

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP NEWSLETTERGB3GH GB3CG GB3CCX GB7FD GB7GC GB7GH GB7RR
GB7GLO GB7LGS

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EDITORS COMMENTS

First off, an apology for the lack of any Newsletter since March this year. It's been a very busy year for all the Committee and volunteers, during which time I have also moved house.

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

AGM NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of Gloucestershire Repeater Group took place at the CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham on Tuesday 27th April 1999.

The elected committee are as shown on page 4.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As we approach the end of not only another year but also the millennium I expect that many of us will look back and try and identify what we have achieved. I have tried to do this with the infrastructure that GRG provides to the amateur community. In the 16 years of GRG we have installed a huge amount of equipment including two voice repeaters, three main packet switching nodes, three BBS's, a dozen or so access ports, and a microwave beacon. But there is still more to do! We have an installation to complete on the Severn Bridge, a link end in Didcot to terminate, and a feed via Swansea to commission.

Apart from building, testing, installing and commissioning all of this equipment, we have to pay for it and have to negotiate with site owners to allow us to install and operate it. Because we often have to work on commercial sites we are required by law to operate within the requirements of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and the raft of other sub-ordinate legislation. As a consequence we have been required to produce a health & safety policy statement and to agree to implement the requirements therein. As we work closely with Fourpack we decided to produce a joint document which ensures a consistent approach. This is especially important as we each use commercial sites operated by the same organisations.

One of the issues that regularly causes frustration to users is the response of distant packet systems that interface with ours. As part of the drive to improve standards of service GRG has introduced a Service Level Agreement (SLA). Copies of this document are being sent to all operators who link into the GRG network. The aim of the SLA is to show that we are committed to providing as good a customer service as is practicable within an amateur environment. It is hoped that the SLA will encourage other operators to improve their systems.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee may I wish you a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

(Copies of the SLA and the H&S Statement are available upon receipt of a stamped addressed envelope to the Chairman, Nick Negus, G6AWT.)

Nick Negus G6AWT

GB3GH 70CM VOICE REPEATER

We have recently been advised of a possible problem with the Transmitter drifting a little off frequency during use, work is in hand to investigate.

GB3CG 2M VOICE REPEATER

Following the change of Frequency earlier in the year it has become apparent that the Transmitter of GB3CG is a little off frequency, this shows as slight distortion on the transmitted signal. Work to correct this, and to improve the immunity of the 1750Hz Tone Burst detector to reduce / eliminate spurious activation of the transmitter as well as to check the cavities now that the system has been operational for 2 years will be carried out in the New Year.

GB7GH NODE

The BM (G7AXC) Nodes have been out of action for several months, initially this was for the site owners to carry out refurbishment of the building (a Tower Block), but problems with the refurbishment have delayed the return of the system.

The Transmit leg of the GB7GH to GB7DXC link has been temporarily moved from 4m to use the 23cm Frequency that should be used for the link to G7AXC. We will shortly be submitting an application for this link to use its own dedicated 23cm frequency pair. (Along with an application to change the frequency to be used for the link to G7AXC).

GB7FD NODE

We are still awaiting news from the site owners regarding their time-scale to replace the mast at this site, when we know what is happening users will be informed (keep your eyes open for packet messages sent @FOURP).

GB7MAD has been off for several weeks (but the co-located G7BTI node is still active). We are advised that the BBS suffered a major soft/hardware crash and that a new PC will be installed before Christmas.

GB7GC NODE

After well over 12 months of continuous operation without the need to reboot the computer at GB7GC, the system has suffered 2 unexplained total lockups in recent weeks.

GB7RR REGENERATIVE PACKET REPEATER

It is hoped that the link to Didcot will become operational within the first few weeks of the New Year. The Delay with getting this link are due to incompatibility between two pieces of hardware.

GB3CCX BEACON

The beacon still continues to operate satisfactorily

GB7RC NODE

Work on GB7RC has progressed well over the last few months, and it is hoped that the installation will be completed and the system become fully operational before the Spring.

GB7ESC MAILBOX

Alan Walker (G0WDA) has recently decided to expand the services available at GB7ESC to provide 9K6 access for TCP/IP and AX25 users. It hoped that GB7ESC will provide 2m AX25 access on 144.825 MHz and 70cm TCP/IP access on 432.625 MHz.

LinFBB V7.0 (which has been running under test for several weeks) will be used for the AX25 system and TNOS will be used for the TCP/IP system.

For further information on GB7ESC contact please contact Alan (G0WDA@GB7ESC) or visit his web site at <http://www.highforce.net/>.

GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX

GB7LGS was closed down during the August Bank Holiday Weekend (ready for moving house on 1st September), and returned to normal operation in mid October.

I expect to replace the existing AX25 part of the System with LinFBB V7.0 in the next few weeks (Access will be restricted to BBS forwarding and Remote Sysop use only).

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

GB7GLO MAILBOX

It was intended that new Y2K compliant software would be installed on GB7GLO well before now, but I have been so busy with other work that this task has slipped. However, Alan Walker (G0WDA) has recently donated a Pentium II Computer system for use at GB7GLO, and Stewart Wilkinson (G0LGS) has been busy installing and configuring LinFBB V7.0.

The system will include a new optional (but recommended) login password authentication system, details of which will be available from myself after the system becomes operational.

Steve Perkins.
G4FPV

TREASURERS REPORT

Once again this year we attended the 3 Counties rally at the Purdiswell Leisure Centre, Worcester (23rd May) at which sales of donated and surplus equipment raised a total of £423.00.

This year we also received £51.00 in commission from the sale of equipment at the Microwave Round Table which was organised by the Government Communications Amateur Radio Club (in September).

Income from Subscriptions so far this year totals £177.50.

With higher than normal expenditure this year, mainly on new equipment (£919.97) as well as our first significant expenditure for site rental (Totalling £150) the current balance of our accounts has fallen from £784.28 (on 1st April) to £382.91 (on 14th Dec).

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

FOURPACK NEWS

Like GRG, Fourpack have also been busy this year with preparing and installing equipment for new links and new sites.

The GB7WR site in Worcester now has an operational 2m port, but work on installing the 23cm link to MLVN that will connect it to the network is still in progress. It is hoped that this work will be completed and the node will finally be operational by the New Year.

GB7WE has been operational for several months now, but we are still awaiting final connection to the network at GB7WH (Winter Hill, Manchester).

The next Fourpack meeting will be at 8pm on Wednesday 26th January 2000 in 'The Anchor' Upton-Upon-Severn. (non-members are welcome).