

## D-Star Registration

One of the less glamorous and more overlooked aspects of D-Star is user registration. Since it is possible to access D-Star repeaters without transmitting RF first, user registration is necessary to make sure that all operators are properly licensed.

You can use the repeater locally without registering. It's only required when you connect to another repeater, reflector or dongle through the Internet gateway. It's a process that was developed after the basic design of the radios was complete and is generally not included in the radio manuals. New users often are not aware that it is necessary.

You only have to register once. The information is copied to a central database and then distributed to pretty much all D-Star repeaters world-wide. (There are a few exceptions to this rule. For example, the Japanese government requires that their system be separate.)

As I said above, if all you want to do is talk on the local repeater, it's not necessary to register, but it's a good idea anyway. Suppose you are in the middle of a local QSO and somebody links into the repeater from a remote system. The remote user will hear the registered users, but will not hear unregistered users. So if you're in a 3-way roundtable and the other two users are registered but you are not, when the remote user joins the discussion, he won't even know you are there. You may never get another turn.

The first step of the registration process is pretty simple. For users of Atlanta Radio Club repeaters (and other Georgia D-Star users), just go to <https://w4doc.dstargateway.org/Dstar.do> and select the REGISTER button. You will be asked to provide your call sign, name, e-mail address and a password. All of these are critical. You will be notified by e-mail after your call sign and name have been verified.

Then you'll need to go back to the registration web page and log in with your password. This time you'll select "Personal Information" Your call sign will be assigned several IP addresses. Select the first one and change the "Initial" box from blank to space. At first, this doesn't really make much sense, but the value of the Initial will be appended to your call sign in the system. Using a space just makes everything easier. In most cases, that's all you'll need. If you want to do call sign routing between two radios or you have a radio that's dedicated to DPRS (the D-Star version of APRS), you'll need define other "Initials", but in the beginning, just use the space.

Once this page is submitted, you may have to wait an hour or two for your registration to be distributed to all the repeater gateways. Then you are ready to "Rock and Roll".

You can find more detailed instructions and screen-shots at [http://www.dstargateway.org/D-Star\\_Registration.html](http://www.dstargateway.org/D-Star_Registration.html).

For more information about how to link repeaters, have a look at the "D-Star, D-Star" article in the September 2009 issue of [Atlanta Ham](#). An upcoming article will have more details about how linking works behind the scenes.

As always, send your ideas, comments and questions to [KE4FOV@Bruner.us](mailto:KE4FOV@Bruner.us)

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