

**From:** Mark Cunnane <[wqslc@gmail.com](mailto:wqslc@gmail.com)>

**Date:** April 5, 2024

**To:** [w7ed@groups.io](mailto:w7ed@groups.io)

**Subject: Welfare Messaging Pilot Test Volunteers**

As per discussion last night, GHRC is going to develop a Welfare Messaging System (WMS) (see 4/4/24 meeting minutes on website)! I am following up with this email to ask those wishing to volunteer to conduct pilot testing of the radio technology for this system to respond back to me using my personal email: [wqslc@gmail.com](mailto:wqslc@gmail.com).

Volunteers should have the ability to connect a computer to their VHF and/or HF radios. VHF only systems are welcome and needed. We will be using VHF FM and HF SSB. You may not have a computer cable for your radio and could need to purchase this. I think we all need to be Windows 10 or 11, but not entirely sure.

We will all need to get a Winlinks account (free at <https://www.winlink.org/>) and install the Winlinks Express software on our computers. You can do this now if you like and try sending emails over regular internet using the Winlink Telnet connection--should bring you great enjoyment after perhaps some frustration! If you choose to get started with this, suggest you find a Youtube video (e.g, installing Winlink Express, sending email with Winlink Express), as I found that very helpful and quick to get the job done.

When you respond, please include your location latitude/longitude in decimal degrees. You can obtain these coordinates on Google Maps, by right clicking on your location (that seemed to work for me). Your result should look similar to this: 45.63418, -110.92759 (my house), and it is important to include all the decimal values, as I am going to plot up the location data in GIS software. You might have to "fiddle" around with Google to get the numbers, but you'll eventually get them!

Please also fill out the ARES registration form attached and return to me as attachment. We are not registering for ARES, but this form is quite handy and planning to include in our WMS report. Fill out as much as you would like, and no need to sign. The auxiliary power question at the bottom is important.

Look forward to your response by next Thursday 4/11. Once I have all the responses will send out email to the pilot testing group as to our next steps. I think we will start with a short Zoom meeting for introductions and a VHF simplex net to check out signal strengths in the area.

Contact me by phone/email with any questions, etc. Thanks!

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73,  
Mark Cunnane, KU7O  
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