



MAY 24-26th
2008
ROYAL VICTORIA YACHT CLUB'S
65th
SWIFTSURE
INTERNATIONAL
YACHT RACE



RADIO COMMUNICATIONS BULLETIN

2008 -2

April 2008

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Questions or Comments?

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On May 24 and May 25, the Swiftsure International Yacht Race will send out more than 1,000 people in more than 200 participating yachts over a race area of more than 5,000 km². The safety of these people and the management of the race rely upon the capabilities of the amateur radio community on southern Vancouver Island.

We, the Swiftsure Steering Committee, are grateful for the support of the several municipal emergency communications programs; the local amateur radio clubs and volunteer radio operators. To keep the amateur radio community informed, we'll be posting our *Radio Communications Manual* and we'll be distributing bulletins with information about the race. This is the second of those bulletins.

1 TRANSPONDERS GO COMMERCIAL

After some hit-and-miss trials with home-built transponder systems in previous years, Swiftsure will use a full-service commercial satellite transponder system this year. As with most technologies, cost has come down and availability has come up such that are several firms competing in the business of providing transponders to long-distance sailing races. While we radio types have never been directly involved with transponders, their successes and their failures in past years have impacted upon our good works.

2 ID-1 NETWORK WILL BE TESTED

Using Airmail to transmit rounding times from the mark rounding vessels was a great success last year and we will make that an ongoing part of our communications plan.

Our experiment for this year will be to record video clips on the mark rounding vessels, for public relations purposes, and transmit those clips to shore stations as video files. If we can round up enough operators and equipment, we will attempt to send files from the three mark rounding vessels at Clallam Bay, Pedder Bay and Neah Bay using ID-1 DSTAR 1.2 GHz radios.

So far, we have one volunteer to go out to Clallam Bay and one volunteer to run a shore station at Sheringham Point. We need two more volunteers: one to go to Neah Bay (an overnight trip) and one

to go to Pedder Bay (a day trip). Each of these two volunteers should own a digital video camera and a laptop computer. Each will be provided with a loaned ID-1 radio and antennae to test during the race. If you are interested in being one of these two volunteers, please contact Peter Mills, VA7STO, at millspecon@mac.com or at 370-7682.

3 RESTRICTED RADIO OPERATOR'S CERTIFICATE (MARITIME) TRAINING

This licence is required for all Swiftsure volunteers who transmit on a Marine VHF frequency. We offer this course free of charge to Swiftsure volunteers if six or more people register for it; otherwise, we do not offer the course. So far, only one person has expressed interest. If you are interested in acquiring this radio licence free of charge (normally about \$90), please contact Peter Mills, VA7STO, at millspecon@mac.com or at 370-7682.

4 IMPORTANT DATES

These are key dates for the Swiftsure radio volunteers. More details for time and places of these events are at http://www.swiftsure.org/volunteer_dates/

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| May 3 or 4 | Work party to assemble marine VHF repeater on Mt. Matheson. |
| May 5 and 6 | General orientation for all volunteers, a single session that is made available on either of these nights. You can pick up your T-shirts at either of these briefings or at the radio volunteers' briefing on May 22. |
| May 18 | Frequency plans for marine VHF, 2M voice, Airmail and ID-1 will be finalised and posted as section 3 of the Radio Communications Manual at http://www.swiftsure.org/volunteer_radio/ |
| May 20 | Duty roster, once finalised, will be posted as section 4 of the Radio Communications Manual at http://www.swiftsure.org/volunteer_radio/ |

- May 20 Tech training night: additional training for Ship Point radio operators who wish to work with the data in the Swiftsure information system.
- May 22 Swiftsure radio volunteers' briefing, 1900 hrs at the Saanich Emergency Program shack at the north end of the Saanich Fire Hall, 732 Vernon Avenue.
- May 22 Briefing and training for Airmail operators who will be on mark rounding vessels, right after the radio volunteers' briefing in the Saanich EOC.
- May 23 Work party to set up Ship Point radio station.
- May 24 - 26 Swiftsure races.
- May 27 Swiftsure volunteer BBQ
- May 31 or Work party to dismantle marine VHF repeater on Mt.
June 1 Matheson.

5 MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED; PLEASE REGISTER NOW!

The Swiftsure Yacht Race begins on the morning of Saturday 24 May and runs into Sunday afternoon and evening. All told, we need about 40 amateur radio operators to support this event. So far, about 17 operators have volunteered.

Please register either at the Swiftsure website, http://swiftsure.org/volunteer_registration/, stating that you are an amateur radio operator. Or please register directly with the radio communications coordinator: Peter Mills, VA7STO. Please contact him at millspecon@mac.com or 370-7682 and provide him with:

- o Your name and call sign;
- o What equipment you can bring along, in the way of: 2 metre Airmail mobile stations, mobile VHF voice stations, ID-1s and laptops;

- What duties you would prefer (if it's your first year volunteering, I'll find you a good home);
- Your e-mail address and phone number; and
- Your T-shirt size!