

## APRS

What is APRS – (Amateur Packet Reporting System), well the Webb (Goggle) and Wikipedia is the place to go and read about it. It's not about where that station is located but about the Amateur Radio Presence (APR\*) and location.

APRS developed in 1992 from the Packet (AMTOR) Days of Dumb Terminals and TNC's. And now you can Text via Radio (and APRS).

APRS is digital communications information channel for Ham radio. As a single national channel (see map at bottom), it gives the mobile ham a place to monitor for 10 to 30 minutes in any area, at any time to capture what is happening in ham radio in the surrounding area.

APRS is a real-time tactical digital communications protocol for exchanging information between a large number of stations covering a large (local) area. As a multi-user data network, it is quite different from conventional packet radio.

APRS is different from regular packet in four ways. First by the integration of maps and other data displays to organize and display data, second, by using a one-to-many protocol to update everyone in real time, third, by using generic digipeating & iGates, so that prior knowledge of the network is not required, and fourthly, since 1997, a worldwide transparent internet backbone, linking everyone worldwide. APRS turns packet radio into a real-time tactical communications and display system for emergencies and public service applications (and global communications). Normal packet radio has only shown usefulness in passing bulk message traffic (Email) from point to point. It has been difficult to apply conventional packet to real time events where information has a very short life time and needs to get to everyone.

But how about the history, it cannot be written up here in one A4 page. Therefore you the reader are really recommend, that you watch this Video on the History. Its nearly two hours long and you need a good Wi-Fi/fast broadband link to stream the below. If after watching this YouTube session you feel inspired then go have a go.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7mQl6RSvyM>

Also a good Webb site to visit is by GOHWC and the link is here;

[http://www.g0hwc.com/aprs\\_basics.html](http://www.g0hwc.com/aprs_basics.html)

Main QRG for APRS are shown in the map below.

