

Response Creator

Feature Guide

New Features Since Version 1.6

This guide describes the major improvements added to the RI Strip Reader and Response Creator tool since the original v1-6-3 release. The tool is a self-contained HTML file used by the amateur radio community to fill out standardized emergency communications strips.

1. Wizard Mode

The original Response Creator operated in a single "Expert" interface where all features were accessible on one page. A new **Wizard Mode** provides a step-by-step guided experience, particularly useful for operators who are new to the RI strip system.

How to Access

Click the "**Wizard Mode**" button in the top-right corner of the Expert page. To return, click "**Expert Mode**" from any Wizard screen.

The Welcome Screen

The Wizard opens to a Welcome page with five clearly framed options:

Option 1: Select a Standard Request for Information Strip

Choose from the five built-in strip templates (GYX CAR SKYWARN, LOCALWX, SITREP, HURRICANE REPORT, WXOBS). Clicking Continue presents the list; selecting one takes you to the Questions & Answers screen with fields pre-populated.

Option 2: Select a custom Request for Information Strip

For strips not in the standard set. You can either paste a strip definition directly (e.g., MY STRIP/QUESTION 1/QUESTION 2//) or click "Load RI Strip from File" to import a .txt file. Either path takes you to the Q&A screen.

Option 3: Edit an Existing Response Strip

Load a previously saved response for editing. Three sub-options are provided:

- **Paste from Clipboard** — paste a response strip and click "Populate Table"
- **Load from File** — pick a single .txt file containing a saved response
- **Browse Saved Response Strips** — select multiple .txt files from your Downloads folder. Use Ctrl+A to select all files or Shift+click for a range. The tool parses all files, organizes them by call sign and date, and lets you pick one to edit or multiple to view together.

Option 4: Create a new custom Request for Information Strip

A full strip builder where you enter a strip name and add question fields one by one. Each question can include formatting hints in parentheses. The builder includes the complete RI Formatting Guidelines reference (MARS format codes: #, A, N, X, Y/M/D/H, etc.). Clicking "Save & Use Strip" assembles the definition and opens the Q&A screen.

Option 5: Settings

Toggle the auto-fill profile feature on or off, and import or export your profile file.

The Questions & Answers Screen

After selecting or loading a strip, the Q&A screen displays a two-column table: strip questions on the left, answer fields on the right. Special field types are rendered automatically — dropdowns for fields like PRECEDENCE or WIND DIRECTION, radio buttons for YES/NO/Unknown/Not Applicable fields, and textareas for COMMENTS. Press Enter to advance between fields.

Profile fields (call sign, location, etc.) auto-fill if the auto-fill setting is enabled and a profile has been loaded.

Date and time fields auto-fill with the current time in the format appropriate to each strip (local time for GYX CAR SKYWARN, UTC for HURRICANE REPORT and SITREP, DDHHMMZ for WXOBS).

The Output Screen

After clicking "Create Response Strip," the generated strip is displayed with three action buttons:

- **Copy to Clipboard** — copies the strip text
- **Save to File** — downloads as a .txt file with a suggested filename based on strip name and timestamp
- **Submit to Winlink** — posts to Winlink Express for message composition

A checkbox labeled "**Include Request for Information Strip**" controls whether just the response is included or both the request and response with headers. This applies to all three actions.

2. User Profile System

The profile system stores operator information (call sign, location, grid square, etc.) so that common fields auto-fill each time a strip is parsed.

Profile Fields

The following fields are recognized as profile fields and will auto-fill when they appear in any strip:

CALL SIGN, SPOTTER ID, SOURCE, LOCATION, STATE & CWA, CITY, COUNTY, STATE, LATITUDE, LONGITUDE, MGRS, GRID, REPORTING OBSERVER EMAIL, REPORTING OBSERVER PHONE NUMBER, COUNTRY, SKYWARN ID, NWS CWA, MODE, NET.

How the Profile Works

Automatic capture: When you click "Create Response Strip," the tool automatically saves any recognized profile fields from your answers into localStorage. This means your profile builds itself as you use the tool — fill in your call sign once, and it remembers it for next time.

Import from file: Click the "Import" button (in Expert mode's title bar, or in Wizard Settings) to load a profile.txt file. The file format is simple:

```
1 # Auto-load on parse: 1=on, 0=off
CALL SIGN / WD10
SPOTTER ID / KN11
SOURCE / Amateur Radio
LOCATION / Hewitt Road, St. George
STATE & CWA / ME CAR
```

Lines starting with # are comments. The first line controls the auto-load setting.

Export to file: Click "Export" to save your current profile. If no profile data has been stored yet, a blank template is generated with all recognized field names, ready for you to fill in.

Auto-load checkbox: When checked, profile fields automatically populate whenever a strip is parsed. Uncheck it to fill in fields manually.

Winlink Express compatibility: When the tool is used inside Winlink Express (where localStorage is unavailable), the profile is embedded directly in the HTML file using special markers. The "Save Updated File" function preserves your profile data within the saved HTML.

3. Strip Editor for Multiple Responses

This feature lets you work with multiple previously saved response strips at once — useful for reviewing a batch of weather observations, selecting specific ones to forward, or editing a previous report.

In Expert Mode

Below the Q&A table, the "**Browse Saved Response Strips to Edit or Export**" button opens a multi-file picker. Select one or more .txt files from your Downloads folder (use Ctrl+A for all, Shift+click for a range).

The tool reads each file, extracts the response strip, and displays an organized list grouped by call sign and then sorted by date. Each entry shows the strip name, date, source filename, and a preview of the strip content. A "**Select all**" checkbox at the top toggles all entries.

Selecting One Strip

Click "Load Selected" after checking a single strip:

- For **standard strips** (GYX CAR SKYWARN, WXOBS, etc.), the template is auto-detected, the Q&A table fills with questions on the left and your previous answers on the right, and the date/time updates to now.
- For **custom strips**, a dialog prompts you to load the RI strip definition file (e.g., DAMAGE_REPORT_RI_Strip.txt) so the questions display correctly. You can also click Cancel to load the answers as-is.

Selecting Multiple Strips

Click "Load Selected" after checking multiple strips to open a "Selected Strips" panel with all chosen strips in a textarea, separated by blank lines. From here:

- **Copy All to Clipboard** — copies the entire contents for pasting into an email or document
- **Capture Highlighted Strip to RI Table** — select (highlight) any part of one strip line in the textarea, then click this button. The tool identifies the complete strip, loads the template, and populates the Q&A table.
- **Close** — dismisses the panel

The Selected Strips panel persists even when you load a strip into the table, so you can reference the multi-strip listing while editing. Only the Close button or a new browse operation dismisses it.

In Wizard Mode

The same browse functionality is available under "Edit an Existing Response Strip" → "Option 3: Browse Saved Response Strips." The interface adapts to the Wizard's card-based layout with the same Select All, single-edit, and multi-view capabilities.

4. Radiogram Formatter

The Radiogram format option converts response strip answers into the format required for transmission as formal radiogram traffic, where only uppercase letters A–Z, digits 0–9, and the slash character are permitted.

Availability

The "**Radiogram format**" checkbox appears next to the "Create Response Strip" button **only when the WXOBS strip is loaded**. For all other strips, the checkbox is hidden.

Formatting Rules

When the checkbox is checked and you click "Create Response Strip," each answer field is transformed:

Original	Radiogram	Rule
-12.3	M12R3	Negative sign → M, decimal → R
1020.20	1020R20	Decimal point between digits → R
skywarn@wx1gyx.net	SKYWARN ATSIGN WX1GYX DOT NET	Email address spelled out
very strange. Cold	VERY STRANGE X COLD	Mid-sentence period → space X space
Cold with rain.	COLD WITH RAIN	Trailing period removed
03-11-2026	03 DASH 11 DASH 2026	Dashes → DASH
Hello, world	HELLO COMMA WORLD	Commas → COMMA
Owls Head	OWLS HEAD	All text uppercased
test #1 \$5!	TEST 1 5	Special characters stripped

Special characters (#, \$, ^, &, *, !, (,), [,], {, }, |, and @ outside email addresses) are silently removed.

Reverse Formatting on Load

When a previously saved radiogram-formatted strip is loaded back into the Q&A table (via paste, file load, or the browse feature), the formatting is automatically reversed where possible:

Radiogram	Restored	Rule
M12R3	-12.3	M → minus, R → decimal
1020R20	1020.20	R between digits → period
SKYWARN ATSIGN WX1GYX DOT NET	skywarn@wx1gyx.net	Email reconstructed, lowercased
VERY STRANGE X COLD	Very Strange. Cold	X → period, then camel case
DASH	-	DASH → hyphen
COMMA	,	COMMA → comma
OWLS HEAD	Owls Head	Camel case applied

Exceptions to Camel Case Conversion

The following fields stay uppercase when reversing radiogram formatting:

- **CALL SIGN** (e.g., KB1TCE)
- **SKYWARN ID** (e.g., KN83)
- **NWS CWA** (e.g., GYX)
- **MGRS** (e.g., 19TDJ9172)
- **STATE & CWA** (e.g., ME CAR)
- **WIND DIR / WIND DIRECTION** (e.g., NNE, SSW)
- **Strip Name** (field index 0, always preserved as-is)
- The abbreviation **NA** (for "Not Applicable") is always preserved as uppercase

5. Standard Strip Templates

The tool includes five standard RI strip templates, listed in this order:

Strip Name	Fields	Key Features
GYX CAR SKYWARN	17	Gray/Caribou Maine SKYWARN weather reporting. Date/time auto-fills in local time. Responses load into GYX Google Sheets.
LOCALWX	20	Local weather observations with dropdowns for Wind Direction, Clouds, Barometric Pressure Trend, and Precipitation Type. Date-time in UTC.
SITREP	26	Situation reports. Dropdowns for Precedence and Emergency/Life Safety. 11 infrastructure radio-button fields (POTS through NOAA WX Radio). Date-time in UTC.
HURRICANE REPORT	20	Hurricane observations with dropdowns for Report Status, Reporting Observer, Measurements, and Wind Direction. Date-time in UTC.
WXOBS	27	Original abbreviated format with 3-space separator rows. Short field codes (WIND DIR, BAROMETER MB, etc.). Observation Time in DDHHMMZ. Supports Radiogram formatting.

6. Tips for Getting Started

1. **First time?** Use Wizard Mode — it walks you through each step.
2. **Fill in one strip completely** and your profile will auto-build from the answers.
3. **Export your profile** as a backup — you can import it on another computer or after clearing browser data.
4. **Save response strips to your Downloads folder** with meaningful names — the Browse feature organizes them automatically.
5. **For WXOBS radiogram traffic**, check "Radiogram format" before creating the strip. When you later load the saved strip for editing, the formatting reverses automatically so you can read and modify the answers naturally.