

# April PKTNET 2 Part Challenge

## Part 1.

### NTS (Radiogram) Message Form

- Instructions for using the NEW online form generator.  
(A downloadable html file will be available soon for off-grid use)
- Instructions for injecting your NTS traffic into the Packet Radio BBS System.
- Instructions for step #2, as part of the April PKTNET.

# Phase 1: Fill Out Online Form

The **TPRFN Radiogram Generator** is hosted online currently.

- 1. Online Tool:** Navigate to the TPRFN website at <https://www.tprfn.net/radiogram-form>.
2. This tool was created by N3MEL with the assistance of Jim KY2D.
3. This net will hopefully get those of you that have never sent any NTS Traffic an opportunity to do so.
4. It is a great way to test the current Packet Network along with TPRFN.
5. I would encourage all packet ops to participate at least in the Packet portion of this month's net.

## Phase 2: Generating the Radiogram

Follow these steps to ensure your traffic is formatted correctly for the National Traffic System (NTS):

- 1. Configure Your Station:** In Section 1, enter your Name, Callsign, and City/State.
- 2. Preamble Setup:**
  - Assign a **Message Number**. No 0's needed in front of the message number.
  - Select the **Precedence** and any **Handling Instructions** (HX) from the dropdown menus. Leaving it blank is also fine for the net.
  - Click the **NOW** button to automatically sync the current UTC time and date.
- 3. Recipient Information:** Fill out the recipient's details. Use the split fields for City, State, and Zip to ensure the routing headers are generated accurately.
- 4. Message Body:** Type your message in the text area. The generator will automatically convert symbols like @ and . into NTS-compliant words and format the text into the standard 5-word-per-line grid. Keep your message to 25 words or less each punctuation is counted as a word.
- 5. Generate:** Click **GENERATE MESSAGE** and verify the output in the terminal preview window.

## TPRFN RADIOGRAM GENERATOR


NTS DIGITAL TRAFFIC BENCH

### 1. SENDER'S INFORMATION

Your Name:

Your Callsign:

Your City, State:

 SAVE SENDER AS DEFAULT

### 2. PREAMBLE & HANDLING

Msg Number:

Precedence:  ▼

Handling (HX):  ▼

Date:

UTC Time (Zulu):

### 3. RECIPIENT INFORMATION

Recipient Name:

Recipient Callsign:

Street Address:

Apt / Suite:

City, ST, Zip:   ▼

Phone Number:

Email Address:

### 4. MESSAGE BODY

TYPE MESSAGE HERE...

Form Page

# TPRFN RADIOGRAM GENERATOR

NTS DIGITAL TRAFFIC BENCH

## 1. SENDER'S INFORMATION

Your Name:

GLENN ALLISON

Your Callsign:

N3MEL

Your City, State:

DOWNINGTOWN, PA

 SAVE SENDER AS DEFAULT

Insert Sender info here



### 3. THE ADDRESS (RECIPIENT)

Recipient Name:

JIM KUTSCH

Recipient Callsign:

KY2D

Street Address:

PO BOX 159

Apt / Suite / Box:

City ST Zip:

DAMARISCOTTA

ME



04543

Phone Number:

Email Address:

KY2D@ARRL.NET

This is who your PKTNET Radiogram will be going to just as you see it here



#### 4. MESSAGE BODY

THIS IS MY CHECKIN FOR THE APR PKTNET. I AM USING THE N3MEL BBS SYSTEM.|

Message text goes here.



Type your message as normal any punctuation will be dealt with by the form.  
Keep your message at 25 words or less, each punctuation counts as a word.

#### 4. MESSAGE BODY

THIS IS MY CHECKIN FOR THE APR PKTNET. I AM USING THE N3MEL BBS SYSTEM.|

Exchange N3MEL with the BBS system you are using to inject your NTS Message

**GENERATE MESSAGE**

**COPY FOR TERMINAL**

**SAVE AS .TXT**

**RESET RECIPIENT/MSG**

After your form is filled out and the info is correct, click on the Green Generate Message button.

GENERATE RRI MESSAGE

COPY FOR TERMINAL

SAVE AS .TXT

RESET RECIPIENT/MSG

5. RRI/ARRL ASCII OUTPUT

```
To: ST 04543@NTSME
Subject: QTC 1 R DAMARISCOTTA ME MAR 27

9 R N3MEL 18 DOWNINGTOWN PA 2117 MAR 27
JIM KUTSCH KY2D
PO BOX 159
DAMARISCOTTA ME 04543
KY2D ATSIGN ARRL DOT NET
BT
THIS IS MY CHECKIN FOR
THE APR PKTNET X I
AM USING THE N3MEL BBS
SYSTEM X 73
BT
GLENN ALLISON N3MEL
```

Auto word count here

You should see you generated ASCII text in the terminal window

## Phase 3: Sending via Packet Radio BBS

Once the message is generated, use these steps to transmit it through a TPRFN node or BBS.

**1. Connect to the BBS:** Open your terminal software (such as LinBPQ, PuTTY, or EasyTerm) and connect to your local BBS.

◦ *Example:* C N3MEL-2

**2. Initiate the ST Command:** Use the Send Traffic (ST) command followed by the recipient's Zip Code @ NTS state designator.

◦ *Example:* ST 19335 @ NTSPA

**3. Provide the Subject:** When the BBS prompts for a subject, go to the generator and copy the **Subject line** from the preview. Paste it into your terminal and hit Enter.

*Example:* QTC 1 R DAMARISCOTTA ME MAR 24

## Phase 3: Continued

**Paste the Body:** When the BBS prompts for message text, return to the TPRFN generator.

**Copy Clean Text:** Click **COPY FOR TERMINAL** and wait for the "  COPIED" confirmation.

**Submit:** Paste the entire block into your terminal and hit **Enter**.

**Finalize:** If the BBS doesn't auto-close, type /EX on a new blank line and hit **Enter** to save and queue.

### Pro-Tip for TPRFN Operators

The **COPY FOR TERMINAL** button uses a specialized ASCII-force method. This prevents the browser from adding web-encoding characters (like %20), ensuring that the BBS receives clean text that won't error out during the RF forwarding process.

**GENERATE MESSAGE**

**COPY FOR TERMINAL**

**SAVE AS .TXT**

**RESET RECIPIENT/MSG**

5. **TERMINAL PREVIEW (ASCII)**

```
Subject: QTC 1 R DAMARISCOTTA ME MAR 24

001 R N3MEL 17 DOWNINGTOWN, PA 2206Z MAR 24
JAMES KUTSCH KY2D
PO BOX 159
DAMARISCOTTA, ME 04543
EMAIL KY2D ATSIGN ARRL DOT NET
BT
THIS IS MY CHECKIN FOR
THE APR PKTNET X I
AM USING THE N3MEL BBS
SYSTEM X
BT
GLENN ALLISON N3MEL
/EX
```

Click Copy for Terminal

**GENERATE MESSAGE**

**CLEAN ASCII COPIED!**

**SAVE AS .TXT**

**RESET RECIPIENT/MSG**

5. **TERMINAL PREVIEW (ASCII)**

```
Subject: QTC 1 R DAMARISCOTTA ME MAR 24

001 R N3MEL 17 DOWNINGTOWN, PA 2206Z MAR 24
JAMES KUTSCH KY2D
PO BOX 159
DAMARISCOTTA, ME 04543
EMAIL KY2D ATSIGN ARRL DOT NET
BT
THIS IS MY CHECKIN FOR
THE APR PKTNET X I
AM USING THE N3MEL BBS
SYSTEM X
BT
GLENN ALLISON N3MEL
/EX
```

Box should turn Green

## Webmail Interface - Message Input Form

To:

Subject:

Attachments  No files selected.

Type:  BID

Header  No file selected. Footer  No file selected.

Subject: QTC 1 R DAMARISCOTTA ME MAR 24

001 R N3MEL 17 DOWNINGTOWN, PA 2206Z MAR 24  
JAMES KUTSCH KY2D  
PO BOX 159  
DAMARISCOTTA, ME 04543  
EMAIL KY2D ATSIGN ARRL DOT NET  
BT  
THIS IS MY CHECKIN FOR  
THE APR PKTNET X I  
AM USING THE N3MEL BBS  
SYSTEM X  
BT  
GLENN ALLISON N3MEL  
/EX

4. To: For NTS traffic your message should be address to the Zip code and state of the Recipient.

Example: 04543@NTSME (04543 zip & ME (Maine) state

3. Change Type from P to T

2. Copy & Paste subject line into upper Subject section

1. Paste your form into message window

5. If everything is correct click send

**REMINDER:** If you are using a terminal type program to send your message like QTtermTCP, Easyterm or Putty at the end of your message you must enter a BLANK line then enter /EX <enter> for your message to save and send

**Sending format for these types of terminals is as follows**

1. To Start a new message: <type> ST 04543@NTSME (for an NTS Message) <enter>
2. System will prompt you for a subject <type> QTC 1 R DAMARISCOTTA ME MAR 24 <enter>
3. System will prompt you for your message text <C&P> (as shown in earlier slide)

```
001 R N3MEL 17 DOWNINGTOWN PA 2206Z MAR 24
JIM KUTSCH KY2D
PO BOX 159
DAMARISCOTTA ME 04543
EMAIL KY2D ATSIGN ARRL DOT NET
BT
THIS IS MY CHECKIN FOR
THE APR PKTNET X I
AM USING THE N3MEL BBS
SYSTEM X
BT
GLENN ALLISON N3MEL
```

4. On a Blank Line <type> /EX <enter> You receive a Message Saved and a Message ID Number..

**The only way to have your Radiogram counted as part of the net is to send it the Jim KY2D (again this is mandatory for it to count)**

**Please note: Not all BBS's may be set up to handle NTS traffic you maybe want to find out who handles NTS message for your region.**

**This is the exact info to put in the form!**

**NAME: JIM KUTSCH**

**Call: KY2D**

**Address: PO BOX 159**

**DAMARISCOTTA ME 04543**

**Phone: <leave blank>**

**Email: KY2D@ARRL.NET**

End of part 1

# April PKTNET 2 Part Challenge

## Part 2

Send your normal Net Check-in Form found here: [https://vden.org/pktnet/check\\_in.html](https://vden.org/pktnet/check_in.html)

Fill out the form as normal but in the Message area: Please note if you sent a NTS Radiogram Message and if so, what BBS system did you use?

This part will be useful to understand how many Radiograms are sent and how many are received!

Address **Bulletin** to: PKTNET@USA

Subject: Name, Call, Town, State

Message: Paste HTML form data

All the other digital check-in modes are available as usual