HAM SIDEKICK STATION · BAND PLAN

FRONT · SIDE 1 OF 2

Build Your Area's Band Plan

New here? Get the station

One table of **where you may transmit and what each frequency is for** near your station: the **FCC rules** for your license class, the **ARRL band plan**, your **state frequency coordinator's** band plan, and the local **ARES, RACES and club** plans. The FCC rules and the ARRL plan are built in and work with no internet; the rest you find once, then keep on this PC.

A · ONCE: WHAT IT NEEDS

1. **Your license class:** Settings → **Station agent**
   Without it the table shows the plans but not your privileges.
2. **Where the station is:** a grid square in Settings, or `Nets` → **Find nets** → location
   Only a rounded position (about 10 km) is ever sent.
3. **The xAI key** (Settings → Einstein & AI): it searches and reads the plans

B · FIND THE LOCAL PLANS

4. `Nets` → **Plans** → set **Within ... km** → `Find local plans`
   Up to two minutes; about $0.20–0.50. It looks for clubs and EMCOMM groups, your state coordinator's band plan, public ARES, RACES and ICS-205 plans, and the VHF/UHF Winlink gateways (in the band plan unless you untick them).
5. **Choose the plans for your band plan: Plans and documents** → tick **In the band plan**
   The ticked plan is saved on this PC if it is not yet (**offline copy**) and read into ranges and channels: one xAI call, a few cents. Untick to leave it out (ticking it again is free). Nothing is read until you tick it.
6. **Winlink gateways, free:** with Winlink Express on this PC, its channel list is read for **VARA** gateways (PUBLIC, EMCOMM) by distance from their grid square
   Refresh it in Express: Channel Selection → **Update Table Via Internet** (the station asks when it is over 10 days old or never downloaded; not using VARA FM, VARA HF or Winlink? **I don't use ...** on the note, or Settings → **Winlink** → **Winlink gateway lists**). VARA FM in range goes in; VARA HF is offered. A list you update is picked up within a minute.
7. **Members-only plan? Add a plan you have** → choose the file (PDF, Word, text)
   The station never signs in anywhere. Your file stays on this PC and is read the same way.

C · KEEP YOUR CHANNELS

8. **Frequencies found**: open each **source**, tick the right ones → `Keep`
   Nothing found is trusted until you keep it. "not opened" = the search did not read that page itself: check it.
9. **A plan's regular net?** `Add its net` puts it on the schedule

> **Kept channels name your radio's frequency** on its card ("County ARES primary"), and Einstein is told it. Plans change: when the last search is over a month old the Plans tab says so. **Search again** marks what is new and which kept channels a plan no longer lists. It never searches by itself.

Turn over → side 2: Read the Band Plan

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BACK · SIDE 2 OF 2

Read the Band Plan

Share this card

OPEN IT (dashboard header)

1. **Band plan** → one table per band
   Show: all, HF, VHF / UHF or one band · **Only where I may transmit** · **Only what to check** · **Channels** on or off · **Print**. Highest band first. **Full spectrum**: every stretch and channel with what is open there for ad hoc voice and VARA. **Ad hoc voice** / **Ad hoc VARA**: where you may start a contact, channel by channel (VHF/UHF) or as ranges (HF); ☆ reserves a channel as your ★ **my ad hoc** (purple), shared by **Export** or over VARA: see the **Ad hoc channels** card. **Use** tunes a VARA radio there. 📻 marks what each radio is tuned to (**Tuned now** jumps to it). 💾+ on a channel puts it on your radio list with an 8-character alias: 💾 **Radio channels** → **Export for CHIRP**.

THE COLUMNS

MHz	A range (146.61–147.39), or a channel (shaded) with its mode, repeater offset and tone
Use	What it is for, from the plan that speaks first (below), and whose words they are
You	Range: **Phone · Data · CW**, the ones struck through you may not use. Channel: **yes / no**
Sources · notes	Every other plan's words for it, and ⚠ anything to check

WHO SPEAKS FIRST (how plans are reconciled)

FCC rules	The **law**: decides the **You** column, never outranked
1 · State coordinator	The area's band plan (repeater pairs, simplex, packet)
2 · Local plans	ARES, RACES, ICS-205, club plans and your own files
3 · Your channels	What you kept on the Plans tab
★ Your ad hoc	Channels you reserved (Ad hoc tabs): your group's agreement
4 · ARRL band plan	The national voluntary plan, built in. Where the coordinator's plan covers a stretch, its words (not the ARRL's) decide what is open ad hoc

⚠ WHAT TO CHECK

Plans differ	Two plans set the same stretch aside for different uses (e.g. weak signal vs packet). Both are shown: follow the higher one, or ask the coordinator
Channel in another use	A channel sits in a range set aside for something else (a simplex channel in repeater outputs)
Outside your privileges	A kept or reserved channel, or its repeater input, is outside your class

YOUR SAY ON EACH PLAN

2. **Plans read** (top of the table), or Nets → Plans: mark a plan **State coordinator's plan** or **Local plan**, or untick it to leave it out
   read again after a plan is updated.

Part of HAM Sidekick Station (MIT License). US rules: 47 CFR 97.301 / 97.305. Band plans are voluntary agreements; plans read by AI can be wrong: check a channel against its source before you rely on it on the air.