

## BCU Lives 04/14/2021 - Making a DMR QSO

If you're new to DMR or new to DMR and Ham Radio, how to make your first contact can be somewhat intimidating. In this livestream I'm going to provide you with some tips and show you how to make a QSO using DMR and a HotSpot on the Brandmeister Network.

### **Tips:**

1. Find a weekly NET. These happen at set times on certain talk groups and give you an opportunity to "Check In". The advantage here is the control operator is wanting you to talk and is a great time to break the ice. Check out our link to weekly nets:

<https://www.bridgecomsystems.com/pages/amateur-radio-digital-nets>

2. Go to the BrandMeister "Last Heard" and see where there's activity. Program those talk groups into your radio.

<https://brandmeister.network/?page=lh>

3. Here's a growing list of Talk Groups on Brandmeister.

[https://www.pistar.uk/dmr\\_bm\\_talkgroups.php](https://www.pistar.uk/dmr_bm_talkgroups.php)

4. Have confidence. We were all new at one time. There's a lot of folks on the air looking to make new contacts too and it's a great way to make new friends.
  - a. Try the parrot first. Make sure your equipment is working. Simply PTT and say your call sign. Confirm you hear your transmission repeated back to you.
  - b. Then try any Talk Group you like and announce: "This is <CALL SIGN> monitoring Talk Group <TG NAME>. My name is <NAME>. Is there anyone available for a radio check?"

**Demonstration of making a QSO on the following talk groups.**

1. UTAH STATE Wide - 3149
2. OHIO STATE Wide - 3139
3. SOUTH DAKOTA STATE Wide - 3146
4. PAPA CHAT - 31077
5. ALABAMA State Wide - 3101

Time permitting a live attendee provides a TG and I program up talk group on the fly,