

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP
MINUTES OF THE 2008 AGM



Date: 16th October 2008, 20:00hrs
Venue: Danbury Village Hall

Those Present: 2007/2008 Committee comprising:-

Chairman:	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE
Hon. Secretary:	Murray Niman G6JYB
Hon. Treasurer:	Clive Ward G1EUC
Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Trevor Downey M0TDA
Roy Knight 2E0KWG	Keith Wainwright G1NHW

Plus the following ERG members:-

Don Kees M0DKS, John Passfield G1JJJ, Dick House G0ULU, Tony Day G6OXQ, Peter Franklin G1FOA, Richard Beck M3YLB, Chris Mills M3YLN, Trevor Hawkins M5AKA, Peter Hale G4OAD, Martyn Medcalf G1EFL, Alan Radley G0TTM, Laurie White G0JAO, Leslie Radley G4JDS, Jeremy Barley M0DUT, Matt Morton 2E0XIS

- and visitors Denis Lewis M0FHA, Les Barclay G3HTF, Tim Cahill G0UXN, Stuart Haycock 2E0VZL and Norman Crampton M0FZW

Anthony Martin M1FDE

Prior to the meeting formally starting, Clive G1EUC introduced a one minute silence for the recent passing of Anthony Martin M1FDE, age just 41, from a brain tumour. He was both a CARS and ERG Committee Member and had been a key designer of the Army Personal Role Radio (PRR). He had built Echolink systems for Scout events, resulting in MB7IDA at Clives qth and MB7ICM.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

John Slade G0IJN, Dave Penny G3PEN, Simon Wilton G7HCD, Steve Heard G3MII, Roy Ginn G7CQA

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM

Acceptance of the 2007 AGM minutes was proposed by Peter G1FOA, seconded by Don M0DKS and passed unanimously.

3 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman gave the following report to those present:-

Hello members of the Essex Repeater Group. This is another year gone by with some very exciting things happening to our group, Firstly the 6 metre repeater had another lighting strike and blew a 5mmm hole in the Heliac Feeder which we have made a temporary repair to - not good but it's working. The antenna also went down on us as well. We decided to fit another type of antenna which is more robust but with loss of coverage compared to the last one and enough to show up on operations of the repeater, I'm in the throws of looking for a direct replacement for the old antenna but it will take time to find one I'm afraid - its weakness is the trap in the middle breaking down. However I'm sure this will be sorted in the not too distant future. We have also now fitted new lighting arrestors to the 6m repeater and have earthed out the mast to big stakes in the ground, which at the moment seem to be working okay - fingers crossed!

Now the next exciting thing to happen to the group is the new Digital 70cm Icom D-Star Repeater GB7ZP. This is installed at Clives QTH and is working fantastic on coverage and is now becoming popular with the radio operators. This is a definite step forward with a new type of communications. With the help of Icom and Jeff Stanton and Mark Francis at Waters and Stanton, we were able to quickly acquire the unit and get it on air. Whilst we did have a few hiccups, this is to be expected with anything new. We are running it in standard standalone mode at the moment, but will be putting a Gateway on when we are happy with the operational test's going on at the moment and have learnt a few things about it.

It never ceases to amaze me the advancement of electronics every year making me think about new phones the size of a matchbox with a computer built in with all your personnel information inside. My question is what happens when you loose it and somebody picks it up they have all your information on it and could use it ?

"Ah, you say, I have put a code on it". Well, sorry to worry you, but that means nothing nowadays as codes are there to be broken and with certain equipment available. So just be careful what you put on your phone, that's all I can say!

I would at this point like to thank all those members for their support over the last year and previous ones. Without your help we would never exist. My special thanks also go to Murray, Clive, Trevor and Bob-on-the-hill for all their spare time put into helping me and the group to keep things going for you the operators.

Yours in Radio. Mike Wheaton G4ZPE, Chairman Essex Repeater Group

4 HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Honorary Secretary gave the following report to those present:

Good evening and Thank you Mike.

The D-Star application process for GB7ZP proved quite lengthy but that did eventually pass and we now have the basic system on. Unlike our other systems it's an 'off-the-shelf' system, though fed into a rather special 70cm high gain vertical. We do intend to add the Linux gateway onto it in due course, helped by facilities on site.

Whilst D-Star is certainly our newest activity we haven't forgotten our other systems and we remain committed to resolving unfinished business on GB3DB, GB3CMS, whilst we are pleased that GB3DA and GB3ER continue to run fine. It has been busy for me personally and I certainly find it tricky to fit everything in. I would like to thank committee members and helpers far and wide for hosting meetings, rally helpers, auditing, website provision etc.

Murray G6JYB, Hon Secretary

5 HONORARY TREASURERS REPORT

The Honorary Treasurer gave the following report to those present:

Good Evening. You should all have a copy of the year's statement of accounts.

Paid up Membership levels have increased from 37 to 52. We were pleased to receive 20 (+5) renewals at the last AGM. The Colchester Rally was so bad we just about recovered the payment for our sales table. We are considering withdrawing our support from that Rally. In contrast, Canvey was good for sales and just OK for renewals (13 +4) etc. The W&S Open Day was excellent for subs (9).

*Our income from donations remained reasonable, which has been helpful, as we have had a good deal of expenditure over the past year. The main ones being the **D-Star repeater** £1175 + £480 (£1675). This was an excellent price, but with the trade-off of us ensuring a reasonable number of D-Star radios were bought. The GB3CMS beacon refurbishment has so far come to £124. Parts for the six metre repeater GB3DB came to £207.*

Looking ahead, we expect to have some more expenditure on GB3DB & the beacon.

Looking forward to 2009 we expect to have at least two main local events:

- **Canvey Rally on 1 February:** *We will do our best to attract potential and existing members to the stand.*
- **Waters & Stanton Open Day in May:** *In the past this has proved to be a good event in many ways and we await confirmation that it will be on again in 2009.*

As the accounts show (or don't!), administration costs e.g. stamps, envelopes, photocopying, continue to be heavily subsidised by committee members - even the food and the raffle for this meetings.

We would appreciate it if we had regular renewals instead of in a lot of cases are having to chase people.

This year has been a particular strain with free time being short to keep accounts in a timely fashion, as well as repeater repairs.

Finally I would also like to give special thanks to Tony our Auditor who as always was very patient and helpful.

Thank you - any questions?

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Martyn G1EFL, seconded by Alan G0TTM and passed unanimously.

6 ELECTION OF NEW COMMITTEE

The old committee stood down. The new committee as per the calling notice was proposed by Alan G0TTM and seconded by Matt 2E0XIS. It was voted in en-bloc without objection as follows:-

Position	Proposed	Proposer	Secunder
Chairman	Mike Wheaton G4ZPE	Keith G1NHW	Bob M0DTA
Hon Secretary	Murray Niman G6JYB	Clive G1EUC	Trevor M0TDA
Hon Treasurer	Clive Ward G1EUC	Murray G6JYB	Mike G4ZPE
Ordinary Members	Bob Cheverall M0DTA	Mike G4ZPE	Clive G1EUC
	Trevor Downey M0TDA	Bob M0DTA	Roy 2E0KWG
	Roy Knight M3KWG	Murray G6JYB	Keith G1NHW
	Keith Wainwright G1NHW	Roy 2E0KWG	Murray G6JYB

7 ELECTION OF THE AUDITOR

Tony Day G6OXQ indicated his willingness to continue as auditor. Clive proposed and thanked him for his ongoing regular duty in this regard. Seconded and approved by all to general applause from the meeting.

8 SUBSCRIPTION RATE FOR 2008/9

Clive G1EUC, Hon Treasurer, made the following proposal:-

Once again we don't think anything is to be gained by raising the subscription rate. It could be counter-productive if we did increase the rate, so our intention is to take affirmative action to drive the numbers up.

Any ideas? For a start has anyone anything saleable (equipment etc) they could donate for the next rally?

So, my proposal to the meeting is the main rate is held at £9.

The subscriptions level was proposed by Richard M3YLB, seconded by Chris M3YLN and passed unanimously.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to a query by John G1JJJ, about the membership numbers, Murray replied that the definition was based on paying members. ie. 52 had paid in the past year, and that the small number of honorary members weren't included in the figure

Meeting closed at 9:30pm, followed by the Raffle and distribution of leaflets (courtesy of W&S) on D-Star Radios.

Next AGM is on Thu Oct-15 2009 (7:30 for 8pm) at Danbury Village Hall.