Newsletter December 2024 – 36th Edition

In this edition:

1) Hotspot and Gateway Repeater active watch Updates - with Dashboard hosting.
2) ZL2VH - ircDDB Update.
3) Pi-Star not responding to my first key up with an ID-52A and ID-52A Plus (60th) - by ZL2TWS

1) Hotspot and Gateway Repeater active watch Updates - Dashboard hosting.
This is a listing of High Power Hotspots and Gateway Repeaters you can connect to.

NOTE-1: At the time of publication the URL's listed below were checked and active.
Their status may have changed since publication due to temporary outage or update.
See this New link:
https://zl2vh.nz/assets/pdf/other/new-zealand-d-star-gateways-hotspots.pdf

NOTE-2: Please advise if there are hotspots missing from the active list that work.

2) ZL2VH - ircDDB is online by request or for test purposes.
The majority of users are active on G3 and ircDDB users prefer their own hotpots.

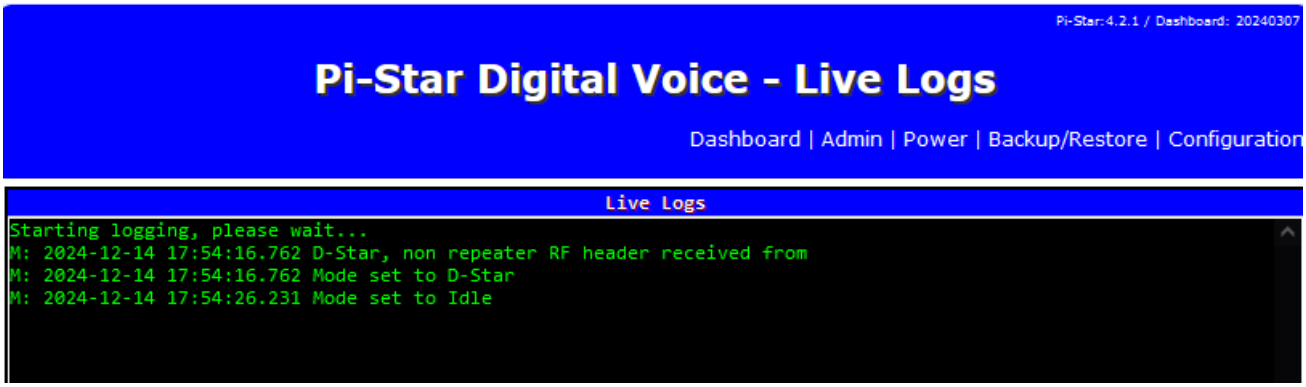
3) Pi-Star not responding to my first key up with an ID-52A and ID-52A Plus (60th) - by ZL2TWS
Problem:
After turning on an ID-52A or ID-52A Plus (60th) radio, keying up a Pi-Star RF hotspot or RF repeater, to then find that often neither will process the received RF signal.
The Pi-Star appears to be asleep however is transmitting and traffic is heard if connected to a reflector.
The ID-52A and ID-52A Plus (60th) has been traced to be the problem.
Experimentation using the ID-31A and ID-51A Plus (50th) showed different results and worked every key up so it was confirmed to be the new ID-52A radio series that has the issue.

Users observe that the Pi-Star always works after the second or third key up and keeps working as expected.. Providing the user double keys then two way QSO's are reliable. It's just the first key up that is not recognised. Some reported subsequent intermittent responses but I didn't and only at first key up.

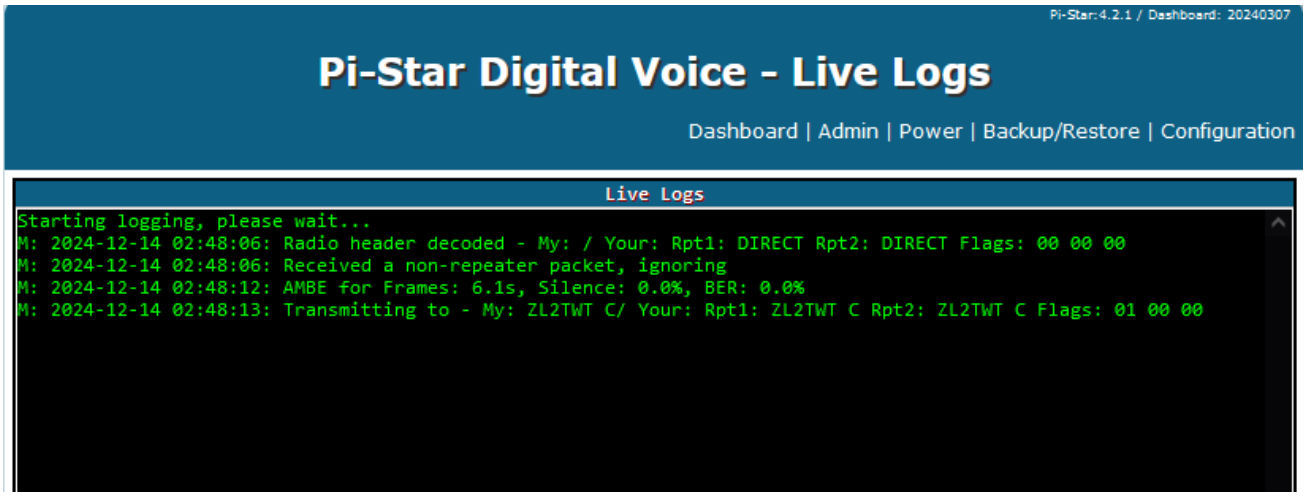
Solution:
I noticed in December 2024 that Icom Japan issued a firmware update for both of these radios.
One of the fixes has rectified the key up issue.

"-Fixed a problem in which the bit synchronisation signal was shorter than expected when transmitting in the DV mode."

In the picture below you can see by using Pi-Star "Admin" tab, logging in and selecting "Live logs"that the problem at first key up is seen. This also occurs in the RF repeaters. Both RP-2010V and RP-4010V were showing the same silent treatment as with Pi-Star hotspots.
The Pi-Star or RF repeater does not respond due to a "non-repeater RF header being received"



ZUM-Radio MMDVM on Raspberry Pi4 using Pi-Star V4.2.1 showing the “non repeaterRF header”



DVAP Dongle on Odroid XU4 using Pi-Star V4.2.1 showing a “non repeater packet, ignoring”

Once the firmware is updated to V1.26 in the ID-52A and V1.10 in the ID-52A Plus (60th) the problem goes away and is not seen again.

Please update your firmware here for ID-52A:

https://www.icomjapan.com/support/firmware_driver/4247/

and here for ID-52 Plus (60th):

https://www.icomjapan.com/support/firmware_driver/4242/

D-Star web sites of interest:

US Trust D-Star Last Heard monitor: https://www.dstarusers.org/

US Trust DSync monitor: https://dsync.dstarusers.org/

US Trust D-Star registation check: https://regist.dstargateway.org/regcheck/index.php

ircDDBGateway - Repeaters:
Hamilton. http://zl1cct.d-star.nz (DPlus, DExtra & DCS) **CCS7 8530100** [145.350-RPTR]
Kapiti ZL2KB. http://zl2kb.ddns.net:8080 ZL2KB C (DPlus, DExtra & DCS) [145.300 RPTR]

New Zealand XLX Multimode Reflector www.xlx299.nz

ircDDB Status for ZL: https://status.ircddb.net/cgi-bin/ircddb-gw?NZL

Examples of hotspots with dashboards that you can view and connect to this month:

ZL1TOB (http://zl1tob.ddns.net:83)

ZL3TJH (http://zl3tjh.ddns.net:83)

Other Gateway Repeater Hotspots of interest:

ZL2AUS was running VHF / UHF RF Pi-Star Hotspots using MMDVM.
http://www.zl2aus.co.nz and http://uhf.zl2aus.co.nz/

Dashboard - DDNS naming convention.

PiStar: http://callsign.ddns.net :port number
Note: PiStar uses port 80 by default and not required to be added to the end of the address line.

Hotspots: http://callsign.ddns.net:82

UDRC Compass Hotspots: http://callsign.ddns.net:82
Hotspots that cannot use port 80 or 82 use port 83 (example is http://zl3tjh.ddns.net:83) and http://zl1tob.ddns.net:83)

D-Star Nets to join

http://www.dstarinfo.com/nets.aspx

Kiwi D-Star Net on XLX299 J (D-Star only channel)
Kiwi D-Star Net on XLX299 N (Tech Talk channel)

Sites Reference information:

ZL2VH Web site. https://zl2vh.nz/dstar.html

73 and good DV. John ZL2TWS for Branch 63 NZART.