

How To Use AllStar & DMR Tips by (Jesse WH6AV)

[Big Island Monthly Siren Net \(AllStar\)](#) | [Hawaii County Siren Net \(DMR\)](#)

When keying up any radio, folks need to wait 2 seconds before saying anything. Here is a rule of thumb, hold mic at waist level, key radio, and bring mic up an inch away from mouth and speak. That way there's no need to count seconds. When checking in, people need to realize that it's not a contest to see who checks in first. ALWAYS listen first before transmitting.

Operators should know where they can and cannot transmit from. Anyone that will be transmitting from a radio should always ensure that they have a proper match between radio and antenna. Proper wattage should also be noted.

A net control station should utilize the IAXRPT client whenever possible. Here's a list of reasons as to why:

1) Net control station will be operating the IAXRPT client in FULL DUPLEX mode, therefore he/she will be able to hear a transmission come through even though the Net Controller is making a transmission. When the Net controller is using an actual radio, they will not hear any transmissions when he/she is transmitting itself over the air.

2) When using the IAXRPT client, I highly recommend using a footswitch to key the PTT of the client. The greatest advantage of using a footswitch is that it frees up your hands to log check-ins or jot other info.

I don't connect the DMR BM TG 31158 side to the Big Island Monthly Siren Net. Here's my explanation. There are operators who are on the fringe of a repeater and can't hold the repeater. Those are the individuals, that you will hear go in and out. Repeated quick keying and unkeying of repeaters are detected as kerchunks. Brandmeister Network detects those kerchunks and permits a few through for a few seconds, but ends up putting the Talkgroup in BLOCKED MODE. Then, you'll constantly hear "BLOCKED" on every transmissions, until the DMR crosslink gets disconnected from the HMASN network. The block remains for an entire whole HOUR. Even when it's disconnected from the DMR to Analog crosslink, any digital transmissions that still happens on DMR will still be blocked.

I have a solution to the BLOCKED issue. However, all repeaters on the Brandmeister network on Big Island will need to be reprogrammed. All end-user radios will need to be programmed as well with new TalkGroup assignments and an understanding of what Talkgroups would be utilized. It's easy for me to do it, as I've been doing it on my repeater for 5 years now.

Just my two-cents for what it's worth.

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