KB4OLM PACKET CLUSTER

OPERATION

Access direct on 145.075 MHz,
or via:
145.750 MHz (DXHBG)
145.670 MHz (DXAFTN)

This document contains the command information for the KB4OLM DX Packet Cluster. That cluster node serves hams in the Central Shenandoah Valley. Primary coverage area is Page, Rockingham, and Augusta counties. The information in this document is derived from the “help” files available on the cluster.

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PacketCluster (tm) V5.4
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The available PacketCluster commands are:

ANNOUNCE - make a general announcement to all connected stations
BYE - bye, disconnect from the PacketCluster
CONFERENCE - enter conference mode
DELETE - delete mail message
DIRECTORY - list active mail messages
DX - DX spotting info announcement
EXECUTE - execute your personal command procedure
FINDFILE - locate file(s) on the system
HELP or ? - help (displays this listing)
HELP command - display help for that particular command
KILL - delete mail message
LIST - list active mail messages
QUIT - bye, disconnect from the PacketCluster
READ - read mail message
REPLY - reply to the last-read mail message
SEND - send mail message
SET - set user-specific parameters
SHOW - display various PacketCluster information
SWITCH - change to alias call
TALK - talk to specified station
TYPE - display a particular file on the PacketCluster
UPDATE - update a custom database
UPLOAD - upload a file to the PacketCluster
WWV - log/announce WWV propagation information
WX - announce weather conditions

Command: **ANNOUNCE** This command is used to send a text string out to all stations which are connected to the PacketCluster. If you wish to make announcement to only those users connected to a particular PacketCluster node, you can specify the call of the node on the command. The ANNOUNCE command defaults to the local node; a cluster-wide announcement requires using the /FULL qualifier on the command. You can also specify a distribution list as a qualifier. The ANNOUNCE command may be used while in Conference Mode or Talk Mode by prefacing it with an asterisk (*).

Syntax: Announce msg
Announce/call msg
Announce/Full msg
Announce/distro msg

Command: **BYE** Bye command informs the PacketCluster that you wish to disconnect. This is the recommended way of disconnecting, instead of using the D command to your TNC.

Syntax: Bye

Command: **CONFERENCE** This command places you into Conference Mode. You will see all input from any other station that is also in Conference Mode. Note that by default, you are put into the local conference on your PacketCluster node. A ctrl/Z or the text /EXIT will cause you to leave Conference Mode and return to the PacketCluster command level. When in the local conference, your call will have a plus sign (+) next to it in the SHOW/USERS display.

Syntax: CONFERence

*** Note ***

While in Conference Mode, you are able to do the following PacketCluster commands:

```
ANNOUNCE   - make a general announcement to all stations
DX         - DX spotting functions
TALK msg   - send a one-line message to another station
SHOW/CONFIGURATION - display cluster configuration
SHOW/DX    - show DX log
SHOW/USERS - show what stations are connected
SHOW/WWV   - show WWV propagation information
WWV        - announce WWV information
```

This is done by prefacing the command with an asterisk (*): *DX, *T, *ANNOUNCE for example.

Command: **CONFERENCE/FULL** This command is identical to CONFERENCE except that the conference is global throughout the cluster. Users in global conference mode are designated with an asterisk (*) next to their call in the SHOW/USERS display.

Syntax: CONFERence/Full

Command: **DELETE** The DELETE command is used to delete mail messages on the PacketCluster. If no message number is specified, the last mail message read will be deleted; otherwise, the one specified by message number.

Syntax: DElete
DElete message-#,message-#,...

Command: **DIRECTORY** This command is used to display a list of the current mail messages on the PacketCluster node to which you are connected. A hyphen (-) next to a particular mail message number indicates that the message has been read by the station to which it was addressed, a plus sign (+) indicates message set to noauto_delete, an asterisk (*) indicates both read and noauto_delete, and a "p" indicates a private message.
If you specify a call on the command, you will see messages only sent by or to that station.

Syntax: DIRectory/qualifier
DIRectory callsign

Command: **DIRECTORY/ALL** Display all active mail messages. By default, only the five most-recent messages, or all since your last use of the DIRECTORY command (whichever is greater) will be displayed.

Command: **DIRECTORY/BULLETIN**
Display mail messages addressed to ALL.

Command: **DIRECTORY/NEW** Display all mail messages which have been sent since your last use of the DIRECTORY command.

Command: **DIRECTORY/OWN** Display mail messages which are addressed to you or were sent by you.

Command: **DIRECTORY/SUBJ** Display mail messages which have the specified text in the subject, e.g. DIR/SUBJ DX.

Command: **DIRECTORY/nn** Display the nn most-recent mail messages.

Command: **DX** The DX command allows you to announce DX spotting information to all other stations which are connected to the PacketCluster. Also see command SHOW/DX. While in Conference or Talk Mode, use *DX.

Syntax: DX frequency callsign misc-info
where frequency is of the format 14025.10, for example. Misc-info should be kept brief as the system will add the date and time after it. Misc-info is optional.

Command: **DX/call** The DX command with the /call qualifier allows you to announce DX spotting information and to credit the DX spot to the station whose callsign you specify.

Syntax: DX[/call] frequency callsign misc-info

Example: DX/K1GQ 14001.1 3C0A

Command: **EXECUTE** This command is used to execute your private command procedure which has been uploaded with UPLOAD/USERCMD.

Syntax: EXECUTE

Command: **FINDFILE** This command is used to locate files on the PacketCluster. You may specify either a full file name or a partial name with wildcards (*). The system searches all defined file areas for the file.

Syntax: FIndfile filename or filename-mask

Example: FINDFILE ARRL.DAT
FINDFILE ARRL*.*

Command: **READ** This command is used to read a mail message which is shown in the DIRECTORY display. A READ without a message number will read the oldest unread mail message addressed to you. Any mail message may be read if the message number is specified on the READ command.

Syntax: Read
Read message-#
Read/nopage message-#

Command: **REPLY** This command is used to reply to the last mail message which was read. The subject of the resulting message will be the same as that of the previously-read message with an RE: preceding it. You may also specify a message number to reply to, so that reading it first is unnecessary.

Syntax: REPly
REPly msg-#

Command: **REPLY/DELETE**
This variation of the REPLY command does the same function but also deletes the messages to which you are replying.

Syntax: REPly/Delete

Command: **SEND** This command is used to send a mail message to another station. You will be prompted for the station being sent to, the subject, and the message. The mail message may be terminated with either a ctrl/Z or the text /EXIT. If you wish to cancel the mail message, send a ctrl/Y to the system. The /PRIVATE qualifier sends a private message; the /NOPRIVATE qualifier sends a public message. The /RR qualifier requests a return receipt, so that when the addressee reads the mail, a confirmation is returned to the sender.

Syntax: Send
Send/Private
Send/NOPrivate
Send/RR

Command: **SET** The SET command is used to set user-specific options on the PacketCluster.

Syntax: SEt/qualifier

Additional help available for the following SET qualifiers:

/ALIAS	/ANSI	/BEEP	/DX_ANNOUNCEMENTS
/FILTER	/HERE	/HOME_NODE	/LOCATION
/LOGIN_ANNOUNCEMENTS		/LOGOUT_ANNOUNCEMENBTS	
/MAIL_ANNOUNCEMENTS		/NAME	/NEED
/NOALIAS	/NOANSI	/NOBEEP	/NODX_ANNOUNCEMENTS
/NOFILTER	/NOHERE	/NOLOGIN_ANNOUNCEMENTS	
/NOMAIL_ANNOUNCEMENTS		/NONEED	/NOPRIVILEGE
/NOTALK	/NOWWV_ANNOUNCEMENTS		/PAGE
/PRIVILEGE	/QTH	/TALK	/WWV_ANNOUNCEMENTS

Command: **SET/ALIAS** **SET/NOALIAS** These commands set or clear an alias callsign for your connection. This allows two-call families to use the same packet station to connect to the PacketCluster. Use the SWITCH command to change your call. This parameter only lasts for the duration of your session - use the user-defined command procedure to have this set up on each connection.

Syntax: SEt/ALias call
SEt/NOALias

Command: **SET/ANSI**
SET/NOANSI

These commands inform the PacketCluster whether or not your terminal program understands and can accept ANSI escape sequences. In particular, PacketCluster makes use of reverse video sequences. If your terminal understands that reverse video is ESC G 4, use the /ALT qualifier. The default mode for new users is SET/NOANSI.

Syntax: SEt/Ansi
SEt/Ansi/ALT
SEt/NOAnsi

Command: **SET/BEEP**
SET/NOBEEP

These commands control whether beeps are sent to you. This state is set only for the current session - use a personal command procedure to make it permanent.

Syntax: SEt/BEep
SEt/NOBEep

Command: **SET/FILTER**
SET/NOFILTER

These commands add or remove DX filtering from your filter record. The keyword "ALL" can be used to specify all bands or all prefixes. "Mode" is either CW or SSB. Valid bands are 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6, and 2.

Syntax: SEt/FILTER/mode/BAND=(x,x,x,...) prefix(es)

Command: **SET/HERE**
SET/NOHERE

These commands are used to give some indication to other PacketCluster users whether you are actually available in your shack, or just connected without being around.
Users who have done a SET/NOHERE cause their callsigns to be displayed in parentheses in the SHOW/USERS display and in their prompt lines. SET/HERE removes the parentheses.

Syntax: SEt/Here
SEt/NOHere

Command: **SET/LOCATION**

This command allows you to specify your latitude and longitude coordinates. This information may be viewed by using the SHOW/LOCATION call command. Latitude/longitude information is used by Packet-Cluster for calculating beam headings and MUF information for your station.

Syntax: SEt/Location lat-deg lat-min N/S long-deg long-min E/W

Example: if your latitude is 41 degrees 15 minutes North and your longitude is 71 degrees 10 minutes West, you would enter:
SET/LOCATION 41 15 N 71 10 W

Command: **SET/PAGE** This command is used to set your page length. This is the number of lines sent to you on a READ or TYPE command before a continue prompt is sent. This state only lasts for the duration of your session - use a personal command procedure to make this permanent.

Syntax: SEt/PAGe count

Command: **SET/TALK** These commands control whether talk messages from other users are sent to you. This state only lasts for the duration of your session - use a personal command procedure to make this permanent.
SET/NOTALK

Syntax: SEt/TAlk

Command: **SET/WWV_ANNOUNCEMENTS** These commands control whether WWV announcements are sent to you. This state only lasts for the duration of your session - use a personal command procedure to make this permanent.
SET/NOWWV_ANNOUNCEMENTS

Syntax: SEt/WWV_announcements
SEt/NOWWV_announcements

Command: SHOW **The SHOW command is used to display certain information** on the PacketCluster.

Syntax: SHow/qualifier

Additional help available for the following SHOW qualifiers:

/ANNOUNCE	/ARCHIVE	/BULLADDR	/BULLETINS
/CLUSTER	/COMMANDS	/CONFIGURATION	/DISTRO
/DX	/EXCLUDE	/FILES	/FILTER
/FORWARD	/HEADING	/INACTIVITY	/LOCATION
/LOG	/LOGON_MESSAGES	/MUF	/NEED
/NOTICE	/PREFIX	/STATE	/STATION
/SUN	/TIME	/USERS	/VERSION
/WWV	/WX		

Command: **SHOW/ANNOUNCE** Displays previously-made general announcements.

Syntax: SHow/ANounce

Command: **SHOW/ARCHIVE** Displays the files which reside in the ARCHIVE area.

Syntax: SHow/ARchive

Command: **SHOW/BULLADDR** Displays the list of bulletin addresses which are valid on the node. If the word LOCAL follows the address, it signifies a bulletin which is local to this node. LOCAL_CLUSTER means that mail sent to the associated address will be sent to only those nodes defined in the local cluster. Contact your sysop for more information.

Syntax: SHow/BULLAddr

Command: **SHOW/BULLETINS** Displays the files which reside in the BULLETIN area.

Syntax: SHow/Bulletins

Command: **SHOW/CLUSTER** Displays the number of PacketCluster nodes in the current cluster configuration, the number of local users, the total number of users, and the highwater mark for connected stations.

Syntax: SHow/CLuster

Command: **SHOW/COMMANDS** Displays what system operator-defined SHOW commands are available on the PacketCluster.

Syntax: SHow/COMmands

Command: **SHOW/CONFIGURATION** Displays the physical configuration of the PacketCluster. In particular, the nodes which are running the PacketCluster software are listed, as well as what users are connected to each node. Specifying a node on the command lists the stations connected to that station.

Syntax: SHow/Ciguration
SHow/Configuration call

Command: **SHOW/DISTRO** This command displays the distribution lists which have been defined on your node. If you include the name of the distribution list (filename minus the .LST extension), the actual list is displayed.

Syntax: SHow/DIStro
SHow/DIStro distro-name

Command: **SHOW/DX** This command is used to view previously logged DX calls on a particular band. Band may be specified in either wavelength or frequency. If the band is omitted, all bands are shown. You may also specify the number of previous entries you wish to see, e.g. SHOW/DX/15 14 will show the last 15 entries on 20m. Omitting this number will cause the default of 5 entries to be displayed. In Conference or Talk Mode, use *SHOW/DX.
If a call or partial call is specified, PacketCluster will search for it along with whatever other parameters you specify (number of entries and/or band). Only the start of the call will be matched; if you want to locate the text anywhere in the call, append an asterisk on the call.

Syntax: SHow/Dx

Example: SHow/Dx/nn 14 where nn is the number of entries to be displayed.
SHow/Dx 80 OH find OH stations on 80m
SHow/Dx OH* find any station with OH in call
SHow/Dx 'qsl find any spots with text "qsl" in comments field
SHow/Dx 28025-28050 find stations between 2 frequencies

Command: **SHOW/EXCLUDE** Displays the stations which have been excluded from receiving output from the node.

Syntax: SHow/Exclude

Command: **SHOW/FILTER** Displays the DX filter which you have set up for the list of prefixes you have specified on the command.

Syntax: SHow/FILTer px,px,...

Command: **SHOW/FILES** Displays the files which reside in the general FILES area.

Syntax: SHow/FILes

Command: **SHOW/FORWARD** Displays the mail forwarding database.

Syntax: SHow/FOrward

Command: **SHOW/HEADING** Displays the heading and distance to the country specified on the command. PacketCluster uses your latitude/longitude information if you have specified it with the SET/LOCATION command. Otherwise, it will attempt to use the location of the PacketCluster station for the calculation.

Syntax: SHow/Heading dxcc-prefix

Command: **SHOW/INACTIVITY** This command shows the status of the inactivity function, and if enabled, the inactivity timer value in hours.

Syntax: SHow/Inactivity

Command: **SHOW/LOCATION** This command is used to display latitude/longitude information which has been previously entered by yourself or another station with the SET/LOCATION command.

Syntax: SHow/LOCation
SHow/LOCation call

Command: **SHOW/LOG** This command is used to display entries from the PacketCluster operations log which primarily consists of user connects and disconnects.

Syntax: SHow/LOG Prints out the last 5 log entries.
SHow/LOG/nn Displays the last nn log entries.

Command: **SHOW/NEED** Displays the needs database for the specified user or country prefix. You may also specify a mode qualifer to just show needs for that mode.

Syntax: SHow/NEed call
SHow/NEed prefix
SHow/NEed/mode where mode is CW, SSB, or RTTY

Command: **SHOW/MUF** Displays maximum useable frequency (MUF) calculations for the country specified on the command. The origination point is your station if you have previously specified it with the SET/LOCATION command; otherwise, the latitude/ longitude of the PacketCluster station is used.

Syntax: SHow/Muf dxcc-prefix

Command: **SHOW/NOTICE** Displays the current system notice.

Syntax: SHow/Notice

Command: **SHOW/PREFIX** Displays the valid prefixes starting with the specified text.

Syntax: SHow/Prefix text
Example: SHOW/PREFIX G will display G, GD, GI, GJ, etc.

Command: **SHOW/STATE** Displays the current state of your session, including what types of announcements are enabled, etc.

Syntax: SHow/STATE
SHow/STATE call

Command: **SHOW/STATION** Displays all information for the specified station.

Syntax: SHow/STation call

Command: **SHOW/TIME** Displays the current time. If a DXCC prefix is specified, the local (standard) time for that country is displayed.

Syntax: SHow/Time
SHow/Time dxcc-prefix

Command: **SHOW/SUN** Displays the sunrise and sunset times for the country specified on the command. The country should be specified by the standard DXCC prefix. The resultant times are displayed in UTC. If no prefix is specified, sunrise and sunset times for your location are calculated.

Syntax: SHow/Sun dxcc-prefix

Command: **SHOW/USERS** Displays what stations are currently connected to the PacketCluster. An asterisk by the callsign signifies that the station is in Conference Mode. A call which is displayed in parentheses () signifies that user has done a SET/NOHERE command, saying that they are not actually available. Only local users are displayed by default; if you want to see all users, use the /FULL qualifier.

Syntax: SHow/Users
SHow/Users/Full

Command: **SHOW/VERSION** Displays the version of the PacketCluster software.

Syntax: SHow/Version

Command: **SHOW/WWV** Displays the 5 most recent WWV propagation statistics which have been logged. In Conference or Talk Mode, use *SHOW/WWV.

Syntax: SHow/Wwv — Displays 5 most-recent entries
SHow/Wwv/nn — Displays nn most-recent entries

Command: **SHOW/WX** Displays previously-announcement weather conditions. You may also specify a word to look for in the announcement.

Syntax: SHow/WX
SHow/WX text

Command: **SWITCH** This command switches your connection between your normal call and an alias call that you have specified with a SET/ALIAS command.

Syntax: SWITCH

Command: **TALK** The TALK command is used to talk to various stations which are connected to the PacketCluster. There are two types of TALK: Talk Mode to another station, and a one-line Talk function.

Syntax: Talk call — Talk to the specified station. This provides one-way talk capability to that station. If that station wants to communicate back, they must also do a T command. A ctrl/Z will only terminate your side of the talk.

Talk call msg — This allows you to send a one-line message to the specified station. It does NOT put you into talk mode and hence, no ctrl/Z is needed to terminate it.

Note: This type of Talk is also available from within Conference mode by prefacing the T with an asterisk (*T).

*** Note ***

The following commands are available from within Talk Mode: DX, SHOW/DX, ANNOUNCE, TALK (one line talk to another station), SHOW/USERS, and SHOW/WWV by prefacing them with an asterisk (*).

Command: **TALK/TIMESTAMP** This command instructs PacketCluster to timestamp the one-line message you are sending to the specified station.

Syntax: Talk/Timestamp call message

Command: **TYPE** This command is used to display a file which has been uploaded to the PacketCluster. The files which are available may be shown by doing a SHOW/FILES, SHOW/BULLETIN, or SHOW/ARCHIVE. The qualifier must be the same as that on the SHOW command. If no qualifier is specified, it is assumed the file resides in the /BULLETIN area.

Syntax: TYpe/area filename
TYpe/area/nn filename (displays on nn lines of file)
TYpe/USERCMD (displays personal command file)

Command: **UPDATE** This command is used to update a database which has been setup by the sysop. You will be asked for a key value, followed by the text which should be associated with this key value. Databases which have been defined on your system may be displayed with the SHOW/COMMANDS command.

Syntax: UPDATE/database

Example:
```
UPDATE/QSLNEW
Enter key value:
1A0KM
Enter text.  Terminate with ctrl/Z or /EXIT ...
QSL 1A0KM via I0IJ
/EXIT
```

Command: **UPDATE/APPEND** The APPEND qualifier instructs PacketCluster to add your new text to the current entry which exists in the database.

Syntax: UPDATE/database/APPEND

Command: **UPLOAD** This command is used to upload files to the PacketCluster. UPLOAD without a qualifier, or with the /FILES qualifier will upload the file to the files area and will be shown on subsequent SHOW/FILES commands. The /BULLETIN qualifier will upload the file to the bulletin area and will be shown on subsequent SHOW/BULLETIN commands. To upload a personal command procedure, use the /USERCMD qualifier.

Syntax: UPload filename
UPload/Bulletin filename
UPload/Files filename
UPload/Usercmd

Command: **WWV** This command allows you to announce and log WWV propagation information. To display previously-logged information, use SHOW/WWV. In Conference or Talk Mode, use *WWV.

Syntax: Wwv SF=xxx,A=xx,K=xx,forecast

Command: **WX** This command allows you to announce weather conditions to the local cluster users. If a cluster-wide announcement is desired, use WX/FULL.

Syntax: WX information
WX/FULL information

Msg #1 From: N4SR Date: 29-May 1152Z Subj: VER 5 CMDS *MORE ON USERCMD

HERE ARE A FEW MORE "GOODIES" FROM VER 5.0

AGAIN BY UPLOADING COMMANDS TO YOUR USER COMMAND FILE (SEE PREVIOUS MSG ON HOW TO DO THIS) YOU CAN CAUSE THINGS TO HAPPEN OR NOT TO HAPPEN AT THE TIME OF LOG ON. KEEP IN MIND THAT IF YOU WANT THESE THING TO EITHER HAPPEN OR NOT HAPPEN WHEN YOU PUT THEM IN THIS COMMAND FILE THEY ARE GOING TO HAPPEN EVERY TIME YOU LOG ON. IF YOU THINK YOU MIGHT ONLY WANT THESE COMMANDS TO BE ACTIVE FOR THE CURRENT SESSION, DON'T PUT THEM IN THIS FILE RATHER JUST SEND THEM TO THE NODE AFTER YOU LOG ON, THEY WILL GO AWAY AT THE END OF THE SESSION. HERE ARE A FEW MORE NEW COMMANDS

SET/NOBEEP KEEPS ALL BEEPS FROM COMMING TO YOU
SET/NOANNOUNCEMENTS KEEPS ANNOUNCEMENTS AWAY FROM YOU
SET/NODX_ANNOUNCEMENTS DON'T ALLOW DX ANNOUNCEMENTS TO COME TO YOU
SET/NOTALK KEEP TALK MESSAGES AWAY (FOR YOU UNSOCIABLE TYPES!)
SET/NOWWV_ANNOUNCEMENTS KEEP WWV ANNOUNCEMENTS AWAY

File courtesy N4SR

Msg #2 From: N4SR Date: 31-May 1326Z Subj: VER 5 CMDS *SET/FILTER INSTR

The last of the major feature changes for Version 5 is the Filter option. I will give a short description of what this does and some possible uses you all might have for it.
This routine allows you to set up a spot filtering file that will prevent certain spots to be sent to your station. For those of you who are only interested in receiving spots from certain bands or certain modes this is for you. For those who don't like to receive "common dx" (you big guns!) you can specify those prefixes you do not wish to get. Think of the ways you can use this---you novices and techs are really interested in the 10 meter and above bands, with this routine you can set it up so you will only receive those spots. You big gun 5 band dx'ers who want to work on one band only--you can set it up to do that also.

DX filtering is done by band, mode, and DXCC country prefix. Modes are either

CW or SSB and the bands supported are 160,80,40,30,20,17,15,12,10,6,2 meters. The default value for all users is ALL BANDS, ALL MODES (in other words you get it all!) REMEMBER WHAT YOU PUT IN YOUR FILTER FILE IS STUFF THAT YOU WANT FILTERED OUT.

HERE'S HOW YOU DO IT.

set/filter [options] or to change your filter set/nofilter [options]

The general syntax to use is as follows:

SET/FILTER/MODE/BANDS=(x,x,x) prefix(es)

some examples are shown below.

set/filter/band=(160,80,40) all	this will filter out all spots both cw and ssb for 160 80 and 40 meters
set/filter/cw/band=(all) ja,vk,zl	this will filter out all ja vk and zl cw spots on all bands
set/filter/ssb/band=(all) ja,vk,zl	this will do the same as above but for ssb
set/filter/cw/ssb/band=(all) ja,vk	this will do the same but for both cw and ssb
set/filter/band=(all) ja,ve	this will filter out all ja and ve spots for all bands
set/filter/cw/band=(17,12) ja	this will filter out all ja cw spots on 17 and 12 meters
set/filter/ssb/band=(20) ja	this will filter out all ja spots on ssb for 20 meters
set/filter/bands=(all) g	this will filter out all G spots on all bands

You can review a filter by prefix only at this time. To do so you would enter sh/filter ja. this would show you the filter you had set for JA spots.

When you establish your filtering, a file is built, with your call and the filtering you have selected. This filtering will be loaded each time you connect, so if you want to change anything you need to reset your filtering for the particular prefix, or if you want to eliminate all filtering for a prefix do a SET/NOFILTER xxx. If you want to eliminate all your filtering do a SET/NOFILTER/BANDS=(ALL) ALL. It is impertative that you use the PARENS ( ) around your band numbers, that you put a comma between your prefixes, and that you use the word ALL when appropriate.

File courtesy N4SR

Msg #3 From: N4SR Date: 9-Jun 0059Z Subj: VER 5 CMDS *WX*SEND*SH/DX-ETC

Here are a few more version 5 goodies. Some of them may be repeats of what I have put on the 3 other notes.

Send call,call,call	This will allow you to send the same message to several different stations.
sh/dx freq-freq	This will allow you to specify a range of freqs that you want to look at spots from. For example if you are one of the rtty nuts you could do the following sh/dx 14070-14100 this would give you the last 5 spots that were put out within that freq range. (this is the normal operating area of rtty stations)
WX weather report	This allows you to send a system wide weather message. USE THIS WITH DISCRETION HOWEVER IF YOU HAVE WEATHER THAT IS SIGNIFICANT, BY ALL MEANS PUT IT OUT!!!
sh/wx	This will show the last 5 WX reports
execute	This will execute your personal command file. The file executes when you log on, this allows you to execute it at other times.

This file courtesy N4SR

Msg #4 From: N4SR Date: 31-Jan 2342Z Subj: AVAILABLE DATABASES

THE FOLLOWING DATABASES ARE CURRENTLY ON LINE ON THE N4SR NODE. SOME OF THESE CAN ALSO BE ACCESSED FROM THE OTHER NODES.

DATABASE	SYNTAX	DESCRIPTION
SH/IOTA	SH/IOTA	Gives IOTA info
SH/QSL	SH/QSL callsign	The W6GO QSL MANAGERS DATABASE
SH/QSLNEW	SH/QSLNEW	QSL updates gathered on this cluster
ALLOC	SH/ALLOC prefix	Gives country assigned to a prefix
BUREAU	SH/BUREAU prefix	Gives QSL bureas address
CONTEST	SH/CONTEST month	Gives contest info for desired month
IRC	SH/IRC prefix	Gives IRC's required
ZONE	SH/ZONE prefix	Gives zone of desired prefix
BUCK	SH/BUCK callsign	Gives address of USA/VE/and some dx
DX de W7UG:	21000.0 ZF2MU	1949Z
INFO	SH/INFO	Info library, from Awards to Zones
TODAY	SH/TODAY	On this day in history.

For more complete information on these databases, just do a SH/database (with no prefix or callsign) ex. SH/ALLOC. Of course the most popular and widely used database is the Buckmaster, which has addresses of USA/VE and some DX stations. A short description of how to use the Buckmaster follows.

To use the buckmaster callbook, simply type in SH/BUCK callsign. This database has USA/VE and some DX calls in it. This database is updated every 6 months so sometimes it will not be completely current.
If you have the name of somebody whom you would like to know their callsign (this is for U.S.A. ONLY) leave me a message with the persons name,and address, and approximate age. I am able to do global searches of the USA part of the database, and usually can find who you are looking for.
If you know a USA callsign that needs to have the information changed or you have a DX stations address you think would be of interest, just send me a note with the pertinent information and I will update the database. QSL routes and managers should still go to the W6GO list, which is accomplished by doing the UPDATE/QSLNEW command.

Many thanks to Dan, K3SKE, who spent countless hours getting the errors out of the ZONES database.

File courtesy N4SR

Msg #5 From: N4SR Date: 11-May 1211Z Subj: BUCK AND DX

THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES ARE NOW INCLUDED IN THE BUCKMASTER DATABASE
IN ADDITION TO THE U.S.A. AND VE CALLS THERE ARE:

A2,A4,A7,A9,AP,C2,C3,C6,C9,CE,CT,CU,EA, EA6,8,9 EI,H4,HA, HB0,HC,HJ,HK0,
HK,HL,HP,HR,HV,J5,J7,J8,JT,JW,LA,LX,OH0,OH,ON,OY,PJ2,PJ9,PY,T30,T7,TA,
TK,TL,TN,TR,V2,V3,V4,V6,V8,VP2E,XE,XX,YB,YS,ZP,3B8,3D2,A0,4S7,5B4,5H,5V,
5Z,7P,7Q,8R,9H,9J,9N,9Y,

MORE DX CALLS WILL BE ADDED ON THE NEXT CD DISK RELEASE WHICH IS IN
OCTOBER. SUGGEST THAT YOU WRITE THE ABOVE PREFIXES DOWN SO THAT
YOU WILL HAVE A READY REFERENCE AS TO WHAT YOU CAN GET FROM THE
BUCKMASTER.

File courtesy N4SR

DX CLUSTER POLICY ON FOR-SALE POSTINGS

This node permits the advertisement of articles for sale provided such advertisement is not in violation of Part 97.113 of the FCC rules. Basically, that means you may advertise anything that is used by radio amateurs in pursuit of the hobby. Obviously we cannot list everything that can or cannot be advertised, so you are asked to use your good judgment. Examples of what would be permissible include rigs, antennas, test gear, computers and computer peripherals used by amateurs. Household goods, automobiles and other such materials used by the general public are prohibited. You MAY post an asking PRICE but you are not permitted to negotiate a price over the air; that is, no auctioneering. You MUST include your PHONE NUMBER so that transactions can be concluded by means other than amateur radio. You are not permitted to advertise any services such as repair or for hire or rent. Finally, you are not permitted to conduct any commercial transactions over the air, that is, no messages to or from dealers.

The SYSOPS have noticed some advertising that has the appearance of being commercial in nature. We ask that individuals that are engaged in reselling equipment that was purchased with the intent to make a profit, refrain from advertising such equipment on any of the system nodes. Dealers are generally known to the amateur community and we ask that they comply with the spirit of this request.

All of the SYSOPS agree that we want to keep this resource as open as possible; the fewer rules, the better. At the same time we must ensure that we are operating in full compliance of the law. Failure to comply places all of our licenses in jeopardy. Messages which are not in compliance with these guidelines will be deleted by the sysops.

Should you have any questions feel free to leave a message for the SYSOP or consult Part 97. Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

INFORMATION ON LISTING MESSAGES BY DATABASE CATEGORY

When messages are originated, the author classifies them into one of the following categories with the SEND command-

FORSALE	WANTED	QSLINFO	QSLREC	HELP
CONTEST	LOCAL	ALL	ALLNODES	DXINFO

Messages can be listed by category by the user with the (L) LIST command. The letter L followed by a space followed by the category will get you the 5 most recent entities in that category. For example L FORSALE.

Other available combinations of this are-
L/N FORSALE
L/10 FORSALE = LATEST TEN FORSALES
L/20 FORSALE = LATEST 20 FORSALES

FORSALE can be replaced by any of the other 9 categories listed above as Desired. If you are mainly interested in certain categories and you log In frequently, you could use the L/N command along with your desired categorie/s and stay up to date on those items. Whereas a plain ole L/N gets you all new messages of all categories all mixed up, a L/N DXINFO gets yo only the new dxinfo msgs since the last time you did a L/N DXINFO

KG4W 9/27/94
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RECOMMENDED TNC SETTINGS FOR DX CLUSTER CONNECTIONS...

Some members have been asking me what the recommended settings
are for TNCs attaching to the PacketCluster. Here is an excerpt
from the FRC Packet User's Manual by N3RD detailing those settings.

While most TNCs will work "right out of the box", their default
settings will not be appropriate in each case for PacketCluster
operation. The following discussion will address several TNC
parameters and their recommended settings. It is not intended to
replace the need for you to READ YOUR TNC MANUAL! Also, in some cases,
you will have to convert the parameters for use in your particular TNC.
For example, RESPTIME is expressed in increments of 10 milliseconds (ms)
for MFJ and Kantronics units, but this may not be universally true
even with newer versions of the above mentioned units. Therefore,
any time settings will be expressed in ms, you will need to make the
conversions for your particular unit.

Switches

There are several "switches" which should be set as follows:

AX25L2V2	ON
BEACON	OFF (or 0)
CHECK	OFF (more on CHECK later)
DIGIPEAT	OFF

Timing Parameters

The following parameters affect the way your TNC performs while
connected to the system. They should be set as follows:

DWAIT	200ms
FRACK	5
PERSIST	64
RESPTIME	1500ms
RETRY	10
SLOTTIME	10

RESPTIME sets the delay your TNC imposes on sending an ACK back
to the system after receiving a packet. Since, PacketCluster sends
packets to many users at once, it is important that the ACKS be
staggered back to the system. In an ideal world, each user would
have a different RESPTIME setting, and there would be no collisions
of ACKs back at the node. So, feel free to vary your RESPTIME setting
from 1500ms to 3000ms. In case you are wondering, this setting IN NO
WAY affects the speed at which you receive packets from the system.

DWAIT, PERSIST, and SLOTTIME (if available on your TNC) affect how
"aggressive" your TNC is. DWAIT sets the minimum time your TNC waits
before transmitting after the channel is clear. PERSIST and SLOTTIME
are variables in a calculation which is performed each time your TNC

wants to transmit. Here's how they work: When DWAIT has elapsed, your TNC generates a random number between 0 and 255. If that random number is less than the setting of PERSIST, then your TNC will send its packets. (If PERSIST is set at 64, there is a 25% probability that the random number will be less than the setting and that the TNC will transmit.) If the random number is above the setting of PERSIST, then the TNC waits for an amount of time equal to the to the SLOTTIME setting, then creates a new random number, and checks the PERSIST setting again. What PERSIST and SLOTTIME do, in essence, is to add a random time delay to your DWAIT setting. This has a beneficial effect on system performance by tending to reduce or eliminate packet collisions at the PacketCluster node. If your TNC has these two parameters available, please set them to the values suggested above.

To CHECK or not to CHECK

The conventional wisdom among PacketCluster sysops has been to recommend that the TNC CHECK function be disabled with a setting of 0 to eliminate unnecessary CHECK packets on a busy frequency. HOWEVER, contest experiences contradict this idea. Many users report that the Cluster had apparently disconnected them without their being aware of it. This can happen if the Cluster "retries out" on your stream for whatever reason. The user's TNC is, however, still in a connected state, and is unaware that the system has disconnected. A reasonable setting of CHECK might be ten minutes. As long as packets are being sent to your TNC, the CHECK function is held off. After ten minutes of no packets addressed to or from you, the TNC will check the connection and reset itself to a disconnected state if no response is received. It will be up to the individual user to detect when a disconnection has occurred. Ideally, your TNc should be in a location where you can easily notice when the connection light has gone out.

I hope this excerpt will help you keep a more reliable connection to the PacketCluster node of your choice. Please also remember to check your volume and squelch levels, and be sure you use just enough power to reliably get to the node you use. Any more is wasteful, interferes with your fellow node users, and is a violation of FCC regulations.

Please use your PacketCluster system wisely. It is here for the benefit of us all. Only if we work together can we maintain our reputation as the Greatest Contesting Club in the Universe. Do your part.

FORMATTING MESSAGES IN THE NTS FORMAT FOR PACKET HANDLING

Note: DX PacketCluster does not forward NTS traffic. This information is for use on any regular PBBS, -- NOT THE DX CLUSTER --.

A packet radio BBS forwards its traffic (mail) through the use of a forwarding file which, for NTS purposes, includes a list of Zip Codes and 5 letter State Designators. The designators consist of the letters "NTS" followed by the two letter Postal abbreviation for the State. For example,
"NTSCA" means "route this message to California"
"NTSNC" means "route this message to North Carolina" etc.

A packet message headed for Hampton, VA would look like this:
"ST 23666 @ NTSVA"

HOW TO ORIGINATE NTS TRAFFIC AT A BBS

Once logged in or connected to a BBS, you will be left at the prompt. This is normally a greater than (>) sign, and is the indication that the BBS is ready for further instructions.

1. Send the ST command to (S)end (T)raffic, followed by a space, the Zip Code of the addressee, a space, the @ sign, a space, and the NTSXX of the state. The transfer would look like this:
   ST 10016 @ NTSME < this message is headed for Maine Zip 10016

2. After entering the command information, you will be prompted for the subject of the message. Enter the subject like this:
   BANGOR 403 234 (403 234 are the first six digits of the telephone number, beginning with the area code.)

3. Once the subject is entered, you will be prompted for the actual message. The first line of the text should be the preamble. For example:

   34 R HXE K4ABT 21 PHOENIX AZ JAN 6

Now some explanation:
34 = your message number (usually counted from the beginning of each month)
R = a routine message - not (E)mergency or (P)riority or (T)est
HXE= the most common handling instructions-dont go to any expense to deliver this message but send me a msg advising if u CANNOT deliver)
K4ABT=the station who originated the message
21 = the number of the words in the text - not counting the signature
PHOENIX AZ = the place of origin
JAN 6 = the date the message was originated

4. The next 3 or 4 lines should each be ended with a carriage return (CR)
   For example:
   Jack Frost
   1234 Anyplace St.
   Anywhere ST 99999
   123 456-7890

5. Now enter the TEXT of the message with 5 words per line - end each line with a carriage return (CR)

   For example:

```
   Pat and I will meet                        <this is 5 words
   you and Karen at the                       <this is 5 words
   First Presbyterian Church parking lot      <this is 5 words
   at five oclock local on                    <this is 5 words
   Saturday                                   <this is 1 word
                              <total words this msg = 21

   Fred KZ9XYZ                this signature is not part of the word count
```

5. End your message with CTRL Z or /EX on a line by itself.

It is requested that the text of the message be formulated prior to checking in to the PBBS, so that all you have to do when prompted for the text is to upload a previously prepared file.

Some of the above procedures are slightly modified on some PBBS's but this should be close enough to get you started sending NTS traffic on your local PBBS system.

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