



Making Field Day Contacts with Packet

Contents

- 1 Field Day Keyboard Contacts..... 1
 - 1.1 Keyboard-to-Keyboard Frequencies..... 1
 - 1.2 Important TNC Commands 2
 - 1.3 Steps..... 2
 - 1.4 Example – Chat Mode 4
 - 1.5 Example – Connect Mode 4

1 Field Day Keyboard Contacts

For Field Day, there are a few things we can do with Packet Radio: Keyboard contacts, passing NTS messages, and passing ICS213 messages. This is a very short how-to to make field day Keyboard contacts with packet radio. Note: all commands are followed with a Carriage Return/Enter <cr> and may not be shown here.

1.1 Keyboard-to-Keyboard Frequencies

In my area, the Northern California Packet Association (NCPA) lists these simplex frequencies where keyboard-to-keyboard packet is usually found. Check with your local packet band planning organization for your frequencies.

- 6 meters: 50.62
- 2 meters: 144.350, 145.030, 145,050
- 220: 223.52
- 440: 433.510, 433.530

Reference

NCPA Band Plan: https://ncpa.n0ary.org/bandplan/digital_db.php

Calling CQ

3. Set your TNC in for CQ.	cmd: <u>Unproto CQ</u>
4. Turn Monitor on.	cmd: <u>mon on</u>
5. To call CQ, you must get into the Convers Mode. NOTE: Everything you type will be transmitted after you press Enter .	cmd: <u>conv</u>
6. Transmit a CQ to let people know you are there.	<u>CQ CQ CQ Field Day KN6PE <cr></u>
7. Interested individuals may connect to you and complete the exchange, or just chat back to you in converse mode.	Reply with your information
8. Log the contact.	

Answering a CQ, chat mode

Chat (UNCONNECTED) mode is when you just type and everything gets transmitted. In this mode, there is no guarantee that the recipient will get your message.

9. Put your TNC into converse mode:	cmd: <u>conv <cr></u>
10. When you see a station calling CQ, just type their call, your call, and your exchange. For instance:	<u><their call>, this is <your call>, 1D SCV<cr></u>
11. Make sure they reply and state your call sign and their exchange information	
12. Log the contact.	
13. Put your TNC into command mode when done.	<u><cntl-c></u>

Answering a CQ, connect mode

Connect mode connects to another station. Your message will be delivered even if there are retries because the frequency is busy.

Step	You type
14. Put your TNC into command mode:	<u><cntl-c></u>
15. When you see a station calling CQ, connect to their call. Wait for the TNC to reply that you are connected	cmd: <u>c KI6LDM <cr></u> (example) ***CONNECTED ***
16. State your call and your exchange.	<u>This is KN6PE, 1D SCV, copy? <cr></u> (they should reply with something similar) <u>Thanks! Good luck with the contest!</u>
17. Disconnect from that station.	<u><cntl-c></u> <u>d <cr></u>
18. Log the contact.	
19. If you want to do more, repeat! Go back to Step 5 above.	cmd: <u>conv</u>

1.4 Example – Chat Mode

KN6PE calls CQ in chat mode	AI6CC answers in chat mode
Mon on Unproto CQ conv CQ CQ CQ Field Day, KN6PE AI6CC this is KN6PE, copy, I am also 1D SCV Same to you CQ CQ CQ Field Day, KN6PE	Mon on conv KN6PE this is AI6CC 1D SCV, copy? Copy, good luck with the contest!

1.5 Example – Connect Mode

KN6PE call CQ in chat mode	AI6CC answers in connect mode
Mon on Unproto CQ conv CQ CQ CQ Field Day, KN6PE ***CONNECTED TO AI6CC (TNC connect msg) Copy. I am also 1D SCV *** DISCONNECTED CQ CQ CQ Field Day, KN6PE	Mon on cmd: c kn6pe ***CONNECTED *** (TNC connect msg) Please copy 1D SCV Thanks, 73 <cntl-c> d *** DISCONNECTED

Hints

1. Consider creating a text file with some standard text replies. Then, you can just copy and paste it into the lpserial program to speed your contact.
2. Feel free to be as chatty or terse as you want. This is packet... a few extra words won't matter!
3. Start off on 145.050. This is a popular Keyboard-to-Keyboard frequency.
4. Get your antenna up as high as possible to be heard.

Have fun with Packet and Field Day!