

GA ARES® Digital Nets Participation Guide

Winlink • Winlink Peer-to-Peer (P2P) • D-RATS

This guide provides GA ARES® members with information on participating in the GAARES digital nets. Members are encouraged to regularly participate to maintain proficiency with digital communications systems used during emergencies and public service events.

Net Summary

Net	Mode	Schedule	Message Destination	Notes
Winlink Net	Winlink via Telnet, RMS, VARA, Packet, or other supported transport methods	Sundays 12:01 AM – 5:00 PM (EDT period noted below)	Standard GAARES Winlink Check-In	Complete all sections of the check-in form
Winlink P2P Net (80m)	VARA HF Peer-to-Peer	Sundays 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM	GAARES-P2P	Connect directly to WG4PTP
Winlink P2P Net (40m)	VARA HF Peer-to-Peer	Sundays 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM	GAARES-P2P	Connect directly to WG4PTP

1. Standard Winlink Net

The GAARES Winlink Net allows operators to practice sending and receiving messages using the Winlink system via Telnet, RMS, packet, VARA, or other supported transport methods.

Operating Period

Eastern Daylight Time*(2nd Sunday in March through the last Sunday in October)*

12:01 AM Sunday through 5:00 PM Sunday

Check-In Procedure

Participants should submit the standard **Winlink Check-In Form** and complete **all sections** of the form.

Occasionally, alternate Winlink forms may be used to provide training and experience with additional message formats.

Winlink Instructions

Detailed instructions for completing the weekly Winlink net may be found here:

 [View Winlink Net Instructions](#)

Participant Recognition

A weekly participant map is generated showing the locations of participating operators. The map is distributed through the GAARES Groups.io email list and is also available from the GA ARES® website homepage.

2. Winlink Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Net

The Winlink P2P Net allows operators to exchange messages directly between stations using VARA HF Peer-to-Peer communications.

P2P Message Requirements

Create a Winlink message addressed to:

GAARES-P2P

Send the message as a:

VARA HF Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Message

Connect to the Net Control Station:

WG4PTP

P2P Net Schedule

80 Meter P2P Net

Sundays 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM

40 Meter P2P Net

Sundays 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

P2P Net Frequencies & NCS Information

[!\[\]\(248b91fcdac4810ffd15cf33fb6aec6f_img.jpg\) View P2P Frequencies and NCS Information](#)

ICS-205 Communications Plan

[!\[\]\(8af806fb1314382d09bc5ec5b767526c_img.jpg\) View ICS-205 Frequency Plan](#)

GA ARES® Net Calendar

For the latest information on all GA ARES® nets, training activities, and events:

[!\[\]\(e2376d476d06eb31946dc01a69a4403a_img.jpg\) View the GA ARES® Calendar](#)

Why Participate?

Regular participation helps operators:

- Maintain Winlink proficiency
- Practice Peer-to-Peer messaging skills
- Improve digital message handling techniques
- Verify station readiness and equipment functionality
- Build confidence operating under emergency communications conditions

GA ARES® encourages all members to participate regularly in these digital training opportunities to maintain preparedness and operational readiness.