

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

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AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Gloucestershire Repeater Group will take place at the CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham on Tuesday 18th April 2000 at 8pm. (The Agenda for the meeting is enclosed with this newsletter).

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

I would like to use the medium of the Newsletter to thank those members who kindly sent their condolences following the sudden death of my wife Pauline at the end of February. Consequently certain projects are now running a little behind schedule.

GRG would like to extend its sincere thanks to Racal Translink for the project management skills that they implemented in the provision of the Gloucester-Swansea link (GB7RT<>GB7SR). A special mention must be made of Steve Rose, Richard Walters, and Graham Matthews, all of whom contributed to the smooth installation of this new facility. The link will provide almost instant access to/from Swansea University and the gateways available from that node point.

A special application for funding for a "millenium node" has been arranged via the millenium projects initiative. The anticipated call sign, subject to discussion, is GB7MM. More information on this will be released (hopefully) at the AGM.

Nick Negus**G6AWT****GB3GH 70CM VOICE REPEATER**

Reports of frequency drift have been investigated. The only change that is noticeable occurs after a very long QSO (in excess of an hour or so). Reports of a low hum are again probably from the CTCSS.

GB3CG 2M VOICE REPEATER

Work to be carried out at GB3CG over the next few months includes Fitting & aligning new Transmitter Crystal, Check cavity alignment & Receiver sensitivity. One cell of the wet Ni-cad bank is beginning to fail, but this should not present any problems. A few people have reported a "low mains hum". We think that what is being heard is the CTCSS tone of 118.8Hz.

GB7GH NODE

An additional equipment rack has been installed, and most of the equipment for the new 23cm Link to GB7RT has been fitted, it is hoped that final commissioning of the link to GB7RT (and hence on to Swansea) will be completed by end the end of April.

Our 1500VA UPS recently failed, so the system is currently using an alternative lower capacity unit, until such time as the original can be repaired.

GB7FD NODE

There have been no problems or changes made at this site for many months. Plans to replace the aerial mast – which were floated last year – have still to come to fruition. Details from the site owner are still awaited.

GB7GC NODE

During the last few months there have been a small number of random, unexplained lockups of the computer system for GB7GC, each of which has required an unscheduled visit to the site to reset the system.

GB7RR REGENERATIVE PACKET REPEATER

Some routine tests are to be carried out on 'RR prior to the links to GB7RL and GB7RC becoming active. These tests may cause some odd entries to be seen in the routes and nodes tables.

GB7RT & GB7SR NODES

Much work has been done on the GB7RT (Gloucester) to GB7SR (Swansea) wormhole. Equipment has been installed at both GB7RT and GB7SR sites, testing shows that the cable link appears operational. Final work at GB7GH site for the 23cm-radio link should be completed in the next few weeks.

GB3CCX BEACON

Since its installation the RF output from the 10GHz beacon (GB3CCX) has steadily fallen, we are told this is a common problem with ageing of the PA module. The beacon has been removed from the site and the PA module will be replaced and the system tested before being re-installed in a few weeks.

GB7RC NODE

Work on completing this new installation has been delayed to permit certain interface requirements to be finalised but commissioning should take place in early summer.

GB7ESC MAILBOX

Sadly, due to an apparent lack of interest in packet radio in/around the Gloucester area, Alan Walker (G0WDA) has decided to turn off GB7ESC and will instead concentrate on promoting and developing his Internet Web sites (www.highforce.net and www.esoftc.com).

GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX

GB7LGS is now using LinFBB V7.0 as the AX25 forwarding system (Access to FBB is restricted to BBS forwarding and Remote Sysop use only).

A 70cm user port should shortly be available on 433.625 MHz. (A 2m/70cm Diplexer is required to complete the installation).

Recent changes to licensing rules now permit linking of repeaters and mailbox systems over non-amateur radio networks, such as the Internet (subject to obtaining the appropriate authority). Following the announcement of the change, which came into force in early February, GB7LGS was amongst the first systems in the country to be granted the licence extension, which permits exchange of information between amateur and non-amateur networks (subject to some restrictions).

Stewart Wilkinson
G0LGS

GB7GLO MAILBOX

As reported in the December 1999 newsletter GB7GLO is now running the Linux version of FBB (LinFBB 7.0) on a new Pentium class computer. Whilst the program still has a couple of minor Y2K issues the system has now been working well for almost 3 months.

Steve Perkins.
G4FPV

TREASURERS REPORT

Thanks to all members that have renewed their subscriptions in recent weeks, your new membership cards & receipts are included with this newsletter. However a significant number of members have not (so far) renewed their membership this year, which means the group has seen a significant fall in overall income compared to the previous 2 years.

The end of year financial report (to be presented at the AGM) is expected to show (unless things change) that the group has spent significantly more this year than it has received in income, thus depleting its available reserves. However much of the expenditure has been on purchasing and building equipment for upgrading existing links and installing new sites / links.

Stewart Wilkinson.

G0LGS

FOURPACK NEWS

GB7WR node in Worcester is now fully operational, with 2m (144.8875) and 70cm (433.675) user access ports.

GB7WE still awaiting final connection to the network at GB7WH (Winter Hill, Manchester).

Paula (G8PZT) has been busy over the last few months writing her own NODE software. The software is currently on trial on her KIDDER node and is expected to be tested at other sites in the coming months. At the present time the software only supports KISS and Polled KISS TNC's. However Paula is working on adding support for other Packet Hardware (DRSI, BAYCOM, THORCOM and other SCC based cards). If you have Detailed Technical Information for any such hardware then I'm sure Paula will be pleased to hear from you.

Fourpack meetings: 8pm on Wednesday 22nd March and 26th April (AGM) at 'The Anchor' in Upton-Upon-Severn. (non-members are always welcome).