

Winlink Training Bulletin #22

The Pinellas ACS Winlink training net is used to familiarize ARES®/ACS participants with Winlink skills and to practice digital network operations. A summary training bulletin is delivered via Winlink to all registered Winlink Training Net participants prior to each scheduled net. A detailed bulletin that includes instructions for performing each scheduled task will also be posted to the Pinellas ACS Web site prior to each net.

1.1 NET DESCRIPTION

The following information is applicable to this week's training net.

- a. Date: ***Wednesday*** January 18th, 2023
- b. Time: 1930 Hours Local
- c. Duration: 1 Hour
- d. Type: Mixed Mode. Voice traffic will take place on the W4ACS repeater and digital exchanges will take place via Winlink.
- e. Net Control: WA1RYQ
- f. Support material:

(1) ICS 204 – PACS Winlink Training Group

1.2 ASSIGNMENT LIST:

Work assignments, special instructions, and the communications plan for the net are documented in the ICS 204 for the PACS Winlink Training Group.

1.3 NET ACTIVITIES:

An overview of the planned net activities is documented below.

- a. The NCS will establish the net at 1930 Hours local using the W4ACS repeater.
- b. The NCS will request check-ins. The NCS will include Echolink in the call for check-ins.

- c. The NCS will brief net participants on the work assignments and special instructions contained in the Assignment List (ICS 204).
- d. The NCS will field comments and questions about the Assignment List (ICS 204) from net participants.
- e. The NCS will next direct each station to create and send a Winlink Check-In message to the NCS and the Pinellas Admin Officer.

Note: *The Winlink Check-in and Check-out forms should not be completed before the net begins. Net participants should also ensure that the REQUEST MESSAGE RECEIPT box is checked on all messages.*

- f. The NCS will direct each station to create and send a **Winlink GPS / Position Report**.
- g. The NCS will send a **Winlink General Message (ICS 213)** to all net participants.
- h. Using the information contained in the **Winlink General Message (ICS 213)**, each net participant will send a **Winlink General Response Message (ICS 213)** to the NCS.
- i. The NCS will close the digital segment of the net by using a rollcall to direct each station in turn to send a **Winlink Check Out** message to the NCS and the Pinellas Admin Officer.
- j. The NCS will field comments and questions from net participants.
- k. The NCS will remind all net participants to finalize their ICS 214 and ICS 309 and send a copy to the NCS and the Pinellas ACS Admin officer following net closure.
- l. Following the question-and-answer period, the NCS will close the net.

END SUMMARY WINLINK BULLETIN

1.4 MESSAGE INFORMATION:

1.4.1 Winlink Check-in Form:

When the net control station is ready to begin taking Winlink Check-ins, the NCS will request that each station create and send a Winlink Check-in message.

- a. Group Name: PACS Winlink Training Net
- b. Date/Time: This value should correspond to the time and date that the message is sent. Therefore, the Check-in message cannot be created ahead of time and stored as a draft.
- c. Status: NET
- d. Band: Enter the appropriate value.
- e. Mode: Enter the appropriate value.
- f. Send To: Send completed message to all net participants.
- g. Calls Signs of Initial On-Site Operator(s): Enter your FCC Call sign
- h. Station Contact Name: Enter your first and last name
- i. Station Call sign: Enter your FCC Call Sign.
- j. Location: Enter a street address for your current location.
- k. LAT, LONG, MGRS, GRID: Enter your current latitude, longitude, MGRS and Maidenhead grid data.
- l. Comments: Weather conditions at your current location.


1.4.2 Winlink Check-Out form:

When the business of the net is complete, the NCS will request that each station create and send a Winlink Check-out message.

- a. Group Name: PACS Winlink Training Net
- b. Date/Time: This value should correspond to the time and date that the message is sent. Therefore, the Check-in message cannot be created ahead of time and stored as a draft.

- c. Status: NET
- d. Band: Enter the appropriate value.
- e. Mode: Enter the appropriate value.
- f. Send To: Send completed message to all net participants.
- g. Calls Signs of Initial On-Site Operator(s): Enter your FCC Call sign
- h. Station Contact Name: Enter your first and last name
- i. Station Call sign: Enter your FCC Call Sign.
- j. Location: Enter a street address for your current location.
- k. LAT, LONG, MGRS, GRID: Enter your current latitude, longitude, MGRS and Maidenhead grid data.
- l. Comments: Version of Winlink Express and Winlink Templates.

1.5 GPS/POSITION REPORT

Winlink units can report their current position to the Winlink system. Once reported, the Winlink Common Message Server (CMS) displays the report on a position map located on Winlink's web site and forwards the data to the Automatic Packet Reporting System-Internet System (APRS-IS). Anyone with internet access can view these position reports. APRS® applications will display Winlink position reports using the  symbol.

- a. From the Winlink Settings menu, select **"GPS / Position Reports..."**. Refer to Figure 1.

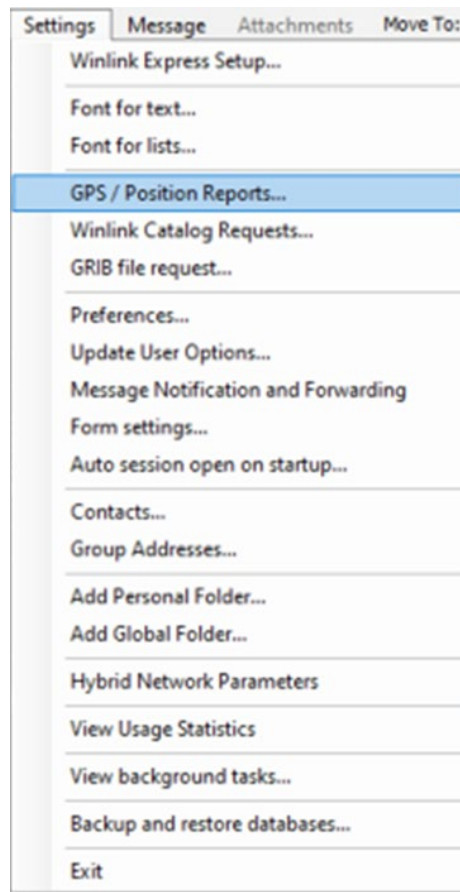


Figure 1. Winlink Settings Menu

- b. Once selected, the menu shown in Figure 2 will be displayed.

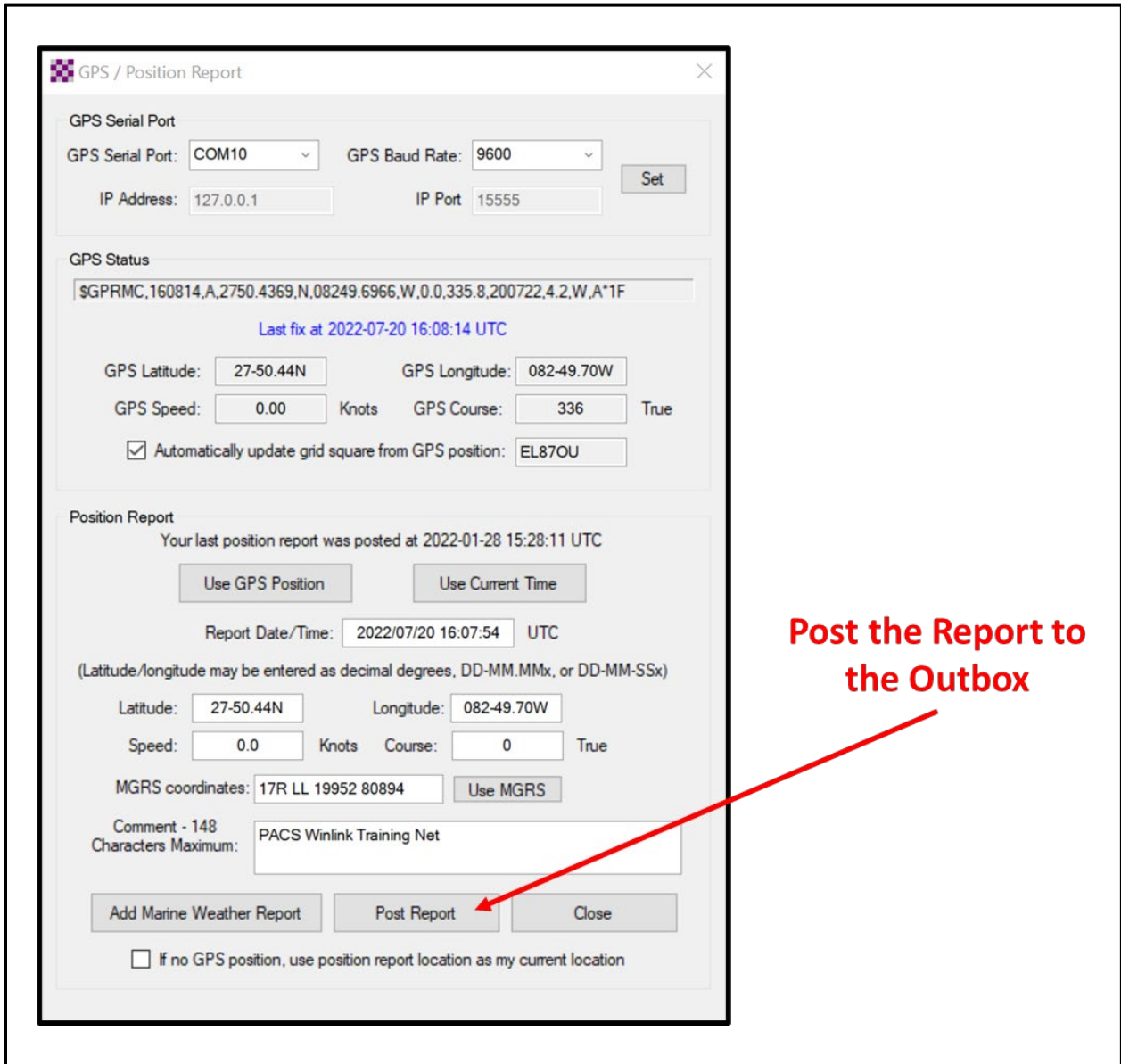


Figure 2. Winlink GPS Position Report Screen

NOTE: Winlink Express can be configured to import NMEA 0183 formatted GPS data through a serial COM port. Once configured, the time and position data needed to create a GPS position report will be automatically available for use in the report. If a GPS is not connected to the Winlink computer, time and position data will need to be entered into the report manually.

- c. The following information should be entered into the report.
 - (1) Report Date/Time: Universal Coordinated Time (UTC)
 - (2) Longitude
 - (3) Latitude
 - (4) Comments: PACS Winlink Training Net

- d. Post the report to the Winlink Outbox and then send the report.