



Winlink Express Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Messaging

Creating, Sending, and Receiving Messages
Without Internet

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Training Objectives

After this presentation you will be able to:

- Understand what Winlink P2P messaging is
- Identify equipment requirements
- Create a Peer-to-Peer message
- Send a P2P message
- Receive a P2P message
- Apply best practices for successful communications



What is Winlink P2P?

Winlink P2P allows two amateur radio stations to exchange:

- Email messages
- Text messages
- ICS forms
- Other Winlink forms

No Internet or cellular network is required.

Messages travel directly between radio stations over amateur radio frequencies.



Why Use P2P?

- Operates without Internet
- Useful during disasters
- Reliable emergency communications
- Direct station-to-station messaging
- Supports emergency management and ARES operations
- Ideal when:
 - Internet service is unavailable
 - Cellular systems fail
 - Infrastructure is damaged



Equipment Required

- Amateur Radio License
- Computer with Winlink Express installed
- Compatible radio transceiver
- Radio/computer interface
- Appropriate soundcard or interface plus cables
- Antenna
- Power source



Operating Considerations

- Before sending:
- Use a legal amateur frequency
- Use simplex operation
- Verify both stations can communicate by voice
- Select the desired P2P mode
 - Packet P2P
 - VARA FM P2P
 - Other supported modes

Remember: Distance, terrain, and propagation affect performance.



Local Recommendation

Lee County, Florida

Recommended simplex frequency: 145.090 MHz

However:

- Any legal simplex frequency may be used
- Do not interfere with existing communications



Creating a Message

Open Winlink Express

Create a new message by selecting:

New Message icon (Figure #1)

or

Message → New Message (Figure #2)

Figure #1

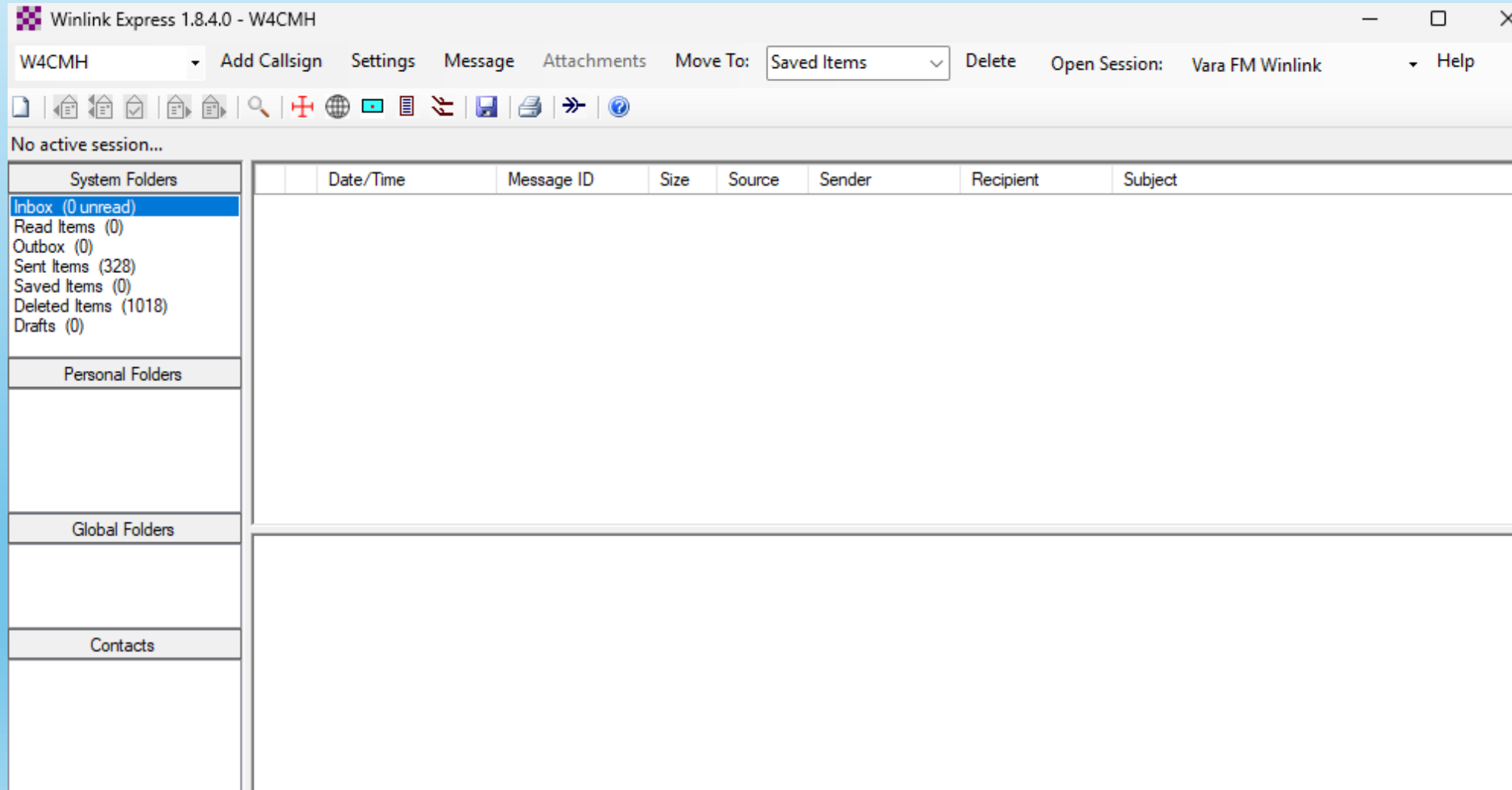
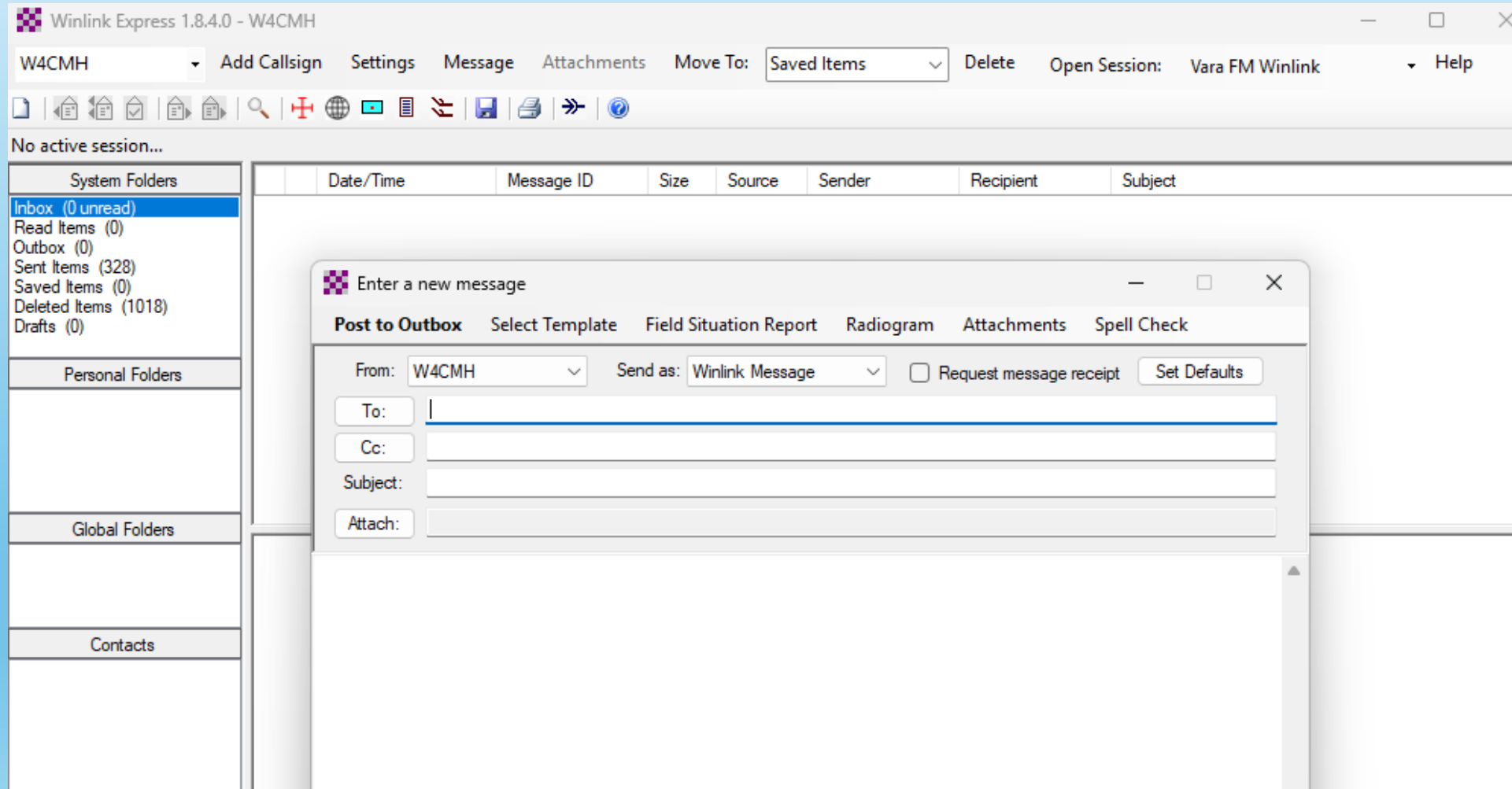


Figure #2



Creating a Message Continued



- Complete the message
- Select **Send As: Peer to Peer** (Figure #4)
- Enter destination callsign
- Enter subject
- Type message
- Click **Post to Outbox**

Figure #4



Enter a new message

Post to Outbox Select Template Field Situation Report Radiogram Attachments Spell Check

From: W4CMH Send as: Winlink Message ☐ Request message receipt Set Defaults

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Attach:

Winlink Message
Radio-Only Message
Post Office Message
Peer-to-Peer Message



Sending a Message

Before sending:

Both operators should agree on:

- Frequency
- Mode
- Baud rate (if applicable)

Confirm communications by voice first.

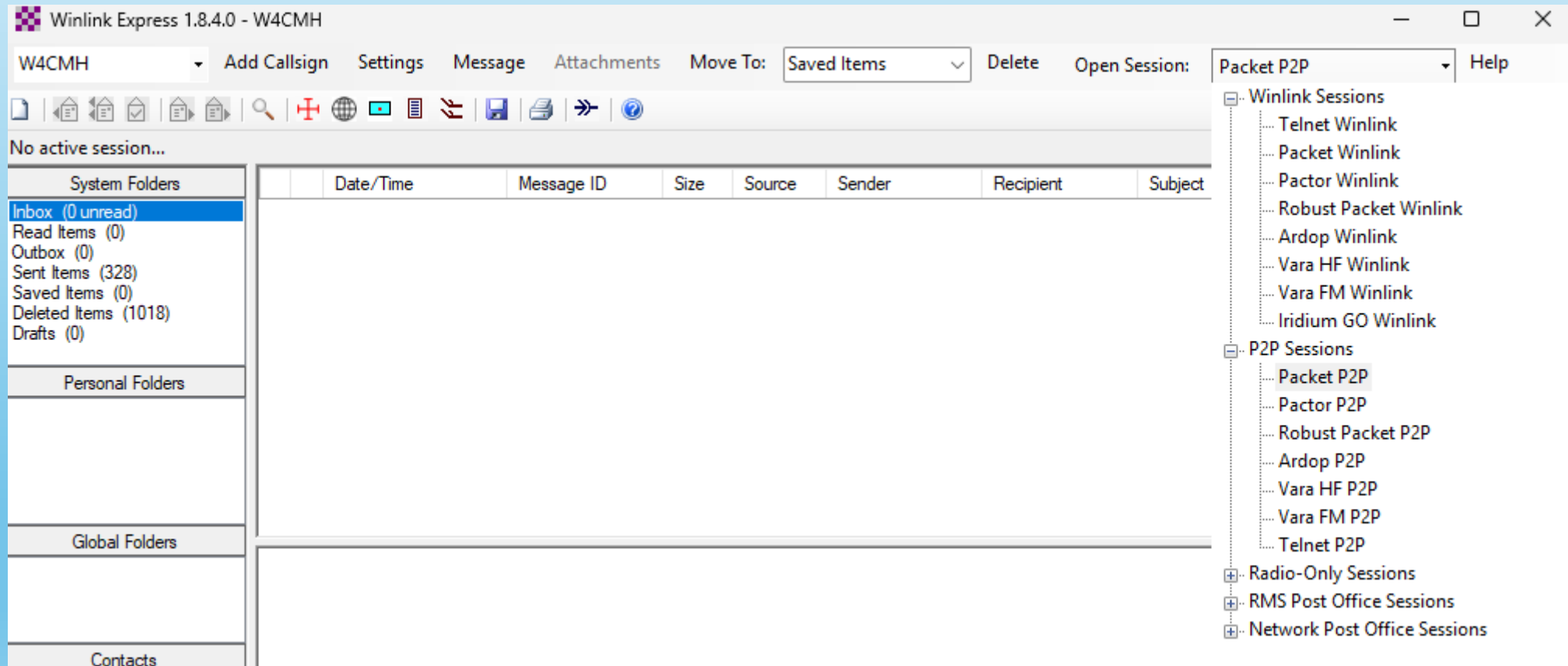


Sending Process

Sending Steps:

1. Verify message is in Outbox
2. Select **Packet P2P** (Figure #5)
3. Open Session

Figure #5



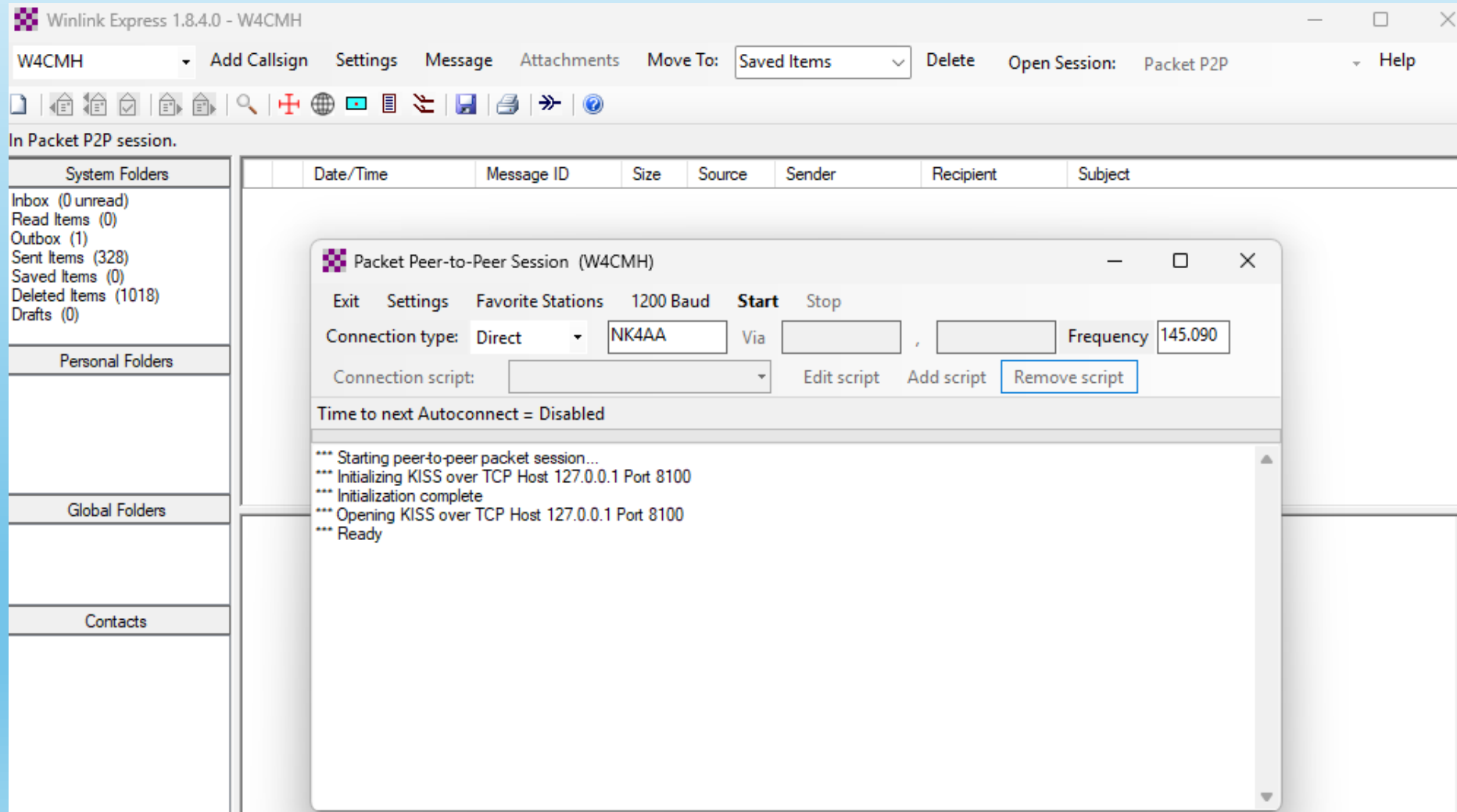


Sending Process Continued

Sending Steps Continued:

4. Session windows opens (Figure #6)
5. Select baud rate
6. Enter receiving station callsign
7. Open Settings

Figure #6





Sending Process Continued

Final Configuration

Check the following Settings: (Figure #7)

- Set Autoconnect to **Disabled**
- Verify radio interface settings and click update if necessary
- Click **Start**

Figure #7



Packet Winlink/P2P Setup

TNC Connection

Packet TNC Type: KISS

Packet TNC Model: NORMAL Serial Port: TCP

TCP Host/Port: 127.0.0.1 8100

Packet sound modem: (For KISS mode) Browse

☐ Automatically launch packet sound modem

TNC Parameters

☒ 1200 Baud ☐ 9600 Baud

TX Delay (Milliseconds):	400	300
Maximum Packet Length:	128	255
Maximum Frames:	4	7
Frack:	2	2
Persistence:	160	224
Slot time:	30	20
Maximum Retries:	5	5
Disable Xmt Level Adjust ☐	Transmit Level: 100	100
Enable IPoll: ☐		

Automatic Calling

Autoconnect time: Disabled

☐ Automatically call when there are pending outgoing messages

Update Cancel

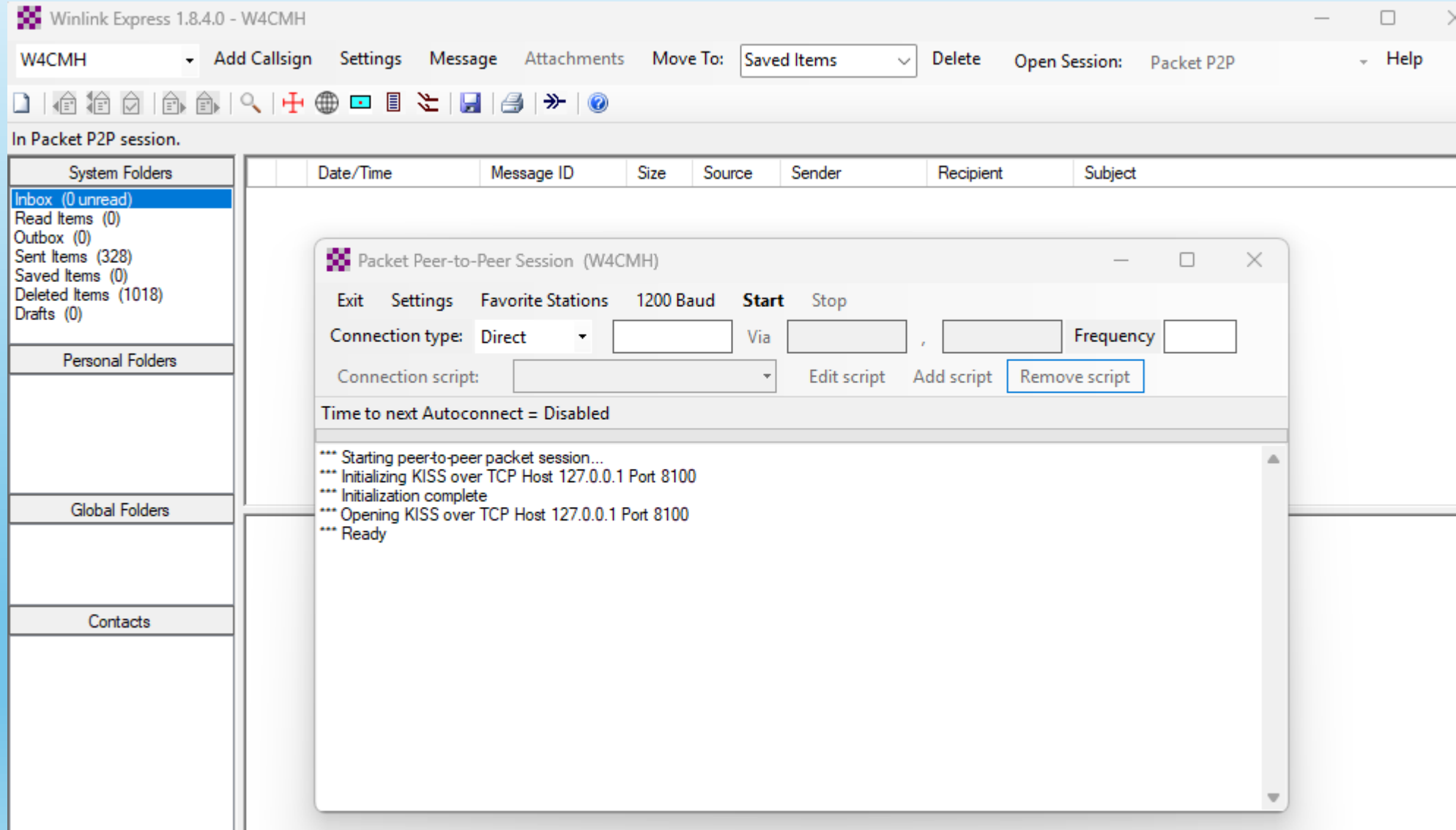


Receiving a Message

Receiving station: (Figure #8)

- Select Packet P2P
- Open Session
- Verify baud rate
- Set Connection Type to Direct
- Leave session window open
- The message will automatically appear once receive.

Figure #8





Receive Workflow

Receiving Checklist

- ✓ Open Packet P2P
- ✓ Open Session
- ✓ Verify settings
- ✓ Disable Autoconnect
- ✓ Wait for incoming message
- ✓ Confirm receipt



Best Practices

For successful P2P operation:

- Conduct voice coordination first
- Verify frequency
- Verify mode
- Verify baud rate
- Test equipment regularly
- Practice often



Key Takeaways

Remember:

- ✓ No Internet required
- ✓ Direct station-to-station messaging
- ✓ Coordinate by voice first
- ✓ Disable Autoconnect
- ✓ Practice regularly



Conclusion

Winlink Express P2P provides a reliable method of sending electronic messages when traditional communications are unavailable.

Regular practice ensures operators are prepared to communicate effectively during emergencies.

The End



Questions?