



For Immediate Release
Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Fort Myers, Florida
Contact: Daniel Eaton
Public Information Officer
pio@fmarc.net
239-425-7914

Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club Develops Innovative Multi-Protocol Digital Reflector

FORT MYERS, Fla. — October 9, 2025 - The Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club (FMARC), an ARRL-affiliated organization founded in 1957, continues to advance the art and science of amateur radio with an innovative new project: a **multi-protocol digital reflector** that allows operators using different digital voice modes to communicate seamlessly across platforms. The team of Chris Freundlich (KB2IDX-aka Dr. Parrot), Drew Drake (KN4YDL), and Dan Blashill, (KD7ACB) developed this approach.

In traditional amateur radio, “reflectors” serve as internet-connected conference bridges, linking repeaters and personal hotspots for wide-area digital communication. FMARC’s new system takes this concept to the next level—integrating multiple digital modes including **DMR, D-STAR, Yaesu System Fusion (YSF/C4FM), P25, and NXDN** into one common virtual meeting room.

“This means a DMR user can talk directly with a D-STAR operator or someone using Yaesu Fusion, all within the same network,” explained project contributor **Chris Freundlich**. “Anyone with a hotspot can join in, and you could even sit at home with your D-STAR HT and chat with someone in Iceland on Wires-X through your local club’s repeater. That’s the power of cross-mode connectivity.”

Digital voice technologies have been steadily evolving within amateur radio since the early 2000s, beginning with Japan Amateur Radio League’s **D-STAR**, followed by commercial adaptations such as **DMR, YSF, and NXDN**. Each system offered improved clarity and functionality—but often at the cost of interoperability, as each manufacturer developed its own proprietary standard. FMARC’s multi-protocol reflector helps bridge that divide, bringing together hams across digital boundaries.

“The beauty of this system,” Chris added, “is that most users won’t have to change anything on their existing equipment. It’s designed to work transparently in the background, allowing operators to just connect and communicate.”

Carmine Ventrano, the president of FMARC, said, “This project demonstrates the club’s commitment to innovation, technical education, and public service—hallmarks of the amateur radio spirit.” As an ARRL-affiliated club, FMARC supports the exchange of knowledge among hobbyists, fosters camaraderie through hands-on experimentation, and provides critical communications support to local authorities during emergencies.

FMARC Mission Statement:

The mission of the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is to recruit, train, and support dedicated amateur radio operators who uphold the tradition of service and technical excellence. Through its network of skilled volunteers and resources, FMARC provides communications support, technical education, and community outreach to serve and protect the citizens of Southwest Florida.

With its new digital reflector initiative, FMARC is once again positioning itself at the **forefront of amateur radio innovation**—honoring tradition while embracing the technologies that will shape the next generation of communication.

About FMARC:

Founded in 1957, the Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club is one of Southwest Florida’s most active amateur radio organizations. FMARC is an official **ARRL Affiliated Club** and maintains a strong focus on technical training, emergency communication readiness, and community service. Learn more at www.fmarc.net



- DMR- Fort Myers 61 (442.175) (TG: 311261)
- P25- SW Florida P25 (TG: 533)
- D-Star- W4LCO Mod. C (147.375) (DPlus:W4LCO C)
- YSF- SW Florida YSF Reflector (Ref: 21806)
- SW FL YSF Ref. is Bridged to Wires-X (442.450) Rm. 43611
- NXDN- SW Florida NXDN (Ref: 239)
- AllStar Link- SWFL-LINK (Node: 667330)