

Communication Tips

- Keep all transmissions brief and to the point so everyone can use the radio!
- If the signal quality is poor, try moving a few inches to a few feet for better signal.
- Hold the radio only by the radio body. The radio antenna is not for carrying the radio.
- Hold the radio vertical as it will generally have better performance when vertical.
- Call the individual to whom you wish to speak and wait for their acknowledgement before you state the message so that you know they are listening.
- Clearly identify the person to whom you are calling as well as yourself or your location/job. i.e. Jane Doe to John Doe.
- The radio will normally display your team name. When you receive a call from another team member, the radio will display a “caller ID” of the radio they are using at the time. By keeping track of who is issued a particular radio, you will effectively know who is transmitting, even if you do not recognize the voice. The caller ID will “time out” after 10 seconds and return to your team name on the display.
- After receiving a message, acknowledge receipt of the message by saying OK, 10-4, “got it”, etc. so that they know that you properly received the message.
- If you need help, check with the battery charge station for assistance.

Simplex, Direct, Tactical Or Talkaround (All The Same)

If your radio has tactical, you can communicate with another if both you and the person to whom you want to speak switch the channel select knob on the top of the radio (arrows for mobile radios) to position 2 for communications direct from radio to radio. This will work over a short distance and does not use the network. If you are both on tactical, you can communicate in the “dead zone” provided the person to whom you are speaking is nearby. When on tactical, you will not be able to talk or listen to any calls on the network. You must remember to change the channel back to position 1 for the network.



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Baker

To

Vegas

2020



Communications Guide

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*When your communications
are essential!*

Communications Summary

The MRA / Rebel / Omni Communications plan for the 2019 Baker to Vegas race consists of a network of repeaters which are strategically located along the race course and the surrounding areas. Repeaters and coverage are as follows:

- Mt. Potosi (high) - Las Vegas basin and Pahrump Valley coverage
- Sunrise Mountain—Las Vegas basin
- Turquoise Mountain—Coverage of I15 from Baker to Mt. Pass, Baker to Stage 8 and the Chicago Valley
- Mountain Pass—coverage from Primm to Holaran Summit
- Ibex Pass—coverage of Stages 1-8
- Rob 's Knob—coverage of the Pahrump Valley & part of Chicago Valley

All locations are networked together like your cellular phone, thus creating a network of sites. Your radio has seamless roaming which will automatically search for a radio site whenever it loses signal from its current tower site. No user intervention is required for your continued communications with your entire race team.

System Coverage

The radio coverage is depicted on the coverage map that is distributed with the radios. In general, we cover 98% of the race course with only 2 dead zones which include a 1 mile area at the mountain pass east of Shoshone just before Stage 9 and a 1.5 mile area at the mountain pass between Stage 15 and Stage 16. The dead zone is smaller for mobile radios than portable radios explained in item #3 below. In addition, we cover all of route from Las Vegas to the start line.

Note: The map depicts coverage outside buildings. Coverage inside buildings varies depending upon your location within the facility.

1. Good solid coverage for portable radios exists over 80% of the race course including the Start Line to east of Stage 8, from about 2 miles past Stage 10 to Stage 16 and from Stage 17 to the Westgate Hotel. **This is the green area on the map.**
2. In all other areas, you may need to hold the radio out the window of the vehicle or get out of the vehicle and find a “hot ” spot to get reception. There is a radio signal strength indicator near the upper right of the display to let you know how good the signal quality is in your area. **This is the blue area on the map.**
3. Mobile radios will work well in the other areas described in section 2 above because they have more power than a portable radio and the magnetic mount antenna is outside the vehicle. (See on next page “ Using The Radios ” .

Using The Radios

When using the radios, please observe the following:

- Move away from noisy areas if possible to make your transmission more intelligible.
- Adjust your receive volume so that you can hear properly under your noise conditions.
- Press and hold the press-to-talk (PTT) button, then wait for the proceed tone which is a triple beep. If you speak before you hear the proceed tone, no one heard you. You should then repeat what you just said after you hear the beep.
- If you are hearing someone speaking, you will not be able to transmit on your radio. (Pressing the PTT will not transmit.) You will hear a tone indicating that your radio is not transmitting until you release the PTT button.
- Speak slowly in a normal voice about one inch from the microphone. Do not yell as yelling only degrades your intelligibility.
- Monitor your battery condition from the battery ICON on the upper right of the radio display. If your battery is low, change batteries before the radio indicates no battery life. If you do not have a spare battery, proceed to one of the battery exchange stations which are located at Stage 1 and before Stage 12.
- To change the battery, lift the metal clip at the bottom of the radio to “unlock” the battery release lever. Press the battery release lever while lifting the bottom of the battery away from the radio.
- Mobile radios must have the antenna run out the window with the antenna placed **on top of the vehicle.**