

SPOT Setup and Usage

For

WaterTribe Events

In addition to using SPOT as an emergency 911 beacon, SPOT is an excellent tool for tracking boats participating in a WaterTribe event. However, each SPOT unit must be configured correctly in order to enable WaterTribe tracking which uses the tracking feature included with SPOT.

Further, event tracking will be more meaningful and realistic if certain procedures are followed throughout the event. If you do not follow these recommended procedures, your track will be uninspiring and your fans will be disappointed and your safety could be compromised.

Setup Guidelines

We use the data from your SPOT shared page to track your progress. We do not need or want your SPOT emails. We do want you to obtain a web link to your shared page. Then paste that link into your registration information in the WaterTribe site.

First some general guidelines:

DO NOT list any WaterTribe email address for any of your OK messages.

DO NOT put any WaterTribe email address in your "HELP Message List." WaterTribe WILL NOT and CANNOT respond to a HELP message.

You may add RaceManager@WaterTribe.com to your 911 Message list if you want. WaterTribe WILL NOT AND CANNOT respond to a 911 Message, but we would like to be informed.

DO NOT use any special punctuation in your OK and Help messages. The old system using the * with your WaterTribe name and RaceID is no longer used. Avoid all punctuation except the period. Even commas and apostrophes should be avoided.

DO keep your messages as short as possible. They get repeated endlessly and a clever message will get boring very quickly. For example, "I am OK." and "I need non emergency help." are all you need. Your shore contact should already know your cell number and what is expected if he or she receives a Help Message.

Configure your time zone for the zone you will be racing in OR GMT.

Create a shared page.

Select Checkin (OK), Help, and Track message types for your shared page.

Set security to Public.

The other items are up to you.

Have SPOT send the shared page link to you. Do not send it to WaterTribe because you will enter the link yourself after you receive it. You can send it to anyone else you like.

Setting up the SPOT configuration for WaterTribe tracking can be a bit tricky because SPOT does some "tricks" behind the scene and there can be significant time delays for some of the steps. Follow this procedure and it will be easier for you.

1. If you haven't already setup your shared page in the SPOT system, do that now.
2. Go outside in a clear area and send at least one OK message. Note that getting an OK message sent can take 20-30 minutes.
3. Go to your shared page and verify that the OK message you sent is there.
4. Did you see your OK message in your shared page? If not, go back to step 2. If you did see your OK message, go to step 5.
5. While viewing your shared page, copy the link in your browser's address bar. You will need this link to setup your WaterTribe configuration. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This link will be different than the one you received via email from SPOT. That is OK. We want the link in your browser's address bar while viewing your shared page.
6. Login to WaterTribe using the *Captain's* WaterTribe name.
7. Navigate to your event.
8. Pick the far right tab titled, **SPOT Link Setup**.
9. Paste the shared page link that you copied in step 5 into the text box provided.
10. Click the **Submit Link** button.
11. Wait at least 30 to 60 minutes.
12. Go to the WaterTribe Mapper for your event.
13. Scroll in or out as necessary to view the area where you sent your OK message via SPOT in step 2. You should see your OK location in the WaterTribe Mapper.
14. Did you see it? If yes, you are done and your SPOT is setup correctly. If not, go back to step 1.

Failure to use SPOT properly will result in disqualification. It is up to you to make sure your SPOT is working. When you call your shore contact, always verify that your track is working. Carry spare batteries of the proper type. Start the event with fresh batteries. Know how to use SPOT for each message type.

Tracking Feature Usage

The SPOT Tracking Feature is required and will allow you to get the best possible results with the least effort on your part. Follow this procedure:

- **After the launch** when you are underway and clear of the launch beach, start the tracking feature.
- Any time you are on the water and moving the tracking feature should be running.
- If you stop to sleep or eat or anchor or check-in or whatever and you plan to remain stopped for an hour or more, send an OK Message and then turn off your SPOT to conserve batteries. When you decide to get started again turn on your SPOT and start the tracking feature.
- If you are crazy enough to go non-stop, remember to turn off and restart your tracking feature at least every 24 hours. In order not to forget this, it is good practice to cycle your tracking feature off and on at sunrise and sunset.
- And finally, stop tracking and hit the OK button for the last time at the finish line. Then shut off your SPOT.

OK Message Usage

The best way to use SPOT is with the tracking feature and **tracking is required** for all WaterTribe events as of September 2010.

But you should also use the OK Message at certain times throughout the Challenge:

- On launch day, at roll call, send your first OK message. This will be at 06:30.
- When you stop for the night or for any reason, send an OK Message.
- If you are out of cell phone contact and cannot get a 24-Hour Report sent, an OK Message counts as a 24-Hour Report.
- Send an OK Message at each major course change.
- Send an OK Message at least every 4 hours while on the water.
- Send an OK Message if a storm passes over or near you and you are OK.
- Send an OK Message at each checkpoint. You cannot leave a checkpoint until your SPOT shows that the message was sent.
- Send an OK Message after sending a Help Message if you are OK. Remember that Help Messages indicate you are dropping out. Note that newer SPOTS allow you to stay in tracking mode while sending an OK message. Older SPOTS require that you shut off tracking, send an OK, turn tracking back on - **know your SPOT**.
- And finally, send an OK Message for the last time at the finish line. Then shut off your SPOT.

IMPORTANT: OK Messages are important and should be used as listed above, but tracking should be enabled whenever you are moving.

Help Message Usage

Use for Non Emergency situations. For example, you are dropping out.

A Help Message is intended for your shore contact. WaterTribe officials cannot and will not respond to your Help Message. You need to have a complete understanding with your shore contact on what a Help Message means.

DO NOT put any WaterTribe email in your list for Help Messages. Our tracking system will see your Help Message without needing an email. Your shore contact should call the race manager as soon as possible if he or she receives a Help Message email.

A Help Message always indicates that you are dropping out. You should follow that up with an OK Message. We will expect a call from your shore contact.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED: If you send a 911 Message, we highly suggest that you send a Help Message at the same time. SPOT does not show us 911 locations but we do see the Help locations. If you send both messages and your shore contact calls race management due to a 911 Message, we will be able to see your location.

911 or SOS Message Usage

If you are in danger and need help from the Coast Guard or first responders, use the 911 or SOS Message.

WaterTribe strongly suggests that you also send a Help Message if you send a 911 or SOS Message.