

Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?

A Real-Time SAR Team Tracking System

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Abstract

The Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) has been used for nearly 10 years by amateur radio operators to track a variety of objects. APRS provides a protocol and method by which position reports from a handheld GPS can be transmitted via radio and plotted on an electronic map. APRS use in the SAR community has been sporadic, but there have been several attempts, and a number of actual implementations. There are commercial solutions available, but they cost more than many teams can afford. This work, funded by the Mountain Rescue Association, seeks to implement APRS in the SAR environment using off-the-shelf equipment, and to determine its efficacy with current hardware and software.
