

NEMCo Winlink exercise February 26th to March 6th, 2022

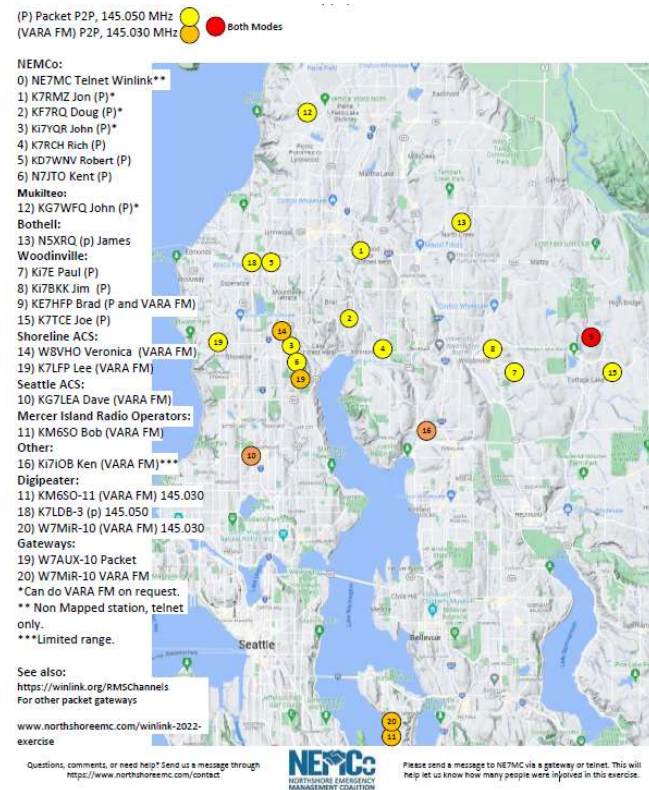
17 people participated on the map. Unfortunately, we had 3 stations that had difficulty getting up and running.

10 people, that I was informed, participated and not associated with the map.

2 Modes of operation were active: Packet P2P and Vara FM P2P.

2 new organizations participated that we didn't know about:

1. Island County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Club, KE7VQG
2. Brier Crest Communications, KI7MZT



1 picture was sent! Via Vara FM!



Lessons learned during Winlink 2022:

1. The squelch needs to be open for Vara to work on several different radios. ICOM 7100 and Yaesu FT-817. This was a gotcha for two different people.
2. The ICOM 7100 has two different versions of the radio. There is a ICOM R7100 that uses a different port number to talk with the sound modem.
3. A gateway can also be a digipeater with the same SSID number i.e. K7MIR-10
4. The digipeaters have been useful to gain good coverage into some places.
5. It is possible to have a "forward message to" on your Winlink account. If you set it, don't forget about it.
6. When you push reply on a message that is P2P, sometimes it sets up the new message for P2P, sometimes it does not. Haven't figured out why the difference yet. So always check that it is the proper "Send as".
7. The Vara FM free version will not initiate operation through a digipeater. But the paid version can initiate a connection through a digipeater to a free version of Vara FM.
8. Cookie sheets can make an OK ground plane for a mag mount antenna.

For More Winlink fun

and to give you the opportunity to test the Vara FM water...

For the next several weeks **NE7MC** is available as a **VARA FM P2P station** on **145.030** -- the same frequency that was used for VARA FM during NEMCo's recent Winlink Exercise.

Hams can use best practices to connect day or night to NE7MC by P2P Direct, or Digipeat via W7MIR-10 (the station has good line-of-sight).

Received messages will be responded to by POSTing an acknowledgement in the Outbox as soon as reasonable. Check for a response from NE7MC via VARA FM P2P again in a day or so.

Have you seen the light?

Have you seen the Vara?

Thank You

For participating in this year's Winlink exercise!



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