

**GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP NEWSLETTER**

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<b>CONTENTS</b>	<b>Page</b>
EDITORS COMMENTS	1
CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS	1
GB3CCX 10GHZ BEACON	1
GB3GH VOICE REPEATER	1
GB3CG VOICE REPEATER	2
GB7FD NODE	2
GB7RT & GB7SR NODES	2
GB7GC NODE	2
GB7GH NODE	2
GB7RC NODE / MB7US APRS	2
GB7RR DATA REPEATER	2
GB7RL NODE	2
GB7GLO AND MLVN NODE	3
RALLY NEWS	3
FOURPACK NEWS	3
OTHER PACKET NEWS	3
WANTED	3
FOR SALE	3

***EDITORS COMMENTS***

Due to work and other commitments this year myself and several other members of the Committee / Technical team have been very busy, this means that whilst we have managed to fit in committee meetings we have not been able to carry out all the work we would have liked to do at the various sites, and writing a group newsletter has been rather low on the priority list. Hopefully things will get better over the coming months and we will all have more time to deal with repeater group matters.

If anyone would prefer to receive future Newsletters as an email attachment (you will need Acrobat Reader) instead of a printed copy please email me and I will add you to my newsletter mailing list. If you missed any previous editions of the newsletter they are available on the Groups Web site (see last page).

**Stewart Wilkinson G0LGS**

***CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS***

Welcome to the latest edition of the GRG Newsletter.

A number of varying issues have arisen since the last edition of the Newsletter was published that have stretched (and are stretching) the minds of your committee. Some of them are covered elsewhere under the appropriate headings; others I will mention here.

For the first time in GRG's (and our sister organisation, Fourpack's) history, we have seen criminal damage and theft occur on two sites.

GB7CL was forcibly entered and equipment stolen. It was not vandalism. It was a targeted attack. The police are investigating. CCTV footage from the next-door pub is also being viewed. There is a reward for information leading to a conviction. Fourpack hope that 'CL will be back on air shortly.

GB7GH was the target of some minor vandalism. The perimeter gates were taken off their hinges and the exterior lighting and switching were smashed. These have been replaced and the site owners are welding the gates onto the hinges. The site owners are also considering installing CCTV.

The Three Counties Rally takes place in Worcester on 7<sup>th</sup> December; we will be there with various items of equipment for sale.

We have a number of engineering tasks outstanding with both maintenance and new installations being top of the list. The Technical Manager Steve, G4FPV, would welcome offers of help from anyone within the group.

**Nicholas Negus G6AWT.**  
**Chairman**

***GB3CCX 10GHZ BEACON***

Steve G4FPV had the opportunity to listen to the GB3CCX signal for the first time, when he recently came across a 10GHz contest station being operated from a hilltop site.

GB3CCX along with GB7RR and MB7UC may be off air for a while in the coming months to permit relocation of the antenna system on the tower. Further information will be published, either as packet bulletins or in a future newsletter once the details have been finalised.

***GB3GH VOICE REPEATER***

Work is still ongoing with the building of the additional cavities which Nick G6AWT started earlier in the year.

Robert G1LOA reports that whilst GB3GH is a readable signal in West Bromwich, he is unable to work it.

Ken G3LVP has expressed a wish to try GB3GH on a separate antenna from that used by co-located GB3CG voice repeater. A Watson W300 vertical antenna has been obtained which may be used for this purpose.

### ***GB3CG VOICE REPEATER***

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The group is awaiting feedback from John (G6RTV/M3FSG) regarding his proposal of linking the GB3CG 2m repeater to the Internet using EchoLink.

Robert G1LOA reports that GB3CG is a workable signal from West Bromwich.

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

### ***GB7FD NODE***

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The Antenna Mast replacement, which was reported as being in progress in the February newsletter, was completed by mid March and GB7FD was returned to full operation shortly afterwards.

Nick G6AWT and Stewart G0LGS visited the site in August to re-align the 70cm user / link port beam antenna with the intention of providing better coverage to the south, but it seems that the coverage has not improved as expected so further work will be required.

The Southbound links to GB7NW and GB7ST have gradually rising retry rates, a site visit is required to investigate, but we suspect a problem with the shared transmitter.

### ***GB7RT & GB7SR NODES***

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The cable link between GB7RT and GB7SR nodes has been out of action for last few months; despite several visits to the sites by Nick G6AWT, Steve G4FPV and the cable engineers (Thales Engineering) the fault has not been located and the link is still out of order. Further investigations are to be carried out shortly.

### ***GB7GC NODE***

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Following many months of little or no use of the 2m and 70cm user ports at GB7GC the committee took the decision to discontinue operation of this node at the Churchdown Hill site and the equipment was turned off in early September. The 2m equipment is expected to be re-deployed to the GB7GH site, whilst the remaining equipment may be used to provide alternative facilities at a later date.

### ***GB7GH NODE***

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There have been several outages over the last few months caused by the loss of the electrical supply to the site and recent failure of the UPS.

Stewart G0LGS visited the site one Sunday in August to discover that vandals had removed the access gate and broken the outside light and associated switch, no other damage was caused and there was no sign of anyone having attempted to gain access to the equipment cabin.

The link from GB7GH to GB7WE has been out of action for several months, despite a visit to GB7GH site in mid October (which also included visits to other sites) Steve G4FPV and Nick G6AWT were unable to determine the reason for failure of this link. However on a subsequent visit to GB7WE Steve found a problem with the transmitter, which has been taken away for repair.

A new 2m port is planned; we should have more news on this in the next newsletter.

### ***GB7RC NODE / MB7US APRS***

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The technical team have not manage 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***

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Steve G4FPV and Nick G6AWT visited the site in mid October to discover that the transmitter PA had failed and the unit was producing less than 10mW of RF. (enough to be heard by G0LGS in Cheltenham, but not enough to for the link to work between the GLOS and MLVN Nodes). Steve has taken the unit away for further testing.

### ***GB7RL NODE***

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The GB7RL node, which was to be installed by GRG near Didcot has been delayed yet again, this time because the Club on whose premises the system was to be installed have had to vacate their premises and find alternative location. The latest information we have is that they have identified a new location just a few meters from the previous location and that they should be installing equipment soon.

### ***GB7GLO AND MLVN NODE***

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GB7GLO and the MLVN node continue to provide an excellent and valuable service, with the current status information showing un-interrupted service on both systems for in excess of 6 months.

As most people will be aware, Steve G4FPV has recently moved house, however GB7GLO and the MLVN node will for the time being continue to operate from his previous location (which is owned by Steve's Family), both systems are checked daily by Steve and/or his remote Sysops.

### ***RALLY NEWS***

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Once again the group has booked space at the 3 Counties Rally which is to be held at the Worcester Rugby Club on 7<sup>th</sup> December, doors open 10.00am. We have a large number of surplus items, including Microwave Components, and numerous other items to be sold.

Further details for the rally can be obtained from John, G8MGK, or at <http://www.qsl.net/gb2tcr>.

### ***FOURPACK NEWS***

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FourPack's meetings are currently held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month at 'The Swan', Whittington, however the group are currently considering changing to another location in the Worcester area. More news on this will be given in FourPack's own newsletter and published on packet when plans are finalised.

During the summer, Steve G4FPV carried out work at the GB7WE site to install a computer system using the latest G8PZT's Xrouter software, replacing the 'TheNet' cluster. However a problem with a floppy disk meant the system was off air for a few weeks. The system is now on air again, but faults have developed with both southbound links from the site, these problems are being looked at.

As already mentioned in the Chairman's Remarks, A Kantronics Data Engine TNC was stolen from the GB7CL node site in August, resulting in GB7CL going off air. The group has removed all other equipment from the site is currently looking at re-locating the node to another site.

### ***OTHER PACKET NEWS***

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The Radio Communications Agency has announced that no applications for un-attended 70cm operation (Data or Voice) are being processed until further notice, however existing un-attended operation (i.e. under any current NOV) is not affected. We understand that this also affects applications in the UHF bands for other users.

The Southbound link from GB7NW (Swindon) via GB7SW (Salisbury) to GB7IW (Isle of Wight), GB7HP (Fareham), GB7CGL (Wool) and GB7RS (Blandford) is back in working order thanks to the work of Richard G0WKL, Eric G0CGL and others.

### ***WANTED***

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Paula G8PZT is working on a project to provide a 2m Internet linked voice repeater GB3KD, which will be operated from her home in Kidderminster, she is however in need of suitable Cavities if you know anywhere where these can be obtained at low cost please contact Paula either by packet G8PZT @ GB7PZT or email [g8pzt@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:g8pzt@blueyonder.co.uk).

### ***FOR SALE***

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Steve G4FPV has a small number of Key KM150 mobile FM transceivers (without the control head) available. These units, with the addition of a control head or additional equivalent circuitry (details available) are suitable for modification for 2m. Contact Steve for pricing or further information. Modification details for the Key KM series radios are available from G6IGA's web site at <http://www.superiorsignals.co.uk/>.