

# D-Star in Atlanta

Atlanta has seven D-STAR repeaters. There are at least 2 more planned, but not yet deployed. Per capita, that's likely the highest density D-STAR coverage anywhere. Any way you slice it, Atlanta is a big place on the D-STAR map. And the Atlanta Radio Club is right in the middle of it all. Two of the seven D-STAR repeaters are operated by the ARC. The Atlanta area also has a lot of D-STAR talent.

With all this D-STAR activity going on, it just seemed like we ought to have a D-STAR column in the [Atlanta Ham](#). Well, now we do.

Every month, I will bring news and information about D-STAR in Atlanta. This is an exciting new technology that's in a constant state of growth and change so there will be no shortage of things to write about. But let's make it a little interactive too. Please send me email with questions and information that you think would be of interest to other hams. (You can reach me at [KE4FOV@Bruner.us](mailto:KE4FOV@Bruner.us))

Now, I know some of you are saying, "What the heck is D-STAR anyway?" That's a good question and a good starting point.

The term D-STAR means "Digital Smart Technologies for Amateur Radio". Let's look at it word by word.

D-STAR is digital – all the way. The mode is Digital Voice or DV. Your voice is converted to a stream of bits. The voice stream is transmitted along with a stream of text. Your callsign, the callsign of the receiving station and some routing information is also included. And there's an all data mode too.

D-STAR is smart. Well, the smart is a matter of opinion, but it makes for a good acronym.

D-STAR is technology. It's all new from the ground up. Well, I guess RF is RF and IP (Internet Protocol) is IP, but it's all put together in a new way with lots of other things added in like routing between repeaters and on the fly repeater linking.

D-STAR is Amateur Radio. Made for chatting and for Emergency Communication; with lots of ways to add things on to increase capabilities – things like D-Rats, D-PLUS, [dstarusers.org](http://dstarusers.org). D-STAR is a foundation on which to build.

And most of all D-Star is fun!

Over the coming months, we'll talk about:

- The basics of how to get started
- How to program your radio
- What software is available to add function and ease of use
- What resources are available on the web
- What repeaters are available where
- How to link repeaters
- How D-STAR repeaters and gateways work
- What Nets and Reflectors are available
- Who in the ARC and other places can help

Lots of other things will be discussed too. Let me know what you want. I'll be posting these articles as well as other resources on the web at <http://KE4FOV.com>.

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