

Announcements 18 APR 2022

Sunday, April 17, 2022 10:40 AM

Cherokee ARES Announcements 18 APR 2022

#1- Winlink Weekly Check-In Exercises Continue, results posted on Cherokee-ARES.ORG website under News.

#2- 30 April 2022, GBR Blood Drive Downtown Woodstock.

- We will operate a tent and demonstrate HF/VHF capability as well as discuss with the community Ham Radio and attempt to draw new members to this hobby and our club.
- Location: 7545 Main St #100, Woodstock, GA 30188 (map)
- Need at least 6 Volunteers from the Club/ARES. Current Volunteers (KO4IFY-Mark, KB4MG-Marty, W1JKU-Rob, KJ4UC-Don) If you would like to volunteer, please notify w1jku@arrl.net

- #3 14 May 2022- The Portable Operations Training Exercise is scheduled for May 14th at Cornerstone Church in Jasper GA. We are looking for 6-10 Volunteers to Attend including all AECs.
 - This is a field training exercise where we will work on 5 watts or less and will utilize Winlink, Phone, various ICS forms, Hamshack Hotline, etc and conduct training with our district.
 - Please notify w1jku@arrl.net if you would like to volunteer.
 - Current Attendees: (W1JKU-Rob, KJ4UC-Don, K4QEX-Jay, KM4ZHJ-Jonathan, W2UA-Jeff)
- The NW GA District NET on VHAM13 at 20:00 Tuesday Night, Rob-W1JKU is NET Control, we will discuss Air-Force MARS during the training portion of the net.

Training

Winlink

Still seems that there are quite a few folks that aren't comfortable with Winlink.

Not installed

Can't get it working

Just frustrated

I recommend going to wavetalkers.com and review Classes 1 thru 4 and lesson 8.

These are not your typical Youtube videos that try to wow and impress you in 8 minutes or less.

These guys instruct showing exactly what to do and demonstrate live so that you can see and hear it work. A Classroom environment in a virtual world.

That's wavetalkers.com/resources/index.php

Click on Winlink which will take you to the Winlink Basics for EmComm

Scroll down the page to Session Recordings and you will see the Classes 1 thru 9 listed. Each of these are an hour or more in length. It is thorough training.

Again, I would recommend Classes 1 thru 4 for sure and Class 8 as a bonus.

Winlink P2P

Is not a mystery

Just like simplex – one radio talking directly with another radio

Or more correctly One radio controlled by Winlink software talking directly to another radio that is controlled by Winlink software.

Vara can use many different modes to communicate in a P2P session.

Packet P2P

Pactor P2P

Robust Packet P2P

Vara HF P2P

Vara FM P2P

Telenet P2P

I would like to focus on Vara HF P2P and Vara FM P2P.

You only need to know 3 pieces of information to conduct a P2P session. Don't let the smoke of offsets, Dial Frequencies, Center Frequencies get you confused. I will clear that up in a bit.

The 3 Items you need to know

That the target (receiving radio) is on and ready to communicate

The Call Sign you are going to connect to

The Center Frequency

That's it – Winlink takes care of the dial frequency for you. No need to think of offsets – Winlink does it for you.

How: I am going to focus on Vara HF P2P

Open Winlink Express

DO THIS NOW SO YOU DON'T FORGET.

Use the pull down in the "Open Session" window to select Vara HF P2P

Open a new Message

DO THIS NOW SO YOU DON'T FORGET

Change "Send As" to Peer to Peer

Notice that the CC field goes away. 1 radio to 1 radio

Enter the Call Sign of the target radio

Enter the Subject as appropriate

Fill in the body of the message

Post to Outbox

Open the session

Enter the Call Sign in the first box

Enter the "Center Frequency. NOTE: Winlink has filled in the Dial Frequency for you.

You don't have figure out the Dial Frequency or even think about the offset.

Set the radio to the Dial Frequency. You can save the info to "favorites" for later use. If your radio is set up to utilize the CAT controls properly Winlink will even set you radio to the correct Dial Frequency. Vara HF Only – Vara FM does not support CAT controls.

Hit the start button and the connection begins!

As with everything there is a Gotcha to be aware of.

Vara HF can run utilizing 2 different bandwidths – 500 Khz and 2300 Khz

If the individual didn't tell you which bandwidth to use it probably will be 2300 Khz. If that doesn't work try 500 Khz.

If they told you what the bandwidth to use then use that one.

How do I change the bandwidth??

When your P2P Session window came up you can find the bandwidth selection in the Settings, Vara TNC Setup,

There is a Session Bandwidth Pull down where you can select either 500 or 2300. I have no idea if the other setting is used.

Need practice??

There is a net in Florida that can give you plenty of opportunity to practice.

Go to W4AKH.net

You will find a table of Call Signs, Day and Time, Center Frequency and where the

target is located. They cover 20, 30, 40 and 80 Meters.
Just make sure to fill out the subject line as specified.

e.g. FL WN NET, FirstName, City, GA, VARA, P2P

On Tuesday you can see a report that will show your connections. The check-ins are also mapped.

Check the schedule each week as it is subject to change (and does change).

Note: I don't have 80 meters but, I still have 7 opportunities to test a different location and frequency.

There would be 6 more if I had 80 Meters for a total of 13

Plus a bonus of VarAC and Vara Chat testing.