How to Get Started in APRS

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July 2024

How can a newcomer get started in APRS?

A web search produces mostly:

- Overly technical information such as the protocol specification.
- Has outdated information. (e.g, you must buy a discontinued 1980s style TNC)
- Only talks about trackers and aprs.fi.
- Leads you to believe that buying a very expensive radio is only way to get started.
- Very brief description with a link to aprs.org.
- etc.

If you search YouTube, the top of the list is "APRS The Most Worthless Mode in Ham Radio" with APRS = a pile of poo in the picture. That's not a good first impression.

There are many interesting videos, but where does the newcomer start? How would the newcomer know which were outdated or giving bad advice?

I'm throwing this out as a challenge to the APRS community. Please help the newcomer to find the most useful resources to get started without spending a lot of money up front. Expensive purchases should wait until after gaining some knowledge and experience to make wise choices.

We are looking for **quality not quantity**. If this list gets too long the beginner will be in the same situation of not knowing where to start.

Each entry should be in this format to make sorting and selection easier:

Title:
URL: https://
Category: general, specific type of radio, application, or activity
Medium: text, slideshow, video
Expertise Level: (beginner, intermediate, advanced)
Synopsis:

Examples:

Title: Modern Introduction to Packet Radio - APRS BBS TCP/IP AX25 …
URL: https://www.youtube.com/@ModernHam
Category: general
Medium: video
Expertise Level: beginner
Synopsis: This series of videos shows the beginner how to get started with APRS and Packet Radio on Windows and Linux with free open source software.