

# RMS Express – Installation And Configuration



### What is Winlink

- Worldwide system for sending e-mail via radio.
- Provides e-mail from almost anywhere in the world.
- Entirely supported and operated by amateur radio volunteers (Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc.).
- RMS Express software is the preferred client application.
- Adopted for contingency communication by many government agencies.
- Used by infrastructure-critical NGOs such as International & American Red Cross, Southern Baptist Disaster Relief, DHS Tiered AT&T Disaster Response& Recovery, FedEx, Bridgestone Emergency Response Team, etc.

### Winlink Connection Modes

- Telnet Non-radio connection through the Internet. <u>Good</u> for training (no radio equipment required) and use if radio is down or network is busy.
- VHF/UHF Packet (local LOS propagation)
  - 9600 baud Fast, reliable, range limited and requires \$400 modem (Kantronics or SCS Tracker). Radio must be 9600 capable.
  - 1200 baud Slower, but can use inexpensive TNC like Byonics TinyTrak-4, TNC-X, or even soundcard modems.
     Will work with virtually any FM radio.

#### Winlink Connection Modes

- HF WINMOR "Poor man's Pactor". Not as good as Pactor, but operates with an inexpensive sound card device (\$100), speeds between Pactor 2 and 3.
- **HF Pactor 1, 2, 3 and 4** Fast and reliable but requires an expensive modem (\$1500+).
- All RF modes can be Peer-to-Peer.

# Resources Needed for RMS Express VHF/UHF Packet Radio

- Computer running Windows XP through Windows 10.
- Microsoft .NET 3.5 framework.
- V/UHF radio with data port (1200/9600) or speaker/mic connection (1200 only).
- Packet TNC (Kantronics, TNC-X, MFJ, etc.), or SignaLink or similar USB soundcard interface. Might require a USB to Serial dongle.
- Note: Some new radios have built-insoundcards/TNC's.
- Software downloads:
  - ftp://autoupdate.winlink.org/User%20Programs/
- All software is free, donation is suggested.

### Packet TNC

- Can be simple KISS mode, or full function.
- Cost from about \$100 to \$1500.
- Radio needs to have a data port (1200/9600), or use microphone and speaker connections (1200 only).
- Some radios include a built-in TNC or sound card.
- Might require a USB to serial adapter (built-in on TNC-X)
  - Use FTDI chipset devices for best results









### Packet TNC

- Prolific chipset USB to serial converters have driver issues.
- Counterfeit Chinese products used Prolific product ID and "piggy backed" on official Prolific drivers.
- Prolific countered by changing the hardware/drivers so the counterfeit devices would not work with their drivers.
- This website may help: http://www.ifamilysoftware.com/news37.html
- Adapters based on the FTDI chipset do not have this problem (yet anyway).

### SignaLink Soundcard Interface

- Simple device powered by USB connection.
- Cost is about \$100 including radio-specific cable.
- Radio needs to have a data (sound) port, or use microphone and speaker connections.
- Need to run "Software TNC" application such as Direwolf, or UZ7HO soundmodem.



### Hardware TNC or Sound Card?

There are advantages to both

#### Hardware TNC

- Relatively low cost (TNC-X), old one in the closet?
- Probably the simplest connection.
- No additional software needed.

#### Sound Card

- Can be used for other digital modes besides Winlink.
- Software TNC has superior decode over older hardware TNC.
- Can be used for both Packet and Winmor.

### Hardware TNC or Sound Card?

There are disadvantages to both

#### Hardware TNC

- Only does packet (or maybe Pactor too).
- Older units do not perform as well, no new development.
- Will require USB to serial adapter.

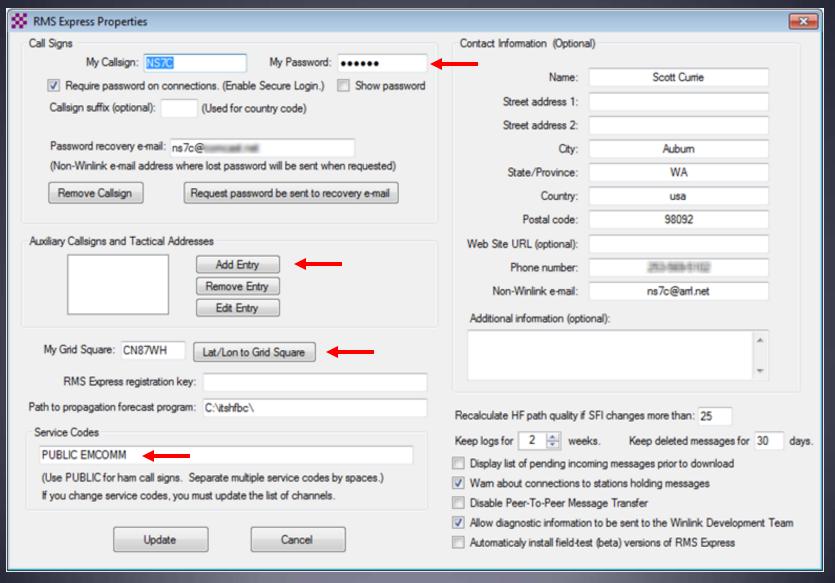
#### Sound Card

- Sound levels and other settings may be changed unexpectedly.
- Requires additional software, and a slightly more complex operation (more training?).

### Installing RMS Express

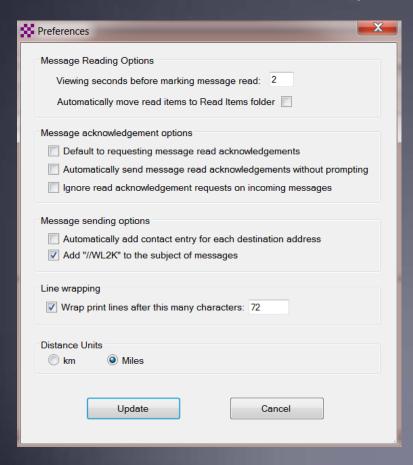
- Download zip file:
  - ftp://autoupdate.winlink.org/User%20Programs/
  - www.winlink.org Client Software, RMS Express
  - Watch for false downloads
- Extract the .msi installer from the zip file and run it.
- Complete the setup screens (call sign, location, etc.).
- Browse C:\RMS Express\, right clickon.
  - RMS Express.exe and select option to create a shortcut.

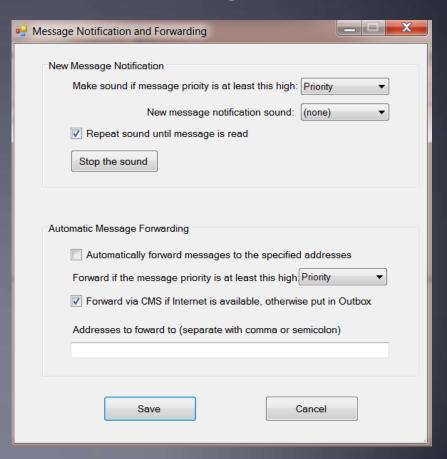
### RMS Express Initial Setup



### **Úser Preferences**

Click "Files" followed by "Preferences/Message Notification"



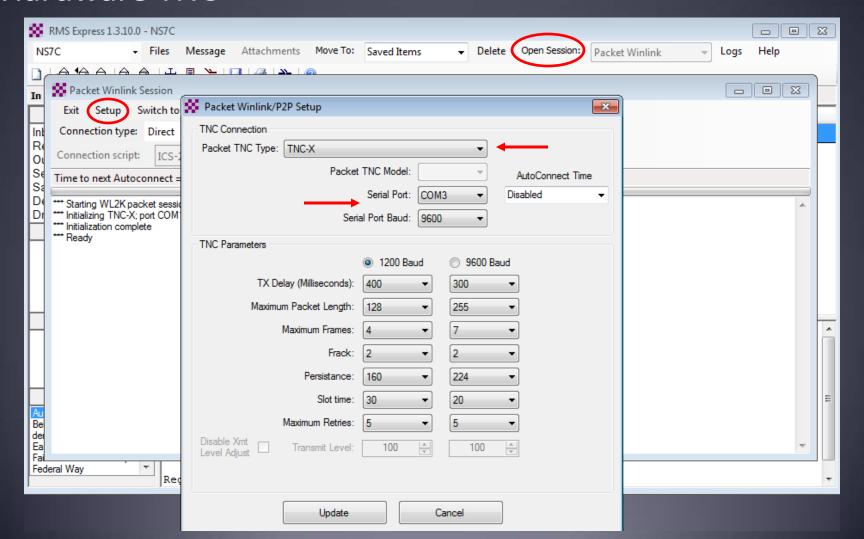


# Installing RMS Express

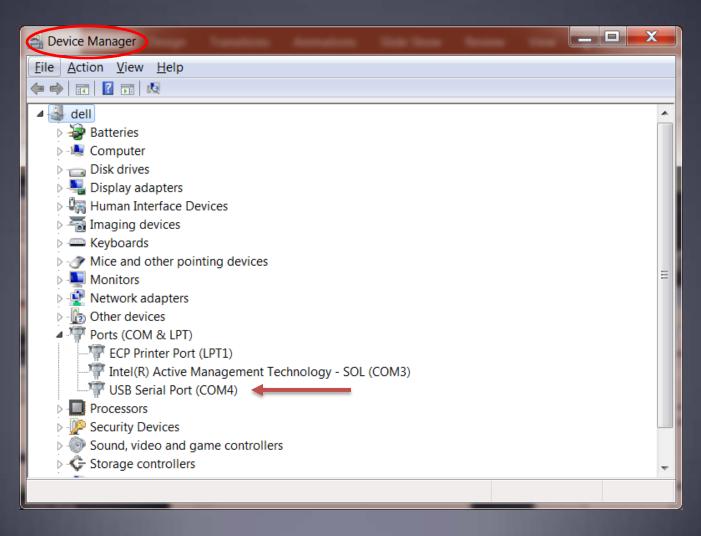
- The first time you originate a message using RMS Express, you will be registered in the Winlink system and will have a callsign@winlink.org address. This account remains active as long as you use is regularly. Inactive accounts will be purged after about 1 year.
- You will also have access to the Winlink Webmail system and other good tools on the Winlink.org website.

# Initial Packet Setup

#### Hardware TNC



# Initial Packet Setup Hardware TNC COM Port

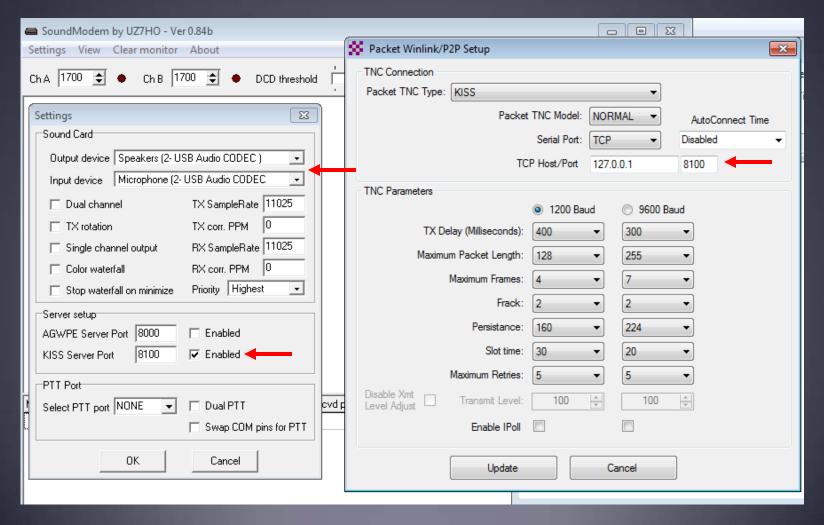


### Initial Packet Setup

#### Sound Card Interface

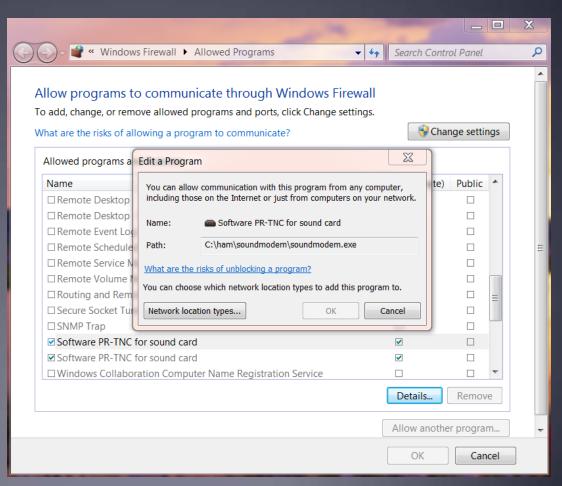
- Download zip file (UZ7HO):
  - http://uz7.ho.ua/modem beta/soundmodem94.zip
  - Extract the program from the zip file and run it.
  - Configuration settings from the drop down menus.
  - Windows only, firewall message.
- Download zip file (Direwolf):
  - https://github.com/wb2osz/direwolf/releases/download/1.3-dev-K/direwolf-1.3-dev-K-win.zip
  - Extract the program files from the zip file and run the app.
  - Edit the INI file to configure.
  - •Multi-platform capable.

# Initial Packet Setup Sound Card Interface (UZ7HO)



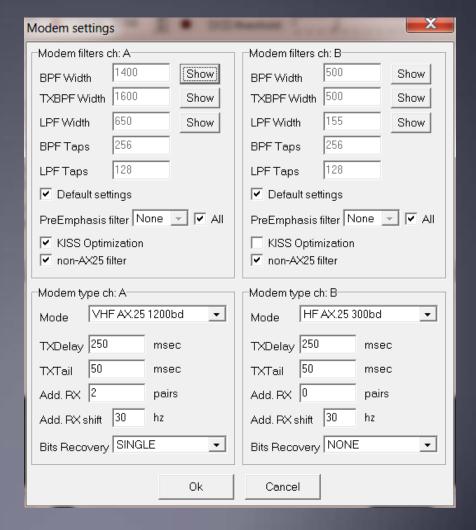
# Initial Packet Setup Sound Card Interface (UZ7HO)

UZ7HO and Direwolf both create "KISS TNC" servers within the network stack, ports on the firewall must be opened to allow RMS Express (and other applications) to use the virtual TNC.



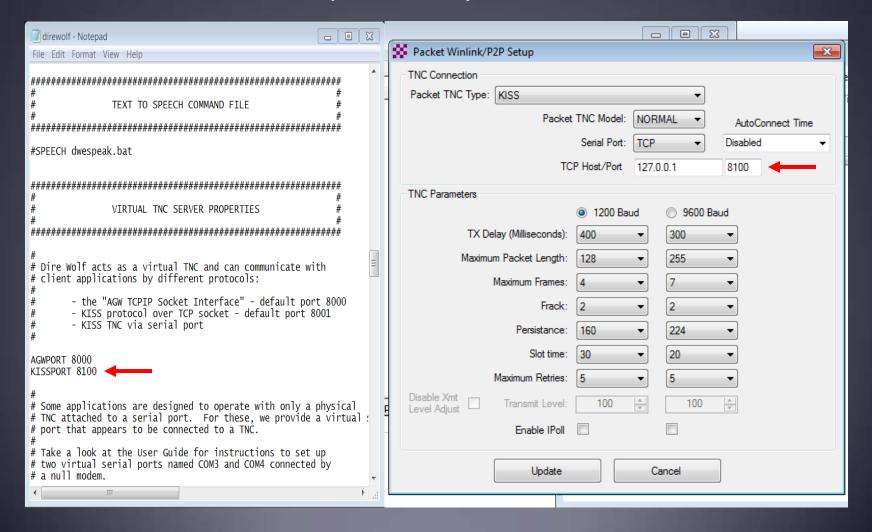
# Initial Packet Setup Sound Card Interface (UZ7HO)

UZ7HO and Direwolf both allow for multiple modems using a "stereo" sound card, for Signalink, only modem "A" is available. Set to 1200bd AX.25 modem.



# Initial Packet Setup

#### Sound Card Interface (Direwolf)

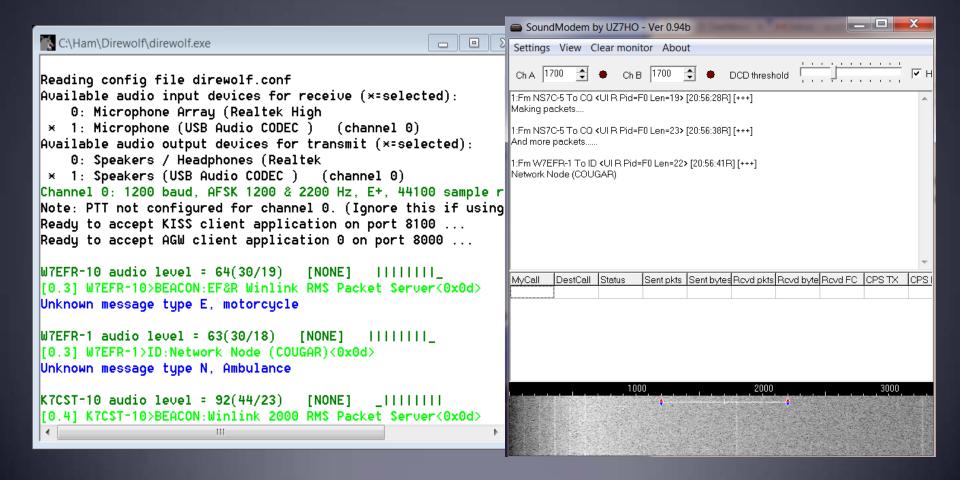


# Initial Packet Setup Sound Card Interface (Direwolf)

Direwolf startup shows available audio devices. Signalink shows as USB Audio Codec

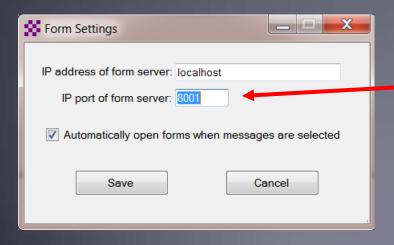
```
C:\Ham\Direwolf\direwolf.exe
                                                                          Dire Wolf DEUELOPMENT version 1.3 K (Jan 30 2016)
Reading config file direwolf.conf
Available audio input devices for receive (*=selected):
    0: Microphone Array (Realtek High
 * 1: Microphone (USB Audio CODEC ) (channel 0)
Available audio output devices for transmit (*=selected):
    0: Speakers / Headphones (Realtek
* 1: Speakers (USB Audio CODEC ) (channel 0)
Channel 0: 1200 baud, AFSK 1200 & 2200 Hz, E+, 44100 sample rate.
Note: PTT not configured for channel 0. (Ignore this if using UOX.)
Ready to accept KISS client application on port 8100 ...
Ready to accept AGW client application 0 on port 8000 ...
```

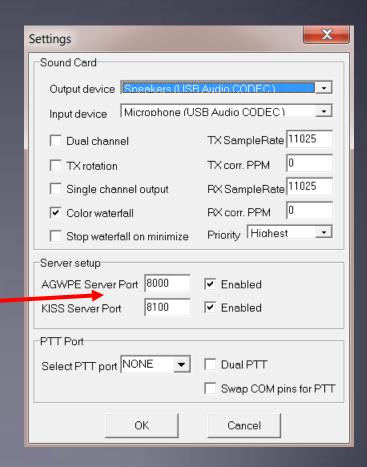
# Initial Packet Setup Sound Card Virtual TNC



# Initial Packet Setup Sound Card Virtual TNC

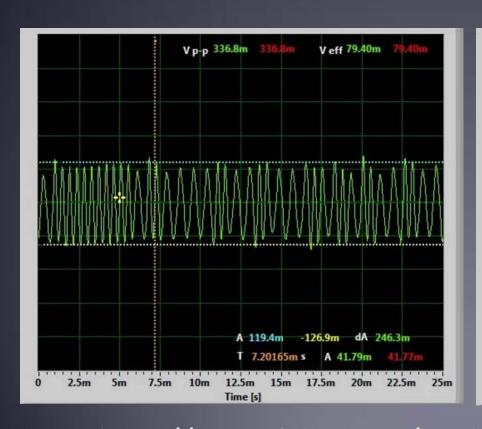
Make sure your Virtual TNC server TCP ports do not conflict with the RMS Express forms server.

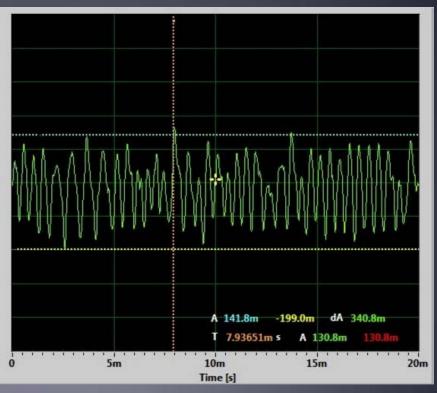




### Initial Packet Setup

Set your transmit levels correctly! (It is not plug and play)





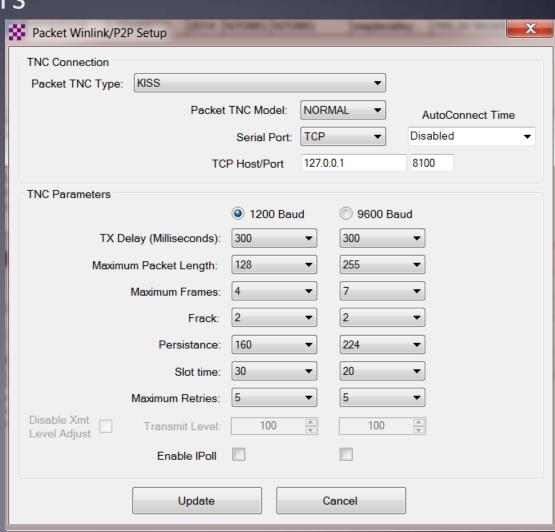
- http://www.febo.com/packet/layer-one/transmit.html
- http://www.zeitnitz.de/Christian/scope\_en

### Initial Packet Setup

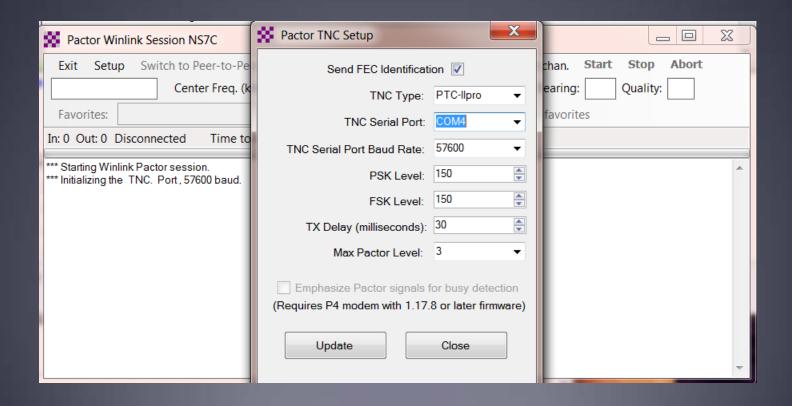
#### **Important Parameters**

- TX Delay (TXD)
- Packet Length
- Max Frames
- Frack
- Max Retries
- AutoConnect Time

Note: For soundcard configurations, TXD is set in the Software TNC application.



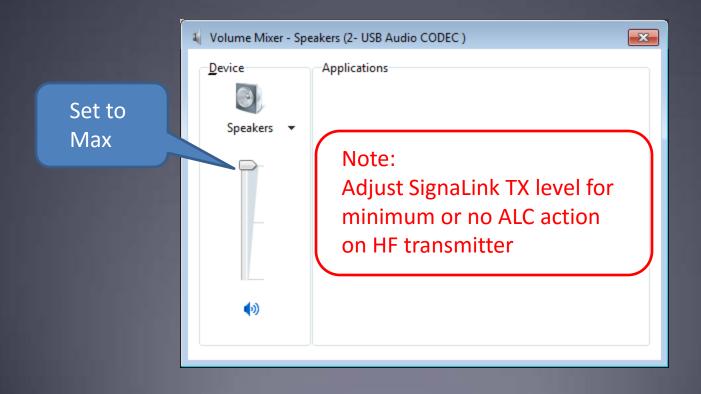
# Initial Pactor Setup PTC modem



# Resources Needed for RMS Express HF Winmor

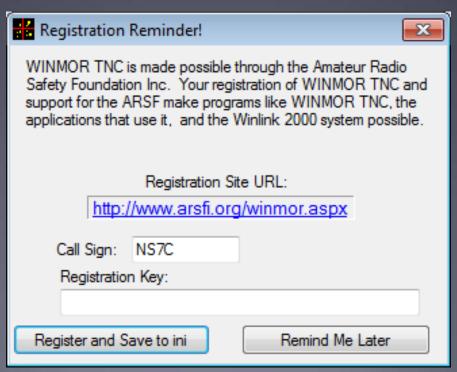
- Same computer and software requirements as V/UHF
   Packet. Winmor modem is included with RMS Express.
- ITSHF propagation prediction program. Note, you will be prompted to download this on first Winmor run. A link to the software will be provided.
- HF radio with data (sound) port and optionally computer control (CI/V, CAT, etc. for rig control).
- SignaLink or similar soundcard interface, may be built-in on newer radios.
- All software is free, donation is suggested.

# Configuring Sound Levels Watch drive/ALC levels on transmitter



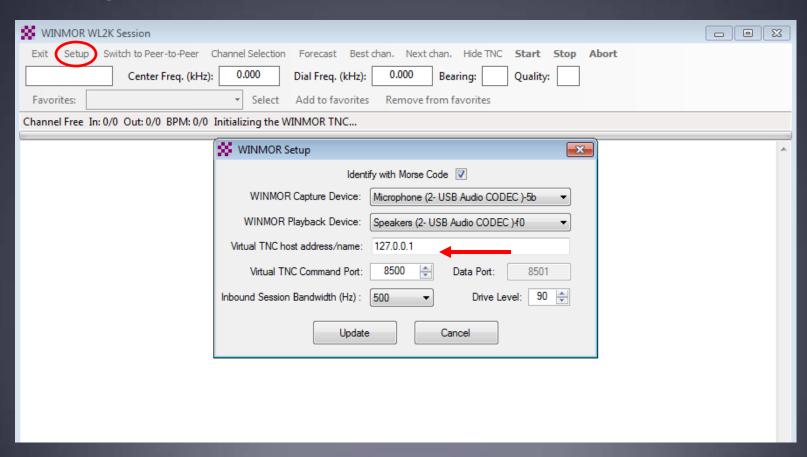
### Winmor Registration Screen

Appears each time you start Winmor until you register and get a key.



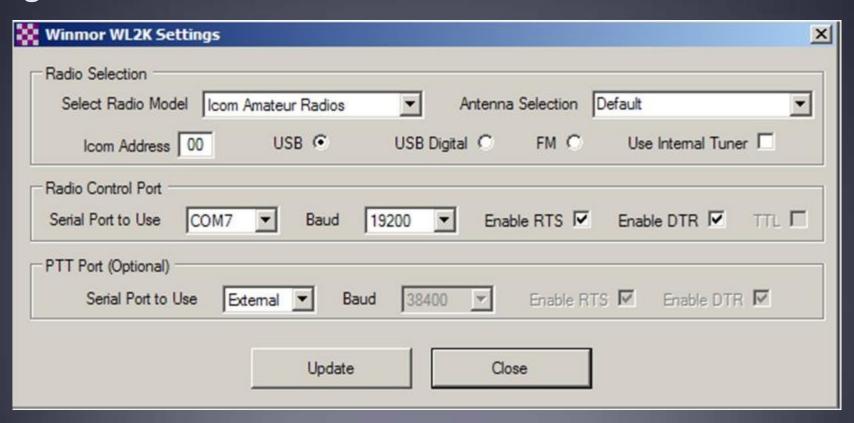
# Initial Winmor Setup

#### Selecting the Audio Device



### Winmor Radio Setup

#### Rig Control Parameters



### RMS Express Main Screen

Begin connection

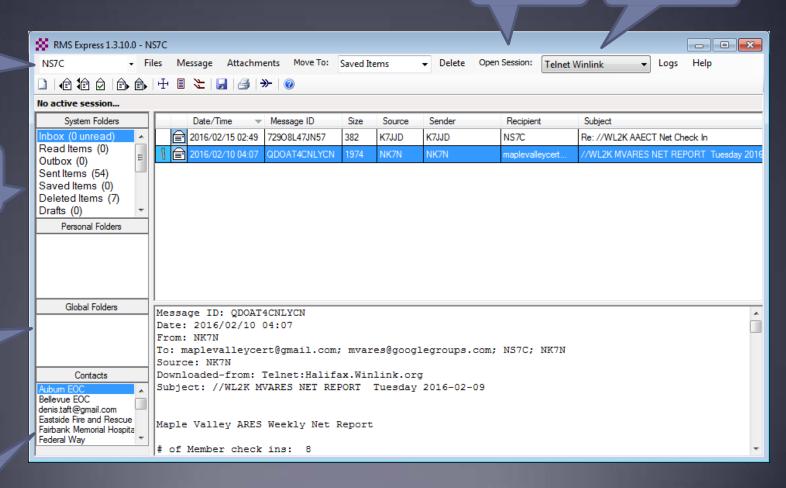
Connection Mode

Multiple call signs

Standard Folders

Personal message folders

Contacts address book



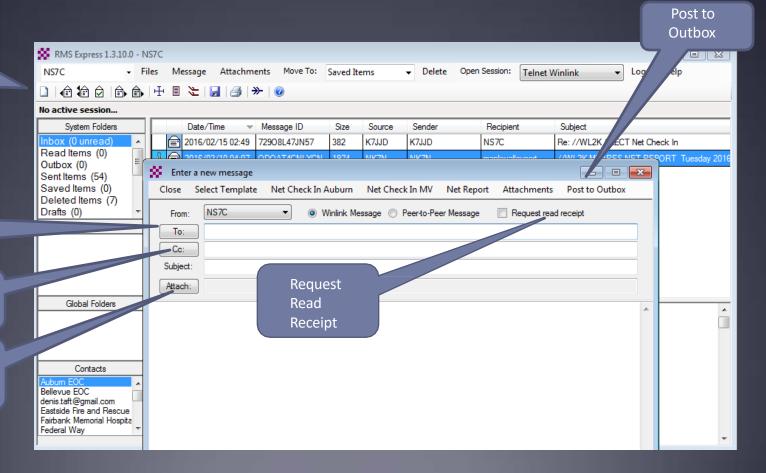
# Composing A Message

New Message Button

Click "To" or "CC" for contacts

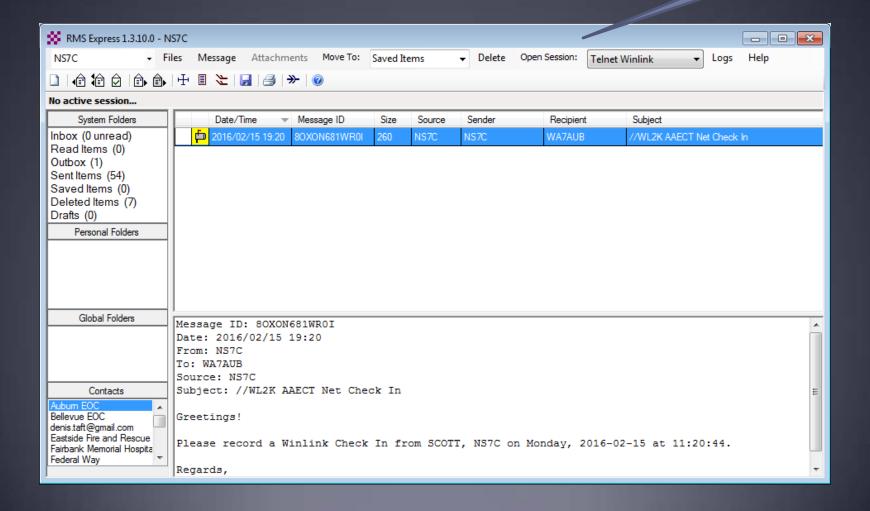
Multiple recipients and CC

File attachments



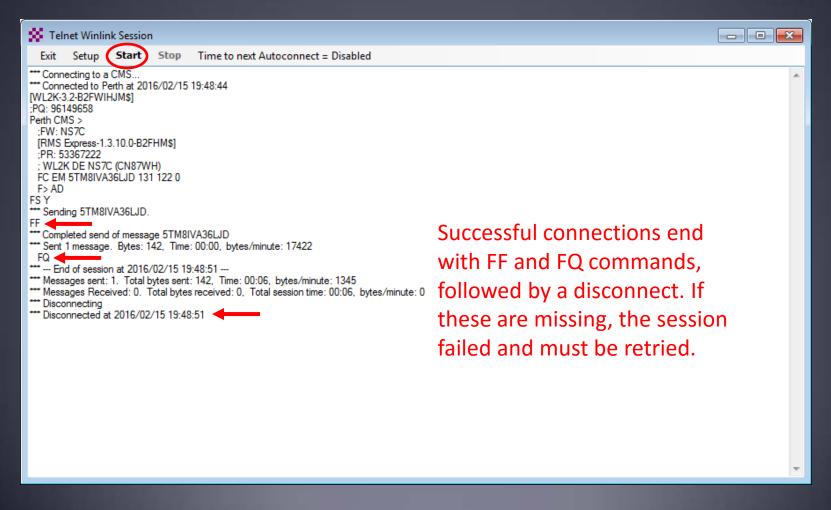
### Pending Message In Outbox

Open Session



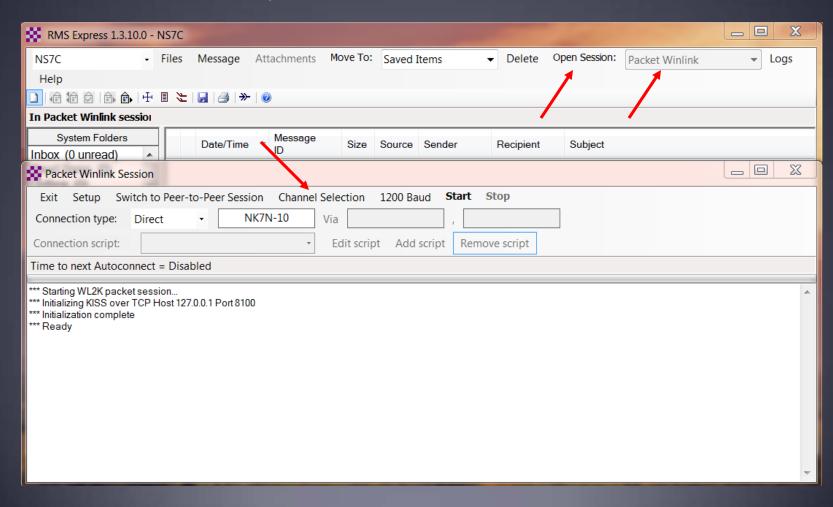
### Telnet Session

Connect, login, send message, log off



## Packet Radio Session

Select Mode and Open Session



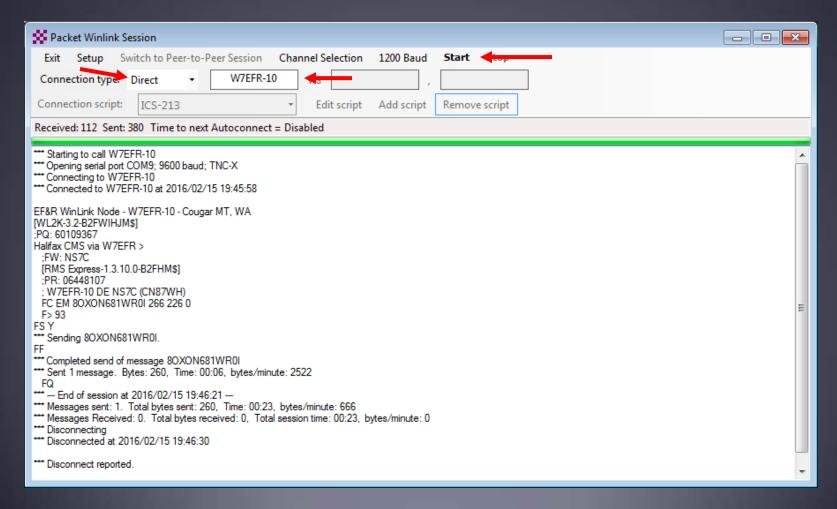
### Packet Channel Selection

Based on your grid square

Packet Channel Selector										
Exit Select Channel Update Table Via Internet Update Table Via Radio										
Stations found within 160 kilometers of your grid square.										
Callsign	Frequency (MHz)	Baud	Grid Square	Group	Distance (mi)	Bearing (Degrees)	>			
NS7C-10	145.030	1200	CN87WH	EMCOMM	000	000				
KC7KEY-10	145.030	1200	CN87XI	EMCOMM	005	057				
WA7FW-10	144.930	1200	CN87UH	EMCOMM	007	270	=			
K7RFH-10	145.630	1200	CN87VJ	PUBLIC	007	329				
NK7N-10	145.010	1200	CN87XL	PUBLIC	012	020				
W7MIR-10	145.030	1200	CN87VN	PUBLIC	017	348				
W7EFR-10	144.950	1200	CN87WN	PUBLIC	017	000				
W7MIR-10	430.825	1200	CN87VN	PUBLIC	017	348				
W7VMI-10	145.070	1200	CN87SK	PUBLIC	018	300				
K7NHV-10	144.350	1200	CN87SK	PUBLIC	018	300				
N7CFO-10	145.690	1200	CN87WO	PUBLIC	020	000				
N7CFO-11	223.480	1200	CN87WO	PUBLIC	020	000				
WA6PXX-10	145.790	1200	CN87VO	PUBLIC	021	349				
WA6PXX-10	440.825	1200	CN87VO	PUBLIC	021	349				
W7EFR-12	144.910	1200	CN87XO	PUBLIC	021	012				
KE7ARH-10	144.950	1200	CN87VO	PUBLIC	021	349				
KE7JL-10	223.440	1200	CN87VQ	EMCOMM	027	352				
MODALIN 40	145.050	1200	ONOTTO	DUDUO	024	240	₹			

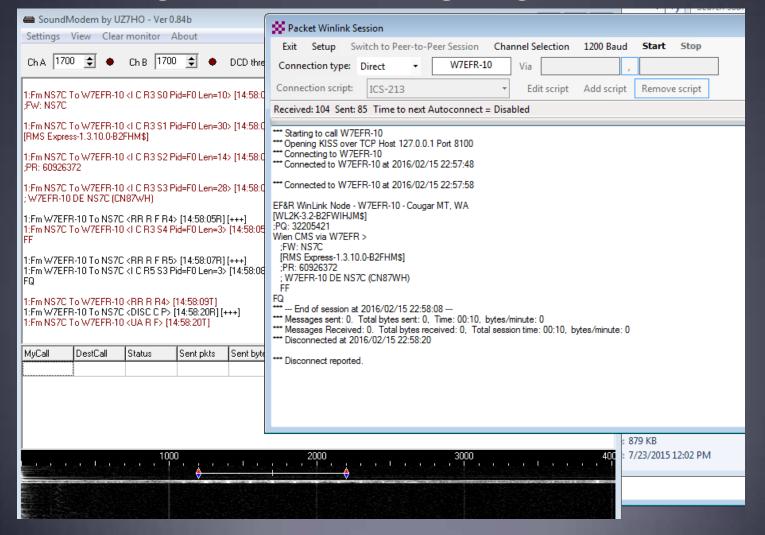
# Packet Session (TNC)

Connect, login, send message, log off

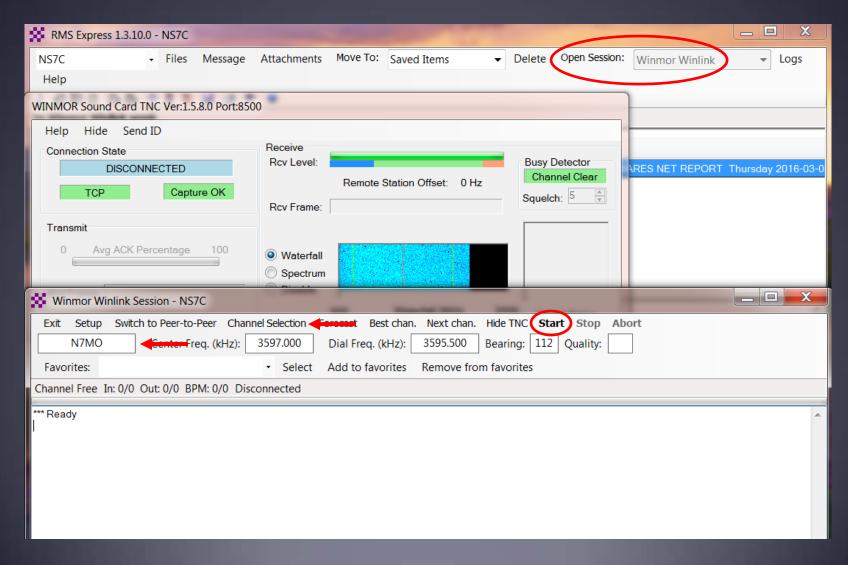


## Packet Session (sound card)

Connect, login, check for message, log off



## Winmor HF Session



## HF Channel Selection Screen

All RMS or radio-only

Update channel list

Double click to select

★ HF Channel Selector

 Select Update Table Via Internet Update Table Via Radio Forecast SFI All RMS

 ▼

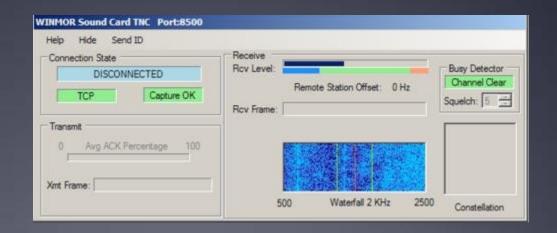
Click Header to Sort

										_
Callsign	Frequency (kHz)	Mode	Grid Square	Hours	Group	Distance (mi)	Bearing (Degrees)	Path Reliability Estimate	Path Quality Estimate	î
K6ETA	14105.000	1600	CM88QF	14-02	PUBLIC	628	182	57	43	
KD7NHC	7107.000	1600	DM08HT	00-23	PUBLIC	603	166	63	43	IJ
KD6OAT	7097.000	500	DN40BO	00-23	PUBLIC	687	129	60	43	
K6ETA	7085.000	1600	CM88QF	14-05	PUBLIC	628	182	59	42	
KF7RSF	3585.500	1600	CN73TD	00-23	PUBLIC	307	202	59	42	
AE6LA	7080.000	500	CM98TF	00-23	PUBLIC	633	171	59	42	
K2RDX	7102.500	1600	CM97AH	00-23	PUBLIC	690	179	52	40	
WA7ODN	3589.500	1600	CN82LN	00-23	PUBLIC	331	188	50	40	
KM3N	10146.200	1600	DM43CF	00-23	PUBLIC	1112	147	43	39	
W6SH	10113.000	500	DM12JQ	00-23	PUBLIC	1041	164	45	39	
W6SH	10149.000	1600	DM12JQ	00-23	PUBLIC	1041	164	45	39	
XE2BNC	10144.000	1600	DM12KM	00-23	PUBLIC	1054	164	44	39	
KE7XO	7103.000	1600	DM26JG	00-23	PUBLIC	840	153	39	38	
VE7RBH	14081.500	1600	CO64JT	00-23	PUBLIC	562	339	44	38	
KE7XO	7101.000	1600	DM26JG	00-23	PUBLIC	840	153	39	38	
N9LOH-5	10134.500	500	EN52RS	00-23	PUBLIC	1655	088	26	36	
K5CW	10148.500	1600	DM61RU	00-23	PUBLIC	1347	137	27	36	Ŧ

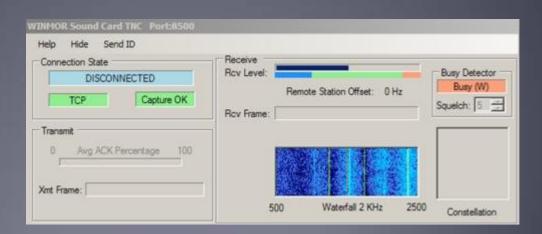
Green: good Yellow: fair Red:bad

### Check If Channel Is Free

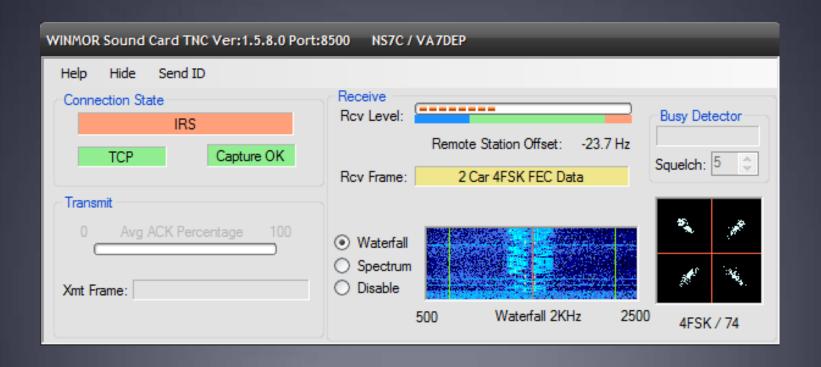
Free Channel:



**Busy Channel:** 

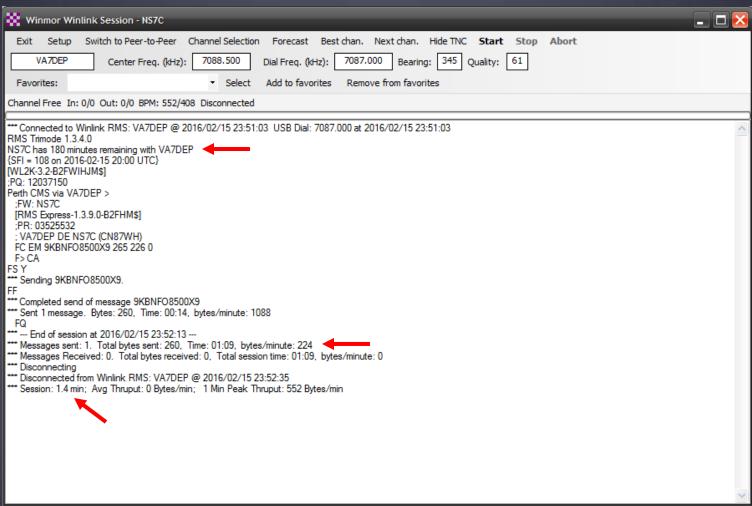


### **Active Winmor Connection**



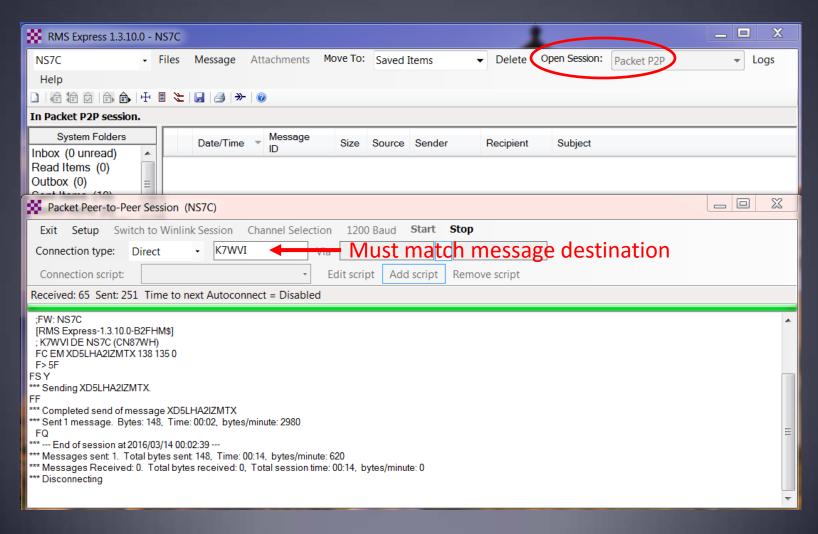
# Winmor Session Log

Connect, login, send message, log off



# Packet P2P Session Log

Connect, login, send message, log off



### Conclusion

- RMS Express use continues to grow, especially for EmComm.
- The Winlink Development Team continues to enhance capabilities to adapt to changing needs.
- Installation and set up is relatively easy.
- Familiar "e-mail" like interface.
- Supports multiple radio transfer modes.
- Support for both hardware and software interfaces.

#### Follow on sessions

 Session 3 on Sunday afternoon will focus on the operation of RMS Express in the EMCOMM environment, and possible future developments.

Questions?