Yolo ARES Portable Packet Station

Yolo County ARES has put together several Portable Packet Stations for emergency communications.
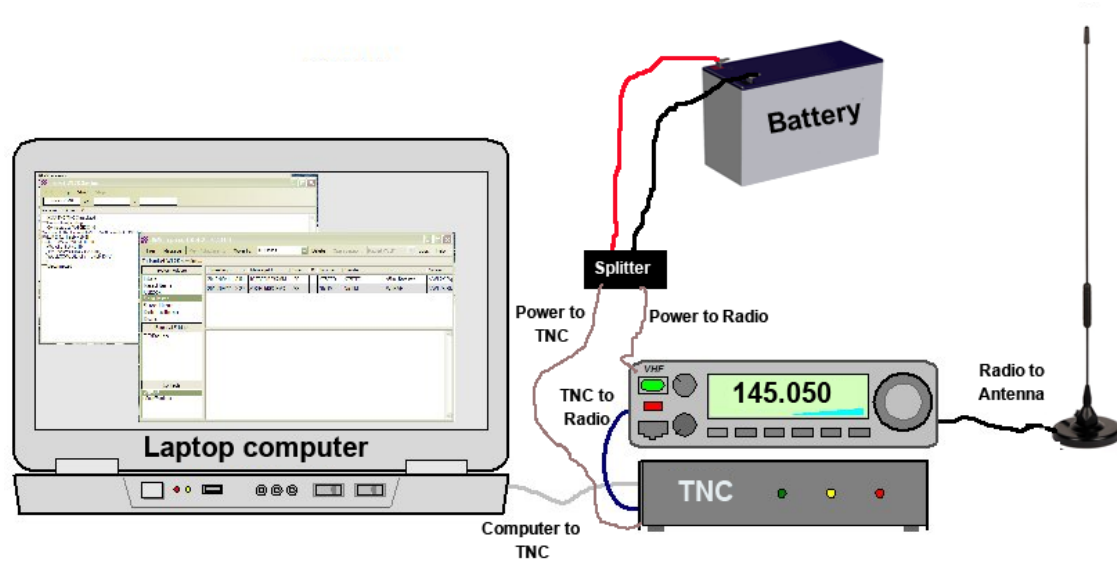
Portable Packet Station contents:

- ☐ A Terminal Node Controller (TNC)
- ☐ An ARES laptop computer running Windows XP. It will also be loaded with the basic programs necessary to run packet radio such as Outpost Packet Manager. The computer should have a power cable and charger.
- ☐ A Mag-mount antenna
- ☐ A run of coax to connect the radio to the antenna
- ☐ A 2 meter VHF radio preprogrammed with the local packet frequencies
- ☐ A USB to serial cable to connect the TNC to the computer.
- ☐ A cable to connect the TNC to the radio.
- ☐ A power cable with Anderson Power poles to connect the TNC to power
- ☐ A power cable to connect the radio to battery (or you're a power supply)
- ☐ A Battery to supply to DC power to radio and TNC. Depending on the configuration in the kit, there may be a power splitter to connect the radio and the TNC to the battery.

When you are finished operating and are returning the kit, PLEASE make sure that each component has been replaced in the kit box.

If any component needs to be replaced or repaired, please make a note and place in the kit and inform the EC or AECs.

Connecting the Packet Station:

It is very important to correctly connect all of the packet components before you power on the radio, the TNC, and the computer.

1. Place the mag-mount antenna on a piece of metal and in a location that you can get a signal out.

2. Connect the radio to the antenna. Make sure that all connections are secure.

3. Connect the radio to the TNC using the labeled "*radio to TNC cable*".

4. Connect the TNC to the computer using the labeled "*TNC to computer* cable" (The usb to serial cable)

5. Plug the "*TNC to computer"* cable into the laptop computer in one of the USB ports.

6. Connect the labeled *"TNC to power*" cable to the battery or Power splitter. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THE POLARTITY

7. Connect the labeled "*Radio to Power"* cable into the power source.

8. Turn on the Radio by pressing the power button.

9. Check that the radio is on the assigned packet frequency. This should be 146.050

10. Turn on the Computer

11. Turn on the TNC.

You should now be ready to operate packet.