

# R.R.G NEWSLETTER

## Notice of AGM

**The AGM of the RRG will be held at Nationwide House, Pipers Way, Swindon, Wiltshire on Wednesday May 16<sup>th</sup> 2007 at 19.30.**

## Talk in on GB3WH and GB3TD



### How to get there:

From M4 Junction 15, take the A419 north towards Cirencester.

At the next roundabout, take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit on the A4259 towards Swindon.

Travel along this road for about 1 mile over a mini roundabout and 2nd exit on the next roundabout until you approach a large roundabout.

Take the first exit towards Wroughton and the A4361 (Devizes Road).

Travel down the hill for about ½ mile and at next roundabout turn right towards **Nationwide HQ**.

Follow signs for Car Parking and report to the main Reception and sign in.

We hope you have a good evening were you will be able to meet other members and guests.

## GB3WH

It really is a case of "no news is good news" as far as the 2m repeater GB3WH is concerned. So far there have been no problems or issues so let's hope it stays that way.

This year the repeater is due for a general check over to make sure it is up to specification. There are some small wiring and positional mods to do and we hope they won't cause any problems!

There has been little feedback or comment about the repeater logic so it is assumed it suits everyone? If you have any comments or thoughts let me have them via the RRG web site please.

Tony G4LDL.

## GB3TD

Situated on the Wiltshire Downs between the M4 and Marlborough. Coverage Northwards to Birlip on the A417, East along the M4 to Jnc 14, South to Tidworth and West to M4 Jnc 18 – and beyond!

**Output Freq.** 433.075Mhz

**Input Freq** 434.675Mhz

**CTCSS** 118.8Hz Code

**Locator** IO 91 DL

The repeater has been operating with very few outages during the past 12 months since the installation of the refurbished Storno 9000 equipment and the new logic and cavity filters.

The battery backup has come into use on a few occasions when the HV network supply in the area failed and thus kept the repeater operating for more than 48hours on standby power.

The group were forced to install its own battery back supply after the site owners removed their generator set.

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However, in March this year the repeater went off the air suddenly. A site visit was arranged and found that a mains outage had occurred plus a set of flat batteries. A closer inspection revealed that the batteries were life expired and would need replacing. This meant that the repeater was off the air for 13 hours until the mains supply was restored.

The repeater recently has had the Echolink provision restored thanks to (Tony G4LDL) who will link the repeater to the VOIP internet system. This is on a part time basis and must be when the link is attended by Tony thus refer to Tony's full report below.

For those of you who wish to access GB3TD from either the internet Echolink or from another repeater which has a gateway, the node number is 43307. Very useful for keeping in contact with your friends from far away places i.e. holidays with just a hand portable!

The DTMF codes for using Echolink are to be found on our website [www.rrg.org.uk](http://www.rrg.org.uk)

Please remember that to comply with your licence, you must identify your transmissions with **your** callsign and not just key up with DTMF tones!

Rob G4XUT

## GB3TD-R Echolink

As most of you will be aware the internet gateway GB3TD-R is back on under the callsign G8KWC.

It has been a steep learning curve for me trying to make sure that the Echolink/radio interface works correctly and doesn't upset other link and node operators (some of them seem a bit sensitive to me!).

At the moment the link is allowed on the basis of attended operation, hence is it not on 24/7. I am still trying to find out how to get 24 hour operation allowed (some people seem to have managed it!).

I was looking at re-installing EchoTime and giving the facility for time checks and weather reports but have been advised by the powers that be not to do so as that has been deemed not to be within the spirit of the licensing regulations! However, it may be that I will be able to re-instate the RSGB news via the link. Watch this space.

My pets hates: -

People who call up a random node - then disconnect it immediately.

Worse – those who call up a random node then do nothing with it & leave it connected!

And last people who just seem to belt any old DTMF tones in.

If you want to find out if the link is on its easy. If you can send DTMF tones, send a \* (star). If the link is on you should get the response "Echolink G8KWC". If you don't – it ain't on (or your DTMF tone is not correct).

If you don't have DTMF capabilities just listen to the repeater for around 12 minutes and you should in that time have heard another CW ident. at a lower pitch and lower level than TD's pips. That is the G8KWC ID, and if you don't hear it, the link is not on.

Please let me know if there are any facilities you would like on the link/gateway. You can contact me via the RRG web site or at: -

[tony.1dl@ntlworld.com](mailto:tony.1dl@ntlworld.com)

Thanks to Paul, G7MTX for providing and setting up the radio(s) for the link at a time when I know he was very busy, and to Rob, G4XUT and keeper of TD for help with testing and general advice.

73s de Tony G8KWC.

## GB3ND

The packet radio repeaters have been operating from the site since 1995. It has performed extremely well considering its location on a farm in all weather extremes. Paul, G7MTX, Chris,

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G1YGY and Rob G4XUT have spent many hours keeping the links operating.

The current situation is that the group have to decide which direction to go in regarding its future use. Packet radio seems to be declining in popularity with some repeater groups favouring to step back from packet radio.

It is proposed to highlight this at the RRG AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007 and hopefully get some positive feedback from you the members. If you would like to propose any matters on this, please send them in writing to Andy, GOBEQ or Rob, G4XUT for inclusion at the AGM.

## Membership 2007

Membership applications forms are separately attached to the news letter where you can pay at the AGM or send via the post to our Treasurer.

## News from G8YMM

Since my redundancy 2 years ago I now work in London for the Underground. This has meant a rethink in my daily operational diet of radio and keeping in contact with my chums.

You may wonder what planet I am on but cast your minds back to my 12 years of operating through the repeaters on my way from Bristol to Chippenham each day in the car which equated to 1.5 hrs of operational time.

Now I am confined to operating from the Vestibule of a High Speed Train travelling at 125 MPH and pedestrian mobile 3MPH walking to and from Bristol Parkway station. All in all a healthy balance diet of 40 mins of operational time.

So where is all this leading to I am not sure, but it has enabled me to conduct quite a few radio experiments with G4MUF on propagations whilst travelling down the track and how various rigs have performed. Plus experimenting with GPS mapping and associated receivers. Thus in due course may lead me to put a few words together next time.

Should you wish to join in you will normally hear me around 6:35pm on GB3TD in QSO with G4MUF.

Still, you will be pleased to hear that Severnside TV Group is holding the Westrally again this year in Frome.

If you or any group wish to trade or simply attend, details can be found on our web site.

[www.westrally.org.uk](http://www.westrally.org.uk)

Do come along and support the event as I am sure you will find a bargain or simply meet up for a few hours with the RRG members.

I look forward to seeing you at the rally or indeed at the AGM.

73 Paul G8YMM

## The West of England Radio Rally

**24th June 2007, Frome, Somerset**

Shaun, G8VPG, 01225 873 003

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## Useful Links

[www.rrg.org.uk](http://www.rrg.org.uk)

[www.westrally.org.uk](http://www.westrally.org.uk)

[www.swindonradioclub.org.uk](http://www.swindonradioclub.org.uk)

[www.g8ymm.org.uk](http://www.g8ymm.org.uk)

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