



Ridgeway Repeater Group. Newsletter for Fourth Quarter 2018

Messages/Notices

Report on GB3WH VHF repeater authored by Tony G4LDL

Andy reported that the repeater was working normally after the adjustment of the squelch. This was carried out on the 10/07/2018 and a report sent by Tony:-

Basically the repeater has been functioning normally but with little usage.

The matter of the type of squelch has however been addressed following a visit to site by myself & Andy, G0UWS on Tuesday 10th July.

The squelch setting used for the original set up of this "new" repeater was Noise squelch, type HARD and it had been observed that the hysteresis at this setting was very small. This seemed to make communication with someone moving whilst using a Handheld very erratic to say the least.

As there are two other squelch settings; City or Country; it was decided to explore these further since they appeared to give greater hysteresis values.

The following is a précis of the results using a DIGIMESS GG200RF signal generator.

All inputs direct into Rx unless otherwise stated with no CTCSS. 2.5kHz dev.

<u>Squelch type</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>	<u>Notes</u>
HARD	0.746 μ V	0.722 μ V	With 400Hz Mod
HARD	0.634 μ V	0.425 μ V	No modulation
CITY	0.23 μ V	0.188 μ V	No modulation
COUNTRY	0.203 μ V	0.177 μ V	No modulation

As the CITY and COUNTRY settings appeared to be more sensitive it was decided to try the CITY setting. (The squelch type Sq + RSSI was also tried but this was not thought suitable due to lack of fully understanding it!).

Final test direct into Rx. –

CITY 0.23 μ V 0.199 μ V At 2.5kHz dev.

No obvious difference noted but G0UWS was able to access and hold the repeater from the M4 near Jnc 8/9.

Await further reports!

A battery charger requires installation – this will be planned in for the next visit.

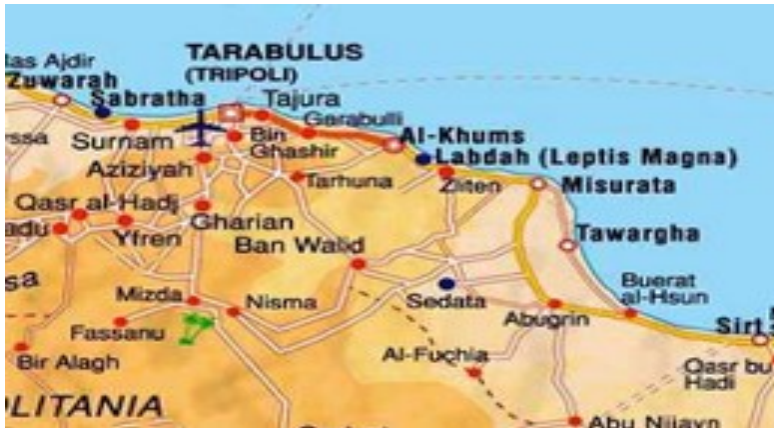
Rob waiting for the spare WH logic which could be interfaced with the Nokia base station donated to the group from GB3TR in Torquay.

Andy had successfully tested the old Pye T406 and Rx spares for GB3WH and were available in an emergency.

Articles

Author Ken G1NCG.

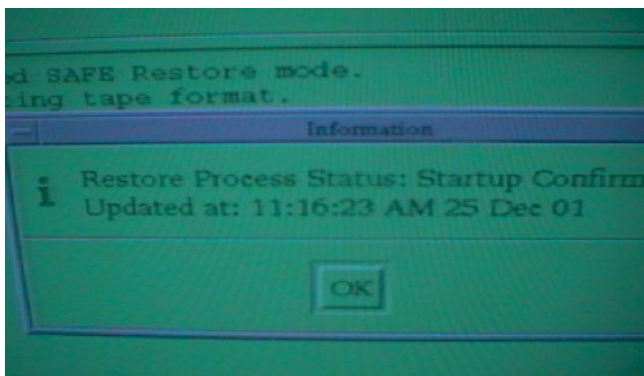
(Working) Experiences in Libya.- Part 1.



I had just finished a two year stint in Holland, working for Lucent Technologies, and was taking a break from employment to think what I could do next. I received an email from a friend I had worked with in Holland, telling me to get my CV sent to him ASAP as there was an opening in Libya that might interest me. I duly sent a current CV via email, thinking what on earth could be on offer over there. Sure enough an email was returned by one of the managers (from Siemens no less) asking if we could chat over a phone call and of course I said yes. This was what I thought would be them sounding me out to see if I had the right experience to cover the job out there. It was in fact an informal interview and was offered the position and within a week had the details sent to me with a ticket to fly to Malta and await a visa to enter Libya. Of course I had to wait over night to collect my visa the following day and a flight was arranged for me to fly to Libya the following day. I made a small tour of Valletta the town in Malta where I was staying and found it to be a pleasant enough place but not knowing anyone there and being on my own I found places to eat and drink before returning to my hotel to prepare for my flight the following day. I did not know what to expect when arriving in Libya, but after waiting to clear immigration which seemed to take a very long time, but was probably not as long as it seemed. I found my luggage and then had to go through another check, a bit like our customs area but had also to get a stamp on my ticket from an official of some kind before I was allowed to go out into the arrivals area of the airport. I looked to see if there was anyone holding a name plaque with my name on it, and after refusing several taxi drivers offering me a cheap deal for a taxi I then spotted someone holding a cardboard plaque with what looked a bit like my name on it I think, as it was scrawled on the paper and not very readable (the only bit I recognised was Siemens). He was a driver for Siemens and had limited english speaking skills but enough for me to understand that he had been sent to collect me.

I have to admit this was a very big culture shock for me even though it was my second time in an arabic/islamic country. When I got to the camp I met up with the friend who had sent me the email, and his name was David. To begin with I had accommodation with David which was more than enough for two of us as it was a family accommodation. The camp in which I resided was in Tripoli and the accommodations were converted shipping containers but they were adequate especially as they had air conditioning and reasonable layouts like a bungalow. I found out that the person I was to replace was still residing in the compound and that made me feel a little self conscious, so when I was introduced to the other people that I was to be working with I thought it better to just stick to everyday matters and used the time to find out more of what the job entailed. This was an easy task as the Phillipino guys were very friendly and easy to get on with, we became very good friends. My first trip to one of the sites was heading out of Tripoli towards Tunisia as our area of equipment that we were responsible for was from the border of Tunisia through to the border of Egypt hence the name of the project "The Border to Border Transmission Project".

The First trip out I had was to a place called Zawiah (City) it was about an hour's drive from Tripoli in the Tunisian direction. I was surprised by small amount of maintenance that had been done on the buildings, this was at first glance but most were usable and dry inside especially were the microwave equipment was located. I found as time went on, it was fairly easy to locate these buildings by their very high towers that the large microwave dishes where located on (6 meter diameter dishes). I visited several sites over the next few days just to get aquatinted with the microwave equipment that was in use on this project (B to B). It was standard microwave transmission equipment and one thing I found it used a GPT communications module that I had experience with on another project back in the UK so that was to my advantage. When the person I replaced had left the country, I was able to look into the management system and get acquainted with it an to my surprise another GPT product was being used to achieve a managed system of the microwave equipment, it was not running very well and crashed on a regular basis. The computer had to be restarted on many occasions and one time I remember was Christmas day 2001 and as this was my first Christmas in Libya it was all a bit different is all I will say. Got some pictures to add at this point in the next paragraph.



This is a screenshot on the reluctant computer, note the date.

This is just part of the camp I was staying at which was pleasantly laid-out.



Another part of the camp.



My first Christmas dinner in Libya this was for four of us with something from each of us.



End of part one of this story.

Ramblings from Your Scribe.

I know of a large mast going for free to anyone who can move it as it is a very large and heavy, it is in four pieces, base section of about just over 20 foot in length and, the main section is approximately 25 feet in length, a top section which is approximately 22 feet in length, with a rotator cage for the top. If anyone is interested and to stop all and sundry calling the widow of a silent key please contact your scribe for more details.

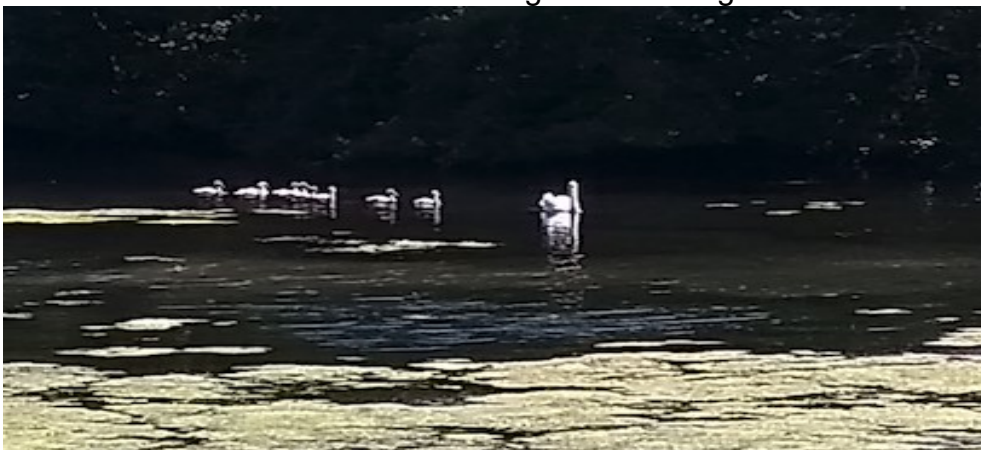
My walks around Liden Lake continue and the changing seasons give the area a character and sort of charm to my wanderings, I have also had a great year for foraging, collecting a lot of blackberries and Sloe's which I will use to their fullest and further news letters I will update you on what has been achieved with my hoard of fruit.

At this time I have too many pictures to choose from, they show the summer and beginning of autumn at Liden Lake. So I will try to put some of the better ones on a page or pages of this news letter. My pictures have a Swan theme as you can see.

Young signets having a grooming session



.Follow Da Leader -- Signets following Mum.



Signets resting after a hard time feeding and grooming.



.Are any of the humans going to feed us.(there are people walking around the lake)



A pair of ducks sunning themselves



The noisy neighbours are back and integrating with the residents.



Look at us we've got lookout duty today.

