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GLOUCESTERSHIRE REPEATER GROUP NEWSLETTER

GB3GH GB3CCX GB7FD GB7GC GB7GH GB7RR GB7GLO GB7LGS G1SHM G7NYP

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CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

I had hoped to be able to announce that we were ready to switch on the new 2m voice repeater to cover the Severn Valley. However, the gremlins seem to have got into the postal system and the application just missed the October meeting of the National Frequency Assignment Panel. This notwithstanding, I am pleased to announce that the application has passed all of the various stages of approval and the call sign GB3CG will soon be active. The Repeater Management Committee have suggested one of the new 12.5KHz frequencies for >CG, but we have requested the old >R1' frequency as it is currently available and many people have equipment crystalled for it.

Some time ago we made an application to the National Lottery to assist with the funding of various projects. I am sorry to say that, despite meeting all of the project criteria, there is currently no appropriate category into which amateur radio happily fits. A letter has been sent to the RSGB Council requesting them to take this matter on board and to enter into discussion with the National Lottery Charities Board.

As a consequence of not receiving this funding I am going to ask all members of the group to consider making a special one-off donation to the group of ***at least ,5.*** Please send your donation to Stewart G0LGS. It would also be helpful if each member could try and recruit one new member. Currently less than half of the users of the systems are group members.

Christmas is coming and how many of us are hoping for that new radio in our stocking? If you are intending to purchase a new V/UHF radio please ensure that it can tune in 12.5KHz steps and that it has or can have fitted, a 12.5KHz receive filter. There will no doubt, shortly be Awonderful sale offers≅ by the major players in the amateur radio sales market. What they will be doing is trying to clear their old stock which only has 25KHz steps and/or filters! Beware!

On the subject of Christmas, this will be the last Newsletter of 1997, so may I wish you a pleasant time over the festive season on behalf of all of the GRG Committee.

Nicholas Negus
G6AWT

GB3GH VOICE REPEATER

Once again there is little to report on GB3GH, the only outstanding work is to replace the Antenna Feeder with a length of lower loss heliax cable.

Ken Eastty
G3LVP

2M VOICE REPEATER

Our application to operate a 2m Voice Repeater has now been submitted by the Repeater Management Committee to the Radio Communications Agency. It is hoped that the clearance process will be complete in time for the installation to take place by the end of the year.

The callsign GB3CG has been allocated for this project, and according to the RMC Internet Web pages (http://members.aol.com/rmcweb/rmc.htm) the frequency of 145.7125 MHz (145.1125 MHz Input) has been allocated, however the committee would prefer to use a 25KHz based channel and have asked the RMC to look at changing the allocation to 145.625 / 145.025 MHz .

ALL CHANGE ON 2M

ALL PACKET RADIO ACTIVITY ON 144.625, 144.650 & 144.675 SHOULD HAVE CEASED.

ALL PACKET RADIO USERS ARE URGED TO MOVE TO ONE OF THE NEW FREQUENCIES IN THE 144.9xx MHz SUBBAND AND TO ENSURE THAT THEIR TRANSMITTERS ARE CORRECTLY ADJUSTED FOR 12.5KHZ OPERATION.

All nodes and mailboxes in the local area that were operational in the 144.6xx sub-band have moved to new frequencies in the 144.900 to 144.975 sub-band. Some systems (Including GB7MAD, GB7TCM and GB7PZT) will however being making further moves to the 144.825 to 144.8875 sub-band from 1st January 1998.

It has been noticed that some users of 144.950 MHz (MLVN) and 144.9375 MHz (GB7GC) have not correctly adjusted their transmitter deviation for 12.5KHz channel operation. Whilst users with radio's adjusted for 25KHz operation may still be able to gain access to the network, wide deviation settings can affect users of the adjacent 12.5KHz channels.

Users that are unsure how to check and adjust their transmitter deviation should refer to the section in July 1997 newsletter entitled 'PREPARING FOR 12.5KHz OPERTAION' or contact Steve (G4FPV) or Stewart (G0LGS) for guidance and/or assistance.

GB3CCX 10GHz BEACON

GB3CCX is now operational on 10.368940GHz from Cleeve Common, near Cheltenham (NGR SO993249 - IO81XW81) at a height of approx. 330m ASL with ERP of 250mW, the beacon should have omni-directional coverage, but is likely to be obscured to the north by the mast.

The beacon is currently being operated from a mains power supply system, this will be enhanced with the provision of a battery-backed supply system at a later date.

A number of reception reports have been received from around the country, some of them were received within a few hours of the system being switched on. All reports for GB7CCX should be sent to Nick G6AWT (QTHR).

GB7GH NODE

A number of changes to the 70cm link ports at GB7GH took place over the August Bank Holiday Weekend, the changes included fitting of new radios and a second computer system. The changes mean that all 70cm links from GB7GH are now split frequency working, with all except the link to GB7PZT also being full duplex. The equipment for the link to GB7WO (Wenove) was also installed, however due to problems with TNC's the sysop of GB7WO has not yet managed to get the system operational.

In order to ease the load on the computer system at GB7GH, a second computer system was installed (just prior to the 70cm link changes). One computer now operates all the trunk circuits ('GB7GH-9') and the other ('GB7GH') provides all the local area links.

The installation of an alternative (temporary) 23cm Transceiver (used as a receiver) for the link from GB7DXC has dramatically reduced retry rates between GB7DXC and GB7GH. The original receiver will undergo testing and be repaired and re-installed (if feasible).

Following recent checks on some of the radio equipment used at GB7GH a fault was found in the 23cm Transceiver used for the link to G7AXC, having obtained and fitted a replacement part the link is now working better than it has done for sometime.

The GRG committee is awaiting a response from DANPAC regarding a proposal to change the 23cm link from GB7GH to G7AXC and onto GB7RP to split frequency operation. If this proposal is accepted we will then be able to make further improvements to the existing GB7DXC link, as well as allow us to add further 23cm links should the need arise.

A Site Clearance application to operate GB7GH on the frequencies that will be provided by GB7RR has been submitted to the DCC, approval is likely to take 2 - 3 Months, but this should not cause any delay in getting GB7RR operational.

GB7FD NODE

Changes are planned to the 70cm Link transmitters (in order to reduce heat generation and total power consumption). Improvements to the dual 24V / 12V power supply system are also planned. It is likely that these changes will coincide with the addition of the extra 70cm receiver and associated hardware that will be used for a new link to GB7ST.

As mentioned in the July Newsletter, a decision has yet to be made on the date for change over of the 2m user port at GB7FD to 144.8625 MHz.

Stephen Dale (G6BIW) has advised us that he expects to be moving house in the near future and is looking to find someone else in the Chipping Sodbury area to take over the operation of the YATE node.

GB7GC NODE

The 2m port at GB7GC was moved to its new frequency of 144.9375 MHz on Saturday 13th September 1997.

Along with similar changes at GB7GH and GB7LGS the 70cm link port is now operational in full duplex (at 1K2) this link will be upgraded to 9K6 in the near future.

Recent reports from users have indicated that some people have had trouble staying linked to GB7GLO and GB7DXC when using either the 2m or 70cm user ports at GB7GC, some minor changes have been made to the system configuration at GB7GC, GB7LGS and GB7GH which seems to have improved this. However at busy times the apparent response from GB7GLO, GB7DXC etc. may appear slow, this improve when the change to 9K6 is completed.

GB7GLO MAILBOX AND G4FPV NODE

The 2m port at the G4FPV node was moved to its new frequency of 144.950 MHz on Saturday 16th August 1997, however the number of users appearing on the new frequency has been lower than expected.

Steve Perkins
G4FPV

A recent problem with the TCP/IP configuration at the MLVN (G4FPV) node has meant some loss of TCP/IP connectivity, by the time you read this the problem should be resolved and TCP/IP traffic flow between G4FPV and GB7GH should be back to normal.

Stewart Wilkinson
G0LGS

GB7RR REGENERATIVE PACKET REPEATER

GRG's application to operate a regenerative packet repeater (GB7RR) from Cleeve Common has now been approved.

The regenerative repeater control TNC unit (by G8STW and G6WPJ) required for this project has been purchased by Nick (G6AWT) and will be loaned to the group on a long-term basis. Work is currently in progress to populate and test the high-speed GMSK modem boards (also G8TSW / G6WPJ designs) that will be used at GB7GH, G4FPV, GB7DID (DIDCOT), GB7HW (STOKENCHURCH) and G1FIP (WARWICK).

It is hoped that the system will be installed and tested by mid November, and that the remote stations will start to use the system shortly afterwards.

GB7LGS TCP/IP MAILBOX

The 2m user port at GB7LGS was moved to 144.925 MHz on Saturday 16th August 1997, however only one user has so far appeared on this new frequency on a regular basis. An alternative crystal controlled radio has been acquired and will be installed shortly, I hope this will mean I can once again use my multi-mode mobile transceiver for voice operation (for the first time in over 3 years).

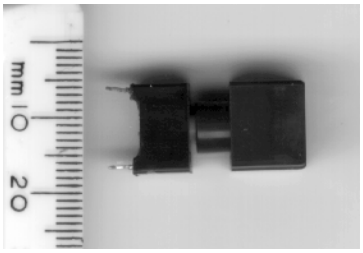
Mark Orchard (G0USL) is now the remote (2nd) sysop of GB7LGS so will be helping me out with the daily tasks of checking and releasing held messages etc (Thanks Mark).

The 70cm Link from GB7LGS to GB7GH was upgraded to full duplex (1K2) over the August Bank Holiday weekend and will be further upgraded to 9K6 in the coming months.

An intermittent fault with the PYE 414 link transmitter resulted in loss of access to the rest of the network for several hours over a period of 4-5 days recently. The fault seems to have been in part of the power supply regulator circuitry which has now been replaced.

Stewart Wilkinson.
G0LGS

WANTED



A quantity of 3 Push-to-Make (SPST) switches are required for the groups KOKUSAI MX4400 series 70cm transceivers. The original switches (as above) are PCB mounted with the 2 contacts spaced at 10.16mm (0.4 inch), they are fitted with a 12mm square button. The total length of the switch (including the button) is approx. ***27mm***. The originals appear to be made by 'TOKO', but enquires to date have not found anything that could be used as a direct replacement. Anyone with any similar surplus switches or who knows of a potential supplier please contact Stewart (G0LGS).

Gloucestershire Repeater Group and Fourpack require various duplexers and cavities for 2m, 70cm and 23cm, as well as 23cm Antenna's. Any offers to Steve Perkins (G4FPV).

Nick (G6AWT) requires a used Kenwood TM732, TM733 or Yaesu 5200, 8100. Cash is available for one in good condition. Telephone 01452 504515.

INTERNET WEB PAGES

The Committee hopes to have some Internet Web pages available in the near future, the pages are expected to include copies of previous newsletters as well as membership application forms and some information about each of the systems operated by the group.

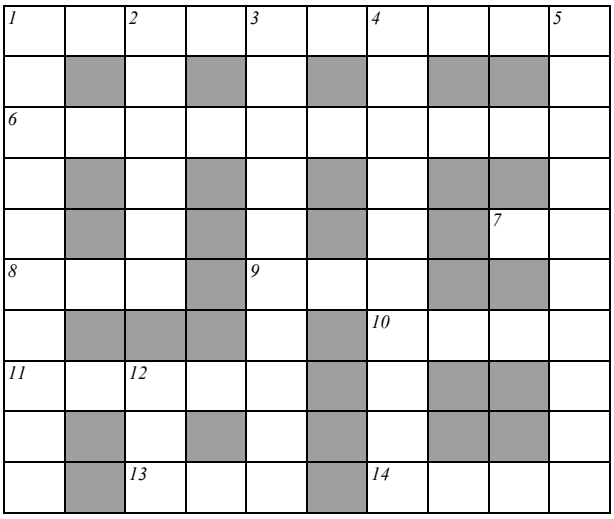
Some sample pages are already available to TCP/IP users over the packet network at http://www.gb7lgs.ampr.org/grg/index.html and these are likely to be used as the basis for creating those for the Internet.

The Internet URL will be published when the pages have been prepared, watch this space and keep an eye on the uk.radio.amateur newsgroup.

PRIZE CROSSWORD

Nick Negus (G6AWT) has put together a prize crossword. Prizes will be awarded to the first 2 correct entries drawn at random from those received by 30th November 1997. (Only entries from Gloucestershire Repeater Group Members, who's subscriptions are deemed up-to-date at the time of the draw will be accepted).

Name:
Callsign:
Membership No:



All answers are radio/computer related. Some answers are acronyms. Numbers in bracket are number of letters in answer.

Across

1 5uF, 30pF, 10nF etc. (10)
6 Colpits, Wein, and crystal are all one of these. (10)
7 Final stage in Transmitter. (2)
8 Threaded fixing. (3)
9 Very many circuits concentrated on one substrate. (3)
10 End of travel, QRT. (4)
11 Charge battery without reference. (5)
13 The field after the point where the E and H waves are equal. (3)
14 Mathematical expression and start directory. (4)

Down

1 Appliance usually attached to high power microprocessors. (7,3)
2 Popular data transmission system. (6)
3 Electronic means of processing numbers. (10)
4 Basis of most semiconductor circuits. (10)
5 RS232, RS422. (6,4)
12 At end of the day, you turn to this. (3)