



INTERNATIONAL RADIO NETWORK NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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Welcome

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2026 from the International Radio Network. I want to wish everyone a very Happy New Year and Blessings for 2026.

I hope everyone has had a safe and good holiday season, and looking forward to 2026 with fresh vision and renewed energy.

In this month's newsletter, we take a look back at the year 2025, and consider the continued journey of the International Radio Network. Thanks again to Doug VE3XDB for writing another fantastic article and for all his support for the IRN and the newsletter.



It has been a real pleasure to recognise new Networks and Repeater groups joining the IRN for various events, including the regular KB1 Multimode net every Friday. We are privileged to have so many Networks, Nodes, Gateways and Repeater groups connect every week, and we very much appreciate those who make the connections happen.

I am hoping that in the year 2026 we can make additional connections to allow more traffic over the IRN, whether it is Net traffic or general QSOs. I can report that already this month, the IRN is now established on the Quadnet DMR Server, and our TGIF 31320 connection is permanently linked to QuadNet DMR Network TG 31320 – Thanks to Quadnet for all they do for the amateur radio hobby, and in particular thanks to Jeff VE6DV for all his support and encouragement to be listed on the Quadnet DMR Server. If you are a DMR user please feel free to try out the new connection when connecting to the IRN multimode system.

I am enormously thankful for what ham radio Networks, internet linking and all the various VOIP connections can achieve in this wonderful hobby. That was exemplified in the GB0NYE Net success at New Year – The GB0NYE New Year's Eve event demonstrated just what can be achieved when we coordinate connections and work together. The 24-hour Net was a huge success and thanks to all the Net Controllers and Loggers for doing a fantastic job, as well as thanks to our partners, Extended Freedom Network, and all the tech support and other great work that they did and continue to do.

Participation Certificates and more information following the GB0NYE Net can be found on the GB0NYE QRZ page, as well as on the website www.extendedfreedom.network

Following the success of the GB0NYE New Year Event net, I hope that we can hold other events through the year, with the same collaborative working together making it all happen. If you have any ideas for special events that we can host, please let us know. The contact information can be found at the end of the newsletter.



Of course, I must make mention of the Station Manager, Puppy Odin (IRN0DIN now 8 months old).

Odin is doing great, and is going through a very challenging stage – the hyperactive, adolescent, selective-hearing stage!

At his latest health check at the Vet, Odin got a good report and all is well.

I welcome critter reports and pictures on the IRN Facebook page, as well as any other reports, images and information you care to share. I have recently posted up some images of the Northern Lights seen from here in Central Scotland over the last few days.

We always welcome contributions to the **IRN Facebook page**. If you are not already a member of the Facebook Group, then here is the link to join.....

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1245420475608672>

As always, we welcome your news, reports and stories for the newsletters. Details of how to send your contribution can be found at the end as well.

Best wishes and 73

Graham M Matthews, GM0UUB
President, International Radio Network

International Radio Network – 2025 Year in Review

by Doug Behl VE3XDB

2025 was a year of ongoing change and growth for the International Radio Network. With the passing of Uncle Bob KB1UPZ, participation in two New Year's Eve nets, involvement of new net control operators, and continued membership growth, 2025 will be remembered as a year of change.

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 and technology, build fellowship, and have some fun along the way. During 2025, the mission was supported by:

- continued growth of the membership base;
- the participation of new net control stations;
- introduction of the IRN newsletter;
- participation in two "New Year's Eve Nets";
- ongoing partnerships and building connections;
- leadership changes.



None of this would be possible without the outstanding participation of our members, net controllers and leaders. Thanks to all for your support in 2025!

Membership

During the year, membership continued to increase, with new licensed and unlicensed operators joining our membership. The contribution of new members was evident in net participation and in general traffic on the network.

Our member database is simple, and we don't track some of the details necessary for rigorous statistical reporting, but here is our best estimate of membership growth over the past three years:

	Opening membership	Additions	Closing	Percentage change
Licensed Operators				
2023	3,669	242	3,911	6.6%
2024	3,911	191	4,102	4.9%
2025	4,102	249	4,351	6.1%
Unlicensed Operators				
2023	623	68	691	10.9%
2024	691	124	815	17.9%
2025	815	151	966	18.5%
Total				
2023	4,292	310	4,602	7.2%
2024	4,602	315	4,917	6.8%
2025	4,917	400	5,317	8.1%

IRN leadership is gratified by the continued growth in membership, with a pledge to continue to build capability and engagement opportunities for all our members.

Net Activity

At the heart of IRN operations is our weekly schedule of nets. Our weekly nets benefit from net controllers with different backgrounds and perspectives. Our net control operators come from North America, Europe, the Caribbean, and elsewhere! All our nets are open to any licensed operator, and several of our nets are open to licensed and non-licensed operators.

During 2025, our nets continued to evolve.

- The “KB1 Multimode Net” is held weekly starting at 4:00pm Eastern



Time, or 9:00pm UK time. This net is a “ragchew” net, and often runs for three hours or more. After many years of running the entire net, our dynamic net control team of Graham GM0UUB and Helen MM7HQS decided to share responsibilities with Dave GW8SZL. Now you will hear Graham and Helen for the first part of the net, followed by Dave who takes care of part 2 of the net. You are sure to have an interesting chat with any of the net controls on this net!

- In 2025, Barry 8WAR717 took over net control for the “IRN Sunday Net” heard Sunday at 8:00pm Eastern, or 1:00am UK time. This net welcomes licensed and unlicensed operators. Come join Barry for this informal, friendly net.

Other nets on the IRN continue, including:

- The IRN Friendship Net – check in on Monday at 5:00pm Eastern Time, 10:00pm UK time, for the “Friendship Net”. Hosted by Dave VE6DCV, this net also welcomes licensed and unlicensed operators.
- Coffee Net – Wednesday at 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time, join Shorn 11IRN610 for the Coffee Net, a friendly and entertaining net with a Caribbean flair!

Over the course of 2025, other members have taken on net control as needed. We are grateful for the support of Dave GW8SZL, Barry 8WAR717, Declan 2W0KYH and Josh M7POV, all who have taken their turn as net control on at least one of our nets!



Join Dave VE6DCV, our affable net controller on the Friendship Net. Monday at 5:00pm EST, 2200UTC.

Newsletter

A monthly newsletter was launched in 2025 and has continued to grow and improve over the year. It is intended to engage our members and to encourage increased IRN activity through contributions from members. Members are invited to share content of all kinds, including amateur radio topics, personal stories, pets, local geography, and anything else of interest. Over the course of the year, we have heard from Captain Bob KK4BFM, Matt IRN5569, Ron PY4VT, Cliff VE6PLC, Ray N9KGC, Terry IRN5400 and Beverly IRN5401 and others. We've seen stories about members getting together, pet updates, product reviews and more. We hope that the newsletter plays an increasingly important role in strengthening our community by keeping people connected, informed, and involved. Contributions are encouraged, and you don't need to be a professional writer! Assistance is always provided to turn your idea into interesting newsletter content. Send your idea or contribution to irnhamradio@gmail.com.

Past editions of the newsletter may be found at <https://irn.radio/newsletter>.

New Year's Eve Net – 2025 and 2026

For the past two years, the IRN participated in the GB0NYE net, organized by the Extended Freedom Network and International Radio Network, and supported by so many others around the world.

In the most recent net, over four hundred stations checked in from around the world, over a twenty-four hour period. Many IRN members acted as net controllers and loggers. We are grateful to all for their work in organizing and participating in this special event!

Participation Certificates are available by following the link in the GB0NYE qrz.com page.



In Memory of Uncle Bob KB1UPZ

I will leave it to Graham GM0UUB's Facebook post of March 17, 2025 on the passing of "Uncle Bob" KB1UPZ:



This is the hardest post I have ever had to put up on this Facebook page.

It is with tremendous sorrow that I need to announce the passing of our very own Uncle Bob, KB1UPZ.

Not only was he the owner of International Radio Network, he was the kindest, most gentle, and inspirational man that I have ever met.

Uncle Bob had a fall a few weeks ago and was in hospital with breathing difficulties. While it looked good that he returned home last week to be with Auntie Barbara, he quickly was back in hospital. His family, through his daughter Kellie, let us know today that he has passed away.

I really do not know what more to say right now, while we take in this news about our very good friend, now silent key, Uncle Bob, KB1UPZ.

Bob was passionate about his family, the broader community and the International Radio Network. He is missed by all who knew him.

Leadership of the IRN

As a follow up to the previous post, on March 18 Graham posted the following update on Facebook:

I know everyone is coming to terms with the sad news about the unique and wonderful Uncle Bob, KB1UPZ, passing away. It is difficult to comprehend we will not hear his encouraging and happy voice over the air again. He was amazing on every level, and although my wife, Helen, and I never met him in person, we shared a great friendship, as many of you did around the world.



Uncle Bob's family members have seen many of your wonderful messages, and they appreciate them tremendously. There are other messages on other platforms, and I will compile them together and send them to the family, so thank you all so much.

I have also been asked about the future of the IRN. I want to reassure everyone that Uncle Bob set up a fantastic Admin and support team. Bob ensured that if anything happened to him, that the IRN would continue to do what it does, keep moving forward, and allow all members and users to enjoy all our connections and platforms.

I am honoured and privileged to take up the Leadership position for the IRN. We have an amazing and talented team here on the IRN which will not only maintain the Network, but will continue to experiment, respond to new technologies, and build the Network as time goes on.

Thank you everyone, and our Friday 'IRN KB1 Multimode Net' will always continue to have that name. It was named to celebrate KB1UPZ taking control of the IRN at a significant time in the past, so will always be called that as long as the net survives.

Uncle Bob loved this hobby and was so proud of the International Radio Network, and I ask everyone to use it, engage with it, and make friends with people all around the world, just as Uncle Bob intended.

Thanks to all involved in the IRN

The IRN has many to thank for our success in 2025. In no particular order, the IRN wishes to express gratitude to the following groups:

- ***The administrators and moderators who volunteer their time to the IRN.*** Thanks to Dave Phillips, Phil Pullinger, Gareth Steele, Helen Matthews, Bruce Lenton, Doug Behl, Graham Matthews, Ralph Streb and Gareth Jackson;

- ***The Extended Freedom Network*** (<https://extendedfreedom.network/>) for their continued support, network access and ongoing technical assistance. For our licensed members, our multimode system is permanently connected to the Extended Freedom Network. The IRN has various analogue and digital connections, and by having this permanent link with the Extended Freedom Network, many more links and connections are made available for the use of our members on so many different modes. There are various gateways, nodes and repeaters connected all around the world, which makes the partnership hugely exciting. You can learn more about the Extended Freedom Network by visiting their website, <https://www.extendedfreedom.network>
- ***The ZMR Network*** (<https://zmr.us/>). The IRN also enjoys the partnership with the Zello Mode Radio group, also known as ZMR. They have a Zello channel connected to our multimode system open to licensed operators, and another connected to the ‘non-RF’ channels, which are open to both licensed and non-licensed members. You can learn more about the ZMR group by visiting their website, <https://www.zmr.us>.
- ***Other networks that connect for nets and other activities*** – including WWARG (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/wwargnetworkradiohub/>), the 11 Cats Network (<https://www.11cats.org/>), plus more! Thanks for your support!
- ***All the great members who make the IRN the interesting and fun place!*** Thanks to each of you.

Looking ahead to 2026

- In 2025, Zello implemented some changes to their strategy, which may affect future use of their system and software. To date, these changes have not significantly affected the IRN. We will keep members posted with any changes or updates affecting the IRN.
- We will be evaluating the success of the newsletter in 2026. Please contribute your ideas, stories, anecdotes or pictures to make the newsletter even more effective and engaging over the coming year!
- More to come! Watch for further announcements throughout the year about updates to our programs, networks, special events and more!

Thank you!

We appreciate all volunteers and partners. Thank you for your support in 2025. We look forward to an even more successful year in 2026.



Mission <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	Membership and Getting Connected <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Purpose, Aims and Objectives <p>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</p> <p>To build partnerships and connections with other amateur radio Groups and Networks</p> <p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>To provide unlicensed members with a reliable platform on which to communicate and experience ham radio practice, with NO RF connection</p> <p>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</p> <p>To experiment with new technologies and modes of amateur radio operating.</p>	IRN Nets <p>Several of our nets are open to all 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 are:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Friendship net - every Monday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller VE6DCV Dave.</p> <p>Coffee net - every Wednesday, 5:00pm Eastern, 10:00pm UK time with regular Net Controller 11IRN610 Shorn.</p> <p>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</p> <p>KB1 Multimode net - every Friday, 4:00pm Eastern, 9:00pm UK time with regular Net Controllers MM7HQS Helen, GM0UUB Graham and GW8SZN Dave.</p> <p>For full details of the Nets and connections, please visit https://www.irn.radio/nets</p>
IRN Administration Team <p>Graham M Matthews GM0UUB - President, Ralph Streb K8TCP, Doug Behl VE3XDB, Helen Matthews MM7HQS, Bruce Lenton M0UKB, Gareth Steele G0WUR, Dave Phillips GW8SZN, Gareth Jackson M6IGJ. Contact members of the admin team at https://irn.radio/contact or by email at irnhamradio@gmail.com.</p>	Invitation for Contributions and Contact Information <p>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. You can also email us with any questions, comments or ideas.</p> <p>Contact us at https://irn.radio/contact or by email at irnhamradio@gmail.com.</p>