

Subject: HOW Club - Membership is Open for You!

- Are you capable of using the Winlink system, but your In and Out boxes don't seem to get much activity?
- Do you sometimes "forget" how to use the Winlink system because you don't use it very often?
- Would you like to increase your activity level on the Winlink system?
- Would you like to increase your skill level regarding digital messaging?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, then the "HOW Club" is for you!

What is the HOW Club? "HOW" is "Hams On Winlink". It is a loosely formed "club" for ham radio operators who would like to use their "Winlink 2000" equipment and skills on a regular basis.

Following are the Goals of the HOW Club:

1. Create a way for folks to "use and practice" basic digital messaging skills on a REGULAR BASIS, using their radio equipment and the Winlink 2000 system. It is similar in function to some daily or weekly voice nets. I am Alive...My Radio and Antenna Still Works...I can get my radio on the Right Frequency and I know Which Knobs to Turn....Someone Else Can Hear Me....I Might Learn Something During the Net that will increase My Value as a ham radio operator.
 2. Create a forum for "digital messaging" persons to develop productive relationships with each other.
 3. Create a forum for "digital messaging" persons to practice old skills and learn new skills associated with digital messaging (peer-to-peer, packet networks, RMS locations, propagation awareness, pactor, packet, WINMOR, user software attributes).
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WL2K was chosen as the common message platform for HOW activities because it is the "least common denominator" for exchanging digital messages between users of WINMOR, packet, and pactor.

The HOW Club has been formed. The format:

The Administrator (K7BFL) will collect callsigns of folks who want to become members of the club. Initial membership is open to anyone who have the capability to send and receive messages via radio using the Winlink 2000 system. Members could also include callsigns of EOC stations and CommVans. Software packages available are RMS Express, AirMail, or Paclink. Protocols available are packet, pactor, and WINMOR. A member callsign will be dropped from membership if the member becomes inactive. Membership is limited to 30 persons.

1. Once each week a "NCS" will send out a single message to those on the HOW roster.

The weekly message will contain information about a specific "training topic", WL2K software change, hardware change, etc. The message will usually be less than 3K (compressed) in size.

2. After receiving the weekly message each recipient would compose a "Reply All" message. The message would NOT include text from the weekly message. The message contents would include:

a) QSL (confirmation of receipt)

b) short description of the member and radio path used to compose and send this message. Example:

Don, Spokane, airmail, packet, 145.01, WR7VHF-3...NC7C-10

c) optional comments regarding the topic(s) of the week

d) optional comments regarding personal or station information; "new, changed, unique" items at their station

The single "Reply All" message would be sent to all group members, using a RADIO PATH to a RMS station.

3. After receiving a "Reply All" message from a member, a "Receipt Confirmation" message would be sent to ONLY the Sender, by doing a "Reply" (with previous message content removed). Additional optional "comment" information could be added. [RADIO PATH to a RMS station again used].

If a station does not respond to each weekly message they will be dropped from the "List" after several weeks of inactivity. They can also be removed from the List by notifying K7BFL.

In summary, the message flow for each HOW member for each week (for a group with 15 addresses on the group roster, and if each member fully participated):

- 1 - receive "Weekly" message
 - 1 - send "Reply All" message
 - 14 - receive "Reply All" messages from other group members
 - 14 - send "Receipt Confirmation" messages to other group members
 - 14 - receive "Receipt Confirmation" messages from other group members.
- 44 - total number of messages handled by each member each week.

If you are interested in becoming a member, send a message from your Winlink account indicating such interest to K7BFL@winlink.org

The fun began on Monday, March 28, 2011! Weekly messages will be sent out each Monday. A list of past weekly topics can be found at:

<http://www.felge.us/HOWClub.html>

Please pass this on to other radio Winlink users in your local area. New members will be accepted at any time. Thanks.

73,

Don Felgenhauer K7BFL
Revised October 27, 2014