

INSTALLING WINAPRS AND PRECISION MAPS CD

1. Download the Winxxx.zip file from <http://www.tapr.org> or <http://aprs.rutgers.edu> web sites. Look for the file with the most recent date or highest version number (the xxx might be 247, for example).

2. Download the pmap_ocx.zip file from the same location. You only need this file if you plan on using the Precision Maps with WinAPRS.

3. Purchase the Chicago Map Precision Maps CD. Make sure to ask for version 3.0 or 3.5. Their newer version 4.0 does not work with WinAPRS. Order info: <http://www.chicagomap.com> or 800-257-9244. The CD is about \$25.

4. Decompress the WinAPRS program using WinZip or PkUnzip. The WinAPRS directory can be stored in any logical location on your hard disk drive. When unzipped, you will have a directory called winaprs and it will contain eight subdirectories, a similar number of files, and the winaprs application.

5. Decompress the pmap_ocx.zip file using WinZip or PkUnzip. After unzipping, run the pmap_ocx.bat file (double click). It will automatically create several smaller files and place them in their necessary system locations. After you have run the .bat file, you can delete the zipped file and the unzipped ocx directory.

6. Install the Precision Maps CD in your computer's CDROM and run the setup file. This will install Precision Maps files on your hard disk drive. The Precision Maps folder MUST reside on the root directory of your hard disk drive (C:\PMAP30). If you install it elsewhere, WinAPRS will not be able to locate it. Also, if you get the PMaps 3.5 disk, it will install the directory as PMAP35. You'll need to change the name to PMAP30 for WinAPRS to use it correctly. Note, you can still run the Precision Maps application as a standalone program, but you don't need to run that before starting WinAPRS.

***If you have a large hard disk drive, you can copy the STATES folder from the Precision Maps CD over to the PMAP30 directory. If you don't do this, then you will need to have the Precision Maps CD in the CDROM when you run WinAPRS and want to see the detailed street maps.

7. ***Before starting WinAPRS, you should have already confirmed which computer serial port and baud rate is required to connect to your TNC. If not, it can be a long guessing game*** Start the WinAPRS application. The USA Precision Map should appear. Now you will need to enter your settings.

a. Pull down the SETTINGS menu and STATION. Enter your station information. Note the spot for the Validation #. If you have paid the registration fee, you will be able to save all this data in a configuration file which will automatically start up next time you run APRS. If not, you will need to fill in the blanks and make setting adjustments every time you start WinAPRS. Don't forget to set the UTC to a negative -7 or -8 for the western hemisphere. The icon for a house is lower case y. When done, click on OK.

b. Pull down the WinAPRS menu. Check or fill in the boxes you want to check and click on OK.

c. If your computer is not communicating properly with the TNC, you can adjust the settings on the next menu item SERIAL PORT SETTINGS. When done, click on OK.

d. Pull down the TNC SELECTION menu and adjust as necessary. Click OK.

e. Pull down the TNC menu and select which TNC you have, AEA, Kan, MFJ, Pico, or Kenwood DC. You can adjust your outgoing path now. The default is RELAY,WIDE, but you will want to change this to DIGI,WIDE3-3. Replace the word DIGI with the callsign or alias of your nearest WIDE digipeater that you can hear well. Click OK when done.

You can look at the other menu items if you want, or need to. But for now you should go to the SETTINGS and TNC COMMANDS menu and select RE-INITIALIZE TNC and/or OPEN TNC.

You should now see some APRS activity appearing on your map. If not, check the volume control on your radio to make sure it is turned up, and the activity light is active on your TNC. If those are working, but WinAPRS is not, then you probably have an incorrect computer serial port setting. Once that is resolved, continue on.

Now it's time to setup WinAPRS to use all the Precision Maps maps. Over on the right hand side of the map are a series of vertical icons. A house, a down arrow and USA symbol, an up arrow and USA symbol (for zooming in and out), a WX symbol, a flag symbol, and five square boxes with no symbols. Those boxes are the links to the Precision Maps files. The second box down is for the options settings. If you have the state files loaded onto your hard disk, set CD-ROM drive to C. If you have the Precision Maps CD in the CDRM, then use D or whatever drive is your CDRM.

If your computer has internet access, you can look at the APRS-internet picture by selecting SETTING menu and TCP/IP CONNECTIONS and then choosing one of the servers listed. Note the absence of the NWAPRS server. You will need to add this yourself. Close WinAPRS and open the APRSSERVE.txt file in the WinAPRS directory. Edit the file and add "linus.chemekea.edu (tab) 10151 (tab) NWAPRS". Don't use the parenthesis, but do put tabs between the fields. Restart WinAPRS and you will not be able to logon to the NWAPRS server, which will reflect all the NWAPRS stations on at the time.

Of course, there is alot more to explore in WinAPRS. Take you time and look thru each of the menu settings. If you don't have the Precision Maps, you can use the WinAPRS maps. WinAPRS comes with a number of maps already, and you can add more detailed maps by downloading them from TAPR or RUTGERS.

You can do normal packet or check TNC settings from within WinAPRS. Go to the WINDOWS and TERMINAL Window setting.

You can send APRS one liners by hitting the F7 key. F2 will force a position report.

Hope this helps.

Dave