

Packet Radio Equipment Guidelines

Radio needs to be either an HT or mobile radio capable of communications on 2 meters. Note: The Kenwood D7A is not recommended due to the issue that it has no provisions for flow control between the computer and the D7A. The Alinco DR135 with the TNC built in or the Kenwood D700 are viable hardware configurations.

TNC (modem) selection is limited to TNCs capable of AX25 version 2. Normally this is not an issue but TNCs that date back to 1990 may or may not be AX25 ver 2 capable. This document does not endorse any specific brand. Kantronics (KPC2, KPC3, KPC4, Kam), MFJ 1270 series (if you use a 1270A or 1270B the TAPR DCD upgrade is strongly recommended), AEA (PK12, PK88, PK232) Vecronics (look like the MFJ 1270 series) are possible suggestions. You can also use the Baycom or AGWPE (so can use your sound card). TNC-X and other USB options exist.

Use your judgment on antennas. A J-Pole is the primary recommendation since it does not require a ground plane (lower foot print for space). Make sure you have plenty of coax for a reasonable run to an outside location. Try to stay away from RG-58 (has high feed line loss).

You will need a computer, laptops are suggested. You can use as dated as a laptop that does not have a hard drive to the latest and greatest laptop. Lack of serial ports are becoming an issue.

You can use Hyperterminal in Microsoft Windows or WinPack, Pacterm, AGWTerminal, etc. Amateur Radio specific terminal programs will have YAPP transfer protocol, Hyperterminal will not.

I am aiming for July 22nd for the first class date. More to follow.

73

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