

RMS EXPRESS PACKET SET UP AND OPERATION FOR ARES, VERSION 2

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1. BACKGROUND.

The RMS software is designed to make using VHF Packet and HF Pactor digital transmission modes easy to use compared too previous Packet /Pactor software. RMS is designed to create text type messages and send them via radio or via the Internet.

RMS is very useful for text message traffic during emergency communications. Attachments may be used with RMS for standard forms like ICS 213s.

This procedure assumes some basic knowledge of Packet and the RMS software, and is designed to assist a fairly new operator get started. Brand new operators should review material on the Internet and UTube. See below.

For Packet Radio, DETARC has two local digipeaters the 145.050 and the 145.070 digis. The 050 digi is a high level digi that reaches furthest out from town and is used by surrounding area Hams. It has more traffic on it. The 070 digi is a lower level digi and is suitable for Lufkin area usage. Both systems connect to the Internet for passage of email traffic.

NOTE: This procedure is a work in progress. If you find errors or have suggestions based upon experience, please send comments to k0yy@arrl.net

2. REFERENCES:

Here are a few Packet and RMS references. There are many more on the internet.

www.winlink.org

https://www.tapr.org/pr_intro.html

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kb_cEUyYF9o

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nD5FfNIJaCo>

3. SETTING UP RMS SOFTWARE FOR PACKET OPERATION.

The current version of RMS at this time is 1.4.1. 0. Always use the latest version to limit problems in setup and operation. The Winlink development Group has created a new Winlink Express package. The latest version as of this date is 1.5.2.0. The Group asks for a \$25 dollar donation to offset the costs of development. Winlink Express requires a password key to set it up. Either software will work.

RMS Home Page Set Up: Start RMS-- RMS software opens to the **Home Page** listing the version # at the top.

On the menu bar, click on Settings

a. Click on Winlink Express Setup

Fill in all of the pertinent information— Call sign, etc.

You will need to establish a password

Under Service Codes add PUBLIC and EMCOMM separated by a space.

Fill in your personal information

Fill in your Grid Square- 6 digits—example EM21oj
Click on or deselect as appropriate these—
Keep logs— 50 days or whatever you desire.
Keep deleted message 30 days or whatever.
Uncheck “display list of incoming messages”
Uncheck warn about connections to stations holding messages
Uncheck Disable peer-to-peer message transfer
Check allow diagnostic info to be sent to Winlink Team
Click Update

b. Click on Settings

Click on Preferences
Click on-- Automatically sending message read announcements
Click on-- Automatically send contact information
Click on- automatically move read items to Read Folder
Click on-- Add //WL2K
Click on- Wrap print lines after 72 characters
Distance— miles
Click on Update

c. Click on Settings

Click on Contacts
Click on Add
Add email addresses for all local ARES digital operators.
Simply add names and Winlink email addresses—example k0yy@winlink.org
Server options is NONE for all addresses.
Note: The W5IRP and K5KRK nodes automatically send all emails to a CMS. If the Internet is not available, the node sends the emails directly to the addressee using RMS Relay software.

Click on Close

Session Page Set Up: On the Home Page, click on the **Open Session** Item in the Menu Bar.

TNC Set Up— In the Session Page, click on SETUP then click on TNC Set Up.
Fill in the information for your TNC.

NOTE: Don't forget, setting the proper Com port and baud rate from the TNC to the computer is a required step. Follow your TNC instructions. You may have to try different baud rates to connect properly.

Use the default settings given for the TNC parameters unless you know of exceptions needed.

Select “Disabled” for Auto Connect Time
Click on Update

4. RMS Packet Operations.

a. Operation through our **W5IRP-10 digipeater**.

Notes:

1. W5IRP-10 on 145.050 is the local high level digipeater
2. (K5KRK-10 on 145.070 is the local low level digipeater

Set your radio to 145.050 Simplex, no CTCSS tone. Turn on your TNC.
On the main RMS home page set the Session Type to **Packet Winlink**

Create a message-- On the main RMS page click on **Message** from the drop down menu.

1. In the Message window, Click on **New Message**

The **From** block should show your call sign

Select **Winlink Message** as type of message

Enter just the call sign of the TO station or Click on the TO button to select the call sign from your previously created Contacts List

Create your message text.

If you are sending an attachment, click on the Attach button and select your desired document.

NOTES:

1. You may want to create a separate folder on your computer to store any Forms or attachment documents.
2. Any attachment documents created in Word format should be saved in a Rich Text format “.RTF” to prevent having to send all the extra formatting characters in Word documents. RTF documents transmit much faster than Word documents.
3. Computerized Fill-in forms for ICS forms like the ICS 213 Message Form, 214 Unit Log, and 205 Communications Plan are available. These forms can be filled in on the computer.

Click on **Post to Outbox** (Your message is now ready to send when you start a Session)

Click on Close.

To Transmit a Message: On the main page click on **Open Session** (with a previously selected Packet Winlink type of Session). The Session page opens and your TNC Initializes and then shows Ready.

Click on **Start** in the Session Window

Your radio now transmits and TNC should show Connected in the Session Window.

. You will automatically receive any messages held by that digi for you. Your message will be sent and The Session will automatically end and your TNC will show Disconnected and return to Ready.

Reminders:

1. You must have a message in the Outbox for it to be sent when a Session is started.
2. Opening a Session initializes your TNC.

b. Operation in a direct **Peer to Peer Mode (P2P)** mode. (Station to station, no digi.)

Set radio to a local non-digi frequency such as 145.010 simplex no CTCSS.

On the main RMS page, set the Session Type to **Packet P2P**

Create a message— On the main RMS page click on **Message** from the drop down menu

1. In the Message window, Click on **New Message**

The **From** block should show your call sign

Select **Peer to Peer Message** as type of message

Click on the **TO** Block and type the call sign of the station you wish to go direct with.

Create your message text.

Add attachments, see using attachments in digi operation above.

Click on **Post to Outbox** (Your message is now ready to send when you start a Session)

Click on Close.

2. On the main page click on **Open Session**.

The Session page opens and your TNC Initializes and then shows Ready Connection—**If both stations have an open Session**, the TNCs will automatically connect

Click on **Start** in the Session Window to send your message.

You will also automatically receive any messages from the other station.

The Session will automatically End and your TNC will return to Ready.

c. Operation Through the W5IRP-7 KA Node.

If the Internet links are down locally at the W5IRP-10 and K5KRK-10 digipeaters, we can use the W5IRP-7 KA Node to link out to another distant digipeater (within our RF range), to get where there is Internet access. An example would be to use our KA Node to link out to the WA5EC-10 node in Crockett.

Using the W5IRP-7 KA Node To connect to the Crockett Digipeater:

In the Session Window, for **Connection Type** select Digipeater.

In the **Station block** specify WA5EC-10

In the **Via block** specify W5IRP-7

With a message in the Outbox, Starting a Session will now send the message to the WA5EC-10 Digi and out to the Internet, assuming they have Internet access.

Please send any comments, corrections or updates to k0yy@arrl.net

