



Main Information Bulletin

Welcome to the Wildflower Triathlon! In this information bulletin, you will find lots of information about this event. If you have any questions that aren't answered in this packet, email the Communications Committee. They can be reached on the W6BHZ Wildflower mailing list. You can sign up to this mail list by going to the main W6BHZ webpage and following the directions posted there.

To better understand the whole event, you should create an Information Packet just for yourself. Print it out before the event, staple it together, and bring it with you. Your Information Packet should contain at least 4 documents:

1. Main Information Bulletin (this document)
2. First Aid document
3. Your assignment document
4. A map of the lake

Other valuable documents to have in your Information Packet are the Band Plan, CALCORD Usage, Event Timeline, etc. You can find all of these documents on the W6BHZ Wildflower webpage, located at <http://www.w6bhz.org/wildflower/>. Remember, if you have any questions, don't be afraid to ask! Other people probably have the same questions as you. The club has a Wildflower mailing list, where you can ask questions to the committee members. You can subscribe to the list by going to <http://lists.w6bhz.org/mailman/listinfo/wildflower>.

Radio Equipment: Primary communications will occur on the 146.73 Williams Hill repeaters this year. Some 70cm communications will take place for tactical use, so if you've got dual band radios or separate 2m/440 rigs, bring them. Speaker mic's and headsets are useful for most positions, and if you're a chase vehicle or rover, Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) equipment is necessary. See the AVL section for more information.

As with any radio event, bring spare batteries for HTs, mag mount antennas, connectors, and any other radio gear. Don't forget a charger for your HT batteries! If you want to listen to the other race channels or local public safety, a scanner would be helpful.

Event Communications: Primary amateur communications will occur on the 146.730 - pl:127.3 repeater located on Williams Hill. This year we can also use a private repeater also on Williams Hill for the Wildflower event; its frequency is 444.550 + pl:141.3. The repeaters will be cross-linked for the event itself; however, it is a private repeater, so please do not use it at any other time. Use these repeaters as talk-in when you approach the front gate. These repeaters have excellent coverage over most of the drive in and throughout the park.

Please be sure to monitor your radio closely during the event. Keep it loud, and use a speaker mic or headset if you're walking around. You are useless to us if we can't contact you when we need you. If you have emergency traffic, please tell us when you make the call to dispatch (e.g. "Control this is Chase 2 with Emergency Traffic"). If you call with routine traffic and don't get a response immediately, wait at least a full minute before calling again. Dispatch is a very busy place, and while we probably heard you, we might be on the phone or talking on another radio, preventing us from getting back to you right away. Please be patient.

Access to the Park: When entering the park on Friday afternoon, identify yourself as "with communications." No other clarification is necessary, and if the person at the gate gives you a hard time, contact us on the Williams Hill repeater and we will get everything straightened out. Do NOT identify yourself as having any affiliation with Cal Poly.

The person at the gate will ask for your name, and they will check your name against the



Gate List. The Gate List is compiled from all the people that registered at the W6BHZ Wildflower webpage. Only people on the Gate List will be allowed into the park. After entering the park, go directly to the Visitor's Center, where we will have dispatch set up. Start setting up your camping area. There will be a meeting at 8pm on Friday night for all members of the Communications Committee. T-shirts and first aid kits will be distributed at that meeting.

Camping: All communications volunteers are encouraged to camp at the Visitors Center. Please pitch your tents in the roped-off area outside the fence. You may park your car next to your tent along the access road to the Visitors Center; if that area is full of cars please park in the Visitors Center parking lot. Please do not park your car on Lynch Hill side of the access road. Motor homes may park in the Visitors Center parking lot. No hookups are available, but bring a long extension cord and we might be able to get you AC power. If you must run a generator, please be considerate of other campers with respect to noise and exhaust. Please do not camp on the grass island in the middle of the parking lot, as it kills the grass. A limited number of people may sleep in the large room at the northwest corner of the Visitors Center (across the courtyard from the kitchen).

The Food Area will be in the Visitors Center parking lot on the grass island. There will be picnic tables and shade set up for you to congregate under. The BBQ on Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning will be held here. All other meals you are responsible for; we suggest you pair up with one or two friends and eat together.

Clothing: Weather at Lake San Antonio can be highly variable. We've had everything from 100°F heat to rain. Dress in layers, or bring multiple changes of clothes for various climates. A hat to keep the sun off and sunscreen are a must. Polarized sun glasses are also very helpful to keep your eyes happy. Luke-warm showers are available in the Visitors Center, but don't plan on taking a long shower.

Food: If you would like to eat at the group BBQ, please sign up for it when you register. There is a fee, and please bring the money to the general Club meeting before the event. The fee is barely enough to cover the food costs. As we said earlier, there will be a cooking area set up in the Visitors Center parking lot. Feel free to use it.

For food during the day, you will most likely not have access to the Visitors Center, so plan ahead. Pack a sack lunch before the event so you don't have to worry about making lunch when you're up at the lake. You are responsible for bringing all your food for all meals (except the Saturday night/Sunday morning BBQ if you signed up). Remember, there is no grocery store up at the lake, so plan ahead.

Alcohol: The work we do requires us to be at our best. If you must bring alcohol, please be responsible. No underage drinking will be tolerated. We don't allow our volunteers to drive if they've been drinking, and if you're out of control you will be asked to leave. Communications volunteers are extended great privileges well beyond those of the typical Cal Poly volunteer, so please don't abuse them.

Law Enforcement: Monterey County Park Rangers are sworn peace officers, and as such, can issue citations and make arrests. Additionally, the California Highway Patrol and Monterey County Sheriff's Office will be well represented. Please obey all traffic laws, and don't do anything you wouldn't do elsewhere. Rangers will be actively looking for DUI drivers, open containers, speeding, and other infractions, misdemeanors and felonies. Be careful.



Your Assignment: We'll have a briefing Friday night after dinner, around 8pm, to bring you up to speed on any last-minute changes. After that, you are free until your assignment starts on Saturday. Please be on time to your assignment on Saturday morning. After your assignment ends on Saturday, you are free to do whatever until your assignment on Sunday. The BBQ dinner starts around 6pm, and the BBQ breakfast on Sunday starts around 7am. Please be on time to your assignment on Sunday morning. Your assignment description sheet lists the time at which you are expected to be in position. When you start going to your assignment, please let control know. Also let control know when you're in position. If you feel like you're not needed at your position, let Control know via the radio, but do not leave unless directed by Control. It may seem like you're not doing anything, but we may still need you there.

Dispatch: Dispatch (a.k.a. "Control") is a very busy place. It is the brain of this whole operation. As such, it's imperative that people stay clear of the area whenever possible. In years past, dispatch has become a depository for gear and a place to hang out. We simply can't allow this anymore. Please keep your tools and gear in your vehicle, and if you need AC plugs for battery chargers and the like, use large room at the northwest corner of the Visitors Center, across from the kitchen area. If you show up at dispatch and you're not supposed to be there, expect to be asked to leave the room. It's nothing personal. We would encourage folks interested in doing dispatch to pre-arrange some time there, or if you find yourself without an assignment, request to come observe via radio. We'll take one person at a time as space permits.

Crossband Repeaters: If you want to use your crossband repeater in your vehicle to extend the ability of your handheld to get into the 146.730 repeater (which is an excellent idea), please let Control know ahead of time and tell them your crossband frequency. It gets to be a huge mess when different groups inadvertently use the same crossband frequency, and Control will coordinate this to prevent it. However, due to the new repeater on 70cm, this probably won't be necessary any more

AVL: Any vehicle driving on the course this year must be equipped with AVL transmitters. This is necessary so dispatch can track their location at all times. Required AVL equipment includes a 2-meter radio with external antenna, GPS, and a TNC. The TNC must be programmed in a special way, and you must prove to the AVL committee member that your setup is working approximately one month before the event for you to be able to drive on the course. Please contact the AVL committee member for details; this year it is Nick KF6UZZ.

Rover Vehicles: Rover vehicles will also act as Sag vehicles this year. In other words, Rovers will be expected to pick up downed cyclists and runners, and transport bicycles to the next rest stop or back to the Visitors Center.

Vehicle Signs: Color signs will be distributed at the Visitors Center at the meeting on Friday night. All Communications Vehicles should have the "Official Race Vehicle" signs affixed to the front and rear of the vehicle for easy identification. Tape will be provided at the Visitors Center. Chase and Rover vehicles should have additional signs (again, provided Friday night) affixed to the front and rear bumpers, as well as the left and right sides of the vehicle.