

APRS – messages help sheet

This document summarizes four ways APRS can be used to send and receive APRS messages using an APRS message enabled radio or other devices or message platforms. Each section outlines what data format is needed in the “TO” field and Message Body field to complete the message process. The values in brackets < > are the variables you supply. This Document does NOT cover how to setup APRS on a radio or how to send the APRS message or a setting up an APRS Beacon.

1. **Sending an APRS message (Radio to Radio)** – This format **REQUIRES** that the recipient radio operator be on-the-air and able to receive the APRS message. ***NOTE:** If the operator is not on-the-air, not running APRS or cannot connect to an APRS Digipeater, the message is never delivered.

TO: <Call Sign>-<suffix>
MSG: <Message>

Example:

TO: KD8BXY-9
MSG: Hello Paul, arrived safely, no cell service.

Note: APRS messages are automatically received (***See Note above**). No message retrieval process is required/needed.

2. **A. Sending an APRS message (Radio to Server to Radio)** – This format **DOES NOT** require the recipient radio operator to be on-the-air to receive the APRS message. The message(s) is/are stored on a server until the recipient retrieves the message(s). **NOTE:** All Messages are SSID specific.

TO: MAIL
MSG: @<CALL Sign>-<suffix> <Message>

Example:

TO: MAIL
MSG: @KA8OAD-7 Echo Link node is Off-line.

2. **B. Retrieving your APRS messages (Radio to Server to Radio)** – This format allows you to retrieve your APRS messages that have been stored on the server when you are on-the-air and ready to receive them. **NOTE:** All commands are SSID specific.

TO: MAIL
MSG: APRSM

Example:

TO: MAIL
MSG: APRSM

Note: The APRS message server will then send you all your APRS messages that were stored on the server. After the messages are delivered to you, they are deleted from the message server if the message server receives an ACK. Your APRS radio will usually automatically send an ACK, if your radio is set up that way.

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If the server DOES NOT receive an ACK, the messages are saved on the message server. You can delete the messages using the Delete format below. **WARNING:** This command deletes ALL messages regardless of if they were sent to you or not. **NOTE:** All commands are SSID specific.

TO: MAIL
MSG: DEL

Example:

TO: MAIL
MSG: DEL

2. **C. APRS messages waiting delivery Notification (Radio to Server to Radio)** - The message server can automatically notify you of messages waiting to be delivered to you. To have this service enabled, you need to create a custom APRS message and send the custom message as part of your APRS Beacon. Once this feature is included in your APRS Beacon, the message server will notify you if you have messages waiting to be retrieved. You will use the instructions in Step 2B above to retrieve the message. **NOTE:** All Messages are SSID specific.

To enable this function, your APRS custom position beacon text should include the following text: **APMAIL**. You can verify your APRS Position comments are correct, but viewing your APRS Beacon on APRS.fi

3. **A. Sending an APRS Message (Radio to Cell Phone)** – This format will send an APRS message to a cellular phone user via an SMS (Short Message Service) Gateway.

TO: SMS
MSG: @<Cell Number> <Message>

Radio TX Example:

TO: SMS
MSG: @9876543210 Arrived safely, no cell service here.

Cell Phone RX Example:

FROM: 866-352-4096 (APRS SMS Gateway) (DO NOT Block this number)
MSG: @<Call Sign>--<suffix> Arrived safely, no cell service here.

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- B. Sending/Replying an APRS message (Cell Phone to Radio)** – This format will send an APRS message to an APRS message enabled radio from a Cell Phone, via the APRS SMS Gateway.

TO: 866-352-4096 (APRS SMS Gateway)

MSG: @<Call Sign>-<suffix> <Message>

Cell Phone TX Example:

TO: 866-352-4096

MSG: @WB8YYS-7 When does the Net start tonight?

Radio RX Example:

FROM: SMS

MSG: @9876543210 When does the Net Start tonight?

Note: The APRS Users Call sign and suffix can be omitted on a **REPLY**, but there is no guarantee the message will be delivered.

- Sending an APRS Message (Radio to e-mail address)** – This format will send an APRS message to a users' e-mail address.

TO: EMAIL

MSG: <e-mail address> <Message>

Radio TX Example:

TO: EMAIL

MSG: KD8BXY@Hotmail.com I will be in route to home soon!

E-mail RX Example:

TO: KD8BXY@hotmail.com

FROM: <Call Sign>-<suffix> <email@aprs.earth>

MSG: I'll be in route to home soon!

Note: check the junk mail folder! Add from e-mail address to your contacts.

NOTE: E-mail Users/recipients **CANNOT** reply/respond to these e-mail messages.