Getting Started on Winlink

(for Windows Operating System)

Install and Configure:

Go to: https://winlink.org

Under Get WinLink Express, click Download.

Scroll down to and click on **Download Winlink Express**

Winlink_Express_install (current version number).zip should appear at the bottom of the window.

Click on it, (If not, look in your Downloads folder)

Double click on RMS Express Setup.msi

Click Next in the Setup Wizard window. Click Next two more times.

IF a popup asks permission, click **Yes**.

When install is complete, Click **Close.** Close all open windows.

Double click on the RMS Express icon (purple checkerboard) on your desktop. If the register ... pop up appears, click **Remind me later**.

This is your main Winlink Express window. (There won't be any contacts listed in the Contacts field in lower left corner.)

🗱 Winlink Express 1.5.10.0 - W7EL	I				-		×
W7ELI - Settings	Message Attachments Mo	ove To: Saved Items	✓ Delete Open Sessio	n: Telnet Winlink	✓ Logs	Help	
) 눈 🛃 🍰 🔭 🔞						
No active session							
System Folders	Date/Time Mes	ssage ID Size	Source Sender	Recipient Subject	t		
Inbox (0 unread) Read Items (0) Outbox (0) Sent Items (7) Saved Items (7) Deleted Items (9) Defete (0)							
Personal Folders							~
Global Folders							
Contacts ADAM_KAROL ABRIAN_COCHRANE DEB ERIC_BERG JIM_MASOG JIM_SCHOCH							<

Click Settings, then Winlink Express Setup. The following window appears.

Winlink Express Properties	×
Call Signs	Contact Information (Optional)
My Callsign: My Password:	News
Callsign suffix (optional): Used for country code)	Name:
	Street address 1:
Password recovery e-mail:	Street address 2:
(Non-Winlink e-mail address where lost password will be sent when requested)	City:
Request password be sent to recovery e-mail	State/Province:
	Country:
Auxiliary Callsions and Tactical Addresses	Postal code:
Add Entry	Web Site URL (optional):
Remove Entry	Phone number:
Edit Entry	Non-Winlink e-mail:
	Additional information (optional):
My Grid Square: Lat/Lon to Grid Square	
Winlink Express registration key:	×
Path to propagation forecast program: C:\itshfbc\	Recalculate HF path quality if SFI changes more than: 25
Service Codes	Keep logs for 2 🚖 weeks. Keep deleted messages for 30 days
PUBLIC EMCOMM	Display list of pending incoming messages prior to download
(Use PUBLIC for ham call signs. Separate multiple service codes by spaces.) If you change service codes, you must update the list of channels.	 ✓ Warn about connections to stations holding messages ✓ Allow diagnostic information to be sent to the Winlink Development Team △ Automaticaly install field+test (beta) versions of Winlink Express
Update Cancel	

Enter your callsign and password. (Hint: store your password in your smartphone in case you forget it) Enter your email address.

Enter your Grid Square. If you don't know it, click the **Lat/Lon to Grid Square** and enter your Latitude and Longitude then click **Calculate**, then click Accept. If you don't know your lat and long, you can find it on Google Earth, a geocaching site, or you can get the Maidenhead Grid Calculator app on your smartphone and click Grid by GPS)

In the Service Codes field, enter PUBLIC EMCOMM

On the right side, the Contact Information is optional.

After Recalculate HF path quality if SFI changes more than: Enter **25**. Do this even if you are not going to be doing any HF.

Choose a number for Keep logs for ___ weeks, and for Keep deleted messages for ___ days. (I use 2 and 30 respectively)

For the next four check boxes, check only the middle two.

Click Update

Back in the main Winlink Express window, click **Settings**, then **Preferences**. Make yours look like this:

Preferences	\times
Message Reading Options Viewing seconds before marking message read: 2 Automatically move read items to Read Items folder	
Message acknowledgement options Default to requesting message read acknowledgements Automatically send message read acknowledgements without prompting Ignore read acknowledgement requests on incoming messages	
Message sending options Automatically add contact entry for each destination address Add "//WL2K" to the subject of messages	
Line wrapping Wrap print lines after this many characters: 72	
Distance Units O km	
Update Cancel	

Click Update.

You are now setup for TELNET operation. Telnet uses only the internet and does not require a TNC or radio.

Configure for Packet Winlink operation:

In main window, click the down arrow in the **Open Session** field and click **Packet Winlink**. Click **Open Session**. You should see this:

🗱 Pa	cket Winlink	Session		_	· 🗆	\times
Exit	Settings	Switch to Peer-to-Peer Session	Channel Selection 1200 Baud Start Stop			
Conn	ection type:	Direct 🔹	Via ,			
Conne	ction script:		 Edit script Add script Remove script 			
Time to	o next Autoc	onnect = Disabled				
*** Start *** Initia *** Initia *** Read	ng WL2K pac izing ; poit ; 9i ization comple ty	ket session 300 baud te				~
						~

Click Settings. This window will appear:

Packet Winlink/P2P Setup				×		
TNC Connection						
Packet TNC Type:			\sim			
Packet TNC Model:			\sim	AutoConnect Time		
Serial Port:			\sim	Disabled 🗸		
Serial Port Baud:			0.1	8100		
If Auto Connect is enabled, open session when Winlink Express is started						
TNC Parameters						
	1200 Bar	ud	O 9600 Ba	bu		
TX Delay (Milliseconds):	400	\sim	300	\sim		
Maximum Packet Length:	128	\sim	128	~		
Maximum Frames:	4	\sim	2	\sim		
Frack:	2	\sim	2	\sim		
Persistance:	160	\sim	224	\sim		
Slot time:	30	\sim	20	\sim		
Maximum Retries:	5	\sim	5	\sim		
Disable Xmt Level Adjust Transmit Level:	100	*	100	* *		
Enable IPoll						
Update		Са	ncel			

Use the down arrows and select your TNC Type and Model and Serial Port.

If only one serial port is listed, choose it. If more than one is listed, just pick one. If you can't connect, come back here and try a different port.

Make the rest of the fields match the above sample.

Click update

Contacts:

Click **Contacts** in lower left corner of main screen.

Click Add.

Enter a Name

You can enter a standard email address or a callsign (if the ham has a Winlink account) Click **Save**.

Repeat for each Contact entry.