

A brief guide to the GB3SD Echolink node

By Rob G0ECX

As you may be aware most evenings and weekends GB3SD is connected to the worldwide Echolink network via an interface in my shack. A number of local Amateurs have asked if I could give them a brief description of how to use this link from a mobile or a hand held station. To make full use of Echolink via the GB3SD repeater ideally you need a radio equipped with a DTMF keypad. This will enable you to send commands and station node numbers to my interface and the PC.

The stations on the network can be split into three types:

1. Operators using their own callsigns via a PC.
2. Nodes operated as stand alone gateways.
3. Repeaters connected to the Echolink system.

Please bear in mind that connecting a number of stations together with our repeater can cause disruption to normal repeater users, especially if one of the connected stations is a conference link with many operators connected to it. These links tend to be in constant use.

Each echo link station has a "node number" of several digits; GB3SD's number is 112689.

Here are some of the basic DTMF Echolink commands: -

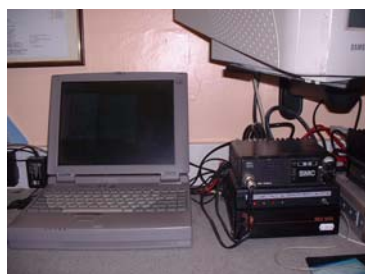
Command	Description	Default
Connect	Connects to a station on the Internet, based on its node number.	num
Connect by Call	Connects to a station on the Internet, based on its callsign.	C+call+#
Disconnect	Disconnects the station that is currently connected. If more than one station is connected, disconnects only the most-recently-connected station.	#
Disconnect All	Disconnects all stations.	##
Reconnect	Re-connects to the station that most recently disconnected.	09
Status	Announces the callsign of each station currently connected.	08
Play Info	Plays a brief ID message.	*
Query by Call	Looks up a station by its callsign, and reads back its node number and status.	07+call+#
Disconnect All	Disconnects all stations.	##

A full list of commands is available on the Echolink web site at <http://www.echolink.org> but if you know the node number of the station you would like to connect to just access the repeater in the usual way and then key in the node number on your DTMF keypad. Next, drop carrier and listen, Echolink should come back with the message connected to ??????. That's it; you can chat to the other station on the system anywhere in the world.

When you have finished your QSO press the PTT and key in # and Echolink should come back with a message stating the station callsign is disconnected.

Another way of connecting if you know a stations call sign is to type Cstationcall# This will only work if your DTMF keypad is marked with letters as well as numbers.

The simple rules are: - once you have finished. Disconnect! Please don't leave several stations connected to the repeater at once but most of all have fun! And enjoy the Echolink facility.



The Echolink PC interface and SMC 2546 PMR radio used for the GB3SD node at the QTH of Rob, G0ECX in Weymouth UK