VARAC

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Areas of Interest

• What is VarAC?
• Software required
• Hardware required
• Vara-HF settings
• VarAC settings
• Operational Choices
• Operational Choices while in QSO
• Other Features
• Further Assistance
What is VarAC?

- A newer digital mode that allows for keyboard conversations even in weak or low band conditions, typically over HF
- If you remember the old Packet Radio days of the 80’s, you may find this similar
- The ability to chat, leave messages, transfer files, check signal reports, and see what stations others have heard recently

Software Required

- If you use WinLink on HF today, you already have half of the software now

  - Vara-HF by EA5HVK
    - Vara v4.6.3 is the latest version
    - https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/

  - VarAC by 4Z1AC
    - VarAC adds NEW features frequently
    - https://www.varac-hamradio.com/
Hardware Required

- Like most digital mode software, VarAC requires a sound card digital interface
- Most current radios have this built in
- Legacy or older radios may require a SignaLink, RigBlaster, RigExpert, just to name a few, or any of the similar type interfaces

Install Vara-HF & VarAC, then launch VarAC
Vara-HF Settings, VARA Setup

Vara-HF Settings, Soundcard
VarAC Settings, My Information

Rig Control and VARA Configurations
VarAC Settings, Frequency Schedule
Change frequencies automatically

Operational Choices
Frequency
Call CQ
Slot Request

What are VarAC Slots?
VarAC has a single calling G3R per band. However, there are multiple frequencies around that G3R that are 750Hz apart. These frequencies are called "SLOTS" while each slot has a unique ID.

When you call CQ, VarAC encodes into the CQ call the slot ID where you will be standing by for incoming connections. VarAC will automatically QSY to the slot once the CQ call ends. If you do not use CAT control, for automatic frequency change, you will be asked QSY manually.

Please use the "SLOT SNIFTER" to make sure the slot you've picked is not occupied or check manually if you have no CAT frequency control.

STEP 1: Select a slot

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slot ID</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>0</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preferred</td>
<td>14 105 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Slot 14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selected Slot frequency</td>
<td>14.103.500</td>
<td>Make sure the slot is not out of band!</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STEP 2: Check if the slot is free
Available only with CAT freq. control

STEP 3: Call CQ
VarAC will QSY to the slot once the CQ on the calling G3R ends

Ping
To get a signal report

[Image with VarAC interface for Ping]
Operational Choices while in QSO
QSY Down or UP, off calling frequency

Load canned message
Viewing the Vmail

PSK REP. MAP
To show stations on PSK Reporter
PSK REP. MAP
To show stations on PSK Reporter

Other Features
Notice the list of Last Heard beacons and Last heard CQ calls
Right Click on a callsign for options

- Clear
- Copy All
- Ping (get report)
- QRZ.COM lookup
- PSK Reporter lookup
- Callsign History
- QSY to slot

Logs

- QSO Log
- Chat History
- Last Heard Log
- VarAC Log
- Open Logs Directory
Resources

- Quick Start Guide
- User Manuals (EN)
- User Manuals (Non EN)
- VarAC Facebook Group
- VarAC Forum
- Troubleshooting
- FAQ

Further Assistance

- For any follow-up information or configuration assistance, please contact Walter-K5WH
  - walterh@k5wh.net

- Or join us on ZOOM anytime around the clock
  - http://www.k5wh.net/zoom/