



Don't just ride, Bike MS
**BIKE MS: City to
Shore Ride**

Amateur Radio Communications

Presented By:

Andrew Furlong, KC2PMW

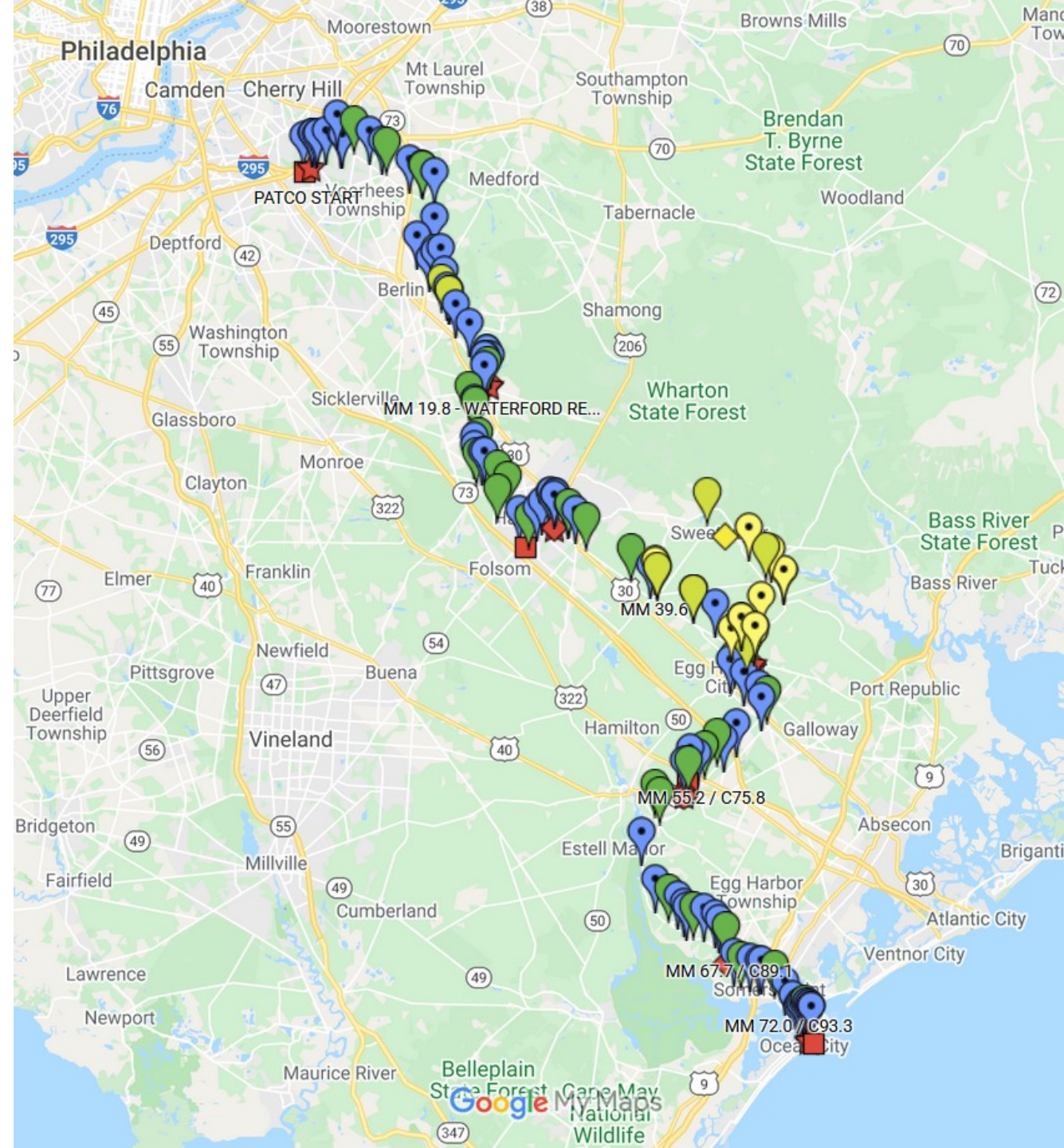
Joe DiBartolo, KC2SFB

About the Event

- 2-day, 150 mile route between Cherry Hill, NJ and Ocean City, NJ with multiple shorter options available using staggered starting points
- Roughly 8000 bicyclist participants annually
- \$5,000,000 annual fundraising goal supporting the National Multiple Sclerosis Society
- This ride is the largest of its kind in the country

The Route

- Represents a diverse cross-section of New Jersey landscapes and environments, including a large portion of the Pine Barrens.
- Is open to the public, including motorists, other cyclists, and pedestrians the entire length.
- Includes areas of spotty or non-existent cellphone coverage.



Amateur Radio and the Event

- 1500-2000 voice messages transmitted by radio per event over 3 nets using 7 individual repeaters.
- 20-30 APRS trackers and 3-4 digipeaters in use throughout the weekend.
- 150 radio amateurs needed to cover route checkpoints.
- 12 radio amateurs to cover SAG (Support And Gear) vehicles
- 6 radio amateurs to cover staff and situation cars
- 20 amateur and non-amateur volunteers to fill net control, staging, and other organizational, operational, and administrative roles

Route Checkpoint Amateur Operator

- Is posted at a designated location along the route
 - Usually an intersection or blind curve in the road
- Calls in to net control when the first rider passes, when SAG teams pass, and when repair vans pass.
- This allows the command team to know where resources are located and ensure that they are flowing through the route at the expected pace.
- Also call in any hazardous conditions or emergencies if observed.-
- 4 – 6 hour commitment per day, can sign up for one or both days

Rest Stop Amateur Operator

- Is posted at a designated rest stop
- Calls in to net control when the first rider passes, when SAG teams pass, and when repair vans pass.
- Interfaces with rest stop manager and DJ to make announcements when SAG teams are arriving and departing.
- Works with SAG teams to help them arrive and depart at the proper pace.
- Also call in any hazardous conditions or emergencies if observed.
- 6 – 8 hour commitment per day, can sign up for one or both days

SAG Amateur Operator

- Is assigned to a SAG team to provide mobile radio operation.
- Calls into net control when arriving at or departing a rest stop.
- Works with net control and the SAG coordinator to get mission assignments.
- Ensures that the SAG team is always reachable by radio for new or modified tasking.
- Ensures the SAG team is arriving and departing at rest stops at the proper pace.
- 8 – 12 hour commitment per day, must sign up for both days

Staff/Situation Car Amateur Operator

- Is assigned to a Staff or Situation car to provide mobile communications for the MS staff member or volunteer situation manager in that vehicle.
- Calls into net control when arriving or departing at a location.
- Is a detached duty detail.
 - The staff or situation team member will direct movements based on their assigned priorities. There is no set schedule to movements.
- 8 – 12 hour commitment per day, must sign up for both days.

Motorcycle Amateur Operator

- Rides his/her own motorcycle down the route, filling gaps in route volunteer coverage and locating hazardous conditions.
- Calls into net control when arriving and departing at rest stops, stopping at locations along to route to provide support, and any hazardous or emergency conditions located.
- Special missions may be assigned throughout the day to support changing conditions on the route or emergencies that may arise.
 - Example: A car accident closes a section of the route, requiring a detour. Motorcycle hams would be tasked to staff intersections along the detour route, making sure that riders do not get lost while navigating around the closed area.
- Variable time commitment, can sign up for one or both days.

Amateur Radio Operations Team

- Is the leadership team for the amateur radio component of the event.
- Works throughout the year to recruit volunteers, prepare the amateur radio infrastructure, coordinate with the National MS Society, and plan for contingencies.
- Works the days before the event to establish the primary and back-up command centers, erect antennas, and test all repeater systems ahead of the event start.
- Volunteers are always welcome to join the operations team.
- **NON-AMATUER ROLES AVAILABLE!!!**

Perks!

- Rest stop facilities (snacks, beverages, portable restrooms, etc.) and finish-line festivities are available to all volunteers with your credential card.
- Two-day volunteers are eligible for a FREE hotel room in Ocean City, NJ. Amateur Radio volunteers traditionally stay at the Ocean 7 Motel right on the boardwalk.
- Gain experience on a busy net with lots of traffic going back and forth. Put your skills to the test!
- Bring your ham radio projects!
 - Want to try out that new antenna or radio? Bring it with you and see if you can make a simplex contact with the next ham down the route.
 - Want help with a problem or project? There are lots of experienced hams at the event who would love to help you out.

FUN!

- This has always been a high-spirited event. Everyone is happy to be there and are happy to see you there.
- Your ham radio station for the event can be as simple or elaborate as you want it to be. Get creative and have a good time.
- Stop by and say hello to the operations teams at the North and South SAG staging lots and North End Command Center. We would love to see you and hear about your experience.
- Enjoy the shore! Once you are done for the day, head down to Ocean City and enjoy some of the last days of “local summer” (good weather, less crowds).

How Can I Help?

- We still need to fill 30 positions for route volunteers for this year's event.
- We will work with you as much as possible to accommodate specific schedule needs.
- Limited quantities of loaner radios and antennas are available. If you want to volunteer but are don't have equipment, let us know. We can help.
- Route volunteers often move into other roles over time. If you want to be a SAG, staff car, or motorcycle ham, spending a year or two at a checkpoint first is the best way to get your feet wet.
- If you have questions, ASK! We want to make volunteering as easy and rewarding as possible. We need your feedback and questions to make the event better for everyone.

Questions?

- <https://www.n3mss.org>
- <http://phil-mont.org/ms150/ms150.html>
- n3mssevcomm@gmail.com
- <https://philmontmobileradioclub.groups.io/g/main/>