

# KB7DZR APRS COMMANDS GUIDE

## Guide Key

- TO:** - Send to - The station or system call (entered here).  
**MSG:** - Message line - The message or command (entered here).  
**SEND:** - Press the send on the radio, interface or software.

- **Send to any call that has 2 way APRS.**

**TO:** Station call (make sure to use the SSID shown on your system, e.g. xy7z-7)

**MSG:** your message

**SEND**

- **Send a bulletin to all stations.**

**TO:** BLN# (# = number 1, 2 ect. if you plan to send many)

**MSG:** your message - e.g. High winds in the area or ARES net tonight on the repeater.

(Make sure you are clear and to the point, enter the time if the Bulletin is time sensitive, keep in mind many will see this. It will expire after a set amount of transmissions.)

**SEND**

- **QRZ Call Look up.**

**TO:** DOQRZ

**MSG:** Call sign here (XY7Z)

**SEND**

- **APRS Commands that may be sent to other stations in a message.**

?APRSP - sends a location beacon.

?APRSS - sends the status text.

?APRSO - sends your active objects.

?APRSD - sends a list of stations that have been heard direct.

?APRST (or ?PING?) - sends the route by which the query was received.

?APRSH <callsign> - sends information on when <callsign> was last heard.

?VER? (not an APRS query, but some APRS software supports it) - sends information on the software version in use.

Not all receive-capable devices will respond to these.

- **Send a Email (anyone can use this)**

**TO:** EMAIL

**MSG:** yourfriends@email.com message text here

(67 total characters maximum)

**SEND**

**VX8GR Tip:** To get the @ character Press the VOL button and turn knob.  
It is near the ? character.

**APRS COMMANDS FOR WINLINK EMAIL**  
**(You must have a WINLINK account)**

- **Winklink Information**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** I

**SEND**

- **Get information about the nearest RMS Packet Gateway**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** G# (number you want it to return, e.g. 1, 2, ect.)

**SEND**

- **System help**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** H

**SEND**

- **Command help**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** ?(command letter here) e.g. ?L For list command help

**SEND**

- **Check Mail**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** L

**SEND**

- **Read Mail**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** R# (# is the MSG number 1, 2, ect)

**SEND**

- **Delete A Message**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** K# (# is the MSG number 1, 2, ect)

**SEND**

- **Forward A Message**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** F# yourfriends@email.com (# is the MSG number 1, 2, ect)

**SEND**

- **Send A SMS (Short Message)**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** SMS yourfriends@email.com Short message here.

**SEND**

- **Send An Email using Winlink.**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** SP yourfriends@email.com subject text here

(Make sure it looks like this with the email address you want to send to.)

or

**MSG:** SP Bob subject text

(uses the email you entered for Bob in the winlink alias list)

or

**MSG:** SP xy7z subject text

(the call sign of a station you know has a winlink account)

## **SEND**

(The system should send back a message telling you to enter the rest or you may just start sending the email body text.)

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** this is where your type in your note, keep it short.

**SEND**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** you can type as many lines you need.

**SEND**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** /EX (this ends your email entry)

**SEND**

- **Reply To A Message**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** Y# (# is the MSG number 1, 2, ect)

**SEND**

**(Then follow the message the system sends back, normally you start the message with W2 space and then the text of your message.)**

- **Create/update and alias for an Email address.**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** A Bob=yourfriends@email.com

**SEND**

- **To check your alias list**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** AL

**SEND**

- **Delete an alias from your list**

**TO:** WLNK-1

**MSG:** A alias name=

**SEND**

## VX8GR Message composing and other tips

Press the HM/RV button when viewing a stations details.

This will bring up the message window and pre fill the TO: for you  
(Pressing the BAND button when highlighted in the station list gives you the stations details.)

Press the HM/RV button when viewing the station or message list  
will get you to the message composing window.

To get the @ character - Press the VOL button and turn knob. It is near the ? Character.

The up and down arrows can be used to select pre fill text or clear the window. Pressing the  
V/M button after selection of the pre fill message or action will finish the task.

The BAND and MODE buttons can be used to go forward or back.

Pressing 0 a few times will get you a blank space when needed.

When done send the message by pressing the D or the nuclear looking button.

To delete a message, press the V/M button 2 times when the message is  
highlighted in the message list. This also works to delete stations in the station list.

To view a message press BAND when in the message list and on a highlighted message.

Use the up down arrows to move up and down all lists.

When you hear beeping every time station is heard it will get old very fast. You can disable  
that in the APRS menu (press and hold menu when in a APRS window) turn knob to number  
9 APRS Ringer BCON press menu and turn knob for off then press menu to exit change  
mode and then press and hold to get back to the APRS window you were last at.

When you still hear beeping but they are long beeps this is messages that are getting sent  
over the network. If they are not for you, you will not see them. If it is for you your radio will  
flash and vibrate or how ever you have it set up to alert you of a message.

GPS tip – Set the radio outside with the GPS on for 20 – 30 min. You will find it will get a  
lock most the time very fast if you turn the GPS on at the same general location next time.

It's best to keep the GPS on at all times.

When inside use the preset coordinates mode and normal beacon only (APRS Menu 23).  
Running smart beacon inside will wear your battery down faster and load the network down.

In the station list pressing BAND on a highlighted station will give you the details. You can  
use the up and down arrows to see all the information you can also press the MODE button  
when your in this station details view and you will see the digipeater paths and raw packet  
data. If you see nothing in the Digi path then this is a beacon that is sent local only.

DIGI (F) is the first Digi to hear the beacon and DIGI (L) is the last.

You do not have to turn off the radio receive power saver when using APRS, it will turn off  
on its own when you turn on the APRS system in the radio and go into dual band.

## APRS Path and other Settings

- **Home Stations**                      **Use a path of WIDE2-2**

If you are not getting in to the network you may need to use a fill-in digipeater path of **WIDE1-1, WIDE2-1.**

Home stations need to only beacon every 30 - 60 minutes.

If using UI-View when sending a message set your path to WIDE2-2 in the Digi box.

- **Mobile & Handheld**                      **Use a path of WIDE1-1, WIDE2-1 or WIDE2-2**

A beacon rate of once every 2 minutes is good or 3 -5 minutes. When stopped every 30 minutes or none. The use of smart beaconing should be used if the tracker has that ability to use that protocol. (Using WIDE1-1, WIDE2-2 will use fillin digi's when you are near one)

If it flies use a path of **WIDE2-1**, beacon every 1 to 2 minutes or use smart beaconing.

- **Local information**                      **Use NO path at all**

Local objects like a repeater information beacon or digipeater that ID's every 10 minutes should only be sent local. This information is really not needed beyond the local area.

You can still send an ID or information beyond the local area but this should be done at a rate of every 30 minutes only.

**Example:** When an APRS mobile station is in range of the local repeater they would see the local repeaters information beacon. Works best if the APRS beacon unit or digipeater is located at the repeater site. When APRS mobile stations are in Wallowa County Oregon they will see 147.00 in the station list. The beacon text then tells them it's the Joseph Oregon repeater and what tone is needed. If station hears this beacon its highly likely the can use the repeater as the beacon was not pass through a digi.