

Using the UF packet station

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The UF packet station is actually two interconnected stations, with two transceiver radios, linked by programming in a Raspberry Pi. Both stations are simplex digipeaters. They do not have access to the internet, but they can get you to several stations that do (to send a WINLINK, for example). Digipeater stations allow you to get to a gateway that you cannot reach directly. The UF station and the Trenton station (DARK) are valuable because they are on very high antennas that are accessible around the area.

One of the radios at the UF station operates on 145.030, using port 8. The other radio operates on 145.770, using port 6. It is important to remember which port each station uses, especially for composing scripts. If you forget, connect on EasyTerm to W4DFU-8 and type MH 6 or MH 8 to see which stations are heard from each port.

Simple digipeater connections:

In our area, Gordon Gibby's WINLINK connection, KX4Z-10, can be found at 145.030. You can connect to that gateway by accessing the UF station on 145.030, using a simple digipeat access. In the WINLINK program, after you open a VHF packet session, there is an option for "direct," "digipeater," or "script" connection type. Select "digipeater." Make sure your radio is set to transmit on 145.030. In the boxes after "digipeater," put KX4Z-10 in the first one and W4DFU-8 in the second one. Push "start." If everything is working, it should send your WINLINK.

Similarly, Mike Ridlon's WINLINK connection, K4MVR-10, can be found at 145.770. If you access the UF station on 145.770, you should not need a script. Select "digipeater," tune your radio to 145.770, put K4MVR-10 in the first box and W4DFU-8 in the second box, and push "start." It should send your WINLINK.

Scripts:

If, for some reason, you want the UF station to receive on one frequency and contact an internet gateway on its other frequency, you need a script. Say that you wanted to contact the UF station on 145.030, but you wanted to use Mike Ridlon's gateway, which currently is tuned to 145.770. The script tells the Raspberry Pi that even though it receives your transmission on port 8, it will need to send the data out on port 6. The script is written this way:

```
C W4DFU-8  
C  
C 6 K4MVR-10  
C
```

The 6 in the third line of the script tells the station to send your data out on port 6 (the radio tuned to 145.770). Select "script" instead of "digipeater." Select "add script." Type and name your new script. Tune your radio to 145.030, select your script, and push "start." If everything is working, it should send your WINLINK via the K4MVR-10 gateway.

Similarly, you can access the KX4Z-10 gateway from the UF radio tuned to 145.770, even though

KX4Z-10 does not use that frequency. The script is written this way:

```
C W4DFU-8  
C  
C 8 KX4Z-10  
C
```

Note that you have to tell the UF station to find KX4Z-10 on port 8 (the radio tuned to 145.030), because your transmission came from 145.770. That is the purpose of the 8 in the third line of the script.

Other gateways are available on 145.070. KX4Z-10 is available on that frequency, as are N5CBP-10 and K4ZSW-10. You might have to reach these gateways through the DARK digipeater. A simple digipeater connection will work, because there is no need to switch frequencies to reach the destination.