

# Amateur Radio and Sandblast Rally

By Andrew Frick— KK4LPD



# What is Sandblast rally?

- Production based car / Motorcycle Race
  - All are road legal, safety equipment is added
  - Cars have a driver and a co-driver
- Racing on Closed roads (Stages) near Cheraw, SC
- Travel between racing sections (Transits) on open roads
- Vehicles race against the clock
  - Scoring is lowest cumulative time over the whole event



# Sandblast 2020

February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Leap Day

Cheraw, SC







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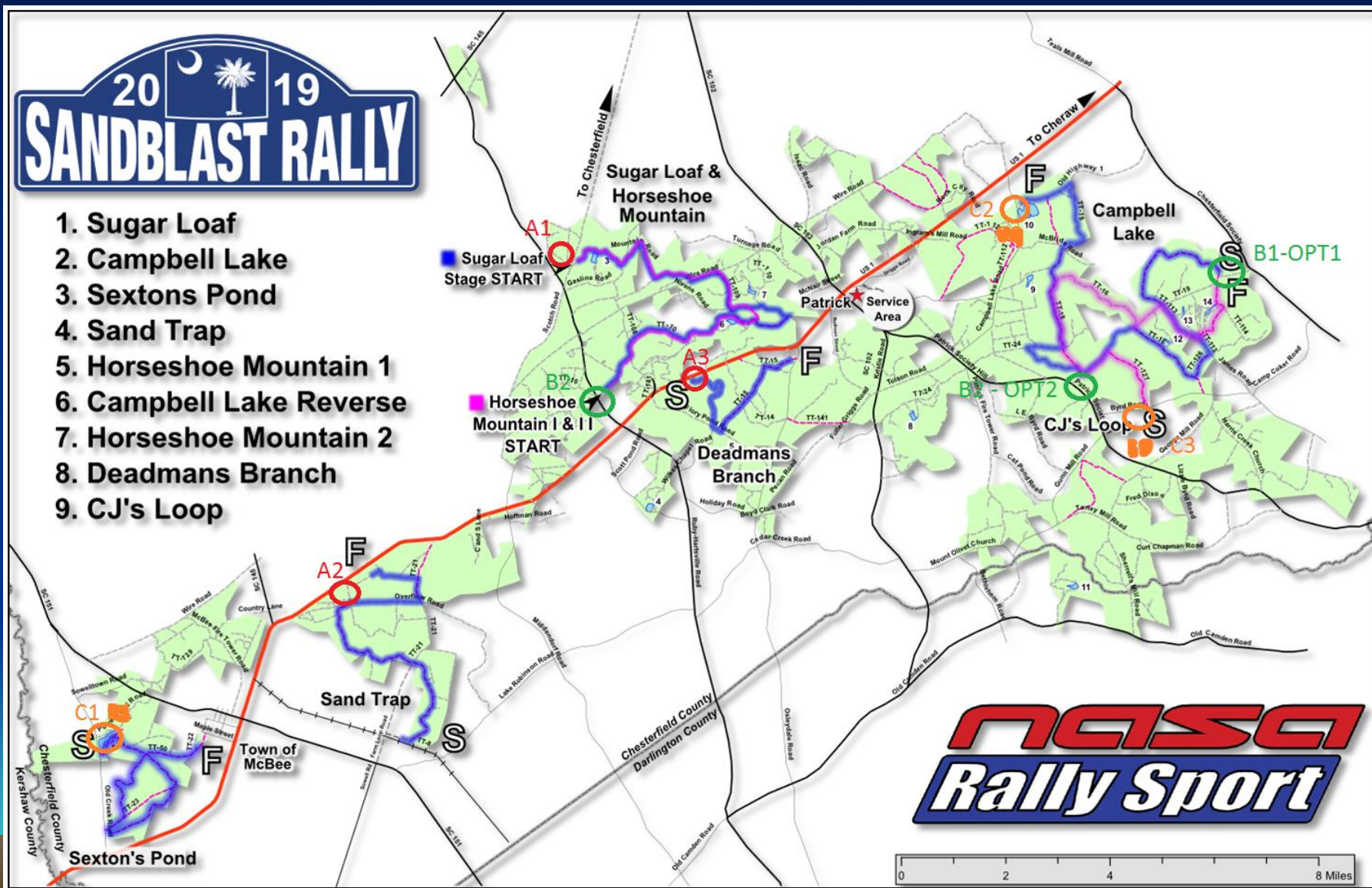


# Why do we need HAMs

- Communications. Safety
- Track the competitors entering and completing each stage. Ensure the safety net is intact
- Coordinate with timing workers and net about the status of the stage.
  - Is it safe to race
  - Do we have everyone accounted for
- Help keep the rally on time
- Coordinate the unexpected



# Sandblast Overview



# Makeup of a Stage

- START – (ATC) HAM
- Marshals
- Spectator Area - HAM
- Finish – (FTC) HAM



# What happens on a stage

- Banner tape, signs and controls are setup
- Course opening is run with the “000” and “00” car
- “0” car passes. Course is declared “hot”
- Motorcycles race at 30 second intervals
- “Combo” Car enters the stage 1-2 min after the last bike starts. Must complete the course before the cars can start
- Cars race at 1 minute intervals
- “Sweep” Enters the stage 1-2 min after the last car
- Once Sweep has past a location the course is an open road again





# How many workers?

- Three volunteers and a stage captain per timing control
- Two controls radios per stage at start and finish
- Mobile radio station for timing and scoring
- Team of EMTs. Usually one ambulance
- Mobile radio for course opening “000”, “00” and “0” car
- Mobile radio for course closing and “sweep”
- Net control, radio station at service, etc
- Rally Master, radio station at headquarters, etc
- 150 – 200 Volunteers



# As an amateur radio operator...

- You get to see what most don't - Rally cars at speed!
- Help keep track of cars and keep us safe
- Remote locations and beautiful scenery
- Utilize your skills and that new mobile rig
- Overcome communications challenges
- Relay messages to crew, service, and headquarters
- Drive on some of the best roads in the country
- You are a highly prized commodity!
- Great tool for recruiting younger members



# What equipment will I need?

Just to start:

- 2 Meter VHF mobile with magnet mount antenna
- The manual for your equipment
- Extra fuses, electrical tape, pen, notebook
- Vehicle in good condition, full tank of gas, spare tire
- Two flashlights with good batteries
- The essentials – first aid, bug spray, sunscreen, and TP
- Bring gear for ALL types of weather
- Cooler with water, snacks, and lunch



# What equipment will I need?

Nice to haves:

- Dual band VHF/UHF mobile with antenna options
- Hand held radio with extra batteries
- GPS reporting unit, APRS tracker
- Extra antennas, wire, power-pole hookups, etc
- 4X4 Vehicle with capable tow strap / chain
- EZ-Up with table and chairs
- Large cooler with lots of water and Gatorade
- Camera





# What does the rally provide

- T-shirt
- Log sheets
- Lunch
- After party with dinner and beer
- Racecars
- Entry into a raffle for HAM gear



# How do I get involved?

- <http://www.sandblastrally.com>

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# Questions and Answers

- Thank you!

