



## Ham Radio Operators

Ham Radio operators are needed to provide communications during the two days of the MS Bike Tour: Tour de Farms. In prior years various types of communications were used (cell phones, Nextel, business-band radios, etc) with varying but limited degrees of success. For the 2010 event, the event wishes to improve its communication system by incorporating ham radio into its plans.

Volunteers are required to put in a minimum of four hours of work on one of the days of the event. Preferably, volunteers would offer to work one full day or both days. Volunteers would be organized into a Radio Communication Crew led by a Crew Captain.

Volunteers are needed in four specific areas:

1. SAG van communications: The event uses approximately 20 SAG (Support And Gear) vans to ferry supplies along the route, picked up bicyclists in need of assistance or other duties. We seek to have a ham radio operator in each SAG van to provide communications to and from Net Control. Equipment needed is a 25-50 watt mobile radio and mag-mount antenna.
2. Rest Stop communications: A number of rest stops are located along each day's route. Each rest stop is manned with volunteers who dispense snacks, water and other supplies, as well as assist with medical needs, bike repairs, etc. We seek to have a ham radio operator at each rest stop to provide communication between rests stops and Net Control. Equipment needed is a hand-held radio, provided suitable repeater operation can be established.
3. Event management communications: Operators are sought to shadow event management personnel and provide communications between them and Net Control. Equipment needed is a hand-held radio.
4. Net Control: A Net Control operation will be the communication nerve center of the event. Provided that suitable equipment and systems can be established, multiple channel operation, with different aspects of the event using different frequencies, is preferred. Equipment needed is subject to discussion at this point.

In addition to these four specific duties, a Crew Captain is needed. If interested in this position, please mention Crew Captain when registering.

At this time, ham radio registration is being handled by Jon Baker, KC9OO, a member of the Tour de Farms Steering Committee. If you would like to register or have questions, email Jon at [jonlbak@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jonlbak@sbcglobal.net) with the following information:

- Name
- Call Sign
- Home Address
- Contact phone number (home or cell)
- Email
- Position interested in
- Equipment available for use during the event.