

## 2018 Buffalo Bayou Regatta Amateur Radio Instructions

### **Meeting Place**

We will meet at 7:30 AM at the Whataburger at 6405 San Felipe St, in the southwest corner of San Felipe and Winrock. At that time, we can confirm assignments and give out t-shirts and lunch wrist bands. You may want to arrive earlier if you wish to have breakfast.

### **What To Bring**

Bring your handy-talkie and other personal items to be used at your checkpoint. To record boat numbers, there will be a boat number log in the checkpoint package, along with maps. You will need pencil and/or pen. Other suggested items include lawn/camping chair, jacket, hat, insect repellent, sunglasses, Kleenex, umbrella, etc. Binoculars can aid in reading boat numbers.

Persons assigned to work on a bridge may be issued an orange vest. Please arrange to get the vest back to me. Thanks.

### **Repeater Frequencies**

We will use the TDXS repeater for talk-in and primary frequency. The Cypress repeater will be used for the secondary race frequency. It will be monitored for traffic from sweep boats. The Transtar repeater may be used in case of a failure. Please have these repeaters programmed into your radio before arriving at the event. If you need help, bring your radio manual to aid in programming.

Repeaters:

Course – TDXS (147.360 MHz, plus offset, tone 100.0)

Sweep – Cypress (147.000 MHz, plus offset, tone 103.5)

Backup – Transtar (145.370 MHz, minus offset, tone 123.0)

### **Communication Protocol**

Please use your tactical call shown on the *Assignments Sheet* during the event. You will need to identify per FCC regulations when using your own call, but the use of tactical calls will enable information to be passed more quickly and efficiently. This will be a directed net, so all calls should go through Net Control, where proper FCC identification will be used. If you are uncertain about any procedures, please let me know.

### **Checkpoint Arrival**

You should arrive at your checkpoint position before the check-in time noted on the assignments sheet and marked on your package. It would be wise to arrive earlier to allow time to find parking and to get your equipment to the operating position.

All checkpoints will be called by net control at the check-in time. Please be at your operating position before this time. Thanks.

### **Parking**

You will need to find a suitable parking spot on your own. A paper sign will be provided for you to place on the dash of your vehicle, to indicate you are radio communications for the regatta.

This is the first year the finish line has been moved from the Preston Street Bridge to the Main Street Bridge at Allen's Landing. If you want to come downtown for lunch, please ask Net Control for instructions.

### **Race Details**

The first race group will start at 9:00 AM. There will be several groups starting at about 10-minute intervals. The last participants usually get to Sesquicentennial Park around 1:30 PM. The official Finish line is under the Main Street Bridge. The course is about 15 miles, and the winning boat will likely cross the finish line at about 10:30 AM.

### **Tracking Boat Numbers**

Communicate with net control to track race participants along the course. Each participant has a race number which should be attached to the right (starboard) side of the bow of the boat. We normally track all boat numbers, but report the numbers of the first 10 boats to net control. Net control will keep track of these leader numbers and pass them to finish for race timers and officials. Be sure to note the time the leader passes your point. There is a space provided at the top of the log sheet.

Since the numbers are on the right side of the boat you need to find a location on the South side of the Bayou.

You are also asked to report the number of any participant who is not wearing the required personal flotation device (PFD). However, do not tell the participant to correct the problem, as they may become argumentative. That is the job of race officials.

Tracking all boats is not mandatory. However, in the past this log has been used to locate boaters who do not finish the race.

### **Sweep Boats**

Mark Janzer K5MGJ is the last sweep boat, with tactical call Broom. Matt Woodruff KA5YYD uses tactical call Sweep 1, and Paul Comstock KE5IXE uses Sweep 2. Mark and Matt will recruit others to participate as separate sweep boats, and to report from locations where assistance to boaters may be required. Look for a special flag and boat markings identifying them as sweep boats. Cell calls to Net Control are permitted to ask for assistance. Use the numbers found in the Assignments sheet.

Thank you for your participation. If you have any questions please contact me via email or call/text 713-553-1827 (cell).

Keith Dutson NM5G  
Coordinator, 2018 Buffalo Bayou Regatta Ham Radio Communications  
keith1@dutson.net