

Network Radio

What Is It?

- Network Radio is a worldwide system primarily operated by using the internet. It is not the typical RF we Hams are used to using to communicate.
- Numerous people worldwide host servers that provide a means of managing channels. These can be user created or well established private or group channels.
- Users need a device that has internet access and a PTT type app.

What Do I Need To Get Started?

- Cellular device or “network radio”
- Several different PTT applications for cellular devices are available.
- Zello is a free PTT app for private use. Charges can apply if used for business. Requires moderator validation to transmit.
- Teamspeak 3 is a popular app that cost several dollars. This app has many Ham related channels and links. Requires validation. Links directly to IRN
- Echolink is just as Ham as it always has been. Validation required
- PTT4U Paid subscription.

How Does It Work?

- Download the app either to a phone, tablet or “network radio”
- Follow the directions on screen to get set up. Several apps require a copy of license to allow access to Ham channels. They do keep close tabs.
- Non Hams can use these apps and devices but are limited to non Ham channels. Still moderated closely.
- Once validated find the channels you want to use and select them on the device.
- Talk like you would on any other Ham frequency. Some sites and networks issue a non Ham a call sign. These folks operate just like Hams do for the most part.

How Does It Work?

- If using a “network radio” assign a button to act as PTT. On a cell phone one can press the apps ptt.
- Use speaker for best receive audio volume.
- Can be used with a wifi hotspot or cellular hotspot without paying extra for cellular service on a second device.

Devices

- Iphone back to at least Iphone 5
- Ipad/Mac
- Android and Android tablets with ver. 4 or higher
- Exclusive PTT enabled smartphones such as Inrico, Boxchip, Rfinder, Talkpod, Sure, Anysecu, Senhaix and Radiotone. Inrico, Anysecu and Senhaix have several mobile units as well.
- Exclusive PTT enabled smartphones are all Android platforms so far.

Inrico T320



Radiotone RT4



Boxchip S700A



Talkpod N58



Inrico TM-7 Plus Mobile



Is It Still Ham Radio?

- Most of us would agree that Ham is mostly about RF.
- We would also agree it's about communication and experiencing the joy of talking to the world.
- Network radio is just another tool to allow us to communicate with the world. Especially those without HF gear or privileges.
- Most of us have a smart phone these days so the cost isn't prohibitive.

Links

- Most of my knowledge comes from www.network-radios.com
- Props to Duarte, CT1EIZ in Portugal. Duarte is the go-to for equipment and has a good website to read over.
- Rfinder.net is a great site as well with links back to Duarte's page.
- Bob, W2CYK is the foremost authority on Rfinder and the worldwide repeater directory created by his team for the Rfinder line of equipment.

- Questions?