

21November 2017

Subject: PNW DMR Symposium – 18 November 2017

Location: Moses Lake, WA Best Western Hotel

Attendee's: 49

Hours of Training: 0900 – 1630 local time

Background:

For years of our amateur history, we have adapted commercial systems and radios to amateur use, and today's DMR systems are no different. Currently there are just over 25 [deployed UHF repeaters](#) that are all linked together using a variety of ethernet / internet linking mediums. While this may not be the largest deployment of a state, we do have a significant footprint of our largest cities in Washington, Oregon and north Idaho. Along with that, there is also 100% coverage of the Interstate-5 corridor in western Washington, using around 8 or 9 repeaters.

While some of these regional repeaters have a different purpose for being installed, they are all available for emergency use by Amateur Radio Operators in any area. By having several repeaters that have great overlap, we also create redundancy and have added capacity to our systems and users abilities to ensure their communications are successfully reaching their destinations. Whether needing to have 2 simultaneous voice paths (channels) or data communications similar to packet radio, DMR systems give the users that ability.

Synopsis:

Several amateurs had asked for an introduction into Digital Mobile Radio (DMR) after purchasing radios and getting on the air through several area repeaters or by using an internet connected Hotspot. Over the past year, there have been many new developments in the DMR arena for users who may not have a local area repeater. Combined with an influx of less expensive radios which are compatible with Tier II DMR, in Washington there have been over 300 new DMR-MARC ID registrations in the last 12 months for a total of 658 registered ID's.

This weekend's training was meant to be an introduction to DMR. Topics covered were based on how DMR works, to Emergency Communications applications, to a high level overview of the infrastructure behind the scenes and finally a best practices 'How-to' guide for those who maybe don't know much about DMR systems. The general consensus I have heard, was that the training was well received, and has sparked interest in a few communities that don't currently have repeater infrastructure, to start looking at building and expanding it to their areas.

The PowerPoint presentations are available on the regional DMR information page, located at <http://www.trbo.org/pnw/symposium-2017/index.html>.

Several items were raffled off including a 3 radios, some mag-mount antennas and a couple of runs of LMR-400 cable with a choice of connectors (installed on-site!). There were also several new radios for sale on a "First-come.. First-serve" basis. A portion of the cost was donated by one particular eBay reseller who has a track record of making good deals.

An anonymous donor provided a breakfast bar to the entire event. The food provided by the local hotel was typical light breakfast food of eggs, bacon, sausage, fruit, pastries and juices.

Closing:

This event was a successful introduction to DMR for folks mostly from Washington. We also have a couple of visitors from Oregon and one from California. This event will likely be duplicated again over the next several months in Eastern Washington, as well as other efforts across the state and region to further grow and enhance our DMR systems.

Overall, this was a very successful event with several key areas of interest to the amateur community!