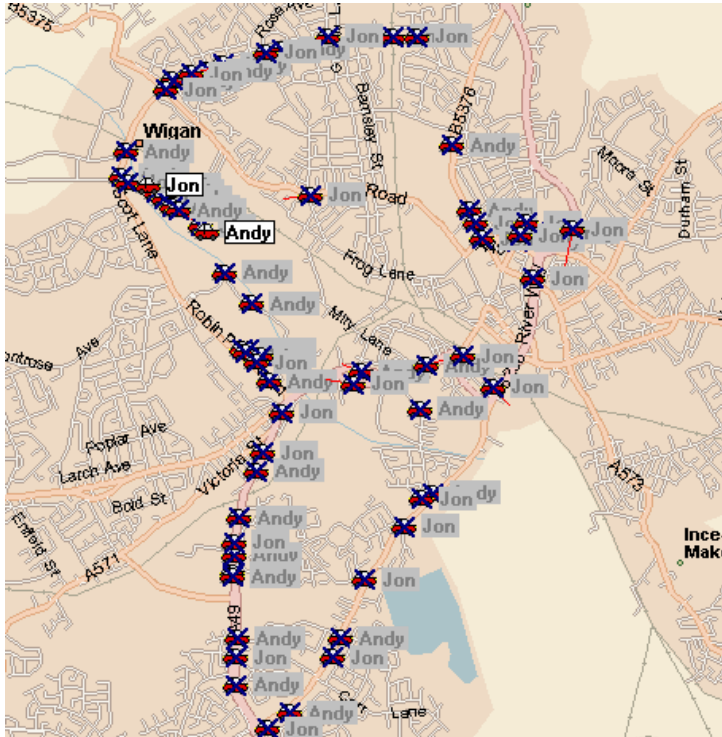




APRS for RAYNET



Auto Position Reporting System is a packet data mode which provides facilities which can greatly assist RAYNET operations:

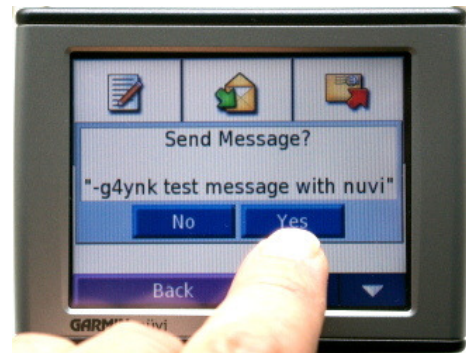
- To show the (latest and previous) positions of mobiles: this is used to track support vehicles;
- To send Object positions on-air: this can be used by Control to guide stations precisely to their intended locations;
- To send short text messages: this is used to report numbers from fixed checkpoints.
- All data traffic is automatically time-stamped and logged, to aid subsequent analysis.

APRS can operate on its own dedicated data channel, or be used in *burst-after-voice* mode on an existing voice channel.

APRS supports intelligent automatic digipeating within a network, to help cover difficult terrain.

In addition, Internet Gateways can provide a link to non-radio stations, via Internet servers and even *GoogleEarth*.

APRS can also interface to the *RadioMobile* planning tool used by several RAYNET Groups.



APRS can be operated by adding low-cost bolt-on hardware onto almost any radio, either on VHF-FM or HF-SSB.

Hardware options include:

- A simple *Tracker* unit and GPS for positioning;
- A more complex *Tracker2* unit with *Garmin Nuvi* (or GPS and terminal) for positioning, messaging and digipeating;
- A PC (with sound-card or TNC) for full support, including IGating.

There are many APRS programs available, which run in *Windows*, *DOS*, *Linux* and even *WindowsMobile*.