

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP

GB3DA

GB3ER

NEWS BULLETIN

ISS.1 15 MAR '87

THE STORY SO FAR

By Mike G4ZPE Hon Secretary ERG

This news bulletin has been produced, to show how the kindly donated subs to the ERG have been spent on GB3DA and GB3ER repeaters located at Danbury.

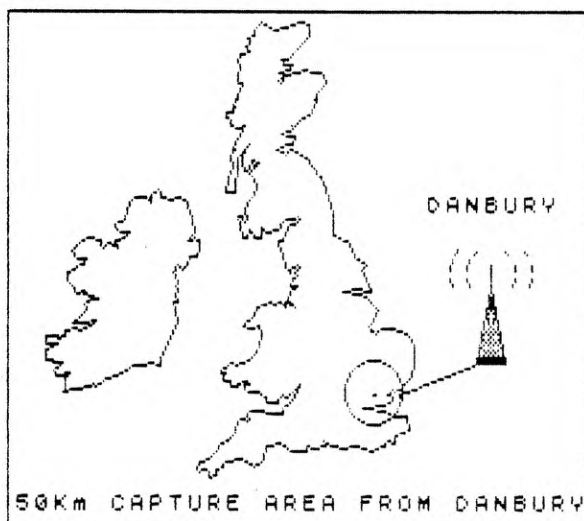
Firstly, GB3DA has had some very extensive work done on its Tx/Rx cavities recently. The re-tuning of all six of the cavities and the checking of the circulator was done by Dick, G4GUJ and Kevin, G8RAN, did some excellent work on the logic, this now left the Tx and Rx modules to be sorted out, which was carried out by Malcolm G3XUV, and Nigel G6ZVV.

Afterwards they then checked over the whole system, with the result that it is now running 12W into the cavities, through the circulator and via a 100 ft of Heliac feeder, to the colinear on top of the tower. This work has resulted in a first class coverage within her service area, with only a few black holes which I'm hoping to reduce later in the year.

Now to GB3ER. At the moment we have 3 new 70cm units in the throes of being built. All metal work has been done and it is only the logic, Tx and Rx units that have to be looked at by our experts who are all volunteers and I have complete and utter faith in them. They are all a grand group of chaps nicknamed the 'A team', with me as "Hannibal" (I like it when it all comes together 'Hi').

Just one thing I must point out. The repeaters are run by volunteers & paid for by subs from licence holders and SWL's. With this we are able to keep both 'DA' and 'ER' operational. They are not financed at all by the RSGB as a lot of people may think, so please support your local repeater group if you can, it's not all done by a magic wand.

Many thanks in anticipation of receiving your subs i.e. £3.00 per year, not bad value for a 24 hour service, 7 days a week, 52 weeks a year.



THE FUTURE

by Pete G40AD Hon Chairman ERG

The ERG committee believe that by the end of this year, both the 2 meter and 70 cms repeaters set up at Danbury will be fully reliable. Each repeater will have a fully operational spare of the same build and standard constantly available, should a failure occur.

We are now looking into future possibilities, so that we can increase our effectiveness as a repeater site and satisfy the needs of those of you as yet uncatered for.

We need your suggestions, do we set up a digipeater, a 23cms voice repeater, a 23cms ATV repeater, a 10m beacon, a 10GHz beacon and/or an experimental 336 repeater?

To obtain a licence to set up such stations at Danbury we need to convince, firstly, the RSGB repeater management group and secondly the DTI.

To be able to do this we need your letters of support.

Please send your letters and/or comments to our Secretary, Mike Wheaton G4ZPE, 2 Crouch View, Rettendon, Nr. Chelmsford, Essex CM3 5DS and/or join the Essex Repeater Group to help make these stations happen.

DIGIPETER ?

by Dick G4GUJ

There is a new wave of activity growing rapidly within the world of amateur radio in the form of digital communications.

Packet radio, as it has become known, is where amateur radio stations communicate with each other not by voice or CW but via, some people say impersonal, computer terminals.

The main advantage of this new form of communication is that many stations can occupy the same frequency at the same time, this is because their signals are transmitted as blocks (or packets) of data and each data transmission is interleaved with other transmissions.

The software within the TMC (Terminal Mode Controller) at each participating station contains the necessary sophistication to achieve this task, and is therefore 'transparent' to the user.

Digipeaters act as an effective 'telephone exchange' to these signals and can handle the through traffic of many signals effectively at the same time. Users can operate through such a unit merely by specifying it as part of their signal path, e.g. 'CONNECT G4XXX via GB4XXX'. In fact the signal path could specify more than one digipeater thus contacts with stations way out of the normal VHF FM transmission limits could be established e.g. 'CONNECT G4XXX VIA GB4XX, GB4YY' etc.

The ERG committee are looking at the possibility of establishing a digipeater at the Danbury site, providing the technical co-location problems with 'OR' can be overcome - which I'm sure they can.

If you feel that we should set up such a station at Danbury, licence availability permitting, please join the Essex Repeater Group and/or write to Mike G4ZPE GTHR. Your support would be welcomed and necessary if we are to obtain a licence.

LOGIC

By Kevin G6RAN

Presently under test is another microprocessor logic unit for use in the new GB3ER repeater. Using the experience gained from the first unit, which has worked perfectly for about 18 months in service on GB3DA, has cut construction and testing time from 42 hours to only 6 hours so far. The only remaining work left on the logic unit is to try and remove some or all of the microprocessor clock noise being picked up on the through audio.

It is intended to repair and refurbish the two non-microprocessor logic units which complete 6 months and 10 months service on GB3DA and GB3ER respectively and use them in two standby repeaters.

FINALE

That's it! This is our first News Bulletin of 1987. What did you think of it? Would you like to have seen more? Your comments would be appreciated.

This publication was put together from contributions supplied by those volunteers directly involved with the building and maintaining of the repeater units, by Chrissy G6DIU and Dick G4GUJ with the aid of their trusty BBC Micro.

Contributions for any future editions are welcomed and should be sent to our Secretary Mike G4ZPE GTHR.

As a final note, please remember that the repeater is a single channel unit, so allow time for others to come in.

Also, please try and allow time for your tone burst to finish before speaking, it will enable the first part of your call sign to be heard.

THANKS

BEST 73 & GD DX

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE E.R.G.

NAME CALLSIGN /
BR3 No.

ADDRESS

Please complete and send, with your £3 donation to: - The ERG Hon. Treasurer,
Mrs Chrissy Merrell,
40 Fanton Walk, Shotgate
N. Wickford, Essex. SS11 8QT