkpoint reached by the runner. In addition to entering drops via packet, you must call drops via voice radio to net control.
- Amateur operators are to provide needed "public-welfare" traffic. If your checkpoint requires more water, etc, this information must be passed to Net Control. However, remember that emergency traffic has priority over this traffic.
- Amateur operators **MUST NOT** leave their checkpoints during the race until Net Control has released them from their checkpoints. This happens as soon as the **last runner** who left their checkpoint **reaches the next checkpoint**. It is not our intention to keep you there any longer than necessary, but to protect the runners. If a runner decides to turn-around before reaching the next checkpoint, Net Control will need to know, and will have to arrange transportation for that runner.

#### **These rules apply even if the rest of your checkpoint crew leaves.**

- Amateur operators must obey all FCC rules while operating during the event. Do not forget to ID every ten minutes, and at the end of your transmission.
- Please remember that we are *OFFICIALLY* operating in a closed, directed net. This means that if you have traffic for Net Control, you must ask to access the net prior to transmitting your traffic. Only when Net Control "gives" you the frequency, may you begin sending your traffic. Please be aware that emergency traffic takes priority at all times! If the frequency is in use for emergency traffic, please wait until the situation resolves itself before using the frequency. *Unofficially, we run a loose net. Please use common sense when contacting other checkpoints. When all else fails, follow the instructions of Net Control.*

#### **Emergency Traffic Handling Notes:**

- **IT IS NOT** the amateur operators' duty to contact emergency services for the race! The Race Director, if available, will make all emergency service requests. The checkpoint CAPTAIN will make the decision that an emergency call is required.
- **IT IS** the amateur operators' duty to contact Net Control and inform them of the situation, accurately. Have all the facts!
- Our Net Control Station is located at race headquarters. The race officials have the connections necessary to contact EMT services.

## Checkpoint Equipment Recommendations:

1. 440 MHz radio capable of producing 35 watts of RF power.
2. Half wave or better antenna system. (A J-Pole or Roll up J-pole works great!)
3. Complete packet radio station with current software and a 220 Mhz capable radio. (two required @ CPs 3/9, 4/8, & 5/7)
4. Notepad, clipboard and pen/pencil for taking notes and logging times.
5. Wear comfortable clothing, and bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a jacket. Remember that this is an outdoor event, and weather condition can change rapidly. Please be prepared for a temperature range of 30 – 100 degrees, varying during the time of day. We have had SNOW and rain in the past! Welcome to the high desert!
6. Bring any food, water, or drinks you think you might need for the day. Also, remember that we are in National Forest land. There are no bathrooms at any checkpoint. Please be prepared for this! Note: The checkpoint supplies food for the runners. Please do not assume there is enough to feed you in addition to the runners.
7. When you arrive at your checkpoint, please introduce yourself to the other volunteers. Let the checkpoint leader know who you are and where you are setting up. This would be a good time to obtain your temporary Adventure Pass (forest service parking permit). The race director should supply this 1-day courtesy pass to the checkpoint leader in the checkpoint packet. If one does not exist, don't worry about it, we have not been asked to show proof of one in the past. We are operating under a permit from the Forest Service.

## Section 2: Net Control Responsibilities:

- Net Control is responsible for maintaining a master database of all runners through each of the checkpoints.
- Net Control MUST interface with the Race Directors and provide them the information regarding sick and injured runners as well as any emergency traffic. It is the Race Director's responsibility to handle all emergencies. Please do not interfere with this process.
- Net Control must maintain a **master drop list**. I recommend crossing the runner's bib number off the checkpoint log sheet after s/he has dropped.
- Net Control is also responsible for releasing the amateur operators from their checkpoints at the end of the day. All that is required to release an amateur from his/her checkpoint is that the **last runner** that left their checkpoint has reached the next checkpoint.
- Net Control MUST inform the Communications Directors if any amateur operator:
  1. Fails to show up;
  2. Has a personal emergency and must leave his/her checkpoint early;
  3. Has an unrecoverable equipment failure and can no longer provide race traffic.
- The Net Control Station must be manned from the start and until the end of the race. If an emergency occurs, please inform the Communications Directors as soon as possible!
- Net Control operators must maintain control of the net. They must operate the net in a professional and effective manner.

## Net Control Equipment Recommendations:

1. 440 MHz radio capable of producing 35 watts of RF power.
2. ½ wave or better antenna system. (A J-Pole or Roll up J-pole works great!)
3. Computer database and packet gear with appropriate radio equipment attached.
3. Notepad, clipboard, and pen/pencil for taking notes and logging times.
4. Wear comfortable clothing, and bring a hat, sunscreen, sunglasses, and a jacket. Remember that this is an outdoor event, and weather condition can change rapidly. Net Control is located at the START/FINISH line.
5. Bring any food, water, or drinks you think you might need for the day. There are bathrooms for your use at the START/FINISH line.

In the event of a repeater failure, we will communicate on 446.860 simplex, FIRST. Net Control will monitor 146.550 simplex during the race. It is suggested that everyone be tuned onto this frequency also. A repeater failure is not expected, but we need to be prepared.

### Section 3: Directions to Checkpoints and Amateur Assignments

All times given are estimates. Please arrive approximately a half-hour earlier than the times listed.

#### Checkpoint 1 Burns Canyon (N34 38.585 W118 22.700): 8.5 miles; 6:00am - 8:00 am estimate

The Burns Canyon aid-station is located approximately 0.4 miles south of Elizabeth Lake Road on San Francisquito Canyon Road and Forest Road 7N01.

**Amateur Staff:** (coverage optional, as no tracking data is collected here)

#### Checkpoint 2 / 10 Leona Divide (N34 38.775 W118 25.965): 12.9/46.1 miles; 7:00AM\*\* – 7:00PM estimate

The Leona Divide aid-station is located at the intersection of Lake Hughes Truck Trail (USFS 7N05), Tule Ridge Road (USFS 7N01), and the Pacific Crest Trail. It can be reached from Lake Hughes Community Building 3.9 miles up dirt road 7N05 (Lake Hughes Truck Trail) or from San Francisquito Canyon Road approximately 4.5 miles on dirt road 7N01 (Burns Canyon Road). \*\*Hams should start up the hill from the Community Center to this checkpoint **no later than 5:30 AM**, because the road is used as the first part of the race course. At 6:00 AM it is choked with runners!

**Amateur Staff:** Marty Woll, N6VI, Mark Yelich, KJ5MSY, Jay Hitchcock, KI6WZU

#### Checkpoint 3 / 9 Lake Hughes Road Crossing (N34 39.580 W118 27.625): 16.4/42.6 miles; 8:00 AM – 6:00 PM estimate

The Lake Hughes Road Crossing aid-station is located at a wide spot near the Pacific Crest Trail approximately 150 yards east of Lake Hughes Road and down the trail. The Pacific Crest Trail crosses the highway approximately 1.6 miles south of Pine Canyon/Elizabeth Lake Road. (CP-9 CUT-OFF 5:45PM)

**Amateur Staff:** Steve Ioerger, N6SRI, Ted Fukushima, N6ZZK

#### Checkpoint 4 / 8 Maxwell Crossing (N34 40.815 W118 29.640): 20.4/38.6 miles; 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM estimate

The Maxwell Crossing aid-station is located where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses Maxwell Road (USFS 7N08). Take Lake Hughes Road approximately 0.25 miles south of Pine Canyon/Elizabeth Lake Rd to Maxwell Road, turn right (west) and drive 4.3 miles. Look for the PCT signs and white chalk course markings. (CP-4 CUT-OFF 11:30am)

**Amateur Staff:** John Emig, W6CYS, Charlie Emig, K6CSE, Tony Mollica, WA6IOF

#### Checkpoint 5 / 7 Coulter Camp (N34 41.205 W118 31.235): 23.7/35.3 miles; 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM estimate

The Coulter Camp aid-station is located where the Pacific Crest Trail crosses through Coulter Pines Campground on Maxwell Road (USFS 7N08). Take Lake Hughes Road approximately 0.25 miles south of Pine Canyon / Elizabeth Lake Rd to Maxwell Road, turn right (west) and drive 7.8 miles. You will pass the site of the Maxwell Crossing aid-station (6 /8) at 4.3 miles. Keep going and look for white chalk course markings and the cedar trees at Coulter Camp. Take the rough dirt road about 50 yards north to the trail crossing.

**Amateur Staff:** Jonathan Zimmerman, K6JGZ, Carl Ginsberg, KI6DGB, Claude Parker, KE6DXJ

#### Checkpoint 6 Turnaround 7N23 (N34 42.205 W118 32.035): 29.5 miles; 10:00 AM – 3:00PM estimate

The 7N23 aid-station is located 1/2 mile up USFS 7N23 from Pine Canyon Rd. Take Pine Canyon Road approximately 4.7 miles west of Lake Hughes Rd. Turn left and an immediate right to access 7N23 and drive 1/2 mile until you reach the turn out.

(CP-6 CUT-OFF 2:00PM)

**Amateur Staff:** John Emmons, KI6TED, Steve Woo, KE6ONT

#### Net Control – Start / Finish / Database (N34 40.370 W118 26.410): 0 miles; 6:00 AM – 7:00 PM

Net control is located at the Start/Finish line located at the Lake Hughes Community Center, 17520 Elizabeth Lake Road, Lake Hughes, CA. For directions, see area map.

**Amateur Staff:** John Minger, AC6VV, Chris Minger, KJ6ATL, Gerry Walsh, KB6OOC

### Section 4: Frequencies

- **Channel 1: 449.980- (444.980 input) [no PL]**
- **Channel 2: 446.860- (441.860 input) [PL- 203.5 Hz]** Use this frequency while driving into the area, but please try not to interfere with any on-going traffic handling. As this IS a directed net, please contact "Net Control" and wait for them to acknowledge you.
- **Channel 3: 446.520 SIMPLEX**
- **Channel 4: 146.550 SIMPLEX**
- **Packet: 223.600 Node: WATERN**
- **Packet: 222.140 Node: WATERS**
- **Packet: 223.540 Node: WATERW**
- **Database: KJ6ATL-9 or KJ6ATL-8 (it doesn't care which)**

(4/24/2013)