

VE3PGC Bonville 443.650 + (110.9Hz.) Asterisk AllStar Node Operation

VE3PGC is currently a Motorola GR-1225 FM repeater, with an output of 40 Watts. The site is at an elevation of 104 m (341 ft) above sea level, with antennas at the top of a 91 m (300 ft) tower. It is collocated with the VA3VSW, a Yaesu Fusion C4FM Digital / Analog FM repeater operating on 442.200 (+), also with a 110.9 Hz. CTCSS tone, and with APRS node VE3PGC-1 on 144.390 MHz..

VE3PGC is Node 2579 on the worldwide Asterisk AllStar network, and is also accessible as EchoLink node 463095 or VE3PGC-L.

VE3PGC is scheduled to connect to the ERA (Escarment Repeater Association) Hub, Allstar node 27288 every Thursday and Sunday evening at 1945 local time, for the Ontario wide ProComm Net and disconnects automatically at 2115 local. (The net does not operate on Thursdays during the months of July and August.)

The Connect command is * 3, and the Disconnect command is * 1. So, for example, to connect to AllStar Node 27288 for the Sunday evening net, the command is * 3 2 7 2 8 8, and to disconnect, the command is * 1 2 7 2 8 8. Alternately, the * 7 1 command ("Disconnect All"), as the name suggests, will terminate all connections.

There are other commands, most are sysop commands or access features we do not have on VE3PGC, like multiple node remote control, autopatch, etc.

Not all possible Allstar node commands are necessarily implemented on every AllStar node. The sysop (system operator) can customize the available commands as desired, by editing configuration files on the Linux host node computer, which is currently a 4 Gb Raspberry Pi 4.

VE3PGC's commands are a subset of available commands but are all standard commands.

Any node can make a direct connection to any other AllStar node in the world. Once such a connection is made, that remote node becomes part of the local network.

A list of active AllStar nodes can be found on the status page at: <http://stats.allstarlink.org/>

Using AllStar Link

All commands issued to a node are acted upon by the controller at that point in the network. Commands are not propagated to other nodes unless specifically required.

For example, a command issued against the Cornwall (VE3PGC) repeater will only affect that node, and all responses will be generated by that node.

These are the ground rules:

Every command must begin with a "Star" character (*).

If a * is issued as part of a command string, it causes a reset of the decoder and the decoding begins from the last entered * character.

This is useful if you make a mistake; you just start again.

Decoding is abandoned if the gap between digits is too long.

Available Functions

- *1 nnnn Disconnect specified link
- *2 nnnn Connect to specified node in monitor (receive only) mode
- *3 nnnn Connect to specified node in transceive (receive/transmit) mode
- *4 nnnn Enter command mode on specified node (*not used by VE3PGC*)
- *70 Report system status for this node only
- *71 Disconnect last node connected
- *72 Connect last node disconnected in monitor mode
- *73 Connect last node disconnected in transceiver mode
- *75 Disconnect all links (master reset)
- *76 Report system status for all nodes
- *80 Send station CW ID
- *81 Say 12 hour time of day
- *82 Say 24 hour time of day

In the above list, nnnn represents the AllStar Link node number to connect to / disconnect from, and can be four five or six digits.

AllStar connections only require the use of the *3 and *1 commands above.

* 7 0 is especially useful if you don't have a computer nearby to view the status page, like when you are mobile or portable.

EchoLink

The VE3PGC AllStar node can also support connections to Echolink and IRLP. On Echolink it is VE3PGC-L node 463095. Previously on IRLP it was node 2600. However due to objections by IRLP administration to Asterisk connections being made to the IRLP network, this capability has been disabled.

Rules for invoking EchoLink connections.

AllStar treats ALL EchoLink node numbers as 6-digits long. Nodes with shorter numbers need to have leading zeroes added.

e.g. EchoLink node 1234 = AllStar Node 001234

Also, in order to distinguish EchoLink node numbers from AllStar numbers, the 6-digit number has to be prepended with a "3". So the example above becomes 3001234; a total of 7 digits.

Having constructed the number of the desired node, we need to issue the command to make the link.

Connect:

Enter the DTMF code to tell the gateway to make the EchoLink connection

For example: * 7 3 3001234 will issue a connect request to EchoLink node 1234.

Disconnect:

When you are finished with your call, enter the disconnect sequence.

Key *1 (the disconnect command from the table above) followed by the node number.
For example * 7 1 3001234. You will get a disconnect message confirming what has happened.

Much of this information is from <https://manxrepeaters.com/index.php/repeaters/gb3im-information/allstar-linking>

The VE3PGC repeater and it's Asterisk Allstar node were established by, and are in memory of Eric Meth VE3EI (sk), who was tremendous supporter of, and contributor to the Seaway Valley Amateur Radio Club during his time here in Cornwall and after he moved to the Niagara area, until his passing in 2017.