

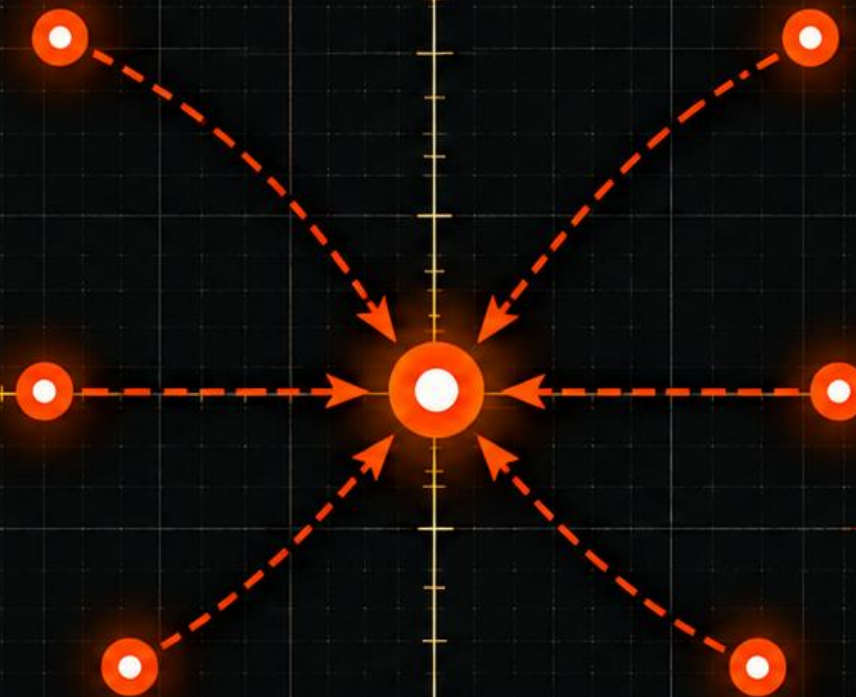
NET CENTRAL

Appalachian Golden Packet 2026

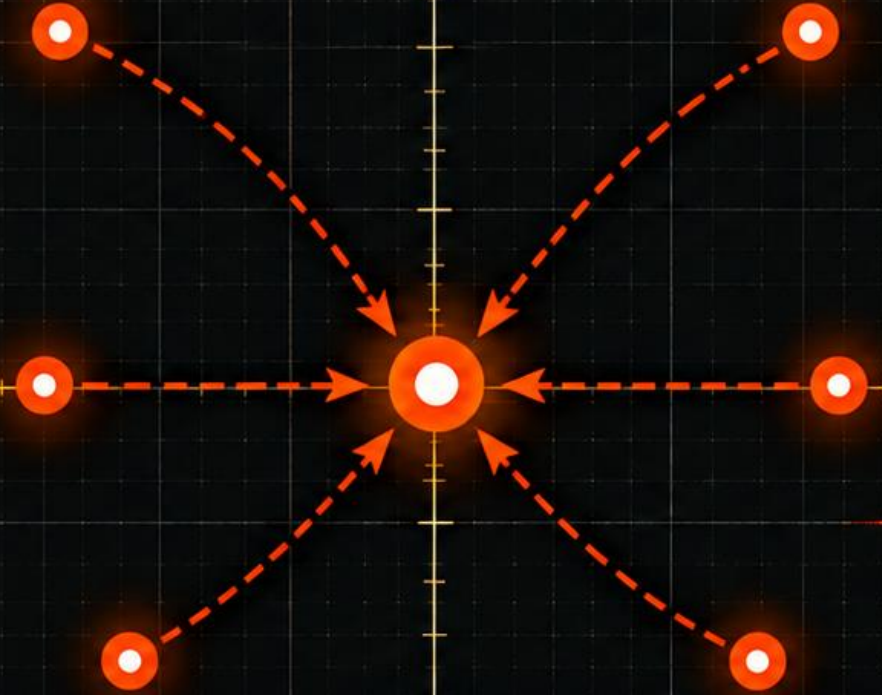
Taking Net Central v1 out into the wild!

John Rokicki, KC1VMZ

KC1VMZ



What is the Appalachian Trail Golden Packet?



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Description

Licensed amateur radio operators coordinate 15+ sites along the length of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia using transceivers to exchange packet data between each site with the goal of sending the "golden packet" the entire length of the trail!

Vision

Robert Bruninga (WB4APR - Silent Key), the creator of the APRS protocol, founded the Appalachian Trail Golden Packet event. The intent is to get licensed amateur radio operators ("hams") to feel more comfortable with operating in the field, while demonstrating the ability to send real-time messages along 2200+ miles without the need for any infrastructure!

www.atgoldenpacket.net



What is the Appalachian Trail Golden Packet?

Goals

ATGP verifies that all sites can hear the other sites.

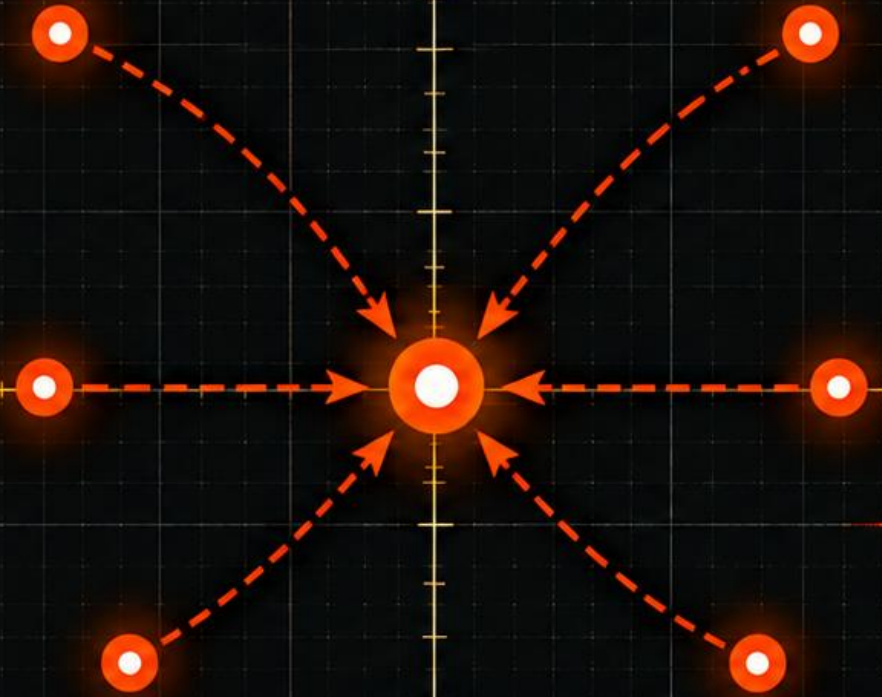
A “Golden Packet” is then sent from Georgia to Maine.



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02 / Net Central on the Trail

Net Central on the Trail



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Net Central on the Trail

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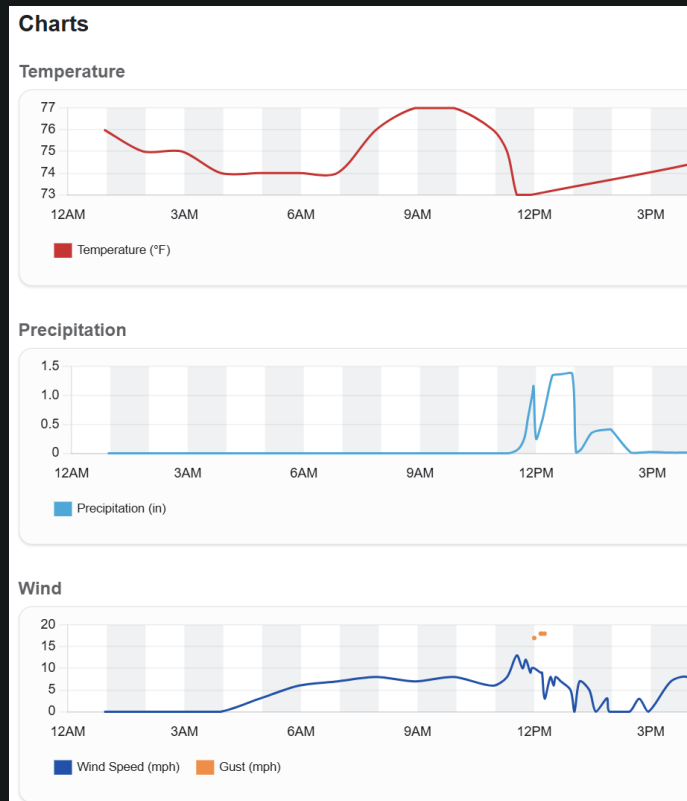
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Increasing the challenge

In 2026, Net Central was used to establish a net via APRS and have all sites check into the net, send messages, interact with a priority object, and secure.



Net Central on the Trail



ATGP 2026 challenges

Weather was not ideal.

Thunderstorms moved up the Trail, threatening stations along its path.

Network broken a few times to allow for operator safety.



Net Central on the Trail

ATGP 2026 Results

All but one site seen.

Some sites checked into net.

Some sites interacted with objects.

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Net Central on the Trail



Field gear

Kenwood D710-GA w/SlimJim
Digipeater for network
B-TECH UV50-PRO w/Comet
Secondary voice comms
B-TECH UV-PRO HT w/BT
Net Central link
50Ah Battery
Windows Laptop for Net Central

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Questions?

Thank you

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