

MIDSTAR (UK) Regional Network

September 2010

GB7BM (City of Birmingham) GB7GL (Gloucester) GB7SY (Shrewsbury) GB7WF (Wyre Forest) & GB7ZI (Cannock) are now linked on a more permanent basis to create our own regional network MIDSTAR (UK)

By having all five repeaters connected to a regional default reflector (36A) any call that is made on any of the above repeaters will be heard on the others (if linked) without users having to issue any link commands. This is especially useful for mobile users as it removes the difficulty of linking/unlinking when mobile to continue their regional QSO as they move from the coverage area of one repeater into another.

In addition to creating a regional network and to maintain the flexibility and choice that BM GL SY WF & ZI currently offer, users will still be able to connect to National & International Reflectors as they can now. If already connected to MIDSTAR a standard "Unlink" command will have to be transmitted first, then you can transmit a link command to whichever Reflector or Repeater you wish.

When RF is no longer detected after 15 minutes, an unlink command (if linked elsewhere) is automatically issued, then after an additional 2 minutes a link command is issued which automatically links back to MIDSTAR giving a total time-out period of approximately 17 minutes. If you are in QSO with stations via other Reflectors your QSO will not be interrupted as long as you transmit once every 15 minutes to reset the timer. Also if you want to make a local call then if you transmit within the 2 minutes after the auto unlink command it will reset the timer for another 15 minutes before attempting to link back to MIDSTAR.

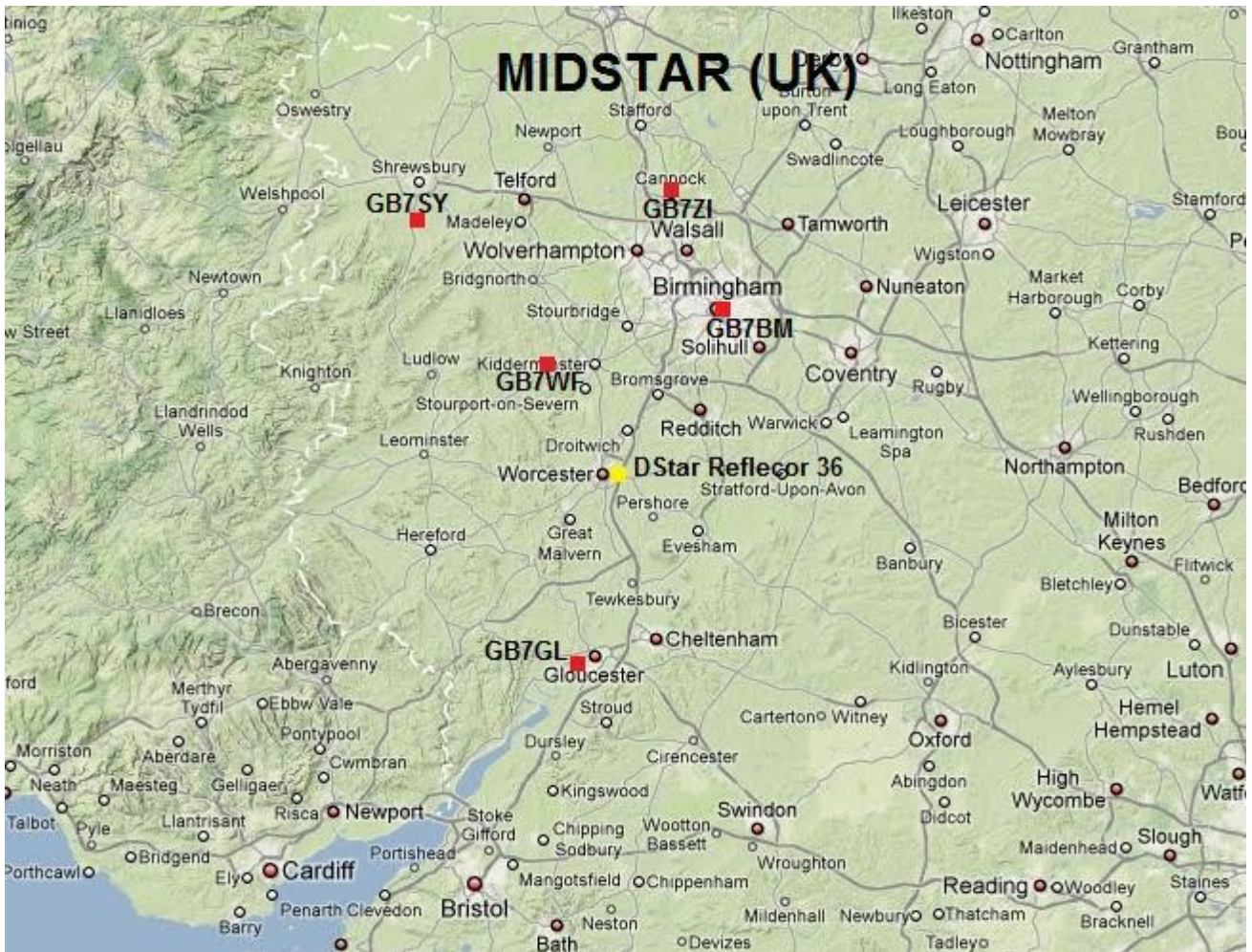
This time-out period is set so the repeater is not connected for long periods to a distance Reflector with no one participating which puts off potential local users who may only want to make a local call.

If any one wants their local repeater to stay linked for longer periods to other Reflectors just to listen, which they are welcome to do, then all they have to do is transmit their call within 15 minutes and the timer will be reset, also it would indicate to others that someone locally is actually listening.

If a user does unlink from MIDSTAR and makes a call on another reflector then they would have 15 minutes to receive a reply. Also if they are in a QSO involving a number of other stations then they are not under pressure to transmit every 2 or 3 minutes.

We hope this new facility will encourage the use and enjoyment of DStar in the Midlands, a map and frequency listings of current MIDSTAR Repeaters can be found on the next page.

For further information please contact your local DStar repeater keeper,
John G8VIQ (GB7BM) : Simon G4SGI (GB7GL) : Don M0FHM (GB7SY) : Nigel G8OXG (GB7WF) : Brian G8VPR (GB7ZI)



GB7BM City of Birmingham
 439.400 – 9.00 MHz
 YOUR:CQCQCQ
 RPT1 :GB7BM B
 RPT2 :GB7BM G

GB7GL Forest of Dean
 439.7125 – 9.00 MHz
 YOUR:CQCQCQ
 RPT1 :GB7GL B
 RPT2 :GB7GL G

GB7SY Shrewsbury
 439.700 – 9.00 MHz
 YOUR:CQCQCQ
 RPT1 :GB7SY B
 RPT2 :GB7SY G

GB7WF Wyre Forest
 439.4875 – 9.00 MHz
 YOUR:CQCQCQ
 RPT1 :GB7WF B
 RPT2 :GB7WF G

GB7ZI Cannock
 439.6875 – 9.00MHz
 YOUR:CQCQCQ
 RPT1 :GB7ZI B
 RPT2 :GB7ZI G