

Some thoughts of Stewart, VK3PR on OpenSpot 3 and Pi-Star 13/8/20

### **OpenSpot 3 functions**

**DMR, dStar, C4FM radios** connect to BM DMR talkgroups, dStar reflectors, C4FM YSF and FCS reflectors, NXDN reflectors and P25 reflectors.

An **NXDN radio** connects to all but P25 reflectors.

A **P25 radio** connects to P25 reflectors only.

It is reconfigured via Shark RF link on phone, android or apple or computer Mac or PC.

It has limited '*last heard*' on Shark RF link.

### **PI-Star functions:**

A **DMR radio connects** to BM DMR talkgroups, C4FM YSF reflectors and NXDN reflectors.

A **C4FM radio** in VW mode connects to C4FM YSF reflectors, BM DMR talkgroups, NXDN reflectors and P25 reflectors.

A **P25 radio** connects to P25 reflectors only.

An **NXDN radio** connects to NXDN only reflectors only.

A **dStar** radio connects to dStar reflectors only.

It can monitor all modes serially, display station information, time, CPU temperature, operating frequency and Wi Fi IPA.

It is reconfigured via dashboard on phone android or apple or computer Mac or PC.

Extensive '*last heard*' on dashboard.

### **Comments:**

**Pi-Star** has an accurate clock and can keep an eye on your chosen reflectors in multiple modes but changing from scanning to operation is slow.

Small print on phone.

DMR talkgroup can be changed from the DMR radio.

**OpenSpot** has greater crossmode ability and through *Settings* quicker mode change.

DMR talkgroup and dStar reflector can be changed from the relevant radio.

Both will automatically seek out multiple programmed Wi Fi networks for use at home or via phone hotspot.

I have yet to find out whether on MMDVM with enough *Hangtime* one can carry on a QSO in scanning mode. I imagine you can.

Running both OpenSpot 3 and MMDVM is great.

I am still to work out what FCS reflectors add to C4FM.

I do not know anyone with NXDN or P25 radios.

The outrigger USB to TTL adaptor on Pi Star is unsightly.

OpenSpot 3 cost about \$405 and is effortless to set up.

The parts for MMDVM, Raspberry Pi 3B, MMDVM hat, 3.5" Nextion screen TTL USB adaptor and acrylic case cost about \$150 and is fun to build.

Next OpenSpot mailing is in August.

M6CEB on YouTube tells you exactly how to make the MMDVM. With some help from Wayne, VK3WG even I could do it.