

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 obtained using your XML Feed to track your progress. **We do not need or want your SPOT emails although you may want to send emails to family and friends.** We do need you to define a shared page and make it public access. Then paste your XML Feed into WaterTribe's tracking system

First some general guidelines:

Set your tracking interval to 10 minutes.

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 should discuss this with your Shore Contact and make sure he or she knows what you mean when you send a HELP message.

If I send a HELP message My shore contact knows that I will call her and explain the issue as soon as possible. She will then call the Race Manager (see your Important Numbers document for the appropriate phone number) and inform her or him what is going on. You may define HELP in a different way, but no matter what your Shore Contact must inform the Race Manager. Keep messages short and to the point.

Here is my HELP message: Change of plans but no worries.

Here is my OK message: I am OK.

Here is my CUSTOM message: I am camping or at anchor.

DO NOT use any special punctuation in your messages. Avoid all punctuation except the period. Even commas and apostrophes should be avoided.

Configure your time zone for the zone that matches the Challenge location.

Here is a screen shot of my XML Feed setup. Note that Extreme Track is not checked and Security is set to Public.

Edit XML Feed

The Share Pages have been moved to the new SPOT Mapping platform. To create a Share Page, please click on the Maps tab at the top of the page.

XML Feed Name *

Devices * Select All

- ChiefsSPOT
- ChiefsSpotX

Location Messages to * Check In
Share Custom
 Extreme Track
 Help
 New Movement
 Track
 Unlimited Track

Share GPS Locations from the Last: ▼

Share Message Detail: Yes No

Security: Public

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. Be sure to copy your XML Feed in preparation for step 9.
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. Login to WaterTribe using the *Captain's* WaterTribe name.
6. Navigate to your event.
7. Pick the tab titled, **SPOT/inReach Setup**.
8. Select Spot as your device.
9. Paste your XML Feed ID into the box.
10. Repeats steps 9 and 10 if you have a backup Spot or a crew member with a Spot
11. Click the **Submit Link** button.
12. Wait at least 30 to 60 minutes.
13. Go to the WaterTribe Mapper for your event.
14. 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.
15. Did you see it? If yes, you are done, and your SPOT is setup correctly. If not, go back to step 1.

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.

Custom Message Usage

Custom messages can be used just like OK messages. However, we interpret a Custom message as a Camping or At Anchor message. The mapper will display a tent.

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.

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