



2026 SANDBLAST RALLY
RADIO OPERATORS' GENERAL INFORMATION GUIDE

This year Sandblast Rally will be running two stages on Friday night. If you are available to volunteer for Friday night we will be using a 440 repeater so a dual band mobile radio will be required for Friday night.

REPEATER INFORMATION:

Friday night repeater frequency is: 440.750(+) with a DCS Tone of 311.

For Saturday -- We are lucky enough to have the PALSNet linked repeater system (<http://www.palsnet.com>) on which to operate.

All stages except Sexton Pond should have full quieting into the primary Cheraw repeater. The repeaters have a one second delay to link-up. Please remember to pause briefly at the start of your transmission for repeater link-up.

The PALSNet repeaters will not be linked until 7:00 AM EST the day of the rally. All traffic should be on the Cheraw Repeater until the link is activated. **All traffic during the operation of the rally will be via a directed net with a net control operator.**

The repeater frequencies are:

Friday night repeater: 440.750(+) with a DCS Tone of 311

Cheraw Repeater: - Primary Rally Repeater

145.490(-) MHz/CTCSS Tone 123.0 Hz

Pageland Repeater: - Sexton's Pond

146.895 (-) MHz/CTCSS Tone 123.0 Hz

CCARS Repeater: - Last Backup Repeater. Not linked. Net will not be listening unless operators are instructed to move to this repeater.

147.135(+) MHz/CTCSS Tone 123.0 Hz

If all else fails, the 2-meter calling frequency is 146.52 MHz simplex

This year we will be tracking the competitor numbers at stage starts and finishes using a commercial frequency. Each Stage Start/Finish will be issued a radio by the Stage Captain to use for this purpose. These radios MUST BE returned to the Stage Captains at the end of the event.

IF YOU EXPERIENCE RADIO ISSUES DURING THE EVENT, CONTACT:

Chief Communications Officer	Bill Heybruck	704-904-4706
Net Control	Tom Hunt	704-953-0931
Net Control	Hillary Ramsey	412-496-2326
Net Control	Mary Hunt	704-236-4476

If your communication need is an **emergency** you may also contact:

Deputy Clerk	Michael Jordijk	970-875-4369
Clerk	Andrew Frick	864-735-5301

VOLUNTEER CHECK-IN FOR EVENT:

Check the Volunteer Schedule on Sandblastrally.com for all volunteer check in time as well as other important meetings and schedules.

Location for Check-In is: Springhill Suites Conference Room, 201 Front St., Cheraw, SC 29520.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CHECK IN TO CARPOOL/CARAVAN TO STAGES

1. Meet in the back parking lot at the SpringHill Suites between 3:30 and 3:45 pm. The team leaves promptly at 4:15 pm to go out to the stages.
2. Be sure to bring everything you will need for the evening. Everyone will be at their position on the stages for several hours so you might want to bring snacks or a sandwich for supper. There will not be time to Stop on the way for any supplies.

SATURDAY MORNING CHECK-IN TO CARPOOL/CARVAN TO STAGES:

1. Meet at the Cheraw High School 649 Chesterfield Highway, Cheraw, SC 29520 between 6:00 and 6:15 AM. The teams will leave **promptly** at 6:30AM for the stages. **Stage Team B – Sugarloaf meets at 5:30 am and departs the school at 5:45 am.**
2. Be sure to bring everything you will need for the day, Lunches will be delivered by the stage captain or another volunteer. There will **not** be an opportunity to stop for supplies once you leave the high school.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLIES:

1. Lawn Chair
2. Drinks and snacks
3. Sunscreen
4. Toilet Paper
5. All your radio equipment
6. A raincoat as the event runs rain or shine

BE A GOOD LISTENER AT ALL TIMES

Tactical call signs will be used during the directed net.

- Ask Net Control for permission to transmit, "Net Control, Net Control from Tactical".
- Once given permission, proceed with your conversation.
- Make sure to ID with your FCC assigned call sign at the end of each transmission set. This lets all other stations on the net know you have completed your exchange.

The Marshall Maps provide a list of ALL possible Marshal Locations along the stages.

- Please have your Stage Captain inform you where you have been placed.
- Confirm your location with Net Control.
- Net Control will assign your Tactical Call sign for that location.

Please keep each transmission short, sweet, and to the point.

Always pause before transmission to allow repeaters to link-up and let the repeater drop between transmissions as these are linked repeaters.

IF you are assigned a commercial radio, please use your Tactical call. You do not need to identify with your FCC call sign. The stage captains for each stage will be giving out the commercial radios. **PLEASE make sure you turn these radios back into your stage captain both Friday and Saturday after the stage closes.**

RADIO OPERATOR DUTIES:

The following describes general duties of each Radio Operator. When you are assigned to a stage you will need to stay at that stage until released by Net Control. Many stages are run multiple times so please do not leave your stage in between events. You will be notified by your stage captain, an event official, or Net Control when you are finished at your assigned location.

In the event of an emergency requiring medical or fire response; the radio operator will immediately announce “**BREAK BREAK**” and then give a report following the format described within Section 5.i. At this time, all regular traffic will be held. The Net will be turned over using chain of command listed below until the emergency is resolved:

- 1) Clerk of the Course
- 2) Deputy Clerk of the Course
- 3) Steward
- 4) Net Control

Traffic is to be prioritized between these officials and any stage radio operators working the emergency stage. Once the emergency is resolved the Net will be turned back over to Net Control and regular traffic will resume.

1. Duties of Net Control:

- a. During the operation of the event, communications will be provided via two directed networks controlled by Net Control. The directed nets will provide:
 - Reliable Communication between organizers, active stages, advance safety vehicles, sweep vehicles, and emergency response resources.
 - Tracking of course and competitor vehicles as they travel throughout the event.
- b. Prioritization of network traffic is managed by a Net Controller Operator with all stations utilizing Tactical callsigns.
- c. All traffic must be passed through Net Control.
- d. Net Control will monitor and direct stage setup, completion of stage safety checks, presence of first responders at each hot stage, and stage sweep activities.
- e. Net Control will keep a log of all vehicles entering and exiting each stage to aid in vehicle tracking.
- f. Receives traffic with any problems that may arise and refers them to the Clerk, ~~or~~ Deputy Clerk, Steward, Competitor Relations Officer, or Service Park Radio as required.

2. Duties of Chief Communications Officer:

- a. Ensures functionality of the radio networks throughout event operations.
- b. Assists any radio operator who is having radio problems.
- c. Can provide event supplied radios as needed to support rally communications anywhere along on the rally route.
- d. Is out on the route and available to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk to go to any location requiring radio support.

3. Duties of Stage Start Radio Operator

- a. Once on site, check in with Net Control on the Ham radio and ensure your radio is working correctly. Also check in with Net Control using the commercial radio given to you by the Stage Captain.
- b. Introduce yourself to the Stage Captain and Start Control workers. Let them know you are their communications link.
- c. Maintain a log of all vehicles entering the stage starting with 000. Write down the numbers in order on the "Vehicle ON Stage Tracking Sheet" in the left-hand column.
- d. Net Control will notify you when the motorcycles may start on their assigned minute. Relay this information to the stage captain.
- e. Record the time and notify Net Control when the first bike enters the stage via Ham radio.
- f. When the first five motorcycles have started call these numbers into Net control using the commercial radio handheld.
- g. Call in each group of five competitors after that via the commercial net.
- h. After all motorcycles have started Combo Car enters the stage.
- i. After Combo Car completes the stage, Combo Car will notify Net Control that stage is ready for competition again.
- j. Net Control will notify the Stage Start Radio Operator that the cars may start the stage on their next assigned minute.
- k. Record the time and notify Net Control via Ham radio when the first car enters the stage.
- l. Write down the car numbers in the order they start. After the first five have started, notify Net Control via the commercial radio of the first five. Notify Net Control via the commercial radio with the next group of five numbers until all cars have started.
- m. After all cars have entered the stage, Fast Sweep will enter the stage, followed by the Heavy Sweep Team.
- n. When Fast Sweep has completed the stage, they will notify Net Control. Net Control will then inform you to let the Medical Crew/Ambulance know they may move to their next assignment.

Please leave the net clear for course cars to transmit when they arrive at your location. You do **not** need to announce that they have arrived. Depending on location, the course cars MAY ask you to relay a message if they have difficulty reaching net.

Note: In the event of an emergency on stage it may become your responsibility to notify the medical team at stage start of their need to respond by entering the stage. Please follow direction of the chain of command listed on page 3, and provide assistance in communication with the medical crew.

4. . Duties of Stage Finish Radio Operator

- a. Once on site, check in with Net Control and ensure your radio is working correctly.
- b. Introduce yourself to the Stage Captain and let him know you are his communications link.
- c. Maintain a log of all vehicles arriving at the Stage Finish starting with 000.
- d. When the Stage Start is relaying the motorcycle numbers to Net Control via the commercial radio frequency, write down the numbers in order on the "Vehicle ON Stage Tracking Sheet" in the left-hand column.
- e. Use the "Numbers in order of Finishing" column to record the motorcycles as they finish. Call these numbers into Net Control using the commercial radio in increments of FIVE numbers.
- f. Also check off the numbers on the "Vehicle ON Stage Tracking Sheet" as the motorcycles finish, using the OK column.
- g. IF the Finish Workers suspect there is a missing vehicle, they will tell you to inform Net Control.
- h. Once Finish has determined all motorcycles have finished notify Net Control via the Ham radio.
- i. When the cars start, write down the car numbers following steps d-f, as was done with the motorcycles.
- j. Once Finish has determined all cars have finished notify Net Control via the Ham radio.
- k. Please review the Red Cross reporting information in Section 5.i.

Please leave the net clear for course cars to transmit when they arrive at your location. You do **not** need to announce that they have arrived. Depending on location, the course cars MAY ask you to relay a message if they have difficulty reaching net.

Note: It is possible that a motorcycle or car may not complete the stage in the order they started, may breakdown or crash, or may go missing. If you suspect that a competition vehicle is missing, immediate action needs to be taken.

- Ask Finish Control if they have any information on the competitor, you suspect is missing.
- If not, Finish Control should start asking the next competitors that complete the stage for information on the late or missing competitor. YOU should notify Net Control that there is a potential missing competitor via the Ham radio frequency.
 - If the competitor is identified stopped on stage or arrives at the stage finish, inform Net Control via the 2-meter Ham radio frequency.
 - If a third competitor completes the stage without seeing the missing competitor, inform Net Control via the 2-meter Ham radio frequency. Net Control will stop the stage, inform Start Control to hold all remaining competitors and dispatch Combo or Fast Sweep to search for the missing vehicle/competitors.

5. Duties of Spectator Radio Operators, Ambulance Corner Operators and Stage Side radio Operators

- a. Once on site, check in with Net Control and ensure your radio is working correctly.
- b. The Marshall Maps provide a list of ALL possible Marshal Locations along the stages.
 - Please have your Stage Captain inform you where you have been placed.
 - Confirm your location with Net Control.
 - Net Control will assign your Tactical Call sign for that location.
- c. Log the numbers of all vehicles passing your location in order on the “Vehicle ON Stage Tracking Sheet” using the left-hand column.
- d. Please call in to Net Control and inform them when the Official Vehicles pass your location. Ex: “Car 000 has passed Stage 2 Radio 5”
- e. If you are placed in a Spectator Area, work with the additional marshals to ensure spectators are located in a safe location.
 - You are the link between the other marshals and Net Control.
 - If there are issues with spectators inform Net Control.
- f. If you are placed as a Stage Side Operator, please use your vehicle to block access to the stage from any side road at the direction of your Stage Captain. If there are any spectators in the area, make sure they are clear of the stage and in a safe location.
 - Any spectators outside of the official spectator areas must have wrist bands indicating they have signed a waiver.
 - If your spectators do not have wrist bands, inform Net Control. Net will have 000 or 00 stop to have the spectators sign waivers.
- g. If you are repositioned to a new location check with the Stage Captain to verify your new location on the Marshal Map for your stage. Inform Net Control of your new location and note your new Tactical Call Sign when it is assigned.
- h. If you find a Competitor Stopped within your view:
 - Inform Net Control of the stopped competitor **by car number only**.
 - It is normal for competitors to stop to change a flat, make a repair, or even retire from competition. This information does NOT need to be sent to Net Control.
 - Competitors who crash follow strict protocols. DO NOT report a crash.
- i. However, IF a competitor **DISPLAYS A RED CROSS** or TELLS YOU they need **Medical or Fire first responders**, inform Net Control of the following:
 - State: “Red Cross – Stage Number”.
 - The nature of the accident; crash, fire endangering the forest, etc.
 - Type and severity of the injuries and the number of injured persons.
 - Location of the accident, mileage if possible from the start of the special stage.
 - Physical characteristics of the accident scene (landmarks, distinctive trees, lights)
 - **At no time in the duration of an emergency response shall any names or other identifying details be transmitted via the radio network.**
 - Net Control will announce the stage is stopped immediately until further instruction. The chain of command identified on page 3 will assume control of

the stage.

6. Duties of Service Area and Regroup Radio Operator:

- a. Radio operators will be posted at the entrance and exit to the Service Park to track cars arriving and departing.
- b. The radio operator at Service Entrance should track competitor numbers as the competitors enter service using a "Vehicle ON Stage Tracking Sheet". Transfer this information to Service Exit via FRS radio.
- c. The radio operator at Service Exit should:
 - Use the "Numbers in order of Finishing" column of the "Vehicle ON Stage Tracking Sheet" to track the competitors as they leave the service park AFTER they have moved through the Regroup/Reseed area.
- d. If a vehicle does not leave the service area contact the Service Area Team Captain.
 - They will have a volunteer check the Service Area to see why the vehicle is not leaving Service.
 - If the vehicle is dropping out of the event – notify Net Control.
- e. The Service Area Radio Operator should monitor Net Control throughout the event for competitors making a request via the radio network for service crews to meet them outside of the service park.
 - Relay the location of the competitor to their crew
 - Log the number of the car, the time you informed them, and obtain a cell phone contact number from a crew member.

Note: At the Service Exit if a vehicle leaves that was not on the check-in list, they may be re-entering the rally after repairs were performed. Notify Net Control of these vehicle numbers.

SEQUENCE OF VEHICLES WITHIN THE RALLY

The following is a general overview of stage operation and the vehicles you will expect to see during an active stage. All Official Vehicles preparing to enter the stage shall first request permission from Net Control, and must only ever traverse the active stage in the intended direction of rally traffic. All official vehicles will bear Sandblast Rally door placards along with a secondary placard identifying their official role. The list of vehicles permitted within an active stage is defined below.

Once the Stage Captain has concluded stage preparation the first Official Vehicle, S1 and Triple Zero, enter the stage with approval from Net Control. This results in the stage becoming “**active**”, and from that point on only vehicles approved by Net Control will be allowed to proceed on course. Once Double Zero enters the stage it is considered “**hot**” and only the vehicles listed below may enter the stage.

After the first competitor starts, you can expect a new competitor to start each minute until all have left the start. Between the motorcycles and the cars, an Official Vehicle known as the Combo car completes the stage as a medical sweep for the bikes. After all of the cars have entered the stage, Fast Sweep will complete the stage about a minute behind the last car. Heavy Sweep will leave the start shortly after Fast Sweep to assist competitors along the stage. After Heavy Sweep has passed your location, the stage is **still active**, but it is no longer considered hot. Anyone wishing to enter the stage must do so only with permission from Net Control.

Some stage locations are used multiple times throughout the day. When the competition has concluded on a given road for the entirety of the event, it will return to use as a public road when notified by Net Control .

Please remember to wait for your Stage Captain before leaving your location.

Sequence of Vehicles on Active Stages

- S1 Car S1
- Triple Zero Car 000
- Double Zero Car 00
- Zero Car 0
- **Competition Motorcycles**
- Combo Car Combo
- **Competition Cars**
- Fast Sweep Fast Sweep
- Heavy Sweep Sweep 1, Sweep 2
- Green Light *Last vehicle in Heavy Sweep Train, ONLY when opening the road*

Additionally, the Clerk of the Course, Deputy Clerk of the Course, and the Event Steward will be issued placards identifying them as Official Vehicles. Anyone bearing an “official” placard and **any first responder vehicle must request permission** from Net prior to entering the stage.