



Bob Poortinga K9SQL

Automatic Packet Reporting System

- ▶ Provides situational awareness for Net Control
- ▶ Reduces routine voice traffic
- ▶ Increases safety for SAGs
- ▶ APRS messaging between NCS and stations with messaging capabilities
- ▶ Relies on existing digipeater/igate infrastructure
- ▶ Portable digipeaters augment route coverage

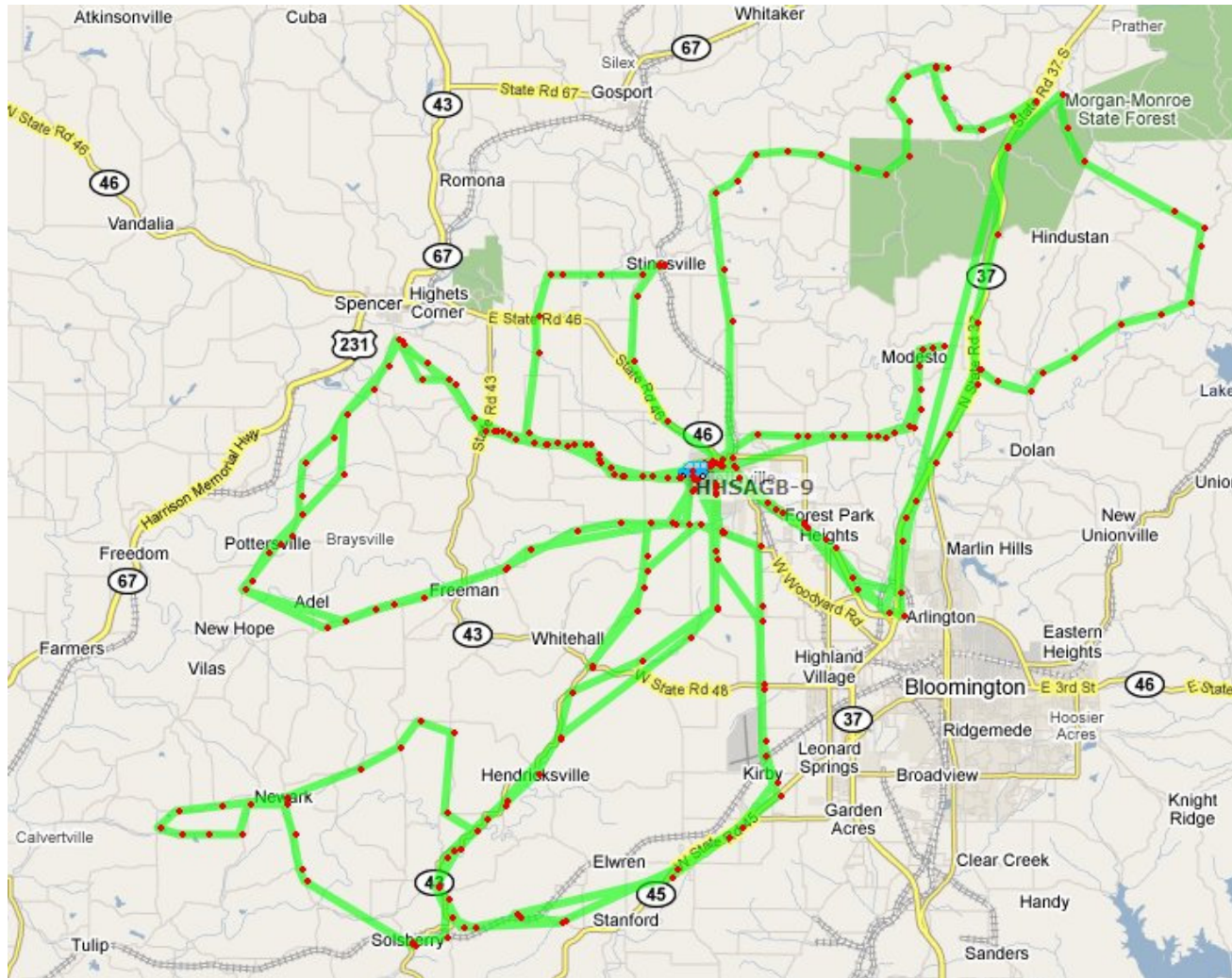


Tracking SAG vehicles

- ▶ Requires GPS, TNC, radio, and antenna
- ▶ Some radios have built-in TNCs, e.g. D7/D700/D710
- ▶ External TNCs used are Opentracker/TinyTracker
- ▶ High power (D700/D710/DR-135) or low power HT
- ▶ Use either puck-type (no display) or full-featured GPS



SAGB 2008 track



SAG APRS configuration

- ▶ Use tactical call signs: **HHSAGA-9, HHSAGB-9**, etc.
- ▶ FCC call sign in status/comment of packet
- ▶ Path of '**WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1**'
- ▶ Low power trackers use fixed beacon every 1 minute with time slotting
- ▶ High power mobile stations use fixed beacon every 2 minutes
- ▶ Keep packets as short as possible! (Compressed, short comment/status and no telemetry)
- ▶ No digipeating by mobiles!



NCS and Rest Stop Fixed Stations

- ▶ Use tactical call signs: **HHNCS-7, HHRS1-7**, etc
- ▶ FCC call sign in comment/status of packet
- ▶ Path of '**WIDE2-1**'
- ▶ Beacon every 10 minutes
- ▶ Keep packets as short as possible
- ▶ NCS will create and transmit objects for rest stops without APRS stations
- ▶ No digipeating by Rest Stop stations



OpenTracker Configuration

Profile 1
Profile 2

Firmware Build 54908

Callsign
HHSAGA-9
1200 Baud
300 Baud

Path
WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1
Alternate Paths

Symbol Table
A
Symbol Code
>

Temp. Adjust
0 °C
Quiet Time
16

Text
K9SQL

In
Comment
Status
Every
0
Transmissions

Transmission Control

TX Every
60
Sec

☐ Use SmartBeaconing
☐ Use PTT Input
☒ Enable timeslotting
Timeslot
3

Position

☒ GPS
☐ Fixed

N
W

☐ Don't require GPS fix

Waypoint Output

☐ Enable

6 Characters

☐ Use Custom Symbols

☐ Limit To Miles

Counter

☐ Enable
☐ Reset on Transmit
250 debounce (mSec)

Power Control

☐ Enable
☐ Active Low
3 delay (seconds)

Reporting Options

☐ Altitude
☐ DAO
☒ Course/Speed
☐ Time
☒ DHM
☐ HMS
☐ GPS Quality
☐ Temperature
☐ Voltage
☒ Compressed
Telemetry every
0

Load Firmware From
File
Web

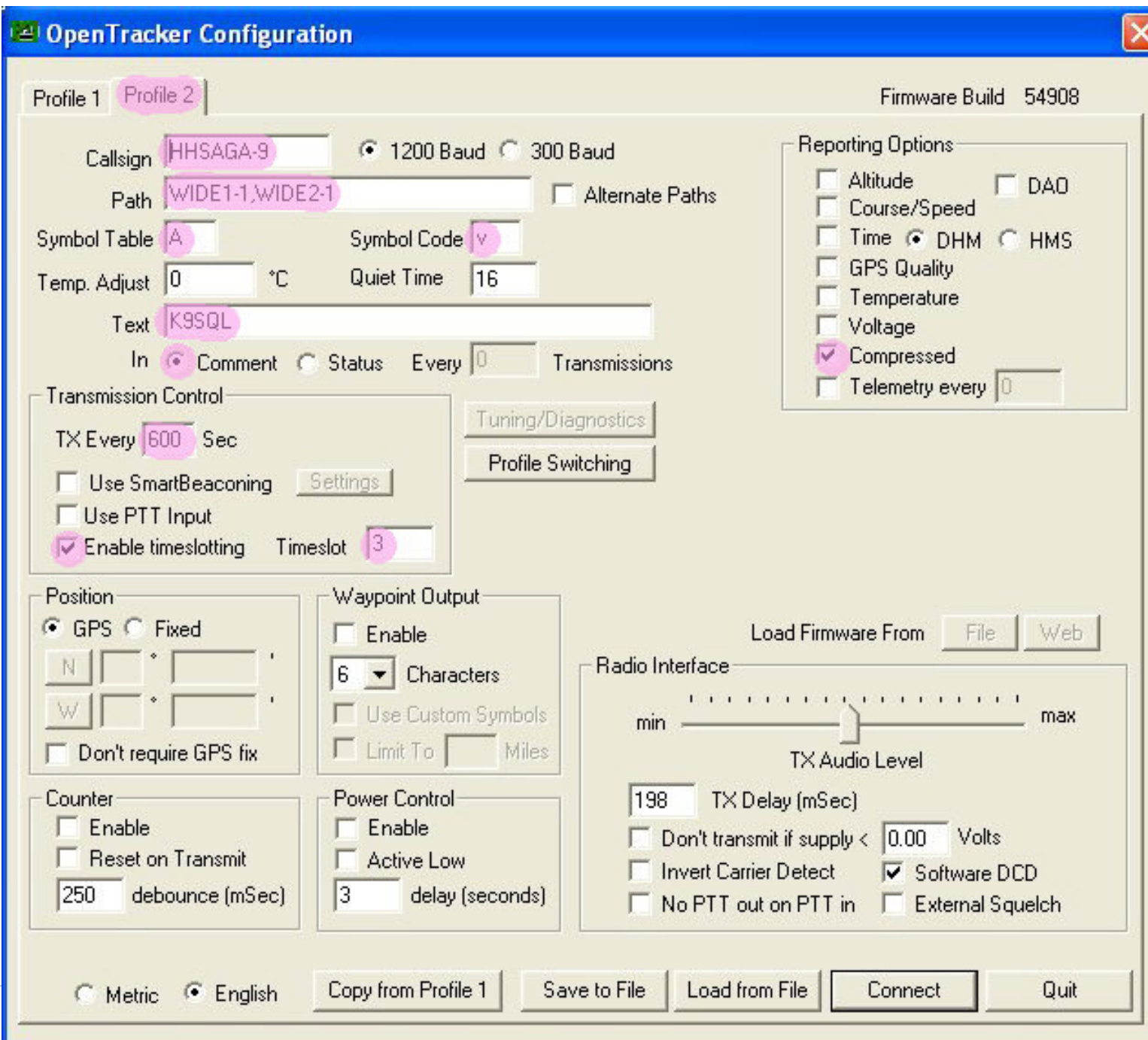
Radio Interface

min
max
TX Audio Level

198 TX Delay (mSec)
☐ Don't transmit if supply < 0.00 Volts
☐ Invert Carrier Detect
☒ Software DCD
☐ No PTT out on PTT in
☐ External Squelch

Metric
English

Copy from Profile 2
Save to File
Load from File
Connect
Quit



OpenTracker Configuration

Profile 1

Profile 2

Firmware Build 54908

Callsign

HHSAGA-9

1200 Baud

300 Baud

Path

WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1

Alternate Paths

Symbol Table

A

Symbol Code

v

Temp. Adjust

0

°C

Quiet Time

16

Text

K9SQL

In

Comment

Status

Every

0

Transmissions

Transmission Control

TX Every

600

Sec

Use SmartBeaconing

Settings

Use PTT Input

Enable timeslotting

Timeslot

3

Tuning/Diagnostics

Profile Switching

Position

GPS

Fixed

N

°

W

°

Don't require GPS fix

Waypoint Output

Enable

6

Characters

Use Custom Symbols

Limit To

Miles

Counter

Enable

Reset on Transmit

250

debounce (mSec)

Power Control

Enable

Active Low

3

delay (seconds)

Reporting Options

Altitude

DAO

Course/Speed

Time

DHM

HMS

GPS Quality

Temperature

Voltage

Compressed

Telemetry every

0

Load Firmware From

File

Web

Radio Interface

min

max

TX Audio Level

198

TX Delay (mSec)

Don't transmit if supply <

0.00

Volts

Invert Carrier Detect

Software DCD

No PTT out on PTT in

External Squelch

Metric

English

Copy from Profile 1

Save to File

Load from File

Connect

Quit

Profile Switching Setup

Profile 1

Switch to Profile 2 when:

☒ Any ☐ All of these conditions are met

☐ Altitude > 51188 Feet

☒ Speed <= 3 MPH

☐ Temperature > -459 °F

☐ Voltage > 0.00 Volts

☐ ADC Input > 0

☐ Jumper ☐ On ☒ Off

☐ GPS Fix ☐ Valid ☒ Invalid

☐ Transmit when switching to this profile

Profile 2

Switch to Profile 1 when:

☒ Any ☐ All of these conditions are met

☐ Altitude > 51188 Feet

☒ Speed > 12 MPH

☐ Temperature > -459 °F

☐ Voltage > 0.00 Volts

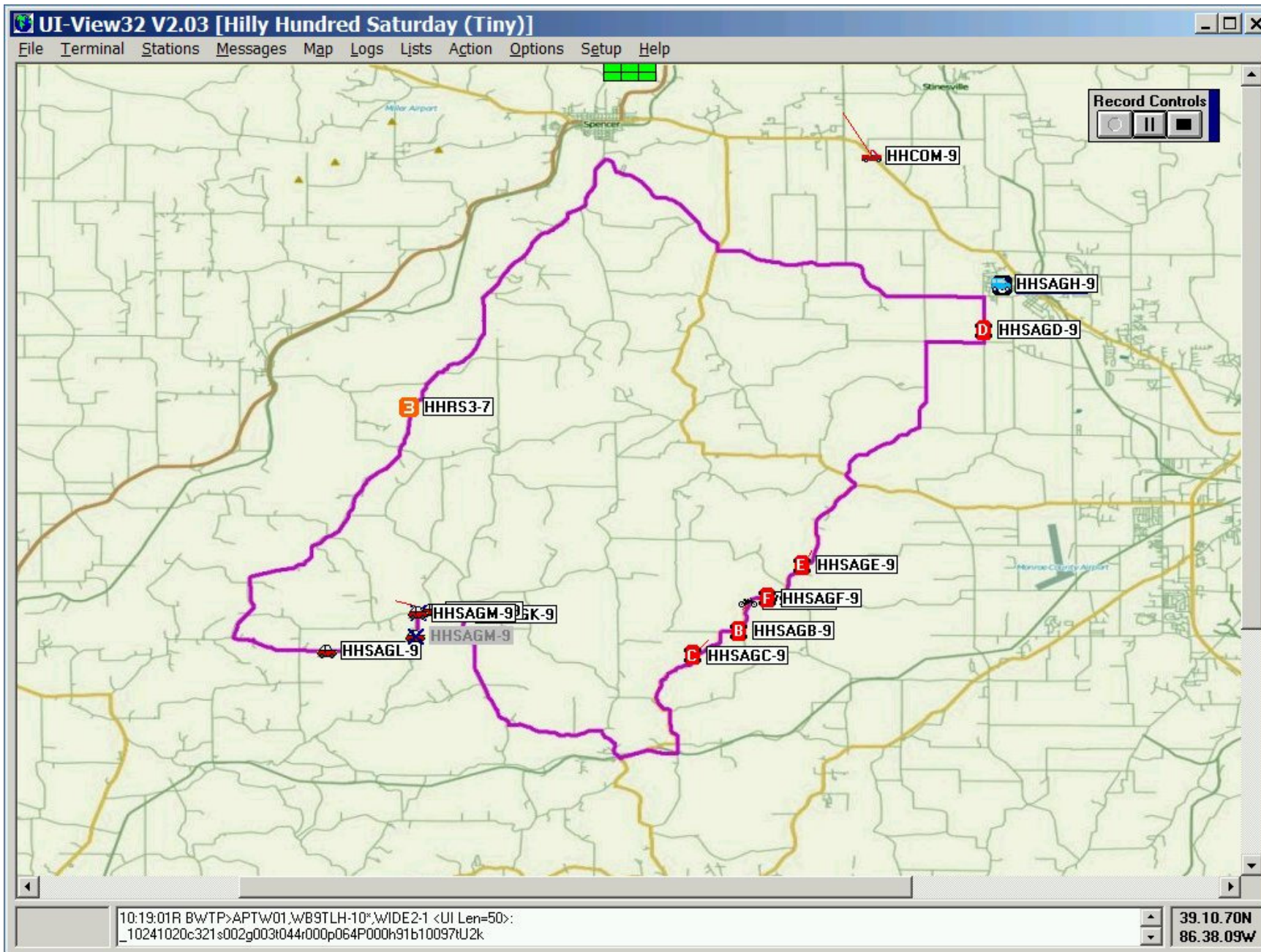
☐ ADC Input > 0

☐ Jumper ☐ On ☒ Off

☐ GPS Fix ☐ Valid ☒ Invalid

☐ Transmit when switching to this profile

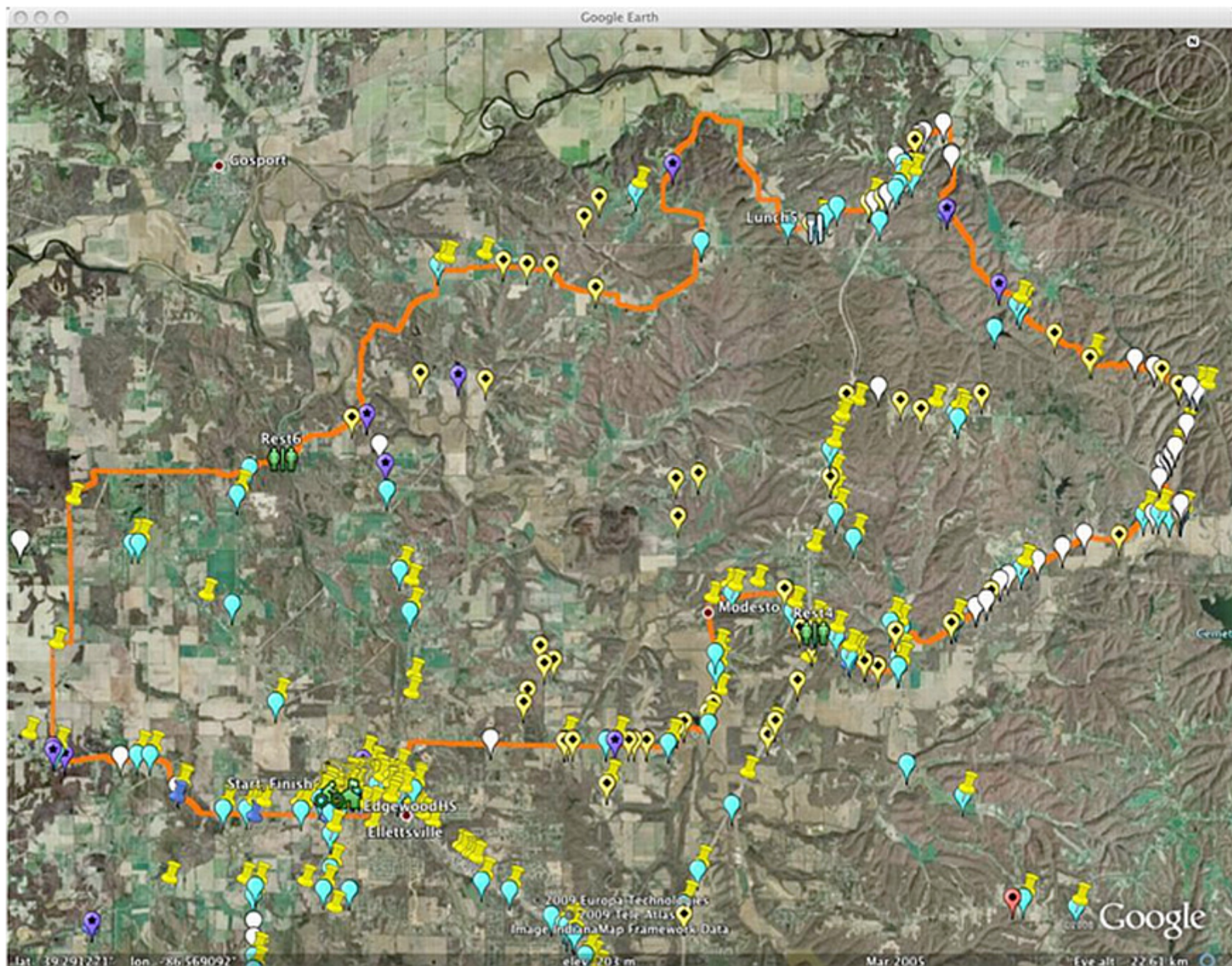
OK



Issues

- ▶ Poor digipeater coverage of Hilly route, especially for low power trackers
- ▶ Use of single APRS frequency by lots of stations in small area
- ▶ RF receiver de-sense between APRS 144.390 MHz and voice repeater 146.640/146.040 MHz
- ▶ Stale positions displayed at Net Control
- ▶ Report of transceiver failure due to close proximity of tracker transmitter. Keep antennas apart.





Saturday L-0-S KB9YVI, KIRK, INDUNV, KB9QJM

