

# Sandblast Rally 2021

by Bill Heybruck, W4EDN

This was my fifth year at the Rally and I was assigned the position of Communications Chief. I was given 4 sets of radios, and antennas to issue should one of the volunteers radios malfunction. As such I was not assigned a specific location so I selected the Service Area since it is a central location, to hang out and listen to the radio traffic.

I took my camper to Cheraw State Park on Thursday with plans to help with Friday's practice (Shakedown) run. I setup my G5RV, and ICOM 7100 and made the NCEN and CN nets that night.



Site 5, same as last year.

The Shakedown team met at 2pm at the Community Center and left for the start at 2:30pm. The practice began at 3:30. We arrived and dispersed, some to the finish, I went to midpoint, and the remainder stayed at start. Motorcycles and cars left the start at 1 minute intervals after the course was deemed ready by an official.

I was off the road at about 1.2 miles down the c2.4mile run. A video off a car whizzing by me can be found here:

<http://www.creativecomputersolutions.com/HamRadio/sb2021.mp4>

Here is the map of all the stages and the stage schedule. Cheraw is located off to the upper right (North East).



Saturday I was up bright and early at 0530 to meet the teams at 0620 in the High School parking lot.



While they went to their assignments, I went to the service area to be available wherever needed,



Service Area East side.



This rig and 2 cars from Florida.

The MARS club was well represented, Mary and Tom Hunt were Net Control, Andy Hawkins, K4GKK, Steve Nosko, W4SJN, Brad Hinton, K4BTH. Rod Turnham, N4RGT, Sean O'Conner, KN4BST, Jeff Cold, K4MGM, Alex Lenhard, KN4UG. and Dave Holbrook, KC4SGT, were assigned various stages.

Jeff provided pictures from his area, Sextons Pond.





Picture of Jeff's radio setup



We had 8 stages of normal racing then on the last stage, all but 6 vehicles had started when a Marshall makes this transmission " Spectator truck with a sofa on the back is on the course and he just got passed by number 70". All starting stopped for about an hour until the course was verified clear by officials.

Here is a picture of #70 entering the service area. Not your typical car.



Picture of Bradley's radio setup



Motorcycles run too, this one was leading his class with 3 stages to go. This is a KTM 500 EXC from Wisconsin.



