

R.R.G NEWSLETTER

SEASONS GREETING FROM THE RIDGWAY REPEATER GROUP



News from G8YMM

This year has seen a fair bit of committee activity in one way and another.

ASCOM RADIOS

Thanks to Andy G0BEQ and Rob G4XUT we were able to obtain quite a few Ascom 4m Radio for our disposal. A production line was set up converting the radios for operation which were passed on to the groups "top Salesman hi hi" you're truly for distribution.

The sales peaked this summer combined with exhibiting at Westrally which I witnessed 30 going to good homes and Andy G0BEQ's car recovering from suspension sag!

The summary of this activity netted the group substantial funds to reinvest in repeater hardware which our membership would never have been able to fund. There are still a few Ascoms left so if you want one now's the time to contact us before it's too late. www.rrg.org.uk/

Now the hard part is for you to come on 4m and keep Richard G4MUF busy! He will always give you a good weather forecast and 4m prediction!

Lastly, the group would like to thank everyone who bought an Ascom and the members who helped sell and distribute them.

2M SLIM JIM

In this issue I have attached from Ian G4WUH a separated PDF document for the design of a 2m slim Jim for you to have go at. If any members wish to contribute articles and designs please email them to me.

Repeater News

GB3WH "VHF" by G8YMM

Some of you will have noticed that I am no longer actively on the repeaters. This is because I am now working in London thus I catch the train from Bristol on a daily basis.



However, during the evening I do get an opportunity to operate from the train at Swindon on route to Wootton Bassett junction for 10 mins. This means handheld with rubber duck stuck out the window whilst travelling 90-125Mph not recommended.

So why am I telling you all this?

It's because I am unable to give a detailed report on how GB3WH is performing this time around but I can confirm it covers quite a distance from the track side and can be received adequately sat in my seat surrounded by the train metalwork. I do get some funny look though and if you listen to me and Richard G4MUF you might find the conversation containing some very interesting QRM!

As far as the last committee report GB3WH has been working superbly apart from the usually unexplained One or Two glitches encountered which has meant Tony G4LDL visiting the site from time to time. However, this opportunity usually allows Tony to inspect, test and make minor improvements. So thanks to Tony and the volunteers who maintained one of the best 2M repeaters in the area.

GB3TD "UHF" An update by Rob, G4XUT

The repeater has been working well with the only known outage being as a result of the mains power failing. This was allegedly due to children throwing a rope over some 33kv power lines! I am glad to report that at least no one was injured.



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We are currently getting a Storno 9000 base station ready for use to replace. The older Storno 600 series unit. This will be used as a standby radio. This has been interfaced with a new G8CUL logic unit mounted in a 1U 19inch module. This logic is the same as is used on many repeaters including GB3WH.

John, G0DVB and myself have built the logic unit (John doing most of it hi!). My thanks go to John for all his hard work and for providing some of the components!

We are hoping to get the new repeater on the air soon after Christmas so have a listen and please give us a report.

We are also hoping to operate with a 12volt system with battery back up. This should give us more emergency power time than we currently have. Previously this was not an issue, however the site owners decided that the site generator was not required anymore and decommissioned it.

The Echolink (provided by Andy, M1EFY) has provided us with some interesting contacts all over the world. Echolink is "not everyone's cup of tea" but is very useful keeping in contact with your mates over the water on holiday or friends abroad without having to get that HF black box rigged up to the nearest long piece of wire!

As this newsletter goes to press, the GB3TD-R Echolink service will cease until a new provider can be found. Of course this needs to be a NOV and agreed by the repeater keeper. So if any members have a good broadband connection and are in a suitable coverage area we would like to hear from you.

Again my thanks go to Andy, M1EFY for providing the service. Andy has kindly agreed to carry on as Webmaster for the RRG.

Lastly I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2006.

73 de Rob

GB7NW "AX25" repeater for North Wiltshire still remains active but in real terms underused due to the decline in Packet Radio. The committee decided the site would be still be supported as it provides a back up site should

We loose another site due to commercial pressure. The site is undergoing some aerial changes and new equipment cabins to improve maintainer access thanks to Chris G1YGY.

Membership 2005

Membership is always crucial to the group and its status in the world of repeater management. I often hear visitors report that our repeaters provide superb coverage and everyone is made to feel welcome. Personally I find that a compliment to the group and members who use it.

Still we need to keep pressure on recruiting new members as there is always a regular flow of people coming and going etc.

Once again thank you for those who have rejoined in 2005 and those members who donate and regularly support the group each year.

Other Information

Radio Courses

The NBARC runs Novice, Intermediate and Full courses through out the year. Please check our website below or contact G8YMM for details. You may also find courses being run at the Swindon and Reading clubs. www.nbarc.org.uk

The West of England Radio Rally 25 June 2006 Frome, Somerset

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www.westrally.org.uk

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