

Newsletter No. 6

February 1977

Annual General Meeting.

This year's A.G.M. will be held on Wednesday March 16th, at Good Easter Village Hall commencing at 8 p.m. The village hall is located at TL 624122 very close to the 'Star' pub. The agenda of the meeting will be as follows:-

- (a) Committee Report.
- (b) Treasurer's Report.
- (c) Election of Committee.
- (d) Fixing of the annual subscription.
- (e) Election of auditors.
- (f) Any other business.

Nominations for the committee may be made at the meeting or be passed to the secretary beforehand. Topics for inclusion in A.O.B. must be received before the meeting.

Following the formal part of the A.G.M. there will be an informal discussion session with another showing of the film made by Dick, G3WTR.

It is likely that there will be a supply of handouts describing the operation of G3ERK available at the A.G.M. They can be used to help newcomers, provoke arguments and form the raw material for paper aircraft.

News. (It is a newsletter, after all.)

Not many of you will need telling that G3ERK is now operational. It was switched to repeater mode at midday on 5th September 1976, and will soon complete five months of successful operation.

Since operation commenced several changes have been made, the one most easily noticed being the new antenna constructed by John G3WCC. It consists of a colinear stack of ten dipoles, each separately fed and gives considerable gain. The top of the antenna is just over 450 feet a.s.l. and is well worth a look with a decent pair of binoculars. At the moment the transmitter is feeding the main antenna and the receiver is connected to a small $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength colinear about 60 feet lower down.

A short while after the antenna was fitted, small changes were made to the logic circuitry. Previously a toneburst was required for all transmissions but now the tone is only necessary to switch on the repeater initially.

During the period of operation no faults have occurred, but the repeater has been off the air on two occasions. Once because of condensation within the helical coax causing a 15dB loss and once because of a catastrophic mains failure. The mains voltage rose to about 400v for a short time, this caused some hum on the carrier but no damage apart from a shattered mainsplug. The top of the plug was never found and is thought to have broken into many pieces.

The time-out period has been increased from two minutes to three minutes to give the rag chewers more fun. Some people still time out frequently, me, for one.

Connected to the repeater is a chart recorder which gives an impression of the utilisation of the machine. However, it is only switched on for a week at a time since we are very short of paper and have only four weeks supply left. Anyone who can supply pressure-sensitive paper suitable for a small Rustrak recorder will be very highly thought of.

The repeater has established quite a good service area which, coincidentally, is almost exactly defined by the borders of Essex. It also covers a part of Northern Kent. From time to time stations in the following, more distant places, have accessed GB3EE: Basingstoke, Norwich, Thetford, Hastings (mobile) and Northampton.

Repeater Working Group.

The R.E.G. was set up by the R.S.G.B. to co-ordinate the plans for repeaters in the U.K. It operates as a sub committee attached to the vhf committee. Much useful work has been done by the R.E.G. obtaining licences from the Home Office for repeaters. There are now 27 operational repeaters of which 14 are in the 70cm band but more appear almost every week. The R.S.G.B. has now received applications for 91 proposed repeaters which are nearly all 70cm.

Not surprisingly the R.E.G. has recently discovered that the original five uhf channels were not sufficient and has been looking for another one. An open meeting in Birmingham recently decided to use RB0 (433.0 / 434.6) as the extra channel, this was originally allocated to RAZET who will now use LB8 (433.2 / 434.9)

The R.E.G. elections have just been held and, sad to say, GB3EE was not elected - our area is represented by GB3PC. However, R.E.G. meetings are open and we shall not suffer too much and will be able to make our views known at the meetings.

Some of the proposed repeaters may be of interest to E.F.C. members:-

GB3SV	Bishops Stortford	RB0	
GB3PB	Peterborough	RB10	
GB3PT	Barkway (RTTY)	RB12	
GB3CK	Ashford, Kent	RB6	
GB3CA	Wivenhoe	RB14	
GB3IH	Ipswich	RB4	(licensed)
GB3LV	Cheshunt	RB2	(licensed)

Equipment.

It is a great pity that there is very little ex-commercial gear around with the exception of the PF1. Some people have built PF1 boards into some other casing and added one of the popular RCA power amplifiers. This seems an economical way of getting a reasonably good mobile rig. There are quite a few Fye Westminster, type W15U, in use but they only seem to appear in ones and twos. Activity would increase dramatically if a good cheap source could be found.

Activity.

The usage of GB3EE is still increasing and the carrier is frequently up for an hour or more. My log of stations heard has now reached 76 and the rate of increase seems to be increasing.

The Future.

What does E.F.C. do now that we have achieved our object? Have a think about it and be ready to talk at the A.C.U. There are many things possible, improvements to GB3EE will be made but what else? We could theoretically put a repeater near

Southend, but would anyone use it? Should we become more like an Essex Radio Club and have more meetings, perhaps with distinguished speakers? We are affiliated to the A.C.E.B. should we take a bigger part in its running? Think on.

T.V.

All regular repeater users will know Jeremy G8ACN. He will be giving one of his famous T.V. lectures to the Chelmsford Club on April 5th. Please come along to Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford at 7.30 p.m. and see the fun. Should be an excellent evening.

Other Lectures.

Members of E.R.G. are prepared to visit local radio clubs and give a talk, demonstration and film show about G83EH. Anyone wishing to take advantage of this service please contact one of the following:

G3WHR G3NCC G8IVC G4CUE

See you all at the A.C.E.B. Bring all your friends, we still need their subs.

73

Bill

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