

Hello everyone!

I hope your summer is off to a great start. With the beginning of summer our thoughts turn towards September and the annual Bike MS Tour to Tanglewood (T2T) event which is one to the public service events that local amateur radio supports. This is one of the largest rides in NC and last year brought in over \$600K for the MS Society. This money goes towards research for treatment and a cure. Last year 2 new drugs were approved for treatment and a third is expected this year for treatment of early MS. This means **your** support is making an impact.

This year's event will see multiple changes from the routes to the in park set up to signing up for the event to increased rest stops and more.

ROUTES: Previously the routes were rather compact with multiple loops. Based upon rider feedback Bike MS has changed the routes to provide a better and new experience for the riders. We will not be operating in Davidson County this year and only in a very small part of Davie County. The routes have moved north with the 100 mile route circling Pilot Mountain and the other routes staying just south of the mountain. Our operations will be within Forsyth, Yadkin and Surry Counties. The routes eliminate loops and will be the SAME both days. The only difference is one day the riders go clockwise and the next day counterclockwise. This should also make it easier for SAGS. However, with the more expansive routes we will require more SAGS. At this point we are looking at a minimum of 15. More on this later.

SAGS: MS request that to the extent possible we use HAM operated SAG vehicles as we did last year. This works well as the typical higher powered mobile radios installed in most of our vehicles are able to hit the repeaters more effectively than handheld. In some cases we know that a handheld and mag mount may be all that is available and will be used as well. MS has also requested that to reduce risk, all SAG vehicles must have seats with seat belts for all passengers. This means that if you have a van that only has the front seats installed you can only carry a single passenger. If this is the only type of vehicle you have available to use for SAG operations, please let me know. The need this year will be for high capacity vehicles to the extent possible. I am still working out the planning for SAG operations. Most likely SAGS will have specific sections of the routes between rest stop to rest stop and not have to traverse the entire route. One possible thought is to use a Super SAG vehicle which would be stationed at a

collection point along with sister vehicle that can carry more than 1-2 bikes. More on this as we progress and see how many SAGS we get.

REST STOPS: Due new routes the number of rest stops has been increased from 8 to 12 (including the Mountain Bike Trail Rest Stop). There will be 10 Route Rest Stops plus the Mountain Bike Stop on Saturday and 11 Route Stops plus the Mountain Bike on Sunday. Therefore 4 more rest stop radio operators are needed. There are 9 rest stops that are used both days, a change of location for one from Saturday to Sunday and an additional one on Sunday.

In order to maintain the same Tactical Call Sign each day would require Rest Stop personnel to change location each day. Having the same HAM interface with the Rest Stop Captain each day has benefits therefore at this time our plan is to keep everyone assigned on Sunday to the same rest stop location they worked Saturday except the 1 changed location (which should have the same Rest Stop Captain) and the new location. This will necessitate a Tactical Call Sign change between the days so rest stop personnel as well as SAGS need to be aware of this change. Example: On Saturday the tactical call sign for Rest Stop at Forbush Baptist Church is Rest Stop 4; on Sunday it would be Rest Stop 8.

MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS: We will need 2-3 communicators this year each day to cover the mountain bike trails used within the park. One will be stationed with an MS Volunteer (who will be checking the riders in and out of the trail) at the Entrance/Exit for the trail used. A second operator will be at the rest stop in the park and possible one within the trails on foot at a selected location about midway in the trails. The reason for this is due to the terrain and twists within the trails it could take a rider 35-45 minutes to get from the center of the trail back to the start or main area to get help. If a rider was injured that delay could be significant to their recovery. Having communications directly back the on-site EMS units will save time and possibly a life. The individual (if assigned) to the middle of the trail can walk in from a side point quicker and easier and would not have to follow the trail or ride a bike unless they wanted to. We are also looking to have at least one official Ride Marshall on the trail.

COMMAND POST: This year we will have a fully integrated command post operation. Wake Forest Baptist Hospital is providing a Mobile Command Post (with communications capability) which will be co-located with the EMS Trailer near the Start/Finish line. Net Control will operate from this location inside the Command Post. This means air conditioning!!!! It also provides us with direct communications with not only onsite EMS personnel, but with EMS dispatch

centers in each county via the NC VIPER Interoperability system. Additionally this enables the decision-makers from ARES, MS, Law Enforcement and EMS to all be in one location to coordinate any incidents that occur.

SIGN UP: MS is asking all volunteer groups to use a new signup tool. You will need to sign up for BOTH days if you plan to work them both. To sign up go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0944acab22abfd0-2018416>

Available Slot	Date (mm/dd/yyyy EDT) Calendar View
<p>SAG</p> <p>SAG Vehicles assist cyclists who are unable to continue riding by providing transportation or essential repairs as needed.</p>	<p>09/22/2018 (Sat, 6:00am - 6:00pm) (15)</p> <p>1 of 15 slots filled</p> <p>NS Nancy Schuh with Ham Paul Schuh N4VOA</p> <p>Sign Up <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>09/23/2018 (Sun, 6:00am - 6:00pm) (15)</p> <p>1 of 15 slots filled</p> <p>NS Nancy Schuh with Ham Paul Schuh N4VOA</p> <p>Sign Up <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>HAM Radio Operator</p> <p>Amateur radio operators are assigned to several different groups or stationed at different locations along the route. This is a one- or two-day commitment, depending on your location. HAM Radio Operators may be assigned to various locations.</p>	<p>09/22/2018 (Sat, 6:00am - 6:00pm) (20)</p> <p>3 of 20 slots filled</p> <p>SM Stacey MacArthur</p> <p>DH DERYL HOLLIDAY I BELIEVE I SIGNED UP FOR THIS EVENT.</p> <p>PS Paul Schuh with SAG Nancy Schuh</p> <p>Sign Up <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>09/23/2018 (Sun, 6:00am - 6:00pm) (20)</p> <p>2 of 20 slots filled</p> <p>SM Stacey MacArthur</p> <p>PS Paul Schuh with SAG Nancy Schuh</p> <p>Sign Up <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Motorcycle Support - HAM Radio Equipped</p> <p>Amateur radio equipped motorcycles provide rapid response support on the route. Motorcycles must be equipped with 2 meter HAM radio capability.</p>	<p>09/22/2018 (Sat, 6:00am - 6:00pm) (5)</p> <p>Sign Up <input type="checkbox"/></p>
	<p>09/23/2018 (Sun, 6:00am - 6:00pm) (5)</p> <p>Sign Up <input type="checkbox"/></p>

Those volunteering to use their vehicle for SAG operations sign up under the SAG Slot, Radio operators (including those that have the ability to temporarily install a radio and mag mount on a non-ham operated vehicle) sign up under the Radio Operator Slot. Motorcycle Support units sign up under the Motorcycle Support Slot.

Route Maps are here:

SATURDAY ROUTES:

20 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27514553>

36 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513397>

50 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513389>

65 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513396>

100 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513327>

SUNDAY ROUTES:

20 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513448>

36 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513335>

50 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513457>

65 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513377>

100 Mile: <https://ridewithgps.com/routes/27513617>

Again I would like to pass on the grateful appreciation that the MS Society continues to express.

Harlan Cobert, AUXCOMM

W1HRC

FORSYTH COUNTY NORTH CAROLINA

AMATEUR RADIO EMERGENCY SERVICES

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR