ExpeNews

REAL-TIME EXPEDITION TRACKING

User manual

This document will guide you step by step trough simple procedures to update you ExpeNews tracking page, keeping your family, friends and followers up to date about the progress of your adventures anywhere around the world.

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There is four ways to update ExpeNews from the field:

1 **Voice message**

It allows to update the map with your coordinates and leave an audio message in the web.
You just need a satellite phone or a mobile within coverage.

2 **SMS text message**

It allows to update the map with your coordinates and leave a short text message in the web.
You just need a satellite phone (SMS enabled) or a mobile within coverage.

3 **E - Mail**

It allows to update the map, send text, images and video.
You need a satellite phone (or a mobile within coverage) and a PDA or Laptop.

4 **Satellite beacon**

It allows to update the map with your coordinates, it can be done manually or automatically every 10 minutes. And to report your status ("Ok" or "In trouble").

Comparison table

Feature	**1** Voice	**2** SMS	**3** E - Mail	**4** Beacon
Allows to update coordinates and map	✔	✔	✔	✔
Allows to send text		✔	✔	
Allows to send images and videos			✔	
Allows continuos coordinate updating in real-time				✔
Allows to receive messages and weather forecast	✔	✔	✔	
Total hardware weight for a 30 days long expedition	*391 g*	*327 g*	*1602 g*	*230 g*
Minimum hardware required (for 30 days)	Phone 2 batteries	Phone One battery	Phone One Battery PDA+cables Big battery (111 Wh)	SPOT beacon 4 AA Lithium Batteries

Tip:

ExpeNews allow you to save the weigh in batteries and solar panels.

1 To send dispatches by voicemail

To send a voice dispatch you just have to make a call to "ExpeNews Voicemail server" dialing any of the following phone numbers:

🇺🇸 **001 215 55 46 223**   *United States*

🇳🇿 **0064 3 669 00 56**   *New Zealand*

An answering machine will ask for your five digits identification code.

🇨🇱 **0056 2 897 39 73**   *Chile*

Ⓢ **expenews.voicemail**   *Skype*

Tip: To save time, you can program your phone to enter this code automatically. To do this, place a "pause" at the en of the phone number (by holding the * key) and then your identification code, so finally the hole number in your phone will look like this:

0012099164042p12301   or   **0012099164042□12301**

Where "12301" is the identification code of the one who is calling. You can save it this way in the phonebook, so it will be easy to communicate to and identify into the "ExpeNews Voicemail Server".

1 To send dispatches by voicemail

The answering machine will guide you trough two simple steps.

Step *1.* **Enter your coordinates**

Let's say we want to enter Mount Aconcagua coordinates

Latitude: 32° 39' 10" S
Longitude: 70° 00' 43" W
Altitude: 6962 m

Note:

The first coordinate you enter will be set as your current position at the moment the dispatch was sent. Afterwards you can enter as many additional coordinates as you want. They will be shown as dots in your expedition map.

Firs you have to enter the latitude. To identify it is south, you must put first an * before it (if it were north you enter the number directly), then the coordinates in degrees, minutes and seconds, using 2 digits for each. To finish press #. Then the whole latitude sequence would be *323910#
The same way enter the longitud (using a * before west coordinates). The longitude would be: *700043#.
Finally we have to enter the altitude and press # to finish.

Once entered the coordinates, we have three options. 1 go to left a voice message, 2 review the coordinates and 3 re-enter them (if we did a mistake).

Let's continue with the second step...

Step **2.** Leave a voice message

Finally we have to record the message after the tone as usual answering machines and press # to finish or just hang-up.

Once recorded the message we have three options:

1 send the message
2 listen back the message
3 record the message again

If we press 1, we can wait some seconds to hear the confirmation that our message is already online.

Tip: GPS units

You have to configure the units of your GPS to show the coordinates in degrees, minutes and seconds, what is usually wrote as "dd mm ss.ss", this kind of coordinates is called "geographic", you also have to check that "WGS84" is the chosen datum. An incorrect datum would lead to errors up to several hundred meters.

1 To send dispatches by voicemail

Finally, after few seconds, the update will be notified to all your subscribers and in ExpeNews your message will look like this:

Where entered coordinates are shown as well as its position into the map and a photo of the speaking expedition member.

Tip: Saving time

Remember you don't need to wait the instructions to finish before entering the data. You can always enter the digits right away.
For example, if we want to leave a message with the coordinates of the previous example and then leave a voice message, we can enter continuously:

1*323910#*700043#6962#1

Then leave the voice message, press #1.
And finally wait the confirmation our message is online.

2 To send dispatches by SMS text messages

In your phone (Iridium or other) go trough the menu to the message editor, and write a message using the following format:

d@xpe.in Here your message and coordinates

It is very important to leave a space between ExpeNews address (d@xpe.in) and the message.

In the message you can include your coordinates, to do it just add them any place following the right format (see "coordinates" tip).

Once done, send your message to: 00*2

Valid only for Iridium phones

To send dispatches by SMS text messages

Finally, after few seconds, the update will be notified to all your subscribers and in ExpeNews your message will look like this:

Jan 01	Dispatch 17:
	Published at 10:09:00

Movimos campamento, estamos al pie del Monte Gardner para intentar la ruta original de 1966 al Monte Tyree a traves de la cumbre del Gardner. Corre harto viento, recen por frankelnstein.

Name: Campamento Tyree
Elevation: 2350 m
Latitude: 78° 23' 0" South
Longitude: 86° 9' 43" East

Map

Google

Tip: Coordinates

On SMS and e-mail messages, you can include your coordinates by writing anywhere within the message and without spaces your latitude and longitude in "dd mm ss.ss" format (see tip "GPS units") indicating with the sign if they are North (+), South (-), East (+) or West (-). Then your altitude and finally a colon (":") and the name of the waypoint without spaces.

Example:

Latitude: 78° 23' 08" S
Longitude: 86° 09' 43" W
Altitude: 2350 m
Name: "CampamentoTyree"

Would be enter as:

–782308-860943+2350:CampamentoTyree

3 To send dispatches by e-mail

To send a dispatch by e-mail you can use your normal e-mail client (Outlook, Eudora, etc...) or any other available on PC's, PDA's, Palm, Windows CE, Windows Mobile, etc. Just send an e-mail to de following address:

d@expenews.com

The e-mail will only be accepted if it comes from a valid address for the expedition (manager's address or the ones he/she set). E-mail subject is ignored b the system, so anything on it won't be displayed on the tracking page.

To send photos just attach them to the e-mail as you do usually, all attached images and videos will be included in your dispatch.
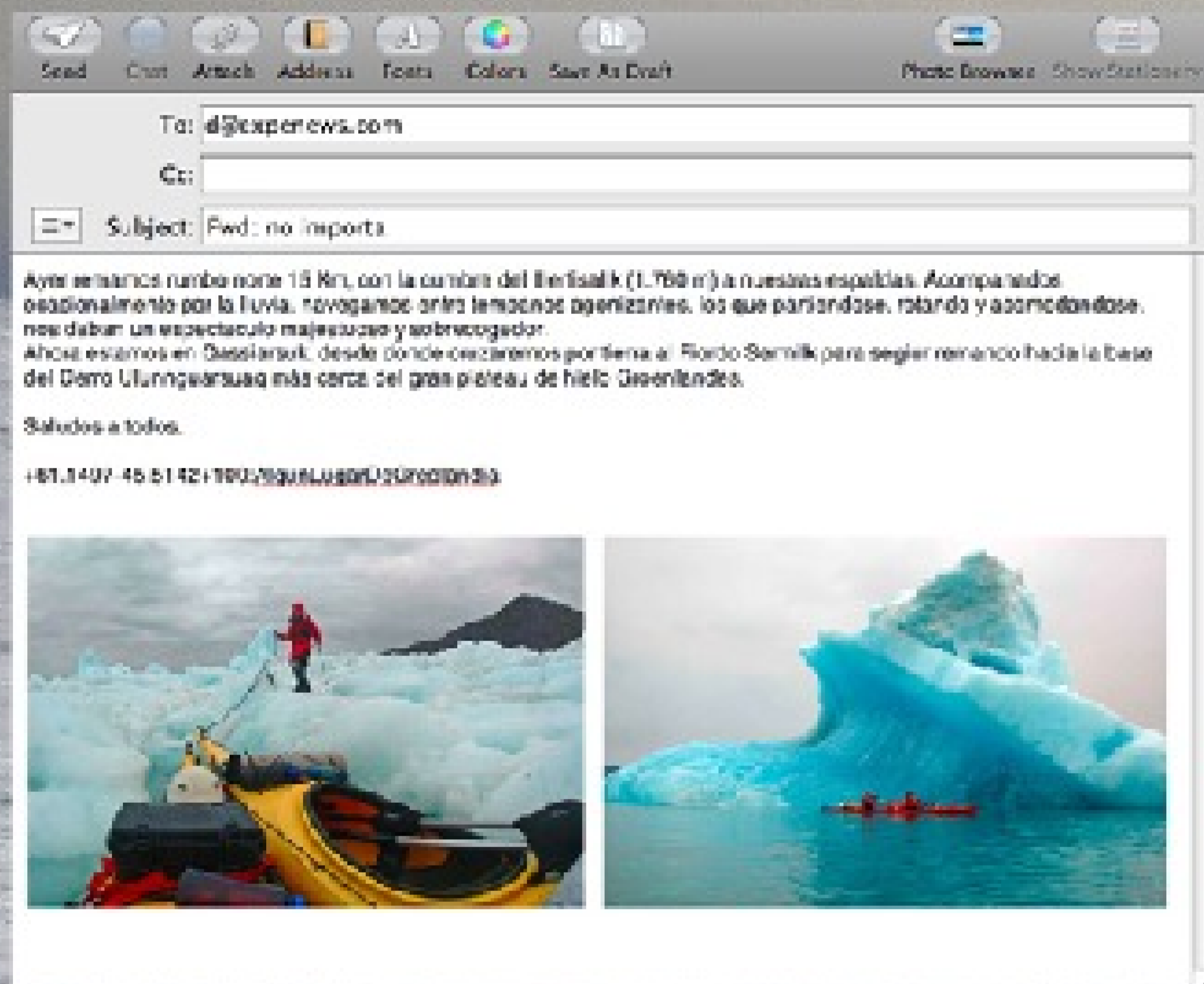
Tip: Waypoint's names

Waypoint names (see "Coordinates tip") can be written in "CamelCase", this is without spaces but using uppercase at the begin of each word, then in the previous example the name is shown finally as "Campamento Tyree"

3 To send dispatches by e-mail

This way an e-mail like this:

Will become in a dispatch like this:

Finally, after few seconds, the update will be notified to all your subscribers.

4 Dispatches by SPOT messenger satellite beacon

SPOT satellite beacon, allows to update your coordinates in ExpeNews and to do a status check OK or HELP. In TRACK mode it sends automatically your coordinates every 10 minutes, keeping your position in ExpeNews maps updated in real time.

Tip: SPOT setup

If you will us your own SPOT messenger beacon, and not one provided by ExpeNews, please contact us at info@expenews.com to receive information regarding your account configuration in order to use it at ExpeNews.

1. To send a OK/HELP message

Turn on your beacon and wait few minutes to allow the internal GPS calculate your position. Press briefly the OK (or HELP) button, the led over buttons OK (or HELP) and On/Off will blink simultaneously. Leave the beacon in a place open to sky several minutes until the led over button OK (or HELP) stops blinking and turns off which means that your message have been sent.

4 Dispatches by SPOT messenger satellite beacon

2. Real-time TRACKING mode

You can set your beacon to automatically send your position to ExpeNews every ten minutes, to do so you must turn on your beacon and press and hold OK button for 5 seconds or more until the led over it lit. From this moment on, the SPOT beacon will send your coordinates every 10 minutes during the next 24 hours, after this time you must repeat abobe procedure to continue tracking.

Tip:

SPOT messenger beacon can't check your message have been received successfully by the satellite and in fact some messages are lost. To avoid it, keep your beacon at open sky sites far from obstacles. For safety reasons, by default HELP messages are sent five times, OK three times and track messages just one.

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