

The Ridge Rally seeks ham radio operators

It's time for the Ridge Rally! This event, based out of Jawbone Canyon, is again seeking amateur radio operators for our safety net.

This year the event will be two days long, on Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7. The rally roads will be the same as in previous years: Jawbone Canyon, Kelso Valley, and Piute Mountain. Hams and FRS road marshals can volunteer one or both days. The racing is very exciting to watch!

The radio net is responsible for tracking the rally cars as they race down closed sections of road ("stages") at one minute intervals. Hams are placed at intersecting roads and trails. If the rally cars get out of order, the hams report this. Each stage runs on a 2m simplex frequency, with the Communications Captain in a central location. Net Control has access to emergency services. Mobile rigs are best but handie talkies are fine as well. Newbies are welcome, we will train you! In addition, folks who don't have their ham license yet can be part of the comm net using an FRS radio that we provide.

The comm teams meet early each day at either Jawbone Station (north of Mojave on Hwy. 14), or in Ridgecrest. The stages run multiple times and finish in the early evening. Every volunteer gets a T-shirt and snacks.

We hold two Zoom training sessions the week before the rally to go over procedures and answer questions, so that everyone is ready to go on the day of the rally. You can attend either or both.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask them! My contact information is below - phone calls are welcome.

If you're ready to volunteer, go to www.rallydata2.com and sign up (be sure to click on Ridge Rally first). You'll create a password to use any time you log in. You should receive a welcome letter email within an hour - if not, please check your spam folder and mark as "not spam" any email from rallyinfo@rallydata2.com since a lot of information will be sent from that email. Be sure to list your ham equipment and your T-shirt size.

Thank you for your interest, hope you can join us!

Regards,

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