Subject: Call for check-ins for the CARES Weekly Winlink Net no. 123

Welcome to CARES Weekly Winlink Net No. 123!

Before we start, a big thank you to Matt, KK7MLS, for being net control for the past six weeks. We appreciate all the time you have put into making this Winlink net interesting.

Assignment:

This is the start of another six week cycle of Weekly Winlink check-ins. There is only a simple requirement for this week: Send to CLACKAMAS-WEEKLYNET a simple, plain-text check-in sentence.

Use VARA FM (or another RF mode) if you can. Those who are just learning about WINLINK, or who are struggling with equipment issues, are still welcome to check into the net using TELNET.

Completing the Assignment:

<Open> the Message tab.
Select <New Message>.
Address your email message to: CLACKAMAS-WEEKLYNET.
Identify the Subject of your message as, "CARES Weekly Winlink Net No. 123" to indicate the current Winlink Net number.
In your message body, insert your check-in sentence. Separate each piece of information with a comma. Here is the information requested:

<Week number>,
<Your call sign>,
<the Winlink Express Mode employed, eg., Packet, VARA FM, or Telnet>,
<the call sign of the RMS station used to send the message (use N/A if you respond via Telnet)>,
<the frequency of the RMS station used (use 000.000 if you respond via Telnet)>,
<city>,
<county>,
<state>

Here is an example of a validly-constructed check-in sentence:

123, KF7KXX, VARA FM, KD7ZDO-12, 441.525, Lake Oswego, Clackamas, Oregon

<Post> your message to the Outbox.
<Open> a VARA FM Winlink Session.
Use the <Channel Selection> tab to <Update> the available station list via the internet.
Choose a VARA FM RMS station by double clicking on the line identifying that station.
Modify the frequency of your transceiver to match the frequency of the chosen RMS station.
Using the VARA FM Winlink Session window, <Start> a Session.

Note: if you weren't successful in sending your check-in sentence to a chosen RMS station, you'll need to <delete> the message in the outbox that contains the name and frequency of the ineffective RMS station in your check-in sentence and create a new, accurate check-in sentence. But how can I know what RMS station will be effective if I haven't yet started a Session with that station?

Try one of two methods to test your connection before you <start> a session. After double-clicking on the new station in the Channel Selection window, in the VARA FM Session window either:

1) <Ping> the chosen station by: A) identifying the station in the Ping window, B) setting the frequency of the chosen station on your VHF/UHF transceiver, and C) pressing the <Plug> button to ensure that you have a sufficient signal-to-noise ratio between stations, or

2) Use the <Auto Tune> button to assist in setting the best drive level for your transmissions. Under the VARA FM Settings Menu, select <Sound Card>. Press <AutoTune.> Identify the station in the Drive Level Calibration window. Set the frequency of the chosen station on your VHF/UHF transceiver, then press the <Plug> button.

The drive level calibration routine will inform you, if needed, how to correctly adjust your drive level.   You will find drive level (recording) options by selecting the <Sound Control Panel> link within the Windows <Sound Settings> menu.

Use the <Properties> button, and the <Levels> tab to adjust the recording level of the USB Audio CODEC (sound card) device. Close the Microphone, Sound, and Sound Settings menus.

If you were successful in identifying an effective RMS station, create a new message that includes an accurate check-in sentence, post it to the Outbox, and <Start> a VARA FM (or TELNET) session.

We wish you good connectivity to RMS stations! Your CARES Weekly Winlink Exercise Team.