# Using the VE3RSB AllstarLink Node

## What is AllStarLink?

AllStarLink is a network of Amateur Radio repeaters, remote base stations and nodes accessible to each other using the Internet, but also as regular RF – analog FM.

Similar to IRLP, EchoLink and Wires-X, AllStarLink allows you to connect to Hams all over the world. Ragchew with hams, join a net or listen to selected broadcasts.

## What do I need?

If you have a regular FM VHF radio and can reach our node, you are all set to use Allstar.

**Registration is not required to use Allstar with RF from your radio.**

## How do I get started?

Tune your radio to **146.410 Simplex with tone 131.8**. It's that simple. This will connect you to the VE3RSB Allstar node – your gateway to the world

## What can I do?

**Connect to and talk with people, or just listen** - our node will be automatically connected to several nets each week.

Friday at 9:30 – The Win System Tech Net. Get your ham radio questions answered, possibly by Gordon (Gordo) West. It lasts two hours.

Saturday at 9 PM, from VA3KEX in Toronto, it's the weekly science net. It sometimes runs past midnight.

Sunday at 1 PM courtesy of the Canada Hub, it's the Trans-Canada Net, lasting approximately 90 minutes.

Sunday at 3 PM we connect to the Blind Hams network for a broadcast of Amateur Radio Newsline.

This list will change depending on your requests and feedback.

**Make Contacts** –

You can connect to any of the over 25,000 nodes around the world. You just need to know the node number.

Here are a few to get you started:

The Canada Hub – node 517300 This is a group of repeaters and nodes across Canada.

Bay Bridge Hub — 547730 — Central Ontario

VE3PBO — 28703 — Peterborough Ontario

Interactive Parrot — 55553 — Your audio repeated, plus feedback on its volume.

UK Hubnet - node 41288 –a group of repeaters and nodes across the United Kingdom

UK Hub #2 — 27000 — another large UK-based network

The Blind Hams Network – node 506311 – a very active network.

Do Drop In — node 52879 — A US-based system carrying nets, nets and more nets.

east coast reflector — 27339 — large network across the eastern US

Win System — 2560 — Over 100 linked repeaters on the US west coast

Hawaii Hub — 28508 — Hawaii US

You can find the complete list of nodes at https://www.allstarlink.org/nodelist/

If you have a ham radio friend abroad who can connect to Allstar, why not look up their callsign to find their node number and connect to them for a chat?

## How Do I Connect To a Remote Node

Tune to 146.410 simplex Tone 131.8

Press and hold your PTT switch and send *3 followed by the node number to which you want to connect. All Allstar commands begin with a *, and 3 is a signal to our node that a node number is coming next. For example, sending *3 517300 will connect you to the Canada Hub, node 517300. (A list of Allstar commands is easy to find online.)

## What Do I Say?

Using Allstar is the same as using our local repeater, but with greater reach. You might add a bit more information, give your call sign and add your location. The people at the other end probably do not know you are connected until you speak.

For example: “This is VE3ABC in Burlington Ontario. Is there anybody listening?”

## How Do I Disconnect?

Press and hold your PTT switch and send *73. Just as we wish someone 73 or “best regards” at the end of a conversation, *73 disconnects our Allstar node from everything.

**IMPORTANT!:** When you are done talking to someone, Always disconnect. It is possible to interconnect or “bridge between” large systems accidentally, simply by connecting to one after the other without disconnecting first. For example, if you connected to the Canada Hub, then the UK Hub, without disconnecting from the Canada Hub first, you have now connected those large systems together through our node.

## Where can I find more information?

AllStarLink.org

Hamvoip.org

Join our BARC-Allstar sub-group on groups.io and ask questions.

Allstar@barcforum.groups.io