

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

Edited by: Stewart Wilkinson G0LGS

CONTENTS**Page**

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS	1
FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP (FGRG).....	1
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.....	1
GB3GH 70CM VOICE REPEATER.....	2
GB3CG 2M VOICE REPEATER	2
GB7GH NODE.....	2
GB7FD NODE	2
GB7GC NODE.....	2
GB7RR REGENERATIVE PACKET REPEATER	2
GB7RC NODE	2
SITE RENTAL INCREASES	2
NEW TCP/IP MAILBOX	3
GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX	3
GB7GLO MAILBOX.....	3
TREASURERS REPORT	3
MOVE OF INTERNET WEB SITE	3
RALLY NEWS	3
FOURPACK NODES	3
AMATEUR RADIO FORUM	3

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

We are rapidly approaching another AGM and I am looking back at last years reports and committee meeting minutes to assess whether we have achieved the goals that we set ourselves. In general terms I think that the answer is going to be yes although at the time of writing this one or two projects have been delayed by matters outside of our control. However, by the date of the AGM it is hoped that we will have caught up.

The successes that we have enjoyed during the year are the result of everyone's work on the Committee supported by the members. The inter-actions between the various members of the Committee has developed a strong team with specific areas of interest. I would specifically like to bring to everyone's attention the input made by Steve G4FPV with regard to the engineering facilities. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find references to the system development and enhancement.

Concerning the AGM, we will be looking for more people to join the Committee. We specifically require people with RFengineering and/or software skills to share some of the existing workload.

Nick Negus.
G6AWT

FRIENDS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP (FGRG)

Following a meeting between the Charity Commission and the proposed Trustees to further discuss the application for FGRG to become a registered charity, it was agreed that although FGRG may well provide charitable facilities, it would be difficult to ensure that the exact criteria to gain charitable registration could always be complied with. Regrettably therefore, the decision was taken not to pursue the registration at this time. However, the Committee still intends to support the services that formed part of the basis of the application. We would extend our thanks to the Charity Commission for their support and advice during the consultation period.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Gloucestershire Repeater Group will take place at the CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham on Tuesday 27th April 1999 from 19.30. An Agenda for the meeting is included with this newsletter.

GB3GH 70CM VOICE REPEATER

Gloucestershire RAYNET has agreed (subject to certain conditions) to allow us to use one of their antennas at the site whilst the stack of dipoles is temporarily removed for essential maintenance. If RAYNET have need to use their antenna system during this time GB3GH may be turned off without warning.

GB3CG 2M VOICE REPEATER

Maintenance work on the GB3CG installation took place over the weekend of 20th/21st February. The work included re-tuning the equipment and extending a number of cables (at the request of the site owners). GB3CG is now on its new Frequency of 145.725/145.125 MHz.

GB7GH NODE

Equipment for the 19K2 link through GB7RR has been installed at GB7GH.

The site clearance process for the link from GB7GH to GB7WE has been completed and this link is now operational.

A 1,500 VA UPS was recently installed, this together with the battery backed supply for the radio equipment should provide sufficient power for the NODE to continue to operate for several hours in the event of mains power failure at the site.

Several unexplained lockups of one half of the GB7GH NODE CLUSTER have occurred recently, requiring a number of visits to the site, a timer has been fitted to restart the system each day, but despite this the problem persists. Work continues to try to identify the cause of the problem.

GB7FD NODE

The link between GB7FD and GB7MAD was out of action for a time due to several faults with equipment at GB7MAD.

A new timer has been fitted to reset the system at 0300 each day.

We have been informed that the site owners are intending to replace the mast at this site. This will mean that all facilities at GB7FD will be off-air for an extended period. Details of the likely timing of this major work are currently unknown, however we will give as much notice of this outage as possible.

GB7GC NODE

Some users of GB7GC have reported that data flow through the node seems slow on both 2m and 70cm user ports, it is not yet clear what causes this slowness.

GB7RR REGENERATIVE PACKET REPEATER

Problems with the radio equipment for GB7RR have been resolved, and the repeater is now operational.

Most of the equipment for a East-West link (using GB7RR) was installed at GB7DID (Didcot) during the last weekend in February, additional work to complete the installation is expected to be completed in the next few weeks.

GB7RC NODE

The site clearance process for GB7RC has been completed and work has started on installing equipment at the site (on the Severn Bridge - M48). The 19" rack has been installed and mains power has been connected. Aerials are on site but have not yet been erected.

SITE RENTAL INCREASES

RSGB Members and others that have seen the February and March 1999 editions of RADCOM may have seen mention of the huge increase in site rental charges that are being imposed by NTL and CTI over the next few years for Amateur repeaters at their sites around the country.

Whilst these increased charges DO NOT currently apply to any GRG or FourPack sites, we are aware that repeaters in some areas have or will shortly cease operation, and that some groups are in the process of moving equipment to alternative sites.

NEW TCP/IP MAILBOX

Alan Walker (G0WDA) has received clearance to operate a new TCP/IP MAILBOX (GB7ESC) from his home in Gloucester.

GB7ESC has 2m (144.875 MHz) and 6m (50.630 MHz) user access ports (70cm - possibly 432.625 MHz may also be available at a later date). As well as providing additional TCP/IP mail facilities in the area GB7ESC has an extensive files area (over 30GB). GB7ESC links directly to GB7LGS on 70cm, currently the link is half-duplex at 1200 Baud but it is intended to upgrade this to 9600 full duplex.

For further information on GB7ESC contact please contact Alan or visit his web site at <http://www.esoftc.demon.co.uk/>.

GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX

GB7LGS has seen a number of changes over the last few months, which includes a complete update of the Linux operating system to RedHat 5.2 (Kernel version 2.0.36) as well as the addition of more disk space.

It has been mentioned to me several times recently that AX25 users connecting to GB7LGS are confused because the system appears to not respond when they connect. The reason for this is that GB7LGS runs a number of programs one of which is a NODE (which looks similar to the BPQ software used at our NODE sites), users connecting to GB7LGS are normally connected to the NODE and NOT to the BBS.

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

GB7GLO MAILBOX

With the approach of the millennium, Steve (G4FPV) is currently looking into updating the software (and possibly hardware) at GB7GLO. The existing FBB 5.15c software is almost certainly not Y2K compatible, and so Steve will be looking at the latest software from F6FBB (V7.0g) as well as software from other authors over the next few months.

TREASURERS REPORT

The group has recently purchased a total of 6 x 8Ele 70cm Heavy Duty Antenna's (Total Cost almost £300) for use at the GB7RC, GB7GH and GB7WE sites.

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

MOVE OF INTERNET WEB SITE

In order to make the process of updating the groups Web pages easier the Groups Internet Web pages have been moved to a new site at <http://www.gb7lgs.demon.co.uk/grg/>. Anyone accessing the home page from the old site should be re-directed to this new site.

RALLY NEWS

This years 3 Counties rally will be held at the Purdiswell Leisure Centre, Billford Road, Worcester on 23rd May, doors open at 10.30 admission will be £1.50 (further details on 01905 773181). GRG and FOURPACK will be in attendance.

FOURPACK NODES

GB7CL was refitted on Thursday 18th February following some adjustments to the deviation and a modification to the DC power supply system. This node operates from Clee Hill in Shropshire and provides coverage into Ludlow, Leominster, and Hay-on-Wye area on 2m.

GB7WE (alias ABDN-10 and ABDN-11) installation was also completed on 18th February. New heavy duty antennas were fitted along with the RF, data, and PSU equipment. Unfortunately the Manchester end of the link (GB7WH) will not come on line for a few weeks. Our link to GB7WE can be found on #GLOS (GB7GH-9). The link runs full duplex at 1200 Baud but this may be upgraded to 9k6.

AMATEUR RADIO FORUM

The group has recently been sent a full copy of the Audio Cassette Tapes made of the proceedings at the Radio Communications Agency Amateur Radio Forum which was held on 24th July 1998, anyone who wishes to borrow the tapes should contact the Chairman. (Other radio clubs should also have a copy available).