

## TECHNICAL ARTICLE



### Utilising the AllStarLink or Echolink HAM VOIP Systems to make a Remote Connection.

Hi just a quick update on how to access the Townsville 2m repeater from outside of the local area using either AllStarLink or Echolink and how to link to an AllStarLink or Echolink remote node.

#### Overview:

The local Townsville 2m repeater has AllStarLink and Echolink permanently connected to it. The primary link is an AllStarLink node, node number 49806. With a secondary link which is Echolink node number 956580 (VK4PQ-R) which is routed through AllStarLink onto the repeater.

#### Technique:

**NOTE: to dial a remote node using the following instructions you will be using DTMF tones from your transceiver, so you need a DTMF enabled transceiver to be able to do this.**

*The secret is **smooth** DTMF dialling and not too quick or not too slow.*

#### VOIP access into a distant repeater - AllStarLink:

What does all this mean, well:

You can access the 2m repeater remotely (*when you are on that Grey Nomad Trip*) through the AllStarLink network, by dialling node number 49806.

*If say for example you were in Woop Woop and it had an **AllStarLink** enabled repeater you could type the following DTMF tone **\*349806** into the repeater and it would connect to the local Townsville 2m repeater. Similarly if you had a portable hotspot with AllStarLink enabled on it you could type the same DTMF tone **\*349806** into it and get connected to Townsville as well.*

Through the Echolink network by searching for **VK4PQ-R** or dialling node number **956580**.

*If say for example you were in Woop Woop and it had an **Echolink** enabled repeater you could type the following DTMF tone **\*3956580** into the repeater and it would connect to the local Townsville 2m repeater Or if you had a smart phone with an Echolink application on it you would search for **VK4PQ-R** and connect to it and this will get you connected to Townsville as well.*

Now that covers dialling into the local 2m repeater, let's look at dialling out and connecting an AllStarLink node or Echolink node through the local Townsville 2m repeater. Connect to a remote AllStarLink node, you need their node number. You can look this up by searching the AllStarLink Node List online using your favourite search engine.

#### VOIP access out of a repeater:

Let's for fun connect to the Cairns AllStarLink Hub run by VK4SJB Steve. First we lookup the node number by doing a search on the AllStarLink node list lookup feature on the web, we find node number 533330 is the Cairns Hub node number.

Now the fun bit connecting, we do this by pushing the PTT switch to activate the transceiver and using the touch keypad type in **\*3533330** and release the PTT, if you are successful the AllStarLink node automate announcement will say node 533330 connected to node 49806, all good if you hear this, then wait 5 seconds and then initiate a call by calling a station in Cairns or just put out a CQ and wait and see if you get a response. Well done, connection done, now remember when you finish you QSO you need to release the link and you do this by typing in the following DTMF tone remember push the PTT and using the touch keypad type in **\*1533330** and if successfully done the automated announcement will say node 533330 disconnected.

#### Prefixes for Connection and Disconnection - AllStarLink

So to **connect** a AllStarLink node type

**\*3<node number>**

and to **disconnect** type **\*1<node number>**.

#### VOIP access into a distant repeater - Echolink:

To connect to a remote Echolink node, similarly you will need to look-up the remote number online by searching for Echolink Node List using your favourite search engine.

*Here is one for Tony VK4FTTW, lets connect to the Gold Coast morning session, let's look this up by doing a search for the SEQ Conference Server which hosts this net on the Echolink node number listing on the web, its number is 751556.*

*Same as above, well similar so I will cut to the chase. Press the PTT and type the following in on the touch keypad **\*33751556** then release the PTT and you will hear (wait up I will try it) yep, the automated announcement will tell you the two node numbers are connected.*

*Remember when you are finished with the connection release it, do this by pressing the PTT and typing in on the touch keypad **\*13751556** and the automated announcement will tell you the link is disconnected and YES I did disconnect the link, gee critics everywhere ... Hi Hi.*

#### Prefixes for Connection and Disconnection - Echolink

Now, see the difference, let's look at it; to **connect** an Echolink node type **\*33<node number>**, to **disconnect** type **\*13<node number>** and that's it.

#### Summary:

I hope this helps understanding the nodes on the repeater just a little bit more, and always remember to leave a 5 second break between overs and don't start talking immediately after pressing the PTT give it a second then start talking otherwise your prefix will be missed by someone on the other end of the link and all they will hear is 4PQ for example.

Cheers de VK4PQ Peter @ Kelso,  
Oh and feel free to ask me questions too.

#### Reference:

AllStarLink Node Lookup online:

<https://allstarlink.org/nodelist/>

Echolink Node Lookup online:

<https://secure.echolink.org/links.jsp>

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