Fcc filing

Dear Sir: for the past 12 years we have been full time liveaboard cruisers. We have sailed over 40k nm and sailed into 47 different countries. I have had a ham license since 2006, KI4SRY. We have also been using WinLink with a pactor modem since 2006. We rely on it for our weather, position reports, and short emails when we are underway. When we crossed the Caribbean, Panama to Jamaica, in 2012, the Atlantic in 2013 and a circum nav of the Black Sea in 2016 we relied on our ssb/pactor/WinLink combination to provide us with the latest weather, put in our position for those who were following us in case we had an emergency they had a place to tell searchers our last position to begin a search, and to assure those watching us and others that we were all ok.

Without WinLink/pactor we would not be able to communicate in an effective manner with our only alternative being a very expensive sat phone and connective time that we may simply not be able to afford. Until last year we lived and sailed on our social security check only without touching our savings. The cost of internet connection via a sat phone would punish us with additional expense that would cause us to dip into savings and use money that we will rely on when we stop cruising.

If I am correct the person who is opposed to Winlink has not even used it and if I am mistaken I apologize but to those of us who need and use it, it is an invaluable tool that can only be replaced by expensive equipment and connect time that some may not be able to afford.

Thank you for listening

Charles Ritenour KI4 SRY – currently wintering over in Herzliya Israel