

Digital Mobile (DMR) Fundamentals & Chicagoland Control Center

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Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Fundamentals

- Presenter:

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- 10 years in Wireless/Cellular Communications
- 25 years with Telecom Core & Transport Communications
- Ham Radio operator for 35 years working with analog and digital repeaters
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- Advocate of DMR Chicagoland Control Center, Network Architected by Todd Miller – WB9PHK

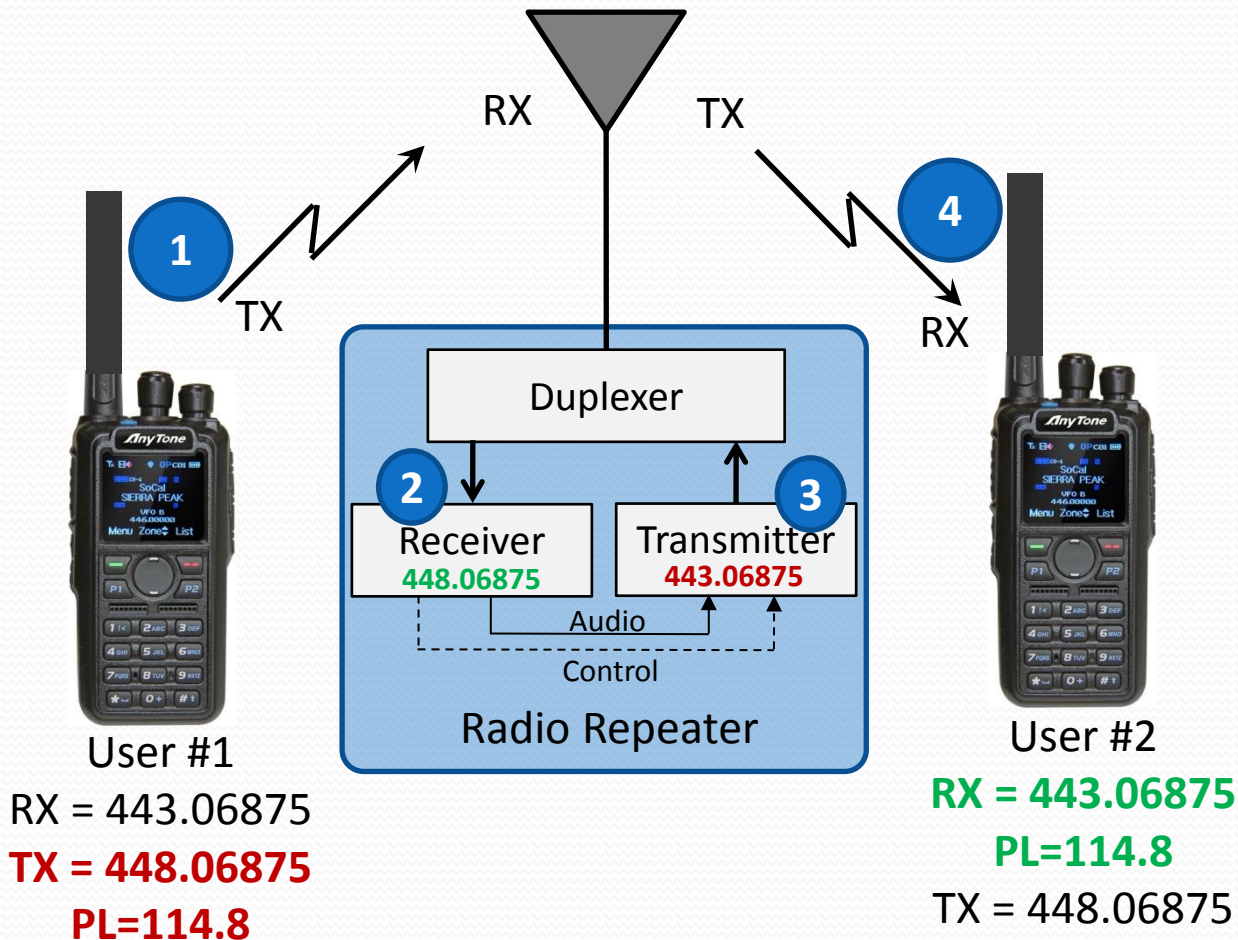


Review of Analog Repeater Operations

Analog Repeater Operations

- Repeater provides longer distance communications between radio operators than point-to-point simplex operation
- Repeater Offset
 - The different Transmit & Receive frequencies for repeater operation
 - The frequency difference or “Offset” has been standardized by ham radio repeater frequency coordinator (e.g., Illinois Repeater Association)
- CTCSS or PL Tone (Continuous Tone-Coded Squelch System / Private Line)
 - Prevent interference from neighboring repeater frequencies
 - Prevent repeaters in different geographic areas interfering with each other
 - Prevent other man-made noises from interfering with repeater operation

Analog Repeater Operations



- Example shows a single repeater being utilized by two radio operators.
 - Notice the calling sequence from radio User #1 to User #2:
 1. Radio User #1 calls Radio User #2
 2. Repeater receives User #1 on RX 448.06875 Mhz
 3. Repeater transmits TX 443.06875 Mhz User #1 information
 4. User #2 receives the repeater information from User #1
- PL Tone:** Standard PL Tone is used from radio User #1 to the repeater and repeater uses PL Tone to radio User #2.

Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) Fundamentals

DMR Terminology

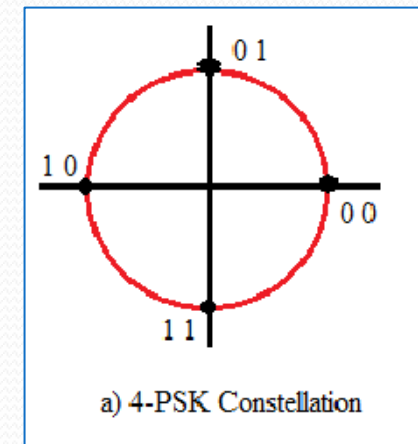
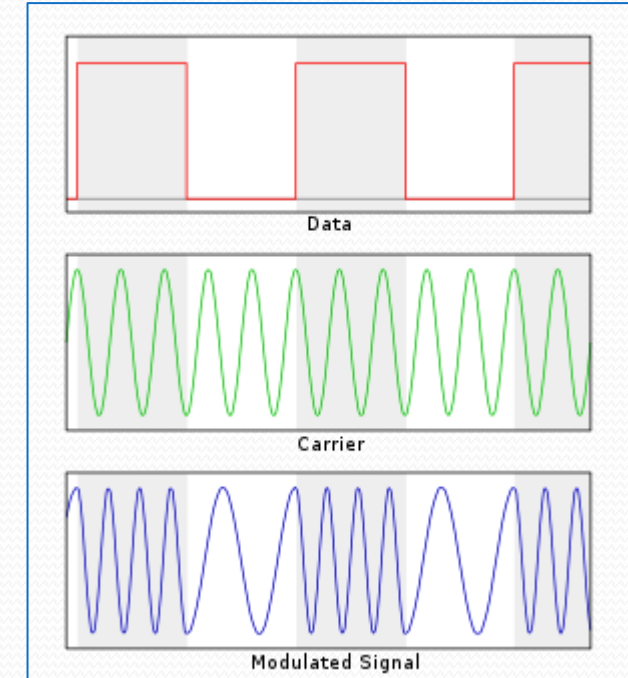
- Contact List
 - When the radio receives a DMR radio ID, the radio will try to find the DMR ID in the contact list
 - If the DMR ID is found, the Contact Name is displayed in place of the DMR ID
 - If the DMR ID is not in the contact list, the radio displays the seven-digit DMR ID
- Channel
 - Channels are specific frequencies assigned in radio memory. Each channel defines the radio parameters like modulation type (analog or digital), frequency, time-out-timer setting, power level settings, and scan lists. It ties together DMR specific settings like Color Code, time slot, digital contacts, and Talk Groups.
- Zone
 - A Zone is a way of organizing channels. Most radios allow a quantity of channels per zone. Channels not included in a zone cannot be selected on the radio. There can be one or many zones per repeater or hotspot. There is no limit to how channels are arranged within a zone.
 - Zones are selected through the radio's menu. When a new zone is selected, channels assigned to that zone become positions on the channel selection knob.
- Color Code
 - There are 16 possible Color Codes, 0-15. A DMR repeater cannot be Color Code-less. Like PL, the radio Color Code must match the repeater Color Code or the repeater cannot be accessed.

DMR Facts & Benefits

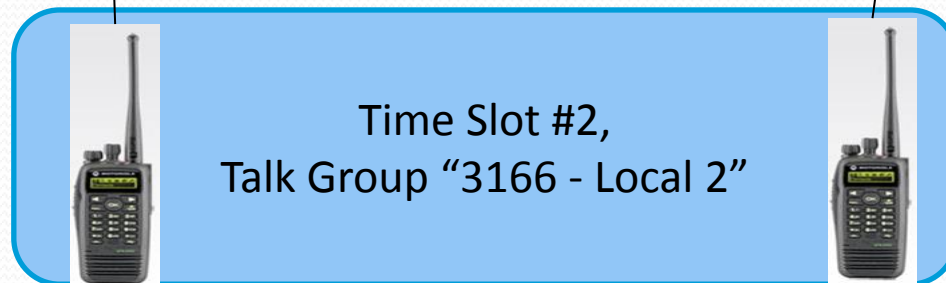
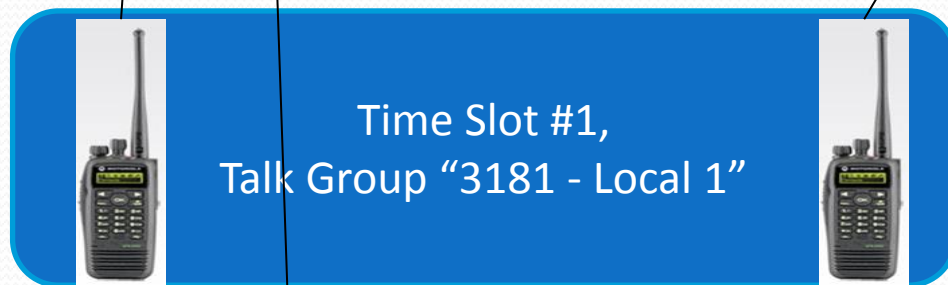
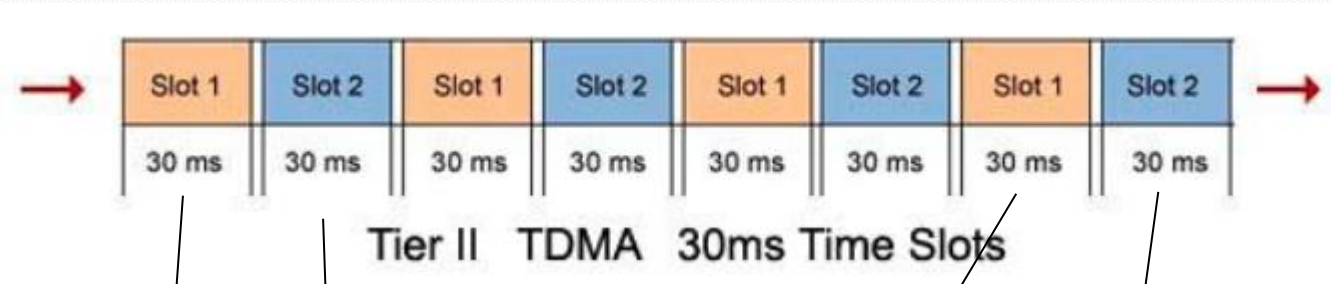
- Air interface specification for Land Mobile radio equipment
- 2 Time Slot – Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA)
- Channel bandwidth → 12.5 KHz [6.25KHz per Time Slot]
- Digital modulation scheme → 4FSK
- Frequency range 30Mhz – 1Ghz
- Amateur radio utilizes Tier II DMR AMBE+2 Vocoder

Benefits

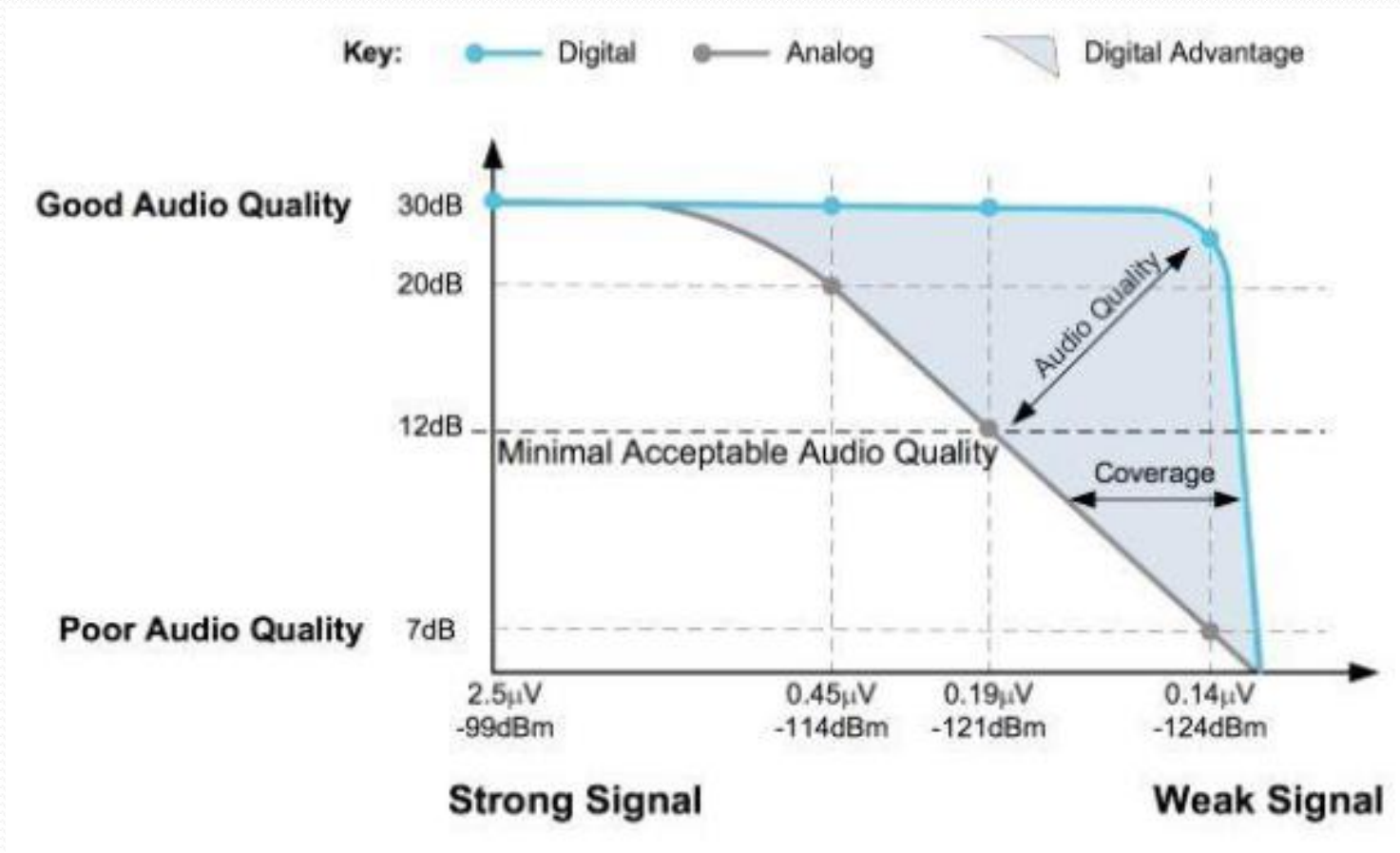
- Two (2) simultaneous conversations from single repeater
- Improved audio performance over FM analog
- More efficient use of RF spectrum
- Less power consumption than FM
- Allows easy integration into existing analog frequency band plans



Two Conversations per One Transmitter

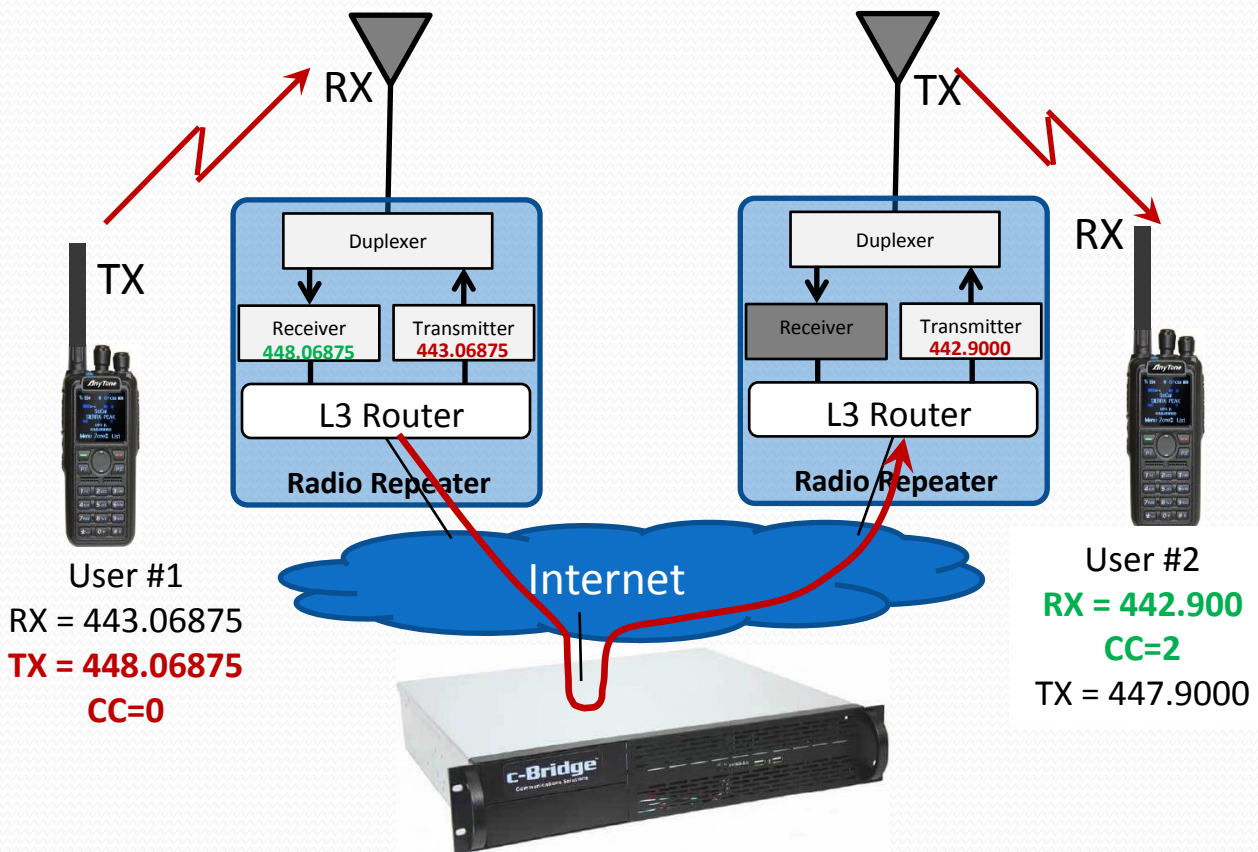


Improved Voice Performance



DMR Repeater Networks How Do They Work?

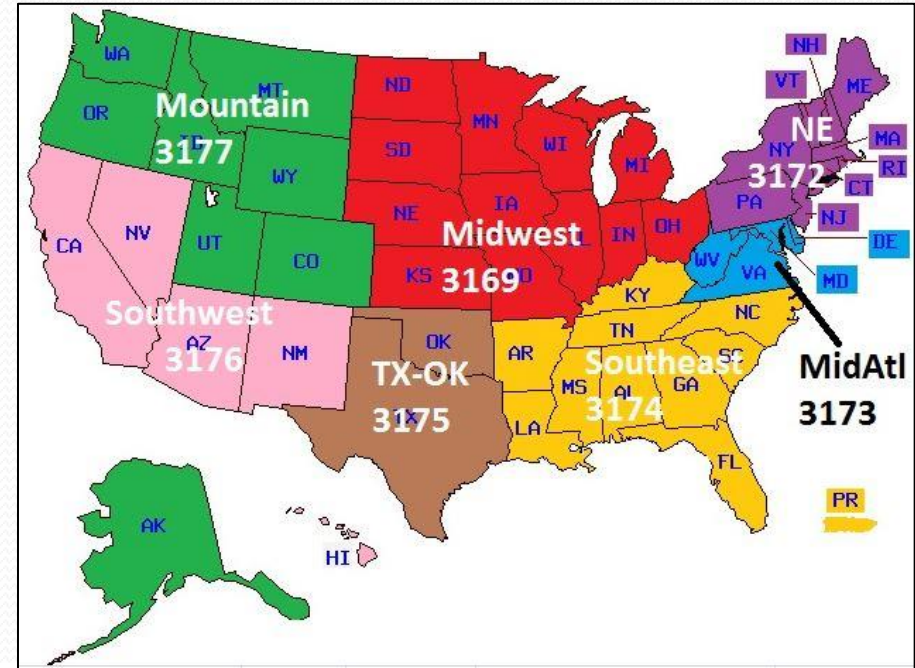
DMR Repeater Networks



- DMR repeaters do not need separate radio dedicated back-bone networks to communicate between each other.
- The “C-Bridge” provides repeater call routing between all repeaters connected to it.
- Network C-Bridges interconnect between other networks (e.g., MARC, Brandmeister, others)

DMR Repeater Networks

- So the possibilities on how many repeaters becomes only limited to the number of C-Bridge ports.
- **“Talk Groups”** are used on both Time Slots 1 & 2.
 - Local geographic (e.g. Chicago) metro
 - Metro to Metro (e.g. Chicago to Wisconsin)
 - Metro to other USA cities
 - Cities to other countries
- Also see web sites for more details:
 - <http://chicagoland-cc.org>
 - <http://www.dmr-marc.net>
 - <https://brandmeister.network/>



Talk Groups

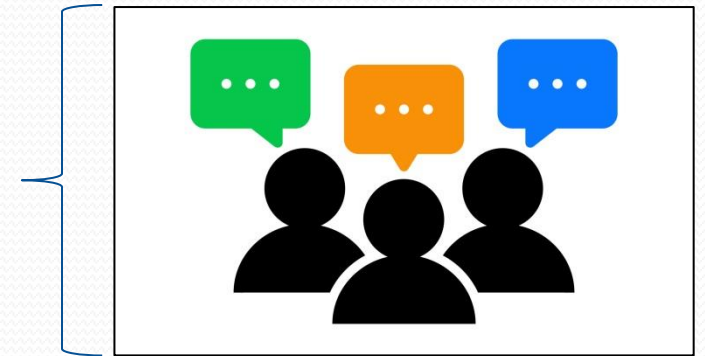
- Each “Talk Group” is given a unique identifier to separate a group of users from others using the same or different Time Slot.

Example [Chicagoland]

- If a ham radio user was in Chicago and only wanted to talk to people in Chicago metro, they would use TG = 3166 (Local 2).
- And while people in Chicago are using TG=3166 (Local 2), others could use a different Talk Groups, for example TG=3106 (California 1), to communicate from Chicago to California.
- Simultaneous conversations are on different Time Slot #1 & #2

NOTE

- Users can operate on the same Time Slot using different Talk Groups but will have to wait for one group to pause or stop before the other group can use the Time Slot. When the Time Slot is busy and a user tries to access the network, their radio will provide an audible tone indicating the channel is busy.



Talk Group 3166 (Local 2)



Talk Group 3106
(California 1)

Push To Talk (PTT) Timers

- What are Push To Talk Timers?
 - A way to limit the amount of time a Talk Group will be active to specific set of repeaters controlled by a C-Bridge.
- How do I activate a PTT?
 - Select the Talk Group, press the Push to Talk on your radio (prefer you identify yourself), and the Timer for that Talk Group will begin.
 - The TG will become active for the remaining time (e.g. 15 minutes) from last PTT conversation.
 - When time expires, the connection to the group of repeaters is turned off.

Local FRRL Repeaters

C-Bridge Name	ID	City	State/Prov	Country	Tx Freq	Color	Offset	Timeslot	Trustee	Network
Aurora IL	311719	Aurora	Illinois	United States	443.42500	1	+5	TS1 TS2	W9LSL	ChicagoLand
Batavia IL	311713	Batavia	Illinois	United States	443.08125	1	+5	TS1 TS2	WB9PHK	ChicagoLand
Dundee IL	2	East Dundee	Illinois	United States	443.06875	0	+5	TS1 TS2	WB9PHK	ChicagoLand - RX site
Elburn IL	311759	Elburn	Illinois	United States	443.64375	6	+5	TS1 TS2	W9XA	ChicagoLand
Lockport IL	311737	Lockport	Illinois	United States	443.22500	2	+5	TS1 TS2	N2BJ	ChicagoLand
New Lenox IL	311738	New Lenox	Illinois	United States	444.40000	2	+5	TS1 TS2	N2BJ	ChicagoLand
Plano IL	311760	Plano	Illinois	United States	443.65625	6	+5	TS1 TS2	W9XA	ChicagoLand
Plato Center IL	311728	Plato Center	Illinois	United States	444.97500	1	+5	TS1 TS2	WR9ABQ	ChicagoLand
West Chicago IL	6	West Chicago	Illinois	United States	443.06875	0	+5	TS1 TS2	WB9PHK	ChicagoLand - RX site-2

Chicagoland Control Center Coverage Maps

https://wp.chicagoland-cc.org/?page_id=107

NOTE – Chicagoland CC Specifics

- TS2 typically local communications within Chicago Metro area.
- TS1 typically broader communications anywhere.
- Local repeater operation only with TG 9, TS 1

Radio Verification with DMR Chicagoland C.C. Network

Verification of DMR Radio Programming

- Connect to Chicagoland Control Center – Call Watch website
 - <http://Chicagoland.dyndns.org:42420/CallWatch>
 - Transmit and what for your Name, Call Sign and other DMR information
 - Verify everything looks as your radio display name states & observe your signal strength into the repeater
- Use DMR Radio Promiscuous Mode
 - Useful if you want to receive all Time Slot #1 & #2 communications
 - Talk Group ID's are ignored but shown separately on radio display

Chicagoland C.C. Call Watch

<http://Chicagoland.dyndns.org:42420/CallWatch>

Rayfield Communications 2024 W. Woodbine - Springfield, MA 01107		Control Center ChicagoLand						19:12:05 Ma
Accept text	<input type="text"/>	Reject text	<input type="text"/>					
start time	duration	source peer alias	source radio alias	dest. bridge group	RSSI (dBm)	site name	loss rate	
19:11:54.4 Mar 5	9.659	BMB102 - -- 393102	VE3RVV - Rick - Pictou Landing Nova Scotia Canada -- 3024374	BM-WW CC BM	0.000	BM-US-3102	0.0%	
19:11:59.2 Mar 5	4.784	KA0JSW - Newport Pennsylvania United States -- 312484	N3CMY - Larry A - Millerstown Pennsylvania United States -- 3131697	TAC 314 CC Interstate	0.000	Interstate Network	0.0%	
start time	duration	source peer alias	source radio alias	dest. bridge group	RSSI (dBm)	site name	loss rate	
19:11:44.7 Mar 5	8.993	N3TWT - Landisburg Pennsylvania United States -- 314264	KC3OXD - Michael - Carlisle Pennsylvania United States -- 3167563	TAC 314 CC Interstate	-86.4	Interstate Network	0.0%	
19:09:35.8 Mar 5	9.799	BMB102 - -- 393102	AA4GH - Gus - Punta Gorda Florida United States -- 3191794	BM-WW CC BM	0.000	BM-US-3102	0.0%	
19:09:36.4 Mar 5	3.617	N3TWT - Landisburg Pennsylvania United States -- 314264	KC3OXD - Michael - Carlisle Pennsylvania United States -- 3167563	TAC 314 CC Interstate	-88.8	Interstate Network	0.0%	
19:09:28.0 Mar 5	4.313	BMB102 - -- 393102	VE3RVV - Rick - Pictou Landing Nova Scotia Canada -- 3024374	BM-WW CC BM	0.000	BM-US-3102	0.0%	
19:09:12.8 Mar 5	5.78	BMB102 - -- 393102	AA4GH - Gus - Punta Gorda Florida United States -- 3191794	BM-WW CC BM	0.000	BM-US-3102	0.0%	
19:09:03.5 Mar 5	6.170	WB9PHK - Batavia Illinois United States -- 311713	KB9ANL - Patrick - West Chicago Illinois United States -- 3117314	Site Local-9 1-9	-110.0	ChicagoLand	0.0%	

Radio ID	CALLSIGN	Name	City	State/Prov	Country	Last Heard	Last TG
3117314	KB9ANL	Patrick Brod	West Chicago	Illinois	United States	2023-02-28 22:12:32	310

Call Watch / Traffic Monitoring

Description	Web Address
Call Watch	http://chicagoland.dyndns.org:42420/CallWatch
CHI-DMR	http://99.117.13.13:42420/CallWatch
PEER WATCH	http://chicagoland.dyndns.org:42420/PeerWatchFrame
MOTODMR	http://primary.motodmr.net:42420/CallWatch
MARK DMR +	http://44.48.48.20/ipsc/
BrandMeister Monitoring (hoseline)	https://hose.brandmeister.network/

Chicagoland CC

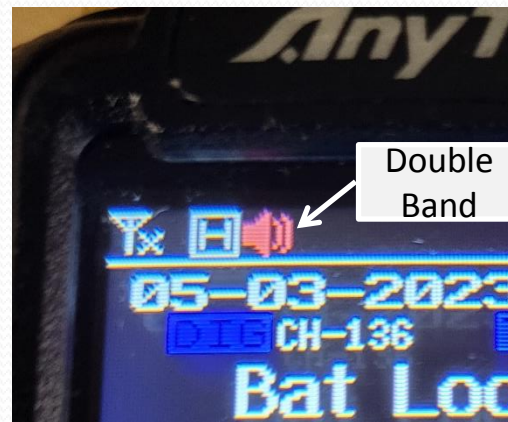
https://wp.chicagoland-cc.org/?page_id=52

Promiscuous Modes w/AT-878 or 578

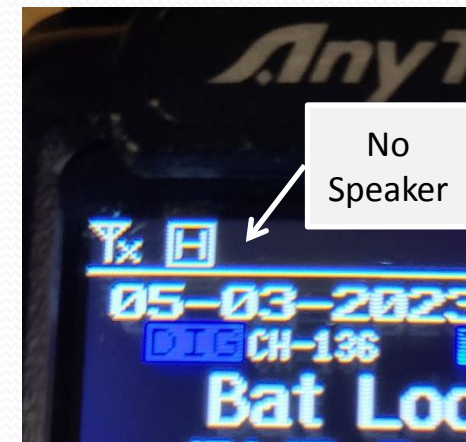
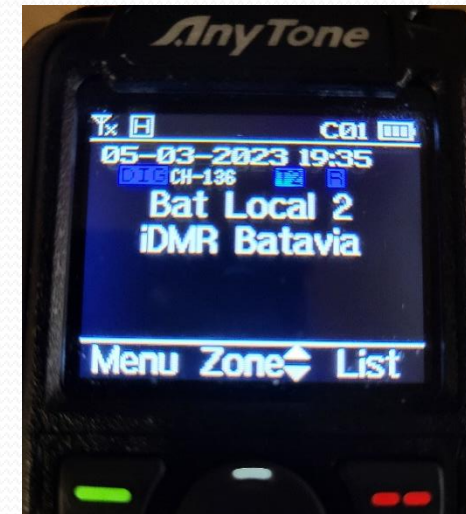
Single Slot Monitor



Double Slot Monitor



Normal RX



*Thank You for attending
the Chicagoland DMR
Fox River Radio League
Program March 16th, 2023*

Presentation Outline

DMR Fundamentals & Chicagoland Network

- Introduction of myself
- Review of analog repeaters
 - Uplink/Downlink Frequencies & Offset
 - PL/CTCSS Tone
- DMR Fundamentals
 - Contact List – What is contact list?
 - Channel – What is it?
 - Zone – Why do radios have a “zone” and what is it?
 - Color Code – What is it important?
- How DMR Repeaters & Inter-connect Networks Work
 - Repeater Comms via C-Bridge
 - Talk Groups
 - Push To-Talk Timers (PTTs)
 - Chicagoland Control Center Charts
 - Repeater Freqs, Talk Groups, PTTs, other
 - Chicagoland area repeaters
 - Verifying Your DMR Radio Communications in Chicagoland network