

Using the D700 Packet Mailbox

Sept. 2002

The Kenwood TM-D700 is a mobile or fixed two-band Ham FM transceiver with a built in TNC for packet or APRS. When I first talked about using the Palm as a small portable terminal for the Kenwoods, Walt May, KA7STK, an IRLP friend in St. George, Utah, came through the packet network to the Sacramento Valley, looking to see if I had a mailbox on. This pointed out my ignorance about how well the network still works, and about the mailbox in the D700.

You can read through the manual several times and not see how to activate and use the packet mailbox. It is mostly there, but I had to read up on the subject before I knew what I was looking for. The following assumes that you know how to issue commands to the TNC at the **cmd:** prompt. (Strictly GUI users need not apply.) The **BOLD** characters are the commands to be sent to the TNC. The CAPS are the mandatory part of the command, and the lowercase can be ignored.

If the TNC has not been used for packet, set **MYcall W6XXX-7** using your call and whatever SSID (-7) you want from 0 to 15. No SSID is equal to zero. Then assign a call to the mailbox with **MYMcall W6XXX-8** using your call and any different SSID. The mailbox will not function until you command **MBod ON**.

If a station connects to my mailbox, the following will be received (note that the SSID is ignored):

```
Welcome to W6TEE's message board  
System Ver 1.50 112864 Bytes free  
CMD(F/K/M/R/W/B/H/?)>
```

If an H or ? is sent, the following help menu is received, explaining the mailbox commands. (I have left the "English" intact.)

Commands

W(rite) = Type W (callsign)<cr> to begin message entering.

Subject: = Header (max 30 characters) are entered after the prompt: "Subject". Ending the header with a carriage return <cr>.

Message: = Message are entered after the prompt: "Message". Ending each line with <cr>. You terminate with either a <cr>/EX<cr> or <cr><ctrl-Z><cr> to the indicate end of your message.

B(ye) = Type B<cr> to DISCONNECT.

F(ile) = Type F<cr> to show the latest 20 messages.

L(ist) = Type L<cr> to show the all messages.

M(ine) = Type M<cr> to show latest 20 messages (to or from you). Subsequent F or M command will show next 20 active messages.

R(ead) = Type R n<cr> to show the number n message.

A(bort) = Type A<cr> to Abort.

J = Type J<cr> to show connect stations.

K(ill) = Type K n<cr> to delete the number n message (only to or from you).

H(elp) or ? = Type H<cr> or ?<cr> to display this.

When a B is sent to disconnect, the following is received.

Thank you CU AGN 73

I tested the message writing function and it works, but I didn't think it necessary to show it here. The command description above is adequate. Messages can also be written and read from your terminal connected to the D700. See the **WRITE**, **FILE**, **LIST**, **MINE**, **READ**, and **KILL** TNC commands in your manual. A specific callsign with the **WRITE** command will allow only that station to read the message.

Once the mailbox is set up, it will stay in operation anytime the rig is on and the TNC is enabled in packet mode, as long as the TNC isn't caused to reboot. A terminal need not be connected to the D700 for the mailbox to receive mail or have mail read on the air.

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