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 is different than 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.

Setup Guidelines

Log into your SPOT account.

You must configure the email address for event tracking in your main "OK Message List." The address to use is: EventTracking@WaterTribe.com .

DO NOT put that address in your "HELP Message List." WaterTribe will NOT and CANNOT respond to a HELP message.

Configure your time zone for eastern-time OR GMT.

DO NOT put the WaterTribe email address in your "SHARE" page list. It won't work and we won't look at it.

You must also configure your OK message text as shown here. The first and fourth line can be different, but the second and third line must be EXACTLY as shown, but using YOUR WaterTribe name and YOUR event ID.

I'm OK.
WaterTribe Name: *YourWaterTribeName*
WaterTribe Event: *YourEventID*
See you soon.

Setup Examples

Note that the first line and the fourth line can be anything you want, but there is a length limit imposed by SPOT. The people looking at your OK messages will see the same thing over and over again so make these lines are short and sweet.

Note the two key phrases "WaterTribe Name: *YourWaterTribeName*" and "WaterTribe Event: *YourEventID*" These must appear on new lines. The message box where you type these in will automatically roll to the next line, but you MUST hit the enter button after each line is finished.

Note the asterisks used to bracket your WaterTribe name and your event ID. These are critical and cannot be left out.

Event codes are EC2009 for the Everglades Challenge in 2009 and UM2009 for the Ultra Marathon in 2009. Future events will use the same prefixes (EC and UM) with different years. The next Ultimate Florida Challenge would use UF2010.

Here is how **my** OK message might look for the Everglades Challenge in 2009:

> I'm OK.
> WaterTribe Name: *Chief*
> WaterTribe Event: *EC2009*
> See you soon.

Here is how **Pelican's** OK message might look if he was doing the Ultra Marathon in 2009:

> OK.
> WaterTribe Name: *Pelican*
> WaterTribe Event: *UM2009*
> Bye.

Use the WaterTribe Name corresponding to the Captain of your boat.

Usage

First, do not use the tracking feature provided by SPOT. Instead hit the OK button throughout the event at key points along your course as follows:

- Just after the start before you leave the starting beach
- At each way point that you have charted for yourself
- At each checkpoint when you arrive
- At each checkpoint when you depart
- If you are on long tacks, then when you change tacks
- If going around a point of land, then on one side of the point, at the apex of the point, and one the other side of the point
- If in a winding channel or creek (like CP1 or Indian Key Pass) then at each bend of the pass or creek.
- When you stop for the night
- When you start again in the morning
- If you've been paddling and sailing for a couple of hours or so on a more or less straight path, hit the OK button if you want or wait until you change course for some reason
- And finally, hit the OK for the last time at the finish line.

If you are diligent and hit the OK button as listed above, the Challenge Mapper will show a realistic portrayal of your course for the event. Remember that the dots are connected "as the pelican flies" so make sure that major course changes are documented with an OK message.

After you finish the event, please remove the EventTracking@WaterTribe.com address from your SPOT OK list. Extra messages after you finish will be a distraction.

Using SPOT for the WaterTribe 24-Hour Rule

Each time you hit the OK button and have a properly configured SPOT unit you satisfy the 24-hour reporting rule and reset the clock. Please note that if you only hit the OK message once every 24 hours you will satisfy our reporting rule, but your track in the Challenge Mapper will look like you took some shortcuts over land. That is OK with me, but it will look sort of funny to your fans.

Even if you use SPOT to satisfy the 24-hour rule for reporting, you should still contact your shore support person by cell phone at least once per day. This will help insure that your SPOT messages are getting through because your support person can confirm that your track is showing up in the Mapper.

You should verify proper operation of your SPOT during the practice time leading up to the event. All practice time messages will be removed just before the start of each event.

Remember that WaterTribe will not monitor any HELP messages you send. Please do not put the WaterTribe email address in your help message list.

Also, WaterTribe will not know if you hit the 911 button. If you use the 911 button, you should report that event to your shore support person as soon as that is practical to do so. You or your shore support person should contact the Race Manager ASAP.