

# RIDGEWAY REPEATER GROUP

**SECRETARY G4XUT**

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## NEWSLETTER

**February 2016**



### **GB7TC (The latest)**



As from 19th January this year GB7TC became part of the CC3.net Worldwide and UK Regional DMR via the C BRIDGE.

So what does this mean :-

In a nutshell, GB7TC now has wider coverage via the internet & other repeaters within the network.

This allows local operators access to stations not only UK wide, but World wide, all on 70cms without having to wait for there being a “lift” on.

This connection would not have been made without the hard work of members of the committee, namely Andy G0UWS, Andy G6REG & Nigel G8VRI (NoV holder for GB7TC).

Andy G6REG & Nigel G8VRI have worked tirelessly on the necessary codeplugs for the Tytera MD380 & Hytera MD785/G DMR radios, & these are now readily accessible on the website <http://rrg.org>

Also on the website are various documents explaining DMR, these include, a simple guide to programming handheld radios, explanations of talk groups, timeslots, & a full user manual for the Hytera MD785G, these have been edited & put on the website by Andy G6REG & myself. More info on the CC-3 network can be found on the CC-3.net website.

Since the connection went live, I have worked USA, Spain, France, Germany, Holland, Romania, Scotland & Wales, John G1OQV has worked South Africa, USA & Australia. However I think my best qso was with Ian GD8BUE in the Isle of Man (my first ever GD bagged).

## GB7TC (The latest cont'd)

Another addition to the website is a Donate button on all pages, any donations however small will be greatly appreciated as our repeaters are costly to keep maintained. I have noticed that all repeater group websites have this facility, so we are not alone in having this facility on ours.

Having had an update via newsletters from the CC-3.net website, there is a new talk group just added to the list, this is TG811, a special SW Link talk group set up to bridge the VHF repeater GB3LE & the UHF/DMR repeater GB7IT at Weston Super Mare. This new talk group is on timeslot 2 with the same t o t as TG810.

M6CUE



## Tim's DMR network



Tim M6XTB is still running his DMR net on TG9 Slot 2 on Tuesdays between 20:00 & 21:00, it is very good of Tim to run this net, so please join in if possible so that he feels that it is worthwhile keeping the net going.

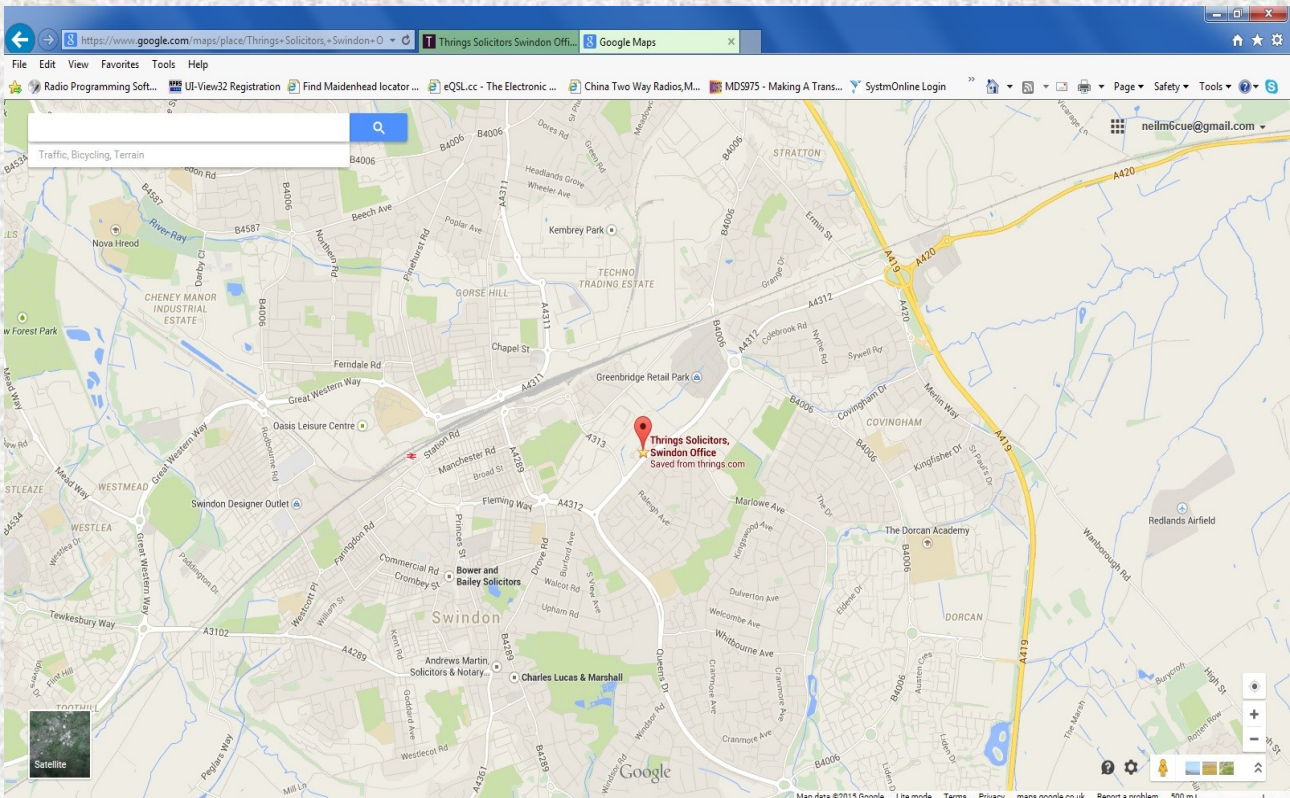


## MILLS ON THE AIR 2016



On the weekend of 14th/15th of May this year GB1WW will be on the air from the windmill at Wilton, Wilts (with kind permission of the Trustees). John G1OQV along with Ken G1NCG & myself. We are looking for more volunteers to help set up & run the event. We will mainly be working 40m ssb along with 2m ssb & 70cms, if I can get all of my portable kit there, I could work 70cms FM & 20/17/15/1210m ssb 2m FM & DMR TG1 as well, though not all at the same time, this will be weather permitting of course. Refreshments will be provided for all those who wish to help us. The Mill has been registered with the Mills on the Air website (Dendby Dale Amateur Radio Club). More on this & a report on the event in later newsletters.

# Ridgeway Repeater Group AGM

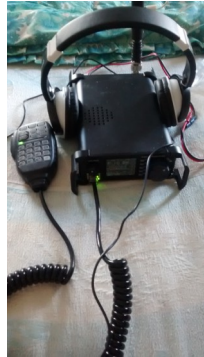


**This years AGM will be held as usual in the Boardroom of the offices of Things Solicitors, Drakes Way, Swindon, Wiltshire (with their kind permission), arranged by Rob G4XUT for Wednesday May 18th. See above map. Start time is set for 19:30 hrs, although arrival & signing in can be between 19:00 & five minutes before the start time. Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks & Biscuits will be supplied for the thirsty & peckish.**

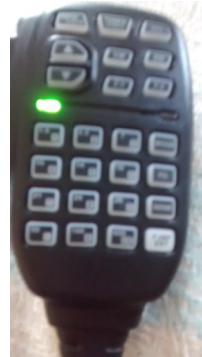
# My Portable HF setup M6CUE



(1)



(2)



(3)



(4)

Last Christmas I decided to bite the bullet & invest in a HF Tx/Rx that I could go portable with, having looked at the various models/options available on the market, I decided that because of my limited budget, that going for Chinese was good value for money. Ok, I could have gone for something like a Yaesu FT817, but at £500+, that was way above my budget. So I opted for the X108G from Queixing (pronunciation variable, though usually kwwhy-shing) at £299 from Moonraker Antennas, I had previously bought a Wizwhip Antenna from them, & another lead gel battery at the McMichael rally, but I needed the “bit in the middle”. Having now got nearly everything required, I bought another portable antenna from Sidebander Antennas, their model AXT2 looked interesting, I thought I’d compare one against the other, the AXT2 is easier to put together, but the Wizwhip will do top band, not that I’m worried too much about that. As you will see from the photos above photo (1) shows the display screen which is about the same size as the FT817, but it’s in colour, from photo (2) you will see that it isn’t all that big about 125 x 180 x 48mm (5” x 7.5” x 2” in old money), photo (3) the stock mic, photo (4) the antenna, Sidebander AXT2, tuneable by adjusting the telescopic whip from 80m - 6m along with using the wander lead plugged into different points on the loading coil. Learning to drive it was quite easy, to the right of the display is a tuning knob which doubles as a switch so that you can toggle between display screens for different settings, an on/volume knob + seven small buttons & that’s it, on the back are the speaker, aux, key (it has a built in keyer), sockets, and the SO239 conn. The stock mic also controls the rig operation giving direct band access from either VFO or MEM. At present I’m in two minds as to whether I buy a mast extension kit for the AXT2 so that I can site the antenna away from the radio, or, just stick with it as a direct plug – in. Still waiting for a nice warm dry windless day so that I can try it all out outdoors, not the same in the bedroom, not exactly portable use is it, hopefully the weather on the weekend of Mills on the Air will allow me to test it thoroughly, if I don’t get chance beforehand. Will report back in a future newsletter of results.

M6CUE

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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**RADIO & COMPUTER  
BOOT SALES 2016**

**SUNDAY 17th APRIL and  
SUNDAY 11th SEPTEMBER**

**SELLERS 9am - BUYERS 10am**

**FREE RAFFLE for Gift voucher from ML&S**

Organised by The Andover Radio Amateur Club  
For further details please e-mail [arac@arac.org.uk](mailto:arac@arac.org.uk)

**CLUB WEBSITE - [www.arac.org.uk](http://www.arac.org.uk)**

**Tables in the Hall £10**

**£8 per Boot and £2 Buyers**

**Postcode for your Satnav - SP11 0JE**

## Harwell Rally on Feb 14th 2016 (a short report by Neil M6CUE)

On the 14th of this month, along with John G1OQV & Dereck G0LJJ I attended the Harwell/Didcot Rally. I was slightly disappointed that some suppliers were not in attendance as they were last year, especially the man with the sweet stall.

I did come across some of the usual suspects namely Rob XUT, Dave XIB, Mike CBS, Tony LDL, Kevin FOP from the Group + Bernie M0NKS, Norman M0JEC, Richard G3ZGC & Gus G3LLJ all from NADARS.

I didn't dig too deeply into the wallet, spending a whole £1 on refreshments + the entry fee of £3, I find the best thing is to look at the rally, then buy off of the net, especially where components are concerned.

As usual there were plenty of "buyers" at the rally so looking over shoulders was the only way of seeing some stands, not wishing to have to say excuse me all the time I did several laps before I could get in to see some items.

It would be a great shame if rallies like this die out due to sellers not making enough profit to make it viable to attend annually, but all things seem to be going this way sadly, costs exceeding profits means that viability seems ever likely to diminish, also cost of hiring venues, even archery shoots are going the same way.

## And Finally

**Any contributions for the next issue can be emailed to me at [m6cue@live.co.uk](mailto:m6cue@live.co.uk) by Mar. 30th please.**

**Thanks.  
Neil M6CUE**