



# WEATHER TALKER™

User's Guide  
Version 1.0  
For Dos



#### **FCC Part 15 Class B Registration Warning**

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications.

However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment on and off, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

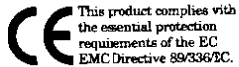
1. Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
2. Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
3. Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
4. Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Changes or modifications not expressly approved in writing by Davis Instruments may void the user's authority to operate this equipment.



## **WEATHER TALKER**

### **User's Guide Version 1.0 For Dos**



This product complies with  
the essential protection  
requirements of the EC  
EMC Directive 89/336/EEC.

Product Number: 7861

Davis Instruments Part Number: 7395-100

WeatherTalker™ for DOS, Version 1.0

Rev. B Manual (8/28/96)

This product complies with the essential protection requirements of the EC EMC Directive 89/336/EEC.

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## Chapter 1

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Davis Instruments' WeatherTalker. The WeatherTalker opens up a whole new range of possibilities for your Davis weather station by allowing you to connect your weather station to an ordinary phone line. You can call the station to get a weather update at your home, office or any remote location. You can have the WeatherTalker alert you by actually calling you if a weather condition exceeds and alarm trigger point which you have set and reporting the condition causing the alarm. Connect the WeatherTalker to your phone system's "music on hold" input to create an interesting and unique experience for your customers when they are on hold. You can even use the WeatherTalker as a complete messaging center for your home or business.

The WeatherTalker is fully customizable. Create a spoken weather bulletin that includes only the information you or your customers want to hear. Record and play informational messages for customers who call to hear the weather bulletin or for other information. Design your own phone menuing system to advertise your products, provide information to your customers, or survey your customers. Enable the alert feature for any or all weather station alarms. Use up to 100 voice mail boxes. Password protect access to your WeatherLink<sup>®</sup>. Whatever your needs, the WeatherTalker can meet them!

### TYPICAL USES FOR THE WEATHER TALKER

The following sections briefly describe typical uses for the WeatherTalker in a variety of situations. The WeatherTalker is by no means limited to these applications. They are presented only as examples and possible sources of inspiration.

#### ◆ Personal

Install a weather station in your home, wine cellar, greenhouse, or at a vacation cabin/beach house. Call at any time to listen to weather conditions at home. Have WeatherTalker call you when conditions exceed alarm settings in your garden or greenhouse. Before you leave for your cabin/beach house, call ahead to see how the weather is.

#### ◆ Home Office

Give your business a distinctive personality by having a weather bulletin on your messaging service. Your callers can leave voice mail messages for a specific person, listen to the weather bulletin, or obtain product/service descriptions. You can listen to your phone messages at any time by dialing in from a touch-tone phone.

#### ◆ Commercial

Radio/TV stations, airports, golf-courses, marinas, and other weather-related businesses can set up a dedicated phone line or connect the WeatherTalker to the music on hold input of their phone system. Customers will appreciate the ability to get up-to-the-minute weather information at an important location. You can also insert promotional announcements or other revenue-generating messages into the bulletin for your customers to hear when they call in.

#### ◆ Industrial

Install a weather station at any site where you need access to current weather conditions. For safety, have WeatherTalker call supervisors when alarm points are exceeded at a site.

## CONTENTS OF PACKAGE

The WeatherTalker package should contain the following items. Please make sure you have everything listed before beginning.

- ◆ WeatherTalker Interface Card
- ◆ Modular Telephone Cable (6 feet / 1.8 m)
- ◆ WeatherTalker Software Diskette (3.5" 1.4 Mb)
- ◆ Disposable Ground Strap

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

In order to use the WeatherTalker you will need the following:

#### ◆ Davis Instruments Weather Station

WeatherMonitor II™, Weather Wizard III™, II-S, or II, or Perception II®.

#### ◆ WeatherLink®

To use the WeatherTalker all you need is the WeatherLink hardware module included with the WeatherLink package.

#### ◆ Touch Tone Telephone

Required for answering and making telephone calls. Also necessary for recording messages, snippets, etc.

#### ◆ IBM-Compatible Computer

286 or better running DOS 6.0 or later with at least 20MB free hard disk space (more disk space required for recording outgoing or voice mail messages), 385K free conventional memory, one available expansion slot and two available serial ports (one for the WeatherLink and one for the WeatherTalker).

## COMPUTER SYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS

Depending on how you plan to utilize the WeatherTalker, you may want to install it into a dedicated computer or into a computer which is used for other purposes.

#### ◆ Dedicated Computer

Because the WeatherTalker requires (at a minimum) the use of two serial ports and that the computer be turned on and the program running you might find it easiest to simply assign a single computer to run the WeatherTalker at all times. In addition, highs and lows and rainfall totals are tracked only when the program is running. Any high/low or rainfall which occurs when the software is not running will not be recorded by or reflected in the software which can lead to some inaccuracies if you do not leave the WeatherTalker software running at all times. To make up for this, the WeatherTalker has been intentionally designed to run on older computer models (286 or better) so that you can use an inexpensive or "retired" computer system for the WeatherTalker.

#### ◆ Shared Computer

If you plan to use the WeatherTalker primarily when no one is around (to answer calls, alert you when alarms are exceeded, or provide weather information from a remote site), you can install it into a computer which is used for other purposes. Be aware that the software will not answer or make calls unless the computer is on and the software is running. In addition, highs and lows and rainfall totals are tracked only when the program is running. Any high/low or rainfall which occurs when the software is not running will not be recorded by or reflected in the software which can lead to some inaccuracies if you do not leave the WeatherTalker software running at all times.

**Note:** Because the WeatherTalker requires (at a minimum) the use of two serial ports and does not support the mouse, you might want to create a boot disk (or a separate boot path in DOS 6.0) which does not load the mouse driver when using the WeatherTalker.

## MULTIPLE PHONE LINE OPERATION

Each WeatherTalker interface card can handle one telephone line. If you have more than one line, you will need to connect a WeatherTalker interface card to each individual line. You will only need one copy of the WeatherTalker Software, however, since the software can handle up to three WeatherTalker interface cards and lines. The WeatherTalker Software automatically detects additional lines and WeatherTalker interface cards.

## Chapter 2

# INSTALLATION

## TYPICAL INSTALLATION

The illustration below shows a typical WeatherTalker installation. The weather station connects to your computer which contains the interface card. You may then access weather information using a standard touch tone phone.

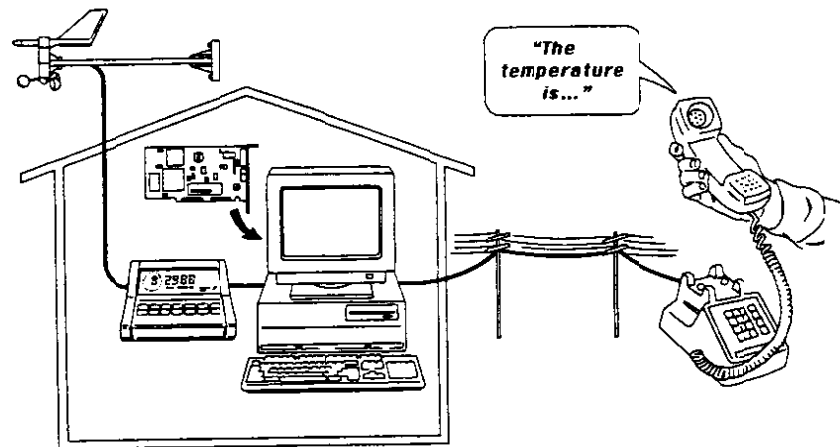


Figure 2-1: Typical WeatherTalker Installation

## HARDWARE INSTALLATION

The sections below describe all of the steps you need to go through in order to configure and install the WeatherTalker.

### LINK INSTALLATION

In order to use the WeatherTalker, you must first install your Link. For specific instructions, consult your Link manual.

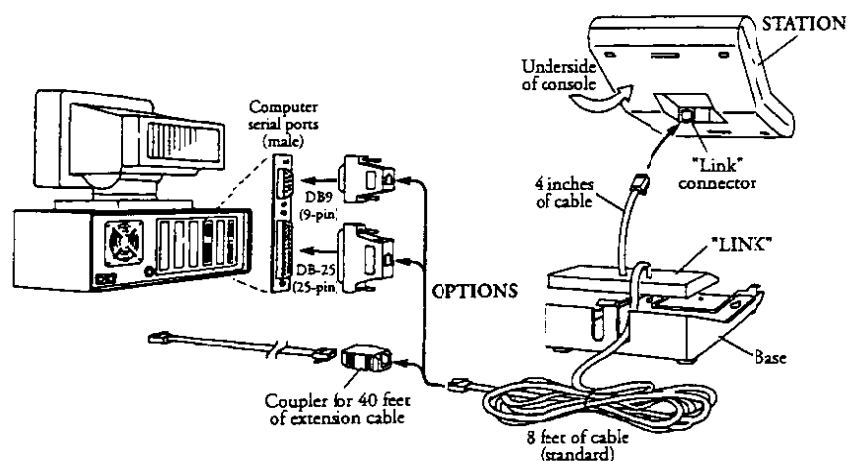


Figure 2-2: Typical Link Installation

When installing the Link, make sure the baud rate switch on the Link is set to 2400 (which is the factory default).

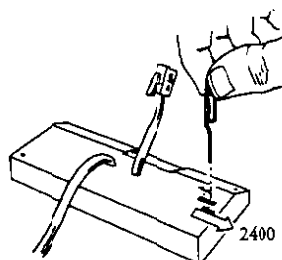


Figure 2-3: Set Baud Rate to 2400

### CONFIGURE THE WEATHERTALKER INTERFACE CARD

You may need to configure the WeatherTalker Interface card to work with your computer, depending on which COM ports and IRQ's are available. To configure the interface card for the correct COM port and IRQ, you will need to set switches 1-12, located on the bottom right corner of the interface card. The interface card comes configured for COM4/IRQ5 and you need to change jumpers only if those settings will not work with your system.

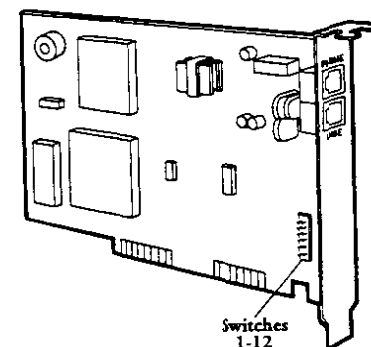


Figure 2-4: Switch Location

To turn a switch "on", place the jumper over both pins in the desired row. To turn a switch "off" do not place a jumper on the pins in the desired row. If you have extra jumpers, you may place a jumper over one of the pins in a row which should be set to "off". As long as the jumper is not over both pins, the row is considered "off". This allows you to keep extra jumpers with the interface card without altering the COM/IRQ settings.

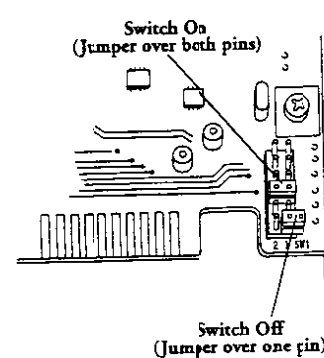


Figure 2-5: Setting Switches



1. Set switches 1-4 according to the table below to select the desired COM port.

To turn a switch ON, place the jumper over both pins. To turn a switch off do not place a jumper on the pins.

|      | 1-2 | 3-4 |
|------|-----|-----|
| COM1 | On  | On  |
| COM2 | Off | On  |
| COM3 | On  | Off |
| COM4 | Off | Off |

Table 1-: COM and IRQ Port Selection Jumper Settings

2. Set switches 1-4 according to the table below to select the desired IRQ.

To turn a switch ON, place the jumper over both pins. To turn a switch off do not place a jumper on the pins.

|      | 5-6 | 7-8 | 9-10 | 11-12 |
|------|-----|-----|------|-------|
| IRQ2 | On  | Off | Off  | Off   |
| IRQ3 | Off | On  | Off  | Off   |
| IRQ4 | Off | Off | On   | Off   |
| IRQ5 | Off | Off | Off  | On    |

Table 2-: COM and IRQ Port Selection Jumper Settings

3. If you are installing multiple interface cards, you might want to place a label on the metal plate of each card (the area which will be visible from the back of your computer when the card is installed) which indicates the line number to which this card will be assigned.

The line number for each interface card is assigned by the software in ascending order of COM port assignment. For example, if you have interface cards on COM1, COM3, and COM4 (the weather station would be on COM2 in this example), the interface cards would be assigned the following line numbers: COM1=Line 1, COM3=Line 2, COM4=Line 3.

## INSTALLING THE WEATHERTALKER INTERFACE CARD

Once you have set the switches on the WeatherTalker interface card for the desired COM port and IRQ, you may install the interface card in your computer.

1. Remove your computer's cover.
2. Select any available half-card slot and remove the slot cover.
3. To protect against damage to the interface card from electro-static discharge, attach one end of the disposable wrist strap to your wrist and the other end to an unpainted surface on your computer.
4. Carefully slide the interface card into the slot, applying even pressure until the card is completely seated in the slot.

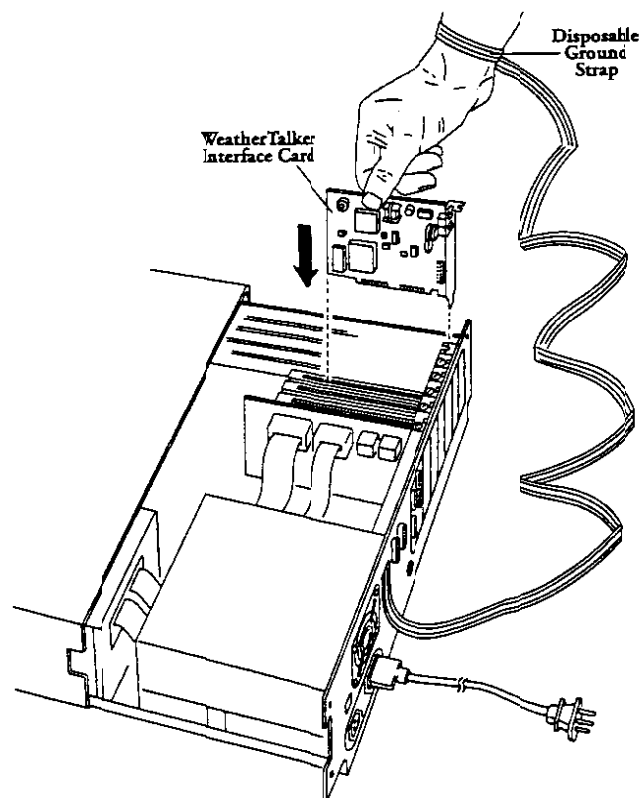


Figure 2-6: Installing the WeatherTalker Interface Card

5. Secure the interface card using the screw from the slot cover.

## WEATHERTALKER CONNECTIONS

The following sections describe how to connect the WeatherTalker to the components of your system.

### TYPICAL WEATHERTALKER INSTALLATION

The simplest installation involves connecting the interface card to your telephone line and to a phone, as shown in the illustration below. Connect your phone line to the jack marked LINE on the back of the interface card. Connect your telephone to the jack marked PHONE.

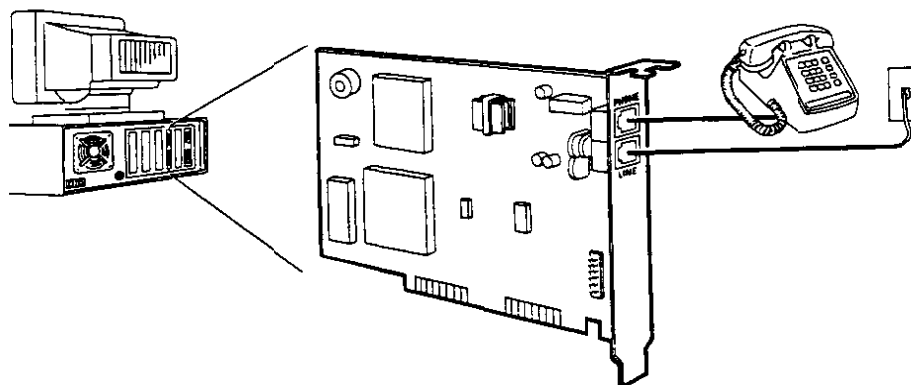


Figure 2-7: Connecting to WeatherTalker Interface Card

### CONNECTING TO "MUSIC ON HOLD"

You can connect the WeatherTalker to a telephone system with a "music on hold" feature. You may then use the WeatherTalker to provide weather information or promotional messages to callers who are on hold. To connect the WeatherTalker to your telephone system so that the WeatherTalker provides the "music on hold," connect one end of the 6' telephone cable (or a longer substitute) to the jack marked "LINE" on the back of the interface card. Cut the connector off the other end of the telephone cable, strip off a small amount of the insulation, and connect the two middle wires to the "music on hold" input of your telephone system. You will then need to configure the software by enabling the "music on hold" feature and specifying the line number of the WeatherTalker interface card's location from the Hardware Configuration screen (see "Hardware Configuration" on page 22).

## CONNECTING TO A RADIO

You can connect the WeatherTalker to a radio or other similar system (such as a P.A. system) to broadcast weather information and/or promotional messages to interested listeners. In this type of installation, a momentary contact electrical switch closure causes the WeatherTalker to begin playing/broadcasting. The WeatherTalker will play through your message once and then stop. The switch needs to be closed manually or via an automated method which you will need to set up yourself. You must provide the electrical switch yourself and must have an available parallel port.

To connect to a radio, connect one end of the 6' telephone cable (or a longer substitute) to the jack marked "LINE" on the back of the interface card. Cut the connector off the other end of the telephone cable, strip off a small amount of the insulation, and connect the two middle wires to the radio/P.A. system. To set up the electrical switch, connect a momentary contact electrical switch (normally open) between ground (pin 18) and the SLCT input (pin 13) of an available parallel port. The schematic on the following page illustrates this type of connection.

You will then need to configure the software by enabling the radio feature, specifying the WeatherTalker interface card's location, and specifying the parallel port from the Hardware Configuration screen (see "Hardware Configuration" on page 22).

**Note:** Once the system receives a switch closure, the playlist starts and plays from the line jack. All data bits (bits 0-7, pins 2-9) on the parallel port are brought high. When the WeatherTalker reaches the end of the playlist, all data bits are brought low and remain low until another switch closure occurs.

## EXTERNAL TRIGGER SCHEMATIC

The following schematic shows how to connect the WeatherTalker interface card to an externally triggered device.

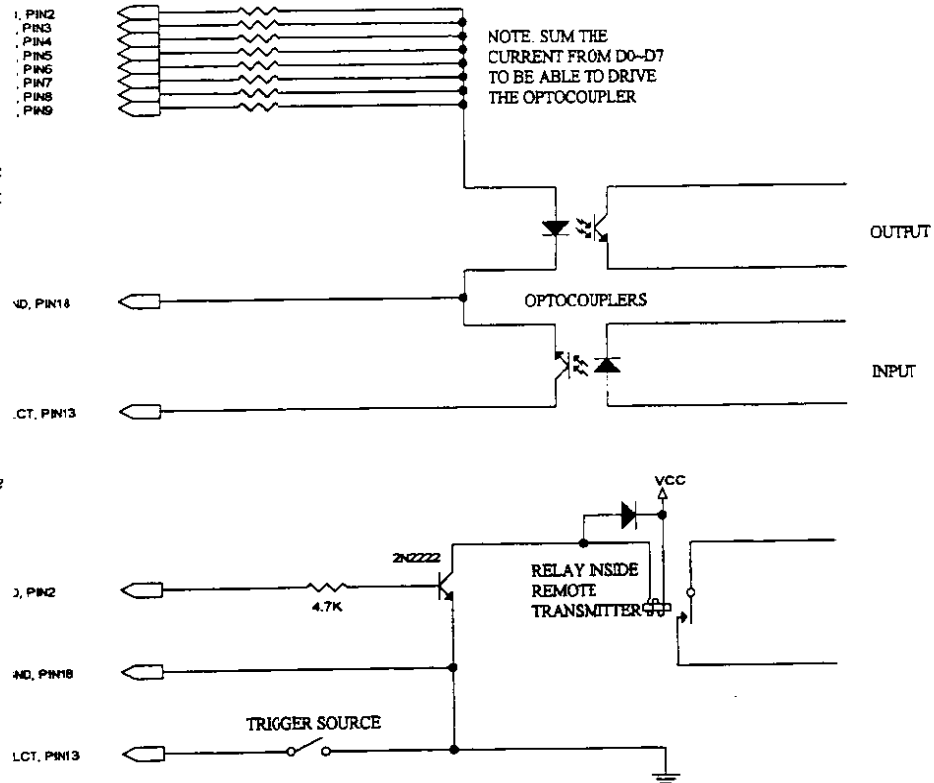


Figure 2-8: Schematic for Connection to Externally Triggered Device

## SOFTWARE INSTALLATION

Follow the directions below to install the WeatherTalker Software.

**Note:** Before installing the software, you should make sure that the WeatherTalker interface card has been configured for the correct COM port and IRQ. See "Configure the WeatherTalker Interface Card" on page 7.

1. Put the WeatherTalker installation diskette into your disk drive.

2. Type **A:\INSTALL**; press **[Enter]**.  
This begins the install program.

3. Follow the on-screen prompts to install the WeatherTalker software.

The install program allows you to specify the hard drive and directory, alter your start-up files so the computer boots directly into the WeatherTalker software, and choose a desired start-up mode of operation.

## RUNNING THE WEATHERTALKER SOFTWARE

1. At the DOS prompt, type **C:** and press **[Enter]**.

This changes you to the drive one which the software is located. If the software is not on drive C, type the appropriate drive letter instead.

2. Type **CD\WXLINE** and press **[Enter]**.

This changes you to the software directory. If the software is not in this directory, type the appropriate directory name instead.

3. To start the software, type **WXLINE** and press **[Enter]**.

## Chapter 3

# PROGRAM OPERATIONS

This chapter describes how to use the WeatherTalker Software. Note that the WeatherTalker Software accepts only keyboard input. You cannot use a mouse with the software. The following table indicates the basic keyboard commands used throughout the WeatherTalker software.

| KEYSTROKE                  | FUNCTION  |
|----------------------------|---|
| [Esc]                      | From any program configuration screen, [Esc] saves any changes made to configuration settings and returns to the previous program screen. From the main program screen, [Esc] exits the program.  |
| [Up] [Down] [Left] [Right] | Moves the cursor in the indicated direction. Use the arrow keys to "navigate" your way through the settings contained in the WeatherTalker's screens.   |
| [Enter]                    | Selects or allows you to change settings. Where you see a list of possible settings (e.g., COM port) use the arrow keys to highlight the desired setting and press [Enter] to select it. Where you see a single setting option (e.g., IRQ) or a numerical setting (e.g., WeatherLink Password), press [Enter] and then either select the desired setting from a list box or enter the desired setting using the keyboard. When you have the desired setting, press [Enter] again. |
| [F1]                       | From any program screen, pressing [F1] opens a context-sensitive help window.   |

Table 3-1: Keyboard Command

## SCREEN COMPONENTS

The illustration below shows the various components which, in general, make up the WeatherTalker software screens.

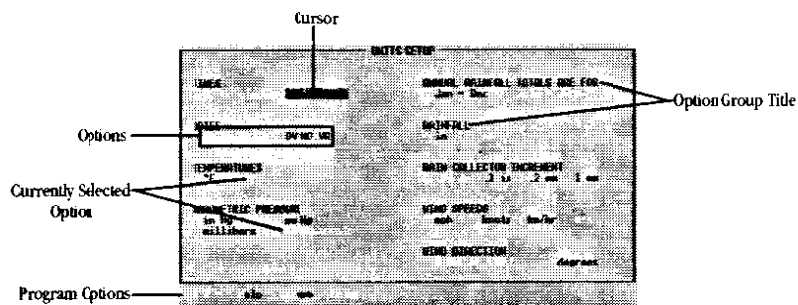


Figure 3-1: WeatherTalker Software Screen Components

### ◆ Option Group Title

The option group title tells you what this option controls. In the figure above, for example, "Annual Rainfall Totals Are For" allows you to specify whether you want your annual rainfall calendar to begin in July or in January. "Rainfall" allows you to set the units of measure in which you want rainfall reported (inches or millimeters).

### ◆ Options

The possible options appear below the option group title. In some cases, you may select an option and press **F7** to view or specify other options.

### ◆ Currently Selected Option

The currently selected option in any group appears different from the rest of the options in that group (e.g., the text is yellow on VGA monitors).

### ◆ Cursor

The bar (green on VGA monitors) highlighting one of the options in a group shows the current position of the cursor. The option "underneath" the cursor will also blink on and off.

### ◆ Program Options

The currently available program options always appear at the bottom of the screen. The available program options change depending on the screen you are currently viewing.

## Chapter 4

# USING THE SOFTWARE

## THE MAIN SCREEN

The illustration below shows the main WeatherTalker screen. The conditions shown on the main screen allow you to preview the weather information which the WeatherTalker will report over the phone and allow you to make adjustments, if necessary.

**Note:** Be aware that highs and lows, rainfall amounts, and barometric trend are tracked only when the WeatherTalker software is running. If you require complete accuracy from the WeatherTalker, you must manually change the readings shown on the main screen to match your weather station's readings every time you enter the WeatherTalker software.

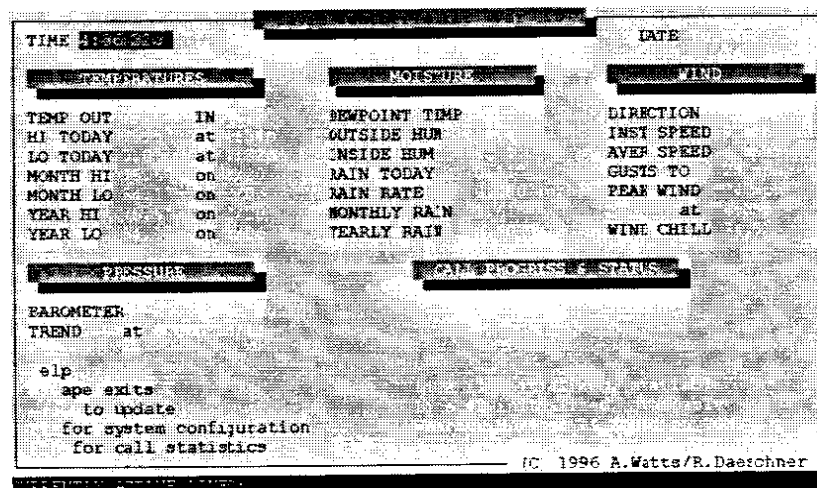


Figure 4-1: WeatherTalker Main Screen

#### ◆ Time and Date

The current time and date appear at the top of the main screen. You may change the time or date from the main screen. To change the time or date, select the desired option, press **Enter**, and then enter the time/date into the text box. When finished, press **Enter** again to save the time/date.

**Note:** Whenever you change the time, the software automatically calculates a "clock correction factor" which it uses to adjust the program's clock for inaccuracies in the PC's clock. Because further changing of the time from the main screen affects this clock correction factor, you may find that setting the correct time periodically tends to make the clock even more erratic, especially if you are not running the WeatherTalker continuously. If you are having difficulty with the software not keeping accurate time, reset the clock correction factor to 0 from the Hardware Configuration screen (see Clock Correction Factor on page 25).

#### ◆ Temperatures

The main screen displays the current outside temperature and the daily, monthly, and yearly highs and lows along with the date on which they occurred. You may change any of the daily, monthly, or yearly highs and lows (and the date of occurrence) to reflect a high or low which occurred before you began using the WeatherTalker. To change a high or low, select the desired high/low, press **Enter**, and then enter the high/low. Press **Enter** again and enter the date on which the high/low occurred. When finished, press **Enter** to save the high/low and the date.

#### ◆ Moisture

The main screen displays the current dew point temperature, current outside and inside humidity, current daily rainfall, current rate of rainfall, total rainfall for the month, and total rainfall for the year. You may change any of the rainfall totals (daily, monthly, yearly) to reflect rainfall amounts which occurred before you began using the WeatherTalker. To change a rainfall amount, select the desired option, press **Enter**, and then enter the amount. When finished, press **Enter** to save the rainfall amount.

#### ◆ Wind

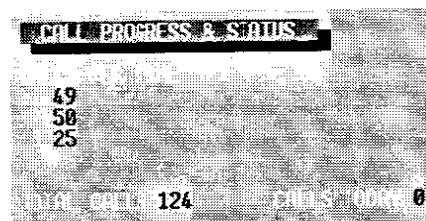
The main screen displays the current wind direction, the current wind speed (INST SPEED), the average wind speed since the WeatherTalker software has been running, the highest speed of wind gusts if the wind has been gusting, the high wind speed and the time at which it occurred (PEAK WIND), and the current wind chill. You may change the peak wind speed and the time at which it occurred. To change the peak wind speed, select it, press **Enter**, and then enter the peak speed. Press **Enter** again and enter the time at which the peak speed occurred. When finished, press **Enter** to save the peak speed and the time.

#### ◆ Pressure

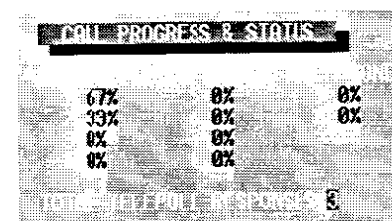
The main screen displays the current barometric pressure and the current barometric trend along with the time at which the trend was last updated. You may change the barometric pressure if you think the weather station is reading too high or too low. Any adjustment you make is saved and that adjustment is always applied to the barometric pressure read from the weather station. To change the pressure, select it, press **Enter**, and then enter the pressure. When finished, press **Enter** to save the barometric pressure.

#### ◆ Call Progress and Status

The Call Progress and Status area may be used to display three different pieces of information. Pressing **F3** switches you from one information display to the next. When you first begin the program, the standard call progress and status display appears, showing you what is being played on each of the available lines. Pressing **F3** displays the number of calls which have been made to each line. Pressing **F3** again displays the current results of the telepoll. To return to the call progress and status display, press **F3** again. Each of the displays is explained in slightly more detail below.



Calls Per Line Display



Telepoll Results Display

#### ◆ Call Progress and Status

The call progress and status display is a scrolling "transcript" of what the WeatherTalker program is doing. For example, you will see a line which tells you when a particular line (each "line" represents one of the WeatherTalker interface cards) is picked up, which snippet is currently playing on each line, and when the line is hung up.

#### ◆ Calls Per Line

The number of calls per line (each "line" represents one of the WeatherTalker interface cards) allows you to track the number of people calling your WeatherTalker phone system. You may change the number of calls per line (to clear the total, for example). To change the number of calls for a line, move the cursor to the desired line, enter the number of calls for that line, and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Telepoll Results Per Touch Tone

The telepoll results shows you the responses to each option in your telepoll (each option is represented by a number on the touch tone phone) as a percentage of the total responses to the telepoll. You may clear the telepoll results by changing the total telepoll responses number to zero. To clear the telepoll results, move the cursor to the total telepoll responses, type 0 (zero), and press **Enter**.

**Note:** You cannot change the total telepoll responses number to anything but zero.

#### ◆ Program Options

The program options available to you from the main screen appears at the bottom left of the main screen. In addition to those described above, you may press **H** to view a help screen, which describes the WeatherTalker's main screen or you may press **F4** to access the WeatherTalker software's System Configuration menu (see *WeatherTalker Program Screens* on page 21).

#### ◆ Currently Active Lines

The number of any line (each "line" represents one of the WeatherTalker interface cards) which is currently active appears at the bottom of the screen.

**Note:** If you have a line (WeatherTalker interface card) providing your "music on hold," that line will always appear active.

## WEATHERTALKER PROGRAM SCREENS

The following sections describe the various WeatherTalker program screens and how to use them to set up your WeatherTalker, access voice mail, record messages, etc. To access the configuration screens, press **F4** from the WeatherTalker's main screen. This will open the System Configuration screen.

**Note:** If you have any active lines due to incoming calls, connection to music on hold, or connection to a broadcast device, you must wait for each line to reach the end of its play list before the program will leave the main screen and show you the System Configuration screen.

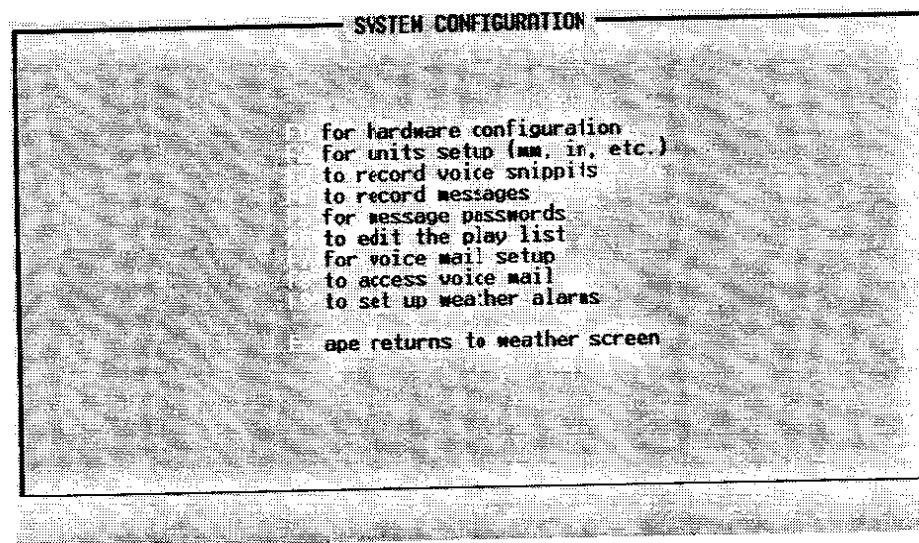


Figure 4-2: System Configuration Screen

This screen shows you all of the system configuration options available and the key which accesses that configuration screen.

## HARDWARE CONFIGURATION

To specify COM Port and IRQ for the WeatherTalker and weather station, recording and playback levels, "announcement-on-hold" and externally triggered line (broadcast) settings, etc., select Hardware Configuration by pressing **F2** from the System Configuration screen. The Hardware Configuration screen appears.

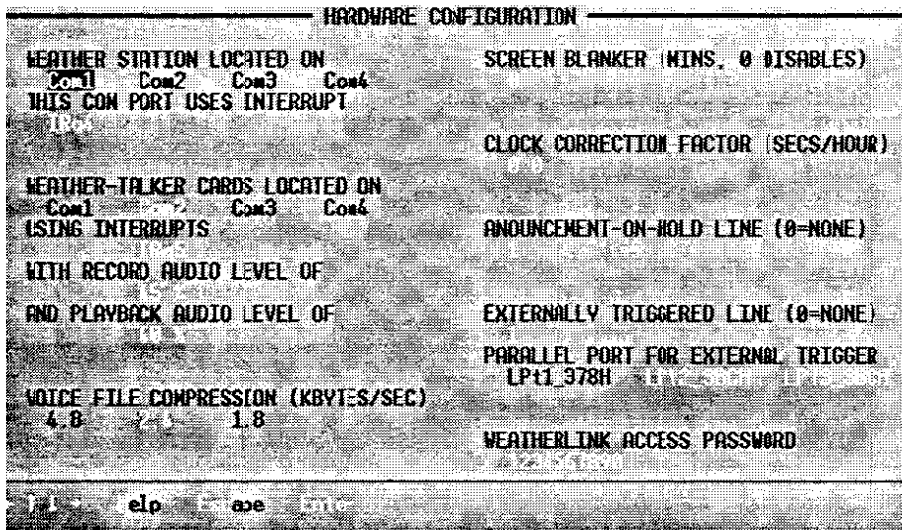


Figure 4-3: Hardware Configuration Screen.

You may select/set the following options:

### ◆ Weather Station Located On

Select the COM port to which your weather station is connected. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired COM port and press **F2**.

### ◆ This COM Port Uses Interrupt

Select the IRQ which the weather station's COM port uses. To change the setting, move the cursor to the currently selected IRQ and press **F2** to view a list of possible IRQs. Select the desired IRQ from the list and press **F2**.

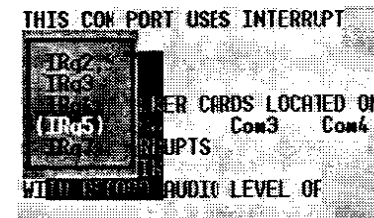


Figure 4-4: Changing Weather Station IRQ Setting

### ◆ Weather Talker Cards Located On

Select the COM ports on which your WeatherTalker interface cards are located. You may select more than one option from this option group, though you may not select the COM port to which the weather station is assigned. To select (or deselect) an option, move the cursor to the desired COM port. Press **F2** to select (or deselect) that COM port. Whenever you select a COM port, information appears for the next three option groups below that COM port. These settings apply only to that COM port (and the WeatherTalker interface card located on the port).

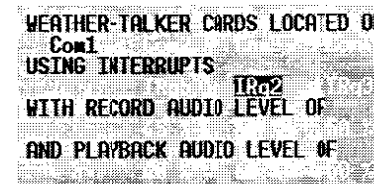


Figure 4-5: Multiple COM Ports Selected



#### ◆ Using Interrupt

Select the IRQ which the COM port listed directly above each option uses. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired IRQ and press **Enter** to view a list of possible IRQs. Select the desired IRQ from the list and press **Enter**.

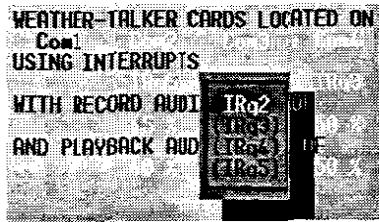


Figure 4-6: Changing WeatherTalker IRQ Setting

#### ◆ With Record Audio Level Of

Select the level at which the WeatherTalker using the COM port listed directly above each option records audio input (voice mail messages or user-recorded messages and snippets). To change the record level, move the cursor to the desired setting, type the desired record level (0 to 100, with 100 being the loudest), and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ And Playback Audio Level Of

Select the level at which the WeatherTalker using the COM port listed directly above each option plays audio input (voice mail messages, announcements, weather information, etc.). To change the playback level, move the cursor to the desired setting, type the desired playback level (0 to 100, with 100 being the loudest), and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Voice File Compression (KBytes/Sec)

Select the voice file compression setting. You may select either 4.8, 2.4, or 1.8 KBytes/Sec compression. A high compression setting (4.8 KBytes/Sec) produces higher audio quality but requires more disk space in which to store audio files. A low compression setting (1.8 KBytes/Sec) produces a lower audio quality, but requires less disk space in which to store audio files. Because the program can only play those voice files recorded using the selected compression setting, you cannot change compression settings without re-recording all snippets, messages and other voice files. In addition, you will not be able to listen to any voice mail messages received when using a different compression setting. *Change the compression setting with extreme caution and forethought.* To select a compression setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

**Note:** The voice files supplied with the program were created using a compression setting of 2.4 KBytes/Sec. If you want to use a different compression setting you will have to re-record all necessary voice files (snippets, etc.).

#### ◆ Screen Blanker

The WeatherTalker software includes a built-in screen blanker which will help prevent screen burn-in on systems where the software is left running continuously. You may specify the amount of time (in minutes) which must elapse without any keyboard input before the software blanks the screen. To disable the screen blanker, simply enter a 0 (zero). To change the setting, move the cursor to the screen blanker option, type the desired number of minutes, and press **Enter**.

**Note:** When the software has blanked the screen, press any key to view the main screen once again.

#### ◆ Clock Correction Factor

The WeatherTalker software features an automatic clock correction which helps to keep the WeatherTalker's time reading accurate despite the inaccuracy of your PC's clock. (Many older PC clocks are notoriously inaccurate.) Every hour, the WeatherTalker adds/subtracts the specified number of seconds from the time which the PC is reporting to arrive at the time it will display and report. The WeatherTalker automatically calculates a clock correction factor when you change the time from the main screen (see *Time and Date* on page 18). If you leave the WeatherTalker running at all times, this scheme works well to keep accurate time if your PC loses or gains a specific amount of time each hour. In many cases, however, you may find that you are having difficulty maintaining an accurate time reading. If this is the case, you should simply change the time and date from your PC and make sure the WeatherTalker's clock correction factor remains at 0 (zero).

To change the clock correction factor, move the cursor to the clock correction factor option, type the desired number of seconds, and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Announcement-On-Hold Line

Select the line (WeatherTalker interface card) which you have connected to the music-on-hold input of your phone system. To disable the announcement-on-hold, simply enter a 0 (zero). To change the announcement-on-hold line number, move the cursor to the announcement-on-hold line option, type the desired line number, and press **Enter**.

**Note:** If you have only one WeatherTalker interface card installed, it is always line number 1. If you have multiple interface cards installed, the line number for each interface card is assigned by the software in ascending order of COM port assignment. For example if you have interface cards on COM1, COM3, and COM4 (the weather station would be on COM2 in this example), the interface cards would be assigned the following line numbers: COM1=Line 1, COM3=Line 2, COM4=Line 3.

#### ◆ Externally Triggered Line

Select the line (WeatherTalker interface card) which you have connected to an externally triggered line (like a radio). To disable the externally triggered line, simply enter a 0 (zero). To change the externally triggered line number, move the cursor to the externally triggered line option, type the desired line number, and press **Enter**.

**Note:** If you have only one WeatherTalker interface card installed, it is always line number 1. If you have multiple interface cards installed, the line number for each interface card is assigned by the software in ascending order of COM port assignment. For example, if you have interface cards on COM1, COM3, and COM4 (the weather station would be on COM2 in this example), the interface cards would be assigned the following line numbers: COM1=Line 1, COM3=Line 2, COM4=Line 3.

#### ◆ Parallel Port for External Trigger

Select the parallel port through which you want to trigger the external device. To change your selection, move the cursor to the desired parallel port and press **Enter**.

**Note:** You will only be able to change this option when the Externally Triggered Line option is not disabled.

#### ◆ WeatherLink Access Password

If you wish to make a remote connection (that is, by modem) to the weather station using the WeatherLink software, you may use the this access password to "bypass" the WeatherTalker. You must add this password to the end of the phone number entered in the Serial Port dialog box of the WeatherLink software. The example below shows a typical phone number entry.

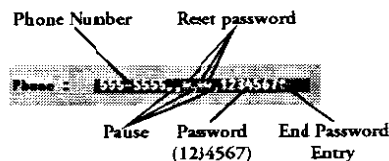


Figure 4-7: Phone Number Entry for WeatherLink Access

The commas (,) create pauses to give the WeatherTalker enough time to answer the call and process information. The asterisks (\*) reset the password entry procedure (see *General Information* starting on page 81) which give the WeatherTalker a better chance to recognize the beginning of the password. The number sign (#) indicates that the password entry is finished.

To enter the WeatherLink access password, move the cursor to the WeatherLink access password option and type the desired password. Press **Enter** when finished. A password can contain up to 10 characters.

### UNITS SETUP

To specify the units in which you want the various weather conditions reported, select Units Setup by pressing F2 from the System Configuration screen. The Units Setup screen appears.

Figure 4-8: Units Setup Screen.

You may select the units of measure/format for the following conditions:

#### ◆ Time

Select either 12-hour or 24-hour clock format. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Dates

Select either MO/DY/YR (4/19/1996) or DY.MO.YR (19.4.1996) date format. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Temperatures

Select either °F or °C. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

**Note:** All temperature related information (such as wind chill and dew point) will be reported in the selected unit of measure.

#### ◆ Barometric Pressure

Select either inches of mercury (in Hg), millimeters of mercury (mm Hg), millibars, or hectopascals. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Annual Rainfall Totals Are For

Select the period you want your total rainfall amounts to represent: January to December or July to June. The WeatherTalker automatically clears total rainfall at the start of a new "year." To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Rainfall

Select either inches (in) or millimeters (mm). To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Rain Collector Increment

Select the increment in which your rain collector measures: .0 in, .1 in, .2 mm, or 1 mm. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Wind Speeds

Select either miles per hour (mph), knots, kilometers per hour (kph), or meters per second (ms). To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

#### ◆ Wind Direction

Select whether you want wind direction reported to the nearest compass point (N, NNE, NE, ENE, E, ... ) or in degrees. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

## RECORD VOICE SNIPPETS

"Snippets" represent the fragmentary sound files which make up the reports made by the WeatherTalker. For example, the sentence "The current time is 2:23 PM" is made up of four separate snippets, connected together (TIME.VOI, 2.VOI, 23.VOI, and PM.VOI). Snippets should not be confused with messages (see *Record Messages* on page 31) which are full length recordings of voice mail greetings, promotional information, etc. To edit snippets, choose Record Voice Snippets by pressing **F3** from the System Configuration screen. The Voice Snippet Recording Utility screen appears.

| VOICE SNIPPET RECORDING UTILITY |                                     |  |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| NAME                            | EXISTS?                             | DESCRIPTION  |
| QUESTION.VOI                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (the telepoll question, could also include a hello)                      |
| RESULTS.VOI                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (the telepoll goodbye, perhaps stating how/when to find out the results) |
| 0.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | (zero thru one hundred)  |
| 1.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 2.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 3.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 4.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 5.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 6.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 7.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 8.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 9.VOI                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 10.VOI                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 11.VOI                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 12.VOI                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 13.VOI                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |
| 14.VOI                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |  |

elo    ap    lay    record    \* reset\_file

Figure 4-9: Voice Snippet Recording Utility Screen

The Voice Snippet Recording Utility screen displays the following information about each voice snippet:

#### ◆ Name

The file name of the snippet. Each file has a .VOI file extension.

#### ◆ Exists?

A check mark in this column indicates that this snippet is currently saved in the \WXLINE directory. If the snippet file has been erased, damaged, moved, or is otherwise missing, no check mark appears.

#### ◆ Description

A description of what the snippet contains appears in this column.

You have the following options from the Voice Snippet Recording Utility screen:

#### ◆ Browse the List

To browse the list, press **↑** or **↓** to move up or down one line at a time. Press **↶** or **↷** to move up and down one screen at a time.

#### ◆ Play a Snippet

To play a snippet, browse the list until the desired snippet is highlighted, then press **[P]**. The WeatherTalker software will play that snippet through your telephone. Press any key to stop the snippet from playing.

#### ◆ Record a Snippet

To record a snippet, move the cursor to the desired snippet. Pickup your telephone handset, and press **[R]**. Wait until you hear a beep then speak into your handset to record the snippet. When finished recording, press any key.

**Note:** Be careful not to include too much "lead" space before or after your snippet recording. Otherwise you may end up with unnatural pauses between words or phrases which use that snippet. Trial-and-error is the best method for discovering the proper cadence.

#### ◆ Erase a Snippet

To erase a snippet, browse the list until the desired snippet is highlighted, then press **[Ctrl]E**. The WeatherTalker erases that file from your hard disk, but retains its listing in the snippet list, in case you ever want to re-record that snippet.

## RECORD MESSAGES

To record messages for use as announcements, advertisements, or promotions in the play list (see *Edit the Play List* on page 36), select Record Messages by pressing **[M]** from the System Configuration screen. The Message File Editing Utility screen appears.

| MESSAGE FILE EDITING UTILITY |         |  |         |
|------------------------------|---------|--|---------|
| MESSAGE                      | EXISTS? | DESCRIPTION                            | ACTIVE? |
| 0                            |         | Monthly Special                        |         |
| 1                            |         | Voice Mail Greeting (Nobody Available) |         |
| 2                            |         | Voice Mail Greeting (After Hours)      |         |
| 3                            |         | Address and Directions                 |         |
| 4                            |         | Promo for Sale Item                    |         |
| 5                            |         |  |         |
| 6                            |         |  |         |
| 7                            |         |  |         |
| 8                            |         |  |         |
| 9                            |         |  |         |
| 10                           |         |  |         |
| 11                           |         |  |         |
| 12                           |         |  |         |
| 13                           |         |  |         |
| 14                           |         |  |         |
| 15                           |         |  |         |
| 16                           |         |  |         |
| 17                           |         |  |         |

elp toggle fields description      play record      + erase file

Figure 4-10: Message File Editing Utility Screen

The Message File Editing Utility screen displays the following information about each message:

#### ◆ Message

The number of each message. The message number is very important when assigning messages to the playlist. On the disk, each message file is stored in the following format: MSG#.VOI.

#### ◆ Exists?

A check mark in this column indicates that this message is currently saved in the \WXLINE directory. If the message file has been erased, damaged, moved, or is otherwise missing, no check mark appears.

#### ◆ Description

A description of what the message contains appears in this column. You may edit this information.

#### ◆ Active

A check mark in this column indicates that all time/date requirements for playing this message are currently being met. It allows you to visually check that you have set your time/date requirements correctly.

You have the following options from the Message File Editing Utility screen:

#### ◆ Browse the List

To browse the list, press **↑** or **↓** to move up or down one line at a time. Press **↶** or **↷** to move up and down one screen at a time.

#### ◆ Play a Message

To play a message, browse the list until the desired message is highlighted, then press **▶**. The WeatherTalker software will play that message through your telephone. Press any key to stop the message from playing.

#### ◆ Record a Message

To record a message, move the cursor to the message number. Pick up your telephone handset, and press **▶**. Wait until you hear a beep then speak into your handset to record the message. When finished recording, press any key.

**Note:** Be careful not to include too much "dead" space before or after your message recording. Otherwise you may end up with long pauses between messages in your playlist.

#### ◆ Erase a message

To erase a message, browse the list until the desired message is highlighted, then press **Ctrl+E**. The WeatherTalker erases that file from your hard disk and removes the information about it from the list.

#### ◆ Edit Message Description

To edit the description of a message, browse the list until the desired message is highlighted, then press **▶**. Enter the new description of the message in the text box and press **Enter** when finished.

#### ◆ Set Time/Date Requirements for Messages

You may set time and date requirements for any message. For example, you may want a message to play only during business hours or you may want a message to play during only one month of the year. To set time/date requirements for messages, press **⏏** (Toggle). This switches you to the time/date requirements part of the Message File Editing Utility screen. To return to the main part of the Message File Editing Utility screen, press **⏏** again.

| MESSAGE FILE EDITING UTILITY |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
|------------------------------|---------|------|------------|------|----------|-----------|---------|
| MESSAGE                      | EXISTS? | DATE | START TIME | DATE | END TIME | ACTIVE ON | ACTIVE? |
| 0                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 1                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 2                            |         |      | 8:00a      |      | 9:00p    | NTuWThFSa |         |
| 3                            |         |      | 9:00p      |      | 8:00a    | NTuWThFSa |         |
| 4                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 5                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 6                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 7                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 8                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 9                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 10                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 11                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 12                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 13                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 14                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 15                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 16                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
| 17                           |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |

elp toggle\_fields      \_ape   lay   record   \* erase\_file

Figure 4-11. Setting Time/Date Requirements for Messages

In addition to the information and options described for the main part of the Message File Editing Utility screen, you may change the following settings for each message from this screen:

#### ◆ Start Time and Date

You may specify the time and/or date at which this message first becomes active. To enter the time or date, move the cursor to the desired field and type the time or date. Note that you must enter the full year (i.e., 1996) and not just the last two numbers. When finished, press **Enter**.

#### ◆ End Time and Date

You may specify the time and/or date after which this message is no longer active. To enter the time or date, move the cursor to the desired field and type the time or date. Note that you must enter the full year (i.e., 1996) and not just the last two numbers.

## Active On

To select the days of the week on which this message should be active, move the cursor to the Active On field for the desired message and press **[Enter]**. Abbreviations for each day of the week appear in the field. To select a day, move the cursor to the desired abbreviation and press the space bar. Repeat this procedure for any other days you want selected. When finished, press **[Enter]**.



Figure 4-12: Selecting Days

The WeatherTalker allows you to record and listen to messages from a remote location using only a touch tone phone (see *Message Recording* on page 33). You may, however, use a password to prevent unauthorized use of this feature. You can specify passwords for a single message or for a whole range of messages. Only specify a password for messages to which you want remote access. If you specify no password for a message, remote access to that message is completely disabled. (For example, if you entered no passwords at all, remote access would be impossible for all messages.) To specify passwords for remote message recording, select Message Passwords by pressing **[F5]** from the System Configuration screen. The Passwords for Remote Message Access screen appears.

[illegible]

Figure 4-13: Passwords for Remote Message Access Screen

◆ Browse the List

To browse the list, press **↑** or **↓** to move up or down one line at a time. Press **↑** or **↓** to move up and down one screen at a time.

#### ❖ Enter a Password

To enter a password, move the cursor to the desired field and type the password. When finished entering the password, press **Enter**. A password can contain up to 10 characters.

**Note:** For features (other than voice mail) with a remote access password, the password not only indicates that you should have access to a particular feature but also indicates to which feature you want access. Therefore the following features must have completely distinct passwords: Message Recording (page 35), Telepoll (page 41), WeatherLink Access Password (page 26), and Alarms (page 48). If you do not enter a unique password for these features, some of them will not be accessible from a remote phone.

#### ❖ Enter a Message Range

To enter the message range to which a password limits access, move the cursor to the desired field. Enter the desired message number and press **Enter**. Repeat this procedure for both the starting and ending message numbers for a password, as desired. The message range indicates the message numbers (inclusive) to which this password limits access.

#### ❖ Delete a Password

To delete a password, highlight the desired password and press **Del**.

### EDIT THE PLAY LIST

A play list refers to the entire message structure which the WeatherTalker interface card plays. It can include many pre-programmed pieces of information which come from your weather station, messages you have recorded (see *Record Messages* on page 31), a menu system which allows the user to select different options including voice mailboxes

(see *Voice Mail Setup* on page 40) and much more. For detailed information on creating playlists, Chapter 5, *Creating a Play List*, starting on page 51. To edit and create play lists, select Edit the Play List by pressing **F6** from the System Configuration screen. The Play List Editor screen appears.

| PLAY LIST EDITOR                                       |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S)                          |  | OPTIONS   |
| 1  | 2  | 3   |
| Answer<br>Message 0<br>Main Menu                       | Tone = 1<br>Message 2<br>Message 3<br>Sub Menu | Tone = 1<br>Mailbox 1<br>Go to Sub Menu   |
|  |  | Message<br>Rotated Messages<br>Menu<br>Mailbox<br>Mailboxes<br>Page System Op<br>Telepoll<br>Greeting<br>Time in Minutes<br>Time in Seconds<br>Current Temp<br>Inside Temp<br>Wind Direction<br>Wind Speed<br>Day Wind Peak<br>Wind Chill |
| elp    ape    ew_list    assign_list    ee_other_lists |  |   |

Figure 4-14: Play List Editor Screen

The left side of the screen shows the structure of the playlist. When you first enter this screen you will always see the first layer of the play list assigned to line 1. Above the play list structure you will see a number (or a series of numbers). These numbers indicate the lines to which this particular play list is assigned (e.g., the line out of which this play list is played). On the right of the screen are the various options you may put into the play list. You use these options as the building blocks for your play list.

You have the following options from the Play List Editor screen:

#### ♦ Add an Item to a Play List

The procedure below briefly describes the procedure for adding an item to the play list. For a more detailed description of the process see *The Building Blocks* starting on page 52.

1. Use the arrow keys to position the cursor over the item in the play list after which you want the new item to appear.
2. Press **[F2]** to move the cursor to the list of options.
3. Use the arrow keys to position the cursor over the desired item in the list of options.
4. Press **[Enter]** to insert that item into the play list.

Before the software inserts the item into the play list, you may need to enter a message or a voice mailbox number. To do so, type the desired number and press **[Enter]** again. After you do so, the software will automatically insert the item into the play list.

**Note:** If you select a message number which does not exist or is not active (see *Record Messages* on page 31), the message number will appear in parentheses in the play list.

#### ♦ Delete an Item from a Play List

To delete an item from the play list, move the cursor to that item and press **[F2]**.

#### ♦ Create a New Play List

To create a new play list, press **[N]**. The software will give you a "clean" template (the only two items will be "Answer" and "Hang Up") for use in creating a new playlist.

**Note:** The WeatherTalker software only saves play lists which are assigned to a line. If you have a playlist which is not assigned to a line, it will be deleted when you exit the program.

#### ♦ View Other Play Lists

If you have more than one play list, press **[S]** to cycle through the available play lists. The play lists are displayed in order of their line assignment.

#### ♦ Assign a Play List to a Line

You must assign a play list to a line in order to use it. Follow the procedure below to assign a play list to a line.

**Note:** Once you have assigned a play list to a line, the only way to remove it is to assign a different play list to that line.

1. Press **[S]** until the desired play list appears.
2. Press **[A]**.

All available line numbers appear at the top of the play list window.



Figure 4-15: Assigning Play List to a Line

3. Move the cursor to select the desired line.

4. To select a line, press the space bar.

You may assign a play list to more than one line. To do so, simply select all desired lines, using the procedure described above.

5. When finished, press **[F2]**.

The selected lines appear at the top of the play list window.



Figure 4-16: Play List Assigned to Line 2



## VOICE MAIL SETUP

To configure the voice mail system and the telepoll system, select Voice Mail Setup by pressing **F7** from the System Configuration screen. The Voice Mail Configuration screen appears.

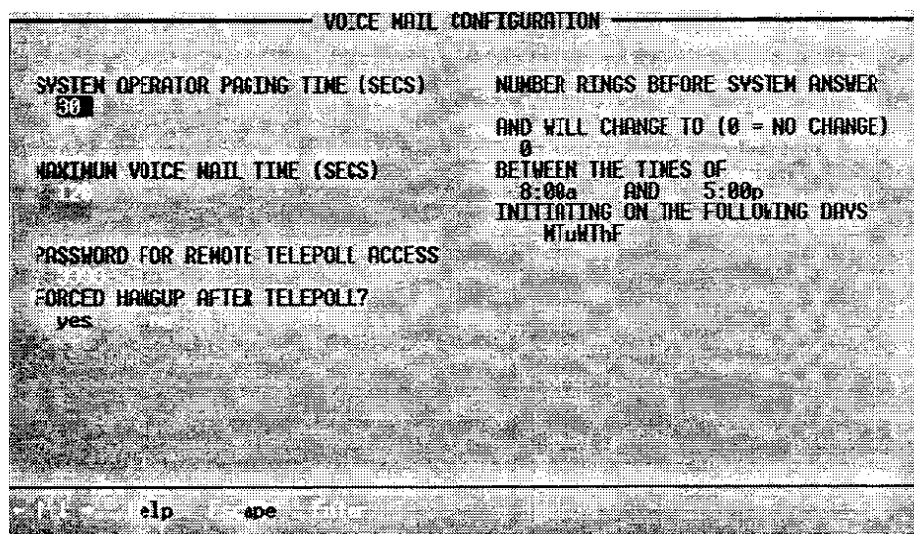


Figure 4-17: Voice Mail Configuration Screen

You have the following options from the Voice Mail Configuration Screen:

### ◆ System Operator Paging Time

One of the options you may build into your play lists is paging the system operator (see *Page System Op* on page 55). You may set the maximum time (in seconds) you want the system to wait for the system operator to pick up the phone. If the system operator does not pick up the phone after the set time, the WeatherTalker informs the caller that no one is available and moves on to the next item in the play list. To change the setting, move the cursor to this option and type the desired number of seconds (up to 256 seconds). When finished, press **Enter**.

### ◆ Maximum Voice Mail Time

Because sound files require relatively large amounts of disk space, you may want to limit the length of the voice mail messages left for you. To enter a maximum voice mail length (in seconds), move the cursor to this option and enter the desired number of seconds (up to 256). When finished, press **Enter**.

### ◆ Password for Remote Telepoll Access

If you want to be able to retrieve telepoll results from a remote phone, enter a password for telepoll access. (see *Telepoll* on page 82 for instructions on retrieving telepoll results from a remote phone.) If you do not enter a password, you will not be able to access telepoll results from a remote phone. To enter a password, move the cursor to this option and type the password. When finished entering the password, press **Enter**. A password can contain up to 10 digits.

**Note:** For features (other than voice mail) with a remote access password the password not only indicates that you should have access to a particular feature but also indicates to which feature you want access. Therefore the following features must have completely distinct passwords: Message Recording (page 35), Telepoll (page 41), WeatherLink Access Password (page 26), and Alarms (page 48). If you do not enter a unique password for these features, some of them will not be accessible from a remote phone.

### ◆ Forced Hangup After Telepoll

You can configure the telepoll feature to automatically hang up after a caller registers his/her vote (to prevent anyone from easy "ballot stuffing," for example). If you select "yes," the system automatically hangs up after a vote is registered. If you select "no," the system does not hang up as long as there are more items in the play list beyond the telepoll. To change the setting, move the cursor to the desired option and press **Enter**.

### ◆ Number Rings Before System Answer

You may specify the number of rings before the system answers the telephone. To have the system automatically answer all calls, set this option to 1. Otherwise, enter a number of rings which will allow you time to pick up the phone before the system, if desired. To change the setting, move the cursor to this option and enter the desired number of rings (up to 9). When finished, press **Enter**.

### ◆ And Will Change To

The next three options allow you to change the number of rings which occur before the system picks up during a specific time. For example, you might want the phone to ring four times before the system picks up during the day and only ring once at night. To change the number of rings which occur during the second time period, move the cursor to this option and enter the new number of rings (enter 0 for no change in the number of rings).

### ◆ Between the Times of

You may specify the time frame during which the changed number of rings should be active. For example, if you only want the change to be in effect when your business is open, enter your opening time in the first field and your closing time in the second. To change the time frame, move the cursor to the desired option and type the desired time. When finished, press **Enter**.

#### ♦ Initiating on the Following Days

You may specify the day on which the changed number of rings should be active. For example, if you only want the change to be in effect when your business is open, select only those days of the week on which your business is open. To change the active days, move the cursor to the desired abbreviation and press the space bar. Repeat this procedure for any other days you want selected. When finished, press **Enter**.

### ACCESS VOICE MAIL

To access the WeatherTalker's voice mailboxes from the WeatherTalker software, select Access Voice Mail by pressing **F5** from the System Configuration screen. The Mailbox Directory screen appears.

**Note:** You will need to place voice mailboxes into your playlist (see Mailbox on page 54) in order to use the WeatherTalker's voice mail capabilities.

| MAILBOX DIRECTORY |             |          |            |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| MAILBOX           | DESCRIPTION | NEW MAIL | TOTAL MAIL |
| 00                |             |          |            |
| 01                |             |          |            |
| 02                |             |          |            |
| 03                |             |          |            |
| 04                |             |          |            |
| 05                |             |          |            |
| 06                |             |          |            |
| 07                |             |          |            |
| 08                |             |          |            |
| 09                |             |          |            |
| 10                |             |          |            |
| 11                |             |          |            |
| 12                |             |          |            |
| 13                |             |          |            |
| 14                |             |          |            |
| 15                |             |          |            |
| 16                |             |          |            |
| 17                |             |          |            |

change\_password   description   help   open   mailbox

Figure 4-18: Mailbox Directory Screen

The Mailbox Directory screen displays the following information for each mailbox:

#### ♦ Mailbox

The mailbox number appears in this column. You will need to know the mailbox number in order to place a voice mailbox into a play list (see Mailbox on page 54) or to access voice mail over the phone (see Voice Mail on page 82).

#### ♦ Description

A brief description of what this mailbox is used for appears in this column. You may enter this information yourself.

#### ♦ New Mail

If there is any new mail, the number of new messages appears in this column. Once you listen to a message (see Play a Message on page 45), it is no longer counted in this column.

#### ♦ Total Mail

The total number of mail messages (new and saved) in the mailbox appears in this column. Message are counted for this column until you delete them (see Erase a Message on page 45).

You have the following options from the Mailbox Directory screen:

#### ♦ Browse the List

To browse the list, press **↑** or **↓** to move up or down one line at a time. Press **Page Up** or **Page Down** to move up and down one screen at a time.

#### ♦ Change the Description for a Mailbox

To edit the description of a mailbox, browse the list until the desired mailbox is highlighted, then press **F2**. Enter the new description of the mailbox and press **Enter** when finished.

#### ♦ Enter the Password for a Mailbox

You may limit access to mailboxes by assigning a password to that mailbox. If you do not enter a password anyone may listen to or delete mail in that mailbox from a remote phone. To enter (or change) a password, browse the list until the desired mailbox is highlighted then press **F3**. Type the desired password into the text box and press **Enter** when finished. A password can contain up to 10 digits.



Figure 4-19: Enter/Change Password



## SET UP WEATHER ALARMS

The WeatherTalker features a special alarm notification system (weather alarm system) which will alert you with a telephone call if an alarm point has been exceeded by calling the phone number(s) you specify and reporting which condition triggered the alarm and the current reading of that alarm. You may enable the weather alarm system for only those conditions which concern you and set the alarm trigger points using the WeatherTalker software. You may also specify two phone numbers and the software will try the second number if it cannot contact you (the line is busy or not answered), at the first number.

Whenever an alarm is triggered (the current reading is the same as or higher than a high alarm trigger point or the current reading is the same as or lower than the low alarm trigger point), the software automatically dials the primary number. The WeatherTalker begins to report that an alarm has been triggered *as soon as it has dialed* so you may pick up in the middle of the message, depending on how many rings occur before you pick up. The WeatherTalker prompts you to "press 1" to hear the current reading for the condition triggering the alarm. Because the WeatherTalker begins "speaking" as soon as it dials, it repeats the message four times (or until someone "presses 1") before hanging up.

If the line is busy, not answered, or if nobody "presses 1" (for example, if your answering machine picks up) the software waits one minute and then tries again. As long as the alarm condition persists, the software will continue to call the primary number once a minute until someone answers (and "presses 1") or until it has attempted to call as many times as you have specified that it should. After that, it will try the secondary number, once a minute, until someone answers or until it has attempted to call as many times as you have specified that it should. After the WeatherTalker attempts the specified amount of calls to the secondary phone number, it "gives up" trying to call. If the reading drops below the high alarm point or rises above the low alarm point, the WeatherTalker will cancel the weather alarm system, whether someone has answered one of its calls or not.

The WeatherTalker makes an alarm call the first time an alarm is triggered and, as described above, continues to try until someone answers or until it "gives up." In either case, the software will not make another alarm call for that condition unless the alarm is re-triggered. An alarm is re-triggered only if the condition shifts so it is no longer triggering the alarm and then shifts once again so it is triggering the alarm. (For example, if the high humidity alarm trigger point is 75% the alarm would be triggered if the humidity rose to 75% or more. Once triggered, it would be

re-triggered only if the humidity fell below 75% and then rose to 75% or more once again.) If you want the WeatherTalker to call if alarm conditions persist (without having to be re-triggered), you may set a "recycle time" after which the WeatherTalker will attempt to call once again and report the alarm condition.

To configure the weather alarm system, select Set Up Weather Alarms by pressing **F9** from the System Configuration screen. The Alarm Setup screen appears.

| ALARM SETUP                   |      |   |
|-------------------------------|------|---|
| ALARM MODE<br><b>Disabled</b> |      | NUMBER OF TIMES TO TRY<br>PRIMARY SECONDARY |
| PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER          |      | RECYCLE TIME (MINS, 0=DISABLED)             |
| SECONDARY PHONE NUMBER        |      | ALARM REMOTE ACCESS PASSWORD                |
| ALARM CONDITIONS              |      | TRIGGER VALUE                               |
| HIGH OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE      | N.A. | N.A.  |
| LOW OUTSIDE TEMPERATURE       | N.A. | N.A.  |
| HIGH INSIDE TEMPERATURE       | N.A. | N.A.  |
| LOW INSIDE TEMPERATURE        | N.A. | N.A.  |
| LOW WIND CHILL TEMP           | N.A. | N.A.  |
| HIGH WIND SPEED               | N.A. | N.A.  |
| DEW POINT TEMPERATURE         | N.A. | N.A.  |
| HIGH OUTSIDE HUMIDITY         | N.A. | N.A.  |
| LOW OUTSIDE HUMIDITY          | N.A. | N.A.  |
| HIGH INSIDE HUMIDITY          | N.A. | N.A.  |
| LOW INSIDE HUMIDITY           | N.A. | N.A.  |
| FALLING BARO PRESSURE         | N.A. | N.A.  |

Figure 4-23: Alarm Setup Screen

You may select/set the following options from the Alarm Setup screen:

### ◆ Alarm Mode

You may enable or disable the weather alarm system. To change the setting, move the cursor to the alarm mode option and press **F9**. The WeatherTalker software switches the setting from enabled to disabled (or vice-versa).

### ◆ Primary Phone Number

You may specify two phone numbers for the WeatherTalker to call when an alarm trigger point is met or exceeded. The primary phone number is the one the WeatherTalker will try first. To enter or change the number, move the cursor to the primary phone number option and type the desired phone number. When finished, press **F9**.

#### ❖ Secondary Phone Number

You may specify two phone numbers for the WeatherTalker to call when an alarm trigger point is met or exceeded. The WeatherTalker will call the secondary phone number if it fails to get an answer at the primary phone number. To enter or change the number, move the cursor to the secondary phone number option and type the desired phone number. When finished, press **Enter**.

#### ❖ Number of Times To Try (Primary/Secondary)

You may specify the number of times the WeatherTalker should try to call the primary and the secondary phone number before giving up. To enter/change this option move the cursor to the number of times to try option (either primary or secondary) and type the desired number of tries. When finished, press **Enter**.

#### ❖ Recycle Time

You may enter the time (in minutes) you want the software to wait before calling again to inform you that alarm conditions continue to exist for a particular weather condition. The WeatherTalker will call after the specified number of minutes only if the alarm conditions have continued the entire time. Otherwise, it will call as soon as the alarm is re-triggered. To enter/change the recycle time, move the cursor to the recycle time option and type the desired number of minutes. When finished, press **Enter**.

#### ❖ Alarm Remote Access Password

If you want to be able to enable and disable the weather alarm system from a remote phone, enter a password for alarm remote access. (See *Alarm Enable/Disable* on page 84 for instructions on using the weather alarm system from a remote phone.) If you do not enter a password, you will not be allowed to enable/disable the alarm feature from a remote phone. To enter a password, move the cursor to this option and type the password. When finished entering the password, press **Enter**. A password can contain up to 10 digits.

**Note:** For features (other than voice mail) with a remote access password, the password not only indicates that you should have access to a particular feature but also indicates to which feature you want access. Therefore the following features must have completely distinct passwords: Message Recording (page 35), Telepoll (page 41), WeatherLink Access Password (page 26), and Alarms (page 48). If you do not enter a unique password for these features, some of them will not be accessible from a remote phone.

#### ❖ Individual Alarms Enable/Disable

From the software, you may enable the weather alarm system for individual weather conditions. For example, you might only want to be notified if the outside temperature exceeds the alarm trigger point. To change the setting for an individual alarm, move the cursor to the desired line and press **Enter**. The WeatherTalker software switches the setting from enabled to disabled (or vice-versa).

#### ❖ Alarm Trigger Points

You may specify the alarm trigger point for any weather condition. To set the alarm trigger point, move the cursor to the desired weather condition and type the desired trigger point. When finished, press **Enter**.

**Note:** The Alarm trigger point is stored separately from the weather station's alarm settings. If you want to change the weather station's alarm setting, you must do it manually.

## Chapter 5

### CREATING A PLAY LIST

This section describes all of the components and procedures necessary to creating your own play lists. It includes a step-by-step tutorial (see *Record the menu options*, on page 59) which you can follow to help you better understand how to create a play list.



| PLAY LIST EDITOR   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S)                                |   | OPTIONS  |
| 1 2 3  | <p>Answer</p> <p>Message 0</p> <p>Main Menu</p>                   | <p>Message</p> <p>Rotated Messages</p> <p>Menu</p> <p>Mailbox</p> <p>Mailboxes</p> <p>Page System Op</p> <p>Telepoll</p> <p>Greeting</p> <p>Time in Minutes</p> <p>Time in Seconds</p> <p>Current Temp</p> <p>Inside Temp</p> <p>Wind Direction</p> <p>Wind Speed</p> <p>Day Wind Peak</p> <p>Wind Chill</p> |
|  | <p>Tone = 1</p> <p>Message 2</p> <p>Message 3</p> <p>Sub Menu</p> |  |
|  | <p>Tone = 1</p> <p>Mailbox 1</p> <p>Go to Sub Menu</p>            |  |
| <p>elp    ape    ew_list    ssign_list    ee_other_lists</p> |   |  |

Figure 5-1: Play List Editor Screen

## WHAT IS A PLAY LIST


A play list is a set of instructions which tell the WeatherTalker software what information to report and what options to access. It allows you to customize your WeatherTalker to fit your exact needs. The process of creating a playlist may seem daunting at first, but after a short time, you should be able to grasp the basic concepts necessary to create a play list. If possible you should work on a two line phone so you test your play list as you work on it. Before you begin, you may want to do two things. First, make a list of the message numbers of all recorded messages you plan to use in the play list. This will save you the trouble of constantly switching to the Message File Editing Utility to find the right message number. Second, sketch out a flow chart which shows how you want the play list to work. See Figure 5-4: *Play List Flow Chart* (page 61) for an example. You will find this reference invaluable when you actually begin putting together your play list. The tutorial section of this chapter (see *Record the menu options*, on page 59) actually shows you how to create a play list which matches the flow chart shown below.

## THE BUILDING BLOCKS


On the right side of the Play List Editor you will see all of the building blocks with which you may create your play list. To add a building block to the play list, position the cursor over the item in the play *after which you want the new item to appear*. Press  to move the cursor to the Options list. Position the cursor over the desired option and press . The software will then add the item to the list or prompt you for further information.

**Note:** *The WeatherTalker can only report those weather conditions which your weather station monitors. If, for example, you have a Weather Wizard III, the WeatherTalker cannot report any information on barometric pressure. If you have a Weather Monitor II without the External Temperature/Humidity Sensor, the WeatherTalker cannot report any outside humidity or dew point information.*

### ♦ Message

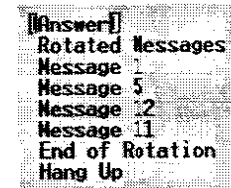
To place a recorded message into the play list, choose Message. The software will prompt you to enter the desired message number. Type the desired message number into the text box and press  when finished.

Whenever a message number in the play list appears within parenthesis, it means one of two things. Either no message has been recorded for that message number or that message is not currently active, due to limitations you have placed on its use (see *Set Time/Date Requirements for Messages* on page 33). For example, if you have specified that a message should play only on Tuesdays, that message number will appear in parenthesis because it is inactive on every day of the week other than Tuesday.

To record a message from the Play List Editor screen, move the cursor to the desired message and press . Record the message using your telephone's handset. Press any key when you finish recording. You may also record messages from the Message File Editing Utility (see *Record a Message* on page 32).

### ♦ Rotated Messages

To rotate a group of messages, playing a different one each time someone calls, choose Rotated Messages. This option actually adds two items to your play list: "Rotated Message:" and "End of Rotation." You must then add messages between these two items. The first time through the play list, the software plays only the first message in the rotation; the second time through it plays the second message in the rotation and so on.



```

(Answer)
Rotated Messages
Message 1
Message 5
Message 2
Message 11
End of Rotation
Hang Up
  
```

Figure 5-2. Message Rotation Example

#### ◆ Menu

To place a menu into the play list, choose Menu. Menus allow you to direct callers to specific areas of the play list, depending on their interest. From each menu, the caller may select up to 12 options (by pressing **[0]**, **[9]**, **[1]**, or **[2]** on the telephone) each of which leads to a new section of the play list. Each new section may contain any of the play list building blocks, including another menu (which will be listed as a "Sub Menu" in the list). In the flow chart shown above, for example, the caller is given the option of pressing **[1]**, **[2]**, **[3]**, **[4]**, or **[0]**, each of which leads to another section of the play list. For example, pressing **[3]** leads to the voice mail section, where a sub menu directs callers to the desired voice mail box.

**Note:** The play list for every option (**[0]**, **[9]**, **[1]**, or **[2]**) in the Main Menu may have its own sub menu. Sub menus, however, may not contain another menu.

The most common mistake people make when using menus is forgetting to record the options for that menu. You will notice, when you first add a menu to the play list, that the menu item appears in parenthesis. This indicates that no options have been recorded for that menu. You *must* record options ("Pres: 1 for a weather bulletin, press 2 for directions and store hours . . .") for each menu in the play list. Menu options may only be recorded from the Play List Editor screen. To record menu options, move the cursor to the desired menu and press **[2]**. Record the options using your telephone's handset. Press any key when you finish recording.

**Note:** Detailed instructions in the use of menus are contained in *Working with Menus* on page 57.

#### ◆ Mailbox

To place a voice mail box into the playlist, choose Mailbox. The software will prompt you to enter the desired mailbox number. Type the desired mailbox number into the text box and press **[Enter]** when finished. When the software encounters this item in the play list it will immediately open the appropriate voice mail box and play that box's greeting.

**Note:** Detailed instructions in voice mail are contained in *Record the menu options* on page 59.

#### ◆ Mailboxes

To place an option which leads to a range of voice mail boxes into the play list, choose Mailboxes. The software will prompt you to enter the desired range of mailbox numbers. Type the starting mailbox number into the text box and press **[Enter]**. Type the ending mailbox number and press **[Enter]** again. When the software encounters this item in the play list it will give the caller an opportunity to enter a two-digit mailbox number. If the caller enters a number which is within the range, the software immediately opens the appropriate voice mail box and plays that box's greeting.

**Note:** Detailed instructions in voice mail are contained in *Record the menu options* on page 59.

#### ◆ Page System Op

If you want a caller to have the option of "paging" the operator, choose Page System Op. When the software encounters this item in the play list, it informs the user that the system will attempt to page the operator. At that time, your computer will begin to ring like a telephone and a message appears on screen informing you which line the caller is on. While this option does not guarantee that someone will pick up, someone near the computer may be able to respond. If no one picks up after the specified time (see *System Operator Paging Time* on page 40), the system informs the caller of this fact and hangs up.

#### ◆ Telepoll

To place a telepoll into your play list, choose Telepoll. The telepoll allows you to pose a question to your callers and allows them to respond by pressing one of the keys on their telephone. The WeatherTalker displays the results of the telepoll on the Main Screen (see *Telepoll Result: Per Touch Tone* on page 20) and you may obtain the results from a remote phone as well (see *Telepoll* on page 82).

To record the telepoll question (the question, possible answers, etc.) and to record the closing comments for the telepoll (good-bye, how to find out the results, etc.), you must record the first two snippets, from the Voice Snippet Recording Utility (see *Record Voice Snippets* on page 29). Once in the playlist, the telepoll may be timed on or off. To turn the telepoll on or off, move the cursor to the telepoll option and press **[0]**. If the telepoll is off, the software skips right past it as if it is not even in the play list.

**Note:** If you place the Telepoll inside of a menu, it must be the only item in the play list for that menu choice. You cannot place any items before or after the telepoll when it is in a menu.

#### ◆ Greeting

To place a greeting message into the play list, choose Greeting. The Greeting is a standard snippet which may be altered from the Voice Snippet Recording Utility (see *Record Voice Snippets* on page 29).

#### ◆ Time in Minutes

To have the WeatherTalker report the time to the minute, choose Time in Minutes.

#### ◆ Time in Seconds

To have the WeatherTalker report the time to the second, choose Time in Seconds.

#### ◆ Current Temp

To have the WeatherTalker report the current outside temperature, choose Current Temp.

#### ◆ Inside Temp

To have the WeatherTalker report the current inside temperature, choose Inside Temp.



◆ **Wind Direction**

To have the WeatherTalker report the wind direction, choose Wind Direction.

◆ **Wind Speed**

To have the WeatherTalker report the wind speed and gust information, choose Wind Speed.

◆ **Day Wind Peak**

To have the WeatherTalker report the highest wind speed for the day and the time at which it occurred, choose Day Wind Peak.

◆ **Wind Chill**

To have the WeatherTalker report the current wind chill, choose Wind Chill.

◆ **Baro Pressure**

To have the WeatherTalker report the current barometric pressure, choose Baro Pressure.

◆ **Baro Rate**

To have the WeatherTalker report the rate and direction of change in the barometric pressure, choose Baro rate.

◆ **Humidity**

To have the WeatherTalker report the current outside humidity, choose Humidity.

◆ **Inside Humidity**

To have the WeatherTalker report the current inside humidity, choose Inside Humidity.

◆ **Dew Point**

To have the WeatherTalker report the current dew point, choose Dew Point.

◆ **Rain Rate**

To have the WeatherTalker report the current rate of rainfall, choose Rain Rate.

◆ **Day Rain**

To have the WeatherTalker report the amount of rainfall which has fallen during the current day, choose Day Rain.

◆ **Month Rain**

To have the WeatherTalker report the amount of rainfall which has fallen during the current month, choose Month Rain.

◆ **Year Rain**

To have the WeatherTalker report the amount of rainfall which has fallen during the current year (January to December or July to June, see *Annual Rainfall Totals Are For* on page 28), choose Year Rain.

◆ **Day Hi/Lo Temp**

To have the WeatherTalker report the high and low outside temperature (along with the time at which they occurred) during the current day, choose Day Hi/Lo Temp.

◆ **Month Hi/Lo Temp**

To have the WeatherTalker report the high and low outside temperature (along with the date on which they occurred) during the current month, choose Month Hi/Lo Temp.

◆ **Year Hi/Lo Temp**

To have the WeatherTalker report the high and low outside temperature (along with the date on which they occurred) during the current year, choose Year Hi/Lo Temp.

◆ **Goodbye**

To place a good-bye message into the play list, choose Goodbye. The Goodbye is a standard snippet which may be altered from the Voice Snippet Recording Utility (see *Record Voice Snippets* on page 29).

## WORKING WITH MENUS

Menus are perhaps the most powerful component of the play list because they allow a caller to “navigate” your phone system and listen only to that information which interests them. In general, each menu allow the user to select up to 12 options (0, 9, and 4). Each option leads to a separate area of the play list which contains only those building blocks which pertain to the choice the user made. The flow chart shown in Figure 5-4: *Play List Flow Chart* (page 61), for example, contains two menus. The first menu gives the caller the option of a spoken weather bulletin (1), store hours and directions (2), voice mail (3), answering the telepoll (4), or paging the system operator (0). The second menu (voice mail) give the caller the option of selecting a specific person’s voice mail box.

**Note:** A menu is always the last item in a play list. You cannot place any items after a menu in the play list.

## GENERAL MENU INFORMATION

Menus have three basic components: an item in the playlist and a menu box. In fact, each menu has 12 separate menu boxes (one for each possible choice from that menu) though only one box may appear on screen at a time. Menu boxes are not always visible, however. To view the menu box for a particular menu, move the cursor to the desired menu and press **[F]**. The menu box will appear to the right.

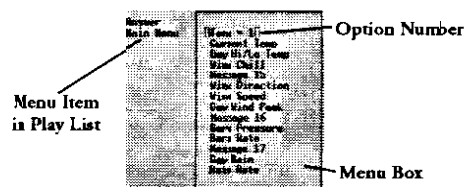


Figure 5-3: Menu Components

At the top of the menu box appears an item listed as "Tone" which represents the option number for this menu box (i.e., the number the caller must push to select this option). It is listed as "Tone" because it is the unique tone for that numeric key which actually indicates to the WeatherTalker which option has been selected. To change the option number, move the cursor to the "Tone" item and press **[F]**. As you press **[F]**, the software cycles through the available option numbers.

Inside the menu box, you may create a complete and unique play list which the WeatherTalker only uses if the caller selects this option. In the example shown above, the menu box contains a spoken weather bulletin with a few promotional messages. To add an item to a menu box, position the cursor over the item in the play list *after which you want the new item to appear*. Press **[F]** to move the cursor to the Options list. Position the cursor over the desired option and press **[Enter]**. The software will then add the item to the list or prompt you for further information.

The default play list for each menu box contains only one item, either "Go to Main Menu" or "Go to Sub Menu." This item returns the caller to the beginning of the options message. If no options exist for a particular option number, leave the menu box in this default configuration and inform the caller that pressing "any other key" will repeat the options message. You may change Go to Main Menu and Go to Sub Menu items to Hang Up, which will cause the software to hang up at the end of a menu's play list. To alternate the item between "Go to ..." and Hang Up, highlight the item and press **[T]** (toggle).

## RECORDING MENU OPTIONS

You *must* record options ("Press 1 for a weather bulletin, press 2 for directions and store hours . . .") for each menu in the play list. Otherwise the caller would not know what options are available, nor would the caller have any time in which to make a selection. When you first place a menu into your play list, you will notice that it appears within parenthesis, indicating that no options have been recorded for that menu. To record menu options, move the cursor to the desired menu and press **[R]**. Record the options using your telephone's handset. Press any key when you finish recording.

## PUTTING A MENU INTO THE PLAY LIST

Below you will find a brief and very general "checklist" of the things you need to do to put a menu into your play list. If you still have questions after reading this section, try working through the tutorial (see *Record the menu options*, starting on page 59) which contains excellent step-by-step examples of using menus. Most of the common questions are answered in the tutorial.

### 1. Place the menu in your play list.

To do this, position the cursor in the desired location, press **[F]** to move to the Options list highlight Menu, and press **[Enter]**.

### 2. Record the menu options.

Highlight the menu item in the play list, press **[R]** to begin recording (using your telephone handset) and any key to finish recording.

### 3. Open the menu box.

Highlight the Menu item in the play list and press **[F]**.

### 4. Select the option number.

Highlight the Tone item in the menu box and press **[F]** until the desired option number appears.

### 5. Create the play list for this menu option.

Use the building blocks to create the play list.

### 6. Repeat step 4 and step 5 for each option in this menu. Leave all other option numbers unchanged.

## PLAY LIST TUTORIAL

The following tutorial will take you through most of the common procedures necessary to create almost any type of play list. We suggest that you go through this tutorial before attempting to make your own play list since many of the most common questions will be answered by going through this tutorial.

As you work your way through this tutorial keep in mind the following: the software only saves a play list if it has been assigned to a line (See *Assign a Play List to a Line* on page 35). This means that you will have to do one of the following in order to save your work on the play list and/or another play list that you have created prior to attempting the tutorial.

♦ **Go through the play list tutorial in one sitting, without exiting the program**

If you exit, any play list which is not assigned to a line will be deleted. Going through the tutorial in one sitting avoids this problem entirely.

♦ **Assign the tutorial play list to a line**

See *Assign a Play List to a Line* on page 39 for instructions on doing this. If you have more than one line, you can assign the tutorial play list to one line and any other play list to another line. That way, all play list assigned to lines will be saved when you exit the program.

♦ **Rename or move PLAYLIST.DAT before starting the program.**

All play list data is stored in a file called "PLAYLIST.DAT" which is saved in the WeatherTalker directory. If you wish to save a previously created play list before attempting the tutorial, rename this file or copy it to another directory before starting the program. After you finish the tutorial, you can rename/return the original file.

## GETTING STARTED

The first step is to decide what you want your play list to do. Creating a flow chart or some other aid will help you keep everything straight when actually creating your play list. This tutorial will follow the flow chart shown below in creating a play list.

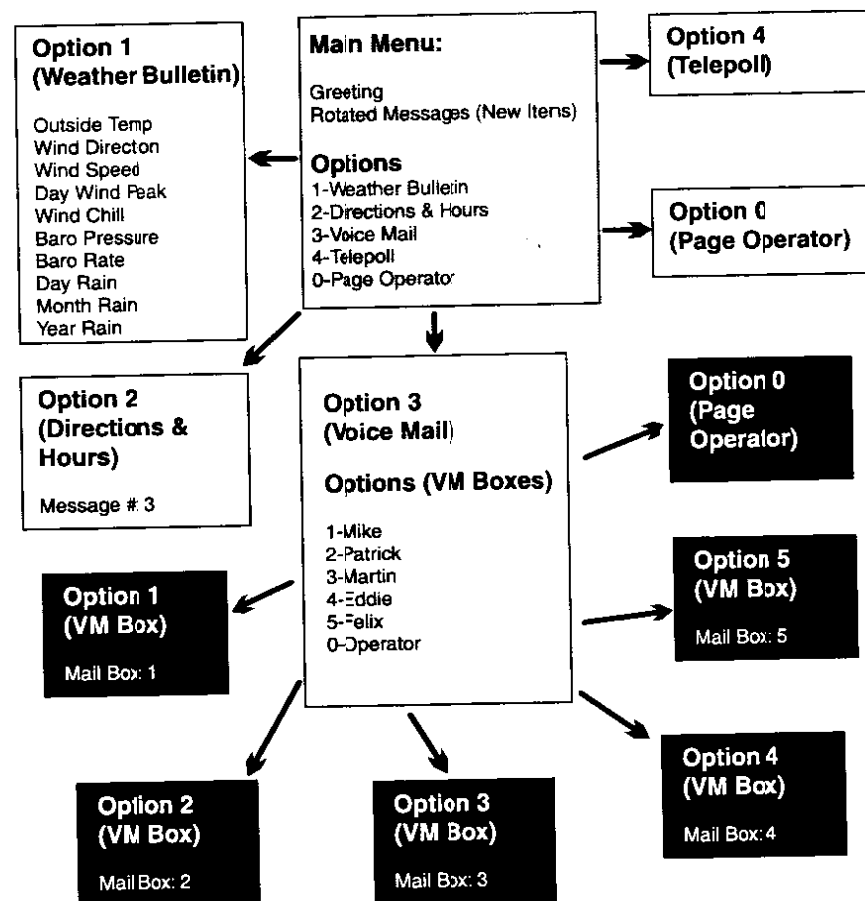


Figure 5-4. Play List Flow Chart

This play list will do the following:

1. **Greet the caller.**

We will set up the play list so it plays one greeting during store hours and another after hours.

2. **Play a promotional message describing a new item, for example.**

We will actually set up a group of four possible messages, which the WeatherTalker will rotate, playing only one each time someone calls.

3. **Present the caller with the following options: listen to a spoken weather bulletin, listen to directions and store hours, go to the voice mail system, vote in the telepoll, or page the system operator.**

This is the first example of how to use a menu.

4. **If the caller chooses the weather bulletin, we will provide the following information: outside temperature, wind direction, wind speed, highest wind speed for the day, wind chill, barometric pressure, rate of change in barometric pressure, daily rainfall, monthly rainfall, and yearly rainfall.**

5. **If the caller chooses directions and store hours, we will play a message which conveys the information.**

6. **If the caller chooses voice mail, we will present a list of voice mail boxes and ask them to select the desired voice mail box or page the system operator.**

This combines a menu with voice mail to make the system extremely easy to use.

7. **If the caller chooses the telepoll, we will present a question and get the caller's response to it.**

8. **If the user chooses to page the system operator, we will do so.**

## GREETING THE CALLER

In this section we are going to record two messages for use as a greeting. One will be used when the store is closed, one when the store is open. We will then get a new play list started and add these two greeting messages to the play list.

## RECORDING GREETING MESSAGES

First we need to actually record the greeting messages and specify the times at which they should play.

1. **We are going to use the Message File Editing Utility to record the greeting messages. From the main screen, press [F1].**

This opens the System Configuration screen.

2. **From the System Configuration screen, press [F4].**

This opens the Message File Editing Utility screen.

| MESSAGE FILE EDITING UTILITY |         |             |         |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| MESSAGE                      | EXISTS? | DESCRIPTION | ACTIVE? |
| 0                            |         |             |         |
| 1                            |         |             |         |

Figure 5-5: Message File Editing Utility screen

3. **We are going to start by recording the "closed" message as message 0. Make sure that message 0 is highlighted.**

4. **Pick up your telephone handset which you will use to record the message.**

5. **To record message 0, press [R].**

The WeatherTalker will beep (through the telephone handset).

6. **After the beep, speak into the handset to record some sort of "We are currently closed..." message.**

7. **When you finish the message, press any key to stop recording.**

You may now check your message, if desired, by highlighting message 0 and pressing [P] (Play). The WeatherTalker will play the message through the telephone handset. If necessary, re-record the message as described above until you are satisfied.

8. **Once you are satisfied with the message, highlight message 0 and press [D] (Description). Type "Greeting (Closed)" into the text box and press [Enter].**

| MESSAGE FILE EDITING UTILITY |         |                   |         |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| MESSAGE                      | EXISTS? | DESCRIPTION       | ACTIVE? |
| 0                            | ✓       | Greeting (Closed) |         |
| 1                            |         |                   |         |

Figure 5-6: Recording Greeting (Closed)

9. Now repeat step 3 through step 8 to record another greeting message as message 1. This time make the message some sort of "No one can come to the phone right now..." message and name it "Greeting (Open)".

| MESSAGE FILE EDITING UTILITY |         |                   |         |
|------------------------------|---------|-------------------|---------|
| MESSAGE                      | EXISTS? | DESCRIPTION       | ACTIVE? |
| 0                            |         | Greeting (Closed) |         |
| 1                            | ✓       | Greeting (Open)   |         |
| 2                            |         |                   |         |

Figure 5-7: Recording Greeting (Open)

10. Now we need to specify the times at which these two messages will play. Press **F7**.

| MESSAGE FILE EDITING UTILITY |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
|------------------------------|---------|------|------------|------|----------|-----------|---------|
| MESSAGE                      | EXISTS? | DATE | START TIME | DATE | END TIME | ACTIVE ON | ACTIVE? |
| 0                            |         |      | ↔          | ↔    | ↔        | ↔         |         |
| 1                            | ✓       |      | ↔          | ↔    | ↔        | ↔         |         |
| 2                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |

Figure 5-8: Setting the Time for Messages

11. First, we need to set message 0 to play only when the store is closed (9:00 pm to 9:00 am). Make sure message 0 is highlighted.
12. Move the cursor to the Start Time column.
13. Type "0900p" (the software recognizes this as 9:00pm) and press **Enter**.
14. Move the cursor to the End Time column.
15. Type 0900a (the software recognizes this as 9:00am) and press **Enter**.

This message is now set to play only between the hours of 9:00pm and 9:00am. Since we did not select any days in the Active On column, it will play during this time on every day of the week.

16. Now repeat step 11 through step 15 for message 1, setting the Start Time to 9:00 am and the End Time to 9:00 pm.

Once you are finished, message 1 will be set to play between the hours of 9:00 am and 9:00 pm on every day of the week.

**Note:** If the store was closed one day a week (on Sunday, for example) you could add a third message into this rotation which was set to play all day Sunday and change the other two messages to play during their respective hours Monday through Saturday. Using these basic guidelines, you can create a mutually exclusive group of messages for almost any schedule.

| MESSAGE FILE EDITING UTILITY |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |
|------------------------------|---------|------|------------|------|----------|-----------|---------|
| MESSAGE                      | EXISTS? | DATE | START TIME | DATE | END TIME | ACTIVE ON | ACTIVE? |
| 0                            |         |      | ↔          | ↔    | ↔        | ↔         |         |
| 1                            | ✓       |      | ↔          | ↔    | ↔        | ↔         |         |
| 2                            |         |      |            |      |          |           |         |

### PUTTING GREETING MESSAGES INTO PLAY LIST

The next step is to start the play list and put the greeting messages into the play list.

1. From the System Configuration screen, press **F3**.

This opens the Play List Editor screen.

2. Press **N** to start a new play list.

A new playlist contains only two items: Answer and Hang Up.

| PLAY LIST EDITOR              |                             |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) | OPTIONS                     |
| [Answer]<br>Hang Up           | Message<br>Rotated Messages |

Figure 5-9: New Play List

3. Make sure the cursor is positioned over the Answer item in the play list and press **F2** to move to the Options list.
- The greeting messages will appear after this item in the play list.
4. Move the cursor (if necessary) to Message.
5. Type 0 and press **Enter**.
- The software adds this message to the play list.

### 6. Repeat this procedure to add message 1 to the play list.

You will notice that one of the messages appears in parenthesis because of the time restrictions we placed on these messages, one of them will always be active and the other inactive. As the software works through the playlist, only the active message will be played, meaning that you will always have only one greeting message, although which greeting that is depends on whether the call occurs during store hours or after hours.



Figure 5-10: Messages in Play List

## ROTATED MESSAGES

Next we are going to create a three message rotation and insert it into the play list. The software will only play one of the three messages each time through the play list. In this case, we are going to record the messages from the Play List Editor itself.

### 1. From the Play List Editor screen, move the cursor to Message 1 in the play list.

The rotated messages will appear after this item in the play list.

### 2. Press to move to the Options list.

### 3. Move the cursor to Rotated Messages and press .

The software places two items into the play list: Rotated Messages and End of Rotation. You will place the messages you want to rotate in between these two items. The Rotated Messages item is automatically highlighted so you may simply begin adding messages right away in the right location. The cursor automatically moves to the Message item in the Options List, as well.

### 4. Make sure Message is highlighted, press 2 (for Message 2) and press «.

Message 2 is added to the play list between Rotated Messages and End of Rotation. Since we have not yet recorded a message for Message 2, it appears within parenthesis.

### 5. Repeat this step to add Message 3 and Message 4 to the play list.

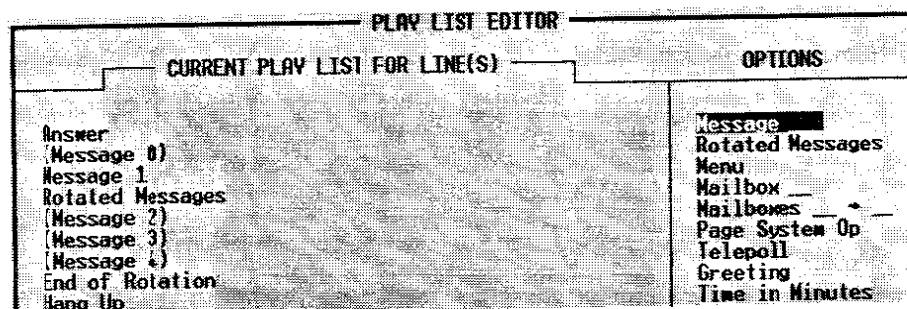


Figure 5-11: Rotated Messages

### 6. Press to move the cursor back to the play list.

We will now record all three of the rotated messages.

### 7. Move the cursor to Message 2.

### 8. Pick up your telephone handset and press to begin recording.

The software will beep through the handset.

### 9. Record the desired message (some sort of new item announcement) by speaking into the handset. When finished, press any key.

Message 2 no longer appears within parenthesis.

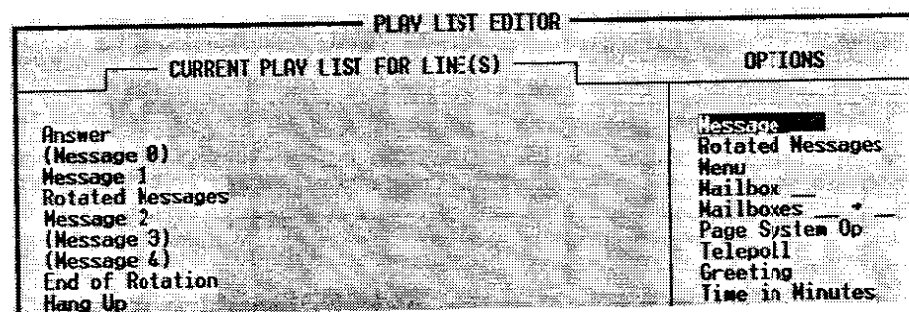


Figure 5-12: Message 2 Recorded

10. Repeat this procedure to record message 3 and message 4.

## THE MAIN MENU

Now we come to the first menu in the play list. This menu will give the caller the following options: press 1 for a weather bulletin, press 2 for directions and store hours, press 3 for voice mail, press 4 for the telepoll, press 0 to page the system operator, press any other key to repeat the list of options.

### PUTTING THE MAIN MENU INTO THE PLAY LIST

The first step, obviously, is to insert the menu into the play list and record the menu options.

1. Press ☐ (if necessary) to move to the Options list.

2. Move the cursor to Menu and press ☐.

The software replaces Hang Up with (Main Menu) in the play list. (Note that it does not matter where the cursor is positioned in the play list when you select Menu; the software always places menus at the end of the play list.) Main Menu appears within parenthesis because we have not yet recorded menu options for it. The cursor automatically moves to the Main Menu item in the play list.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S)   | OPTIONS  |
|---|--|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)<br>Message 1<br>Rotated Messages<br>(Message 2)<br>(Message 3)<br>(Message 4)<br>End of Rotation<br>(Main Menu) | Message<br>Rotated Messages<br>Menu<br>Mailbox<br>Mailboxes<br>Page System Op<br>Telepoll<br>Greeting<br>Time in Minutes |

Figure 5-13: Main Menu in Play List

3. Pick up your telephone handset and press ☐ to begin recording.

The software will beep through the handset.

4. Record the menu options ("Press 1 for a weather bulletin. Press 2 for directions and store hours. Press 3 for voice mail. Press 4 to take part in our telephone survey. Press 0

to page the system operator. Press any other key to repeat this message.") by speaking into the handset. When finished, press any key.

The Main Menu no longer appears within parenthesis.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S)   | OPTIONS  |
|---|--|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)<br>Message 1<br>Rotated Messages<br>(Message 2)<br>(Message 3)<br>(Message 4)<br>End of Rotation<br>Main Menu | Message<br>Rotated Messages<br>Menu<br>Mailbox<br>Mailboxes<br>Page System Op<br>Telepoll<br>Greeting<br>Time in Minutes |

Figure 5-14: Menu Options Recorded

### MAIN MENU OPTION 1: WEATHER BULLETIN

The first option in the main menu is a spoken weather bulletin, which we will now create using the WeatherTalker's building blocks.

1. If necessary, move the cursor to Main Menu.

2. Press ☐.

The software opens the menu box for the main menu. You will notice that at the top of the menu box it says Tone=1. This is the menu box for option 1, which means that when the caller presses 1 on the telephone, the software will shift to this play list. On the flow chart (and in the menu options message) we have option 1 for this menu listed as a weather bulletin. So now we need to build a play list within this menu box which reports the weather. To do this, we will make use of the WeatherTalker's predefined weather building blocks.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S)   | OPTIONS   |
|---|---|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)<br>Message 1<br>Rotated Messages<br>Message 2<br>Message 3<br>Message 4<br>End of Rotation<br>Main Menu | Message<br>Rotated Messages<br>Menu<br>Mailbox<br>Mailboxes<br>Page System Op<br>Telepoll<br>Greeting<br>Time in Minutes<br>Time in Seconds |

[Tone = 1]  
Go to Main Menu

Figure 5-15: Main Menu Menu Box

### 3. Make sure Tone=1 is highlighted and press **Enter**.

The cursor moves to the Options list. The first piece of weather information we are going to put into the bulletin is the outside temperature.

### 4. Move the cursor until Current Temp is highlighted and press **Enter**.

The software places Current Temp in to the menu box's play list.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |   | OPTIONS         |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)         | Tone = 1<br>Current Temp<br>Go to Main Menu | Time in Seconds |
| Message 1                     |   | Current Temp    |
| Rotated Message 2             |   | Inside Temp     |
| Message 3                     |   | Wind Direction  |
| Message 4                     |   | Wind Speed      |
| End of Rotated                |   | Day Wind Peak   |
| Main Menu                     |   | Wind Chill      |
|                               |   | Baro Pressure   |
|                               |   | Baro Rate       |
|                               |   | Humidity        |

Figure 5-16: Current Temp Added to Play List

### 5. Repeat this step to add other building blocks to the play list until you have created the desired weather bulletin.

Our weather bulletin offers the following information (in the following order): outside temperature, wind direction, wind speed, highest wind speed for the day, wind chill, barometric pressure, rate of change in barometric pressure, daily rainfall, monthly rainfall, and yearly rainfall.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |   | OPTIONS         |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)         | Tone = 1<br>Current Temp<br>Wind Direction<br>Wind Speed<br>Day Wind Peak<br>Wind Chill<br>Baro Pressure<br>Baro Rate<br>Day Rain<br>Month Rain<br>Year Rain<br>Go to Main Menu | Time in Seconds |
| Message 1                     |   | Current Temp    |
| Rotated Message 2             |   | Inside Temp     |
| Message 3                     |   | Wind Direction  |
| Message 4                     |   | Wind Speed      |
| End of Rotated                |   | Day Wind Peak   |
| Main Menu                     |   | Wind Chill      |
|                               |   | Baro Pressure   |
|                               |   | Baro Rate       |
|                               |   | Humidity        |
|                               |   | Inside Humidity |
|                               |   | Dew Point       |
|                               |   | Rain Rate       |

Figure 5-17: Finished Weather Bulletin

**Note:** If you wanted, you could intersperse promotional messages with weather information by adding messages to the play list as well as weather-related building blocks.

## MAIN MENU OPTION 2: DIRECTIONS AND STORE HOURS

The second option in the main menu is a store hours and directions, which is accomplished by moving to the menu box for the second option and simply placing a message with the appropriate information into the menu box.

### 1. From the menu box containing the weather bulletin, move the cursor to the Tone=1 item.

### 2. Press **1** to switch to the menu box for option 2 (Tone=2).

This is the menu box for option 2 in the main menu, which means that when the caller presses 1 on the telephone, the software will shift to this play list. On the flow chart (and in the menu options message) we have option 2 for this menu listed as store directions and hours.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |                             | OPTIONS          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)         | Tone = 2<br>Go to Main Menu | Message          |
| Message 1                     |                             | Rotated Messages |
| Rotated Message 2             |                             | Menu             |
| Message 3                     |                             | Mailbox          |
| Message 4                     |                             | Mailboxes        |
| End of Rotated                |                             | Page System Op   |
| Main Menu                     |                             | Telepoll         |
|                               |                             | Greeting         |
|                               |                             | Time in Minutes  |
|                               |                             | Time in Seconds  |

Figure 5-18: Menu Box for Option 2

### 3. Make sure Tone=2 is highlighted and press **Enter**.

The cursor moves to the Options list.

### 4. Move the cursor to Message.

We've already used messages 0 through 4, so we will add message 5 to this play list.



5. Type 5 (for message 5) and press **Enter**.

The software adds Message 5 to the play list. Since we have not yet recorded a message for Message 5, it appears within parenthesis.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |  | OPTIONS          |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)         | Tone = 2<br>(Message 5)<br>Go to Main Menu | Message          |
| Message 1                     |  | Rotated Messages |
| Rotated Messa                 |  | Menu             |
| Message 2                     |  | Mailbox          |
| Message 3                     |  | Mailboxes *      |
| Message 4                     |  | Page System Op   |
| End of Rotati                 |  | Telepoll         |
| Main Menu                     |  | Greeting         |
|                               |  | Time in Minutes  |
|                               |  | Time in Seconds  |

Figure 5-19: Message 5 Added to Play List

6. Use the techniques we have already discussed to record message 5. If necessary, see *Putting Greeting Messages Into Play List* starting on page 65 for help.

### MAIN MENU OPTION 3: VOICE MAIL

Let's skip this menu option for now. We will add it to the main menu a little bit later (see *Adding Voice Mail* on page 74).

### MAIN MENU OPTION 4: TELEPOLL

Let's skip this menu option for now. We will add it to the main menu a little bit later (see *Adding the Telepoll* on page 78).

### MAIN MENU OPTION 0: PAGE OPERATOR

In just a little bit we will add voice mail and the telepoll to the play list. For now we will add an option which allows the caller to page the system operator, option 0. To do this we will move to the option 0 menu box and add the Page Sys Op item into that play list.

**Note:** All other options for this menu will be left alone. Because the only thing contained in an unmodified menu is the Go To Main Menu option, the net result is that all unmodified options cause the software to play the menu main menu's options message again, which is exactly what you want it to do.

1. From the menu box, move the cursor to the Tone=2 item.

2. Press **1** until Tone=0 appears.

This is the menu box for option 0 in the main menu, which means that when the caller presses 0 on the telephone, the software will shift to this play list. On the flow chart (and in the menu options message) we have option 0 for this menu listed as paging the system operator.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |                             | OPTIONS          |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)         | Tone = 0<br>Go to Main Menu | Message          |
| Message 1                     |                             | Rotated Messages |
| Rotated Messa                 |                             | Menu             |
| Message 2                     |                             | Mailbox          |
| Message 3                     |                             | Mailboxes *      |
| Message 4                     |                             | Page System Op   |
| End of Rotati                 |                             | Telepoll         |
| Main Menu                     |                             | Greeting         |
|                               |                             | Time in Minutes  |
|                               |                             | Time in Seconds  |

Figure 5-20: Menu Box for Option 0

3. Make sure Tone=0 is highlighted and press **Enter**.

The cursor moves to the Options list.

4. Move the cursor to Page Sys Op and press **Enter**.

The software adds Page Sys Op to the play list.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |   | OPTIONS          |
|-------------------------------|---|------------------|
| Answer<br>(Message 0)         | Tone = 0<br>Page System Op<br>Go to Main Menu | Message          |
| Message 1                     |   | Rotated Messages |
| Rotated Messa                 |   | Menu             |
| Message 2                     |   | Mailbox          |
| Message 3                     |   | Mailboxes *      |
| Message 4                     |   | Page System Op   |
| End of Rotati                 |   | Telepoll         |
| Main Menu                     |   | Greeting         |
|                               |   | Time in Minutes  |
|                               |   | Time in Seconds  |

Figure 5-21: Page Sys Op Added to Play List

## ADDING VOICE MAIL

Now that the basic menu options have been added, it's time to add voice mail (option 3) into the main menu. To simplify matters both for callers and for ourselves, we are going to place a menu into this option which directs the caller into the desired mailbox. We will also give the user the option of paging the system operator. We will first set up the voice mailboxes, then place a menu into the play list for option 3, then direct the caller to the desired mail box, depending on which option they selected.

### SETTING UP VOICE MAIL BOXES

Setting up the voice mailboxes simply entails entering a description for the mail box and recording an outgoing message. In fact, you don't actually have to set up voice mail boxes before putting the voice mail option into the play list. You may set up the voice mail boxes at a later date if you want. For clarity in this tutorial, however, we are going to do it in the very beginning.

1. Press **[F2]** as necessary to return to the System Configuration menu.

2. Press **[F6]** to select Access Voice Mail.

The software opens the Mailbox Directory.

| MAILBOX DIRECTORY |             |          |            |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| MAILBOX           | DESCRIPTION | NEW MAIL | TOTAL MAIL |
| 00                |             |          |            |
| 01                |             |          |            |

Figure 5-22: Mailbox Directory

3. Press **[1]** to select mailbox 1.

For simplicity (so the option number matches the mail box number) we are not going to use mail box 0.

4. Press **[D]** to enter a description for this mailbox.

5. Type a description of the mailbox into the text box and press **[Enter]** when finished.

| MAILBOX DIRECTORY |                       |          |            |
|-------------------|-----------------------|----------|------------|
| MAILBOX           | DESCRIPTION           | NEW MAIL | TOTAL MAIL |
| 00                |                       |          |            |
| 01                | Mike's Voice Mail Box |          |            |
| 02                |                       |          |            |

Figure 5-23: Voice Mailbox Description Entered

6. Make sure mailbox 1 is still highlighted, and press **[Enter]** to open it.

We are now going to record the outgoing message.

| MAILBOX 01, Mike's Voice Mail Box |      |               |             |
|-----------------------------------|------|---------------|-------------|
| MESSAGES                          | NEW? | LENGTH (SECS) | DATE / TIME |
| Outgoing Message                  |      |               |             |

Figure 5-24: Mailbox 1 Opened

7. Make sure the Outgoing Message is highlighted.

8. Pick up your telephone handset and press **[5]** to begin recording.

The software will beep through the handset.

9. Record the outgoing message for the mail box by speaking into the handset. When finished, press any key.

10. Press **[F2]** to return to the Mailbox Directory.

11. Repeat the steps described to set up 5 voice mailboxes.

| MAILBOX DIRECTORY |                          |          |            |
|-------------------|--------------------------|----------|------------|
| MAILBOX           | DESCRIPTION              | NEW MAIL | TOTAL MAIL |
| 00                |                          |          |            |
| 01                | Mike's Voice Mail Box    |          |            |
| 02                | Patrick's Voice Mail Box |          |            |
| 03                | Martin's Voice Mail Box  |          |            |
| 04                | Eddie's Voice Mail Box   |          |            |
| 05                | Felix's Voice Mail Box   |          |            |
| 06                |                          |          |            |

Figure 5-25: All Voice Mailboxes Set Up

**Note:** If you want you may also assign passwords to each mailbox which allows remote access to that mailbox (see Enter the Password for a Mailbox on page 43).

### PUTTING VOICE MAIL MENU INTO PLAY LIST

Now we are going to return to the play list and add another menu, this one in the menu box for option 3.

1. Press **[F2]** as necessary to return to the System Configuration menu.

2. Press **[F6]** to select Edit the Play List.

The software opens the Play List Editor.

3. Move the cursor to Main Menu and press ☐ to open the menu box for the main menu.
4. Make sure Tone=1 is highlighted, then press ☐ until Tone=3 appears.

This is the menu box for option 3 in the main menu, which means that when the caller presses 3 on the telephone, the software will shift to this play list. We are going to place a sub menu into the play list for this menu box which will give the caller a choice of 5 different mailboxes or paging the system operator.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |                                 | OPTIONS          |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Answer (Message 0)            | [[Tone = 3]]<br>Go to Main Menu | Message          |
| Message 1                     |                                 | Rotated Messages |
| Rotated Message 2             |                                 | Menu             |
| Message 3                     |                                 | Mailbox          |
| Message 4                     |                                 | Mailboxes        |
| End of Rotation               |                                 | Page System Op   |
| Main Menu                     |                                 | Telepoll         |
|                               |                                 | Greeting         |
|                               |                                 | Time in Minutes  |
|                               |                                 | Time in Seconds  |

Figure 5-26: Menu Box for Option 3

5. Make sure Tone=2 is highlighted and press ☐.
  6. Move the cursor to Menu and press ☐.
  7. Record menu options for the sub menu (see *Putting the Main Menu into the Play List* starting on page 68 if you need help) which direct the caller to press the appropriate key for each mailbox.
- Once again, option 0 should be for paging the system operator and any unused options will replay the menu options message.

### USING THE SUB MENU TO DIRECT VOICE MAIL CALLS

Finally, we are going to add all of the necessary sub menu options. Each option (other than 0 and unused options) will contain a single mail box number. When the caller selects that option, they will immediately be transferred to the appropriate mail box and the outgoing message you recorded earlier will begin playing. The caller may then leave a message or (with the correct password) access the voice mailbox to retrieve messages, record a new outgoing message, etc.

1. From the Tone=3 menu box (voice mail), highlight Sub Menu.

2. Press ☐ to open the menu box for this sub menu.

This option connects the caller to mailbox 1 (Mike) so we need to add mailbox one into the play list for this option.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |                      | OPTIONS          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Answer (Message 0)            | Tone = 3<br>Sub Menu | Message          |
| Message 1                     |                      | Rotated Messages |
| Rotated Message 2             |                      | Menu             |
| Message 3                     |                      | Mailbox          |
| Message 4                     |                      | Mailboxes        |
| End of Rotation               |                      | Page System Op   |
| Main Menu                     |                      | Telepoll         |
|                               |                      | Greeting         |
|                               |                      | Time in Minutes  |
|                               |                      | Time in Seconds  |

Figure 5-27: Sub Menu Menu Box

3. Press ☐ again to move to the Options list.
  4. Move the cursor to Mailbox.
  5. Type 1 and press ☐.
- The software adds Mailbox 1 to the play list for this option.

| CURRENT PLAY LIST FOR LINE(S) |                      | OPTIONS          |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Answer (Message 0)            | Tone = 3<br>Sub Menu | Message          |
| Message 1                     |                      | Rotated Messages |
| Rotated Message 2             |                      | Menu             |
| Message 3                     |                      | Mailbox 1        |
| Message 4                     |                      | Mailboxes        |
| End of Rotation               |                      | Page System Op   |
| Main Menu                     |                      | Telepoll         |
|                               |                      | Greeting         |
|                               |                      | Time in Minutes  |
|                               |                      | Time in Seconds  |

Figure 5-28: Mailbox 1 Added

6. Press ☐ to return to the menu box for option 1.
- Now we need to change to Tone=2 for option 2.

7. Press **[1]** to highlight **Tone=1**.
8. Press once again to switch to **Tone=2**.  
This option connects the caller to mailbox 2 (Patrick).
9. Use the procedure described above to continue setting up the various options in this sub menu for mailboxes 2, 3, 4, and 5.  
Remember to set up option 0 to page the system operator. see *Main Menu Option 0: Page Operator* starting on page 72 for help.

## ADDING THE TELEPOLL

Finally, we are going to add a telepoll into our play list, as option 4. Adding the telepoll actually requires two major steps. This first is to add the telepoll into the play list and turn the telepoll on or off, as desired. The second step is to record the telepoll question (and define the possible answers) and the closing telepoll remarks.

### ADDING TELEPOLL TO PLAY LIST

Adding the telepoll uses most of the techniques we've already covered, from opening the menu box for option 4 to adding an item into the play list. If you need any help with the steps below, look back through this tutorial.

1. Since the telepoll is option 4 in the main menu, make sure the menu box says **Tone=4** at the top.

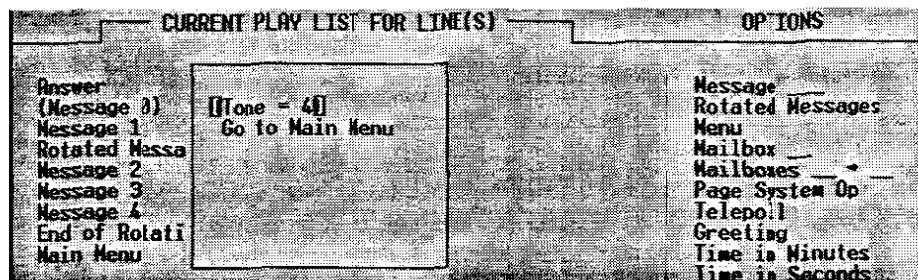


Figure 5-29: Menu Box for Option 4

2. Position the cursor over **Tone=4** and switch to the **Options** list.
3. Select **Telepoll** and press **[Enter]** to place it into the play list.

You will notice that the item in the playlist says **Telepoll On** and is flashing. The Telepoll item can be set to either **On** or **Off**, allowing you to keep the Telepoll in your playlist even when you do not want to use it. When the Telepoll is on, it flashes as it is doing right now.

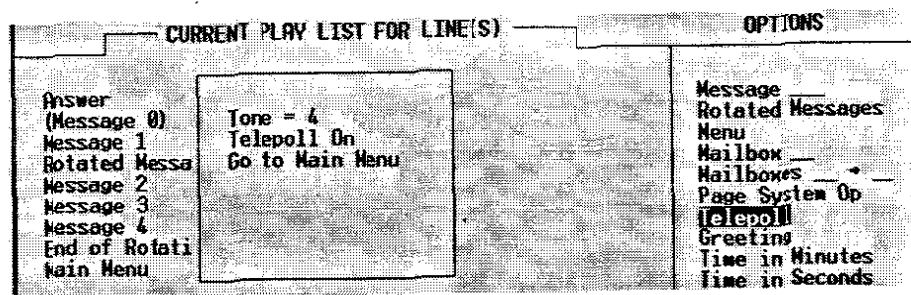


Figure 5-30: Telepoll Added to Play List

4. Just to demonstrate, move the cursor back to the menu box and position it over **Telepoll On**.
5. Press **[0]** to turn the Telepoll off.  
The item stops flashing and changes to say **Telepoll Off**.

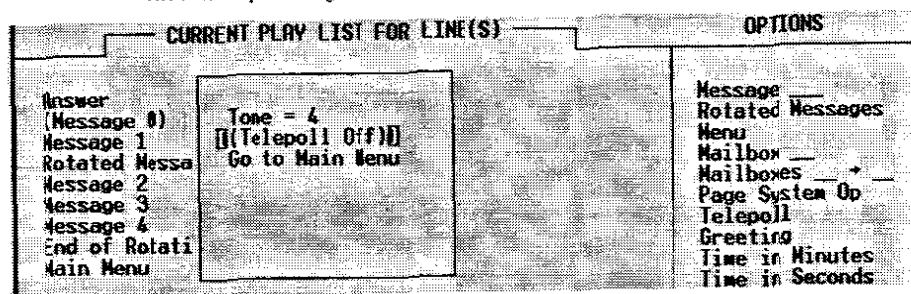


Figure 5-31: Telepoll Turned Off

6. Press **[0]** to turn the telepoll back on.

## RECORDING TELEPOLL SNIPPETS

Now we need to record the telepoll snippets. There are two snippets, one plays before the caller is allowed to vote, the other after the caller casts a vote.

1. Press ☐ as necessary to return to the System Configuration menu.
2. Press ☐ to select Record Voice Snippets.

The software opens the Record Voice Snippet Utility. The first two snippets (QUESTION.VOI and RESULTS.VOI) are the telepoll snippets.

| VOICE SNIPPET RECORDING UTILITY |                          |  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| NAME                            | EXISTS?                  | DESCRIPTION  |
| QUESTION.VOI                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | (the telepoll question, could also include a hello)                      |
| RESULTS.VOI                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | (the telepoll goodbye, perhaps stating how/when to find out the results) |
| 0.VOI                           | <input type="checkbox"/> | (zero thru one hundred)  |

Figure 5-32: Voice snippet Recording Utility

3. Record these two snippets, using the recording techniques we've discussed above.  
If you need help, see *Record a Snippet* on page 30.

## ASSIGNING THE PLAY LIST TO A LINE

The final step is to assign the play list to a line. You may or may not want to do this with your tutorial play list. If you want to assign it to a line, see *Assign a Play List to a Line* on page 39 for instructions.

## Chapter 6

## REMOTE ACCESS

In general, the voice snippets which accompany the WeatherTalker software provide ample prompts for remote use of the various features. This section will give you a brief overview of what features can be accessed, how to access those features, and what program operations are possible from a remote phone. In general, you will simply want to follow the instructions given to you over the phone (since you will almost certainly not have this manual with you when you call).

## GENERAL INFORMATION

To access the WeatherTalker's features from a remote phone, you must enter the appropriate password for that feature. In other words, the password not only limits access to features, but also provides the code for telling the WeatherTalker which feature you wish to access. Because of this, the password for each feature (except voice mail) must be unique. Remote voice mail access works slightly differently. You must work your way through the message system to the desired voice mail box (as if you were going to leave a message). Once there, you must enter the password for that mailbox to utilize the remote voice mail features. Since you must actually be "in" the appropriate voice mail box before entering the password, voice mail boxes do not need unique passwords.

All password entries must be preceded by pressing the ☐ key on your telephone. The ☐ key indicates to the program that you are going to begin entering a password. You may then enter the password using the telephone's numeric keypad. When you finish entering the password, press ☐ on your telephone. The ☐ key indicates that password entry is completed.

If you have a menu (see *Working with Menu* on page 57) in your play list, you will not be able to enter a password once you have reached the menu. (This is because once you reach a menu, the software interprets key presses as input for the menu options.) If you plan to use remote access, you must have some sort of message which precedes your menu and you must press ☐ to begin password entry before that message finishes.

## VOICE MAIL

You may listen to and delete voice mail messages from a remote phone.

1. Navigate through the voice mail system you have created until you reach the desired voice mail box (as if you were going to leave a message).

2. Press **[\*]** to begin entering the password, enter the password using the telephone's numerical keypad, and press **[#]** when finished.

Assuming you entered the correct password, you will now have access to this voice mail box's messages. You will hear the voice mail options menu.

3. The WeatherTalker will present you with the following options:

- ◆ Play Messages **(1)**

You may listen to your phone messages. The software plays all saved messages, from the earliest to the latest. Listen for the spoken instructions on how to repeat, delete, and skip messages. After you have listened to all messages the software returns you to the voice mail options menu.

**Note** If you have no messages, you will not be able to select this option. Pressing **[\*]** will simply return you to the beginning of the voice mail options menu.

- ◆ Close Voice Mail Box and Hang Up **(2)**

- ◆ Close Voice Mail Box and Return to Play List **(3)**

- ◆ Record a New Outgoing Message **(4)**

- ◆ Listen to Outgoing Message **(5)**

## TELEPOIL

You may record or listen to the telepoll question or closing comments, activate or deactivate the telepoll, listen to the telepoll totals, or reset the telepoll totals.

1. Press **[\*]** to begin entering the password, enter the password using the telephone's numerical keypad, and press **[#]** when finished.

Assuming you entered the correct password, you will now have access to the telepoll update system.

2. The WeatherTalker will present you with the following options:

- ◆ Record Telepoll Question **(1)**

- ◆ Record Closing Comments **(2)**

- ◆ Hear Telepoll Question **(3)**

- ◆ Hear Closing Comments **(4)**

- ◆ Activate Telepoll **(5)**

- ◆ Deactivate telepoll **(6)**

- ◆ Report Telepoll Totals **(7)**

The WeatherTalker reports the total number of responses to the telepoll and the percentage of responses for each choice. It will report the percentage for all choices (0-9) even if no one has selected a particular number (0%). You may return to the telepoll options menu at any time by pressing **[\*]**.

- ◆ Reset the Telepoll Totals **(8)**

Before resetting the telepoll totals, the WeatherTalker will give you the opportunity to confirm that you want to reset the totals.

- ◆ Return to the Play List **(9)**

- ◆ Hang Up **(0)**

## MESSAGE RECORDING

You may record, erase, or listen to messages. You may set up passwords for any messages to which you want remote access using the instructions in *Message Passwords*, starting on page 35.

1. Press **[\*]** to begin entering the password, enter the password using the telephone's numerical keypad, and press **[#]** when finished.

Assuming you entered the correct password, you will now have access to the weather line message update system.

2. The WeatherTalker will present you with the following options:

◆ Record Message (1)

If the password you entered has been assigned to only one message, you will then be given the chance to record that message. If the password has been assigned to a range of messages, the WeatherTalker prompts you to enter the number of the message you want to record.

◆ Hear Message (2)

◆ Erase Message (3)

◆ Return to Play List (4)

## ALARM ENABLE/DISABLE

You may enable or disable the weather alarm system from a remote phone. You cannot enable or disable individual alarms, however you can enable/disable the feature as a whole. Only those individual alarms which were previously enabled will cause a notification.

1. Press **\*** to begin entering the password, enter the password using the telephone's numerical keypad, and press **#** when finished.

Assuming you entered the correct password, you will now have access to the weather alarm system.

2. The WeatherTalker will present you with the following options:

◆ Activate the Weather Alarm System (1)

◆ Deactivate the Weather Alarm System (2)

◆ Return to the Play List (3)

◆ Hang Up (4)

## Chapter 7

# TROUBLESHOOTING

## WHAT TO DO BEFORE YOU CALL FOR HELP

Try to isolate the problem.

◆ Weather Station

Is unit powered up or locked up? Does console show correct current readings? Dashed readings may indicate bad sensors, cables, or junction box.

◆ WeatherLink

Have any new cards been added to PC? Any IRQ conflicts? Check that weather station is connected to WeatherLink. Run bulletin of WeatherLink software to verify correct readings.

◆ Phone Connection

Is phone cable connected to "Wall" jack on WeatherTalker? Is phone functioning properly?

◆ PC and Communication Problems

Does PC boot up and work properly with other programs? Reset the serial ports by complete power down rather than cold or warm boot. Check for possible IRQ conflict with weather station or WeatherTalker interface card.

◆ WeatherTalker interface card

Are all phone cables properly plugged into WeatherTalker?

## WEATHERTALKER SOFTWARE PROBLEMS

◆ Program Won't Load

Is path correct? Make sure WXLN.EXE exists in directory (WXLN). Do you have enough free memory? Run CHKDSK: 385K required. Remove TSRs if below 385K.

❖ **Mouse doesn't work**

No mouse support in WeatherTalker software.

❖ **Weather summary reports that some weather parameter is "not available"**

Check that that weather parameter is shown correctly on weather station console. Could be problem with sensor, cabling, or junction box.

❖ **Weather summary fails to report a weather parameter shown in play list**

Check snippet editor to see that a voice snippet for that weather parameter exists. Record new snippet if not found.

❖ **Nothing is heard when attempting playback of messages, snippets or voicemail**

Make sure telephone is plugged into the WeatherTalker card set to the lowest COM number (referred to as line 1).

❖ **Playback of snippets stops prematurely**

Verify that no other device is using the same COM port or IRQ as the WeatherTalker interface card. Make sure no two COM ports share the same IRQ.

Bus speed of PC may be higher than 8mHz. Turn off turbo mode and see if problem goes away. If so, bus speed may have to be reset to a lower value. This can often be done, from the BIOS setup. Consult computer manual for details.

Other cards located next to or close to the WeatherTalker card may be causing interference. If possible, move the WeatherTalker card to another slot closer to the power supply end of the expansion bus.

❖ **Program crashes**

Temporarily remove potentially conflicting programs:

❖ **Screen saver's**

❖ **TSRs**

❖ **Data and configuration changes are not saved**

Change directory to \WXLINE (CD\WXLINE) before starting program.

❖ **Problems with modems that call in using Weatherlink software**

Must send password during initial message, before first menu is started.

Will only work with version 3.0 or later of WeatherLink software

The most common problem is that you do not have the correct number of pauses in your password sequence. You need to have enough pauses (,) to take into account telephone company switching time, the number of rings before the WeatherTalker answers the phone, etc. Add or remove pauses in the password sequence until it works.

## POOR VOICE QUALITY

❖ **May be caused by voice snippets or messages which have poor pacing or dead time**

Rerecord snippets and messages.

❖ **Use a disk cache (SMARTDRV.EXE) to speed up disk access**

3rd party caches may also improve quality.

❖ **Quality suffers with multiple active lines**

Use faster computer

## RUNNING LOW ON HARD DISK SPACE

You might try some of the following general purpose solutions before calling Tech Support.

❖ **Get a larger hard disk**

❖ **Use disk compression for more hard disk space**

MSDOS 6.0 Doublespace and MSDOS 6.2 Drivespace have been tested by Davis. Third-party disk compression programs have not been tested.

❖ **Delete old voice mail**

❖ **Limit voice mail to shorter time**

❖ **Set voice compression setting to 1.8**

YOU WILL HAVE TO RERECORD ALL SNIPPETS, MESSAGES, ETC. USING THE NEW COMPRESSION SETTING.



## CALLING TECH SUPPORT

Before you call tech support (510-732-7814), make sure you have the following information handy:

- ◆ Port assignments
- ◆ Version number of software
- ◆ Hard disk free space (run CHKDSK)
- ◆ Computer make, processor, and speed
- ◆ Weather station model number and when purchased
- ◆ WeatherLink model number and when purchased
- ◆ WeatherTalker purchase date and registration number