



Vic-Maui 2014 Information Bulletin #3A SSB Radio Test Schedule (optional) May 21, 2014

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin outlines the communications procedures to be used for the purpose of testing SSB radio equipment and procedures among Vic-Maui entrants and other stations during the Swiftsure Race. Two Roll Calls should be conducted during the Swiftsure Race. Participation is recommended, but not required. Additional relevant information is appended to this bulletin.

Nothing in this document shall be taken to supersede anything in the rules applicable to Swiftsure or Vic-Maui.

ROLL CALLS

Saturday May 24, 1900-1930 PDT - Roll Call #1

Sunday May 25, 0700-0730 PDT - Roll Call #2

At the indicated start time for each Roll Call,

- Boats should monitor VHF Channel 16.
- Boats should tune their SSB radios to the initial frequency, 2082.5 kHz, in USB mode. (Simplex, upper side band, carrier frequency)
- CV should hail each Vic-Maui boat in alphabetic order by boat name.
- Each boat should reply with their name and call sign, and provide a recent position report by latitude and longitude.
- CV should hail any other vessels that want to participate.
- CV should direct the Roll Call to move to another frequency, 4149 kHz, in USB mode.
- CV should hail each Vic-Maui boat in alphabetic order by boat name.
- Each boat should reply with their name and call sign, and provide a recent position report by latitude and longitude.
- CV should hail any other vessels that want to participate.
- CV should determine and advise when the Roll Call has been completed.

COMMUNICATIONS VESSEL

CV (Communications Vessel)

Boat: Kinetic

Call sign: CFG7473

APPENDIX A: COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND OPERATIONS

For Vic-Maui boats, it is recommended that each boat:

- before sailing, ensures;
 - that the boat's VHF and SSB radio systems (including radio, tuner, cabling, connectors, power supply, ground, primary and emergency antenna, RFI suppression) are of high quality, are working properly and that the instruction manuals are onboard,
 - that at least two crew members have completed appropriate radio operator training and are familiar with using the boat's particular VHF and SSB radio systems,
 - that the boat participates in pre-race radio schedules to test the SSB radio system and to identify onboard sources of radio interference; the latter will best be determined by trial and may include the engine, alternator, regulator, sailing instruments, navigation equipment, inverter, generator, water heater, water maker and other electrical or electronic equipment,
 - that a daily radio schedule plan, including Roll Calls and weather updates, is prepared and posted in the navigation station and that times in this schedule are expressed relative to UTC (Zulu) and HST in order to minimize confusion; and

- while sailing, ensures;
 - that a full charge of the batteries is completed before each Roll Call, and
 - that, for the duration of each Roll Call, any non-essential equipment that causes significant radio interference to the SSB radio system is turned off.

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APPENDIX B: Pacific Cup SSB radio test net

From Paul Elliott, SV VALIS, Pacific Cup comms boat:

Would you like to test your marine SSB? While VALIS is sailing from Friday Harbor Washington to San Francisco to prepare for the Pacific Cup we will be conducting a twice-daily SSB radio net. All boats are welcome to participate, especially those in the Pacific Cup, Singlehanded Transpac and Vic-Maui races. Here is the schedule, starting on or around June 2:

0800 PDT : SSB Channel 4A (4146 KHz USB)

0810 PDT : SSB Channel 8A (8294 KHz USB)

2000 PDT : 4A

2010 PDT : 8A

At the start of the net VALIS will identify on 4A (our callsign is WDB2898), and see if anyone is on the frequency. We will say hello and give signal reports. Ten minutes later we will switch to channel 8A, identify ourselves, and listen for anybody trying to contact us. We will bounce back and forth between 4A and 8A as needed. Depending on our position, on yours, and the propagation, one frequency may be better than the other.

It is very likely that in addition to VALIS there will be other boats participating as net control stations. This will be a great opportunity to test your radio system under real-world conditions. If you can't hear VALIS, do try to contact any other boats on the frequency. Feel free to talk amongst yourselves!

We are planning to start sailing south on June 1, but we will obviously wait if conditions are unfavorable. I expect to be on the water 5-10 days, and will run the Net until we arrive in San Francisco. You will be able to monitor our progress (or lack of same) on the VALIS blog:

http://sailvalis.com/wordpress_1/