

Communicators' Handbook

2019 Pony Express Reenactment

Nevada Division

THE SIERRA INTERMOUNTAIN EMERGENCY RADIO ASSOCIATION (SIERA) HAS BEEN SUPPORTING THE REENACTMENT OF THE PONY EXPRESS, WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE AMATEUR RADIO COMMUNITY, FOR THE LAST 30 YEARS.

OUR SUPPORT OF THE RIDE IS PRIMARILY COMMUNICATION. BUT AS WE HAVE DONE IN THE PAST OUR VOLUNTEERS SHOULD CONSIDER DOING WHATEVER IS NEEDED TO FACILITATE THE PROGRESS OF THE RIDERS.

IN THE PAST WE HAVE REPAIRED FLAT TIRES, GOTTEN THE RIDERS BACK ON THE COURSE, OPENED AND CLOSED GATES, PULLED TRUCKS AND TRAILERS THAT HAVE GOTTEN STUCK ETC.

ALL OF THE HAMS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE REENACTMENT ARE TO BE CONGRATULATED WITH MANY THANKS FROM THE SIERA CLUB.

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General Information for Entire Route

Radio operators in the field should send information about the location and condition of the pony, preferred by simplex, at 30 minute intervals or when a significant location has been passed, to the mountain top relay operators and Base Station Operators, who have access to a telephone to put the information on the Pony Express Hotline. Sometimes the information may need to go through relays.

NOTE: This year relay coverage may be spotty. If you are a follow-the-pony operator and unable to reach a relay operator, try using one of the repeaters listed or try our cell phone to reach a base operator.

- From Ibapah to Schelbourne will be 2M simplex. Relay operators on Telegraph Summit probably with HF relay help.
- From Schelbourne to Overland Pass will be VHF or HF, to relay operators on Telegraph Summit or to Carson Valley. HF relay operators at Strawberry will assist in passing info to base station operators.
- From Grubb's Well to Railroad Pass we expect to use simplex or the Eureka repeater to the on Austin Summit near the Austin Microwave location and relay operators.
- Between Cold Springs and Pickett's Junction, we expect to use the SIERA, CVRC, RENO, Lahontan, and Fallon repeaters, often with the help of relay operators as the pony moves further west.

Frequency Plan for 2-Meter VHF Frequencies

The following list shows the VHF frequencies most likely to be useful. BOLD type shows the recommended primary frequency. Radio operators are free to change frequencies to improve signals or reduce interference. Coordination responsibility rests with the radio operator. Tell as many stations in the chain as possible about any frequency changes. Mobile stations should contact a base station every 15 to 30 minutes with an updated location.

OUR PRIMARY FREQUENCY WILL BE 146.550 SIMPLEX.

Ibapah, UT to Overland Pass West

146.550 Simplex car-to-car

146.610-(PL 114.8) Ely Repeater (if accessible)

146.610-(PL 123) Reno Repeater (if accessible)

Overland Pass West to Dry Creek

146.550 Simplex car-to-car

147.060+(PL 114.8) Eureka Repeater

Dry Creek to Railroad Pass

146.550 Simplex car-to-car & Ham Relay, Microwave Station

147.060+(PL 114.8) Eureka Repeater

146.910-(PL 100) Battle Mtn. Repeater (If accessible)

Cold Springs (Restaurant, not Gazebo) to Railroad Pass (Smith Creek Ranch)

146.550 Simplex car-to-car & Ham Relay, Microwave Station

147.060+(PL 114.8) Eureka Repeater

145.350-(PL 123) Fallon Repeater

147.345 (PL 156.7) K5BLS Repeater

444.500+(PL 123) Fallon (Fairview) Repeater

Cold Springs (Edwards Canyon) to Sand Springs (Sand Mountain)

146.550-Simplex car-to-car

145.350-(PL 123) Fallon Repeater

146.610-(PL 123) Reno Repeater

147.345 (PL 156.7) K5BLS Repeater (Fairview?)

444.500+(PL 123) Fallon (Fairview) Repeater

Sand Springs (Sand Mountain) Top Gun Raceway (Schurz Hwy 95)

146.550-Simplex car-to-car

145.350-(PL 123) Fallon Repeater

146.970-(PL 103.5) Lahonton (Silver Springs) Repeater

1467.345 (PL 156.7) K5BLS Repeater

Top Gun Raceway(Schurz Hwy 95) to Fort Churchill

146.550Simplex car-to-car

146.970-(PL 103.5)Lahonton (Silver Springs) Repeater

146.610-(PL 123)Reno Repeater

145.350-(PL 123) Fallon Repeater

147.345 (PL 156.7) K5BLS Repeater

Fort Churchill to Carson City (State Capitol)

146.550Simplex car-to-car. The first two repeaters give fair to good coverage for entire sector.

147.270+(PL 123) CVRC Repeater

146.610-(PL 123) Reno Repeater

147.330+(PL 123) SIERA Repeater is intermittent east of Mound House

146.970-(PL 103.5) Lahonton (Silver Springs) Repeater

Carson City (N. Curry & Musser Streets) to State Line

146.550Simplex car-to-car

147.330+(PL 123) SIERA Repeater.

Nevada to California

California will use the "California East Slope" repeater 145.350 with a **+ offset of 855** and a PL of 123.0. 145.605 and 146.805 may also have some traffic.

Note: 147.240 and 147.330 may also be linked.

Frequency Plan for HF

Daytime -approximately 10:00 Am to 6:00 Pm ----7230 kHz +/-QRM

Night time -approximately 6:00 Pm to 10:00 Am ---3965 kHz +/-QRM

NOTE: Wednesday from 10:00 to 10:30 there is a net on 7230 kHz.

Please continue to use the 80m frequency until the net ends around 10:30. Coordinate with the Base Station operator beforehand.

The decision to adjust changeover times of frequencies will rest with the HF Base or relay operators. Recommended is to move 5 KHz above the starting frequency and then 5 KHz below if needed. **The primary concern is for Team**

Communications. Include the next Base Station or Relay Operator if the change is expected to carry over into his/her block of time.

Operators should plan on monitoring at least 2 hours prior to the official start time.

Emergency Telephone Numbers

Counties as Encountered East to West

White Pine County (Ely)	911 or 775 289-4833
Eureka County (Eureka)	911 or 775 237-5330
Lander County (Austin)	911 or 775 635-5161
Churchill County (Fallon)	911 or 775 423-3311
Mineral County	
Lyon County (Dayton)	911 or 775 463-6620
County of Carson City	911 or 775 887-2500
Douglas County (Carson Valley and South Lake Tahoe)	911 or 775 782-5126

Nevada Highway Patrol – Dial “0” and ask for Zenith 1-2000, or *NHP on cell phone.

Care Flight can operate as far east as Sand Mountain. They can usually be talked to on **146.520 (simplex)**, and our capability should be included in the request for help.

Fixed wing Care Flights can land at Austin, Eureka, Ely, or Curie (about 65 miles north of Ely on US 93, Public Lands Survey System map location T28N R65E Section 28). The Nevada telephone number for **Care Flight is 1 (800) 648-4888**

Ride Captains and Section Coverage

Section	Start and Finish	Ride Captain	County
1	Ibapah to Schelbourne Bar	Gene Ockert Telephone: n/a Cell Phone: 775-296-0149 jeeptrailcat5440@yahoo.com	White Pine
2	Schelbourne Bar to Overland Pass	Gene Ockert (see above)	Eureka
3	Overland Pass to Grubbs Well	Eileen Bailey Cell Phone: 775-304-0641	Eureka / Lander
4	Grubbs Well to Railroad Pass (Smith Creek Ranch)	Arthur Johnson Cell Phone: 775-427-4061 workwithjohnson@yahoo.com	Lander
5	Railroad Pass (Smith Creek Ranch) to Cold Springs (Edwards Canyon)	Doug Jares Telephone: 775-852-7879 Cell Phone: 775-742-1814 jares@sbcglobal.net	Churchill
6	Cold Springs (Edwards Canyon) to Sand Springs / Sand Mountain	Ron Bell Cell Phone: 775-220-0007	Churchill
7	Sand Springs / Sand Mountain to Top Gun Raceway (Schurz Highway)	Brian Bell Cell Phone: 775-721-3753	Churchill / Mineral
8	Top Gun Raceway (Schurz Highway) to Fort Churchill	Dianna Garland Cell Phone: 775-225-9755	Mineral / Lyon
9	Fort Churchill to Carson City	Dianna Garland Cell Phone: 775-225-9755	Lyon / Carson City

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Carson City to Friday's
Station (Harrah's Lake
Tahoe)

Mike Ryan

Telephone: 775-885-9352

Cell Phone: n/a

theyansat4689@gmail.com

Carson City /
Douglas

Radio operators are encouraged to contact the ride captain for their area by phone prior to the event and before they set out to get any last-minute changes from the riders.

PEX 2019 RADIO Assignments

Date/Time	Travel	Leg / location	Action	2019 Volunteer Assignments
SECTION 1				
6/17/19 05:30	8:00	Ibapah to Shellbourne Bar.	Follow Pony	Steve Bickford (N6AE) Pete Cervantes (KG7OKY)
		Telegraph Summit Stationary Relay to Ely	Relay	Jim Derrick N6FIR Les Robinson N7GWT
SECTION 2				
6/17/19 13:30	9:27	Shelbourne Bar to Overland Pass (Strawberry)	Follow Pony	Ken Head (KE6FTM) Randy Head (KE6REY)
6/17/19 22:57	0:33	Newark Valley (Strawberry)	Relay	
SECTION 3				
6/17/19 23:30	6:30	Overland Pass West	Relay	
		Roberts Creek Ranch	Relay	
		Overland Pass West to Grubb's Well	Follow Pony	
SECTION 4				
6/18/19 06:00	3:05	Grubb's Well to Dry Creek Ranch	Follow Pony	

6/18/19 09:05	1:59	Rye Patch Canyon	Relay	Rick Bischoff K7ET
		Austin Summit	Relay	Robert Nelson (WA3PAD) Frank Kostelac (N7ZEV) Linda Kostelac (KC7IIT) Keith Gordon (N7KSG)
6/18/19 11:04	2:56	Grass Valley Road	Relay	Mike Sherrick (NZ7G) Natalie Sherrick N7JKM
		Austin to Railroad Pass West	Follow Pony	Lynn Jenkins KG7CXR
SECTION 5				
6/18/19 14:00	1:50	Railroad Pass West to Smith Creek Ranch	Follow Pony	Jeff Cauhape K7BCV Sue Cauhape KI7CTT
		Desatoya Mountain / Basque Summit	Relay	UNSTAFFED
6/18/19 15:50	3:10	Smith Creek to Cold Springs Rest. (Edwards Cyn)	Follow Pony	Jeff Cauhape K7BCV Sue Cauhape KI7CTT
SECTION 6				
6/18/19 19:00	1:53	Cold Springs Restaurant to Middlegate	Follow Pony	Adam Riddick (K7MBP) Sophie Riddick (K7SFE)
6/18/19 20:53	2:37	Middlegate to Sand Mountain	Follow Pony	Adam Riddick (K7MBP) Sophie Riddick (K7SFE)
		Fairview Peak	Stationary	UNSTAFFED
SECTION 7				
6/18/19 23:30	1:50	Hwy 50 Sand Mtn to Schurz Hwy 95 (Top Gun)	Follow Pony	
6/19/19 01:20	2:10	Simpson Pass	Stationary	
SECTION 8				

6/19/19 03:30	4:00	Schurz Hwy 95 (Top Gun) to Ft Churchill	Follow Pony	Don McRoberts W3DRM Jim Marshal K6LR
SECTION 9				
6/19/19 07:30	5:00	Ft Churchill to Carson City	Follow Pony	Don McRoberts W3DRM Jim Marshal K6LR
SECTION 10				
6/19/19 12:30	4:02	Carson City to Friday's Station (Stateline)	Follow Pony	Ben Echavarria KG7FSN Isaiah Echavarria KG7NHY Daryl Haines KE7HXD
6/19/19 16:32	1:00	Daggett Summit (Kingsbury Grade)	Relay	
6/19/19 17:32		Friday's Station (Stateline)	Relay	

Detailed Assignments and Estimated Arrival / Departure Times

In addition to the schedule below, Erik KG7NTO will be providing a relay from the Kern Mountains above the Blue Mass recreation area in support of Telegraph Summit, and Erin Johnson will be providing VHF support.

Schedules, Distances and Routes, for Radio Operators East to West 2017

Please note: when reporting the pony position please **use the distance FROM** the start of the section, NOT distance TO the next land mark. Everyone is following the progress in terms of MILEAGE FROM some landmark. Please don't make extra work.

SECTION 1

Ibapah Utah to Hwy 93 at Shellbourne (north of Ely)

53 miles in 8.0 hrs. averaging 6.625 mph with some difficult areas

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Mon - 06/17	05:30 am	0.0	Ibapah, Utah
	06:37 am	7.4	PX Trail (CR 18) crosses Eight Mile Road
	07:37 am	14.0	PX Trail crosses Pleasant Valley Road
	08:09 am	17.6	PX Trail comes to Whiskey Road
	09:30 am	26.5	PX Trail crosses County Road 32 (south of Tippett.)
	10:41 am	34.3	PX Trail passes Rock Springs watering hole
	11:24 am	39.1	PX Trail ends at Spring Valley Road. Turn south.
	11:42 am	41.1	PX Trail on Spring Valley Road, at junction of Shellbourne Road, (Go west)
	12:39 pm	47.4	PX Trail at Shellbourne Pass
Mon - 06/17	1:30 pm	53.0	PX Trail (CR 18) at Hwy 93 (Cross it to Shellbourne Bar)

Section 2

Shellbourne Bar on Hwy 93 to Overland Pass West, (in Diamond Mtns. NE of Eureka) 73.5 difficult miles in 10 hrs, averaging 7.35 mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Mon - 06/17	1:30 pm	0.0	Leave Shellbourne Bar toward west on County Rd 18.
	2:49 pm	9.5	Follow County Road 18 past quarry mine just south of County Road 18.
	3:40 pm	16.0	Pass pump and trough that are south of PX Trail.
	4:30 pm	22.1	Pony goes off-road to north in Butte Valley.

			Don't follow - stay on CR 18
	6:10 pm	34.4	Pony returns to road.
	6:40 pm	37.1	At Long Valley Wash (deep gully oriented N/S)
	6:53 pm	39.5	At Prominent stone ridge to north of PX Trail (now called Overland Road)
	7:21 pm	43.0	At Mountain Springs Station site, now gone.
			Several gates - ranch
	7:50 pm	46.5	PX Trail starts down narrow canyon toward west and goes across silty valley south of Ruby Lake and Marsh.
	8:40 pm	52.8	Make sharp turn to south on small dirt road. PX Station was near here.
	8:57 pm	54.8	Make another sharp turn to west, PX Trail to County Rd 3 (Fort Ruby is to the north don't go there)
	9:22 pm	57.8	On PX Trail, (CR6) continue to Overland Pass East, at foot of Ruby Mtns.
	10:15 pm	64.3	Arrive at windmill, the nominal site of Jacob's Well Station
	10:57 pm	69.4	Arrive at Newark Lakes Valley, a few miles north of end of paved Hwy 892 (Strawberry).
Mon - 06/17	11:30 pm	73.5	Arrive at top of difficult trail to top of Overland Pass West, in Diamond Mts.

Section 3

Overland Pass West in the Diamond Mts, to Grubb's Well. 48 miles in 6.5 hours, averaging 7.4 mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Mon - 06/17	11:30 pm	0.0	Leave Overland Pass West, traveling west, down Telegraph Canyon.
Tue - 06/18	06:00 am	48.0	Arrive at Grubb's Well.

Section 4

Grubb's Well to Railroad Pass. 59 difficult miles in 8.0 hours averaging 7.4 mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Tue - 06/18	06:00 am	0.0	Leave Grubb's Well, on dirt PX trail, toward west.
	07:53 am	13.9	Follow PX trail to gate near Dry Creek Canyon, near Dry Creek Ranch. Pony will go cross-country.
	09:05 am	22.8	Pony arrives at Rye Patch Wash. Pony will go cross-country.
	10:14 am	31.2	Pony arrives at Grass Valley Road.
	11:04 am	37.4	Pony arrives at the "Campground".
Tue - 06/18	11:14 am	39.3	Pony arrives at Austin Ranger Station and pony goes on to Hwy 50 and goes west.
	11:21 am	39.5	Pony arrives at Hwy 50 near Austin Cemetery. The radio operator and the pony go west on Hwy 50, turn south onto Hwy 722 that parallel's Hwy 50.
	12:14 pm	46.0	Pony passes Austin Airport.
Tue - 06/18	2:00 pm	59.0	Pony arrives at Railroad Pass on Hwy 722.

Section 5

Railroad Pass West, on HWY 722 to Cold Springs on Hwy 50 36 miles in 5 hours, averaging 7.2mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Tue - 06/18	2:00 pm	0.0	Leaves Railroad Pass West, almost immediately exits to north on dirt road.
	3:50 pm	13.2	Arrives Smith Creek Ranch.
	4:41 pm	16.9	Pony arrives Basque Summit, turns south down Edwards Creek Canyon.
	5:13 pm	23.2	Pony arrives bottom of Edwards Creek Canyon,
Tue - 06/18	7:00 pm	36.0	Arrives at Cold Springs Station and restaurant.

Section 6

Cold Springs to Sand Springs, 33.5 miles on-Hwy 50 in 4.5 hours, averaging 7.4 mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Tue - 06/18	7:00 pm	0.0	Leave Cold Springs restaurant, on Hwy 50 1.25 miles N of PX Gazebo
	8:05 pm	8.0	On Hwy 50, passes Eastgate at Hwy 722.
	8:53 pm	14.0	On Hwy 50, passes Middlegate
	9:43 pm	20.2	On Hwy 50, Passes Drumm Summit
	11:09 pm	30.9	On Hwy 50, Passes Sand Springs Pass
Tue - 06/18	11:30 pm	33.5	Arrives at end of Section, a wide spot on south side of Hwy 50.

Section 7

Sand Springs/Sand Mtn, to Top Gun Raceway on Shurz Hwy, 26 hard miles,

4 hours, avg. 6.5 mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Tue - 08/18	11:30 pm	0.0	Leaves Hwy 50 toward south, on dirt road near Sand Springs/Sand Mountain. Radio operator is here. Pony may ride across playa if possible
	11:56 pm	2.8	Arrives at Overhead Power line with EW orientation. Pony turns west.
	12:25 am	6.0	Arrives at Geothermal well.
	01:20 am	11.9	Arrives Simpson Pass.
	01:59 am	16.1	Crosses Pipe line Road.
	02:19 am	18.3	Crosses Bass Flat Playa
	02:40 am	20.5	Passes Wildcat Station
Wed - 06/19	03:30 am	26.0	Crosses Schurz Hwy 95 and arrives at Top Gun Raceway, end of Section.

Section 8

Top Gun Raceway to Ft. Churchill 31.5 miles in 4 hours, averaging 7.9 mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Wed - 06/19	03:30 am	0.0	Leaves to west from Top Gun Parking lot at Shurz Hwy 95 SW of Fallon.
	05:46 am	17.9	Arrives Hooten Well. Pony may start off-road loop past Desert Station ruins.
	06/14 07:17 am	29.8	Arrives Buckland Station, goes north on Hwy 95 toward Ft Churchill.

Wed - 06/19 07:30 am 31.5 Arrives Ft. Churchill Road, on north side of Fort Churchill State Park.

Section 9

Fort Churchill to Carson City 32.0 miles in 5 hours, averaging 6.4 mph

	Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
Wed - 06/19	07:30 am	0.0	Pony is on Fort Churchill Road, going West. Fort Churchill road becomes River Road
	09:41 am	14.0	Pony leaves River Road, Turn NW on 6 Mile Canyon Road, go to Hwy 50.
	09:50 am	14.9	Pony crosses to north side of Hwy 50, and goes westerly past Gold Ranch Casino to Dayton.
	10:34 am	19.6	At 4-way signal in Dayton, pony turns westerly, and then goes off-road.
	11:04 am	22.8	Pony returns to N side of Hwy 50 about 2 miles east of Virginia City Road.
	11:31 am	25.7	On Hwy 50, passes Deer Run Road.
	11:46 am	27.3	Leaves Hwy 50 to go South on Roop, then West on Musser, crosses Hwy 395, and turns South on Curry Street to 3 rd Street.
Wed - 06/19	12:30 pm	32.0	Arrives at St. Charles Hotel, west side, Curry at 3 rd

Section 10

Carson City to Stateline 31.5 miles in 5 hours, averaging 6.3 mph

Pony Times	Pony Miles	Pony and Radio Operator Routes
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Wed - 06/19	12:30 pm	0.0	Leaves west side of St. Charles Hotel, Curry at 3 rd goes South on Curry
	1:11 pm	4.3	Leaves Fuji Park via off road behind Shopping center
	1:43 pm	7.7	Passes old Jack's Valley Fire Station, Jack's Valley Road.
	2:10 pm	10.4	Passes Sierra Lakes Golf Course entrance, on Foothill Blvd.
	3:00 pm	13.6	Passes Genoa Museum on Foothill Blvd.
	3:07 pm	16.5	Arrives at Old Kingsbury Grade on Foothill Blvd. Goes West up old Kingsbury. Vehicles cannot follow there.
	4:32 pm	25.4	Pony crosses New Kingsbury, and proceeds on dirt road to south-west where vehicles cannot follow. Radio operator reports the time of this crossing.
	4:55 pm	27.8	Pony passes market on Tramway Drive, proceeds to west. Radio operator reports when this location has been reached.
	5:23 pm	30.8	Pony arrives at gate, just north of Harrah's Casino. Radio operator reports when this location has been reached.
Wed - 06/19	5:30 pm	31.5	Pony passes mail to California at Friday's Station.

Getting Current Information from the Toll Free Number

To listen to the current Pony position report, call 1-855-809-8589

Pony Express Hotline Instructions

Please listen to the current message before updating as the PONY support personnel may be updating the hot line also.

Changing the Information

- Dial 1-775-426-0001
- Press the STAR (*) button
- It will ask you for a mailbox number. Enter 775-428-0355 and then hit the POUND (#) button.
- It will ask you for an ACCESS CODE. Enter 0355.
- It will ask you if you want to change the auto attendants greeting. Press the number one (1) button.
- It will ask you if want to record a message or listen to the message. Press one (1) to make a new message.
- RECORD THE UPDATED PONY POSITION REPORT
- Press the POUND (#) button to end the recording.
- Press the two (2) button to listen to the recording you just made.
- To end the session, hang up.
- Example:
 - 1-775-426-0001
 - * 775-428-0355 #
 - 0355
 - 1
 - 1
 - Make your recording here
 - #
 - 2
 - If the recording is ok, hang up

Example message to leave

Welcome to the National Pony Express Hot Line, sponsored by Churchill County Communications in Nevada. On *(day of week)* June *(date)* at *(time AM/PM)*, the mail was reported to be *(number)* miles west of *(section starting location or major land mark)* and was about *(number)*

minutes/hours ahead/behind the expected schedule. This message will be updated about every hour or as new information is made available from the field.

Pony Progress charted by Satellite

Follow the pony on a map updated from a satellite receiver carried in the mochila (mail bag).

<http://nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride/follow-the-ride/>