

What is Winlink?

Winlink Global Radio Email® is a network of amateur radio and authorized government stations that provide worldwide radio email using radio pathways where the internet is not present. (Source: <https://winlink.org/>)

Why SC Winlink Tuesday?

Without occasional practice, we might struggle to use Winlink during times of need. SC Winlink Tuesday is a local SC initiative to promote learning and regular practicing of Winlink to maintain a state of readiness. To keep things simple, we are suggesting that each Tuesday, * participants send at least one Winlink message to someone (or perhaps a small group**) using any Winlink mode, including Telnet. Please include this email address scwinlinktuesday@gmail.com on Cc so we can identify messages to include on the weekly summary and the associated map.

Please note, if you are sending a message using Peer to Peer (P2P), Winlink won't allow you to add an internet email address. In that case, please send a second non-P2P Winlink message and include the email address above on Cc.

Lastly, please encourage other members of your club or ARES groups to participate in SC Winlink Tuesday.

* For those who want to check-in early, anytime Monday is fine.

** If you are sending to a group, please be thoughtful to not overwhelm people with Winlink email. I suggest 8 to 10 (+/-) as a limit, and you might consider changing the group recipients occasionally.

(Optional) Helpful spreadsheet for "Spotting"

Here's a link to a Google sheet anyone can access to know who is available and when. Notice the differentiation between [24 hour stations and Ad hoc station hours](#). You may add your call sign and update the spreadsheet to reflect your availability. This is particularly helpful for determining digipeaters that may be within reach and stations that are available for P2P contacts. First-time users may request "Edit" capability from KN4KRZ at goddard.mw@gmail.com.

WINLINK BASICS - TELNET

Getting started with Winlink requires installing the software on your computer and setting up a Winlink account. You can find many online resources on the subject. AG6AG, Stuart Sheldon posted this YouTube video [Winlink Quick-start Guide](#) which is easy to follow and has been helpful to many of us. Using Winlink Telnet requires only a computer with internet access; no radio is required. Thanks, Stu, for this excellent video!

An example Winlink message

Enter a new message

Post to Outbox Select Template Attachments Spell Check Save in Drafts Close

From: KN4KRZ Send as: Winlink Message Request message receipt Set Defaults

To: Add call sign(s) of intended recipient(s) here:

Cc: Please include "scwinlinktuesday@gmail.com" here;

Subject: SC Winlink Tuesday Check-in

Attach:

Please check me in for SC Winlink Tuesday.

OPTIONAL – Some people like to include more information in message body, which is fine.
 Here is a common format of things to add: *Your call sign, first name, city or town, county, state (Mode)*
 Example: *N4BQQ, Mike, Sandy Run, Calhoun, SC (Telnet) or (VARA FM) or (VARA HF) (P2P), if P2P*

Optional for your Winlink messages (but encouraged):

- 1) Consider adding a template (a form) to your message. You can practice adding forms even with Telnet. **See Appendix A** of this document which shows a number of forms available in Winlink.
- 2) If you are a member of an EMCOMM group, such as ARES or CERT or if you serve in a role where you may be called upon to assist with passing emergency traffic, discuss with your group the forms you might want to become familiar with and practice adding them to your messages.

WINLINK BEYOND TELNET

After you've learned Telnet, consider expanding your capabilities by adding your radio(s). Some radios come from the manufacturer already equipped with sound cards needed for digital traffic. Others will need an interface such as those available from [SignalLink](#), [Digirig](#), [DRA](#), or [Rigblaster](#). Do some research and ask around to find a suitable fit for your radio(s).

Other options and resources

Winlink has many additional capabilities and features which are beyond the scope of this document but worth mentioning and exploring. A few examples: 1) adding digipeater capability, 2) adding full speed version of VARA, 3) construct your own RMS Gateway that you and others can use to pass Winlink traffic.

Where can I learn more about Winlink?

Several excellent online resources that you can reference to help learn more include [Winlink.org](#), [RATPAC](#), and [Wavetalkers](#). You'll find all of these linked in **Appendix A** of this document.

Members of local clubs and/or ARES groups who have Winlink experience and expertise can help you learn Winlink and help you successfully connect your radio. Sometimes a group workshop or one-on-one session can be extremely helpful accomplishing this task.

Lastly, you can certainly search [Google](#), [YouTube](#), [IO Groups](#), even [Facebook](#) to find resources and online communities that can provide helpful information on Winlink or pretty much any aspect of the amateur radio hobby.

IMPORTANT - 3 Items of Note, based on lessons learned

1) The SEOC has requested that we not include practice traffic to the SHARES call sign, NCS800. Doing that can cause a delay in the SEOC's ability to take traffic during an actual emergency as messages which may accumulate over time would need to be cleared for incoming emergency traffic..

As an alternative, Gary Lennert, amateur call sign K2KYJ, has indicated we may send traffic to his SHARES call sign, NCS952. Unlike the SEOC, Gary is able to regularly check and clear his incoming messages.

2) Radio-only messages are best not included in routine nets as Radio-Only puts a much heavier load on the system than conventional messages. (This per W4PHS, Phil Sherod, a member of the Winlink Development Team).

3) Resource requests, including **ICS-213 RR** and **Palmetto Resource Request** require approval by an authorized person with access to a budget. Radio operators are not authorized to approve these requests. Make this your habit, even when you practice, and you can avoid unnecessary drama.

ADDITIONAL WINLINK PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES - OPTIONAL AND AVAILABLE TO YOU/YOUR GROUP

Winlink Wednesday

Originating from Virginia since 2016, Winlink Wednesday provides another opportunity to practice using different modes.

Instructions: <https://winlinkwednesday.net/>

Most recent check-in map: <https://www.qsl.net/kw4shp/WinlinkWed/WWmap.html>

Winlink Thursday

Once per month, Winlink Thursday typically focuses on skill-building by including specific EMCOMM related exercises.

Unique to this group is that submittals are graded and specific feedback is summarized and provided to participants.

https://emcomm-training.org/Winlink_Thursdays.html

Florida Winlink Net

Check in to this net **any day of the week** [W4AKH Winlink Net](#)

Map of last 14 days of check-ins: [W4AKH Florida Winlink Net](#)

Appendix A - Helpful links and info:

SC ARES Tactical Plan - Appendix E-<https://ares-sc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/SC-ARES-Tactical-plan-V4.7e.pdf>

Winlink Global Radio Email <https://winlink.org/>

RATPAC - Winlink topics <https://www.ratpac.us/WL>

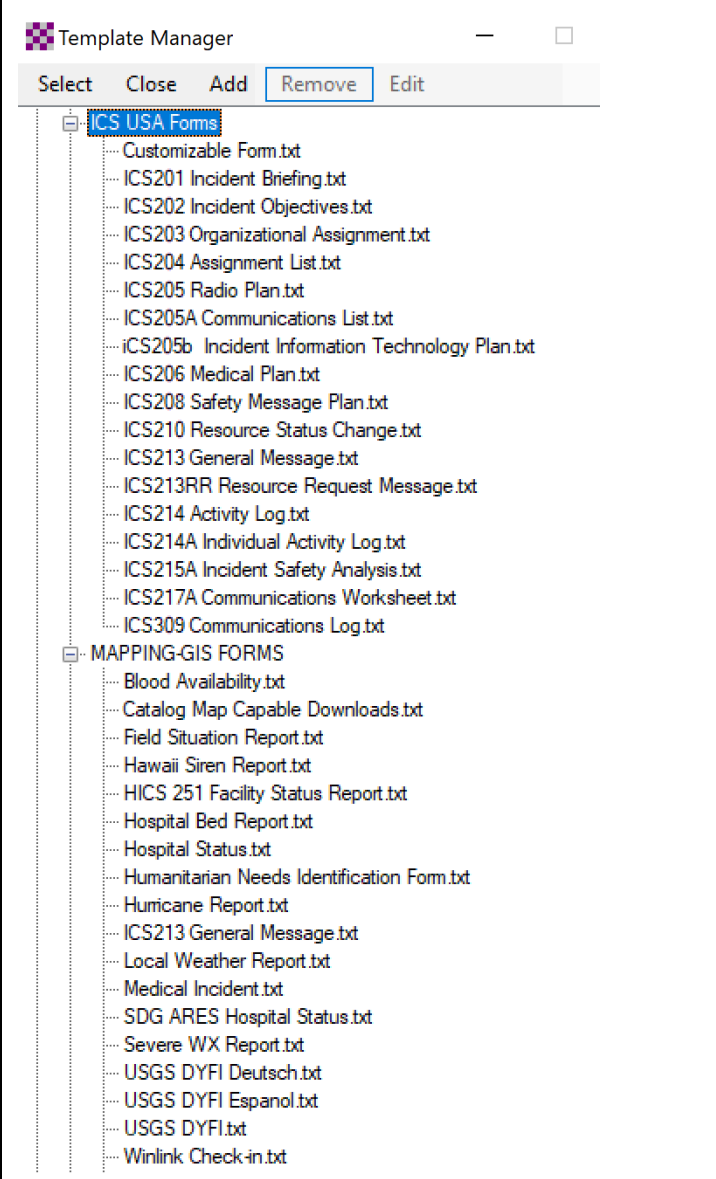
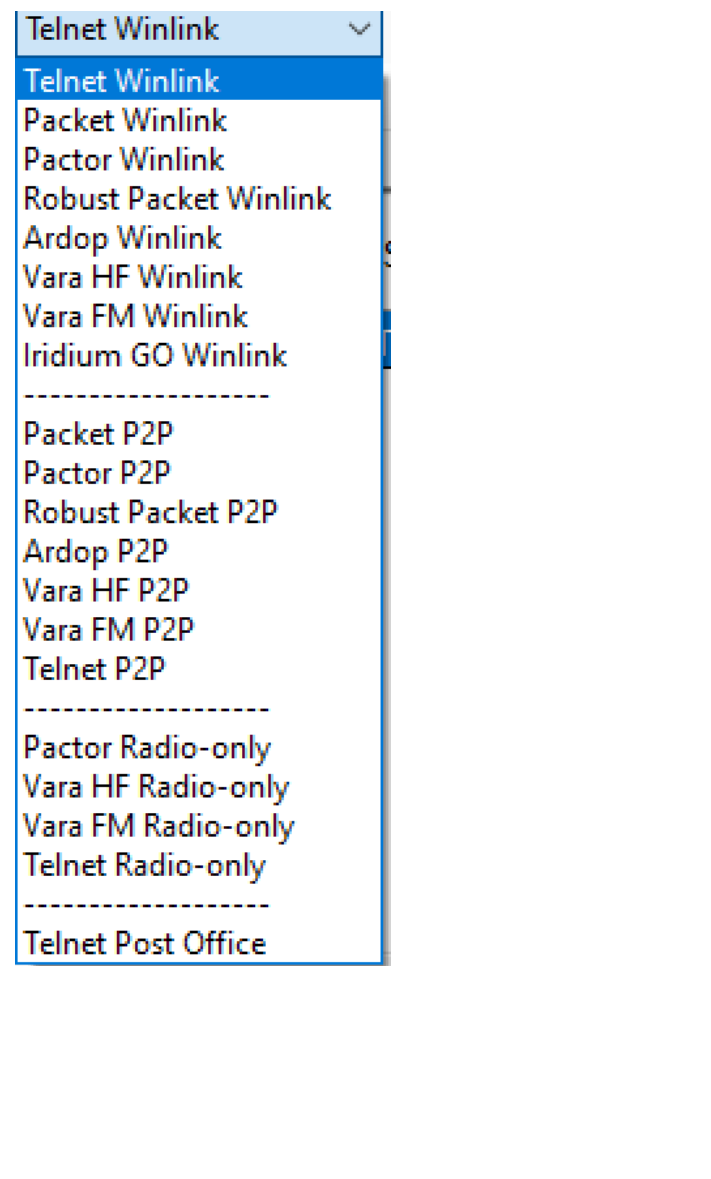
WaveTalkers <https://wavetalkers.com/resources/digital/winlink.php>

ARES-SC.ORG <https://ares-sc.org/>

SC Midlands ARES Training Net <https://ares-sc.org/sc-midlands-ares-training-net/>

- Near the top of this webpage, you can find links to most recent check-in logs including SC Winlink Tuesday.

- For more information about Winlink, scroll down to the section labeled **Winlink - All About Winlink**

Winlink Example Templates (Forms)	Winlink modes
 <p>Template Manager</p> <p>Select Close Add Remove Edit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">ICS USA Forms<ul style="list-style-type: none">Customizable Form.txtICS201 Incident Briefing.txtICS202 Incident Objectives.txtICS203 Organizational Assignment.txtICS204 Assignment List.txtICS205 Radio Plan.txtICS205A Communications List.txtICS205b Incident Information Technology Plan.txtICS206 Medical Plan.txtICS208 Safety Message Plan.txtICS210 Resource Status Change.txtICS213 General Message.txtICS213RR Resource Request Message.txtICS214 Activity Log.txtICS214A Individual Activity Log.txtICS215A Incident Safety Analysis.txtICS217A Communications Worksheet.txtICS309 Communications Log.txtMAPPING-GIS FORMS<ul style="list-style-type: none">Blood Availability.txtCatalog Map Capable Downloads.txtField Situation Report.txtHawaii Siren Report.txtHICS 251 Facility Status Report.txtHospital Bed Report.txtHospital Status.txtHumanitarian Needs Identification Form.txtHurricane Report.txtICS213 General Message.txtLocal Weather Report.txtMedical Incident.txtSDG ARES Hospital Status.txtSevere WX Report.txtUSGS DYFI Deutsch.txtUSGS DYFI Espanol.txtUSGS DYFI.txtWinlink Check-in.txt	 <p>Telnet Winlink</p> <p>Telnet Winlink</p> <p>Packet Winlink</p> <p>Pactor Winlink</p> <p>Robust Packet Winlink</p> <p>Ardop Winlink</p> <p>Vara HF Winlink</p> <p>Vara FM Winlink</p> <p>Iridium GO Winlink</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Packet P2P</p> <p>Pactor P2P</p> <p>Robust Packet P2P</p> <p>Ardop P2P</p> <p>Vara HF P2P</p> <p>Vara FM P2P</p> <p>Telnet P2P</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Pactor Radio-only</p> <p>Vara HF Radio-only</p> <p>Vara FM Radio-only</p> <p>Telnet Radio-only</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Telnet Post Office</p>