

GLoucestershire Repeater Group Newsletter

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The Annual General Meeting is yet again upon us. I again hope that at this years meeting that more members will put them selves forward to stand for positions on the Committee.

With the amalgamation of the old 'A' and 'B' licenses it is clear that many former 'B' licence holders are finding exciting new challenges getting to grips with the HF bands. Therefore it is likely that less people will want to get involved with the running of a repeater group this year than last year. But wait! How many people use the services of the DX Cluster to identify those exotic and far away places on the air on HF? Without the links provided the GRG many people would loose out on this important facility. Likewise, with the two voice repeaters that we operate, many people could not share important information with friends who may be monitoring the repeaters or who may be mobile or portable.

We believe that the service we provide is important. Clearly the users believe it is too. So please consider it important to be involved with running the group. Come along to the AGM. Ask awkward questions. Tell us what you want, and put your name forward to enable some of those ideas to come to fruition!

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will find information on individual sites detailing improvements during the last year and telling you what needs to be completed. You will also find full details of the AGM.

Nicholas Negus G6AWT.
Chairman

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please make a note in your diary that the AGM will be held at 20.00 on Tuesday 20th April at the Civil Service Club, Tewkesbury Road, Cheltenham.

The Agenda will be:

1. Welcome
2. Present
3. Apologies
4. Minutes of last meeting (held 8th April 2003)
5. Chairman's Report
6. Secretary's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Technical Manager's Report
9. Determination of Subscriptions
10. Election of the New Committee
11. Election of the Accounts Examiner
12. Appointment of Managers
13. Other Business

GB3CCX / MB7UC / GB7RR SITE

The group has received several letters from NTL 'new' owners of the Cleeve Common site, currently used for GB3CCX, MB7UC and GB7RR.

NTL initially asked for information from us regarding what equipment we had installed on the site and its purpose (it seems they were not given that information by the previous site owner) after this they sent further communication advising that they had determined a new rental for the site. The chairman advised them that we considered the proposed new rental as unacceptable as our original agreement was that we would not be charged rental until certain other actions had been completed by the site owners, and that we would now be looking at relocating to another site. We are awaiting further communication from NTL.

In the mean time the group has reached an agreement with the owners (and the previous users) of an adjacent site, under which we will pay only for the electricity used. The Committee / Technical team will therefore be looking at relocating all our equipment *over the coming months*.

MB7UC APRS

A problem with the MB7UC 2m transceiver that caused a high-pitched whistle to appear on the transmissions and lead to some stations being unable to decode data from the system has been resolved.

GB3GH VOICE REPEATER

The committee have discussed the possibility of operating GB3GH on a separate Antenna to GB3CG and intend to pursue this in the coming months.

Work is still in progress with the construction of additional Cavities.

GB3CG VOICE REPEATER

The committee is aware that GB3CG performance has been affected by intermittent 'noise' on the repeater for a period of many weeks. Some work has been carried out to try and identify the source of the problem, but due to the intermittent nature of the problem little progress has been made so far.

It has now been many months since the committee has had any contact with John (G6RTV/M3FSG) regarding his proposal of linking the GB3CG 2m repeater to the Internet using EchoLink. The committee are therefore interested in finding someone with a Broadband Internet connection that would be willing to provide an EchoLink connection to GB3CG. Help with the initial costs of purchasing and/or constructing appropriate hardware and configuration of software will be available. However this will now have to await the outcome of the recently announced Ofcom consultation process for 145 MHz Internet Voice gateway NoVs, which is expected to commence at the beginning of April (See <http://www.dcc.rsgb.org/>).

Further Information on EchoLink (including the software required) can be found on the web at <http://www.echolink.org>.

GB7FD NODE

The Southbound Links from GB7FD to GB7ST and GB7NW show increased retry rates; the technical team hope to be able visit the site shortly to make checks and any necessary adjustments to restore these links to there normal low retry rates.

GB7RT & GB7SR NODES

Despite several site visits to GB7RT by members of the Technical team, we have been unable to restore the cable link to GB7SR. It is suspected that a problem lies somewhere in the cable connection. The chairman is trying to arrange simultaneous visits to GB7RT, GB7SR and intermediate sites by members of the GRG Technical team and cable engineers to isolate and resolve the problem.

GB7GH NODE

Following the closedown of GB7GC, the group has been given permission (by RSGB DCC) to provide an alternative 2m-user port at the GB7GH site.

The Technical team has done much work on radio, TNC and antenna equipment for the links to GB7WE, G8PZT and those via GB7RR, which they believe will improve those links once outstanding work has been completed at the GB7WE and GB7RC sites.

The 70cm Link to GB7LGS has been upgraded from 1K2 to 9K6, leading to improved mail transfer speeds between GB7LGS and GB7GLO, however some adjustments of settings at both ends are still being made to try to achieve the best performance on the link.

GB7RC NODE / MB7US APRS

The Technical team have not managed to fit in any visits to the GB7RC site for many months, so work to get the 9600 baud link to GB7WO working as well as to complete the installation of the MB7US APRS system is still outstanding.

GB7RR DATA REPEATER

The 70cm Transceiver developed a fault, which caused the GB7RR system to be out of action for a couple of weeks.

The Technical team are considering other changes to the system configuration, which they hope will improve reliability, enhance performance and eventually provide additional network connectivity.

TREASURERS REPORT

The sale of surplus Microwave Components and other items at the 3 Counties Rally in December provided a substantial boost to the clubs finances (Full details will be shown in the Treasurers Report at the AGM).

FOURPACK NEWS

FourPack's regular meetings are now held on the 4th Thursday of the month at 'The Poachers Pocket', Wardon, Worcester from 8pm (on the B4639 close to J6 of M5) – non-members are welcome. The group are currently trying to arrange various talks / demonstrations at these monthly meetings, details will be published in the group's own newsletter once arrangements have been made.

The FourPack AGM will take place on Thursday 22nd April 2004 from 8pm.