

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

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2000/2001 AGM

The 2000/2001 Annual General Meeting of Gloucestershire Repeater Group will take place at the CIVIL SERVICE CLUB, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham on Tuesday 24th April 2001 (19.30 for 20.00). A provisional agenda is enclosed with this newsletter.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

As will be evident from the reports in this Newsletter, we have been busy over the winter months progressing new installations and servicing others. We have suffered from some technical and administrative delays but hopefully these are being resolved. We have also encountered some delays where we are awaiting responses from other organisations.

With the AGM looming, we hope that one or two members will put themselves forward to join the Committee. We urgently need people to share some of the load currently being undertaken by the Committee. Can you help?

You will see under GB7RC details of our recent encounter with the RIS. Funny in hind site, but not at the time. Still, they did enjoy the climb to the top of the tower (450 ft above sea level). Visitor trips available upon application to me (Members only).

Nick Negus
G6AWT

GB3GH 70CM VOICE REPEATER

Following reports of frequency drift on the GB3GH transmitter, Ken (G3LVP) made a visit to the site in early February to check the system and made some adjustments to both the receiver and transmitter frequencies (The transmitter was approx. 2KHz off frequency).

Due to the uncertainty over how long we will be permitted to continue using the existing site we expect to shortly be submitting an application to move GB3GH to an alternative site. Two possible sites currently being considered, we hope to have more news on this by the time of the AGM.

GB3CG 2M VOICE REPEATER

Following the installation of a new crystal in the transmitter 6 months ago, a small number of users recently reported that the transmitter frequency had changed, Steve (G4FPV) and Nick (G6AWT) visited the site in early February to check and adjust the system.

GB7GH NODE

G8PZT's NODE/IPROUTER Software which has been running well on #GLOS:GB7GH-9 for several months has now also be installed on GLOS:GB7GH, this latest version includes features that allow updating of the software and its configuration remotely over the network. It seems likely that this will reduce the number of visits required to each of the sites to make what are often minor changes to the configuration.

Preparations for moving the GB7GH from the existing site to an adjacent site have been ongoing for several months. Currently we have installed underground ducts for mains, telephone and other cables, laid concrete bases for the mast and equipment hut, installed and painted the equipment hut, installed the first 2 sections of a new mast and guy anchorage points. However despite initial assurances from the council that we would not require formal planning permission, it has now been decided that we do, so further work has been postponed until this position has been clarified and/or formal planning permission has been sought.

The Radio and TNC equipment for the high-speed link (via GB7RR) was installed many months ago, but we have had some difficulty in getting the link to work between #GLOS:GB7GH-9 and MLVN:G4FPV. A few adjustments to parameters have now been made and the link is now functional, however some further work may be required to optimise the links performance.

The link to GB7TCM, which is currently off air (and may not return) has been disabled.

The link to GB7RT has been disabled as a problem of mutual interference has been identified between that link (1299.325MHz) and the GB7DXC to GB7GH link (1299.425MHz), this problem should be eliminated when the move of GB7DXC (See later) has been completed.

GB7FD NODE

Clearance has now been received for the 70cm user access port/back-up link to SONA (G8RDT) on 433.6375 MHz.

The site owners have still not commenced the replacement of the aerial mast but it is understood that negotiations are underway with another site sharer.

Nick Negus
G6AWT

GB7RT & GB7SR NODES

The wire link between GB7RT (Gloucester Railway Station) and GB7SR (Swansea) has been very intermittent. Racal Telecom, who provide us with the link, are currently investigating.

An alternative path between GB7SR and GB7GH can currently be found via UNI, G7PUN-11 and GB7LGS-9, however this path is not available 24 hours a day (except at weekends).

GB7GC NODE

A fault with the 70cm user port radio, which occurred in latter part of 2000, has now been rectified, and GB7GC has been returned to normal operation. Stewart (G0LGS) had to carry the radio equipment and his tools approx. 300 meters along a very muddy track to gain access to the site via a side gate, as the lock on the main gate was faulty and could not be opened even by the site owners.

G8PZT's NODE / IPROUTER software has been enhanced with the addition of Baycom USCC and ThorCom RLC100 SCC card drivers, which means that GB7GC is now using this new edition of Paula's software. For further details on this and Paula's other software see her website at <http://www.g8pzt.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/software/software.htm> .

GB7RC NODE

GB7RC recently became the first system operated by the group to be closed down by the RIS (part of the Radiocommunications Agency).

After several visits to GB7RC in recent months Steve (G4FPV) and Stewart (G0LGS) went to the site one Saturday in early January with the intention of performing final checks and activating this node, however due to time constraints they were only able to check that the transmitters were operating on the correct frequency and perform some initial checks on deviation levels.

Despite this they took the decision to leave the radio's which had been checked turned on and the computer system active, with the intention of checking the functionality remotely. However on the Monday following this Nick (G6AWT) was contacted by DCC representative Steve Morton (G8SFR) to advise us that the system had been closed down by the Bristol RIS. Later that day Nick made contact with the RIS officers and was advised that the system had been closed down because they had found 'spurious' signals from the system, it turned out that these 'spurious' signals were actually the frequencies for which GB7RC has been licensed !

It has since come to light that one of the frequencies used at GB7GC is also cleared for use for a link between GB7NT and GB7TJZ and that during the short period of time that GB7RC has so far been operational the systems were suffering mutual interference, in light of this it will now be necessary to determine in conjunction with Peter (G6TJZ) sysop of GB7TJZ the sysop(s) of GB7NT and the RSGB DCC what can be done to resolve this.

G4FPV has been working on additional hardware that will be used to generate CW identification tones for all four radio ports, this should mean the system will continue to send its required identification even in the event of the computer system crashing.

GB7XJC MAILBOX

Following a very unfortunate incident in late October during which two messages containing undesirable material (in the form of 7plus encoded images) were inadvertently imported and released into the UK Packet Network, GB7XJC which was operated by Jon Colley (G4XJC) was closed down by the Radiocommunications Agency on 22nd February.

All of Jon's Computer and radio equipment was been taken away for examination, following which both the NOV for operating the mailbox and his normal licence have been suspended until the ongoing investigations by the Radiocommunications Agency and Police have been completed.

(Note: Jon has not been a GRG member since prior to GB7XJC being licensed).

GB7LGS MAILBOX

The F6FBB (AX25) Mailbox software in use at GB7LGS has recently been updated, when I'm happy that the new software is stable the updated software may also be used on GB7GLO. The update fixes a few minor bugs (mainly with commands and displayed information that still had Y2K related problems).

The hours of operation of the converse (CHAT) server at GB7LGS have been extended, the link to other licensed TCP/IP systems is now operational between 1805 and 0655 GMT each weekday and all weekend.

In addition the use of other TCP/IP services (SMTP, FTP, HTTP) are now possible (during the same hours as the converse) with systems in Blackpool (GB7FCR), Manchester (GB7NLW) and Kent (GB7STU).

Licensed users can join the converse system from the AX25 packet network by connecting to any of GB7FD, GB7GH, GB7GC or GB7LGS-9 and sending the command 'CONV' or by accessing over the internet (see any of <http://gb7lgs.demon.co.uk/>, <http://gb7fcr.co.uk/> or <http://gb7nlw.co.uk/> for the appropriate information).

Following the events that lead to closure of GB7XJC (see above), I along with a number of other UK Mailbox Sysops, have decided not to allow the transfer of messages containing 7plus and other non-text attachments through the Mailbox.

Information on other UK TCP/IP systems can be found at <http://www.aggis.net/ukip/>. Whilst information on using TCP/IP on packet radio can be found at <http://www.amateurpacketradio.org/>.

Stewart Wilkinson
G0LGS

GB7GLO AND MLVN NODE

There have been a few problems with the east bound link from MLVN in recent weeks, these have mainly been due to faults with the equipment at the SONA (G8RDT) node, some of the problems have been caused by mice getting inside the equipment. Some work has been carried out on the antenna system at the MLVN end of the link, which has improved signals on the link. These problems have affected forwarding from out of the local area to Warwick (GB7WAR) and Coventry (GB7COV).

Steve Perkins.
G4FPV

MAIL FOR GB7SDN USERS

We have been advised that the Swindon Mailbox (GB7SDN) has been closed. Anyone that previously used GB7SDN should find and register at an alternative Mailbox. They are welcome to use GB7GLO (or GB7LGS).

GB7GLO has a small number of messages for GB7SDN users that are unable to be delivered, these will continue to be retained for a few days and then returned to the originator.

TREASURERS REPORT

Due to the increasing quantity of equipment and the number of sites on which we have that equipment installed, we have asked the Insurance brokers to provide a quote to significantly increase our cover.

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

DXCLUSTER NEWS

An application to move GB7DXC from its current location in Gloucester to a new location in Bredon was submitted by Martin (G0HDB) several weeks ago. Martin and his helpers have started preparing for the move of equipment by installing a suitable equipment rack, but are currently waiting for the site clearance process to be completed before arrangements are made to move the rest of the system to this new location.

FOURPAK NEWS

Meetings: 8pm on Wednesday 28th March, 25th April, 23rd May & 27th June at 'The Anchor' in Upton-Upon-Severn. (Non-members are always welcome).