

BCARES Supports 25th Annual Froze-Toes Bike Race

by Bill McFarland, N0AXZ

More than 200 riders participated in the Columbia Bike Club's 25th annual winter road race, the Froze-Toes Bike Race, held in north-east Boone County, Missouri, on the snow date, March 8, 2015. Boone County ARES (BCARES) supported the race with corner communications and APRS tracking of race class lead vehicles. The race consisted of 8 events over the 31 mile road course through the prairie into Audrain and Callaway counties with ham radios at each corner, start/finish and Net Control. The Boone County Fire Protection District provided their Command 2 Emergency Communications vehicle for the NCS and a 30 foot mast for our vertical. A 2M directed simplex net provided full circuit coverage and kept race officials aware of where each group was on the course as the races progressed.



BCFPD Command 2 at Finish Line with NCS's vertical on the rear



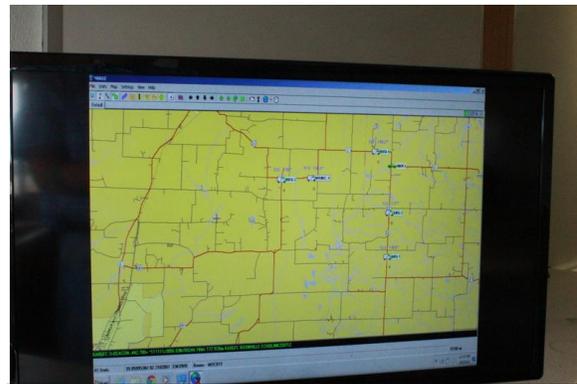
Portable digi with mast, battery, and pace vehicle with tracker passing by.

Five stand-alone APRS trackers (BCARES units) were placed on the roof of each of the four pace cars, and the "Broom" van. In order to provide full coverage over the 31 mile route we deployed a portable stand alone APRS-digi on the north east corner of the circuit. The APRS trackers and portable APRS-digi were provided by the efforts of KV0S, KCOMGG, and N0OFJ. Working corner communications included WD6BGN, AC0MP, KE0ARW, WH6EB and N0AXZ worked Net Control. KE0MI provided the Command 2 vehicle.

The position of the four pace vehicles is displayed on an APRS map in the Command

vehicle located at the Finish line for race officials' observations of the progress of the riders on the circuit.

Supporting the local bike club with communications and tracking of the various race categories throughout their 31 mile road course gave BCARES members an opportunity to practice directed net protocols with tactical assignments under portable power conditions from 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM on a nice sunny Sunday in March. (Photos by KV0S).



APRS map display showing five vehicles on the north side of the race circuit