INTRO TO AMATEUR RADIO DMR & DIGITAL VOICE

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The Digital Mobile Radio / DMR standard was published by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) in 2005.

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What is Digital Voice?

- You're all familiar with FM voice
- Oigital voice modulates FM using tones
- Voice is encoded and transmitted as 1's and 0's similar to how FAX machines & dial up modems did it.
- Gov't mandated for commercial use, low cost equipment is now available to Hams
- Same repeaters, some can flip between FM and digital
- Lets compare Digital to FM: similarities vs. the differences

Digital vs. Analog?

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Similar vs. Different	Analog	Digital
Squelch Tail	Yes	None
Courtesy Tone	Repeater's EoT	Radio's reset tone
CTCSS TX & RX	Optional (subaudible Hz)	Mandatory (colour code number)
Doubling during TX	Often happens	Repeater's Talk Permit
Repeater out of range?	Kerchunking = no squelch tail	Radio displays "repeater not found" & bonk tone
Conversations	1, on 1 shared channel	2, Simultaneous & isolated ie: Ecomm & normal, from >1,500 channels
Effective bandwidth	25 kHz wide band	12.5 kHz narrow band, (6.25 kHz equivalent for 2 conversations)
Networking	IRLP, AllStar, manual link	Local, regional, global. Reverts to a local repeater w/o internet
Can I have a signal report?	Depends on someone else, subjective	Parrot, plays back your voice. VU meter, shows your levels
There's an App for that?	EchoLink	DudeStar, DroidStar, hotspots

Digital vs. Analog?

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Similar vs. Different	Analog	Digital
Repeater Hardware	Traditional w controller	same, digital controller
Radio Hardware	HT, mobiles, base	Same + hot spots
Operation (VHF/MHF/UHF)	Tri-band, FM mode	Tri-band, FM & digital modes
Operation on simplex	Yes, w static	Yes, no static
Range	S/N ratio increases w distance, readability decreases	100% until its not. Up to 35% more distance
Programmability	Basic, "easy"	Complex, "code plug"
HT battery life, on TX	100% duty cycle	45% duty cycle (27.5/60 mS)
Radio display	Channel name / frequency, power	Same, + name, call sign, QTH, talk group, time slot
GPS	Some models	Most models
APRS	TX analog	TX & RX, analog + digital

Digital vs. Analog?

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Similar vs. Different	Analog	Digital
Modulation	FM (deviation)	4 FSK, C4FM, or 0.5 GMSK* (phase shift)
Voice Multiplexing	None	2 using TDMA 2 using FDMA 1 using GMSK* + data *Gaussian Minimum Shift Keying (FSK)
Error Correction	None	Yes, using CRC or CRC & Forward Error Correction
Monitor mode	Dual receive, 2 repeaters	Any of >1,500 on either time slot on the same repeater
Acceptance	Universal, w band plans	2005 intro, growing fast
Qty of repeaters in BC	140 LML & FV BCARCC Apr 2020	"Big 3" = 78, + 10 NXDN / P25 Repeaterbook.com Oct 2021
Security	None	Encryption: widely used in Public Safety, not used by Hams.

Push-to-Talk Analog vs Digital

- Because of
 - >1500 TGs available, Full & Part Time,
 - 2 time slots available on a repeater,
 - it's *very* possible someone might be using a TG other than the one you are listening to. If this occurs, your signal could interfere with theirs.
 - This is avoided by the way DMR handles the PTT function.
- With analog:
 - pressing the PTT button always keys the transmitter.
 - its easy to have a double transmission.
- With DMR when the PTT is pressed:
 - a signal is sent to the repeater which checks to see if the Time Slot is available.
 - If it is, a signal is sent back to the radio giving you the All Clear, usually generating a beep tone. This occurs in just under a second.
 - Also a busy light on the handheld if lit = the time slot is already in use.
 - When pressing the PTT, wait 1 or 2 seconds before talking.

Time Slots? Time Division??

- Analog FM signal bandwidth is 25.0 kHz
- DMR bandwidth is 12.5 kHz
- Digital uses either :
 - TDMA (Time Division Multiple Access) or
 - FDMA (Frequency Division Multiple Access)
- Transmits two separate conversations at the same time in 12.5 kHz (equivalent to 6.25 kHz each).
- TDMA splits the transmitted signal into alternating 30 mS time slices referred to as Time Slots.
- FDMA splits the transmitted signal into concurrent upper and lower "deviations" (like sidebands).



Audio Clarity

- The most noticeable difference between DMR and analog FM is audio clarity.
 - FM signals get progressively nosier as the signal gets weaker
 - Digital operation remains crystal clear up until the threshold of coverage is reached
 - Then it quickly becomes unusable, & "falls off a cliff" like cell phones drop calls
 - Some radios (DStar or old codecs) have robotized voices due to 'commercial requirements' whereas all other / new radios have better 'amateur radio codecs'
 - DMR has 2 layers of packet recovery:
 - Forward Error Correction and Cyclic Redundancy Codes.



Voice Quality: Analog vs DMR

- We used 446.000 MHz Simplex
 - Same radio, location, power, & antenna
- This is an FM UHF simplex call (no sound).
 - Notice the noise in the waveform





- This is a DMR UHF simplex call (no sound)
 - There is no noise in the waveform



Digital Duel: Options & Choices

- Each standard was built for a different audience:
 - DMR, P25 & NXDN for Commercial: good in places where 'terrain' can get in the way
 - DStar by Hams in Japan, close repeaters, less bad terrain, trees etc.
 - Fusion by Hams, also good where 'terrain' can get in the way
 - *AMBE[™] = Advanced Multi-Band Excitation, Vocoder = voice encoder decoder

Standard	Modulation	Channels	Bandwidth	Highway Analogy
DMR	4 FSK F Error Correction AMBE+2™	2 TDMA	12.5 kHz (6.25 ea)	1 lane road, 2 cars alternating
D-STAR	0.5 GMSK (2 FSK) Error Correction	1 FDMA	10 / 6.25 kHz data / voice	1 lane, 1 car & small trailer (for data)
System Fusion / C4FM	C4FM Error Correction	1 FDMA	12.5 kHz	Private road. Yaesu only.
NXDN	4 FSK Error Correction AMBE+2™	2 FDMA	12.5 kHz (6.25 ea)	1 lane road, 2 cars parallel
P25 ph2	Control: C4FM Audio: H-CPM & H-DQPSK Error Correction ½ rate IMBE™	2 TDMA	12.5 kHz (6.25 ea)	1 lane road, 2 cars alternating

Digital Repeaters Available (Oct 2021 vs. Feb 2020 repeaterbook.com)

	D-Star	DMR TRBO / Brandmeister	Yaesu Fusion / Wires X	NXDN	P25	
Locally Vancouver	9	8 / 7	12 (4 Wires X)	2	8 / 5	
BC Total	18	16 / 12	44 (10 Wires X)	2	6 / 5	
Canada Total	119 / 120 BC (18 / 17) AB (17 / 17) SK (2) MB (4 / 5) ON (39 / 43) PQ (28 / 25) NB (0) PEI (2) NS (3) NF (2) YK (4) NV & NWT (0)	121 / 93 BC (16 / 12) AB (5 / 3) SK (2 / 1) MB (8 / 4) ON (43 / 31) PQ (34 / 30) NB (5) PEI (1) NS (5 / 4) NF (2) YK (0) NV & NWT (0)	189 / 169 BC (44) AB (16 /14) SK (6) MB (10 / 8) ON (54 / 52) PQ (32 / 25) NB (6 / 4) PEI (4 / 1) NS (11) NF (6) YK (0) NV & NWT (0)	8 / 9 BC (2) AB (0) SK (0) MB (0) ON (5) PQ (1 / 2) NB (0) PEI (0) NS (0) NF (0) YK (0) NV & NWT (0)	46 / 26 BC (8 / 5) AB (6 / 3) SK (0) MB (4 / 3) ON (24 / 11) PQ (3 / 3) NB (0) PEI (0) NS (0) NF (1) YK (0) NV & NWT (0)	
North Am. Inc Canada	1,186 / 1,172	2,029 / 1,725	2,118 / 1,853 (723 Wires X)	118 / 110	495 / 396	
Rest of World	1,268 / 1,254	1,810 / 1,434	932 / 773 (271 Wires X)	41 / 24	79 / 67	
Total	2,454 / 2,426	3,839 / 3,159	3,050 / 2,626 (994 Wires X)	159 / 134	574 / 463	

Repeater Network topology

- Your audio is digitally processed in your handheld
 - Sent over the air to the local repeater (A)
 - Forwarded to the regional network server (B: New West)
 - Forwarded to other servers worldwide (C: Montreal +)
- Latency, by as much as 2 seconds, is a propagation delay in your signal getting to the other end.



DMR Code Plugs (radio programming)

• What you'll need:

- Your own unique DMR ID number.
- Your radio's programming software "CPS"
 - Each brand has its own, limited cross compatibility
 - A programming cable between your PC & radio
- Repeater's frequencies for each you use.
 - Each repeater's Colour Code
 - Colour Codes work like CTCSS tones, 16 total.
- What Talk Groups each carries.
 - Each TG's unique number & Time Slot
- Or someone (like BCDMR.net) with a polished code plug you can load and 'just use' while learning.

Talk Groups

- On BC-TRBO the repeater's owner assigns the TG and TS structure most beneficial for their area. (BrandMeister is self serve).
- Not all repeaters carry all Talk Groups (TG).
- This allows a mix of the most popular & less used TG.
- A typical BC-TRBO partial configuration:

Talk Group	Coverage	TG ID #	Time Slot	Timer	
Local Net 1	Local Emergency & Nets	3183	1	FT	FT = full time / always on
BC1	Prov call	3027	1	FT	
BC2	Prov chat	10327	2	FT	
Ontario2	Prov chat	3023	2	PTT	PTT = part time /
Canada2	National	302	2	FT	push to talk (kerchunk 1st)
NA2	N America	3163	2	PTT	
WW English2	Global	13	2	PTT	

Code Plug? What's CPS? An overview

Configuration Pane

File	Model Set Program Tool View	Help													
D	🗲 🖬 🖷 🚧 🏦 😧 🚳 🕙														
D878		No.	requ	Transmit equency	Channel Type	Power	Band Width	CTCSS/DCS Decode	CTCSS/DCS Encode		n	nel Name	Contact	Radio ID	Optiona
	- Channel	1	147.28000	2000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9		V	/ ASM1705	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Zone	2	145.03000		A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	Off		te	s-V PKV	Analog	Doug Primary	
	- Scan List	3	146.61000	146.0	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9	~	L	RVA1461	Analog	Doug Primary	
	- Roaming Zone	4	442.02500	447.02500	log	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9		ots	s-U RVA	Analog	Doug Primary	
	- FM	5	442.55000	447.55000		Turbo	12.5K	Off	Off	A	Abbts-I	U RVA Dig	DigSimp	Doug Primary	
	- Auto Repeater Offset Frequencys	6	430.75000	439.75000	A-A	vrbo	25K	Off	Off		Abbts	s-U RYY	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Roaming Channel	7	441.60000	446.60000	A-Analog	urbo	25K	Off	88.5	iAl	\bbts-U	J WOL1026	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Basic information	8	147.38000	147.98000	A-Analog	Turke	051/	05	002.5	A	-\ldergr	rove-V RLY	Analog	Doug Primary	
	- Optional Setting	9	146.72000	146.12000	A-Analog		len				Bowe	en-V BNV	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Alarm Setting	10	443.67500	448.67500	A-Analog			us		E	Burnal	by-U CBN	Analog	Doug Primary	
	- Local Information	11	147.06000	147.66000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	ОT	Оff	E	Burna	aby-V FVR	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Hot Key	12	442.20000	447.20000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9	В	Burnab	y-U LNK/R	Analog	Doug Primary	
	APRS	13	442.47500	447.47500	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	Off	E	Burnal	by-U PRE	Analog	Doug Primary	
		14	145.35000	144.75000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	127.3	E	Burnal	iby-V RBY	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Radio ID List	45	110.05000	447.05000						E	Burnal	by-U RBY	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Talk Groups						old	er Tre	ee	E	Burnat	by-U REM	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Prefabricated SMS	17	145.17000	144.57000	A-Analog					Bu	Burnbyl	Boot-V TEL	Analog	Doug Primary	
	- Receive Group Call List	18	442.87500	447.87500	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	Off	Bu	Burnbyl	Boot-U TEL	Analog	Doug Primary	
	- Encryption Code	19	444.82500	449.82500	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	156.7	156.7	Bu	Burnby-	-MT-U VYL	Analog	Doug Primary	
	∃ Digital Contact List	20	146.96000	146.36000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9	iC	Chlwk-V	V CRC1759	Analog	Doug Primary	
		21	443.00000	448.00000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9		Chilw	/k-U CRC	Analog	Doug Primary	
		22	444.70000	449.70000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	Off	1	Chilw	/k-U RAD	Analog	Doug Primary	
		23	147.10000	147.70000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9		Chillw	vk-V RCK	Analog	Doug Primary	
		24	444.62500	449.62500	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	Off		Chilw	/k-U RCK	Analog	Doug Primary	
		25	145.11000	144.51000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	Off		Chilw	vk-V RSH	Analog	Doug Primary	
		26	442.80000	447.80000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9	1	Chilw	/k-U RSH	Analog	Doug Primary	
		27	146.86000	146.26000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	88.5		Chilw	vk-V VCR	Analog	Doug Primary	
		28	145.31000	144.71000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	127.3		Coq	-V MFS	Analog	Doug Primary	
		29	442.35000	447.35000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	127.3		Delta	-U EPP1	Analog	Doug Primary	
	180001200000	30	443.35000	448.35000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	127.3		Delta	-U EPP2	Analog	Doug Primary	
	Friends List	31	444.42500	449.42500	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	107.2		Delta	a-U RDE	Analog	Doug Primary	
	i nondo clat														

-D878UV

The AT-D868UV offers programming of 4,000 channels for UHF and VHF.

To start entering channel information Double Click on the first line No.1 to open the Channel Information programming window for that channel:

Enter the appropriate channel information for your Repeater, Simplex, Analog or Digital channel.

Advanced Sorting and Editing of all Channels can be done by using Tool -> Export / Import features to export channel information to a CSV format file. Opening the Channel CSV file with a program like Excel, changes can be made to all channels at ones, channels can be sorted and the saved the Customer Programing Software (CPS).

- lets look at each of these in turn in more detail...

Channel Folder

0	Channel	Information	Edit795
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		Channel Name	BC 1-NWR				
D878UV		Receive Frequency	444.60000	TX Prohibit	Talk Around	Through Mode	
		Transmit Frequency	449.60000	Work Alone	Digi APRS RX		
	Cor	rect Frequency[Hz]	0	Digital			
Channel		Channel Type	D-Digital 💌	C	iontact	BC 1	
Zone		1	urbo 💌		dio ID Doug Primary	-	4
			2.5K 💌	Color		•	41
···· Scan List		TX Permit S Scan List N	Same Color Code 🔹	Receive Grou	Slot Slot1	•	- 11
Roaming Zone			Analog 🗸	Necerve Grou	ap List None	-	-
		APRS PTT Mode		Encryption	Type Off	•	1
FM	Digita	I APRS PTT Mode	Dff 🚽	Simplex TDMA	Call Confirmation	Ranging	
Auto Repeater Offset Frequencys	Digital AP	RS Report Channel 1	~	TDMA Adaptive	SMS Confirmation	i Nanging	
Roaming Channel		nannel from roaming of	ff 🔽				
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	- Analog	CSS/DCS Decode	Off 🗸				
···· Basic information	ст	CSS/DCS Encode	Off 🔽				
···· Optional Setting		Squelch Mode	Carrier 💌				
			Diff 🔽		Reverse		
··· Alarm Setting		DTMF ID	-				
Local Information		2Tone ID 5Tone ID			2TONE Decode		
Hot Key		PTT ID	<u>т</u> ж		Custom CTCSS	251.1	
						20111	
APRS		<u>О</u> К	<u>C</u> ancel		Previous N	ext	
							

No.	Receive Frequency	Transmit Frequency	Channel Type	Power	Band Width	CTCSS/DCS Decode	CTCSS/DCS Encode	Channel Name	Contact	Radio ID	Optional Signal
1	147.28000	147.88000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9	iAbbts-V ASM1705	Analog	Doug Primary	
2	145.03000	145.63000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	Off	Abbts-V PKV	Analog	Doug Primary	
3	146.61000	146.01000	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9	iAbbts-V RVA1461	Analog	Doug Primary	
4	442.02500	447.02500	A-Analog	Turbo	25K	Off	110.9	Abbts-U RVA	Analog	Doug Primary	

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Zo

D878UV ⇔. Public

SUV Public Channel Zone Scan List Roaming Zone FM Auto Repeater Offset Frequencys Roaming Channel Basic information Optional Setting Local Information Hot Key APRS	Available 5 7 8 9 10 12 13 16 21 24 29 30 37 40 41 42 43 46 47 52 53 54 < Order B	Channel Abbts-U RVA Dig iAbbts-U WOL1026 Aldergrove-V RLY Bowen-V BNV Burnaby-U CBN Burnaby-U CBN Burnaby-U RER Burnaby-U RER Chillwk-U CRC Chillwk-U CRC Chillwk-U RCK Delta-U EPP1 Delta-U EPP2 Langley-U NPN Langley-U RLY Langley-U RMH Langley-U RMH Langley-U TSG New West-U HPS New West-U HPS New West-U NWC NVan-V ICS NVan-U RYZ iPmbrn-V IP1011	GVRD-Analog	1 2 3 4 6 11 17 18 14 15 19 286 287 20 22 23 25 26 27 28 33 31 <			Order By ID Name
			<u>K</u>	<u>C</u> anc	el <u>P</u> revious <u>N</u> e	×t	
No. Name		Zone Channels	A Channel		B Channel		
1 1 GVRD-Analog		58	iVan-V RPT 169	4	iAbbts-V ASM1705		
2 2 Amb Dig U SLV		24	TAC 310p-AmSI	V	TAC 310p-AmSLV		
3 3 NWR Dig UHF		29	TAC 310p-NWF	2	TAC 310p-NWR		
4 4 NVan Dig U RAG		24	TAC 310p-NVnR/		TAC 310p-NVnRAG		
5 5 UBC Dig U RYS		5	BC 2-U UBC RY		BC 1-U UBC RYS		
6 6 Vic Dig U VIC		25	LocalNet 1-UVid	_	TAC 310p-UVic		
2 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10			TLO OLO UD				17 of 24

🔀 Zone Edit---1

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Talk Groups Folder

🖻 Digital TG/DMR ID Call Type No. Call Alert Name Radio ID List 0 None Group Call 1 Analog 2 3102 None Alaska Group Call Talk Groups 3 3026 Alberta 2 Group Call None Prefabricated SMS 4 3104 None Arizona Group Call 5 9999 Audio Test 9999 Group Call None Receive Group Call List 6 3027 None BC 1 Group Call Encryption Code 7 103027 Group Call None BC 2 Digital Contact List 8 Bridge 2 - B 103100 None Group Call 9 Talk Group Edit---6 х ···· 1---20000 10 20001---40000 11 12 ·· 40001----60000 BC 1 Name 13 ·· 60001----80000 14 Call Type Group Call Ŧ 15 80001---100000 TG/DMR ID 3027 16 100001----120000 17 Call Alert None 120001----140000 18 19 140001---- 160000 <u>0</u>K Cancel Previous Next 20 180001----200000 Friends List ···· Talk Alias

Scan List Folder



DMR Digital Contacts

	🗄 Digital											
	Ra	idio ID List										
	- Ta	lk Groups										
		efabricated SM	s									
		ceive Group Ca										
	: : ,	cryption Code										
	⊟• Di	gital Contact List										
		·· 120000										
No.	TG/DMR ID	Call Alert		Name		City	Call Type	Callsign		State/F	Prov	Country
1	302911	None	Ra	dioID net Radi				RADIOID		All Regions		None
2	1023001	None	W	ayne Edward	T	Toronto Private Call VE3THW			Onta	rio	Canada	
3	1023002	None	M	lathieu Goulet	Otta	wa Hull	Private Call	VA3ECM		Queb	ec	Canada
4	1023003	None	(Guy Charron	Glo	ucester	Private Call	VE3QC		Ontario		Canada
5	1023006	None	Alla	an Timothy Ha	S	parta	Private Call	VA3UZ		Ontario		Canada
6	1023007	None	Han	is Juergen Boc	Co	ornwall	Private Call	VA3BOC		Onta	rio	Canada
7	1023008	None		Mark	Niag	ara Falls	Private Call	VE3JMR		Onta	rio	Canada
8	1023009	None		olando Parto	Scar	borough	Private Call	VA3AMO		Onta	rio	Canada
9	1023010	None		olando Parto		borough	Private Call	VA3AMO		Onta		Canada
10	1023013	None	Ba	rry Brousseau	G	iuelph	Private Call	VE3SLD		Onta	rio	Canada
	206378	7486001	CX2RT	Daniel Ma	azzul	Maldonad	o-Lausana-	Ma	aldonado	Uruguay		
	206379	7486002	CX1RE	Luis Oliv	era	Mald	onado	Ma	Idonado	Uruguay		
	206380	7486003	CX4RP	Mario Hector Pall			Maldonado		aldonado			
	206381	7489001	CX7SS	E. Eugenio De	-	-	errana	1110		Uruguay		
	206382.	7489002	CX2SE	Ruben Cabra		Minas				Uruguay		
	200302					1011				oruguay		

206,382 DMR IDs in use world wide, as of Nov 8, 2021 and growing daily!

DMR over the air

- The transmission is split into various blocks:
 - Burst: 30 ms long nominally
 - One Time Slot element: 27.5 mS of Tx followed by 2.5 mS gap or CACH.
 - Either Time Slot 1 or 2.
 - Frame: 2 Time Slot bursts, 60ms long total .
 - **Super-frame:** 6 frames for voice transmission.
 - **BS TX**: base station transmission, transmits **Frames** continually when repeating.
 - Includes a CACH (<u>Common Announcement CH</u>annel) between the individual bursts, used for traffic management and signaling.
 - **MS TX**, mobile station, only transmits 1 Time Slot.
 - Instead of the CACH it has a 2.5 mS Guard Time, for any propagation delays between different mobile stations.





DMR air interface burst & frame timing

Repeater vs Hot Spots

- Digital repeater connects to Internet
 - No repeater in range?
 - Travelling and don't know the repeaters?
- Use a Hot Spot and Internet connection
 - Low power, simplex RF to Internet device
 - At home, connects via your Wifi & ISP
 - Travelling, uses your Cell Phone data plan



For lots more Information

- Visit the BC DMR web sites:
 - https://bcdmr.wordpress.com/
 - https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcdmr

• Join us on the air on Talk Group BC 1:

- Friday evenings at 8:00 pm Pacific
 - Announcements
 - Check ins, by alphabetical groupings
 - Q & A or technical discussion follows
 - Usually wraps up after 1 hour

Question time

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