

## Arkansas ARES/RACES - Packet message handling

### WHEN Packet... *"Anytime you want to shove the paper through the radio..."*

- Lengthy, detailed, non-immediate, multiple relay
  - \* Lots of numbers
  - \* Numerous words requiring spelling
  - \* Multiple relays to destination
  - \* Lists of items or names

### Voice... *"Anytime the message has to be there now, and can be stated simply..."*

- Brief, urgent, concern over delivery, content easily understood
  - \* Notification of disastrous event: tornado, funnel cloud, explosion
  - \* Immediate request for aid or assistance
  - \* Threat to life or property
  - \* direct communication or single relay

### HOW Packet...

- Method: Type into file, if possible, then transmit to BBS or Mailbox
- Addressing: SP W5AUU *subject:* Disaster relief request - Baxter County
- Style: either formal or informal; all messages to ADEM need signature of official
- Reply: Include return routing, either BBS or Mailbox
  - \*BBS: K5BAX @ KD5AYE.#NEAR.AR
  - \*Mailbox: K5BAX <= BAXTER node
- Delivery: Deliver messages timely; do not send expired messages
- Records: Keep copies of ALL messages!!
- Operator: Appropriately trained personnel
  - \* Should be familiar with YOUR particular terminal program setup
  - \* Should become familiar with Network connections prior to exercise
  - \* Should have some typing and computer skills
  - \* Operator may be able to perform another selected task
- Network: Configure for best usage of network
  - \* Connect to nearest node, allow it to autoroute to distant node
  - \* NODE command tells you which distant nodes it can route to
  - \* Do not connect to backbone directly using a 6 meter radio
  - \* Do not use digipeating or "Via"; connect to node.
  - \* Simplex communication on Node frequency still ties up the node
  - \* Be patient with network; traffic can temporarily slow or halt it

### WHY Packet...

- Packet takes *overflow* from voice network (if no messages, feel lucky!)
  - \* Keeps from overworking fatigued voice operators
  - \* Keeps channel clear for urgent messages
- Allows more numerous and more detailed information, not previously provided
- Capability of both *local* and *out of area* message delivery or relay

*Packet is not a do all, be all... use it as just another radio resource, no more, no less...*