

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP

GB3DA

GB3ER

NEWS BULLETIN

No. 6

19 MARCH 1989

NEW ERG MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

By Hon. Sec. ERG Dick Merrell G4GUJ

The activities of the Essex Repeater Group are growing! Along with the maintenance of our two repeaters we are moving into the microwave area with a 10GHz Beacon (licence application now at the DTI) and we are about to embark onto the data repeater field.

To ensure that the group continues to run smoothly, the committee have set up four posts, responsible to the committee, each to deal specifically with defined areas of our operation.

For the 'in-service' equipment we have a Site Technical Co-ordinator (post to be filled) responsible for the maintenance and operation of our 'in-service' equipment and their spares. He also is responsible for ensuring that any proposals we send to the RGSB are technically sound and that any new equipments are within specification before they are installed.

Any problems encountered with any of our equipment 'in-service' should (for the time being) be addressed to Mike G4ZPE (QTHR or to G4ZPE-7 PBBS on 144.675MHz).

The 10GHz beacon project is being directed by Keith G4FUF as our Beacon Project Co-ordinator. The first prototype is well on the way to completion and the final unit should be ready for installation when/if a licence materializes. Any questions about this project should be directed to Keith G4FUF (QTHR).

For packet, we have appointed Mike G1WSK as our Packet Project Co-ordinator, he is currently formulating our approach to this mode. However, as the cost of setting up such a system is very high a planned phased introduction is envisaged. Mike would welcome any ideas or suggestions from other local packet users, please address your comments to Mike G1WSK (QTHR or G1WSK-2 PBBS on 144.675MHz).

Our public relations is now under the wing of our Public Relations Co-ordinator, he is responsible for the newsletter and our stand at the rallies we attend. If you feel that we could do more in this area or your club would like one of our 'experts' to come and give a presentation then please initially contact Dick G4GUJ (QTHR or PBBS G8OIV-2 on 144.675MHz) with your comments or requests.

All the co-ordinators have, with the approval of the committee, been 'allocated' a chunk of money by the Treasurer (Chrissy G8OIV) to carry out their respective responsibilities, and she is keeping a very close eye on their spending rate to ensure that they do not go 'over budget'.

That leaves your humble Hon. Sec. with the task of dealing with all the administrative matters of the Group (and some time to myself!).

If you have any difficulty in contacting any of our Co-ordinators then please send your input to me (QTHR or our PBBS G8OIV-2 on 144.675MHz), or you could put your message into the local BBS service GB7ESX addressed to ERG.

73 Dick G4GUJ

Have You
Entered Our
Free Competition
Yet????
Get Your
Entry Form
From The
ERG Stand

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP

Extraordinary General Meeting

The New Essex Repeater Group Constitution

Danbury Village Hall - 7.30 p.m. - Wed 29th March 1989

Fully paid up members only will be admitted

DANBURY PACKET

With the large number of packet users in the area covered by GB3DA and GB3ER and the favourable response to our enquiries over the past year or so the committee has introduced a project to setup a packet node at the Danbury site. We feel that there is a real need for a "network" node in this area to fill in the hole between the nodes in the north of the county, and those in Kent. The Danbury site lends itself well to this objective and has a lot of potential for future expansion of the packet network as appropriate. I was privileged to be asked to co-ordinate the effort to achieve this on behalf of the Essex Repeater Group.

The first target we are aiming for is a node on 144.650MHz which will be using TheNet software, perhaps not the most ambitious of objectives but we must learn to walk before we try to run. This will allow us to establish ourselves in the network, and gain invaluable experience in the design, installation and running of network nodes.

From this stable base we plan to expand into the realms of cross-connecting to other frequencies and bands. One of our ultimate aims being to move level 3 network traffic off the commonly used frequencies up to the microwave bands where dedicated high speed links can provide a better, more reliable system for the users. Wouldn't we all like to have less retries some day in the future?

This work is being done for the benefit and use of the amateurs in the Essex area and I feel that all those with an interest in packet radio should be able to participate. Polite and constructive suggestions and criticisms will always be taken into consideration before decisions are made and I will listen to anyone who wishes to contribute in this way. Anything of this nature can reach me through the secretary of ERG, through the packet network, or directly.

Mike G1WSK-2
Packet Project Coordinator.

10 GHz BEACON

**** GB3CMS ****

With a view to increasing activity within the area, serving as a frequency standard and providing a long term indicator of propagation, the ERG has submitted a proposal to the RSGB Microwave committee for the installation of a 10GHz narrowband beacon, the proposal has now been forwarded to the DTI for licence approval.

The beacon will be co-located with the existing repeaters GB3DA and GB3ER at the Danbury site.

The basic technical specification is as follows:

Frequency : 10368.960 MHz

Keying : F1A

EIRP : 750 mW

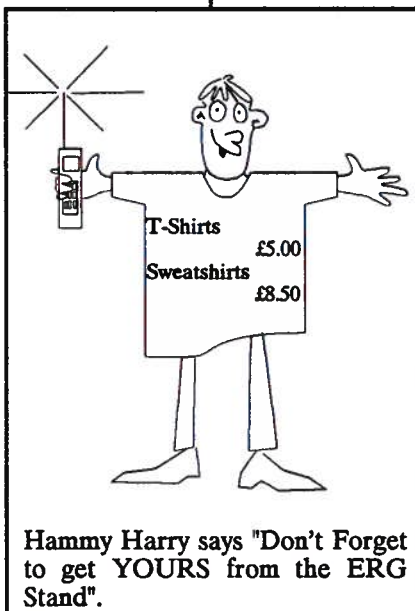
Antenna: Omnidirectional,
horizontal polarisation.

The base oscillator is housed in a professional oven and after initial testing indicates a frequency stability at 10 GHz of better than 100Hz !!

The antenna will comprise four sectional horns, allowing 360° coverage in azimuth, the elevation beamwidth is restricted at the -3dB points to 4° and at the -10dB beamwidth to approximately 10°. Each will be fed from a four port hybrid coupled via a circulator from the transmitter output.

The beacon transmissions will also be readily resolvable on a wideband receiver by injecting the normal test modulating tone into the gunn tuning supply as is common with "Gunnplexer" type systems.

Keith G4FUF
Beacon Project Coordinator.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE E.R.G.

Name

Callsign/BRS No.

Address

Please complete and send, with your donation of £5.00 to :-

The Hon Treasurer ERG
Mrs. Chrissy Merrell, G8OIV
40, Fanton Walk,
Shotgate, Wickford,
Essex. SS11 8QT