

Athens Marathon Committee Grant

by William McFadden, WD8RIF

January 22, 2010

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Background: In late 2009, the Athens Marathon Committee presented the ACARA with \$1,500 in appreciation of the support the ACARA has given the Athens Marathon over the years. The ACARA decided that this gift should be spent on equipment to improve the club's ability to support public service events such as the [Athens Marathon](#), [Pelatonia](#), and [GOBA](#).

APRS Support: Currently, WD8RIF has a portable APRS station that can be used in mobile, bicycle-mobile, or pedestrian-mobile applications; N8VZ has a mobile APRS station. WD8RIF has used his APRS station in bicycle-mobile configuration during the 2005-2009 Athens Marathon.

Byonics Micro-Trak AIO w/whip antenna & programming cable \$275

Micro-Trak AIO is a self-contained, water-resistant APRS transmitter/GPS with built-in TinyTrak 3 APRS encoder. It is frequency-agile over entire 2m band, can transmit at up to 8-watts, and is powered by eight AA-cells. <http://www.byonics.com/microtrak/mtaio.php>



The Micro-Trak AIO features an SMA for the antenna connection so an adapter will probably be necessary for use with a higher-gain antenna.

Because it is self-contained and relatively small, a Micro-Trak AIO would allow WD8RIF as Marathon-Lead to operate APRS on a distinct APRS frequency while using his HT for voice communications. (WD8RIF has the necessary equipment to carry both a voice-net radio and an APRS radio but one of these would need to be lower power because he owns only one high-power HT.)

If the Marathon Golf Cart was APRS-equipped, Net Control would have an available visual indication of its location at all times.

If another bicycle-mobile operator could be found (KD8KNC?), an APRS station could allow him to ride as Marathon Lead for the Half-Marathon and then pick up "Taillight Charlie" duty.

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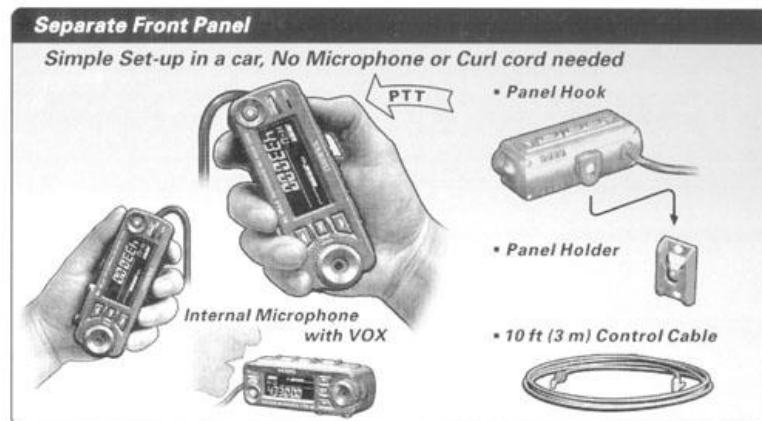
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Marathon Golf-Cart Mobile / Severe Duty Mobile Station:

Yaesu FTM-10R 2m/440MHz 50/40-watt weather-resistant mobile ~ \$300 w/coupon (UAR)

http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/fm_txvrs/0813.html



Some members have expressed an aversion to recent Yaesu equipment due to quality/performance/complex-interface issues. We might consider a less expensive 2m-only mobile transceiver (Icom or Alinco?) and mount it in a weather-resistant box.

Dedicated $\frac{1}{2}$ - λ clamp-mount mobile antenna; a $\frac{1}{2}$ - λ vertical antenna does not require a counterpoise and should work well when mounted on non-metallic vehicles.

New deep-cycle gel-cell battery and Anderson Powerpoles.

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Communications vests, reflective

ARRL offers vests imprinted with "Radio Communications" for \$14.95.

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9405>

orange

<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/?item=9984>

green



KC8ZHR recommends we check with N8SUZ to choose same color that is used state-wide as part of the ICS system.