

## Introduction

To facilitate communications between the race committee and the race competitors, we have instituted full time phone coverage by a Race Offshore Communications Officer (ROCO) beginning at 1000 on the day of the start until it has been determined that all boats have finished or withdrawn. ROCO's purpose is to keep the Race Committee informed of competitor status and to coordinate between the yacht and extraordinary services that are required on-shore when the yacht arrives in Bermuda.

## When **NOT** to Call the Race Offshore Communications Officer

Do not call the ROCO in an emergency -- we are unable to render immediate assistance.

- Fix the problem, then call.
- Follow the normal at-sea procedures to involve the Coast Guard or to attract nearby boats.
- For a medical emergency, contact the George Washington University Marine Medical Access service directly at: **(202) 715-4219**

## Reasons to Call the Race Offshore Communications Officer

**WHEN SAFE TO DO SO** the following situations should be reported to the ROCO:

- Withdrawal (reporting required by Sailing Instructions Section 14)
- Diversion to assist another sailor
- Request for assistance *upon arrival in* Bermuda – ambulance, etc.
- Damage to the boat which will affect arrival time in Bermuda
- Medical emergency being handled by Marine Medical Access
- Other information which will help us allay fears for your family

## Calling the Race Offshore Communications Officer

The ROCO telephone will be manned 24 hours per day during the race. The number is: **(508) 538-1009**. Be prepared to furnish at least the following information:

- The name of the yacht
- The sail number of the yacht
- The Captain's name
- Your situation
- Your location
- Your intended destination

It is possible that this telephone number will be in use, so be prepared to leave a message.

## Not a Number for the Public

The ROCO's purpose is NOT to answer questions from the public. Please do not publish the ROCO number to friends and family. They can call your Sat Phone directly.

Questions can be sent to the race committee by e-mailing [race@marionbermuda.com](mailto:race@marionbermuda.com).

## Family and Friends and the Transponder

If the Sat Phone is used for routine conversations note that receiving your absolute or relative position based upon the Yellowbrick Transponder display is a violation of the sailing instructions.

Also, if the transponder ceases updating position, this failure is not a safety issue, nor is it addressable from ashore by the Offshore Communications Team. (The best insurance against this is to carefully follow the installation instructions supplied with the Yellowbrick unit.).

Family should not contact the Coast Guard with questions about the Yellowbrick system.