



October 2009 VARPA meeting. From left to right: Dick VE7GAU, Ed VE7ED, Larry VE7DIE, Nzola VE7NZG, Art VE7HAW, Allan VE7WU, and John VE7JMF. At this meeting Nzola gave the VARPA members an interesting overview of the XGATE email system that he is currently involved in establishing in various African communities. The XGATE system uses the SCS PTC series of modems to get email into and out of remote African communities using HF radios.



Pictured above is the equipment used in the XGATE email system. As configured the HF radio, SCS PTC-IIex and SCS PTC-IInet provides a radio to internet email gateway.



Here is a picture of a portable VHF packet radio setup. All the equipment fits nicely into the robust carrying case. This trick package belongs to Larry VE7DIE. Such complete and portable packages enable the Amateur Radio operator, who volunteers for their local emergency program, to be a valuable communication resource in times of disaster for local authorities. The Kantronics KPC-3 TNC and the Airmail program are standards for all municipalities in the Greater Victoria area. Doing so results in all Amateur Radio volunteers having a common knowledge base. This standard eases training issues and provides a pool of operators which can be used at any Greater Victoria municipal EOC.

VARPA meetings are held on the last Sunday of every month except June, July, August, and December. You don't have to be a member to attend a meeting. The meetings are very informal keeping club business issues to a minimum. Coffee is free and there is usually some munchies to gnaw on. Check out [www.varpa.bc.ca](http://www.varpa.bc.ca) for any updates.

Cheers

Paul VE7DHM