REGION 9

U.S. ARMY MARS

AIRMAIL SYSTEM

PACTOR POINT TO POINT SETUP AND OPERATING PROCEDURE TRAINING AID

12 July 2009

DOCUMENT CHANGE LIST

6-9-2008	Updated Message Routing List information, Page 12 Added Section V. Advance Airmail Routing, Page 15 Added Page 15 to Contents, Page 3
10-15-2008	Revised Routing Table information, Page 12. Revised and expanded Note on Page 12. Expanded introduction to Section IV. Page 14. Deleted Page 15.
07-12-2009	Revised paragraph H.iv and related Station Settings window on page 9.

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Preface

In this ever changing world of communications, one can find themselves lost in the midst of bad information. Coupled with technological advances of this period, the necessity for reading and study is of the utmost importance.

The goal of presenting this aid was not one of completeness, the goal was judicious selectivity. The question was not "Where do you begin”? It is how, when and where do you stop!

The authors were compelled to exercise discretion in what was to be included in this document so that the reader would not be overwhelmed with unnecessary noise in the procedure. They have illustrated unfamiliar objects and places to help guide the user.

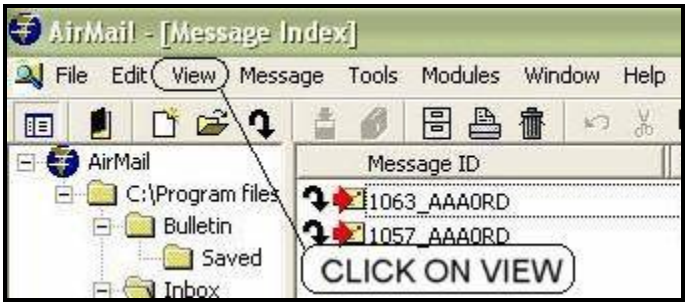
It is the Authors sincere hope that the efforts to make this a valuable tool provide you, the user, with the information you need to become proficient in
Point to Point Airmail communications.

Section I. Introduction. This training aid is being provided as a guide to help you through setting up Airmail to be used as an effective and efficient means of direct communications between two stations or points using the PACTOR digital mode. We refer to this as "Point-to-Point (PTP) Operations". This is a little different than using it as part of the Winlink 2000 system. Section II will discuss the setup and configuration of the Airmail software. Sections III and IV will then discuss using your new tool in PTP operations. It is presented as series of steps for you to follow with the associated graphics to help you recognize the various computer screens and drop down menus you will see during the set up process. We make the assumption that you have already set up Airmail for use with MARS. Let's get started.

Section II. Point To Point (PTP) Setup and Configuration.

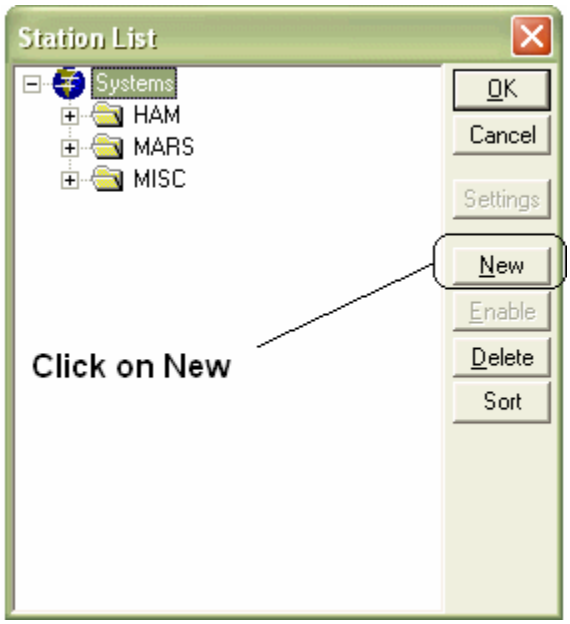
1. Open AirMail application

2. Click on **View:**

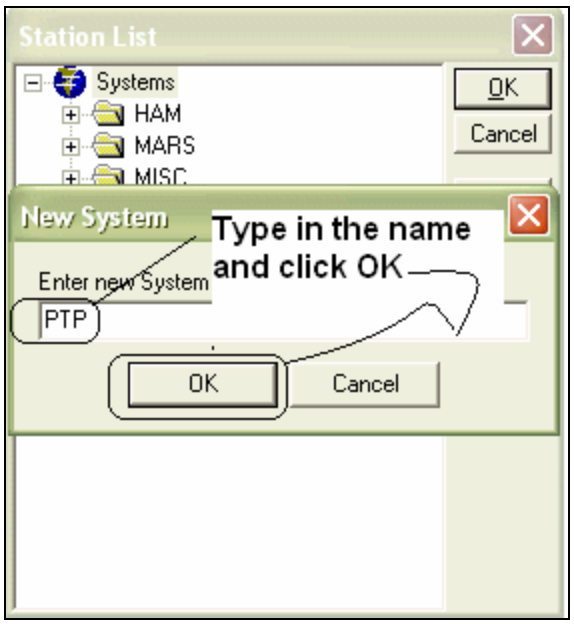


A. Click on **Station List**

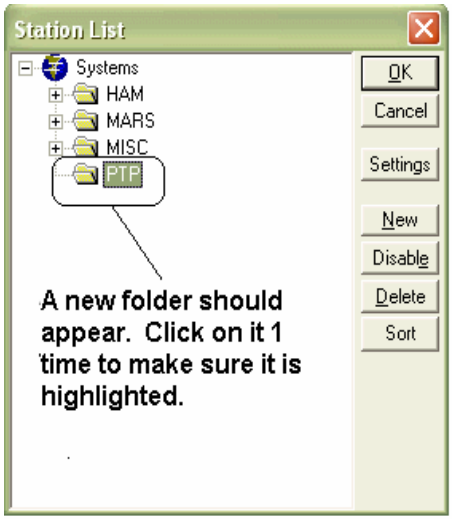
B. In the Station List window click on **New**



C. In the New System window enter **PTP** as the New System Name and click **OK**.

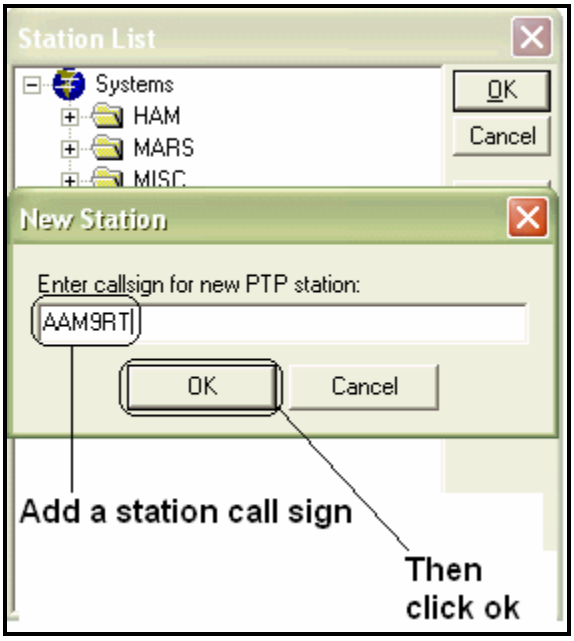


D. In the Station List see new System Folder **PTP**

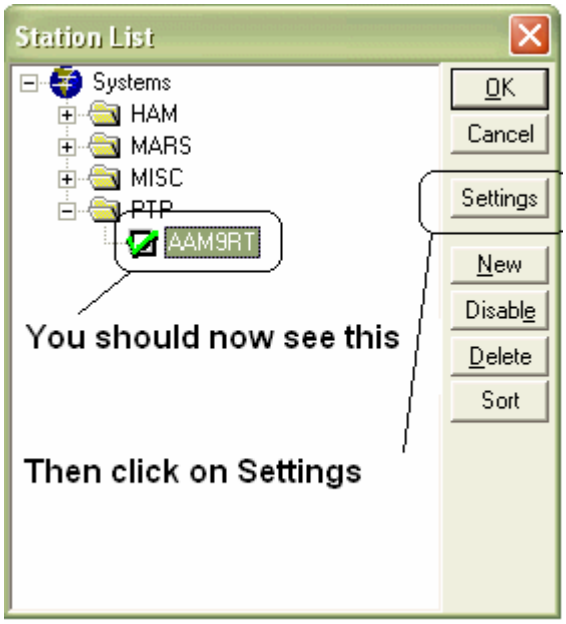


E. With the PTP folder highlighted click **New**

F. In the **New Station** window enter your station MARS callsign and click **OK.**



G. With your stations callsign highlighted in the **Station List** window click **Settings**



H. In the **Station Settings** window complete the form by adding the following:

i. Your **Name** in the **Identification** pane

ii. Your Station's **Grid** location in the **Location** pane

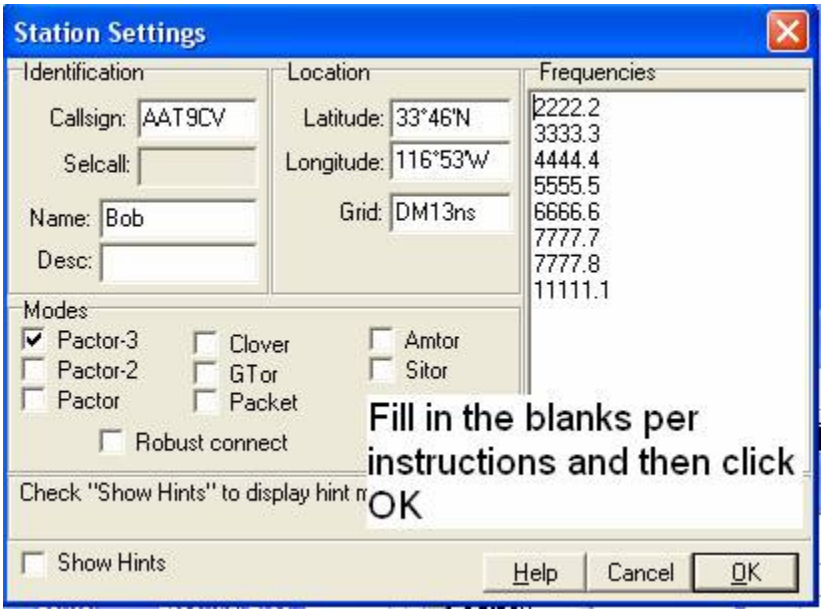
iii. Check appropriate **Mode** box for your station Pactor capability in the **Modes** pane

Check **Pactor** for Pactor 1 only capability.

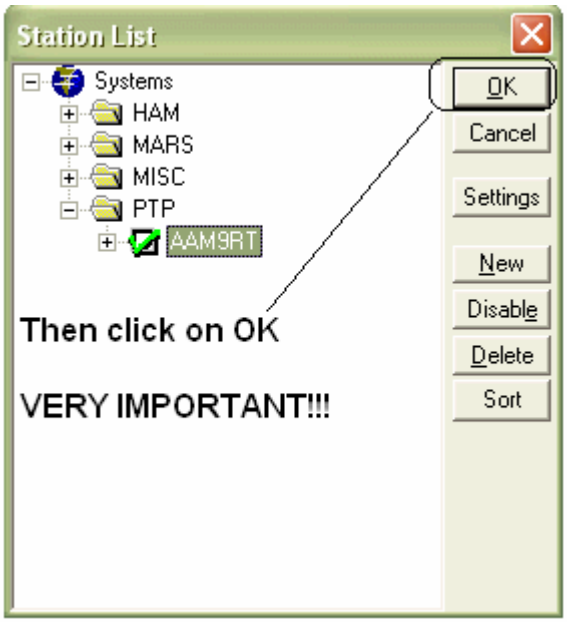
Check **Pactor-3** for Pactor 3 capability

iv. Type all the Region 9 Assigned Frequencies on the latest Region 9 Net Schedule into the **Frequency** pane

v. Click **OK**



I. Click **OK** in the Station List window.



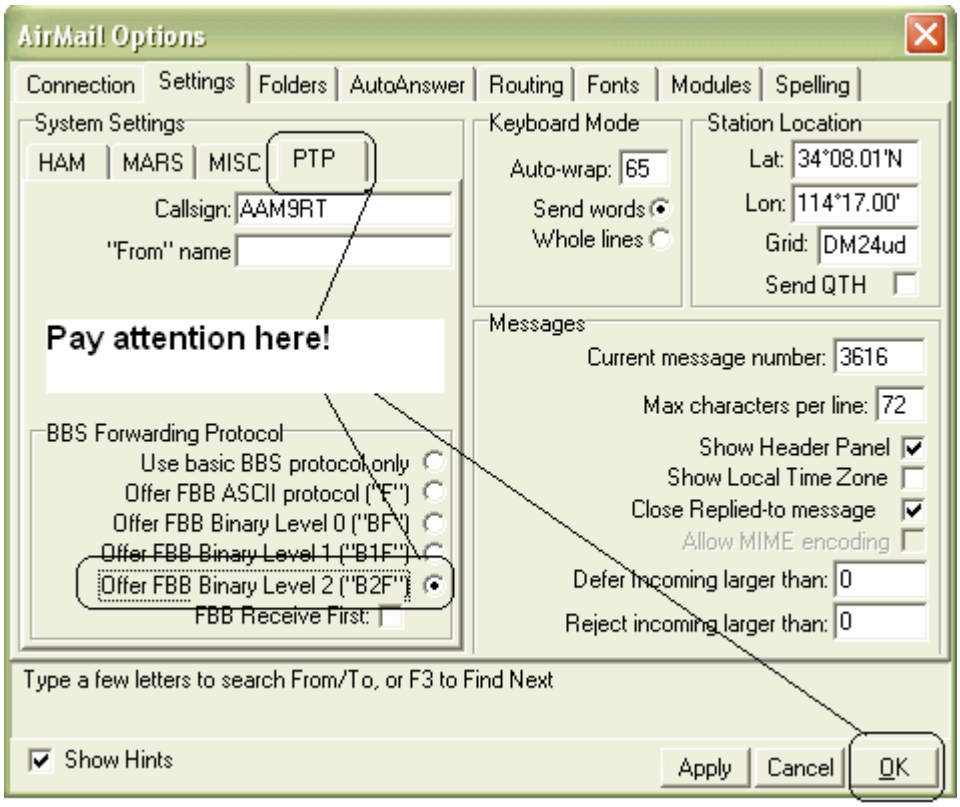
3. Adding additional MARS AirMail stations to the **PTP Station List**:
   A. Return to the **Index/Message** window
   B. Click on **View:**
   C. Click on **Station List**
   D. With **PTP** folder highlighted click **New**
   E. In **New Station** window enter callsign for the new station and click **OK**
   F. With the new stations callsign highlighted in the **Station List** window Click **Settings**
   G. In the **Station Settings** Window complete the form by adding the following:
      i. Operators **Name**
      ii. New Station's **Grid** location
      iii. Check appropriate **Mode** box for new station Pactor capability
         Check **Pactor** for Pactor 1 only capability.
         Check **Pactor-3** for Pactor 3 capability
      iv. Paste the list from step II, H, iv above into the **Frequency** pane
      v. Click **OK**
   H. Click **OK** in the Station List window.
   I. After entering the last new MARS AirMail station to the **PTP Station List,** close AirMail and reopen the application in order to read the new changes to the PTP ini file.

4. Check the **system.PTP.ini** file

A. Click on **Windows**
B. Highlight **Files** then highlight **INI Files**
C. Open .**system.PTP.ini**
    i. If necessary add you MARS callsign to:
        a. **Callsign=**
        b. **Answerback DE**
    ii. Add a zero to **Modules=**
D. Save these changes by clicking on **File** and **Save**
E. Close **system.PTP**
F. **CLOSE AND RESTART AIRMAIL – AGAIN!**

5 Open AirMail application

6. Click **Tools**
    A. Select **Options** then click **Settings**
        i. Click the **PTP** tab in the **System Settings** pane
            A. Click the **Offer FBB Binary Level 2 ("B2F")** radio button
            B. Enter your stations **Grid** to the **Station Location** pane
            C. Click **Apply** and then **OK**



7. Then, click **on Modules** and select the **HF Terminal** window

A. Click the **down arrow** in the **Current system** window

i. Click on **PTP**

B. Click the **down arrow** in the **Current station** window

i. Click on your callsign

C. Click the **down arrow** in the **Center Frequency** window

i. The list of Region 9 frequencies in COI format should be displayed

D. Click on the **Mode** Menu

i. Check **BBS Forwarding Mode**

ii Close the **Terminal** window

8. Setting up Airmail **Message Routing** table

Editing and using the Message Routing Table is advanced use of Airmail. Normally, this would be configured to meet the immediate needs of an incident or exercise. It is good to know how to use the routing table but is far to complex for detailed explanation in this guide. Practice and experience in its use will be your best teacher

The table setup provided here is an example of one which will support the Airmail Relaying feature presented in **Section IV. 3. Relaying.**

A. Click on **Tools**, and then select **Options,** then **Routing**

B. Edit the displayed **Message Routing** Table as shown below

Received Via:	**Address To:**	**Post Via…**	**Comments**
User	**Email**	**MARS**	**User created email**
User	**Default**	**MARS**	**Default**
HF	(**Your Call Sign**)	**MARS**	**Receiving PTP Airmails**
HF	**Default**	**(See Note)**	**Relaying PTP Airmails**

Note Relaying PTP Airmails:

For testing purposes enter your most reliable RMS CALLSIGN. Otherwise, enter CALLSIGN of the most reliable MARS PTP station.

In the event of a failure of the Internet a PTPTP…TP traffic net will be required to relay emergency traffic through out the effected state, region or conus.

C. Click on **Apply** then Click **OK.**

D. Close AirMail application

Section III. PTP Station Operations

1. Open AirMail application.

2. Switch to **Terminal** window by selecting **HF Terminal** in the **Modules** Menu.

3. Select **PTP** in the **Current System** window.

4. Select the MARS station you wish to connect to in the **Current Station** Window.

5. Select the prearranged operating frequency in the **Center frequency** window.

6. Listen for PACTOR traffic on the selected frequency and proceed when clear.

7. Click the **Green Connect** button.

8. Connection should result after a few tries in the same manner as connecting to a **RMS** under **MARS HF Terminal** operation. If not, click the **Red Stop** button and recheck your **PTP** setup.

Section IV. Exchanging Traffic with another PTP station

In the following examples, assume your station's call sign is **AAA** and other station's call signs are **BBB** and **CCC**. When creating PTP Airmail messages be sure not to use email or …@winlink.org entrees in the "To:" line containing a call sign. Airmail will strip the "To:" addresses for those messages and put them in the "Inbox" when received. Without a "To:" address these messages will be undeliverable.

1. **Sending** an AirMail message to another station:
   A. Create an AirMail message to the other station, **BBB**, in the usual manner
   B. Change the **Post Via:** window to **BBB**
   C. **Post** the AirMail message.
   D. The next time a connection is made with **BBB** the **Posted** AirMail will be sent **BBB**. In addition, if **BBB** had an AirMail message for your station, it will be sent to you from **BBB**.

2. **Forwarding** an AirMail message **from** station **BBB To** station **CCC**:
   A. Station **BBB** creates an AirMail message **To** station **CCC**.
   B. Station **BBB**, however, puts your call sign **AAA** in the **Post Via** window.
   C. Station **BBB Posts** the AirMail.
   D. When your station connects with **BBB**, the message from **BBB** to **CCC** will be delivered to your **Inbox.**
   E. Highlight the message in your inbox, then open the **Message** pull down Menu in the **Message Index** window and click **Forward.**
   F. A new AirMail **form** will appear with the text of the original message From **BBB** to **CCC** in the body of the form. Your address book will also be displayed at this time.
   G. Highlight station **CCC**'s entry in the address book and click **Okay.**
   H. Verify that **MARS** is displayed in the **Post Via** box, if not make it so.
   I. **Post** the message to forward it to **CCC** the next time you connect to an **RMS.**

3. **Relaying** an AirMail message **To CCC from BBB by AAA**

   A. **BBB** creates the AirMail message in the usual manner.
   B. Making sure the AirMail **To** line contains **CCC** address
   C. Entering **AAA** in the AirMail **Post Via:** box and **Posts** the message
   D. When **AAA** and **BBB** connect, the message **addressed** to **CCC** will be sent **to AAA** and deposited in **AAA's Transit Folder.**
   E. The next time **AAA** connects to his favored **RMS** (as indicated in his **Message Routing** Table above) the message from **BBB** will be uploaded to the Winlink System and delivered to **CCC** in usual manner.
   F. There will be no need for **AAA** to see, touch or message the message from **BBB** to **CCC.**