Using W8UKE-1 to test your new Packet Station:

Newcomers to local packet often need a convenient way to test proper operation of their radio, modem, and software. In the Athens area, the APRS digipeater ATHENS:W8UKE-1 (144.39 mHz) is an excellent tool. It is located at the ACARA Peach Ridge repeater(s) site at approx 1,020 ft AMSL. If you can reach the ACARA 145.15 mHz repeater, you 'should' be able to connect to W8UKE-1. Here's the dialogue and what to expect:

- Be sure your modem is in 'command' mode (often 'cmd:' prompt).
- Issue the command "C ATHENS" (without the quotes) + RETURN
- You should receive: *** CONNECTED to ATHENS
  (There may be a delay due to channel congestion)

If you have gotten this far,...congratulations, your station is (probably) working correctly!

At this point, there are *ONLY* 3 valid commands. Just type the first letter + RETURN

(1) If You send "I(nfo)" + RETURN
W8UKE-1 responds: ATHENS:W8UKE-1}
UIDIGI 1.9 BETA 3 (c) Marco Savegnago IW3FQG 20040101
Athens OH - Rptr=145.15- / WinLink=KC8DXZ-1 145.09 / ac-ara.org
Local time: 01:48:37 minutes of activity: 62028
Clock was not set.
Led status: CON: 0 STA: 0
Free buffer: (722)

(2) If you send "M(heard)" + RETURN
W8UKE-1 responds with a LARGE list of recently heard stations.
Use this command sparingly please!

(3) If you send "Q(uit)" + RETURN - W8UKE-1 disconnects.

If you attempt any other command, W8UKE-1 responds with:
"ATHENS:W8UKE-1} Invalid command! Available commands are Info Mheard Quit."
(followed by a forced disconnect)

If you are so inclined at some point, you are encouraged to 'map' your packet station location, so other area packet users know the location of potential 'digipeaters' they might be able to use.
Here's what such a map plot looks like: https://aprs.fi/w8kvk
These map plots are fairly simple to execute once you have your packet station on the air. For "how to", just send the street address of your packet station to Ted@w8kvk.com.

Questions always welcome.
73 de Ted (W8KVK)