

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

We use the data from your SPOT shared page to track your progress. We do not need or want your SPOT emails. We do want you to obtain a web link to your shared page. Then paste that link into your registration information in the WaterTribe site.

First some general guidelines:

DO NOT list any WaterTribe email address for any of your OK messages.

DO NOT put any WaterTribe email 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.

Create a shared page. We recommend the event ID and the **captain's WaterTribe** name for the shared page name, like this UF2010_Chief.

Select Checkin, Help, and Track message types for your shared page.

Set security to Public.

The other items are up to you.

Have SPOT send the shared page link to you. Do not send it to WaterTribe because you will enter the link yourself after you receive it. You can send it to anyone else you like.

Setting up the SPOT configuration for WaterTribe tracking can be a bit tricky because SPOT does some "tricks" behind the scene and there can be significant time delays for some of the steps. Follow this procedure and it will be easier for you.

1. If you haven't already setup your shared page in the SPOT system, do that now.
2. Go outside in a clear area and send at least one OK message. Note that getting an OK message sent can take 20-30 minutes.
3. Go to your shared page and verify that the OK message you sent is there.
4. Did you see your OK message in your shared page? If not, go back to step 2. If you did see your OK message, go to step 5.
5. While viewing your shared page, copy the link in your browser's address bar. You will need this link to setup your WaterTribe configuration. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** This link will be different than the one you received via email from SPOT. That is OK. We want the link in your browser's address bar while viewing your shared page.
6. Login to WaterTribe using the *Captain's* WaterTribe name.
7. Navigate to your event.
8. Pick the far left tab titled, **SPOT Link Setup**.
9. Paste the shared page link that you copied in step 5 into the text box provided.
10. Click the **Submit Link** button.
11. Wait at least 30 to 60 minutes.
12. Go to the WaterTribe Mapper for your event.
13. Scroll in or out as necessary to view the area where you sent your OK message via SPOT in step 2. You should see your OK location in the WaterTribe Mapper.
14. Did you see it? If yes, you are done and your SPOT is setup correctly. If not, go back to step 1.

OK Message Usage

The best way to use SPOT is with the tracking feature. But you can also use just the OK messages if you remember to hit the OK button often enough. If you are using the OK button you must hit it throughout the event at key points along your course.

If using OK messages, hit the OK button as follows:

- On launch day, at roll call, send your first OK message. This will be at 06:30.
- Just after the start, **after** you leave the starting beach, send your second OK message and begin to send OK messages at key points along the course.
- 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 on 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
- And finally, hit the OK button for the last time at the finish line. Then shut off your SPOT.

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.

Tracking Feature Usage

The tracking feature will allow you to get the best possible results with the least effort on your part. Follow this procedure:

- On launch day, at roll call, send your first **OK message**. This will be at 06:30.
- **After the launch** when you are underway and clear of the launch beach, start the tracking feature.
- If you stop to sleep or eat or whatever and you plan to remain stopped for an hour or more, turn off tracking and turn off your SPOT to conserve batteries. The same goes if you will be at anchor for an hour or more. When you decide to get started again turn on your SPOT and start the tracking feature.
- If you are crazy enough to go non-stop, remember to turn off and restart your tracking feature at least every 24 hours. In order not to forget this, it is good practice to cycle your tracking feature off and on at sunrise and sunset.
- And finally, stop tracking and hit the OK button for the last time at the finish line. Then shut off your SPOT.

Using SPOT for the WaterTribe 24-Hour Rule

Each time you hit the OK button or a tracking message is sent and you 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 tracks 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.