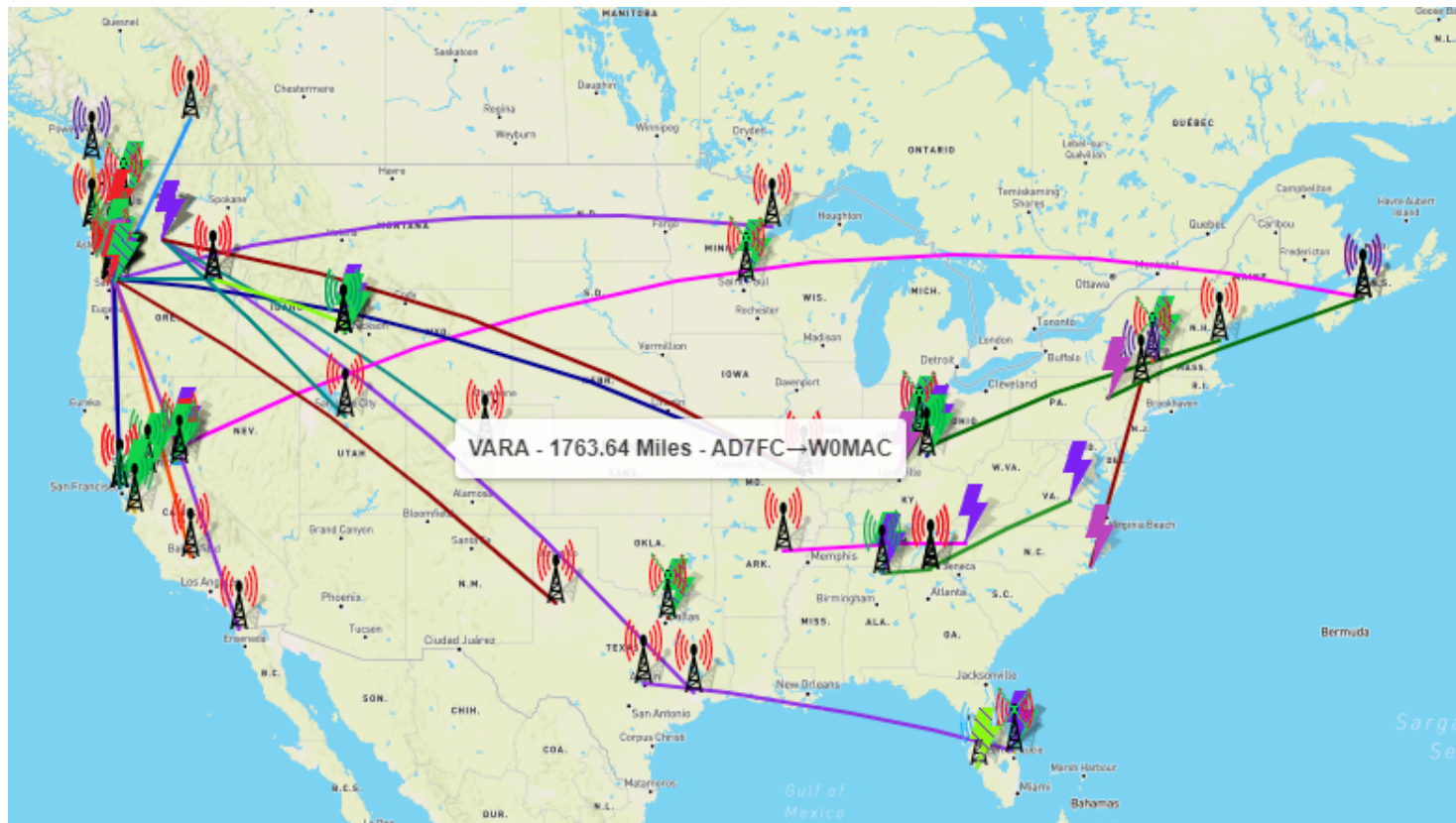


# Winlink Nets



# YCARES Winlink Net

- Purpose
- Check-In Period
- Check-In Message
- Acknowledgment and Map
- Roster contents

# Purpose

In April of 2018, YCARES members participated in a Oregon State Simulated Emergency Test (SET) where one of the primary tasks was to exchange Winlink Emails with neighboring counties using radio session modes but via the Peer-to-Peer protocols. Prior to this SET, several practice sessions were performed, initially between members within YCARES, and then with a few members of ARES groups with counties to our south. It did not go without notice that this was a learning experience for all.

# Purpose

Continued

On the day of the SET, it quickly became noticeable that those who had participated in the practice sessions quickly became informal instructors for those who hadn't. And coordination with other counties did not go as well as was expected. Several found that they had old versions of Winlink Express at their EOC's or personal systems, and a few found their personal Winlink accounts had expired due to not being used within the 400 day time limit.

# Purpose

Continued

One of the topics discussed in hot wash immediately after the set, was to initiate a Winlink Net for continuous training. While it may have not been an equitable trade due to the level of my time it requires, I took on the role as Net Control for the Winlink Net, with the expectation I didn't have to be in the Net Control rotation for the the Monday YCARES VHF/UHF voice net.

It has been rewarding as I've become even more knowledge on the operation of Winlink Express as well as RMS Station operation

# Purpose

Continued

- On June 3rd, 2018, the first Winlink Net Call for Check-Ins was sent out.
- We had a total of 8 check-ins.
- For the April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Call for Check-Ins, we had 43 participants, and with the some participants checking in several times using different modes or RMS Stations a total of 57 Check-Ins.

In November of 2018, one of your Washington County ARES members requested to join after discovering I was performing this net from a topic in the Groups.io Winlink Forum. He was welcomed him and others as they found out by word of mouth or other Internet email groups.

There are now participants from 23 states:

- AL, CA, CO, FL, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, MD, MN, NC, NV, NY, OH, OR, PA, SC, TN, TX, VA, WA, WI

# Check-In Period

With this net, you have from Sunday Morning's to Friday Midnight for you to send your check-in to me.

On Sunday mornings I send out a Conventional Winlink message that proclaims that week's Call for Check-Ins.



# Check-In Message

Most check-ins of the month I'm just looking for a conventional Winlink message with the one line check-in. The third week, I usually ask for the check-in to be in the form of an ICS-213.

The Check-in message can be presented on the Subject line, or within the body of the message.

# One Line Check-In message

All Check-Ins should include the online Check-In message

- For radio mode check-ins please include:
  - Your Call Sign, Mode, RMS Station Call Sign, Dial Frequency, County, and State.
  - Expected Modes are APRS, ARDOP, ARDOP P2P, PACKET, PACKET DIGI, PACKET P2P, PACTOR I, PACTOR II, PACTOR III, PACTOR P2P, PACTOR RO, VARA, VARA 500, VARA FM, VARA FM DIGI, VARA FM P2P, VARA P2P, VARA RO
- For Internet related check-ins, please include:
  - Your Call Sign, Mode, County, and State.
  - Expected Modes are Telnet, WebMail, Mesh, and APRS
- My Check-In for the 152 Session of the YCARES Winlink Net was
  - W7OWO, VARA, N0SA, 3.5860, Yamhill, Oregon

# HF Station Selection Aids

- Some participants who use HF modes have questioned my request of RMS Station Name and Frequency as propagation may prevent access or maybe the frequency is busy.
- I see this as a training item. I and others have created a list of HF RMS stations, the band, and the time of day that we've made good connections, I usually use that list to find what will work for me before I do check-ins to other nets.
- Also the Winlink.org website has some tools I use as well
  - RMS Map
    - Provides a US Map of all active RMS Stations by Mode
  - Propagation Map
    - Shows for up to a 48 hour period all Winlink RMS Station connections. I use this combined with my list to select the stations I use.

# Acknowledgment & Map

- If you request and acknowledgment as part of your Check-In I will provide one, but by default I do not.
- I consider the logging of your Map entry as my acknowledgment.
- Though, if you ask a question I will usually provide a reply.
- When I request the check-in to be within the message text of an ICS-213, I usually will reply to that ICS-213.
- Occasionally, the Call For Check-Ins will be in an ICS-213 and I will request you provide your check-in message within the Reply to my ICS-213. In these cases I usually acknowledge this ICS-213.

# Check-In Map

- Throughout the week as I receive the check-ins I log the results and produce an interactive map webpage that contains the participant's location and if they used a radio mode, the RMS Station's location.
  - <https://qsl.net/w7owo/CheckInMaps/CurrentCheckIns.html>
- I didn't start the providing the map until January of 2019. I have an archive of all these maps, which can be found at:
  - <https://qsl.net/w7owo/CheckInMaps/>

# Check-In Roster

- On Saturday mornings I produce a check-in Roster that lists all the check-ins and statistics of the check-ins
- This is within a conventional Winlink message, I usually get it sent out prior to 9:00 am Saturday.
- They are usually listed in the order the check-in was received.

# My Winlink Net Involvement

- Northern California
  - NCS
    - NCALWLINKNET
  - Weekly, Sunday through Thursday
  - Check-In Text
    - NorCal Check In Custom Template does all the formatting
- Florida Winlink Net
  - NCS
    - W4AKH
  - Weekly, Saturday through 06:00 PPT Tuesday Morning
  - Check In Text on Subject Line:
    - FL WL NET, First Name, City, State, Winlink Session Mode

# My Winlink Net Involvement Continued

- Minnesota Winlink Net
  - NCS
    - N0DZQ
  - Weekly, Sunday through Friday
    - Check-In text in body
      - Call Sign, Session Mode, Band, County, State
- Ohio Winlink Net
  - NCS: K8EAF
  - Weekly, Tuesday 21:00 PPT through Wednesday 20:00 PPT
  - Check-In text in body
    - Call Sign, First Name, City, County, State, Band



# My Winlink Net Involvement Continued

- Virginia Winlink Wednesday
  - NCS: KW6GB
  - Weekly, Tuesday 21:00 PPT through Wednesday 20:00 PPT
  - Radio Modes Only, no TELNET
  - Check-In text in body
    - Call Sign, First Name, City, County, State, Band
- Amethyst District ARES Digital Net
  - NCS: VE3VBA
    - Thunder Bay Ontario ARES
  - Weekly, Sunday through Saturday Morning
  - Check-In Text in Body
    - Your Call Sign, City, County, State, Mode, Band, RMS Station Call Sign

# Known Winlink Nets

- Georgia ARES Net
  - NCS
    - KX4MAT
  - Sunday Afternoons
- Clay County ARES, Florida
  - NCS
    - KI4WC
  - Mondays
- Williamson County Tennessee
  - NCS
    - WC4EOC
  - Mondays

# Known Winlink Nets Continued

- Green County Ohio
  - NCS
    - W8LRJ
  - Tuesdays
- Maryland & DC Winlink Net
  - NCS
    - MDCASEC
  - Second Tuesday of the Month
- Wisconsin ARES/RACES
  - NCS
    - K9MMC
  - Tuesdays

# Known Winlink Nets Continued

- El Paso Texas Winlink Net
  - NCS
    - NE8U
  - Tuesdays
- Mississippi ARES
  - NCS's
    - W5DIX, K9EYZ
  - Tuesdays
- Alberta Canada ARES
  - NCS
    - VA6MCP
  - Wednesdays

# Known Winlink Nets Continued

- St. Louis Missouri Net
  - NCS
    - KD0PMW
  - Wednesday Afternoon
- North Texas Winlink Net
  - NCS
    - KF5VO
  - Wednesdays
- West Valley ARC, Utah
  - NCS
    - K2WVC
  - Wednesdays

# Known Winlink Nets Continued

- Travis County ARES, Texas
  - NCS
    - KF5IHR
  - Thursdays
- Hillsborough County ARES, New Hampshire
  - NCS
    - NF1L
  - Wednesdays
- American Red Cross
  - See Website:
    - <https://arc-emcomm-training.groups.io/g/main>

# Joining a Net

To join the YCARES Winlink net, send me a Winlink message, and I will add you to the Participants list and check you in for the week. The following Sunday you should receive a Call For Check-ins, which always described the message text I request.

Similarly for other nets, I would send the NCS a winlink message requesting to join.