

Hi All

Well a lot has happened since the last Newsletter, including the testing of Internet linking in the area and the GB2RS News broadcast.

GB3FK Repeater News

The repeater continues to work well.

Sometimes you may hear what appears to be "open squelch"

On the repeater – which basically means the person before the open squelch was NOT running CTCSS, and it has caught the repeater, as it was about to put it's IDENT out. This is a bug in the repeater logic control; there is now a fix for this, the repeaters logic system will be updated sometime in August 2005.

Internet Linking News

Echolink continues to work well on GB3FK. We have learnt a lot in the last few months about the system. We now have a new interface which controls the echolink system –



The interface above we have called "Eric" version 2. As you can see it's built into a 19" rack unit.

The unit contains a logic control and is connected up to an old PC which provides the internet connection. The link Radio is a Motorola Micro, ideal for the job, which links to the Repeater site. We hope that soon a system at Tony's QTH (G4IMP) will be available on 2m and permanently connected to GB3FK, Thus providing coverage over the hill.

On the same subject we have thought long and hard about improving coverage in the Hythe Area which is often difficult.

Ben M3JPQ has offered assistance with this. Soon he will be taking his intermediate licence, once he has his 2E1 Call sign he can apply for a system at his place, again connected to GB3FK 24 hours a day provide better coverage in the Hythe area. These 2 additions will make a big improvement in these areas.

You may notice a few changes to the echolink system – the biggest being – we have done away with the "Connected" and "Disconnected" announcements. These were a right pain in the neck! If someone connects now and disconnects straight away, the RF user will be none the wiser which is ideal.

We have had positive feedback from people who have used the system; we had fun chatting to Ron M1CWQ whilst he was on holiday on the Isle of White, Gareth M3HFU on holiday called back through the repeater. Tony G4IMP has made use of the system mobile, and Nick G4ZXI was on holiday in New Zealand mobile on 2m out there talking to us on the repeater.

A lot of hard work has gone in behind the scenes for this system; Dom M0DCA has spent many hours with the soldering iron designing this interface, while I have spent a few hours with the PC side. Thanks Dom for bearing with the problems, and all the efforts you have made towards it.

Now we have this system available, please make use of it, internet linking is currently available from 6pm every evening.

RSGB News Broadcast GB2RS

The repeater started broadcasting the RSGB news from 3rd July 2005. Permission was obtained from the RSGB / GB2RS News team who were very supportive of having the news broadcast in the area via GB3FK.

The news is read for Jeremy G4NJH from Nottingham; the audio files are recorded and arrive here normally on a Thursday. When the files arrive I then compile the sections together and make 1 big audio file which is normally around 20mins long. The file is then copied over my network onto the GB3FK pc (the same pc that is used for internet linking)

A program called Echostation is used (nothing to do with Echolink) Echostation then schedules the file every week ready for transmission. Echostation talks to "Eric" Interface as pictured above.

The news is broadcast every Sunday evening at 18:00hrs after the news broadcast we encourage a local "net" and maybe talk about up-coming events at the Local radio Clubs.

This is another great facility to have on the repeater, please tell your friends!!

Fundraising for the Repeater Group

Firstly a big thank you to those that came to the Summer BBQ at Tony and Anne's QTH it was an excellent afternoon. Stan G6ZNW was in charge of the BBQ and raffle, the swimming pool was open as well.

Thank you to everyone that gave generously to the repeater funds, we raised around £109 at this event, thank you.



Having events like this really brings everyone together for a good social afternoon and at the same time raise money for the repeater group. Thanks to Tony and Anne for all their hard work arranging this day and preparing the food.

A Big thank you to everyone that has sent in donations to the groups Treasurer

Anne G4RJZ, it is much appreciated. Remember that every little bit helps.

We are planning for a Junk sale to be held later in the year, more information soon!

How Can I help the group?

If you feel generous and would like to contribute to the running and maintenance of GB3FK, you can do this by sending your donation to the address below marking clearly **The Folkestone Repeater group** on the envelope.

Even small donations will be gratefully appreciated!

The Groups Treasurer is Anne G4RJZ

Anne, Phillpott,
Southways,
Stomers Lane,
Hawkinge,
Folkestone,
Kent
CT18 7AP

Please make cheques payable to "The Folkestone Repeater Group"

All donations help towards the upkeep of GB3FK, which includes insurance for the site, replacement parts, the addition of software such as echostation for the RSGB News broadcast's and much more.

We are always looking for new projects, to undertake, which we hope everyone will enjoy using.

Thanks to everyone that donates towards GB3FK, those that give there free time to support the group, and to everyone that offers support when antennas need installing or repaired, it's much

appreciated. We have a great team in the area and are very lucky.

That gives me a introduction to the photo below; remember this one Ron & Pete?!



The group will be running a junk sale very soon in Folkestone; more information will be available soon.

New Newsletter Style

I hope you enjoy the new style of newsletter; we aim to get a news letter out to keep you up to date on what's happening every few months.

If you have something you would like to add please email m1cmn@gb3fk.com

GB3FK Coverage Extension

Tony G4IMP will have a system connected 24 hours a day to GB3FK very soon to provide coverage "over the hill" on 145.2125 CTCSS 103.5 (you must use CTCSS when using this link)

Another system will be available soon in the Hythe Area to improve coverage in Hythe, and Seabrook area's.

FADARS Club Net

The FADARS net is held every week on GB3FK on Monday evenings from 19:30hrs local time. Please feel free to join in the Net. For more information visit the club website www.fadars.org.uk

Support your Local Clubs

Don't forget your Local Radio Clubs in the area.

The FADARS club meets on the first Monday of each month at Earls Gate Surgery on the corner of Earls Avenue in Folkestone. The Chairman is Stan G6ZNW. Meetings start at 19:30 hrs, and club has a varied programme of events, for more information check out www.fadars.org.uk

The Dover Radio Club meets every Wednesday evening during term time

only at the Boys Grammar School in Dover. The Chairman is Matt M1CMN. The club offers a varied programme, and also offers Foundation, Intermediate, and Advanced training courses. The Club website can be found at www.darc.org.uk

The Ashford Club meets every 2 weeks on a Friday evening at the scout hut in Bethersden. Larry G3DT is the chairman. The club offers a varied programme of events more information on the Ashford club Website. www.g4aar.fsnet.co.uk

The Final Word!

That's it for this edition, don't forget if you hear someone on the repeater please go back to them, even if it's just a "Hello" especially if it's a visitor in the area, lets keep the repeater alive!!

Enjoy the rest of the summer.

73 Matt M1CMN