

### District 3 County EmComm Packet Station policy:

A designated District 3 EmComm packet station means the packet radio bulletin board station that is under control and authority of the County Amateur Radio Emergency Coordinator for official use during communications emergencies and exercises. This station is available for general Amateur Radio use during normal times. It does not mean individual user packet stations.

#### LICENSEE, TRUSTEE & SYSOPS

Each county EmComm packet station will post a bulletin on that packet stations bulletin board that will identify the officially FCC licensed trustee of that packet stations callsign as well as the packet stations SYSOP if the SYSOP is not the licensee or trustee. Contact information for the licensee, trustee and SYSOP will all be posted in the bulletin. The contact information will include the callsign as well as a phone number or email address of these individuals.

The licensee, trustee and SYSOP are collectively responsible for all of the following:

- Operation of the station in compliance with FCC rules and regulations.
- Regular monitoring (at least twice per week) of the packet station to ensure its proper operation.
- **Responding ASAP to reports of packet station malfunction.**
- **Taking a malfunctioning station that could be causing harmful interference off the air until corrective measures are taken.**
- Actively recruiting and mentoring users who need assistance with the operation and capabilities of the packet station.
- Work cooperatively with neighboring counties for training and exercises with use of multiple EmComm packet stations.

#### DISTRICT NETWORK FOR EmComm STATIONS

- Use a TNC based packet station that will allow for remote access to the command set to enable forwarding and other special operations without requiring a visit to the site and PC connection.
- Since most, if not all of the counties received a Kantronics KPC3+ in a federal grant, and many counties have them in use at this time, it would be very helpful if new EmComm packet stations use the same TNC for uniformity of the command set and to eliminate the need for cross training in the command set of other manufacturers.
- The EmComm packet station does not have to be located at the EOC if the EOC is not centrally located in the county, or if the EOC does not have sufficient antenna height to allow communication to surrounding county EmComm packet stations. Select a location based on coverage to bordering county EmComm packet stations. The remote packet station at the EOC only needs to have coverage sufficient to reach the EmComm packet station for that county. Packet communication from the EOC to other locations will be set up by the SYSOPS remotely on an as needed bases. **Successful tests have already been conducted**

**where packet messages have been automatically relayed between 4 different EmComm packet stations and then via a VHF to HF packet gateway to BPQ and Winlink full service systems with world wide auto forwarding.**

- Station SSID's: SSID's of 1 for the PBBS and 7 for the Node have been standardized for decades in packet radio. Anyone connected from a distant location via a gateway will expect to see the PBBS and Nodes at these SSID's. If other SSID's are used for the PBBS and Node then users will have to make "exploratory connections" to the alternate SSID's to determine their function. SSID's higher than 10 should be avoided as Nodes begin numbering relayed packets at -15 and decrease by 1 with each node in the path
- The following standard will be used for district EmComm packet stations:
  - o Primary call causes direct connect to BBS for unattended remote stations
  - o -1 for BBS
  - o -2 for Remote Call
  - o -7 for true KA-Nodes
  - o Use Callsign Suffix for Digipeater Alias (MYALIAS)
  - o RTEXT (remote sysop password) shared with all SYSOPS

#### FREQUENCIES

All stations use 145.090 for normal daily use and training. Even during an EmComm event it is likely that all counties could continue to operate on 145.090 and it would be beneficial to do so for ease of intercommunication between EOC's. But if an event was so wide spread that individual geographic areas would need to be divided to avoid packet collisions then the following frequencies will be used. The frequency assignment is such that no two adjacent counties will be on the same frequency.

- 145.090 Daily use and training
- 145.010 Oscoda,Gladwin,Huron,Lapeer
- 145.030 Alcona,Arenac,Tuscola
- 145.050 Ogemaw,Midland,Sanilac
- 145.070 Iosco,Bay,Genesee

#### BEACON FREQUENCY RATE AND DIGIPEATERS

For regular packet users beacons are seldom necessary. But when beacons are set to be transmitted by a packet station they need not be set to transmit any more often than once every 60 minutes, and should be disabled altogether during an EmComm event. Using digipeaters in the path for beacons should be discouraged, especially as more users go on the air.

#### GATEWAYS

Gateways from VHF packet to HF packet and other full service auto-forwarding digital systems (BPQ, JNOS, Winlink) are useful for general amateur communication and for EmComm. Gateways from District 3 VHF packet to other services can and should be published on the official EmComm bulletin board stations in the geographical areas that

the gateways service. The bulletins should included the call of the gateway SYSOP with basic information on how to use the gateway. The bulletin will also include information on how to contact the gateway SYSOP.