

GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP

December 2005

Edited by Stewart Wilkinson G0LGS

GB3GH VOICE REPEATER

The group recently received a donation of several complete modularised TAIT T855/T856 UHF radio systems and various spare parts; Steve (G4FPV) has been modifying one of the systems to use for replacement of the GB3GH Voice Repeater, his work includes building a new PIC based logic control system which interfaces to the CTCSS circuitry in the TAIT radio's. The group should be using the new equipment when the repeater is migrated to new accommodation during the next few months.

GB3CG VOICE REPEATER

Steve (G4FPV) has also been working on new hardware for the GB3CG repeater; this includes new improved logic system, and individual Key KM150 radio's for the transmitter and receiver, these being much smaller than the Marconi 742 Transmitter that is currently in use, these will also be used when the system is migrated to new accommodation during the next few months.

GB7RR

Some problems were found with the GB7RR system after the changes from 19200 Baud to 9600 Baud that were carried out earlier in the year, work is still on-going to resolve these issues.

CLEEVE HILL SITE

On-going issues with regard to gaining vehicular access to the site and summer vacations have meant very little work has been done with regard to preparing this site for intended re-engineering of the GB7RR packet system and the MB7US APRS systems.

GB7FD NODE

As reported earlier in the year the group has decided that that GB7FD site will be closed once work to engineer alternative links to the South (Swindon) have been completed. Whilst the group hopes that this can be completed by the spring / early summer 2006 no date has yet been set for shutdown of the GB7FD system.

GB7GH NODE

The GB7GH system was unexpectedly off air for a while in November, Stewart (G0LGS) and Matthew (SWL) visited the site very late at night to find the power distribution system had been tripped off in the equipment cabin, we suspect that this may have occurred during electrical installation works at the adjacent site.

2006 AGM

Please make a note in your diary that next AGM will be held from 20:00 on the 25th April 2006 at the Civil Service Club, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

At least one Committee member has already made it known (actually at the 2005 AGM) that he may not be in a position to continue in the post that he has done for many years. The committee will be looking for additional member(s) willing to fill this and any other vacancies that may arise.

AMATEUR RADIO ADMINISTRATION CHANGES

It has been announced that Ofcom will take over several amateur radio administration tasks from the RSGB as from 1st January 2006; this includes managing repeater and packet networks.

Whilst as an RSGB member I see this as good news, because it leaves the RSGB free to concentrate on other matters, as GRG Treasurer I wonder if this will lead to extra costs being incurred by the group. (NoVs for repeaters and packet systems have traditionally been issued free of charge under RSGB administration).

2006 BAND-PLANS

The new UK Band-plans, covering all bands from 136kHz to 76GHz, which were agreed at the IARU Region 1 Conference in September 2005, and which comes into force on 1st January 2006 can be found at <http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/bandplan.htm> (you will need Acrobat Reader).

WANTED

Manuals, circuit diagrams etc are required for AKD 4001 (4M) and AKD 6001 (6M) FM Radios. Contact: Stewart (G0LGS).

NEW RADIO SOFTWARE SITES

Two new web sites for radio software have recently been set-up by Ian (G6VEY) and Stewart (G0LGS) located at www.radiolinux.co.uk and www.radiowindows.co.uk they offer software downloads and links to other sites offering software (much of it free) for both Linux and Windows users, as well as some discussion forums and a chat server.

Submissions for new web-links and additional downloads welcome, so if you know of any radio software not already listed on the sites please register on the site (a valid email address is required) and submit the relevant information.