

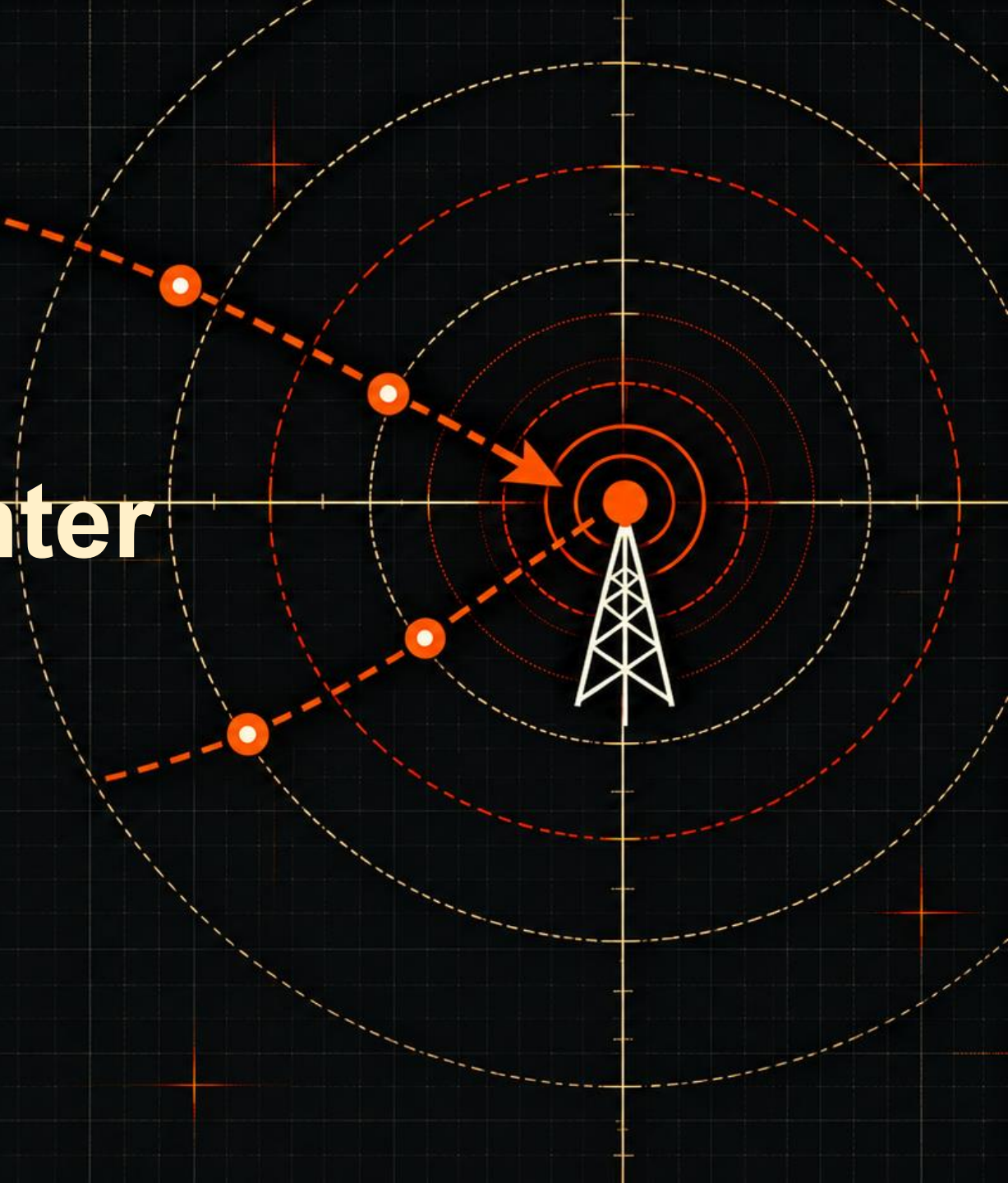
APRS WELCOME CENTER

Introducing APRS Welcome Center

Making your world more inviting on APRS!

John Rokicki, KC1VMZ

KC1VMZ



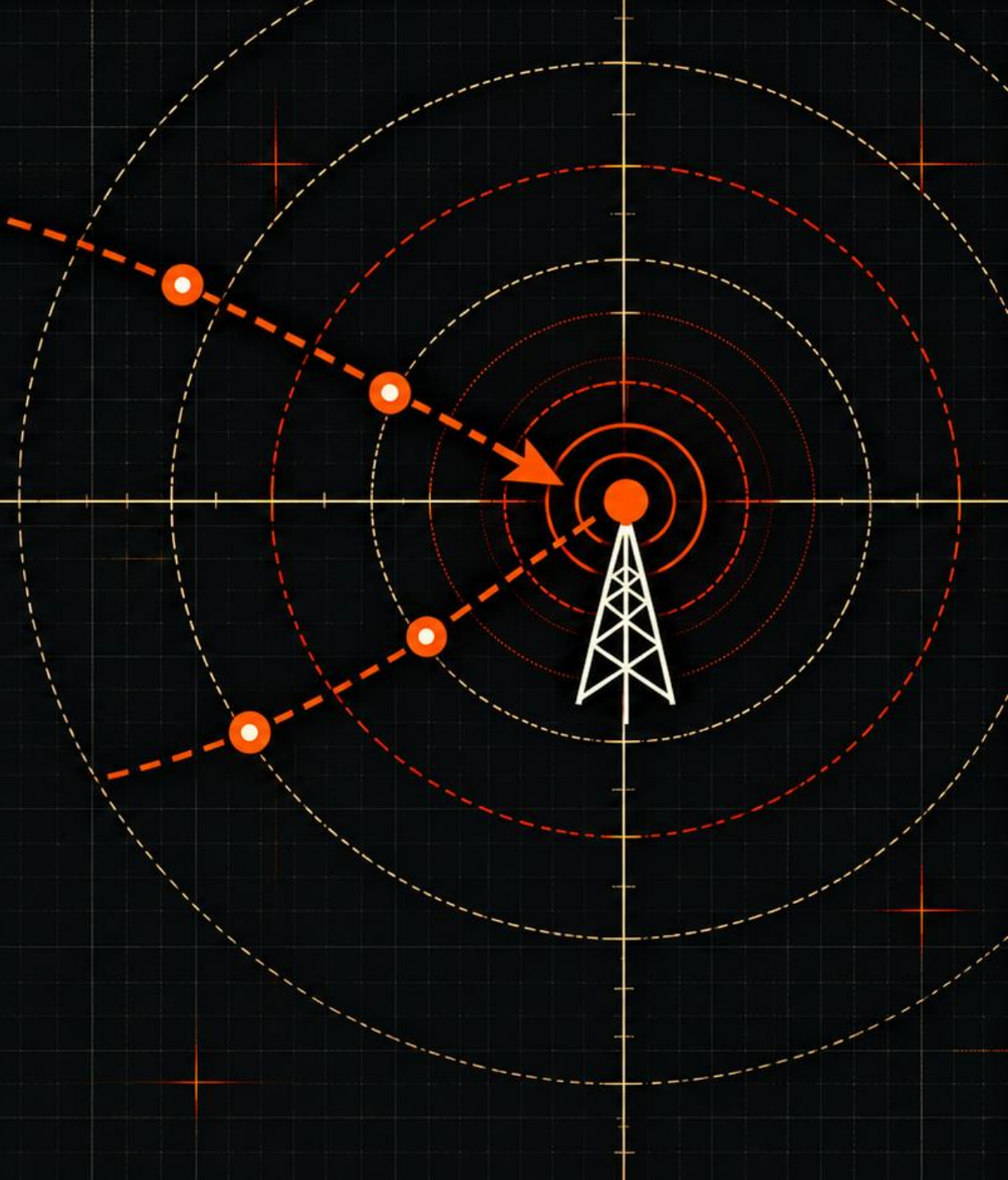
APRS WELCOME CENTER

01 / Introduction

Introduction

Backstory and vision

KC1VMZ



Overview

Backstory

HamX 2026 Net Central presentation

Where is your APRS?

“APRS has to be more than GPS and weather reports”

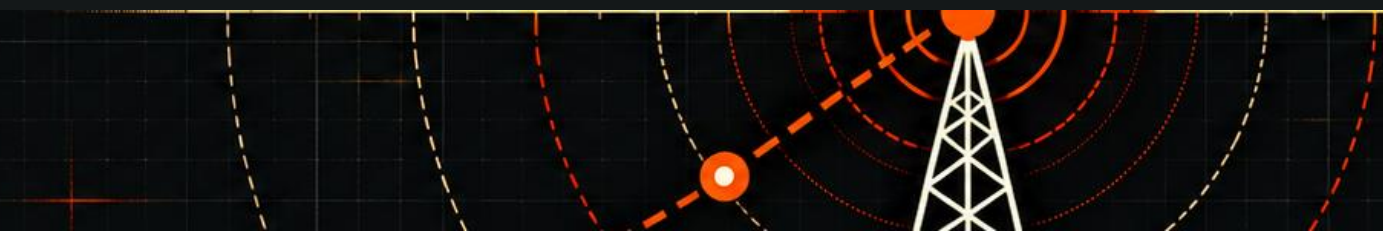
Make APRS useful where it is

Vision

Provide tactical content

For local operators

And operators moving in and out of an area



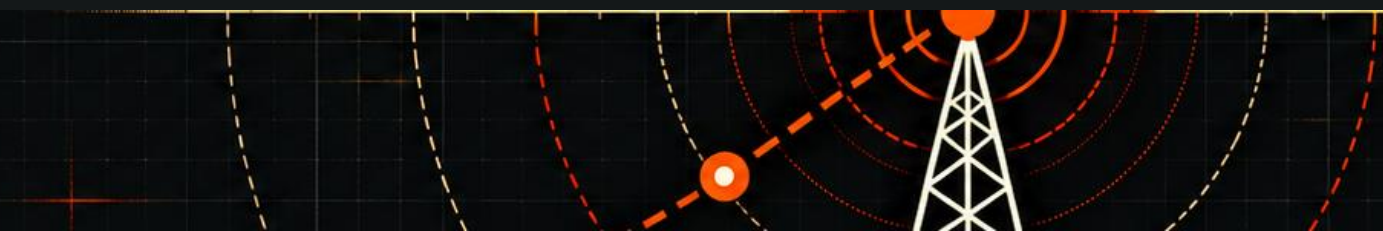
Introducing APRS Welcome Center



Think interstate highway welcome centers

Tells you where to are with more context

Provides information about the area



Introducing APRS Welcome Center

APRS Welcome Center

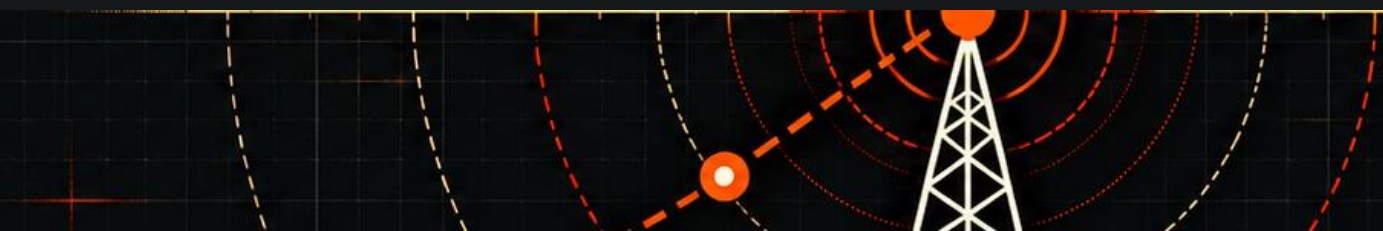
Making your part of the world more inviting on APRS!

Open-source software for Window and Linux

Browser-based user experience

Supports RF via KISS, TNC2, Kenwood

Supports internet APRS



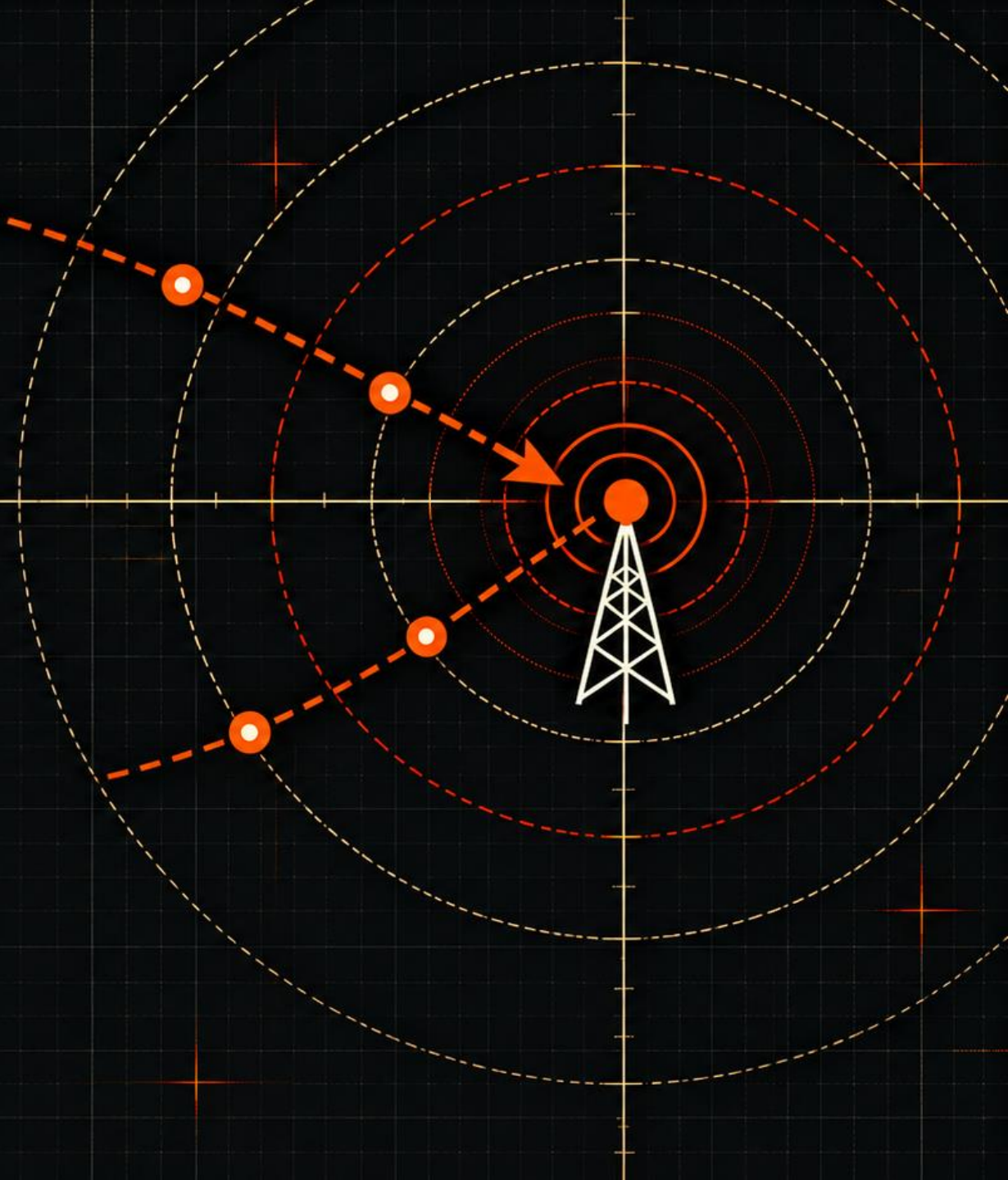
APRS WELCOME CENTER

02 / Concepts

Concepts

Vocabulary and use cases

KC1VMZ



Concepts

Terms

Definition

Welcome Center

Interactive APRS object with a defined region and communication plan

Region

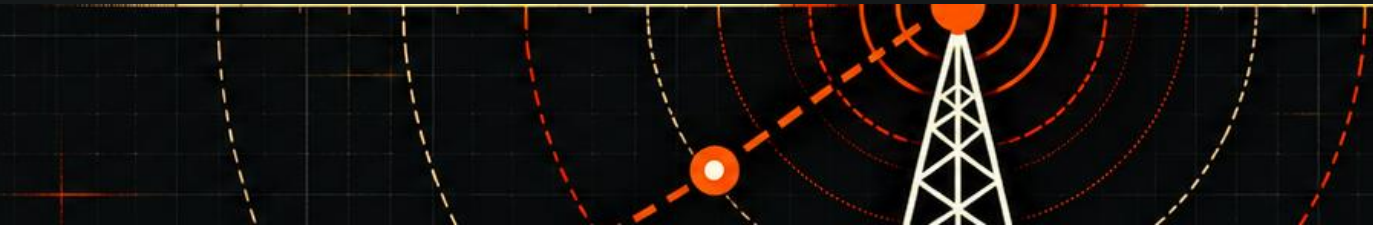
Geographical boundaries for a Welcome Center

Communication Plan

What a Welcome Center communicates and when

Points of Interest

APRS objects representing points of interest to the Welcome Center



Concepts

Welcome Center

Identifying information about and status for the Welcome Center.

CREATE WELCOME CENTER

Fields marked with * are required.

Name

Callsign *

APRS SYMBOL

Primary

Alternate

Symbol

Incident Command Post (i/c)

Status *

Open

Description

Owner name

Owner callsign

Organization name

Organization callsign

Contact name

Contact callsign

COMMUNICATION METHODS

Use

All communication methods

Refresh methods

LOCATION

Longitude

Latitude

Select from map

Cancel

Create Welcome Center

SELECT WELCOME CENTER LOCATION

Choose a point on the map.

Charnock Hill 291 m

Devereux

Miles Hill 343 m

Thayer Pond

Charnock Hill 335 m

Miles Hill 320 m

Main Street

Wachusett Regional School

MA 122A

MA 56

Main Street

Rutland

Pound Hill 362 m

Rice Hill 386 m

Muschoy Pond

Davis Hill

Point selected. Use this location or choose another point.

Cancel

Use selected location

KC1VMZ

A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the slide. It features a white radio tower with a lattice structure. Concentric circles in orange and white radiate from the top of the tower, representing signal range. The background is dark with a grid pattern.

APRS WELCOME CENTER

Concepts

Regions

Geo-fences that define the boundaries of a Welcome Center.

Use Shapefiles for more complex regions.

CREATE REGION

Define a rectangular or circular APRS welcome area.

Name

Center of town

Region type

Circle

Description

Define on Map

Enter Coordinates

DEFINE ON MAP

Draw or adjust the region boundary visually.

Draw Circle

Clear Map Shape

Manual coordinate values updated from the map boundary.

MANAGE REGIONS

KC1VMZ-2 - test2

New Region

2 of 2 region(s) displayed.

MANAGE REGIONS

KC1VMZ-3 - Rutland Center

New Region

2 of 2 region(s) displayed.

west end

Rectangle - (07158.19W, 4222.92N) - (07156.89W, 4222.12N)

View / Edit

Delete

east end

Rectangle - (07157.46W, 4222.85N) - (07156.46W, 4222.61N)

View / Edit

Delete

KC1VMZ

Concepts

Communication Plan

What to say and when.

- Entering and exiting
- On-demand
- Shriek-prompted
- Scheduled

Static or dynamic content

CREATE COMMUNICATION POLICY

Configure when and how this Welcome Center communicates.

Category

Welcome

Manage

When communication occurs

Enter region

Text

TinyTopics

Message text

Welcome to Rutland, MA!

23 characters entered

CREATE COMMUNICATION POLICY

Configure when and how this Welcome Center communicates.

Category

Testing

Manage

When communication occurs

When shriek heard

Shriek code

!JOKE!

Exact, case-sensitive match in a station status or position-report comment once a day while in Welcome Center regions.

Text

TinyTopics

Message text

Dwarf shortage.

15 characters entered

Cancel

Create Communication Policy

CREATE COMMUNICATION POLICY

Configure when and how this Welcome Center communicates.

Category

Clubs

Manage

When communication occurs

On request

Text

TinyTopics

Message text

Check out CMARA at www.cmara.org for local club happenings!

59 characters entered

Cancel

Create Communication Policy

Concepts

Communication Plan

What to say and when.

- Entering and exiting
- On-demand
- Shriek-prompted
- Scheduled

Static or dynamic content

CREATE COMMUNICATION POLICY

Configure when and how this Welcome Center communicates.

Category
Testing

Manage

When communication occurs
Scheduled (One-time)

Send at
10/15/2026 07:00 PM

Time zone
America/New_York

Send as a BLN1 bulletin on eligible connections. Missed occurrences are skipped. Closed Welcome Centers do not send.

Text

TinyTopics

Message text
CMARA monthly meeting starting.

31 characters entered

Cancel

Create Communication Policy

CREATE COMMUNICATION POLICY

Configure when and how this Welcome Center communicates.

Category
Testing

Manage

When communication occurs
Scheduled (Recurring)

Hourly

Daily

Time
08:00 AM

Time zone
America/New_York

Send as a BLN1 bulletin on eligible connections. Missed occurrences are skipped. Closed Welcome Centers do not send.

Text

TinyTopics

Message text
Good morning!

13 characters entered

Cancel

Create Communication Policy

Concepts

Points of Interest

Other APRS objects
important to a Welcome
Center region

POINTS OF INTEREST

KC1VMZ-13

Create Point of Interest

Refresh

3 points of interest in this Welcome Center.

RUTCNTREE (UP)

Center of Massachusetts

4222.72N, 07155.78W

Edit

Delete

RUTCOMMON (UP)

Rutland Town Common

4222.59N, 07157.30W

Edit

Delete

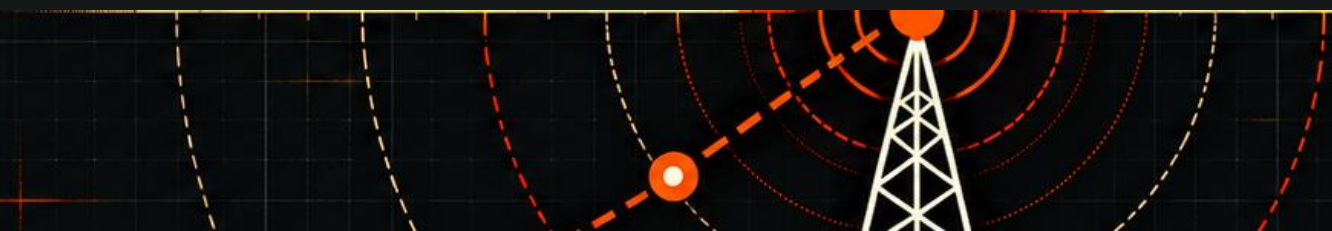
RUTSPARK (UP)

Rutland State Park

4221.96N, 07159.49W

Edit

Delete



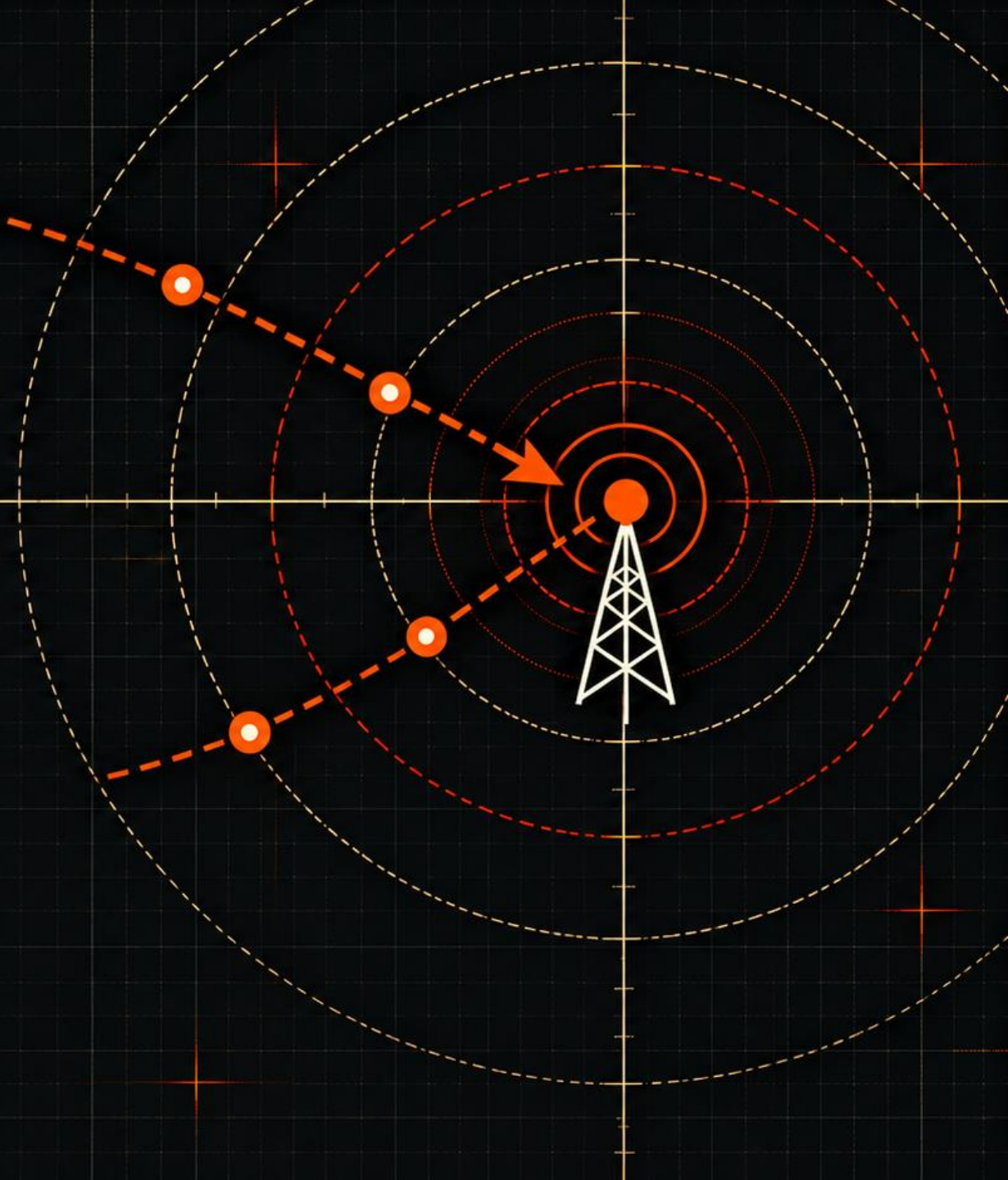
APRS WELCOME CENTER

03 / Features

Features

Workflows and operations

KC1VMZ



Features

Welcome Center Management

Define regions, communication plans and points of interest.

Open and close welcome centers to manage availability.

APRS Welcome Center

Making your part of the world more inviting on APRS!

New Welcome Center

WELCOME CENTERS (2)

CMARA-1 (Closed)
CMARA

Open

Details

Regions

Points of Interest

Communication Plan

Weather

Stations

Messages

KC1VMZ-13 (Open)
test

Close

Details

Regions

Points of Interest

Communication Plan

Weather

Stations

Messages

STATIONS (93 OF 104) NEWEST HEARD FIRST - LAST 1 HOUR

Sort & filter

WE1C

Last heard: 9/21/2026, 3:11:35 PM

Details

KB1MS

Last heard: 9/21/2026, 3:11:29 PM

Details

W1NMR

Last heard: 9/21/2026, 3:11:19 PM

Details

W5GI-9

Last heard: 9/21/2026, 3:11:15 PM

Details

KC1VMZ

A decorative graphic at the bottom right of the slide. It features a white radio tower with a lattice structure, emitting several concentric orange and red dashed circles representing signal waves. The background is a dark grid pattern.

Features

Automated communications

Communicate with stations based on communication plans or directly.

Use static or dynamic content.

WEATHER

KC1VMZ-4 · Massachusetts

WEATHER AVERAGES AS OF 9/11/2026, 11:54:59 AM

Temperature71

Humidity53

Barometric pressure10196

Luminosity603

WEATHER REPORTS (28)

Download CSV

9/11/2026, 11:52:42 AM	WE1C	Temperature70	Humidity61	Pressure10436	Luminosity713
9/11/2026, 11:52:42 AM	KB1MS	Temperature70	Humidity51	Pressure10141	Luminosity630
9/11/2026, 11:51:54 AM	W1LBM	Temperature72	Humidity59	Pressure10187	Luminosity581
9/11/2026, 11:50:49 AM	K1QL	Temperature73	Humidity51	Pressure10144	Luminosity712
9/11/2026, 11:50:38 AM	W1QED	Temperature70	Humidity43	Pressure10146	Luminosity—

SEND MESSAGE FROM WELCOME CENTER

Send a message to all stations in this welcome center's regions.

From

CMARA-1

Message

Hope to see you all tonight!

28 characters entered

Cancel

Send

CREATE COMMUNICATION POLICY

Configure when and how this Welcome Center communicates.

Category

Testing

Manage

When communication occurs

When shriek heard

Shriek code

!GM!

Exact, case-sensitive match in a station status or position-report comment once a day while in Welcome Center regions.

Text

Tiny Topics

Topic

nws-forecast

wfo

BOX

x

-71.57

y

42.222

dayOffset

Optional; blank uses the topic default

Cancel

Create Communication Policy

Features

Station discovery

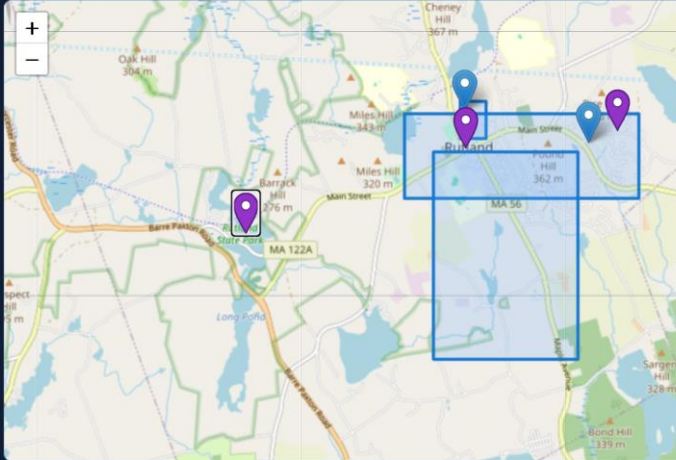
Hear stations and interpret their data for situational awareness.

STATIONS

KC1VMZ-13 · test

Stations listed: 2

MapList



Blue markers: stations. Purple markers: Points of Interest.

STATION PACKETS

Latest APRS packets heard.

RefreshDownload CSVDelete All Packets

209 packet(s)

9/11/2026, 11:55:39 AM	W1QED	W1QED>APRS,TCPIP*,qAC,SEVENTH:@111555z4235.84N/07146.68W_307/002g009t070r000p000P000h41b10145L....DsIP
9/11/2026, 11:55:32 AM	KZ2X-5	KZ2X-5>APDW19,TCPIP*,qAC,T2CAEAST:!4221.61NT07106.52W&PHG7220 Cambridge MA USA
9/11/2026, 11:55:32 AM	KZ2X-5	KZ2X-5>APDW19,TCPIP*,qAC,T2CAEAST:!4221.61NR07106.52W&PHG7220 Cambridge MA USA
9/11/2026, 11:55:28 AM	W1MHL	W1MHL>APN382,qAR,W1DMR-7:!4223.32N/07115.23W#PHG3640/Waltham Amateur Radio Association - N1QMJ Digipeater Now1
9/11/2026, 11:55:24 AM	K1BOS-10	K1BOS-10>APOSB4,TCPIP*,qAS,K1BOS:@111555z4221.41N/07111.92W/A=000000SharkRF openSPOT4
9/11/2026, 11:54:59 AM	KA1GG-B	KA1GG-B>APDG02,TCPIP*,qAC,KA1GG-BS:!4200.56ND07102.68W&RNG0001/A=000010 70cm Voice (D-Star) 449.98750MHz -5.0000MHz

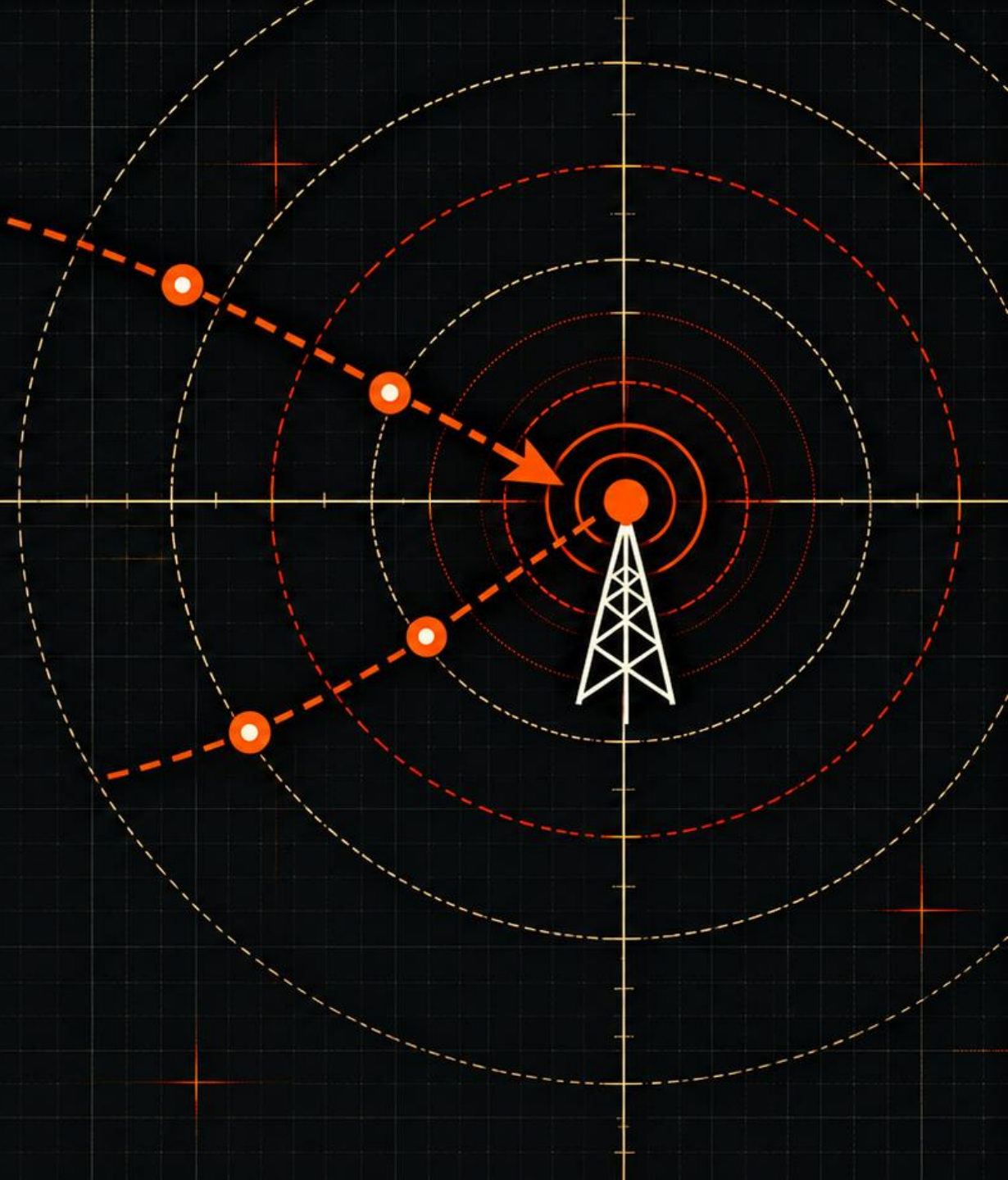
APRS WELCOME CENTER

04 / Example Uses

Example Uses

Use case examples

KC1VMZ



Example Uses

Event based or long-term engagement

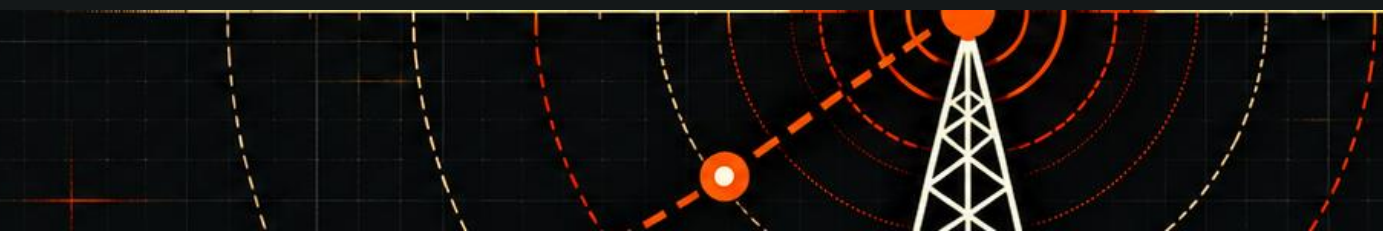
Club-hosted information

Community events

Radio Games – foxhunt / geocache

Start of day content

Emergency communications



APRS WELCOME CENTER

Questions?

Thank you!

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