Capturing GPS information for TackTracker

TackTracker utilises GPS information from each competitor, captured during the race, in the form of a GPS track. These tracks are loaded into the TackTracker software after the completion of the event, and combined to create a complete race replay, this is then available on the TackTracker website. In order for this to work, each competitor must capture their GPS information and provide a copy of this to MTYC in a compatible format after the race.

The essential information captured by the GPS track is a series of GPS plots, containing latitude, longitude and a time-stamp. It is expected the GPS will be tracking from a time prior to the start of the race (preferably 6 minutes prior or more), to a time after the finish of the race. This enables the replay to show all the pre-race action then the entire race to the end. The frequency of the GPS plot is also important, typically every five seconds or less, provides a suitable replay experience.

Many GPS units will record a track automatically, and the track can then be downloaded to a computer via USB off the water. Smartphones can also record tracks using the built in GPS and specific applications.

The TackTracker website has information regarding supported GPS track formats at http://www.tacktracker.com/web/choosing-gps and http://www.tacktracker.com/doc/loading-tracks-from-a-file.htm. The preferred format is the GPX format, which many GPS devices support.

The GPS track doesn't have to be stopped and started after each race as TackTracker can determine individual races from one long continuous track. So just start tracking before heading out on the water, and then stop when you return after the racing session is complete.

Garmin GPS Users:

The following programs have been successful in downloading tracks from Garmin GPS devices:

- BaseCamp
- EasyGPS
- MapSource
- DNRGarmin
- eTrex 20

With Garmin devices it is important to export the "Active Log", rather than the "Saved Track", as the later has no time-stamp information.

Apple iPhone Owners

TrackRec - http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/trackrec/id326066702?mt=8
Memory Map - http://memory-map.com.au/products/iphone-map-app.html

TrackRec is free and this has been very successful in accurately capturing tracks for iPhone users.

With the program, you can easily capture a GPS track, and then email directly from the iPhone (assuming you have email setup) in a GPX format to MTYC.

Be sure to **"Start tracking" prior to the race**, at complete hit "Pause tracking", the "Save", "Yes". At this point, select the "Track History", select the appropriate track, then "Share Track", "Email track file", "GPX (.gpx)" then email to: mtyc@live.com.au

Tips for iPhone users:

- Have the phone fully charged, as the continual use of the GPS drains battery.
- Make sure the clock on the iPhone is "set automatically" to get the correct timestamps. Set Settings->General->Date & Time->Set Automatically to **On**
- Make sure Location service are enabled for TrackRec. Settings->Location Services (On)->TrackRec is set to **On**

Samsung/Google/Android Users:
My Tracks - http://www.google.com/mobile/mytracks/

Users have had success using this application for TackTracker.

Don't forget at the completion of the racing session, please email your track to mtyc@live.com.au

Please note, that we have experienced varying levels of compatibility with GPX files, so we cannot guarantee that every GPS device can work, but we will do our best to assist.