

(the unofficial)
**Amateur Packet Radio
Field Reference**

For SCCo RACES Responders

October 2021



Table of Contents

- 1 QUICK REFERENCE..... 2**
- 2 INTRODUCTION..... 3**
 - 2.1 PURPOSE..... 3
 - 2.2 HOW TO USE THIS HANDBOOK..... 3
 - 2.3 OTHER REFERENCES 3
- 3 PACKET OPERATOR CHECKLIST 4**
- 4 PACKET STARTUP PROCEDURE 8**
- 5 CLIENT SOFTWARE 10**
- 6 STANDARD SUBJECT LINE FORMAT 12**
- 7 CHECK-IN, CHECK-OUT MESSAGE..... 13**
- 8 RECOMMENDED FORM ROUTING CHEAT SHEET 14**
- 9 ARCHIVING EVENT DOCUMENTATION..... 16**
 - 9.1 CREATE THE ICS 309 COMMUNICATION LOG 16
 - 9.2 CREATE A PRINTABLE LIST OF YOUR MESSAGES..... 16
 - 9.3 CREATE AN ARCHIVE OF YOUR MESSAGES..... 16
 - 9.4 RESET (CLEANUP) OUTPOST FOR THE NEXT EVENT..... 17
- 10 MANUAL PACKET 18**
 - 10.1 TNC COMMANDS 18
 - 10.2 BBS COMMANDS..... 18
 - 10.3 CONNECTING TO YOUR TNC..... 19
 - 10.4 START OF SHIFT: CONFIGURE TNC SETTINGS 20
 - 10.5 END OF SHIFT: RESTORE TNC SETTINGS 20
 - 10.6 SENDING PACKITFORMS 21
 - 10.7 RECEIVING PACKITFORMS..... 23

Rev: 211013

1 Quick Reference

Frequencies (MHz)

Call Sign	Connect	User Access	My Pri, Sec BBS
W1XSC	W1XSC-1	145.750, 223.620, 433.570	
W2XSC	W2XSC-1	145.730, 223.560, 433.590	
W3XSC	W3XSC-1	144.310, 223.540, 433.450	
W4XSC	W4XSC-1	145.690, 223.600*, 433.550	

*223.600 is primarily for BBS forwarding; O.K. for back-up user access, testing.

BBS Locations

Call Sign	Location
W1XSC	San Jose
W2XSC	Crystal Peak (South County)
W3XSC	Palo Alto
W4XSC	Frazier Peak (East of Milpitas)

2 Introduction

2.1 Purpose

This handbook is not an official Santa Clara County RACES deliverable.

This handbook provides an experienced field packet radio operator with a job aid for the different tasks and activities needed to be performed to be successful in the field.

It builds on a reasonable working knowledge of:

1. Digital communications using amateur packet radio
2. Amateur packet radio hardware, software, and configuration
3. SCC RACES packet procedures, protocols, and standards

The experienced packet radio operator can use this handbook as a job aid and real-time reminder of the tasks that need to occur when deployed to the field. It is intended to ensure task consistency, completeness, and operational alignment with SCCo RACES policies and procedures when carrying out field packet radio operations.

2.2 How to use this Handbook

This handbook is not a tutorial on Amateur Radio Packet and will not teach you all about packet, the hardware, software, and local procedures. You are encouraged to attend SCCo RACES Packet Classes, acquire and use a packet station, and participate in weekly packet practice and regular exercises where packet radio is deployed.

This handbook does provide a summary of how to operate packet radio in the field. However, the packet operator is responsible for keeping current with environmental, procedural, and SCCo RACES packet system changes by:

1. periodically checking the www.scc-ares-races.org website joining,
2. monitoring the packet@scc-ares-races.groups.io mailing list, and
3. attending SCCo RACES packet training courses

Updates to this handbook should be made by the handbook user as soon as you become aware of them.

2.3 Other References

Have these SCCo RACES documents available to reference:

1. Standard Outpost Configuration Instructions - 08/04/2018
2. Standard TNC Parameter Settings - 04/07/2016

3 Packet Operator Checklist

A checklist is a type of job aid that helps ensure consistency and completeness in carrying out a task or executing a process. This checklist is relevant for all packet radio operators during exercise, event, and incident activations where field packet operations is required.

1. First Shift: Establishing a packet station

- _____ 1. Inform Resource Net Control that you have arrived. Check out of the Resource Net before you leave your car.
- _____ 2. Check into the assigned voice net before you leave your car. Start an ICS 309 Comm Log for the voice net.
- _____ 3. Make an ICS 214 Unit log entry.
- _____ 4. Sign in on the site's ICS 211 Check-in sheet.
- _____ 5. Find the supervisor and inform them of your arrival.
- _____ 6. Request a safety and assignment briefing; get details on any site- or event-specific conditions that exist. You need to know:
 - a. Supervisor's Name
 - b. Activation Number
 - c. Operational Period
 - d. ICS Location
 - e. Your Tactical Call and Message ID Prefix
 - f. BBS to use
 - g. Band and frequency
 - h. Primary and secondary packet addresses for any preferred destinations
- _____ 7. Find and establish the workspace to set up packet operations.

2. Initial setup: Equipment check-out

- _____ 8. Find, assess, and setup the packet radio equipment (see *Section 4, Packet Startup Procedure*)
- _____ 9. Confirm or set your User Identification (FCC Call Sign) and ***Tactical Call for the assigned agency.***
- _____ 10. Check settings before transmitting:
 - Correct BBS in Outpost
 - Correct Interface in Outpost
 - Correct radio frequency
- _____ 11. Begin packet operations. Make ICS 214 Unit log entry.

3. Packet Operations: Managing the message flow

- _____ 12. Download all notices to ensure you have the latest; read them.
- _____ 13. Set up a folder named "SCC Notices" (**Tools > General Settings, Startup** tab) and move all notices to this folder.
- _____ 14. Send a test message to yourself to confirm you can create, send to, and receive from the assigned BBS.
- _____ 15. Create a Check-In message to your assigned agency using your *Tactical Call* sign (see *Section 7 Check-in, Check-out Message*).

- _____ 16. Send, receive, log and process packet messages. To only send a message as soon as it is created, use **Actions > Send Only**
- _____ 17. Manually initiate an Outpost Send/Receive at least every 10 minutes.
- _____ 18. If a message was not acknowledged:
 - a. Check the message address and BBS
 - b. Resend the message if needed
 - c. Let your supervisor know
- _____ 19. If new notices are retrieved, follow any new instructions.
- _____ 20. Maintain voice radio contact on the designated voice net.
- _____ 21. Make ICS 214 Unit log entries as appropriate.
- _____ 22. Report any issues or problems to your supervisor in person or over the voice net (if remote).

4. Incoming Shift Change: If you are relieving someone else, do the following:

- _____ 23. Inform Resource Net Control that you have arrived. Check out of the Resource Net before you leave your car.
- _____ 24. Sign in on the local ICS 211 Check-in sheet.
- _____ 25. Find the supervisor and inform them of your arrival.
- _____ 26. Request a safety and assignment briefing; get details on any site- or event-specific conditions that exist.
- _____ 27. Find the person you are relieving and receive a shift change briefing (see **Shift Change Information** below).
- _____ 28. Make packet system updates – Station ID, others as needed.
- _____ 29. Make all relevant shift change entries in your ICS 214 Unit log.

5. Outgoing Shift Change: If you are being relieved, do the following:

- _____ 30. When contacted by your replacement, provide a shift change briefing (see **Shift Change Information** below).
- _____ 31. Generate and sign a packet ICS 309 Comm Log for your shift.
- _____ 32. Generate all event packet documentation for your shift and deliver as instructed (see *Section 0*
- _____ 33. *Medical Forms*
- _____ 34. *Archiving Event Documentation*).
- _____ 35. Turn over all assigned equipment to your replacement.
- _____ 36. Find your supervisor and inform them of the shift change and your departure.
- _____ 37. Make the appropriate shift change entries in your ICS 214 Unit log. Complete and sign the form.
- _____ 38. Turn in all paperwork to your supervisor.
- _____ 39. Sign out on the site's ICS 211 Check-in sheet.
- _____ 40. Check into the Resource Net. Inform Net Control what you plan to do (go home, return to EOC, etc.).

6. Securing Operations: when you are directed to shut down, do the following:

- _____ 41. Get permission from your supervisor to shut down.
- _____ 42. Create a text Check-Out message to your assigned agency using your Tactical Call sign (see *Section 7 Check-in, Check-out Message*).
- _____ 43. Generate and sign a packet ICS 309 Comm Log for your shift.
- _____ 44. Generate all event packet documentation for your shift and deliver as instructed (see *Section 0*
- _____ 45. *Medical Forms*
- _____ 46. *Archiving Event Documentation*).
- _____ 47. Complete and sign your ICS 214 Unit log.
- _____ 48. Shut down and pack up all assigned equipment.
- _____ 49. Turn in all paperwork to your supervisor.
- _____ 50. Sign out on the site's ICS 211 Check-in sheet.
- _____ 51. Check out of the assigned voice Net and check in with the Resource Net. Inform Net Control what you plan to do (go home, return to EOC, etc.).

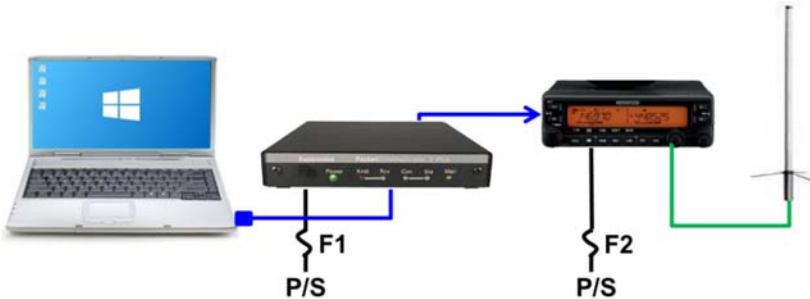
Shift Change

Before turning over or accepting a shift, both the in-coming and out-going operators should review as much information as possible, including:

- Past history of messages sent, replies you expect, and who should get them.
- The location of the toilet, food, water, etc.
- What to do in the event of an emergency.
- Location and timing for briefings that may occur during each shift change.

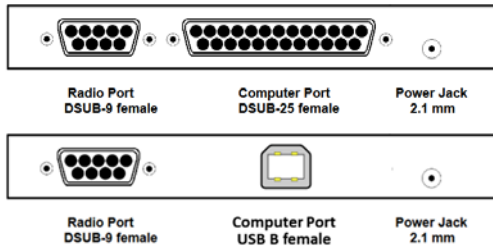
4 Packet Startup Procedure

This is a four-step approach for confirming the operational state of a packet station.



1. Connections: Confirm that all packet components are correctly cabled.

- _____ 1. Laptop; Serial USB Adaptor available if no serial comm port exists.
- _____ 2. TNC (KPC3+ shown)





- a. to Computer: Correct serial modem cable to USB – Serial Adaptor, or USB cable for newer KPC3+.
 - b. to Radio: **Custom** data cable; depends on the radio.
 - c. Power: fused, connected to battery or power supply.
- _____ 3. Radio
 - a. To Antenna: coax connected to antenna
 - b. Power: fused, connected to battery or power supply

2. Power Up: Apply power. Verify all devices are correctly powered up.

- _____ 4. Boot up Laptop; battery is charged or power adaptor is plugged in.
- _____ 5. TNC: Apply power:
Verify TNC power LED lights up.
Verify (if using a RigRunner) fuse LED is not lit (indicates a blown fuse).
- _____ 6. Radio: Apply power.
Verify the radio turns on.

3. TNC Check: Verify that you can communicate with the TNC.

- _____ 7. **Verify:** If using a USB-Serial adaptor, the correct Windows driver is loaded; check with Windows Device Manager (right-click Windows **Start** (), left-click **Device Manager**, look for **Ports (COM & LPT)**.
- _____ 8. Run the terminal emulator such as **Ipserial.exe** or **PuTTY**. Look for the **Ipserial SCC** desktop icon, or from Outpost, **Tools > Interactive Packet > Serial Com Port**. 
- _____ 9. From Ipserial, select **Setup > Com Port Settings**. Select the Comm Port for your TNC... Press **OK** when done.
- _____ 10. From Ipserial, press **Connect**. Press **Enter**. **Verify** that you see the TNC prompt (`cmd :`).
- _____ 11. If you do not get the TNC prompt or any text, then check:
 - a. Power is applied to the TNC; the TNC is turned on.
 - b. If the TNC was left in KISS mode; then reset the TNC. Try:
 - i. From Ipserial, **Tools > Kantronics Kiss Off**.
 - ii. See TNC manual to perform a hardware reset.
- _____ 12. If you do get garbled text, then check Com Port settings: 9600 baud, 8/N/1, RTS/CTS

4. Equipment Settings: Confirm all equipment settings. This occurs prior to starting Outpost.

- _____ 13. TNC Settings: Use **Ipserial.exe** or **PuTTY**.
 - a. Check Comm Port settings
 - b. TNC: `cmd: int terminal`
 - c. TNC: `cmd: CD Software`
- _____ 14. Antenna is up as high as possible
- _____ 15. Radio is set to the frequency for the selected BBS. Plus,
 - a. Tone set to NONE
 - b. Offset set to NONE
 - c. Squelch is open
 - d. Radio is set to high power
 - e. Correct side of the radio is selected for packet (depends on the radio)

5. Outpost Application Settings

- _____ 16. Packet application (see the next section in this handbook).
 - a. Station ID is set to your FCC Call Sign
 - b. Tactical Call, Additional Text, and Message Prefix is set per your operational instructions
 - c. PC Time is checked to be the correct time
 - d. BBS is set to the required BBS
 - e. Interface is set to the TNC and Com Port you are using

5 Client Software

Application Startup



Outpost SCC

1. **Start Outpost.** Find the Outpost icon on the PC desktop, and double-click on it.
2. The **Station Identification Form** opens.
 - a. Use the **User Call Sign** dropdown to select your call sign. If your FCC call sign is not listed, press **New** and fill in all fields. Verify that **ALL** User Fields are filled in as follows:

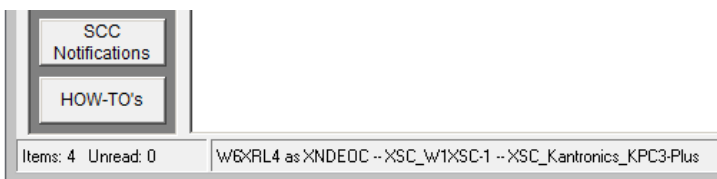
User Call Sign:	< your call sign >
User Name:	< your name >
Message ID Prefix:	<Last 3 chars of your call sign, or enter your initials>

- b. Press **Apply** when Done.
 - c. Use the **Tactical Call Sign** dropdown to select your tactical call. If your assigned Tactical call is not found, press **New** and fill in all fields. Verify that **ALL** Tactical Call Fields are filled in as follows:

Use Tactical Call:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CHECKED.
Tactical Call Sign:	< per your assignment >, 6 characters
Additional ID Text:	Short description of your location
Message ID Prefix:	< per the assignment> 3 characters. Check with your supervisor

- d. Press **OK** when done. The Outpost main form will open.
3. **Setting up the TNC.** From Outpost, select **Setups > Interface**.
 - a. On the *Type* tab, set the Device Name, such as **XSC_Kantronics_KPC3-Plus**.
 - b. On the *Com Port* tab,
 - i. Com Port: select the PC Comm Port to which the TNC is connected.
 - ii. Baud Rate: 9600
 - iii. Data Bits: 8
 - iv. Parity: None
 - v. Stop Bits: 1
 - vi. Flow Control: RTS/CTS
 - c. Do not change any fields on any other tabs.
 - d. Press **OK** to Save your settings.

4. **Setting up the BBS.** From Outpost, select **Setups > BBS**.
 - a. On the **Name** tab, select the primary BBS Name for your city. If that BBS is not available, select your secondary BBS.
 - b. Set **BBS Type** to “**Let Outpost determine...**”
 - c. Press **Set/Get TNC** to reopen the TNC Settings form, and press **OK** from that form. This links the TNC to this BBS.
 - d. Do not change any fields on any other tabs.
 - e. Press **OK** to Save your settings
5. **Confirm your settings.** Check the bottom of the Outpost main form and confirm you see your Station ID, Tactical Call, BBS, and TNC listed as you have just set up.



6 Standard Subject Line Format

Last revised: 22-Feb-2020 at 04:55 by Michael Fox, N6MEF

Always use the following subject line format to allow the recipient to review and prioritize messages.

The standard subject line format is:

<SenderMsgNbr>_<HandlingOrder>_<MsgSummary>

Where:

<SenderMsgNbr>	Typically, a three-character Tactical ID consisting of letters and/or digits, followed by a hyphen ("-"), followed by three or more digits, followed by an optional letter suffix. <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Tactical ID: Individuals should use their initials, call sign suffix or other identifier. Agency EOCs/DOCs should use their assigned three-letter Tactical ID. Others should use the three-character value assigned by their agency, typically the last three characters of the tactical call sign.▪ Optional letter suffix: Used to make the number different from any that may already exist on pre-printed forms. Outpost uses the suffix "P" when it generates the message number. It is recommended to avoid using letters which could be mistaken for digits (I, O, Q, Z).
<HandlingOrder>	One letter: I = Immediate; P = Priority; R = Routine
<MsgSummary>	Short description of the contents of the message

Example:

Subject Line: LOS-127P_R_Status of sandbag supplies

Where:

Sender Msg Nbr:	LOS-127P
Handling Order:	_R_
MsgSummary:	Status of sandbag supplies

NOTES:

1. Underscore characters "_" are used between the above three fields to provide better visual separation.
2. PackItForms will automatically format the subject line and will include the type of form used as part of the subject.
3. Check-In/Out messages have a specific <MsgSummary> format and body format. See the "SCCo Packet Check-In/Out" notice for details.

7 Check-in, Check-out Message

Last revised: 30-Sep-2021 at 22:10 by Tim Howard, KE6TIM

Check-In/Out messages follow the standard subject line format. See the "SCCo Packet Subject Line" notice for general subject line format info.

Check-In/Out messages are always sent as plain text messages (not forms), always have Handling Order = R (Routine), and have a specific subject and body format:

Tactical Check-In:

Subject: <MsgNbr>_R_Check-In <TacticalCallSign>, <TacticalName>

Body: Check-In <TacticalCallSign>, <TacticalName>

Present are:

[List of FCC call signs and full names, one per line]

Example:

Subject: X14-123P_R_Check-In XNDX14, Xanadu Shelter 1

Body: Check-In XNDX14, Xanadu Shelter 1

Present are:

W6XRL4, Herman Munster

Tactical Check-out:

Check-Out messages are the same, except replace "Check-In" with "Check-Out"

Example:

Subject: X14-128P_R_Check-Out XNDX14, Xanadu Shelter 1

Body: Check-Out XNDX14, Xanadu Shelter 1

Present are:

W6XRL4, Herman Munster

Individual Check-In:

Unless required by the local jurisdiction, it is unlikely you will need to do an individual check-in/out. But, if you do...

Subject: <MsgNbr>_R_Check-In < FCCCallSign >, < FullName >

Body: Check-In <FCCCallSign>, <FullName>

Example:

Subject: XRL-234P_R_Check-In W6XRL4, Herman Munster

Body: Check-in W6XRL4, Herman Munster

Individual Check-out:

Check-Out messages are the same, except replace "Check-In" with "Check-Out"

Example:

Subject: XRL-237P_R_Check-Out W6XRL4, Herman Munster

Body: Check-Out W6XRL4, Herman Munster

8 Recommended Form Routing Cheat Sheet

General EOC, RACES Forms

Handling	To Location	To ICS Position
ICS-213 Message Form		
If "Severity" is: Then "Handling" is:	Author defined	Author defined
Emergency		
Urgent		
Other		
EOC-213RR Resource Request		
If "Priority" is: Then "Handling" is:	County EOC	Planning Section
Now		
High (0-4 hrs)		
Medium (5-12 hrs)		
Low (12+ hrs)		
OA Municipal Status		
Immediate (ASAP)	County EOC	Situation Analysis Unit Else: Planning Section
OA Shelter Status		
Priority (<1 hr)	City-managed: City EOC County-managed: County EOC	Mass Care and Shelter Unit Else: Care and Shelter Branch Else: Operations Section
RACES Mutual Aid Request		
Routine (<2 hrs)	County EOC	RACES Chief Radio Officer Else: RACES Unit Else: Operations Section

Medical Forms

Handling	To Location	To ICS Position
HAvBed Report		
Immediate (ASAP)	If open: MHJOC Else: County EOC	EMS Unit Else: Medical Health Branch Else: Operations Section
Medical Facility Report		
Immediate (ASAP)	If open: MHJOC Else: County EOC	EMS Unit Else: Medical Health Branch Else: Operations Section
Medical Resource Request		
If "Priority" is:	Then "Handling" is:	
Now	Immediate (ASAP)	
High (0-4 hrs)	Immediate (ASAP)	
Medium (5-12 hrs)	Priority (<1 hr)	
Low (12+ hrs)	Routine (<2 hrs)	
Allied Health Facility Status		
Routine (<2 hrs)	County EOC	RACES Chief Radio Officer Else: RACES Unit Else: Operations Section

9 Archiving Event Documentation

Whether it be an exercise or a real activation, when your shift is over, your management will provide instructions on things that need to be done. These can include:

- Submitting all documentation (to whom and how)
- Preparing the packet station for the next use, including archiving your shift or the event

9.1 Create the ICS 309 Communication Log

Follow these steps to produce the Packet ICS 309:

1. From Outpost, go to **Tools > Report Settings**, 3rd tab, the **Other ICS 309** section. Enter all fields. These fields will flow to the ICS309 Form.
2. From Outpost, go to **Forms > ICS 309 Communication Log**.
3. Select **Period** Tab. Select **Range**, set the **From:** and **To:** to the date/time range for when your shift (or event) occurred.
4. Select **Content** Tab. User discretion.
5. Select **Output** Tab. Check all the output formats you want.
6. Press **Build Data Set**, then press **Print**.
7. If you print this form, then sign the ICS 309.
8. Deliver this file to your supervisor.

NOTE: If you do not have a printer, then select the *Microsoft Print to PDF* printer to produce a .pdf file.

9.2 Create a printable list of your messages

1. From Outpost, **File > Save All**.
2. This will create an Ascii formatted file or all messages in the current folder with a **Page Break** embedded between each message.
3. Use meaningful file names.
4. Repeat this step for any other folder where event messages were created and stored.
5. At some future time, this file could be printed to generate one message per page. Or, because the messages are in a .txt file, individual messages can be copied and pasted into another text editor and printed for reference.
6. Deliver this file to your supervisor.

9.3 Create an Archive of your messages

1. From Outpost, **File > Export**, then select **"All Folders"** (for your entire system).
2. Use meaningful file names. This creates an Outpost readable file that later can be imported into Outpost to restore your messages back to their original folders.
3. Deliver this file to your supervisor.

9.4 Reset (cleanup) Outpost for the next event

STOP! Do not proceed until you have created a **Message Archive>All Folders** first.

STOP! Do not proceed until you have permission from your supervisor.

1. If not already done, set up the **SCC Notices** message folder:
 - a. **Tools > General Settings, Start** tab.
 - b. Set the name of one of the folders to **SCC Notices**.
 - c. Move or drag all SCC Notices to this folder.

2. If not already done, export (backup) the **SCC Notices** folder:
 - a. click on this folder. **File > Export**, then select **This Folder**.
 - b. Give it a name, like "**SCC_Notices**". Press **OK**.
 - c. Verify that 6 messages were processed.
NOTE: your file is in the C:\SCC Packet\archive directory

3. Delete all Outpost messages:
 - a. Go to **File > Delete All Messages**, select **Yes** at the prompt.
All your files are deleted.

4. Restore the SCC Notices:
 - a. **File > Import**, select the file, press **OK**

5. Your system is now ready for the next event or incident.

6. Inform your supervisor that this task is complete.

10 Manual Packet

10.1 TNC Commands

1. **HELP** [command]
When entered alone, lists all available commands. With a command, provides details on that specific command.
2. **MYCALL** xxxxxx
Tells the TNC what its call sign is. Can be an FCC or Tactical Call sign
3. **CONNECT** call1 [via call2, call3, ...]
Call1 = Call sign of the station to be connected to. Adding "via call2..." connects to the BBS by digipeaters.
4. **CONVERS**
Puts the TNC into Conversational mode. What you then type is transmitted.
5. **CNTL-C**
Puts the TNC into Command Mode. Enter TNC commands at the prompt.
6. **RESTORE DEFAULT**
Resets the TNC to the factory default settings; performs the AUTOBAUD routine. Defaults INTface to NEWUSER. Hard reset can also be performed with internal jumpers.
7. **INTFACE** [TERM | ...]
When set to TERMINal, the full command set of the TNC is available.
8. **XMITLVL** [<value>]
If blank, displays the current transmit level. If a value is included, sets the transmit level.

10.2 BBS Commands

1. **HELP** or ? [command]
H = List of available commands. **?** is the same as **H** or **HELP**
H <cmd> = Provides details on the command.
example: **H List** = shows all **List** command options and what they do.
2. **LIST**
L = Displays the headers for all unread messages, if any.
LA = Lists ALL messages, both read and unread
LM = Lists MY messages addressed to me
L> addr = Lists all messages that have "addr" in the message's To: field
3. **READ #**
= The message number to be displayed.
4. **KILL #**
= The message number to be deleted.
5. **AREA**
A = Lists all available bulletin areas.

AF = Gives a full listing of areas with descriptions (if available).

A area_name = Positions you to that area. Then, use the List and Read commands to view messages.

6. **SEND [option] <dest_address>**

S[P] = Send Private; example: *SP w6xrl4@w5xsc.ampr.org*

SB = Send Bulletin; example: *SB mtv@xsc*

ST = Send Traffic; this is used for NTS packet messages

SC = Send Copy; to multiple destination addresses

example: **SC** w6xrl4@w5xsc.ampr.org (enter the 1st address)
(BBS then prompts with **Cc:** for the other addresses. Enter each separated by a comma.)

7. **BYE**

Disconnects from the BBS

8. **XM [lines to display]**

XM = Displays the current page length setting

XM 24 = Sets the page length to 24 lines

XM 0 = Turns off pagination (required when using Outpost)

NOTE: If a page length is set, message listings, messages and other content longer than the page length are paused and a "More (N=no)?" prompt is shown. Press SPACE to see the next page or 'n' to stop

10.3 Connecting to your TNC

Using Putty:

- Main screen
 - Select Serial
 - Set the serial port name, such as COM1
 - Set the speed to 9600
- Terminal > Keyboard
 - Set the Backspace key to "Control-H"
- Serial
 - Set 9600 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit is common
 - Set Flow Control to RTS/CTS
- Session
 - If desired, give the session a name and click **Save**
 - Click **Open** to open a terminal session

Using Outpost > Ipserial:

- Go to: **Tools > Interactive Packet > Serial/Comm Port**
- Click on: **File > Comm Port Settings**
- Select the proper settings for your serial port.
 - Select the appropriate serial comm port
 - 9600 baud, 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit is common
 - Select RTS/CTS flow control.

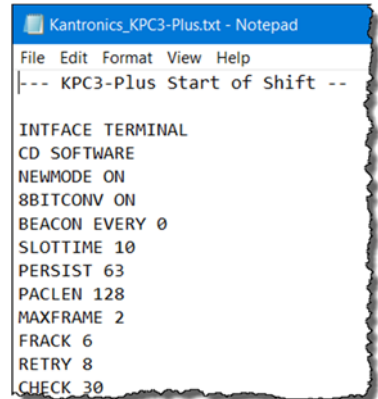
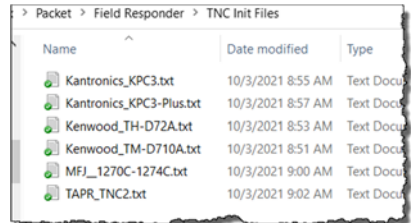
- Click **OK**
- Click on: **Connect**

10.4 Start of Shift: Configure TNC Settings

Create TNC command text files

Create text files that contain the *Start-of-Shift* and *End-of-Shift* TNC commands for the TNCs you might use. This should be done before you ever find yourself needing to send and receive packet messages manually.

1. For each TNC that you use, create a text file with the “Start of Shift” and “End of Shift” TNC commands.
2. Each file should contain both sets of commands
WARNING: Do NOT cut-and-paste directly from the PDF into your terminal emulator; it will not work. Instead, copy these lists from Outpost... **Setup > Interface > <your_tnc>, Init Cmds** tab.
3. Save each file with the TNC Name.

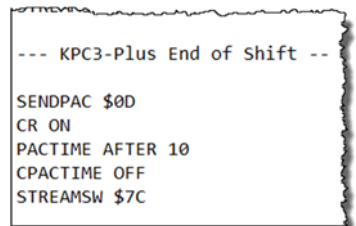


Start of Shift

4. To send the “Start of Shift” TNC commands,
 - a. Connect to the TNC with PuTTY.
 - b. Select and copy (**ctrl-C**) the entire “Start of Shift” command list from the text file.
 - c. Paste it into Putty (right-click) at the TNC cmd: prompt.

10.5 End of Shift: Restore TNC Settings

5. After the BBS session has disconnected, you should be back to the TNC command prompt, usually: **cmd:**
6. When your shift is finished and before you pack up the gear or turn it over to someone else, return the TNC to “normal” settings.
7. Cut-and-paste the “End of Shift” Send/Receive settings into PuTTY at the TNC command prompt.



10.6 Sending PackItForms

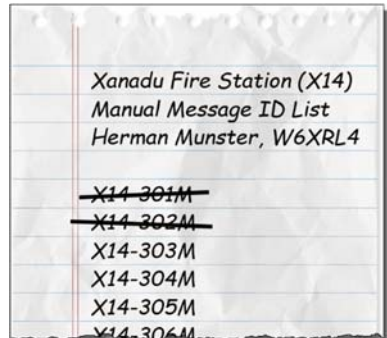
Directory structure for manual messages

1. Create your directory structure as follows, such as (example):
 - C:\MyMessages
 - C:\MyMessages\1Pending
 - C:\MyMessages\2Sent
 - C:\MyMessages\3Received
 - C:\MyMessages\4Printed
2. This location ensures everyone can always get them regardless of the login.

Track your manual Message ID's

NOTE: There are many ways to keep track of your manual message IDs; this is one method.

1. Any piece of paper (Form 1) will do.
2. Create a list of Message ID's to use.
3. For the Message ID, use the suffix **M** (not P) to indicate this is a **Manual** message.
4. Example: given this list, the next Message ID is **X14-303M**.
5. For packet messages sent or received, enter the Message ID in the next message and your ICS 309 form.



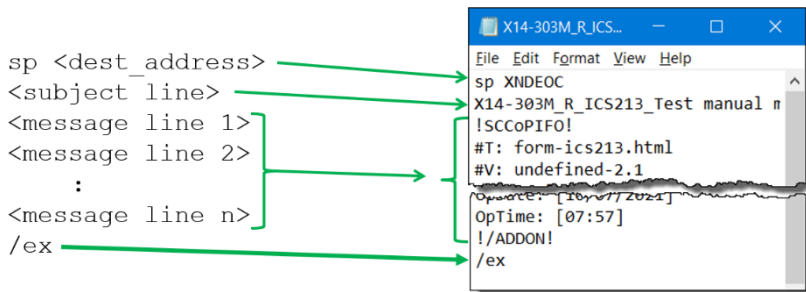
Sending PackItForm Messages Manually

1. With File Explorer, navigate to C:\PackItForms\Outpost\SCCo. Find and double-click on **browse.cmd**.
2. In the **browse form > Create a message to send** area,
 - a. choose the form type from the dropdown menu.
 - b. Enter your name, call sign, and then
 - c. press **Create**. The PackItForm opens.
6. Get the next Message ID from your list and enter it in the **'My Msg #'** field
7. Fill in the rest of the form as usual.
8. When done, press **Create Message**
9. A new form opens showing the formatted Subject line and Message text ready for copying.

Recover and save the formatted message text

10. Save your message first
 - d. Open Notepad or any other text editor.
 - e. Copy the Subject to Notepad.
 - f. Copy the Message to Notepad.
11. Add the additional manual packet commands to create a packet-ready message to send (see the format below):

- a. `sp <destination>` Send Private
- b. `/ex <CR>` End of Message
- c. Your file should look something like this (PackItForms example):



- d. Make sure there are no blank lines between the `sp` command, `<subject line>`, and start of the message.
- e. Save the file with the file name set as the Subject to your `../1Pending` folder.

Use PuTTY to Send PackItForm

12. Start PuTTY
13. After connecting to the BBS, start sending the message.
14. Once at the BBS Prompt:
 - a. Highlight the entire message from the saved message text file
 - b. Copy using **Ctrl-C**.
 - c. Position the cursor in the PuTTY screen.
 - d. Paste using a Right click. Hit Enter.
15. Move the message text file to your `../2Sent` folder to indicate that it was sent.

10.7 Receiving PackItForms

Use PuTTY to read a PackItForm Message

1. Connect to the BBS using PuTTY
 - a. List the messages
 - b. Read the message with R # (message number).
 - c. You recognize Message #1 is a PackItForm message.
 - d. Highlight all text from **Date:** to **!/ADDON!** (inclusive).
 - e. In PuTTY, selecting text copies it to the clipboard.

Save the retrieved message text

2. Save your message first
 - f. Open Notepad or any other text editor.
 - g. Paste the entire message into Notepad.
 - h. Save the file with the file name set as the Subject to your **../3Received** folder.

Recreating a message

1. Run the *browse.cmd* (or go back to the Create/View tab if it is still open).
2. Use the section titled "**View a received message:**"
 - a. Enter your Local ID (Destination Msg #).
 - b. From the text file, paste the message text from **ISCCoPIFO!** to **!/ADDON!** into the Message field
 - c. At the bottom of the browse form, fill in the **Name**, **Call sign**, **date**, and **Time** fields.
 - d. Press **View**
3. The filled-in form opens with the content filled in.
4. From the Browser, press **File > Print** the message.
5. Finally, move the Text File from the **../3Received** folder to your **../4Printed** folder to indicate that it was completely processed.

