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The Case for Winlink

South Pasadena Amateur Radio Club

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What is Winlink?

- Computer application for sending email via radio
  - All you need is a computer and a valid amateur radio license to obtain a Winlink email account

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Why Winlink?

- Designed for amateur radio
  - Active, expert development team
- Send email without local internet
- Broad radio functionality
  - HF, VHF, Mesh
- Many digital radio modes available
  - AX.25 Packet
  - Pactor I, II, III (and IV where legal)
  - VARA FM and VARA HF

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Why Winlink?

- Peer-to-peer operation (simplex) when infrastructure is down
- Robust error correction
  - If a message is exchanged it is error free
- Built-in templates for many functions
- Attachments
  - Text, Binary, Photos
- Abundant online help and tutorials
- It's free!
  - ($24 donation eliminates registration reminders)

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When Would I Use Winlink?

- Exchange messages with family and friends during an emergency
  - Any email address
  - SMS text messages
- Access information
  - News, weather
  - Propagation forecasts
- Provide information
  - USGS "Did you feel it?" reports
  - Severe weather reports
  - Disaster reports
- Assist served agencies in a deployment
  - Hospitals, Red Cross, FEMA

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How Do I Get Winlink?

- Go to
  - https://downloads.winlink.org/User Programs/
- Download the zipped installer application
  - Winlink_Express_install_1-5-30-0.zip
- Open the zip file and run the installer
- Start the RMS Express application and complete the setup
  - Settings | Winlink Express Setup
- See "Basic Configuration" under Help for more information

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Winlink Setup

▶ Settings | Winlink Express Setup…

Software (as of 8/5/2020)

- Winlink – version 1.5.30.0
  - https://downloads.winlink.org/User Programs/
- Soundmodem – version 1.05
  - http://uz7.ho.ua/packetradio.htm
- VARA FM – version 3.1.1
  - https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/
- VARA HF – version 4.0.4
  - https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/

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