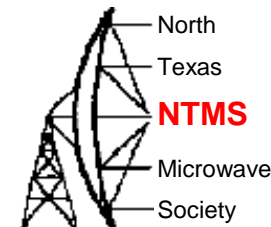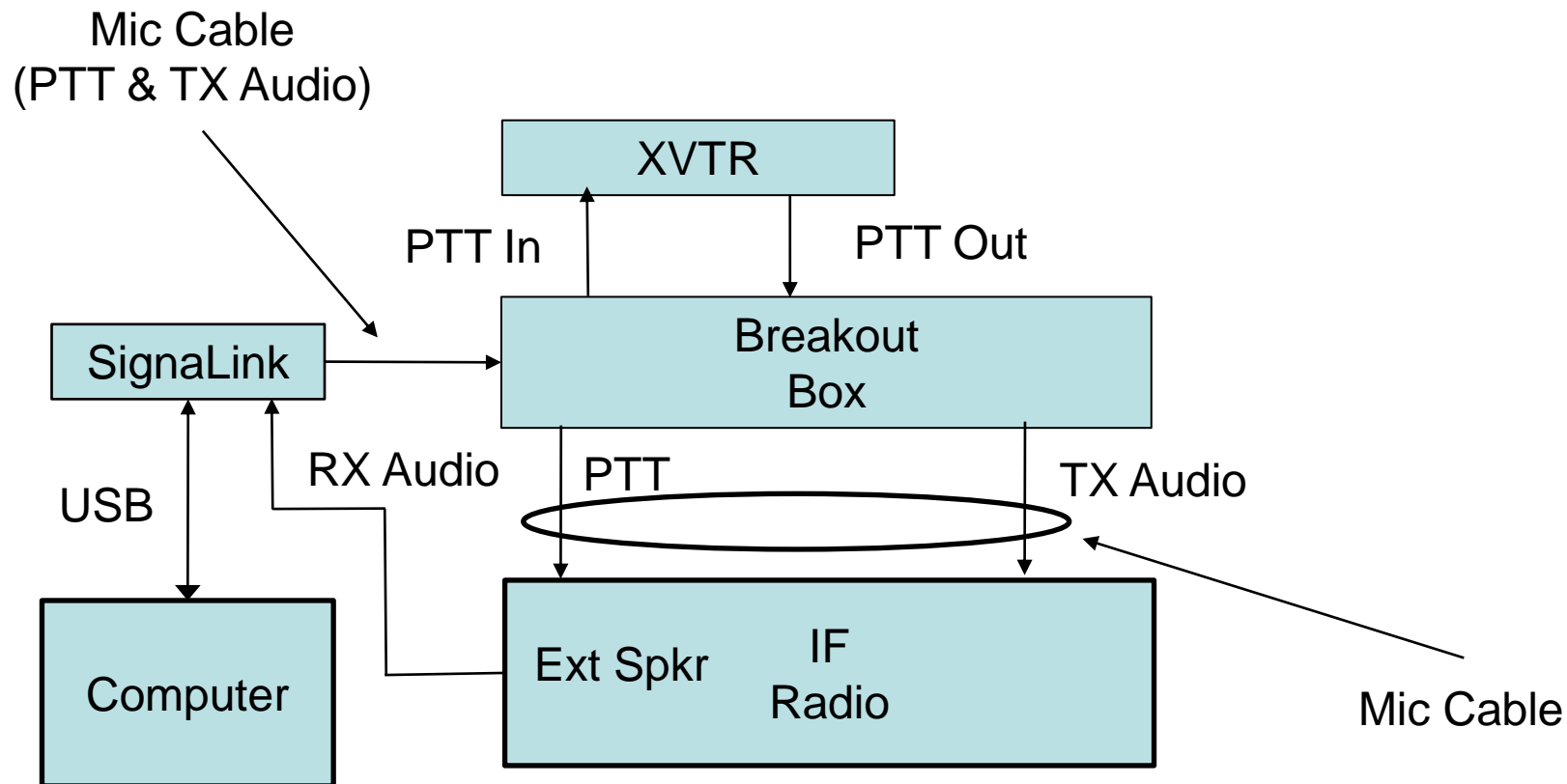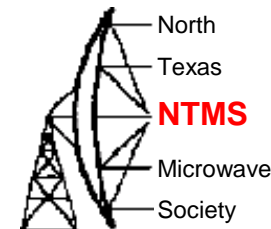North
Texas
NTMS
Microwave
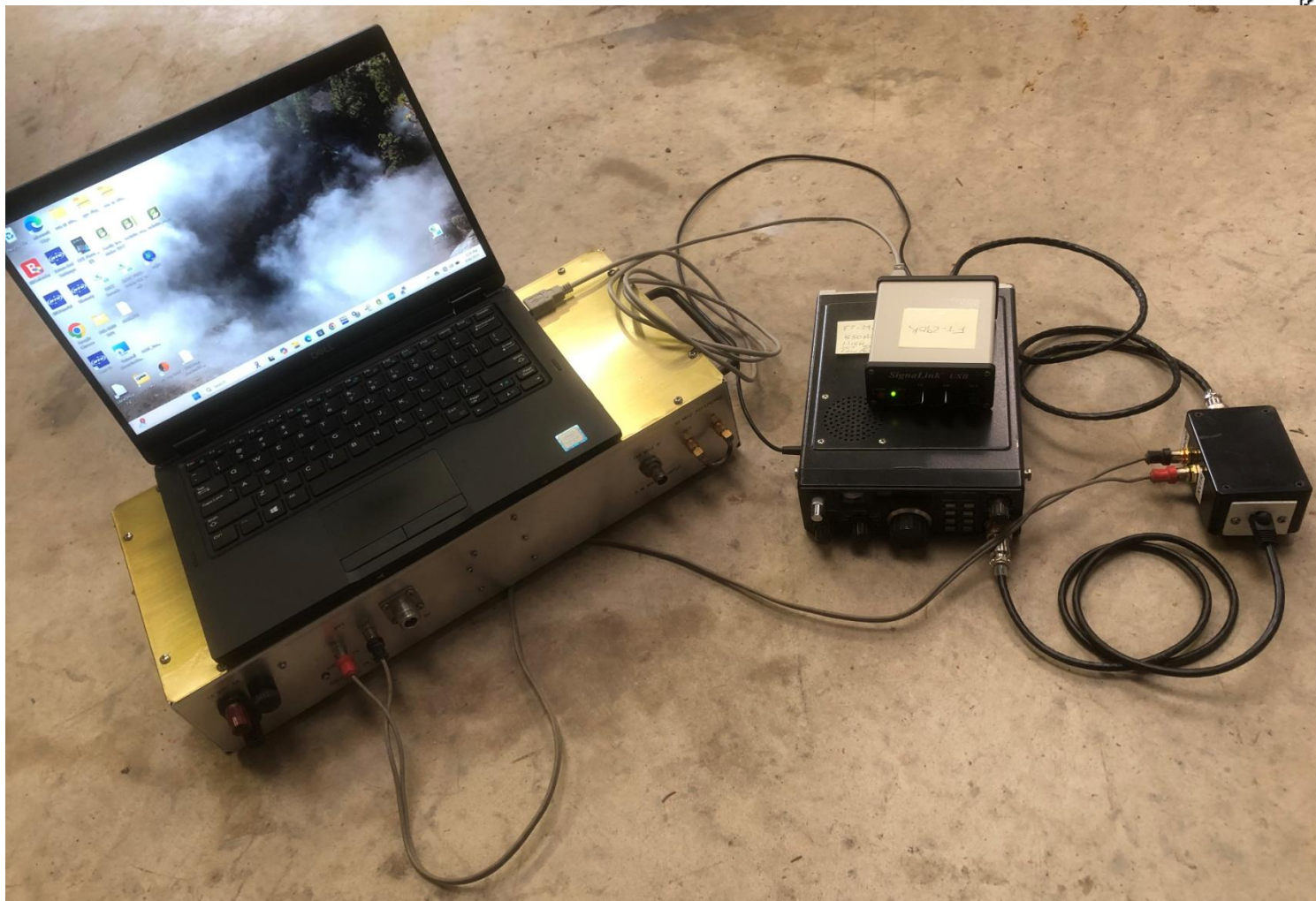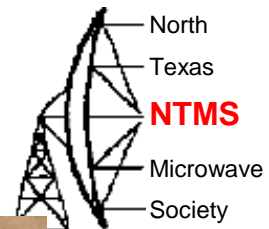Society

Digi Modes with the FT-290R

• Used a SignaLink for Interface to the Computer and Radio
  • Easier than using 4-contact audio jack on most laptops and it is isolated
  • SignaLink uses a Relay for PTT which is used as PTT IN to XVTR
    • Obviates issues with 12V or 24V PTT XVTR relay coils
  • Use T/R relay contact in the XVTR to provide a PTT OUT
    • PTT OUT is recombined into the mic cable going to the IF Rig
  • Ensures XVTR is in TX mode before keying IF rig
  • Audio output not available on FT-290R mic connector so use Ext Speaker jack for RX audio
    • Spare pin in mic connector but to difficult to solder a wire onto
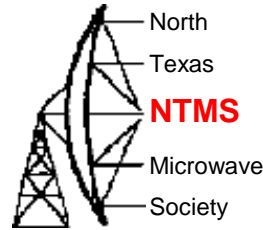
Digi Setup for Yaesu FT-290R

Mic Cable
(PTT & TX Audio)

XVTR

PTT In   PTT Out

SignaLink

Breakout
Box

USB

RX Audio   PTT   TX Audio

Computer

Ext Spkr   IF
Radio

Mic Cable

Digi Setup for Yaesu FT-290R

Common Contest WSJT-X Settings

• Usually in a WSJT-X Contest Mode is used during a Contest

• Contest Mode Reduces the number of exchanges required for a contact by one
  • Start on TX 2 vs TX1
  • Also can be used to expand or change the information exchange

• Which contest mode used depends on whether a four or six character grids exchange is required
  • For four letter grids NA VHF mode can generally be used
  • EU VHF contest mode is generally used when six digit

• File ->Settings -> Advanced -> Special operating activity should get you to the screen needed to make the selection

North
Texas
NTMS
Microwave
Society

Summary

- A few cables and boxes to keep track of but only two more than straight SignaLink to FT-290R on 2M
    - Extra mic cable
    - Stereo RCA jumper cable

- Use a RCA-RCA jumper to use SignaLink with the FT-290R on 2M

- XVTR needs to have the PTT IN and PTT OUT jacks
    - Sequenced so XVTR is in transmit mode before enabling radio