Winlink Training Bulletin #4

Good afternoon everyone! The next Pinellas ACS Winlink Training Net is now scheduled for Wednesday September 1st, 2021, at 1930-hrs local. The Net control station will be WA1RYQ. This will be a mixed mode net with voice traffic taking place on the W4ACS repeater and digital exchanges taking place via Winlink.

During our last training net on August 18th, we practiced creating and sending the Winlink Express Check-in form. We did not have time to practice the other training objectives planned for the week, so this week we will try again. This week's net will, to a large extent, duplicate the activities we performed on August 18th. We will practice the network protocols needed to pass digital traffic in an active net and take a shot at filling out a couple of Winlink forms.

The plan is to take it nice and slow and ensure that everyone is successful; so, don't worry if you run into a problem, we'll work through it in real time.

The basic outline for the net is listed below.

1. The Net control station will establish the net at 1930 hrs local using the W4ACS repeater.
2. The Net Control Station (NCS) will request check-ins. The NCS will include Echolink in the call for check-ins.
3. Once everyone has checked-in via the voice net, the NCS will use a rollcall to direct each station in turn to send a Winlink Express Check-In message. The message can be sent using any RF protocol or, if the net member does not yet have an RF Winlink capability, via Telnet.

Note: The Winlink Express Check-in form can be completed before the net begins. Net participants should ensure that the "request message receipt" box is checked on the message.

4. After the rollcall is complete, the NCS will direct several stations to exchange simple messages via Winlink.

5. The NCS will field comments and questions from net participants.

6. The NCS will close the net by using a rollcall to direct each station in turn to send a Winlink Express Check Out message.

Winlink Express Check-in form:

a. Setup: Add the Group Name: "PACS Winlink Training" to the Check-in message

b. Date/Time: Enter Date and time

c. Select Status: "Net"

d. Band: Select the band being used to send the Check-in Message. Note if sending via Telnet, enter "-N/A-"

e. Mode: Select the Winlink mode used to send the Check-in Message.

f. Send to: Send the message to Net Control, "WA1RYQ", and Pinellas ACS Admin officer, "PACS-ADMIN"

g. Call Signs of Initial On-Site Operator(s): Enter the call sign of each ACS operator currently at your location.

h. Location: Enter your operating location – "Home QTH", "Hotel room in Atlanta, GA", etc.

i. Decimal GPS Coordinates: Enter the GPS coordinates of your operating location. Note: MGRS and Grid will be updated automatically.

j. Comments: Enter a description of your operating station. Radio, antenna type and height, sound modem, computer, etc.

k. Bonus: Also enter "What3Words" for your location in the comments field.

Winlink Express Check-Out form:

a. Setup: Add the Group Name: "PACS Winlink Training" to the Check Out message

b. Date/Time: Enter Date and time

c.   Select Status: "Net"

d.   Send to: Send the message to Net Control, "WA1RYQ", and Pinellas ACS Admin

officer, "PACS-ADMIN"

e.   Call Signs of On-Site Operator(s): Enter the call sign of each ACS operator

f.   Location: Enter your operating location

g.   Decimal GPS Coordinates: Enter the GPS coordinates of your operating location.

Note: MGRS and Grid will be updated automatically.

h.   Comments: Current weather at your location.