sPlease have the following completed prior to the Winlink class.
Download & Install the latest version of Winlink Express:
https://downloads.winlink.org/User%20Programs/Winlink_Express_install_1-5-36-0.zip
If a first time user, then go to SETUP & fill in the blanks: "My Call Sign" "Password" "recovery email" "My Grid Square"
If you don't know your Grid Square, but do know your Latitude/Longitude (from Google Earth, GPS, or other source), then press the "Lat/Lon to Grid Square" button. Enter your location & Calculate.
OR go to: https://www.levinecentral.com/ham/grid_square.php & enter address or call sign
Once all of the blanks are filled in, you should be able to press "UPDATE" & wait for the main Winlink Express screen to come up. If this is your first time, then go across the top bar to click on "MESSAGE". Choose "New Message". In "TO" enter your regular Email address. In "SUBJECT" enter "TEST".
Tab or Click to the main message body & enter something (such a "1ˢᵗ Winlink Message).
Then go to Tab that says "Post to Outbox"& click/enter. Message screen should clear & take you back to the Main screen.
On the left side, under SYSTEM FOLDERS, you should see the following:
Inbox (0)
Read Items (0)
Outbox **(1)**
Sent Items (0)
Saved Items (0)
Deleted Items (0)
Drafts (0)
Now, go up to the top right & look between the words:"Open Session" & "Logs" there should be a box that says [Telnet].   "Telnet" is your regular Internet connection (Wi-Fi/cable/DSL/etc).
Click on:"Open Session" & a new dialog box should open. Don't worry about any of the other Tabs.
Just click/enter on "START". If everything is working properly, you should see a dialog like:
*** Connecting to a CMS…
*** Connected to CMS-SSL at 2021/04/19 18:41:23
[WL2K-5.0-B2FWIHJM$]
;PQ: 52441291
CMS>
  ;FW: {call sign}
  [RMS Express-1.5.36.0-B2FHM$]
  ;PR: 54686937
  ; WL2K DE {call sign} (Grid Square)
  FF
FQ
*** --- End of session at 2021/04/19 18:41:25 ---
*** Messages sent: 1. Total bytes sent: 84, Time: 00:00, bytes/minute: 0
*** Messages Received: 0. Total bytes received: 0, Total session time: 00:00, bytes/minute: 0
*** Disconnected at 2021/04/19 18:41:30
Click/Enter "EXIT" to go back to Main screen. "System Folders" should now read "Outbox (0)/Sent(1)"
Your Winlink Express program is now set up & operational.
Next is to connect to the Radio.

For this section you will need a radio capable of transmitting/receiving VHF amateur channels, plus a Terminal Node Connection (abbreviated to TNC), and cables to connect the radio to the TNC & computer. Unless your radio has the TNC built in to the radio. If you're not sure about your radio, then contact me to find out if yours has a built in TNC.

The system that I will be demonstrating is based on Terrie's (N7WRA) Hand-Held radio (BaoFeng/available from Amazon.com or Ham Radio Outlet, Tigard, Oregon). Connected to a TNC (SignaLink-USB available from Tigertronics.com in Grants Pass, Oregon) with cables from Tigertronics. And finally, connected to her laptop (HP Pavilion available almost anywhere).

In addition to the Winlink Express, you "may" need to install a modem converter computer program. I use "Sound Modem" from:

http://uz7.ho.ua/modem_beta/soundmodem113.zip

Note where the "soundmodem113"folder & program installed. Once Un-zipped, go to settings, with Signal-Link plugged in to your computer & turned on (green light on front of SignaLink is lit). At SETTINGS go to DEVICES. On "Output Device" use Pull-down to select (Speakers [#-USB Audio CODEC]). On "Input Device" use Pull-down to select (Microphone [#-USB Audio CODEC]). Put checkmarks in the boxes [TX rotation],[Single Channel Output],[Color Waterfall], KISS Server Port [Enabled]. Default settings on everything else should be good.

Now (go back to the Winlink Express main screen). Between "Open Session" & "Logs", use the pull-down to go to: Packet Winlink. Click/Enter "Open Session" & Click/Enter "Settings" to bring up a new dialog box. In this box you should have:

Packet TNC Type: KISS

Packet TNC Model: NORMAL

Serial Port: TCP

Autoconnect time:[you can set this later. For now, leave DISABLED]

TCP Host/Port: [127.0.0.1] [8100]

Packet sound modem [Here's where you enter location of the SoundModem program. On mine: C:\Program Files\Soundmodem113\soundmedem.exe]or [Browse to location]

Check the box[x] to Automatically launch packet sound modem (then you won't have to manually start it every time you go to Packet mode). Click/Enter [UPDATE].

You should now be ready to send/receive Winlink messages.

EXCEPT for one thing. The Radio needs to be on correct frequency. We can find that.

Back to "Packet Winlink Session" dialog box. Click on tab "Channel Selection" to open "Packet Channel Selector" dialog box. Then Click on "Update Table via Internet". Table should now display Winink RMS sites within 100 miles of the location that you entered in SETTINGS: GRID SQUARE. Your effective range will be considerably less. Highlight the closest station (Hopefully W7CLA-10) & Click/Enter "Select Channel". "Packet Winlink Session" dialog box should now display [Direct][W7CLA-10] everything else grayed out. Note the line" ATTENTION: Set the packet radio frequency to 14#.### MHz".

This is a reminder to verify that your radio is on the proper Packet channel & not a voice repeater. Click/Enter"START" and radio should transmit, RED light on SignaLink blink on/off, & computer display" "Starting to call W7CLA-10" (or RMS station selected). Then messages should flow back & forth.

Questions? Contact Don at wa7tem@arrl.net or wa7tem@winlink.org (my Winlink account)