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Subject	Ms bike ride communications guide

Try again

2025 MS BIKE RIDE BREAKAWAY TO THE PALM BEACHES

HAM RADIO COMMUNICATIONS GUIDE

Ride days: Sat.. & Sun. April 5 & 6

KEY POINTS

READ YOUR REST STOP ASSIGNMENT EMAIL CAREFULLY AND MAKE SURE YOU KNOW WELL IN ADVANCE HOW TO GET TO YOUR LOCATION ON TIME
(Considering road closures on Ride Morning.

BE SURE THAT YOUR RADIO IS PROGRAMMED AND TESTED AND THAT YOUR PRIMARY AND SPARE BATTERIES ARE FULLY CHARGED.

THIS IS A MAJOR EVENT FOR THE NATIONAL MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY BIKE MS IS THE LARGEST CHARITY CYCLING SERIES IN THE WORLD

Welcome to the MS Bike Ride – Breakaway to the Palm Beaches event. You will play an important role in the days' activities and help show amateur radio at its best. We as a team must manage an incredible amount of information. The only way we can do our job properly is by exercising good communication skills, managing resources and following these written procedures.. You have been chosen to be a radio operator for this important event because of your ability and knowledge. IF FOR ANY REASON you find that you will not be able to be at your st at the designated time, it is CRITICAL that you advise Net Control (ride morning only) or Ben Echavarria by cell phone 775781-7522 as soon as possible. We are trying to have two (2) operators at each Stop. The Rest Stops depend on the radio communicators.

As a Rest Stop radio operator, your primary job is to **Be on the radio** available to the **NET CONTROL** at all times.

You will work with the Rest Stop Captain and race officials to ensure a smooth flow of communication. You will need a dual band (144/440) hand held radio, as our primary repeaters are UHF. Be sure to bring extra batteries and a high gain antenna if possible.

To help you manage communications required by the ride officials, medical staff and police officers, I have compiled this short guide, providing most of the information you will need on ride day. Please do not hesitate to ask Net Control or me if there is anything you need clarification on.

Please read this guide carefully and bring it with you on the ride day you are assigned. PLEASE PROGRAM THE REPEATER FREQUENCIES AND "PL" CODES BEFORE RIDE MORNING AND VERIFY THAT YOUR RADIO IS WORKING PROPERLY.

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You can find general information about the ride on [events.nationalmssociety.org](https://www.nationalmssociety.org)

Many thanks for taking a day out of your life to provide communications for this crucial public service -73-

Ben Echavarria

MS Bike Ride - Breakaway to the Palm Beaches Net Control

BRING THIS GUIDE WITH YOU ON BIKE DAY

Be sure you have fully charged your batteries

Be prepared to be flexible on parking and radio locations due to security concerns.

Please do not argue with police officers

The MS Bike Ride will feature the following start times.

SAT. Northbound Start Time 6:30 am for 95 mile route

7:00 am for all other distance route

7:30 am for remaining Routes

Route closes at 5:00 pm

Sunday Southbound Start Time 7:30 am

Route closes at 2:00 pm

Before You Leave The House Ride Day Morning

A few days before the ride, review and map the route to your assigned location. Although you may be familiar with the area, please remember that there will be multiple street closures for the ride. You may need to allow extra time to reach your location. Plan accordingly and set a time to leave your home on ride morning. Several days before the race ensure that you have all of the equipment you will need.

Your Specific Job As A Rest Stop Radio Operator

As a Rest Stop Radio Operator, you are the PRIMARY communicator at your location. Handheld radios are the primary means of communication. We have selected several Ham repeaters to cover the course, and may also use simplex frequencies if so directed by net control. Hams are not usually able to operate from their vehicles, but if the situation permits and if necessary, it may be possible at certain rest stops.

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Remember that we must be immediately accessible and visible to Rest Stop Captains and other volunteers at all times. We are the primary method of communicating ride status to the Rest Stop personnel. Net Control may request that you report on the position of the riders.

Your primary job must be to communicate for the Rest Stop Captain and the riders. Your **first allegiance must be to your radio.** Setting up tables, acting as a traffic cop, is not our job. **Our job is to act as communicators. We are the only people licensed to handle radio equipment at the ride.**

Please remember to maintain a continuous watch on your assigned frequency. Don't lower the volume on your radio to answer Rest Stop Personnel questions, Find a volunteer to handle that task. **Remember to check your batteries each hour.**

CHECKING IN WITH NET CONTROL

When you arrive at your rest stop location, **personally check in with Net Control.** The NCS may have specific information for you and you only.

ROLL CALL - YES, WE REALLY NEED TO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE

If initial logistics traffic allows, the NCS will initiate a roll call. From that point on, **only use your location as an identifier** when you call into the net. I.e. "Rest Stop 1 to Net Control" or "Net Control from Rest Stop 1". Always end the exchange with your call sign.

IF YOU HAVE PRIORITY TRAFFIC ANNOUNCE YOURSELF WITH THE SINGLE WORD "PRIORITY"

, In case of priority communication, NCS will stop all activity and respond to you immediately. Please make sure that you really do have something that needs immediate attention. Don't leave the net frequency for any reason unless directed by Net Control.

All communications are directed by Net Control. The only exception to this rule is when the Ride Director requires and assumes the Net Control of the Net. When this occurs, **ALL STATIONS MUST STAND BY UNLESS YOU ARE HANDLING LIFE AND DEATH TRAFFIC.**

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BREVITY

Keep all transmissions short and to the point. Speak clearly and concisely. Please do not get upset if the net control sounds abrupt with you or asks you to repeat something. This usually means that he or she is very busy. The Net Control interfaces with multiple other public service and ride officials and may need a minute to respond to you. Brevity of communications has always been our strong point. If you must say something on the radio, collect your thoughts and get all the information ready before you transmit.

There is a tremendous volume of traffic transmitted during the event and a long series of Uhhs and Umms followed by "now where did I put that paper" slows things down. Always remember that hundreds of people are listening to what you are saying. Do NOT transmit anything of a confidential nature.

HINTS AND IDEAS FOR A SUCCESSFUL RIDE DAY

Make sure you stay on the radio at all times.

Dress comfortably.

On arrival report immediately to the Rest Stop Captain and introduce yourself. Each Rest Stop Captain has received a briefing on Amateur Radio communications for the ride but may not fully understand what we do.

Bring a spare battery for your HT.

Be flexible, situations change rapidly during an event like this one.

Don't let little things get you "up tight" and prevent you from doing your best.
Stay Cool.

Use Tactical callsigns at all times

- All information must flow through Net Control.
- Stay on your assigned net at all times unless circumstances dictate otherwise.
- If you must QSY, let Net Control know and always check back into the Net after you have finished your business on the other frequencies.

PRECURSORS-WHAT GETS WHERE AND WHEN

A series of delivery trucks come onto the course in the morning to deliver water and other essentials. These trucks have commercial radios or cell phones. Net Control may ask you to report on the arrival and status of these supplies. After the ride is over, additional trucks will pass each Rest Stop and pick up remaining items.

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THE RIDE AND THE RIDERS

Remember to look for the elite riders, they will be ahead of the pack, be sure to take down their bib numbers to Report to Net Control when requested.

RIDERS UNABLE TO COMPLETE THE RIDE

SAG drivers will be on the route to pick up any riders unable to complete the ride, and who need a ride to the finish line area. It is up to the riders if they want to wait for a ride or to take public transportation to the finish area or home. If they have friends or family waiting for them at the finish area, we can relay a message to the volunteer staff advising that the rider is ok and on their way back. We may have a ham or ride staff on the SAG vehicle to report on riders aboard and location.

AFTER THE RIDE

I appreciate any written comments regarding issues at your location and how we can do better next time.

OTHER (NON-HAM) COMMUNICATIONS

The MS Bike Staff may use commercial (business band trunked) radios for set-up, tear down, and other communications. As amateur radio operators, we are not authorized to handle these types of commercial communications. If someone asks you to transmit a message not suitable for amateur radio, please politely refer them to a ride official.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

If you need to report a medical emergency or other sensitive information, **you must** use the codes below. REFER ALL MEDIA AND PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR SENSITIVE

INFORMATION TO NCS OR SENIOR RIDE OFFICIALS. All NCS and ride officials will have a copy of this list.

DROP OUT CODES

- 1- Took Public Transportation to Finish Line
- 2 - Rider Was Taken To Hospital (Provide Hospital Name if Possible)
- 3 - Rider is Returning to Hotel
- 4 - Rider is Going Home
- 5 - Rider is Waiting for SAG Vehicle
- 6 - Rider is aboard SAG Vehicle
- 7 - Rider is at AID station_____ (Identify)

REASON CODES

- A - Rider is Tired
- B - Rider is injured

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Order of Report

- 1 - Drop Out at Mile____(This is the radio operators location)
- 2 - Riders #____ (This is the number on the riders bib)
- 3 - Rider Disposition Code (see 1 thru 7 above)
- 4 - Drop Out Reason (A or B above)
- 5 - Hospital Name

FREQUENCIES

SATURDAY ONLY (NORTH BOUND)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|------|--------------|
| 1 - Primary and Check-in | TBD | PL - | NET CONTROL |
| 2 - Secondary (Central) | TBD | PL - | JUST IN CASE |

SUNDAY ONLY (SOUTH)

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|------|--------------|
| 1 - Primary and Check-in | TBD | PL - | NET CONTROL |
| 2 - Secondary (Central | TBD | PL - | JUST IN CASE |

SHOW TIMES ON RIDE DAYS

Saturday 6:30AM UNTIL 5:00PM

Rest Stop 7 Anchor Park

Rest Stop 1 Ocean Ridge

Rest Stop 2/6 Lakeworth Beach

Rest Stop 3/5 Manatee Lagoon

Rest Stop 4 Maltz Jupiter Theatre

SUNDAY (SOUTHBOUND)

Rest Stop 1 Hillsborough Inlet Park

Rest Stop 2 Residence Inn 3333 NE 32nd Ave, Ft Lauderdale 33306

FINALLY

Thank you for taking on one of the most complex jobs in this event and making us all look good, because of people like you, Amateur Radio has been able to maintain its excellent image and professional reputation with the public.

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To	CarolSjursen@gmail.com & Person TomSavoca@gmail.com
Cc	& Person
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Subject	MS BIKE RIDE COMMUNICATION GUIDE

Still working on it.
