

Ventura County Area 2 ACS/ARES® Outpost Configuration Instructions

Definitions

BBS - Bulletin Board System

EOC - Emergency Operation Center

Outpost - Outpost Packet Message Manager (OPMM) is a Windows-based packet message client that lets you send and receive packet messages with almost any Amateur Radio Bulletin Board System (BBS) or TNC Personal Mail Box.

Outpost was designed for the Amateur Radio ARES/RACES packet user community. The thinking behind it was to create an intuitive, easy-to-use program that lets ARES/RACES organizations focus on the "message," not the "medium," as they pass digital message traffic to and from an Operational Area BBS. Read more at: www.outpostpm.org

Packet - Packet radio is a particular digital mode of Amateur Radio ("Ham" Radio) communications which corresponds to computer telecommunications. The telephone modem is replaced by a "magic" box called a terminal node controller (TNC); the telephone is replaced by an amateur radio transceiver, and the phone system is replaced by the "free" amateur radio waves. Packet radio takes any data stream sent from a computer and sends that via radio to another amateur radio station similarly equipped. Packet radio is so named because it sends the data in small bursts, or packets. From the article by Jones, Greg, WD5IVD. "Introduction to Packet Radio" https://www.tapr.org/pr_intro.html

TNC - Terminal Node Controller

Note: The intent of this document is to be a guide for configuring Outpost software for an ACS/ARES Area 2 Emergency Operation Center. For anyone interested in learning more about the packet radio digital mode, many resources are available on the internet by simply searching for "Outpost Packet Message Manager" and "packet messaging."



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Step One: Setup or Verify your Station ID

 Find the Outpost Packet Message Manager icon on the desktop and double-click it.



- 2. Outpost will start up and display the screen pictured on right.
- Look at the Packet Chart in the back of this document to find the Call for your EOC. Enter it in the "User Call Sign" box.
- 4. "User Name" For Area 2 EOCs is "Zak."
- 5. "Message ID Prefix" is "EOC."
- Check the box titled
 "Use Tactical Call for all BBS interaction."
- Refer to Packet Chart for your EOC's 6 character Tactical Call. Enter it in the "Tactical Call Sign" box. Leave "Additional ID Text" blank.
- 8. Enter the first three letters of the EOC tactical call in the **"Message ID Prefix."**
- 9. Press apply, then OK when done.

2	Station Identification		×
	Identification BBS UAC		
	Current Profile:		
	Outpost		
	Legal		
	User Call Sign:		
	User Name: Z	AK	
	Message ID Prefix:	OC (3 Characters max)	
	Tactical		
	🔽 Use Tactical Call fo	or all BBS interaction	
	Tactical Call Sign:	(6 Characters max)	
	Additional ID Text:		
	Message ID Prefix:	(3 Characters max)	
	Show this form on startu	P OK Apply Cancel	

The main Outpost Message Manager window will open as displayed below. This window is where you will manage messages and control Send/Receive sessions.



Step Two: Setup or Verify your Terminal Node Controller (TNC) Setup

1. From the menu bar, select "Setup, TNC."

Controller to find the model name.

Choose the model in the **"Device Name"** pull-down list that matches what you have. If your device name isn't on the list, click "new"

For instance, KPC-3, KPC-3+, KAM XL. etc.

2. Look at the front panel of your Kantronics Terminal Node

and enter your device name in the "Device Name" box.

At the bottom of the window, Device Type is "TNC."

🔐 Outpost Packet Message Manager									
File	Edit	Setup	Tools	Forms	Action	ns	Help		
	Jew	TNC	🔪	С	trl+T		Print	Send/Rec	
		BBS	V5	► C	trl+B	ľ			
Fo	older L	Iden	tificatio	n C	trl+I				
		Add	ress Boo	ok					
		Profi	iles		•		Го	BBS	
In Ira		PC T	ime Che	eck					
5.			NI I	N					

Device setup	for KAM XL
Type Prompts	Commands Init Commands Comm Port AGWPE Telnet
Choose a Devic	e Name
Device Name:	KAM XL
	4
Description:	
	-
	New New
Device Type -	Сору
● TNC	Delete
C AGW Packs	et Engine
C Telnet	
	OK Apply Cancel

Prompts" tab.	3. Click on the "F					
It settings:	Use the default settings:					
cmd	Command: cmd					
***Retry count exceeded	Timeout:					
***DISCONNECTED	Disconnected:					

Device setup for KAM XL	×
Type Prompts Commands Ir	nit Commands Comm Port AGWPE Telnet
Prompts 5 Command: cmd:	
Timeout: *** retry count	texceeded
Disconnected: *** DISCONN	IECTED
	OK Apply Cancel

("Step Two: Setup or Verify your Terminal Node Controller (TNC) Setup" continued)

4. Click on the "Commands" tab.
Use the default settings: Mycall: my
Connect: connect
Retry: retry
Convers Mode: conv
DateTime: daytime
TNC Command Prefix: leave this blank.

Type Prompts	Commands	Init Commands Comm Port AGWPE Telnet
- Commands	2	· · · ·
Mycall:	my	
Connect:	connect	
Retry:	retry	NOTE: Do not change the settings in these fields if your TNC is TAPR- compatible.
Convers Mode:	conv	
DateTime:	daytime	
- TNC Command	Prefix	
🗖 Include 1	TNC Cmd Prefix:	(single number only)

- Click on the "Init Commands" tab.
 Use the default setting:
 "Never send TNC initialization commands"
- Device setup for KAM XL

 Type Prompts Commands Init Commands Comm Port AGWPE Telnet

 Initialization Commands

 Never send TNC initialization commands

 Send TNC initialization commands for every Send/Receive session

6. Click on the "Comm Port" tab.

Comm Port Settings: Comm Port: Com1 Max Speed: 9600

Connection Preferences: Data Bits: **8** Parity: **None** Stop Bits: **1**

Flow Control: RTS/CTS

When finished setting up the device, click "Apply" at the bottom of the window, then click "OK."

🞉 Device setup for KAM XL	×
Type Prompts Commands Init Comm Comm Port Settings Comm Port: Com1 Max Speed 9600 Connection Preferences Data Bits: 8 Parity: None Stop Bits: 1	AGWPE Telnet
	OK Apply Cancel

Step Three: Setup or Verify your BBS (Bulletin Board System)

1. From the menu bar, select "Setup, BBS."

1	🔯 Outpost Packet Message Manager									
F	ile Edit	Setup	Tools	Forms	Actions	Hel	p			
Ī	New	TNC		С	trl+T	e	Print	Send/	/Receive F	
4		BBS		C C	trl+B	-				
	Folder	Ider	ntificatio	n/\t C	p +I					
		Add	ress Boo	ok						
	In Tra	Prof	iles		•	T)	BBS	Local ID	
		PC 1	lime Che	edk						

BBS setup for East County Sheriff's Station	×
Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path	
BBS Name East County Sheriff's Station BBS Name: East County Sheriff's Station Connect Name: Fillmore EOC Description: Leisure Village EOC Los Robles East Los Robles Main Moorpark EOC OXNEOC	
 Det Outpost determine the BBS and set up the prompts User defines the BBS prompts 	New
Non-Identifying BBSs	Сору
C A44RE BBS C A44RE BBS with Tactical Call Customization	Delete
TNC Name	
ОК Арріу	Cancel

 From the BBS Name pull-down menu, select the BBS assigned to your EOC (Emergency Operations Center.) When you select one of the pre-configured BBS' from the list, all other choices in this window will be populated.

Click "Apply" at the bottom of the window and go to step 3 on the next page.

If your EOC BBS isn't in the list, click the "New" button on the right side of the window and follow the instructions below.

Define a new BBS

(Refer to the Packet Chart in the back of this document for the following information.)

Friendly Name: Is the packet chart LOCATION

Connect Name: Is the packet chart PBBS

Description: Keep it simple and obvious.

BBS Type: "Let Outpost determine the BBS and setup the prompts"

Non-Identifying BBs: Leave blank

TNC Name: Click the "Set/Get TNC" button.

A new window, shown on the next page, will open.

🚰 Define a new BBS	×
Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path	
BBS Name	
Friendly Name:	
Connect Name:	
BBS Type	
Let Outpost determine the BBS and set up the prompts User defines the BBS prompts	New
Non-Identifying BBSs	Сору
AA4RE BBS A44RE BBS with Tactical Call Customization	Delete
TNC Name	
OK Apply	Cancel

(Define a new BBS continued)

Under "Choose a Device Name," click the "Device Name" pull down menu arrow.

Choose your TNC's model name in the menu.

Make sure the "TNC" radio button under "Device Type" is selected, then click "Apply."

Go to number 3 at the bottom of this page.

If your TNC model name isn't in the list, click the "New" button on the right side of the window and follow the instructions below.

ŝ	Dev	ice setup	for KAM XL	×
1	Гуре	Prompts	Commands Init Commands Comm Port AGWPE Telnet	
Г	- Choo	ose a Devic	e Name	
	Devi	ce Name:	KAM XL	
	De	scription:	<choose a="" create(new)="" interface="" or=""> KAM XL KPC-3 KPC3+ TELNET_JNOS TELNET_WL2K_CMS TM-D710</choose>	
			▼ New	
	Devi	се Туре –	Сору	1
	• T	NC		11
	\mathbf{O} A	.GW Packe	et Engine	니
	OT	elnet		
	_			
			OK Apply Cancel	

Defining a new TNC:

In the "Device Name" window, type the model of your TNC.

Type a brief description in the "Description" window. For example, "East County Sheriff's Station dual frequency TNC."

Make sure the "TNC" radio button under "Device Type" is selected, then click "Apply."

Go to number 3 below.

🕂 Define a new TNC	×
Type Prompts Commands Init Commands Comm Port AGWPE	Telnet
Choose a Device Name	
Device Name:	
Description:	New
Device Type	Сору
© TNC	Delete
C AGW Packet Engine	
OK Apply	Cancel

("Step Three: Setup or Verify your BBS" continued)

 Click on the "Prompts" tab. Unless the BBS is operated manually, this tab should have no entries.

46	BBS setup for East County Sheriff's Station	
	Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path	
	- Promote	_
	BBS Command Prompt:	
	Use default command prompt for text displayed after Outpost sends a message (RECOMMENDED):	
	Use default command prompt for text displayed after Outpost receives a message (RECOMMENDED):	

ΟК

Apply

Cancel

×

BBS setup for East County Sheriff's Station 4. Click on the "Commands" tab. Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path 2 Use the default settings: Commands-Send Private: SP Read Message: R Send Private: Read Message: R SP Send Bulletin: Delete Message: K SB Send Bulletin: SB Delete Message: K Send NTS: Bye / Log off: B ST Send NTS: ST Bye / Log off: B List Mine: LM List Mine: LM List Bulletin: LB List Bulletin: LB List NTS: LT List Filtered: L> List NTS: LT List Filtered: L>

	BBS setup for East County Sheriff's Station
 Click on the "Init Commands" tab. Select "Never send BBS initialization commands." 	Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path
	Never send BBS initialization commands Send BBS initialization commands for every Send/Receive session Cmds to send before Send/Receive Cmds to send after Send/Receive

6.	Click	on	the	"Path"	tab.
----	-------	----	-----	--------	------

Since we are configuring the BBS setup for **YOUR EOC** or home station terminal node controller (TNC), select "Direct to BBS."

At the bottom of the window, click **"Apply,"** then click **"OK."**

BBS setup for East County Sheriff's State	ntion X
Name Prompts Commands Init Comman	ds Path
- Access method	
Direct to BBS	
C Via digipeater(s):	Ā
(enter digipeater na	nes separated by commas)
C KA-NODE/Netrom Access 070	
Node Name:	New
Successful Connect Message:	Delete
Connect command:	Next
Connect with node/BBS name: 🗖	Previous
Port number:	Move Up
Unsuccessful Connect Message:	Move Dn
Oł	Cancel

Step Four: Verify your configuration

1. Look at the bottom of the main Outpost Message Manager window. (This screenshot shows the BBS setup for the East County Sheriff Station.)

In this particular screenshot, "KJ6ZQW-6" is the East County Sheriff Station call "ECSS" is the East County Sheriff Station PBBS "East County Sheriff Station" is the Location "KAM XL" is the East County Sheriff Station TNC model



Refer to the Packet Chart in the back of this document to verify the configuration is correct for your EOC.

Configure a path from your EOC BBS to another BBS

In order to send packet messages from your EOC to another EOC, your BBS needs a path to follow.

 Look at the Outpost Message Manager main window. On the top menu, click "Setup," then "BBS." The BBS setup window opens. Click on the "BBS Name" drop down window and choose the name of the destination EOC.

Use the default settings for the next three tabs: "Prompts," "Commands" and "Init Commands."

If the destination EOC BBS isn't in the list, click the "New" button on the right side of the window and follow the instructions starting on page 4.

BBS setup for	East County Sheriff's Station	×
Name Prompts	Commands Init Commands Path	
BBS Name BBS Name: Connect Name: Description:	East County Sheriff's Station East County Sheriff's Station Filmore EOC Hospital St John Leisure Village EOC Los Robles East Los Robles Main Moorpark EOC	
 BBS Type — C Let Outpost (OXNEOC	New
O User defines	the BBS prompts	
Non-Identifying E	BSs	Lopy
C AA4RE BBS	with Tactical Call Customization	Delete
TNC Name	KAM XL	
	OK Apply	Cancel

2. Click on the "Path" tab. Since most of the Area 2 EOCs can connect direct to the other Area 2 EOCs, try that path first. Access method: "Direct to BBS." At the bottom of the window, click "Apply,"

then click **"OK."**

If you are unable to connect to the other EOC direct, look on the Packet Chart. Find the frequencies for your EOC and the other EOC. They will either be 145.050, 223.580, or both. That will determine which of the following methods will allow you to connect to the other EOC.



3. Configure a path to an EOC on the 145.050 frequency

Click "KA-NODE/Netrom Access." Then enter:

Node Name: RASNOW Successful Connect Message: ***(space)CONNECTED to RAS Connect command: C Connect with node/BBS name: Checked Port number: 0 Unsuccessful Connect Message: Failure with

At the bottom of the window, click **"Apply,"** then click **"OK."**

This is the path to the 2 meter 145.050 frequency packet repeater on Rasnow Peak.

BBS setup for East County Shee	iff's Station	×				
Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path						
Access method						
O Via digipeater(s):						
(enter digip	eater names separated by co	mmas)				
C KA-NODE/Netrom Access 1 / 1						
Node Name:	RASNOW	New				
Successful Connect Message:	*** CONNECTED to RAS	Delete				
Connect command:	c	Next				
Connect with node/BBS name:	Z	Previous				
Port number: 0 Move Up						
Unsuccessful Connect Message: Failure with Move Dn						
	OK Apply	Cancel				

quency	Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path	
S	Access method O Direct to BBS O Via digipeater(s):	*
	(enter digipeater names separated by commas)	-
	KA-NODE/Netrom Access 1 / 1	
	Node Name: RAS220	N
	Successful Connect Message: Connected to RAS	De
	Connect command:	N
	Connect with node/BBS name: 🔽	Pre
ency	Port number: 0	Мо
	Unsuccessful Connect Message: Failure with	Мо
	OK Annlu	

BBS setup for East County Sheriff's Station

4. Configure a path to an EOC on the 223.580 frequency

Click **"KA-NODE/Netrom Access."** Then enter:

Node Name: RAS220 Successful Connect Message: Connected to RAS Connect command: C Connect with node/BBS name: Checked Port number: 0 Unsuccessful Connect Message: Failure with

At the bottom of the window, click **"Apply,"** then click **"OK."**

This is the path to the 1.25 meter 223.580 frequency packet repeater on Rasnow Peak.

Some EOCs can only receive packet messages on one frequency: 145.050 or 223.580. If your EOC only has a 2 meter packet radio, and you want to send a message to an EOC that only has a 1.25 meter packet radio (or the other way around,) you'll need to route your packet from one frequency to the other.

Follow the routing instructions on the next page.

×

Up.

Dn

Cancel

Here's how to route from 145.050 to 223.580:

 In the BBS Setup window, click "Path." Click "KA-NODE/Netrom Access." Then enter:

Node Name: RASNOW Successful Connect Message: ***(space)CONNECTED to RAS Connect command: C Connect with node/BBS name: Checked Port number: 0 Unsuccessful Connect Message: Failure with

In the column of buttons on the right, click "Next."

🗱 BBS setup for East County Sheriff's Station 🗙					
Name Prompts Commands Init Commands Path					
Access method C Direct to BBS C Via disingeter(s)					
	~ _				
enter digipeater names separated by com	nas)				
KA-NODE/Netrom Access 1 / 1					
Node Name: RASNOW	New				
Successful Connect Message: *** CONNECTED to RAS	Delete				
Connect command:	Next				
Connect with node/BBS name: 🔽	Previous				
Port number: 0	Move Up				
Unsuccessful Connect Message: Failure with	Move Dn				
OK Apply	Cancel				

2. Then enter:

Node Name: RAS220 Successful Connect Message: CONNECTED to RAS Connect command: C Connect with node/BBS name: Checked Port number: 0 Unsuccessful Connect Message: Failure with

Click "Apply" then "OK."

Your packet message will now go to the Rasnow 2 meter packet repeater, which routes it to the Rasnow 1.25 meter packet repeater, which then routes it to the other EOC's 1.25 meter packet TNC.

Your message is now stored in that EOC's TNC until an operator boots up that EOC's computer, starts Outlook, and clicks "Send/Receive" in the main window toolbar.

BBS setup for East County Sheriff's Station					
Name Promote Commands Init Commands Path					
Access method					
C Direct to BBS					
C Via digipeater(s):					
	_				
(enter digipeater nar	mes separated by commas)				
KA-NODE / Netrom Access 272					
Node Name: RAS220	New				
Successful Connect Message: Connect	ted to RAS Delete				
Connect command:	Next				
Connect with node/BBS name: 🔽	Previous				
Port number:	Move Up				
Unsuccessful Connect Message:	with Move Dn				
UK	Apply Cancel				

To route from 223.580 to 145.050, just reverse the entries. Step one will be the "RAS220" entry, step two will be the "RASNOW" entry.

Possible Packet Routing Scenarios for ACS Area 2

1. Direct Route



2. Extending the Range - 2 Meter or 1.25 Meter (220 MHz)

Rasnow Peak has two packet repeaters: one for 2 meter and one for 1.25 meter. Use the Rasnow Peak Packet repeaters when you can't make a direct connection to another EOC.



3. Frequency Shifting - 2 Meter or 1.25 Meter (220 MHz)

Rasnow Peak's two packet repeaters can "talk" to each other, so you can use any frequency combination to send your packet message.



Appendix A Additional Standard Outpost Settings under "Tools" in the Main Window



Tools > Send/Receive Settings

Automation: Click radio button for "No Automation. Initiate each send receive session manually."

Retrieving: Select "Retrieve Private Messages, Retrieve NTS Messages, and Retrieve New Bulletins." Leave all others unselected.

Receiving: Leave everything unchecked.

Printing: Click radio button for "Print message headers" Leave all others unchecked.

Alerts: Select "N2: Unexpected BBS disconnect Problems" Leave all others unselected.

Other: Select "Show the TNC Session Window during Send/Receive"

Click "Apply" then "OK" when done.



Tools > Message Settings

New Messages: Click radio button for "Set default to NTS" Leave all others unselected.

Msg Numbering: Select "Add message number to the Subject Line for outbound messages" and click radio button for "with hyphen..."

Leave all others unselected.

Replies/Forwards: Click radio button for "Set default to PRIVATE for replies or forwards" and "Close original message on reply or forward."

Tracking: Leave everything unchecked.

Deleting: Check "Prompt before permanently deleting a message"

Adv: Check "Automatically start the Opdirect Message Capture System" Under "When opening a locally originated PacFORMS message:" Select "Never open in its native program" Under "When opening a received PacFORMS message:" Select "Never open in its native program"

Click "Apply" then "OK" when done.

🗿 Report Settings

Tools > Report Settings

Variables: Next Message Number: "100" Report Variables, this profile: "Tactical ID (3 char)" enter the first three letters of your EOC's tactical (see Packet Chart page 10.) "User ID (3char)" enter "EOC" Leave all other entries blank.

×

Reports: Leave all entries blank.

ICS 309: Click radio button for "No Automation."

Click "OK" when done.

🗱 Log Settings	×
C Options	
✓ L1: Send/Receive Session window logging	

Tools > Log Settings

Options: Click radio button for "L1: Send/Receive Session Window logging." Click **"OK"** when done.

🚰 General Setup

Tools > General Settings

Program Startup: Check "Show Station ID form on startup"

Miscellaneous: Check "auto-print with message headers" "Recently used configuration list:" **4** entries

Heirarchical Address Settings: Check "Use hierarchical address Continent parameter in validation (recommended)" Click **"Apply"** then **"OK"** when done.

×

Location	Call	PBBS	Node	Tactical	Frequency	Operation
East County Sheriff's Station	KJ6ZQW-6	ECSS	ECSSN	ECSS1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Thousand Oaks EOC	KJ6ZQW-7	TOEOC	TOEOCN	TOEOC1	223.580 MHz	24/7
Los Robles Hospital-Main	KJ6ZQW-8	HSPLR	HSPLRN	HSPLR1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Los Robles Hospital-East	KJ6ZQW-9	HSPLRE	HSPLREN	HSLRE1	145.050 MHz	
California Lutheran Univ EOC	KJ6ZQW-14	CLUEOC	CLUN	CLUEC1	223.580 MHz	24/7
AMGEN EOC	W6AMG	AMGBB	AMGND	AMG1EC	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Oak Park Medea Creek School	KJ6ZQW-12	OPMC	OPMCN	OPMC1	145.050 MHz	
Oak Park District Office EOC	KJ6ZQW-13	OPDO	OPDON	OPDO1	145.050 MHz	
Westlake Village City EOC	W6VO	WLVEOC	WLVN	WLVEC1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Simi Valley Police EOC	W6DQE	SIMEOC	SIMND	SV1EOC	145.050 MHz	24/7
Camarillo EOC	KI6DJO-9	CAMEOC	CAMND	CMEOC1	145.050 MHz	24/7
Leisure Village EOC	KJ6LV	LVEOC	LVND	LVEOC1	145.050 MHz	24/7
Oxnard Police EOC	W6HWK-8	OXNDOC	OXNND	OXEOC1	145.050 MHz	
Ojai Valley EOC	N6FL-1	OJVEOC	OJVND	OJEOC1	145.050 MHz	
Ventura City EOC	KG6JMH-9	VENEOC	VENND	VCEOC1	145.050 MHz	24/7
Ventura County EOC	KE6NYT-9	VCROC	ROCND	VCROC1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Ventura County ACS Trailer	W6RH-11	AUXCOM	AUXNOD		145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Red Cross Chapter House	K6AVI	REDCHP	REDND	REDEC1	145.050 MHz	24/7
Fillmore EOC	N6VUY-9	FILEOC	FILCA	FIEOC1	145.050 MHz	24/7
Moorpark EOC	KM6B-9	MPKEOC	MPKND	MPEOC1	145.050 MHz	24/7
Simi Valley Hospital	W6KJG	HSPSV	HSPSVN	SV1HSP	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
St. Johns Pleasant Valley Hospital	KN6LA-5	HSPPV	HSPPVN	HSPPV1	145.050 MHz	24/7
St. John's Regional Med Ctr	KI6BQL-7	HSPSJ	HSPSJN	HSPSJ1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Ojai Valley Hospital	N6FL-2	HSPOJ	HSPOJN	HSPOJ1	145.050 MHz	24/7
Community Memorial Hospital	WB6MAA-5	HSPCM	HSPCMN	HSPCM1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
VC Medical Center	K6NE-9	HSPCO	HSPCON	HSPCO1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Santa Paula Hospital		HSPSP	HSPSPN	HSPSP1	145.050/223.580 MHz	24/7
Rasnow Peak	KJ6EUS-1		RASNOW		145.050 MHz	24/7
Rasnow Peak	KJ6EUS-2		RAS220		223.580 MHz	24/7