

What is AllStarLink?

AllStarLink is an amateur-radio VoIP network that links repeaters, remote bases, and personal “nodes” together over the internet using standard FM radios and Linux-based servers. It converts your RF audio to digital packets, sends them across the network to other nodes, and turns them back into RF on the far end, allowing long-distance QSOs through local radios, hotspots, or mobile apps.

RI DIGITAL LINK uses AllStar as the core hub that ties together the Quahog analog repeaters and multiple digital bridges (DMR 31444, XLX DCS059A, YSF, P25, NXDN, IRLP, and more).

Critical linking policy

Do not link other networks or permanent systems into RI DIGITAL LINK without express permission from one of the control operators.

RI DIGITAL LINK is designed as a managed hub; unsupervised hubs, permanent cross-links, or experimental bridges can affect system reliability for everyone. If you want to link a repeater, hub, or cross-mode bridge full-time, contact a control operator and coordinate first.

How to access RI DIGITAL LINK via AllStar

There are three common ways to reach RI DIGITAL LINK on AllStar:

1. Through a local AllStar-enabled repeater that accepts DTMF commands.
2. Using your own personal AllStar node (SHARI, RA-series node, homebrew node, etc.).
3. Using a software/mobile client connected to your own node (DVSwitch Mobile, RepeaterPhone, etc.).

RI DIGITAL LINK’s primary AllStar hub node is advertised on your front page (for example, 45595); use that node number in the examples below.

Step-by-step: connect from a local AllStar repeater

If you are on an FM repeater that is part of AllStarLink and allows user DTMF commands:

1. Verify you can send commands

- Listen for an ID or local documentation that confirms the repeater is AllStar-enabled.
- Make sure your radio's DTMF keypad is enabled and set to a reasonable DTMF level.

2. Enter command mode (if required)

- Some repeaters require a prefix (like * or #) to enter command mode; check local instructions.

3. Connect to RI DIGITAL LINK

Using standard AllStar commands:

- To connect in transceive mode:
 - Send: *3NNNNN
 - Replace NNNNN with the RI DIGITAL LINK hub node (for example, *345595).
 - Wait for the repeater to announce the connection or play a confirmation tone.

4. Operate on the link

- Give a clear call:
 - “<CALLSIGN> on RI DIGITAL LINK via <REPEATER CALL/LOCATION>, listening.”
 - Leave 3–4 seconds between overs to allow all links and bridges to reset.

5. Disconnect when finished

- Send: *1NNNNN (for example, *145595) to disconnect your repeater from RI DIGITAL LINK.

Never leave a repeater you don't control permanently linked into RI DIGITAL LINK; it should be user-initiated and user-disconnected.

Step-by-step: connect from your own AllStar node

If you have your own node (AllStarLink, HamVoIP, ASL3, etc.), you can link it directly.

1. Confirm your node is registered

- Log into the AllStarLink nodelist and verify your node shows up with a green background, indicating it is registered.

2. Connect from your node's RF radio

If your node is tied to a radio (simplex node, repeater, SHARI, etc.) and listens for DTMF:

- Key up on the node's RF frequency.
- Send *3NNNNN (for example, *345595) from your handheld or mobile radio keypad.
- Listen for the confirmation that you are connected.

3. Connect from the node's console or web UI

If your node provides a command console (ASL CLI, HamVoIP CLI, or a web control panel):

- Use the link command appropriate for your distribution, typically a CLI command like:
 - `rpt fun <your_node> *3NNNNN`
- Confirm in the console or dashboard that your node is now linked to the RI DIGITAL LINK hub.

4. Operating from your node

- Use your RF radio into your node's frequency to talk on RI DIGITAL LINK.
- Identify as normal and mention that you are "via AllStar node <YOUR NODE> into RI DIGITAL LINK."
- Maintain 3–4 seconds between transmissions to keep the multi-mode system happy.

5. Disconnect when done

- From RF: *1NNNNN (for example, *145595).
- From the console: `rpt fun <your_node> *1NNNNN` or the equivalent disconnect command.

If you want to run a regular net or scheduled link, coordinate times and procedures with a control operator instead of leaving a permanent link up.

Using apps and soft clients

If you use an app like DVSwitch Mobile or RepeaterPhone, you normally:

1. Connect the app to your own AllStar node.
2. From the app's DTMF pad or command interface, send *3NNNNN to link your node to RI DIGITAL LINK.
3. Talk using the app's PTT, following the same etiquette and disconnect steps as above.

This keeps all responsibility and control on your node while still giving you mobile access into RI DIGITAL LINK