

# Gloucester Repeater Group Newsletter

GB3GH GB7GH GB7FD GB7GC G7NYP

Edited by: Stewart Wilkinson G0LGS

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As you will see the newsletter now has 'WANTED' and 'FOR SALE' sections, any group member with Amateur Radio related items for inclusion in either of these sections should send me the appropriate information (with a suitable contribution for club funds) at least 2 weeks prior to publication of the newsletter (I expect the next Newsletter to be published around March 1997).

## COMMITTEE NEWS

Mark Orchard (G0USL) has kindly volunteered his services on the committee, and Malcolm Lane (G0TMP) has taken over the post of Secretary.

## CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

"Some times I sit and think. Other times I just sit". Maybe not exactly the original saying, but the inference is reasonably straightforward nevertheless. Whilst the IARU may be the governing body for amateur radio I do wonder if they really consider the full implications of some of their ideas. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find details of the new 2m band-plan.

For our group the impact currently will be the change of a few frequencies; This will involve the purchase of some crystals and a limited amount of re-tuning. But of course taken nationally this involves (in amateur non-profit making terms) a huge expenditure. I believe that the need to move activities around the band is change for changes sake. Sure, we do need more allocations for certain types of transmission, but to turn the whole system upside down to do it seems rather too radical.

When is an advertisement not an advertisement? That seems to be one of the questions that goes round and round on the packet network. Some of you may have seen that our attempts to acquire (beg, steal, borrow are acceptable, buy for cash is not!) a circulator to improve our service to other amateurs on a non-profit, non-commercial basis, is considered by some as advertising in breach of BR86. I can assure members that our "advertisement" falls well within the guidelines.

Despite the severe weather over the last few weeks I am pleased to say that all of our installations continued to work. This is all due in no small part to the professional standards that the group maintains throughout all of its work. I thank all of the Committee for their commitment to these standards.

As most members will know, the group has applied to take over the franchise to run a 2m repeater to replace - in whole or part - that covered by GB3MH. Mark G0USL and Malcolm G0TMP have agreed to take this project on board. A decision by the Repeater Management Group (RSGB) is expected at the end of November.

Elsewhere in the Newsletter you will find details of future developments of the equipment we operate. If you are able to assist, please contact the Technical Manager.

**Nicholas Negus**  
*G6AWT.*

## GB3GH VOICE REPEATER

The 70cm voice repeater GB3GH on RB5 (433.125 MHz) continues to function well. A slight increase in usage over the summer months has been noticed, let us hope this trend continues.

Reports for GB3GH should be sent to Ken Eastty (G3LVP).

## NEW 2m BAND PLAN

Packet and Internet users may have seen the information released from the recent IARU meeting that a new 2m band-plan is to be adopted as follows:

144.000 - 144.035 EME exclusive

144.035 - 144.150 CW  
 144.150 - 144.400 CW & SSB  
 144.400 - 144.500 Beacons  
 144.500 - 144.800 All modes  
 144.800 - 144.990 Digital communications

These changes will mean that each of the 2m user access ports in the area will at some time be required to move. Whilst we don't yet have any details of the precise arrangements that will apply, both Gloucester Repeater Group and The Four Counties Packet User Group (FourPack) would like to see the new Digital Communications section include 12.5 KHz and 25 KHz (High Speed) packet radio channels, with exact usage being decided at a local level. It is hoped that a meeting can be arranged between all interested local groups in order to formulate plans that should lead to improvements in service for all 2m packet users.

### **GB7GH PACKET NODE**

Initial indications are that the work carried out on the 23cm equipment at the GB7GH site (as well as at MLVN and FOD) over the summer months has resulted in some improvement in the reliability of both links, especially during damp weather.

A new 4 Ele 4m Antenna has been installed at the site beaming towards Hereford, It is hoped that this, together with work carried out at GB7HD (by its keeper) should give an improved service to users in the Hereford area.

### **GB7FD PACKET NODE**

Following completion of site clearance procedures, the callsign GB7FD has been authorised and is now in use at the Forest of Dean site. The groups G7NYP callsign has now been registered for use at the new Churchdown Hill site.

The upgrade to 9K6 Duplex of the Madley and Swindon links has not yet been completed, although the equipment for our end of these links has been ready for several months.

The committee has had a number of complaints regarding access to the 2m port, It appears that the level of usage of 144.675 MHz by a small number of users in South Wales is causing problems locally. The committee is currently investigating a possible change of frequency (Users will be advised before any change takes place).

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The YATE (G6BIW) Node which provides the next step in the southbound link from GB7FD was off air for a couple of weeks recently, as yet we have had no explanation as to why it was off.

Future plans for GB7FD include the addition of a link to the South Wales Network, as well as a link from GB7ST (Stroud) which will take the place of the current 4m link from GB7ST to GB7GH.

### **CHURCHDOWN HILL NODE**

Work started at our new Churchdown Hill site back in June with the installation of antenna's, the equipment rack, mains supply and telephone. Other work carried out to date includes tuning of the Transceivers and assembly of a rack mounted PC. The Committee hope that the remaining work will be completed by Christmas.

This site will initially use the callsign G7NYP although it will eventually become GB7GC.

When complete the site will be linked to GB7GH and GB7LGS on 70cm (at 9K6) as well as providing both 2m and 70cm user access ports covering Cheltenham and most of Gloucester as well as surrounding areas.

### **GB7GLO MAILBOX**

The loss of the YATE node for approx. 2 weeks recently resulted in a build up of un-forwarded mail at GB7GLO, GB7TJZ and GB7IMB, the return of the node hailed a massive exchange of mail over a period of a few hours leading to the disk drive at GB7GLO becoming full and eventual failure of the BBS software for a few hours.

The recently added 9K6 user access port (as reported in the June Newsletter) on 433.675 MHz has disappointingly so far seen no use. Anyone needing help or information for getting equipped for 9K6 is asked to contact Steve Perkins G4FPV (Sysop of GB7GLO).

### **TCP/IP NETWORK**

No significant changes have taken place locally in terms of TCP/IP connectivity, although routing tables are still being updated from time to time.

Anyone Interested in TCP/IP should contact John Colley G4XJC (as Regional TCP/IP co-ordinator) or Stewart Wilkinson G0LGS, who will be pleased to pass on relevant information, and put them in contact with their local TCP/IP sub co-ordinator or allocate a suitable local TCP/IP address. Software for PC (DOS & Linux) as well as ATARI and other systems can be obtained from a number of local users if necessary.

### **GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX**

GB7LGS the TCP/IP mailbox has recently been upgraded from a 386DX-40 to 486DX2-66, response (at least over my LAN link) appears to be considerably quicker.

As mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter the link from GB7LGS to GB7GH is to be upgraded to 9K6 and will also be used to link to the new Churchdown Hill site.

Local TCP/IP user access is currently restricted to 144.625 MHz. I hope to be able to add access on 70.4875 MHz. However some work is still required on the 4m Transceiver and Antenna system in order to eliminate a TVI problem. (70.4875 MHz is also swamped by noise from the existing TNC's)

**Stewart Wilkinson.**  
**G0LGS**

### **TREASURERS REPORT**

As reported in the June newsletter the group once again had a stall at the 3 Counties Radio Rally in Malvern on the 29th of September. Nick (G6AWT), Mark (G0USL), Ian (G4HAQ) and myself took turns in manning the stall throughout the day. Although the number of traders present and overall attendance appeared to be down on previous years (maybe due to the poor weather on the day) we sold a number of surplus items of equipment and components as well as gaining a small number of new members, resulting in an overall increase of income on last years event.

The Committee has asked me to point out that whilst the current suggested subscription rate is £7.50 per year, reduced rates are available upon application to the committee.

A small number of members will have received reminders (with this newsletter) that their subscriptions are now overdue or are due within the next month.

**Stewart Wilkinson.**  
**G0LGS**

### **1997 AGM**

Whilst the committee has not yet fixed a date for the 1997 AGM, they are currently formulating the groups constitution (which seems to have been in draft format for many years) into a workable document with the intention of proposing its formal adoption at the AGM.

ALL members will be issued with a full copy of the proposed constitution prior to the AGM.

**WANTED**

**3 Port (435MHz) Circulator** is required for use at GB3GH, please contact Ken Eastty (G3LVP) or Nick Negus (G6AWT), will consider swap for similar 2m Circulator.

**2 or 4 port PC RS232 Interface Cards** (ISA Bus) that can use IRQ's 8 - 15 are required for use at our node sites, anyone who knows where such items can be obtained at a reasonable price should contact G0LGS.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, a number of committee members are keen to see further development of the GB3GH / GB7GH and perhaps even the GB7FD or GB7GC sites, anyone interested in setting up a 3cm (10GHz) TV Repeater, Beacon or any other new (not packet) facilities is asked to contact Nick (G6AWT) or Ken (G3LVP).

**FOR SALE**

Even after our successful day at the recent 3 Counties Rally the group still has a number of items available including:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Contact</u>
2764A EPROMS (8K x 8)	G0LGS
27128A EPROMS (16K x 8)	G0LGS
27C010 EPROMS (128K x 8)	G0LGS
6116 RAMS (2K x 8)	G0LGS
256K 30 Pin SIMMs.	G0LGS
1 MHz Programmable Oscillators	G0LGS
8255A-5 PIO	G0LGS
24 Pin ZIF Sockets	G0LGS
Disk Drive Power Connectors	G0LGS
PC Power Connectors	G0LGS
Fan Guards 50 x 50mm	G0LGS
PC Edge Connectors 18/31 Way	G0LGS
9" Display Bezels (135 x 185mm)	G0LGS
Covered 4 Way Terminal Block	G0LGS
Screened 'D' Covers (25 Way)	G0LGS
Various Microwave Components	G6AWT
Various Surplus PMR Transceivers	G6AWT
Heliac Cable (Mainly FSJ-450)	G6AWT

Please contact G0LGS or G6AWT (as above) for further information, pricing etc.

**RACAL RA-17 Receiver** (0-30MHz) £200 ono, will consider swap for PC items e.g. USCC (Packet) Interface Card, Memory etc. (Buyer to Collect). Contact: Mark Orchard (G0USL).