

Packet Radio, the Basics

Setup (with TNC)

Cable from radio to TNC

PTT, Mic and Speaker audio

Cable from TNC to Computer

“Com” Port or USB at computer end

Wired to TNC

Software

Using “Hyperterminal”, part of Windows

Other packages available, but crawl before you run

Set “8 1 None” (Data bits, Stop bits, Handshaking) computer-to-TNC

The data rate from computer to TNC is 9600 baud or higher.

Setup (with soundcard software)

Cable from computer to radio

Depends on the software and computer used

Software

Many packages available on Internet

Commands

Command mode – “**cmd:**”

Keyboard sends to the TNC as control string

Connect – establish a connection to another station

Disconnect – drop a current connection

CONverse – switch to converse mode

Converse mode – (no prompt)

Keyboard sends out over the air (to connected station or broadcast)

Commands when connected to a Node

CNTL-C to get back to command mode

Stations

Home stations (can be mobile or portable)

With TNC (and dedicated radio)

“Always on” – continuous presence on the packet network

Personal mailbox

Soundcard (computer replaces TNC)

Less expensive

Node – connect to and command

c node ... then ... c w7cop

Digipeater – connect *through* – “via” – not *to*

c w7cop v digipeater

Remote Message Server – RMS – Winlink2000 email gateway

Ham-friendly content

Bulletin Board System

Message board

Traffic Forwarding (or not)

<http://www.qsl.net/nm7r/packet.htm>

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WWA_EmComm_Packet

<http://www.w0rli.net/w0rli>