

2010 BP MS150 Communications Information & Frequency List "CHARLIE"

It's that time of year again and here is the **much wanted** MS150 frequency list. Beside the frequencies I have also included event communication information and procedures. **Please remember the minimum equipment requirement for amateur radio on the event is a VHF/UHF radio with a least 25 watts of power on both bands using a gain type antenna (must be longer than 19 inches). Operators at break points will also need to have a MURS (Multi Use Radio Service) radio with gain type base antenna on a 10' mast to communicate with SAGS and SAG controllers.** (The National Multiple Sclerosis Society Lone Star Chapter does not approve using a modified amateur radio for MURS communications. If a modified radio is used, it is recommended that the technical standards {power level, modulation/deviation level} for MURS equipment is followed so the possibility of interference is reduced). **Please set your transmitter time-out timers to 1 minute or less! STUCK MICROPHONES CAUSE PROBLEMS ON THE NETS!**

GENERAL COMMUNICATION PROCEDURES

During the event the types of traffic will vary from basic needs to critical emergencies. Please keep in mind that you need to relay your information short and precise to make the best use of airtime. When you are dealing with emergencies, be sure to listen to net instructions carefully and utilize your tactical call sign. **You must identify with your FCC call sign at the end of each message or every 10 minutes if your longer messages are longer.** By doing this, a more streamlined communication network is operated allowing for a faster response time for services.

During the BP MS150 the types of traffic can be classified in 3 types:

- **"Emergency"** traffic is messages that involve immediate risk of loss of life, immediate serious injury, or immediate threats of major property losses. A call to summon medical aid to a seriously injured rider is an "emergency".
- **"Priority"** messages – those that don't rise to the level of emergencies yet, but where it is very important to the event. "The ice truck just turned over" is an emergency message if there is someone under it, but is just a priority message otherwise.
- **"Routine" or "Informational"** General type messages – such as "Break point X needs more water".

Net control or the Houston CP may, during emergencies, declare a particular net closed to all but emergency or emergency and priority traffic. Listen carefully, and take routine messages to another net or save them until the net is declared open for all traffic again. And if there is an emergency on the net, but it has not been closed to routine or priority traffic, remember to leave breaks between transmissions so that your traffic can be interrupted for emergency related communications. Ham operators have established excellent discipline on these nets, and you'll be amazed how well it works. We can't emphasize enough how important it is to **LISTEN** to know the status of the net you are assigned to. Also **make sure you monitor your assigned channel at all times.** Do not start "rag chewing" on a simplex channel and not hear your station being called. If you cannot be contacted due to lack of attention to the main nets you are not providing communications for the event and this can give amateur radio a black eye.

Remember while it is traditional for ham operators to take a 10 word thought and turn it into a 100 word statement, it is critical to do the opposite on our nets – make every transmission as short as you can to communicate all of the necessary information. There will be times when the nets will be very busy, and every second we can free up counts.

The Houston Command Post will be coordinating all medical communications. Medical monitor all event channels and help with medical incidents. If unable to contact anyone by radio and have urgent traffic or a medical emergency, call the Houston Command Post at:

1-866-370-3865

Break point operators are the liaison to summon supplies for the break point and provide communications for medical. Please meet and stay in touch with the break manager, supply leader and the medical leader. Some leaders do not watch their supplies close enough. We get panic calls that they have "run out" of something – it is obviously better to get the supply staff some notice. Stay in touch!! Also, see that you observe the SAG drop off and pick up areas and stay in contact with the SAG Stop Communications (SSC) about SAG needs. There should be numerous MURS radios in the breakpoint. One has been provided for the breakpoint manager. SSC volunteers talk to approaching SAGs and busses during the busier times. For example, if there is no one waiting for a ride out, incoming busses will be told to not enter the break point. Please monitor the MURS frequencies, and see who it is in your break point that is on the radio – it may be that you will be the point of contact for this activity.

There will be CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) members working as Break Point Entrance Control (BPEC) volunteers designated to try to herd the bike riders – get them off the street, and not drop their bikes where they are in the way This has been identified as a safety issue in the past, and this is the effort to control it.

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|---------|------------|---------------------|---------------|
| SAG Traffic only | Sierra 1 | 151.820 | 100.0 Tone | SAG/SSC/BPEC | Entire Course |
| Breakpoint Traffic only | Sierra 2 | 151.880 | 100.0 Tone | SAG/SSC/BPEC | Entire Course |

Please keep your traffic to a minimum, just call a station and setup a visual meeting or setup a simplex frequency to go to. If you are on other bands or frequencies remember that it is your responsibility to monitor the net you have been assigned to. **Do not let talking on another frequency interfere with you monitoring the net that you have been assigned to.** This is important!!! If unable to communicate through a repeater, switch to simplex on the repeater output frequency and relay your traffic to another station. This allows events communications to continue, even with the reduced range.

MALICIOUS INTERFERENCE

If there is any malicious interference (MI) during the event on any frequency, DO NOT ANSWER OR ACKNOWLEDGE IT! To help control MI please do your best to keep the frequencies confidential by using channel designators. However if someone is not sure of the right frequency, be courteous and give them the correct frequency, even if it is over the air. If unsure of what to do, contact the Houston Command Post or Austin Net control for more information.

SIMPLEX FREQUENCIES

Throughout the event a simplex frequency is needed for local communications and keeping the chatter off the mains nets. In the past the 70 centimeter/UHF national simplex frequency 446.000 has been used. Due to the increase of event traffic it has been recommended that a new frequency be selected. Starting last year 446.175 simplex with a tone of 162.2 became the new simplex event talk-around frequency. The "New Scooter Net" is a great place to keep in contact along the route but do not let that distract you from your main assignment.

CROSSBANDING

Due to the coverage problems along the course, cross-banding can be used to help operators at break points and other locations to use hand held radios. However if you cross-band, DO NOT USE 446.000 or 446.175 AS A CROSSBAND FREQUENCY. Contact Houston Command Post, COMM 1 or COMM 2 for a frequency to use during the event. Also when setting up a radio for cross-band repeat, use low power and tone squelch.

HF OPERATION

Beginning this year there will be no HF operations. All communications will be held on the VHF and UHF systems.

COMMERCIAL FREQUENCIES

Commercial radio frequencies will be used at the starts, finishes, lunch stops and La Grange for traffic between MS staff personnel. La Grange operates on a citywide channel that covers the fairgrounds as well as the rest of La Grange. The Austin finish line will operate on two simplex frequencies to provide communications for the finish line area and buses transportation around the finish line.

SAG and SAG STOP COMMUNICATIONS

SAG, SAG Stop Communications (SSC) and Break Point Entrance Control (BPEC) will be operating on MURS frequencies to better coordinate SAG and bus movement at the break points and on the course, especially near lunch areas and finish lines. Amateur's stationed at break points need to have equipment that can operate on the MURS channels to communicate with SAG, SSC and BPEC. In several areas, SSC will also be the amateur radio communicator for the break point.

APRS INFORMATION

APRS is used for tracking medical vehicles and other important vehicles during the event. If you operate APRS, please contact the command post and advise them that you will be operating APRS. The command post will assign your tactical call for the event. You will need to follow the protocol listed below. All APRS settings shall be:

APRS settings shall be: path -> WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1 ssid -> MS<tactical>

Beacon comment -> must be sent every transmission and must contain the operators Amateur Callsign!!!

Tactical calls must be coordinated by the APRS admin for the event. Please follow the following protocol:

Sags must use MSSAG<Sag#> Motorcycles must use MSMOT<Mot#> Breakpoints use MSBP<BP#>

MOTORCYCLE MARSHALS

Many of the Motorcycle Marshals are licensed amateur radio operators and will be operating along the route as the "eyes" of the event. When you hear one of them call in, it is normally something urgent or critical so make sure you give them access to the frequency and monitor their traffic.

FINAL THOUGHTS

I want to thank everyone for coming out and helping with the MS150. Enjoy the weekend and put your hobby to a good use for a wonderful cause. Helping with the BP MS150 Bike Ride is where the true spirit of amateur radio is. Let's keep active with Public service events and keep amateur radio alive and useful!!!

Thank you again for volunteering,

Mike Hardwick, N5VCX
Communications Director
BP MS150 Houston to Austin Bike Tour

2010 BP MS150 Frequency List “CHARLIE”

**All frequencies are connected to linked repeater systems – Wait 2 seconds after pushing PTT before talking!
Simplex Channels are repeater frequencies with no offset or tone**

Day 1- Saturday – All NETS start 5:00 am. Omni start 6:45 a.m./ Rhodes start 7 a.m./ Waller start 9 a.m.

| Channel Use | Channel Designator | | Frequency | Repeater Settings | | NET Control Operator | Location / Coverage Area |
|---|--------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Repeater | Simplex | | Offset | Tone | | |
| Talk-in - 4:00 a.m. start | Channel 10 | | 145.190 | Minus | 123.0 | HCP | Houston area Only |
| Operations – OPS 1 | Channel 11 | | 444.075 | Plus | 103.5 | HCP | All starts to Bellville |
| Operations – OPS 2 | Channel 12 | | 443.250 | Plus | 103.5 | HCP | Bellville to Nelsonville |
| Operations – OPS 3 | Channel 13 | | 442.275 | Plus | 103.5 | HCP | Nelsonville to Fayetteville |
| Operations – OPS 4 | Channel 14 | | 444.975 | Plus | 203.5 | HCP | Fayetteville |
| Operations – OPS 5 | Channel 15 | | 442.750 | Plus | 141.3 | HCP | Fayetteville to La Grange |
| Operations – OPS 6 | Channel 16 | | 444.725 | Plus | 141.3 | HCP | La Grange |
| Medical - 1 | Channel 17 | | 443.825 | Plus | 103.5 | HCP | All starts to BP1 |
| Medical - 2 | Channel 18 | | 146.880 | Minus | 203.5 | HCP | BP1 to BP 6 |
| Medical - 3 | Channel 19 | | 146.800 | Minus | 100.0 | HCP | BP 6 to La Grange |
| If unable to contact the Command Post on any of your assigned frequencies try any of the following: | | | | | | | |
| BACK-UP 1 | Channel 17 | | 443.825 | Plus | 103.5 | HCP | All starts to BP 2 |
| BACK-UP 2 | Channel 13 | | 442.275 | Plus | 103.5 | HCP | BP 3 to Nelsonville |
| BACK-UP 3 | Channel 14 | | 444.975 | Plus | 203.5 | HCP | Fayetteville area |

Day 2 – Sunday - Both NETS start at 5:00 a.m. Camp Walmart 6:45 am both routes, LaGrange 7:00 am Both

| Channel Use | Channel Name/Type | | Frequency | Repeater Settings | | Operator | Location / Coverage Area |
|---|-------------------|---------|-----------|-------------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|
| | Repeater | Simplex | | Offset | Tone | | |
| Operations – OPS 6 | Channel 21 | | 444.725 | Plus | 141.3 | HCP | LaGrange to Buescher |
| Operations – OPS 7 | Channel 22 | | 444.975 | Plus | 203.5 | HCP | Parks |
| Operations – OPS 8 | Channel 23 | | 444.300 | Plus | 203.5 | HCP | Bastrop SP to BP 5 |
| Operations – OPS 9 | Channel 24 | | 442.450 | Plus | 141.3 | HCP | BP 5 to Austin |
| Medical – 3 | Channel 25 | | 146.800 | Minus | 100.0 | HCP | La Grange to Bastrop |
| Medical – 4 | Channel 26 | | 147.200 | Plus | 103.5 | HCP | Parks |
| Medical - 5 | Channel 27 | | 147.320 | Plus | 114.8 | HCP | Bastrop SP to Austin |
| If unable to contact the Command Post on any of your assigned frequencies try any of the following: | | | | | | | |
| BACK-UP 4 | Channel 21 | | 444.725 | Plus | 141.3 | HCP | La Grange to Bastrop |
| BACK-UP 5 | Channel 22 | | 444.975 | Plus | 203.5 | HCP | Parks |
| BACK-UP 6 | Channel 24 | | 442.450 | Plus | 141.3 | HCP | Bastrop to Austin |

Other Channels/Frequencies

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------|------|-------|----------|---------------|
| Event talk-around | | The “New” Scooter Net | 446.175 | None | 162.2 | | Course |
| Emergency Channel 1 | | ECHO 1 | 146.550 | None | 162.2 | ICS | Course |
| Emergency Channel 2 | | ECHO 2 | 441.500 | None | 162.2 | ICS | Course |
| Emergency Channel 3 | | ECHO 3 | 441.600 | None | 162.2 | ICS | Course |
| SAG Traffic Only | | Sierra 1 | 151.820 | None | 100.0 | SAG/CERT | Entire Course |
| Breakpoint Traffic Only | | Sierra 2 | 151.880 | None | 100.0 | SAG/CERT | Entire Course |
| APRS | | Alpha 1 | 144.390 | None | None | APRS | Entire Course |

Commercial Radios at Omni, Rhodes, Waller, Bellville, La Grange, Bastrop and Austin

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|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Ch 1 | La Grange repeater | 461.5000 | plus 5 | 127.3 | MS Staff | La Grange |
| Ch 2 | La Grange B/U simplex | 461.5000 | none | 127.3 | MS Staff | Fairgrounds only |
| Ch 3 | Omni Hotel T/A | 462.5500 | none | 127.3 | MS Staff | Omni Hotel |
| Ch 4 | Bellville Lunch T/A | 462.5750 | none | 127.3 | MS Staff | Bellville Lunch |
| Ch 5 | Austin – Finish | 464.5000 | plus 5 | 127.3 | Not used | Austin Finish |
| Ch 6 | Finish T/A | 464.5000 | none | 127.3 | MS Staff | Finish line |
| Ch 7 | Austin – Buses | 463.4500 | plus 5 | 127.3 | Not Used | Austin Buses |
| Ch 8 | Buses T/A | 463.4500 | none | 127.3 | MS Staff | Buses T/A |
| Ch 9 | Not Used | 461.6750 | plus 5 | 141.3 | Not Used | Not Used |
| Ch 10 | Security T/A | 461.6750 | none | 141.3 | | Security |
| Ch 11 | Katy T/A | 462.5500 | none | 103.5 | MS Staff | Katy T/A |
| Ch 12 | Waller T/A | 462.5500 | none | 162.2 | MS Staff | Waller T/A |
| Ch 13 | Bastrop Lunch T/A | 462.5750 | none | 156.7 | MS Staff | Bastrop Lunch T/A |
| Ch 14 | Medical T/A | 462.5750 | none | 203.5 | MS Staff | Medical |