

Arkansas Digital Communications

Contrary to the thinking of some amateur operators, radio frequency digital communications has not been replaced by the Internet. Internet messages and information sharing play a significant role within Arkansas. When the electrical power or telephone lines are down, amateur radio traffic can still get through. Digital communications has the ability of providing messages, without errors, in a written format.

In order to accomplish our objectives we need to have redundancy and utilize all means of communications at our disposal. We need high frequency (HF) digital to supplement the VHF/UHF networks that may not be operating. Pactor is the preferred mode for HF digital operations since its ability to get through interference is well known. The HF frequencies we use here in Arkansas are 3.591.50 USB at ADOH and 3.592.50 USB at ADEM with 7.067.40 MHz USB as the alternative.

The ideal setup would be a HF/VHF digital setup in each Arkansas District and a dual VHF/UHF setup in each county. Each County in Arkansas should have two Emergency Stations with digital capabilities.

Local Operations

- It is strongly recommended that each district and county in Arkansas have one primary and one secondary Emergency Stations with digital capabilities.
- These stations should be located wherever Local ARES and Section officials think they will be most useful.
- They should not be at the same location.
- These stations should be equipped for HF and VHF/UHF digital operations. A full BBS type operation is not necessary. Terminal and host mode programs will work fine.
- Placement of multi-mode TNC's at the state and district levels should be given top priority. Simple VHF/UHF TNC's such as the Kantronics KPC-3 (Version 5.2 and above) can be placed at a central location or locations in each county.
- Simplex operation (without nodes) should be used whenever possible. Not only does it ease network congestion under normal conditions but there is the possibility that a remote node may be down during a real activation. Stations should experiment operating in the simplex mode to find what setup works best for them including using

six and ten meters at the local and district levels.

To accomplish our objectives we need to have redundancy and utilize all means of communications at our disposal. The primary frequencies used are VHF and UHF. We use HF to not only supplement but provide redundancy to the VHF/UHF. We use internet email as another form of backup. HF Pactor is the preferred mode for HF digital operations since its ability to get through interference is well known.