

8: Current and Planned Actions, Strategies, and Tactics: Strawberry Plains 10K & Half Marathon

February 14, 2026 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM



Radio Operators (RADO) Field Briefing – 2026 Marathon Communications Plan

Purpose

Ensure consistent, reliable event communication for safety, operations, and coordination among amateur radio operators during the Strawberry Plains Marathon.

EVENT LOCATION

Start/Finish:

Rush-Strong School

3081 West Old A.J. Hwy

Strawberry Plains, TN

Coordinates: 36.064335° N, -83.682576° W

Note:

Parking is limited. Unless assigned at the school, proceed directly to your assigned race site using briefing materials.

TRAVEL & ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

- Log into the Resource Net while en route. Notify Net Control (NCS):
 - “Inbound to course” – when traveling
 - “On Site” – upon arrival
- Report by 07:30 (earlier preferred)
- Resource Net activates ~0630

- Use APRS if available (radio or app).
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COMMUNICATIONS OPERATIONS

- After check-in, switch to Tactical Frequency:
145.230 MHz [-] Tone 103.5 Hz
(Tone may be off but program it just in case.)
 - Be familiar with and have all frequencies from the ICS 205 Communications Plan programmed into your radio.
 - Roll Call: Conducted by NCS at 07:45
 - Race Start: 08:00
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OPERATING PROTOCOL

- Use your tactical call sign (e.g., “Site 1”) followed by your FCC-issued call sign (e.g., “Site 1, K4ABC”).
- Observe your assigned course section continuously for:
 - Injuries or “runner down”
 - Traffic problems
 - Emergencies
- If emergency occurs:
 1. Call 911 first
 2. Then notify NCS via radio
(Provide bib number, color, and short description.)
 - If near a Water Stop, introduce yourself to staff and offer communication support.
 - If you leave your site (temporary), notify NCS when leaving and returning.
 - If equipment fails, contact the nearest operator, or call

- Dale Knight – 423-273-0374, or Clark Measels – (865) 548-0065.

 **TEAMING & SAFETY**

- You may be paired with another operator for safety and efficiency (bib tracking and situational awareness).
- Confirm tactical and FCC call sign usage among your team before 07:30.

 **SITE DESIGNATION & REPORTING TASKS**

Some locations have two tactical call signs:

- Lower number = Outbound
- Higher number = Inbound

Example:

Outbound: Site 1 → Inbound: Site 13

Use outbound number for runners leaving start line; inbound number when they return.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS (to NCS)

Site	Report Event
All Sites	Emergencies; runners dropping out
Site 2	1st returning (inbound) male & female – 10K 1st returning (inbound) male & female – ½ Marathon Last outbound ½ Marathon runner through underpass (if known)
Site 4	1st 10K runner (M/F) at turnaround Last 10K runner at turnaround (if known)
Site 9	1st ½ Marathon runner (M/F) at half turnaround Last ½ Marathon runner at turnaround (if known)

 **COURSE CLOSING & DEPARTURE**

- **When the last inbound runners have passed:**
 - **Request “Permission to Secure” from NCS.**
 - **Once granted, you may leave your site.**
 - **Thank you for your service!**

 **QUICK REFERENCE CHECKLIST**

Action	Status
Check radio programming (ICS 205 freqs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Log into Resource Net (0630)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arrive on-site by 07:30	<input type="checkbox"/>
Check-in and standby for roll call (07:45)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use correct tactical call sign	<input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor course continuously	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report per responsibilities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Request clearance before leaving	<input type="checkbox"/>

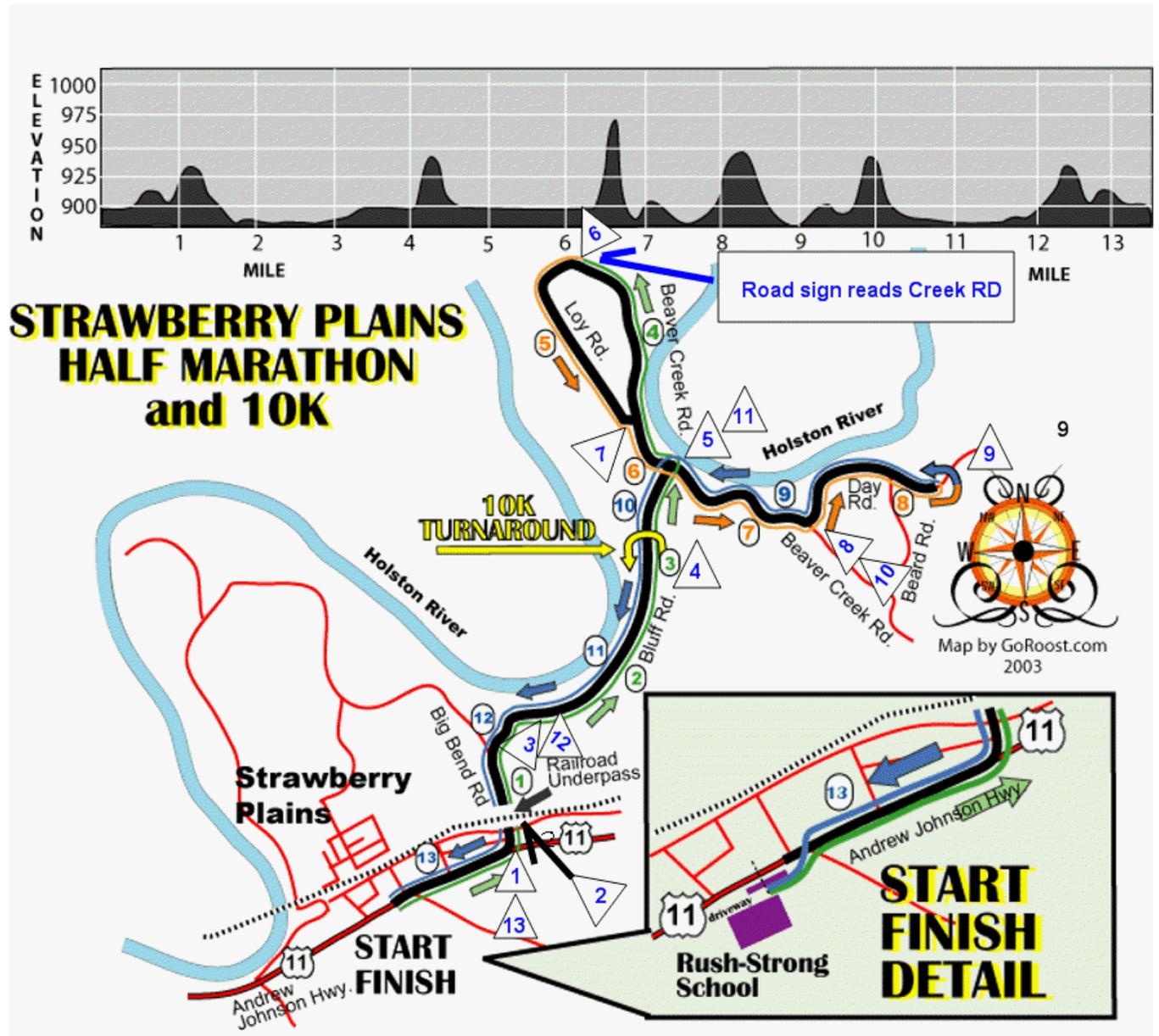
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- Prepared for: RADO Field Personnel**
 - Prepared by: Communications Unit / Net Control Command**
 - Version: 2026 JCARES Event Operations – Strawberry Plains Marathon**

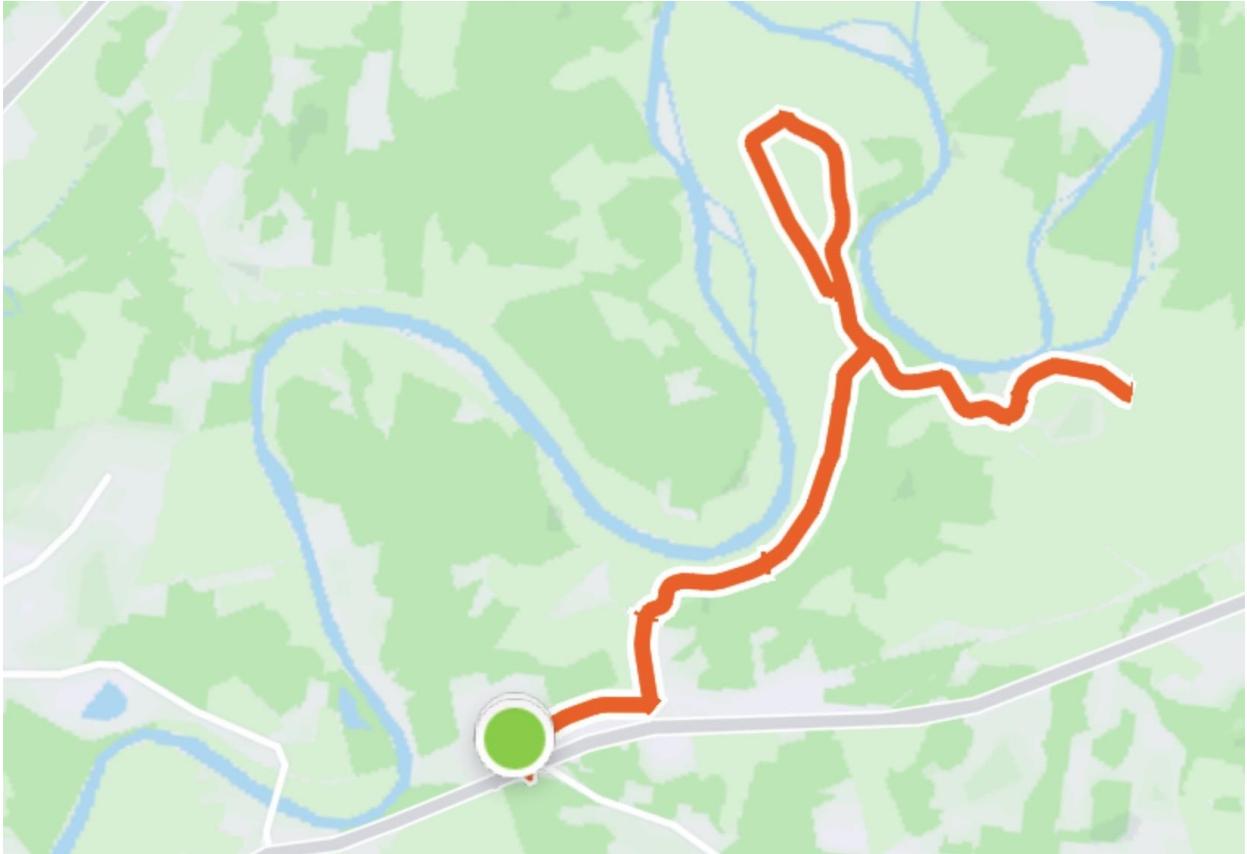
BIB INFORMATION:

Note: No bibs were printed specifically for this race...

Half-Marathon: Red Bib

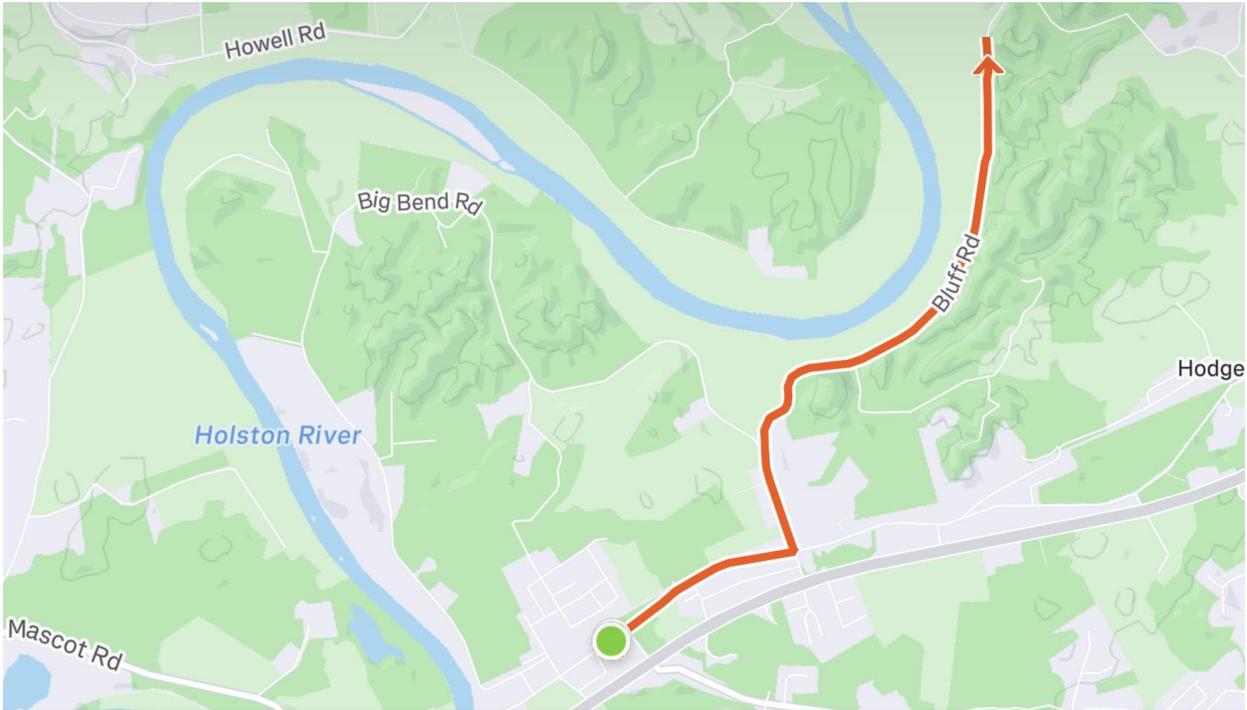
10k: White Bib





Half Marathon Map Above.

10K Map Below.



McKeehan, William	KI4HDU	Moto 1	Lead / Sweep Motorcycle	
Dot Moriarty Ben Horne Steve Campbell	KD8DQU KR4GBQ WB9KWL	Site 1 / 13	Old AJ Hwy / Big Bend Rd	36.068873 -83.669881
Kurt Bessler Kevin McCreedy	KQ4ZHO K4MCK	Site 2	Railroad Underpass	36.069835 -83.670149
Adam Watson Ron Bokleman	KK4NWO KB1UMC	Site 4	10k Turnaround	36.093372 -83.654950
Jim Norman Lloyd Pitney	N4CFB KN4ZGB	Site 3/12	Bluff Rd	36.073854 -83.671337
Paul Binek Joe Kisner	KN4CTI KM4HNX	Site 8 / 10	Beaver Creek Rd - Day Rd	36.093585 -83.639449
Barry Brown Bill Merrill	K4BLB KR4BUE	Site 5 / 11	Bluff Rd - Beaver Creek Rd The Split	36.097913 -83.652823
Billy Staggs Freddy Kittrell	K4DQL KO4JLK	Site 7	Creek Rd - Beaver Creek Rd	36.101793 -83.657359
Clark Measels Matt Meola	WD4CM AF0D	Start / Finish	Race Director Shadow	36.064664 -83.682706
Dale Knight Phil Stegall	AB4DK WB4EPG	Net Control	Jefferson County EOC	Jefferson County Public Safety Bld
Bill Renaud Daniel Berg	WR4MS N9BRG	Site 6	Beaver Creek Rd-Creek Rd	36.114640 -83.662959
UT Student Club Tyler Austin Mason Austin	KX4OU KF6GMH KR4BUF	Site 9	Half Marathon Turnaround	36.096472 -83.627080

Finally ...

In addition, we would appreciate your thoughts on what went well and what we need to work on. Please submit an After-Action Report (AAR) Form attached. Please send those to AB4DK BY EMAIL, AB4DKILO@GMAIL.COM

- This event represents a collaboration between JCARES, LARC, METERS, and others
- Our NCSs for Resource and Tactical Nets will be Phil, WB4EPG or Dale, AB4DK
- Our motorcycle spotter (Moto 1) is William McKeehan ki4hdu@gmail.com . (He makes a huge difference!)
- Use APRS if possible
- The ICS 205 (frequency plan) was prepared by WB4EPG

Command Staff

Nichoma ????, Knoxville Track Club, SPHM Event Manager
Donald Clark Measels, WD4CM, IC
Dale Knight, AB4DK, COML and NCS
Phil Stegall, WB4EPG, COML, ICS 205 preparation, ANC

THANK YOU for your service ... it's noticed and much appreciated.

When you are permitted to secure you station by Net Control, please go to the

Post-Race Debrief: Strawberry Plains Half Marathon & 10K

Location: Jefferson County 911 Emergency Services Building, 581 W. Old Andrew Johnson Hwy, New Market, TN 37820.

All Rados please Attend this debrief if possible.

There will also be a Tour of the JCARES Radio @ the 911 Emergency Operation Center.

