INTERNATIONAL RADIO NETWORK NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Website: https://irn.radio Contact: irnhamradio@gmail.com

Welcome

Welcome to the July edition of the International Radio Network Newsletter. We continue to receive some great feedback since the first Newsletter was published in May, and thanks to everyone who got in touch and for all your comments and encouragement.

There is also a link on the website www.irn.radio to the Newsletters, so you can access all our Newsletters on the website as well as on our Facebook page.

In this month's edition we include some wonderful articles, news, information and updates. As always, we encourage any and all of our members to contribute to future editions of the Newsletter, with further details provided below.

Feel free to visit our website www.irn.radio which includes our written Mission, Aims and Objectives, and are printed on the last pages of this newsletter.

Graham Matthews GM0UUB
IRN President

New Regular Net Controller and Co-Host on the Friday KB1 Net

Dave GW8SZL with son Declan 2W0KYH and xyl Sue MW7FDI. An all-ham family!

The IRN KB1 Multimode Net started in January 2020 and I (Graham GM0UUB) am so happy to say I have been Net Control every single Friday since it started, supported by my wife Helen MM7HQS, (except for one Friday when Helen and I went to a concert in Stirling, Scotland). I am so happy to report that the Net goes from strength to strength and getting bigger and bigger as time goes on.

With the Net now commonly lasting significantly over 3 hours (sometimes close to 4 hours), I now welcome the support from Dave GW8SZL as a regular co-host and Net Controller for the IRN KB1 Multimode Net. Dave has already stepped in a few times to assist with the Friday Net and, like myself, Dave enjoys speaking with people and having a bit of a rag-chew with the wonderful people that check-in each Friday. So, Helen, Dave and myself now look forward to speaking with all our friends every Friday on the Net. We will share Net Control duties each week, and share the fun of speaking with all the fantastic Friday Family of check-ins.

Thanks to everyone for making the IRN KB1 Mutimode Net what it is today. You are all wonderful and amazing. Without all your support and participation, it would not be the same. Very importantly, we must also recognise the wonderful people that connect their nodes, gateways, repeaters and

Networks around the world to enable the net to bring so many of us together every Friday. Thank you all so very much.

Accessing the IRN using Allstarlink

Doug VE3XDB
IRN Administrator

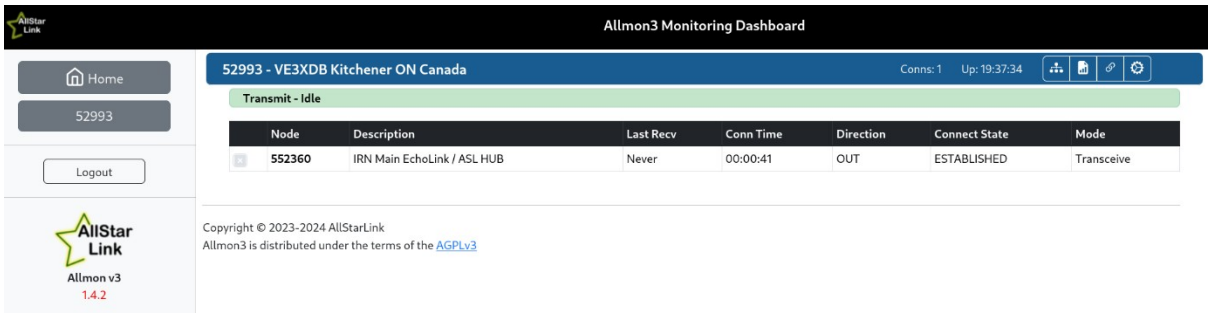
In last month's newsletter, an article was published providing directions on setting up Teamspeak to access the IRN. This month, we'll describe how to use Allstarlink to access the IRN. Please note that ***Allstarlink is available only to licensed amateurs***. If you are a non-licensed IRN member, your best bet is to use Teamspeak or Zello. The FAQ pages on the IRN website provides more details for setting up and using Teamspeak or Zello (https://irn.radio/faq). In this article, we will guide you through what Allstarlink is, how to access the IRN if you already have a node, and how to create a node if you don't.

What is Allstarlink?

Allstarlink is a powerful open-source system that allows users to connect their radios over the internet. It enables seamless communication between different radio nodes, making it an ideal choice for amateur radio operators looking to expand their reach. With Allstarlink, you can connect to various networks, including the IRN, and communicate with fellow radio enthusiasts worldwide.

Accessing the IRN with an Existing Node

If you already have an Allstarlink node set up, accessing the IRN is straightforward. Simply connect to the IRN node number 552360 (https://irn.radio/connections). You can do this by using your radio or any compatible software that supports Allstarlink connections, depending on how you've set things up. Once connected, you'll be able to participate in nets, and other conversations, enjoying the benefits of the IRN community.



Creating a Node

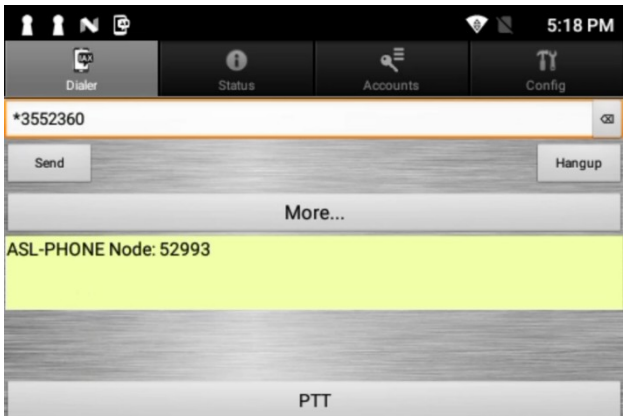
If you don't have an Allstarlink node yet, don't worry! Setting one up is a manageable process. Here's how to get started:

1. ***Set up your node –*** The Allstarlink website has good information on how to setup your node (https://allstarlink.github.io/basics/). By following the links, you will learn how to get your Allstarlink node number, install the software on a Raspberry Pi or other hardware, as well as learn about basic and advanced operation of the system.

2. ***Determine your access method*** - First, decide how you will access the Allstarlink system: via RF or network radio. Your choice will influence the equipment and setup you'll need.

3. ***Options for RF access*** - If you choose to access the system via RF, consider using a Shari node, along with your UHF/VHF FM transceiver. Shari nodes are user-friendly and designed specifically for Allstarlink. You can find more information and purchase a Shari node at Kits4Hams (https://kits4hams.com/). Good documentation and support is provided. There are many other options available, including homemade solutions. A quick search on the internet will yield numerous resources and guides to help you build your own RF node for the Allstarlink network, provide links to other suppliers of Allstarlink nodes, and provide other node options.

4. ***Options for Network Radio Access –*** What is a "network radio"? Typically, it is a handheld or mobile device, often running the Android operating system, and with a PTT button. So, yes, it is a cellphone with a Push-to-Talk button, and many use their cellphones to connect to the IRN using Allstarlink Mobile or other software packages, such as Teamspeak or Zello.



Using an Android device, you would load software to access the IRN. If you wish to use Allstarlink to access the IRN using your network radio or cellphone, I recommend using the DVSwitch Mobile application. Typically, the DVSwitch Mobile application accesses the network through the same type of Allstarlink server that you would use for RF access. The DVSwitch Mobile app is available in the Google Playstore, and there are good videos on YouTube providing setup guidance, including a video on the "Ham Radio Crusader" YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5zjZu97v-g&t=506s). This channel has many videos on Allstarlink, and is worth investigating. DVSwitch Mobile also allows for access to DMR and other digital modes, but that is beyond the scope of this article. Perhaps in the future!

An easier option for those wanting to give it a try

If you want to try DVSwitch Mobile to access the Allstarlink system, there is an easier option requiring no additional hardware. Called "node mode", it allows the DVSwitch mobile app to connect directly to the Allstarlink network. Of course, you still need to register for an Allstarlink node number, but you don't need a Raspberry Pi or PC server, just a wifi or cellphone data connection. Using node mode, the DVSwitch software connects directly to your Allstarlink node. Documentation may be found at https://dvswitch.groups.io/g/Mobile/files/DVSM%202.0.0.pdf.

DVSwitch Mobile is evolving quickly and it may sometimes be difficult to piece things together. A good start is the groups.io pages, dedicated to DVSwitch. The particular page dedicated to the DVSwitch mobile app is https://dvswitch.groups.io/g/Mobile/topics. But the first place to start is by following along with the directions found in the "Ham Radio Crusader" video, mentioned above.

References

For more detailed information on setting up and using Allstarlink, check out the following resources:

- Allstarlink website: https://www.allstarlink.org/
- Allstarlink manual: https://allstarlink.github.io/
- Shari node information: https://kits4hams.com/
- YouTube video on setting up Allstarlink3: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aeuj-yI8qrU&t=879s

- Youtube video on using DVSwitch mobile to access an Allstarlink node: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l5zjZu97v-g&t=506s
- DVSwitch at groups.io: https://dvswitch.groups.io/g/Mobile/topics
- DVSwitch Mobile Node Mode documentation - https://dvswitch.groups.io/g/Mobile/files/DVSM%202.0.0.pdf

It's challenging to provide a logical, meaningful and short article on Allstarlink setup. Allstarlink is definitely a "learn as you go" experience. I have been using it for about five years, and am still learning new things. If you are a ham who likes to experiment, learn and try new things, Allstarlink may be for you.

Good luck with your Allstarlink setup! If you have any questions or comments, feel free to reach out to the IRN at https://irn.radio/contact. Happy connecting!

IRN Member Story

Captain Bob KK4BFM
IRN Member


Komarov in 1965

This month, Bob KK4BFM, affectionately known as Captain Bob, shared a poignant story from his past experiences in space science and radio. He reminisced about his time at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, during the 1960s, where he contributed to the STADAN radio network, the largest of its kind at the time. This network was essential in supporting the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo missions by providing worldwide and near-space radio communications.

Bob worked in the computer room adjacent to the radio room, where his colleagues were able to copy and record Russian space broadcasts. In April 1967, he heard the final transmission from Soyuz 1, which had cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov on board. Unfortunately, Soyuz 1 was a failed mission that ultimately cost Komarov his life.

Bob described his reaction to the transmission, saying, "He was amazing.
A hell of a man who cried and got incredibly angry at the people on the ground who built the Soyuz. He switched back and forth, knowing he was doomed." Tragically, Vladimir Komarov died on April 24, 1967.

At the time, it was not revealed who was the voice of the cosmonaut being heard that was 'falling from the sky'. It was many years later, after being confirmed in newspaper reports, that the voice heard was that of Vladimir Komarov.

Bob is a frequent participant in the IRN nets and always has an interesting perspective to share, or a story to tell. Thank you, Bob, for supporting the IRN!

Discover the Magic of Amateur Radio: A Gateway to Global Communication

Graham M Matthews GM0UUB (IRN President) in consultation with Doug VE3XDB

The International Radio Network exists to support a vibrant community of radio enthusiasts, including those that have not yet obtained their own personal amateur radio license. As you explore the fascinating world of communication, we want to take a moment to highlight the incredible opportunities that await you in amateur radio—a hobby that not only connects us with fellow enthusiasts but also opens doors to a universe of possibilities. Amateur radio offers a unique blend of technology, community, and adventure, which is enhanced by obtaining your license.

The Many Modes of Communication

One of the most exciting aspects of amateur radio is the variety of modes available for communication. From traditional voice transmissions to digital modes, there is something for everyone:

1. ***Voice (SSB and FM):*** Engage in lively conversations with fellow operators around the globe. Single Sideband (SSB) and Frequency Modulation (FM) are popular choices for voice communication, allowing for clear and effective exchanges. The IRN is permanently connected to the Extended Freedom Network, and to repeaters and gateways located in several interesting locations. With a little technical ingenuity, licensed operators use the IRN to connect with repeaters around the world.

2. ***Digital Modes:*** Explore the world of digital communication with modes like PSK31, FT8, and RTTY. These modes enable efficient communication even in challenging conditions, making them ideal for both casual chats and emergency communications. The IRN also has digital connections to our multimode system, such as TGIF 31320 and YSF31320. You can monitor the connections on our digital master server here - IRN DMR Server - STATUS or cut and paste https://digital.irn.radio/

3. ***Morse Code (CW):*** Experience the timeless art of Morse code. This mode not only hones your skills but also connects you with a rich history of radio communication. There is also a fascinating range of morse keys that you can experiment with or even collect, including straight keys, paddles and bugs. While CW testing is being required less and less around the world for an amateur radio license, it really is a mode of operating that can inspire and bring an extra feeling of accomplishment with every contact and QSO.

4. ***Satellite Communication:*** Take your hobby to new heights—literally! With the right equipment, you can communicate via amateur satellites, reaching operators far beyond the horizon. This is something that many people think you require very specialist equipment to achieve any success, but you can work through satellite repeaters with just a hand-held transceiver, even with the stock antenna! However, having successful contacts is improved by using a directional antenna, such as the popular Arrow II hand-held antenna. There are various Apps that will provide you with information about satellite passes, the path they take, frequencies, etc.

5. ***Allstarlink, EchoLink and IRLP:*** Connect with fellow hams around the world using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) technologies. These systems allow you to link your radio to the internet, expanding your reach and enhancing your communication experience. The IRN can

be accessed directly using Allstarlink, Echolink, many digital modes. Read our connections page (https://irn.radio/connections) to learn more about the array of connection options available to licensed operators.

The International Radio Network (IRN) offers channels and connections available to both licensed and unlicensed operators, creating an inclusive environment for everyone to enjoy. While unlicensed members can enjoy the camaraderie and excitement of the network, obtaining a license unlocks even more connection options and exciting opportunities. Licensed IRN members gain access to additional channels and modes, enhancing their ability to communicate and explore the vast world of amateur radio. Many unlicensed IRN members have successfully obtained their licenses over the past few years, and the IRN wholeheartedly encourages this pursuit!

We encourage all unlicensed members of the International Radio Network to investigate the licensing requirements in your jurisdiction. Obtaining a license not only grants you access to the amateur radio bands but also enhances your understanding of radio theory, regulations, and best practices.

Getting licensed is a rewarding journey that opens a world of opportunities. Many local clubs offer classes and resources to help you prepare for the exam, making it easier than ever to join the ranks of licensed operators.

Amateur radio is more than just a hobby; it is a vibrant community of individuals who share a passion for communication, technology, and exploration. Whether you are interested in voice, morse code, digital modes, satellites, VOIP or the magic of RF propagation, there is a place for you in this exciting hobby.

We invite you to dive deeper into the realm of amateur radio, explore the various modes available, and consider obtaining your license.

I want to thank all IRN members and everyone involved in making the IRN Network such a brilliant place to be. Our ambition will always be to build and maintain connections that encourage everyone interested in radio communications to enjoy participating and connecting with like-minded people all around the world, and have lots of fun in doing so.

Please join one of our nets, or put a call out on the network!

Graham M Matthews GM0UUB
President, International Radio Network

Mission

The International Radio Network's mission is to promote the amateur radio hobby to those interested in radio communications. We welcome licensed and non-licensed operators, giving those with an interest the opportunity to gain experience in radio communications, theory, technology and fellowship.

The International Radio Network has been in existence for many years and has a considerable number of licensed amateur radio operators from all around the world. We also welcome unlicensed radio enthusiasts and short wave listeners to our membership, many of which go on to achieve their own amateur radio license.

Membership and Getting Connected

If you are not already a member of the IRN, it is free and easy to do so. Just visit our website www.irn.radio and click on 'Register'. Follow the instructions and we will be delighted to include your Amateur Radio Callsign on our database, and if you are not licensed, we will provide you with an IRN Callsign/Number. Licensed members have full access to all our connections, and non-licensed members have access to the connections that have no RF links.

Importantly, to be 'trusted' on our Zello channels, or to be given 'talk permissions' on the Teamspeak platform, you must register using the above link on the website.

Purpose, Aims and Objectives

To provide a reliable radio Network for the use by licensed radio amateurs, offering a range of methods and modes of communication, including analogue and digital modes

To build partnerships and connections with other amateur radio Groups and Networks

To provide regular nets, special events and other activities that promote the use of the Network and for the benefit and enjoyment of its members and users

To welcome unlicensed members and provide them with support to learn about the amateur radio hobby, ham radio etiquette and encourage them to apply for their own amateur radio license

To provide unlicensed members with a reliable platform on which to communicate and experience ham radio practice, with NO RF connection

To ensure that the Network is a safe and family-friendly place at all times, and take quick action where that is threatened in any way

To experiment with new technologies and modes of amateur radio operating.

IRN Admin Team

- Graham M Matthews GM0UUB – President
- Ralph Streb K8TCP
- Doug Behl VE3XDB
- Helen Matthews MM7HQS
- Bruce Lenton M0UKB
- Gareth Steele G0WUR
- Dave Phillips GW8SZL
- Gareth Jackson M6IGJ

Nets Report

We hold regular Nets for our members and visitors throughout the week.

Several of our nets are open to licensed and unlicensed operators, and may be heard on 'International Radio Network Channel' and 'ZMR 851.065' on Zello and the 'IRN QSO and Nets Channel' on TeamSpeak 3. They include:

- ***IRN Sunday net*** – first and last Sunday of every month, 8:00pm Eastern, 1:00am Monday UK time, hosted by Barry 8WAR717. Watch Facebook for updates to the schedule.
- ***Friendship net*** - every Monday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller VE6DCV Dave.
- ***Coffee net*** - every Wednesday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller 11IRN610 Shorn.

The following net is accessible only to licensed operators, as it is a multimode net that connects to licensed only platforms and RF. We have a permanent connection with the Extended Freedom Network so you can also use any of their links to connect with the IRN

- ***KB1 Multimode net*** - every Friday, 4:00pm Eastern, 9:00pm UK time with regular Net Controllers MM7HQS Helen,

GM0UUB Graham and GW8SZL Dave.

For full details of the Nets and connections, please visit https://www.irn.radio/nets

The Friday KB1 Multimode Net is only available to licensed amateur radio operators as it is linked to various analogue and digital links going out on RF repeaters, gateways, nodes and Networks around the world. The other 3 Nets are open to all to participate as there are no RF links. Those Nets do link with other groups, including ZMR, WWARG and the Network Radios group (on their Channel 03) linked in for both the Monday and Wednesday Nets. We very much enjoy building links, increasing participation, and encouraging communication on a fun and family-friendly platform.

The IRN is also privileged to have exceptional 'stand-by' net Controllers to look after the Nets when the regular Net Controllers are busy, so a special thanks to them, and they are, 2W0KYH Declan, M7POV Josh and 8WAR717 Barry. Thanks to each and all of them, their support is very much appreciated.

The IRN Sunday Net is temporarily being looked after by Barry 8WAR717, and due to personal circumstances, it is not being held every week. Stay tuned on the IRN Facebook page for when the Sunday Net will be taking place, and thanks to Barry for doing the Net when he is able. Thanks also to our friend, Ray N9KGC, for assisting with 'Netlogger' duties for this Net, it is very much appreciated.

Invitation for Contributions and Contact Information

Thanks so much to everyone for their fabulous contributions. All contributions are very much appreciated.

We invite all members to add content to the Newsletters, to share personal stories, technical information, equipment reviews, radio-related jokes or fun-facts, other hobbies and interests, and anything else that would be of interest to our members. For example, personal stories about what got you into the radio hobby are always interesting.

Some of the items discussed in the Newsletter this month included the range of options to explore in amateur radio, and your personal experiences of any of these would be also appreciated.

Please submit / email suggestions and information to irnhamradio@gmail.com

You can also email us with any questions or additional comments and ideas using the above email address.