

TOSRV 2008 QUICK REFERENCE

- NET OPS:** NCS will use K8DDG on all repeaters. The nets will be in operation from 0600 – 1800 Saturday and Sunday. At other times, please call stations direct.
- FREQUENCIES:** Three repeaters will provide coverage for the route. All require CTCSS and should be pre-programmed into your radios to avoid problems during the event. Repeater are not linked. Transition from Columbus to Chillicothe about halfway between Circleville and Chillicothe. Transition to the Portsmouth south of SR 348/SR104.
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| COLUMBUS: | 147.060+ | 94.8 CTCSS | COARES Repeater |
| CHILLICOTHE: | 146.850- | 74.4 CTCSS | Scioto Valley ARC Repeater |
| PORTSMOUTH: | 147.360+ | 136.5 CTCSS | KC8BBU Repeater |
- We are using repeaters provided by the Scioto Valley Amateur Radio Club and by KC8BBU. *Please be good guests when using these machines.*
- APRS:** APRS digipeaters have been installed along the route by hams from Chillicothe, Portsmouth and Athens. If you have APRS gear, please bring it with you for the event. It will enable net control to keep track of resources.
- APRS FREQUENCY:** **144.390**
PATH SETTING: **WIDE3-3 (due to the number of digis involved)**
- TACTICAL CALLS:** When calling NCS, use your location number on the assignment sheet. If you are working with a FASC team, use your team number which will be assigned before your team heads out for the day. This way NCS does not have to scan the maps and charts to find your location by call sign. You may add your physical location to help those monitoring to quickly know where you are. Avoid “my location” descriptions.
- KEYWORDS:** Please use the following three Keywords when passing traffic that is not routine.
- MEDICAL:** Highest priority. Injured person, rider down report.
PRIORITY: 2nd highest priority. Urgent message, not medical.
INFO: Lowest priority. Used only if you have info pertinent to the conversation in progress.
- MEDICAL calls take priority. All stations standby and hold non-medical traffic until the emergency is handled and net control has announced “Frequency Clear”. Regular traffic may resume after the Frequency Clear announcement.
- INFO is only used by stations that have information pertinent to the conversation currently in progress. No keywords, including INFO, are used for normal calls to NCS.
- NEW COURSE:** As it was last year, the course between Columbus and Circleville will not use Rt. 104. Instead, it takes riders east past Rickenbacker Air Base, then south along Pontius Rd/Walnut Creek Pike (which is east of and runs parallel to Rt. 23). The course between Circleville and Portsmouth is the same as in prior years.
- TELEPHONE:** **614-461-6648** will be installed at NCS and can be used by your families to reach you in an emergency. Families of the riders also use this number.

- NET CHECK-IN:** Please check-in as early as possible on Sat and Sun to get an assignment. Notify NCS upon arrival at your assignment and anytime you need to be out of service. If you have been pre-assigned to a location, you need to inform NCS upon your arrival, or in the event you will be late in arriving, or if you cannot make your assignment.
- STUCK KEYS:** Always know the status of your microphone key. A stuck key blocks repeater use until it is discovered. Disable any VOX capability. Better yet, leave VOX gear at home.
- VEHICLES:** Avoid driving on the route. Use side roads and Rt. 23. If you must drive on the course, drive against the flow of bicycle traffic to make the best time.
- BANQUET:** The banquet will be held Saturday evening with beverages starting at 1800 and food beginning at 1900 at the Pump House located in Yoctangee Park in Chillicothe.
- PIZZA PARTY:** Sunday evening starting at 1800 at Tommy's on campus (Lane & Neil Ave).

EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST

This is a list of items that many people have found helpful on past tours. Everyone has his or her own personal list, so just consider this a memory jogger.

RADIO GEAR: Spare radio, batteries, power cords, antennas
 Operations manual for each radio
 Mag mount or other gain antenna
 BNC or SMA to PL259 adapter (HT to mag mount antenna)
 External speaker
 Spare fuses
 Tape, connectors, adapters, spare coax
 Repeater directory

PERSONAL: ARES ID
 Vehicle signs
 Food, snacks, beverages, bottled water
 County road maps
 Rain gear/cool, damp weather gear
 Folding chair
 Binoculars
 Sunblock
 Personal medicine, aspirin
 Alarm clock
 Patience and a good sense of humor

RIDER SUPPORT: Extra bottled water for riders
 Small tools, including metric
 Tire pump or 12 volt air pump
 Board and plastic to cover message sheets in case of rain
 Broom/shovel to clear gravel from the road

COLUMBUS - CIRCLEVILLE CROSS-OVERS

Williams Road (to Lockbourne Rd)

0.6 mi

Obetz Road (to Lockbourne Rd, jog right, then left)

1.5 mi, (you will cross I-270)

Rathmell Road (to Lockbourne Rd)

2.1 mi

Rt. 317 (to Rohr Rd)

4.5 mi

Rt. 762 (to Groveport Rd/Walnut Creek Pike)

3.5 mi

Rt. 752 (to Walnut Creek Pike)

4.1 (beware S. Bloomfield speed trap just south of Rt 752)

Hagerty Road (to Walnut Creek Pike)

0.8 mi

CR 511 (aka N. Court St to Walnut Creek Pike, go Left on Bell Station Road)

or

CR 511 (aka N. Court St. into Circleville, intersects with Walnut Creek Pike)

Alternate north-south roads that run parallel to the course are Circleville Rd (first road West of course) and Winchester Rd (first road East of course, has the most crossovers to the course).

TOSRV FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What time will net control open?

A: 0600 each day. Before 0600 when NCS open the net officially, please feel free to call stations direct.

Q: I am on the road from my house in the northern part of Columbus. When should I check in for an assignment?

A: Check in with NCS when you get close to the start of the course. That way NCS will have a good time frame on when you can be on your assigned location. Asking for an assignment as soon as you leave your house may cause a problem, such as unknown car problems, traffic tie-ups, etc.

Q: I have a course assignment, and a First Aid team is there with me. Have I gone to the wrong assignment?

A: Various spots along the course are co-assigned with course communicators, as well as Red Cross FASC teams. The FASC team can be called to go mobile at any minute. You are assigned as the "stationary" ham station, to keep any out on the course. If you find yourself co-assigned, enjoy the company!

Q: Where should I park for my assignment?

A: If at all possible, position your vehicle so that you are facing the riders on-coming, on the opposite side of the road the riders are traveling. This will help you to see the riders, and be out of their way. Each location is different, so use best judgment. Try not to block resident's driveways, damage yards, etc. We want to be good citizens. If you cannot park right at the location assigned, find the closest spot you can and advise NCS.

Q: I'm on the course, and a crazy driver just flew by, and might hurt someone! What should I do?

A: Call NCS with a PRIORITY CALL. Give as much information about the description of the car, direction of travel, etc. NCS will contact the proper authorities. Many of the law enforcement officers along the course monitor our frequencies. DO NOT CHASE SPEEDING VEHICLES TO GET LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS! This will endanger the riders, and get you excused from the operations.

Q: I have an injured rider that just came up to my location. Should I transport them to the nearest hospital/rest stop?

A: NO! Contact NCS with a MEDICAL call. FASC teams and/or medics will be called to the scene, depending upon the severity. We as communicators will not transport injured riders.

Q: I have a rider (or report of a rider) that has a broken down bike. What can we do?

A: Notify NCS of all broken bike reports. There will be many bike repair trucks traveling along the course, and will be looking for break downs. However, they will not have communication with our hams. If you see a repair truck drive by your location, notify NCS so they can keep track of them, and that way NCS can tell if there are repair trucks heading your way.

Q: Why don't the repair trucks have Hams with them?

A: The repair trucks are loaded to the brim with parts, tools, etc. No room for a Ham.

Q: There's a bunch of paper and markers at the TOSRV meeting, what is it for?

A: Many times during the day, NCS will get a call from a rider's family (via the TOSRV phone number), looking for the rider. NCS will ask all stations to post a sign saying something such as "Rider #1234 Stop Here!" When the rider stops at your spot, you can notify NCS you have the rider, and we can relay the message. This also comes in handy to stop repair trucks (see above), post weather conditions, or simply cheer the riders on with words of encouragement!