

Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS)

Quick Facts:

- History and timeline: Created by Bob Bruninga WB4APR with initial public release in 1990s.
- AX.25 Packet communications with unnumbered information (UI) frames. Packets contain position, station data, status, messages. North American 2 Meter activity on 144.390 MHz at 1200 baud. Also on 6 Meters and HF on 30 Meters at 10.151 LSB at 300 baud.
- Differences from tradition packet: addition of mapping and data displays, one-to-many protocol for real time updates, generic digipeating so prior network knowledge is not required, and a worldwide transparent internet backbone. Real time tactical communications and display system for emergencies and public service applications.

More Information:

<http://aprs.org/> Official site with much information from APRS founder WB4APR.

<http://info.aprs.net/> APRS Wiki (Online Encyclopedia)

Equipment Manufacturers:

Kenwood (integrated TNC) TH-D7A Portable, TM-D700A Mobile, TH-D710A Mobile

Yaesu (integrated TNC and optional integrated GPS) VX-8R Portable

Byonics (kits, interfaces and projects) TinyTrak, Micro-Trak AIO <http://www.byonics.com/>

(& Essentially Any TNC or Any Sound Card Interface with Any Computer and Any Radio)

Computer Software:

UI-View APRS Client for Windows <http://www.ui-view.org/>

AGW Packet Engine (for sound card interfaces) & AGW Tracker <http://www.agwtracker.com/>

Internet interfaces:

findU database archiving weather, position, and message data <http://www.findu.com/>

Google Maps APRS <http://aprs.fi/>

Books and resources:

ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook by Steve Ford WB8IMY

