

Newsletter No. 4 March 1976

Progress

Much has happened in the three months since Newsletter no. 3 concerning the licence application. The RSGB repeater working group (RWG) has submitted its phase one plan to the Home Office where it is said to have been well received. The plan provides for all the planned 70 cm repeaters and some fictional ones in locations where repeaters would be useful. The RWG have initially asked for five channels designated RB2, RB4, RB6, RB10 and RB14, these fit into the fm section of the band as follows :

<u>Channel</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
RB2	433.05	Input on 434.65
RB4	433.10	Input on 434.70
RB6	433.15	Input on 434.75
SU8	433.20	Simplex
RB10	433.25	Input on 434.85
SU12	433.30	RTTY
RB14	433.35	Input on 434.95
SU16	433.40	Simplex
SU18	433.45	Simplex
SU20	433.50	Culling Channel.

We have been allocated channel RB10 and to quote the current RSGB Repeater Report "Crystals may now be purchased by both repeater groups and potential users, safe in the knowledge that the final frequency plan has now been agreed and accepted".

In recognition of the excellent work done by the RWG and in the interest of a united national approach to repeaters, ERG has applied for RSGB affiliation. Our application will be put to the council meeting on 23rd March.

It is a significant fact that the RSGB is dealing with the affairs of 58 proposed or operational repeaters.

Coverage Test

On the 11th January a portable station was set up at the site using about 20 W ERP on 433.2MHz. A fleet of cars were driven all over Essex to check reception. Some observers had reasonable mobile gear but the majority were equipped with hand held Pye PFIB equipment. The results were adjusted to show the area where pocketphones gave reasonable reception. Good agreement with predicted coverage was obtained but there were some dead spots within the main contour and some good hilltop sites outside the contour. Known dead spots are Rettendon, Ingatestone bypass and the town centres of Braintree and Brentwood. Good spots well outside are at Clacton (sea path) and south of Saffron Walden.

When the repeater is operational, reports of surprisingly good and bad locations will be welcome so that a more accurate coverage diagram can be drawn up.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held in the basement meeting room of the public library, Civic Centre, Duke Street Chelmsford on 30th March commencing at 7.30 pm.

The Agenda will be as follows:

- 1) Approval of the Minutes of the 1975 inaugural meeting
- 2) Report of the Chairman for the year
- 3) Treasurer's report
- 4) Approval of the accounts

Agenda contd

- 5) Election of officers for the year 1976-1977
- 6) Fixing the amount of the subscription for the coming year
- 7) Election of Auditors
- 8) Any other business.

Nominations are required for committee members and officers. Suggested names should be sent to the Hon.Sec. as this should save confusion and rushed decisions at the AGM. Nominations may be made at the meeting.

Formal motions for consideration under AOB should be sent to the Hon.Sec. before the meeting so that a full agenda may be drawn up.

After the formal business has been concluded an informal discussions session will follow which should prove an ideal way for the committee to find out members wishes for the future.

Photography

Members with reasonable skills in photography are needed to record the events leading up to the eventual establishment of GB3ER. Chances to photograph the antenna will soon disappear when it is hoisted up the tower, other equipment would have to be taken out of service to be photographed, so now is the best time. Anyone who would like this job please contact the Hon.Sec. at home or at the AGM.

Miscellaneous

A sufficient quantity of  $\frac{5}{4}$ " helical cable has been obtained at a reasonable price and this will shortly be installed on the tower.

Crystals have been ordered for the repeater and duplexor construction is proceeding now that the channel has been finally decided. Anyone got a circulator for 434 MHz? A circulator is not strictly necessary but one would ease the problems associated with temperature and humidity variations. Tests on the Pye OFR have shown that it can produce the right amount of stable power and perform adequately on the receive side.

From time to time commercial equipment capable of modification to 70 cm appears on the market. ERG acting as a body may often be able to obtain discounts if several peoples requirements and combined thoughts and comments please.

Speaking of discounts ERG will be able to obtain RSGB stocked publications for members. You do not get them any cheaper but you will not have to pay postage and the group is made a little wealthier. The ARRL book 'FM and Repeaters for the Radio Amateur' is an excellent publication at £1.85 and is available through the scheme. Any orders to the Hon.Sec. at the AGM.

See you at the AGM

73

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PLEASE NOTE NEW ADDRESS.