

What is Winlink?

Winlink is a messaging system that uses radio to send email-type messages.

Typically, it is used on:

- VHF 1200 baud
- HF using Pactor

In both of these, messages can be sent direct to another station, or they can be sent to the internet for distribution.

Messages can be text or they can include attachments, just like a normal email

Programs used in Winlink

The commonly used programs for using Winlink are:

- Airmail on VHF: Messages can be sent to the internet via a Telpac station or they can be sent direct to another station.
A VHF radio, a TNC and a computer are required
- Airmail on HF: Messages can be sent to the internet via a PMBO station or they can be sent direct to another station.
Pactor mode is used so a Pactor TNC is required as well as an HF rig and a computer
- Paclink on VHF: Messages can be sent to the internet via a Telpac station. No direct connection is possible with another station
Paclink requires:
 - a computer running Windows 2000 or XP and
 - the purchase of AGW PE Pro software, and
 - a TNC and radio
- a Telpac station: Relays messages unattended. When a VHF station connects to it, it will send and receive messages to/from the Internet if they are pending.
A VHF radio, a TNC and a computer are required
- A PMBO: Relays messages unattended. When an HF station connects to it, it will send and receive messages to/from the Internet if they are pending.
This is an extremely specialized and advanced station requiring a high degree of expertise and dedication

More complete information can be obtained from:

<http://winlink.org/Emergency.htm>

Which program is most suitable for you?

Check in with the next Section!

What you can expect from the workshop

All hams are welcome! But places are limited so please read the instructions carefully.

If you are a complete beginner:

You may like to work through the exercises that you can, then attend the workshop as an observer. This can be very useful for finding out your next steps towards packet.

Alternatively, you can use the exercises to find out what equipment you need, then buy the extra equipment necessary and join in the complete workshop

If you have the equipment, but have not used it for packet

You will find the exercises and workshop ideal for getting operational. Coaching and mentoring can be provided as needed.

If you already have packet operational in any form

You will find the exercises and workshop straightforward, with a few extra steps along the way. In fact, we may ask you to help some of the others attending the workshop!

Exercises:

1. What is located close to you?
Find where the Telpacs are around you. This will determine how easy it will be for you to contact a Telpac and leave/pickup email messages with/from the Internet.
How do you do this?

For currently active Telpac stations, go to the Winlink site :
<http://www.winlink.org/positions/telpacpos.aspx>. Then zoom in to your local area

Or you can find the status at:
<http://www.winlink.org/status/TelpacStatus.aspx>

Inactive: Some Telpac stations may be installed, but not operational at the time you check. You can find details of these stations at another Winlink site:
<http://www.winlink.org/status/TelpacEx.aspx>

2. Send a note, telling me the results of your exercises,
to kb2wf@yahoo.com.
In the title of your email, place your callsign and the Section number

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask for help.

