The Ozone Amateur Radio Club's Digi/Node/Maildrop

The packet system that we have in place is a digi, node and maildrop. It is recommended that the system be used as a node since it is more efficient moving traffic. Users can leave messages to each other in the form of Packet - Mail. It is not recommended to use the system as a digi but it will make connections if one makes connections using the digi format. To connect to the maildrop the call used is W5SLA-3. To connect to other stations connect to SIL then connect to another station.

There are several commands that users should learn and once connected users can type the word Help or use ? and the list of commands and there function should be displayed.

To keep congestion down, it is recommended that users leave their mail for each other on the digi rather than use their own personal mailboxes. This will help and we do have a lot of storage space on our mailbox so it should be able to handle a lot of traffic. Once the users read their messages please delete or kill the message to free up more space. If a message is to everyone, then leave it for the others to read.

This digi has a large coverage area and users should be able to send and receive packets from a long ways off. Keep in mind if we do have many users transmitting at the same time, packet speeds will slow down. The digi is very high up and hears other stations we cannot hear. Be patient it may take some time for users to receive an ack. to their packets.

The National Weather Service here in Slidell, Louisiana also has a packet station. The New Call sign for the NWS is (W5NWS). The packet station will be using this call sign and all users have to do is connect to w5nws and you will be able to connect to the Packet Station there. Depending on how it is set, you will either go to the maildrop or someone who is actually on the air.

The TNC that is presently in use has been upgraded and so far we have not had any lockups or drops. Users may send an email to John-AA5UY if problems with connecting/disconnecting is encountered. The email address is oarc@w5sla.net.

Recap:
W5SLA-3 is the Maildrop.
Sil is the Node.

PRLA-is the node and mailbox that is located in Pearl River, LA and will be the back up should W5SLA-3 and SIL should fail. This TNC is on a low antenna but can be move to a higher antenna if needed.
To use this system, users should connect to PRLA, from there users can type a ? for the menu. The BBS command will connect users to the maildrop. Users can also connect to other packet stations once you are connected to PRLA first. Then use the C callsign to make another connection. Always use the B command to disconnect.

Below is a file that was sent to me from Ed Maison-KE5GMN

- **Packet Radio**
  PACKET RADIO IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE EMERGECY PLAN FOR REGION 9. A NETWORK OF NODES AND TERMINALS WILL BE INCORPORATED AND UTILIZED WHERE NEEDED. THIS IS A BASIC GUIDE FOR THE INITIAL SETUP OF THAT NETWORK.

  - All packet MSGS should be routed through the parish EOC unless otherwise deemed a burden on the NCS. Whereas some terminals may be able to utilize direct communications to RMS Gateway for email or point to point without the need for EOC input.
  - CONFIGURATION
    - All packet communications will be 1200 baud on the 2 meter band.
    - 145.01 MHZ will be the primary packet frequency used by ARES but other frequencies may be assigned by NCS for remote point to point packet communications.

- Each remote terminal should consist of a 2 meter transceiver, TNC, and computer terminal.
- The computer will have a terminal emulation program such as hyperlink or other packet terminal programs for direct keyboard operations.
- All TNC's should be configured for 9600 baud communications between the TNC and PC (ABAUD).
- Additionally each remote terminal should also have the following programs configured and ready for use:
    - OUTPOST - Free download and instructions - http://www.outpostpm.org / Outpost provides a user friendly interface and templates for easy creation of ARRL and NTS formatted msgs. MSGS created using outpost are fully compatible with standard packet terminals.
    - AIRMAIL - Free download and instructions http://www.airmail2000.com/ Airmail is an email program that allows the transfer of email type messages including small attachments to the internet via an RMS Gateway.
- SSID's will be assigned to remote terminals as they are activated by NCS.
- PACKET OPERATIONS
    - A basic packet radio communications will be established at the discretion of the NCS during a drill or activation. Primary operations will consist of remote terminals at strategic locations such as shelters, medical centers, etc.

- Direct (Point to Point) packet communications with the EOC in Amite will be used when possible bypassing the use of digipeaters.
- Digipeaters may be used if available for longer distance communications.
- The primary frequency will be 145.01 to utilize the best coverage by local digipeaters.
- If an RMS Gateway is available and email is utilized, a schedule will be devised at the time of activation for regular incoming email checks.