

Kent Repeater Group Directory

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Next Newsletter - June 2004

Next KRG Newsletter Issue Features: More from Bert and Ernie, plus a lot more!

To guarantee your copy and continued valued support of the KRG team, please ensure your KRG subscriptions are up-to-date.

Copy Deadline for the **June 2004 issue** is **22nd May**. Please ensure all Editorials; Technical Reports, Pictures etc are emailed to krg@g8puo.co.uk by this time. Thank You.



Kent Repeater Group



Dave 2E1BTX



Home Made Tesco Coil by Dave 2E1BTX

- * Repeater Updates
- * More Workshop Antics..



Tom N4NW

Welcome to a new years rendering of the Kent Repeater Group newsletter.

It seems only yesterday that I put fingers to keyboard and slaved over the humble mouse, only to find a small waft of emails regarding to GB3KS and it deserved support, more on this later from the repeater keeper Alan Stanley G1OMH. It must be pointed out that as with most repeaters, 'free time' is provided by the keepers and support persons within the working party - unfortunately, with only 36 hour days, the luxury of 48 would allow us to also see our families at times.

Good news for Folkestone Hams in that a new independent 2M 'fill-in' repeater is under application. Matt Curtis M1CMN and his valued working party, are just awaiting the NOV clearance . It is good to see the continued enthusiasm from fellow hams. Details maybe obtained from www.coldal.org.uk/reps/gb3fk.htm and the latest vetting info from www.coldal.org.uk/vetting.htm

KRG Subs. Sorry to mention this annual thought of shillings flying from the rustic wallet but if your subs are due for renewal, or you know of anyone whom would like to become a valued KRG member, please contact John Wellard M0ZAA. Contact details on the rear cover. Membership application forms also online.

Not a lot more to add other than it would be good to get feedback, emails, pictures, comments or even articles! from other members and keepers... Should you feel compelled to grab the keyboard, or quill (Im not fussed), please do so to krg@g8puo.co.uk

Regards
Dave G8PUO

eFeedback

GB3KS - In the last news letter there were two letters complaining that GB3KS is deaf. I can work through KS from my home at Trottiscliffe a distance of 42 miles without any trouble. Not a strong but nevertheless a perfectly workable signal. I estimate my signal into KS to be about 2 microvolts hence KS isn't "deaf".

KS was moved for financial reasons and is maintained mainly by G1OMH at his own expense.

The Repeater Group AGM will be at Canterbury in June and it would be good to have present a contingent from the Dover/Folkestone area who are interested in running their repeater rather than relying on The Maidstone/Chatham area..

73, John G3PAG President KRG

Ernie was very aware of this aspect of Bert's character and had often suffered because of it.

"All I need to do is come up with '*justification*', Bert emphasised the word as if he realised this was the key. "I realise now that subtlety has been the wrong approach entirely and a frontal attack is in order. What I need to do is come up with a killer *application* that will make this PDA an indispensable tool. I need to appeal to some aspects of Mrs Bert's daily life that will ensure she sees the inescapable benefits that this technology will bring and she will insist that I beat a path to Walters and Sprocket's door immediately. It cannot fail!"

"Is this really necessary?" Ernie asked taking the opportunity to pointedly waggle his still empty glass,

Bert remained oblivious to visual cues as he was now far away, lost in sightless thought.

"You see", he continued, "technology can be lost on some people; somehow they fail to see the long term benefits that an enlightened attitude to these essential advancements can bring, *unless* they are brought face to face with it. That is my challenge; I just need to bring this benefit into *focus*".

Bert suddenly came down to earth, his mind now made up, and his point made "Now what about another pint - you seem to have an empty glass, all that talking must have given you a dry throat. Here let me, it must be my turn".

Bert disappeared to the bar. Ernie sat in stunned silence.

To be continued.....

Technical Reports Updates & Info

G8PUO

GB3EK. The Echolink activity continues to flourish on our repeater and with extended weekday daytime operation, in addition to evenings and weekends (as I have been working from home more frequently), has enabled others to also enjoy some very interesting contacts.

Some interesting Stats can be provided for **2003** in that we saw just over a whopping **19,100 QSO's** and connected stations and a staggering **5,900 unique callsigns** were logged!! Many thanks to all stations whom participated in this success and added enjoyment to amateur radio. Long may it evolve!

I do plan to (when I get some more midnight oil supplies over the next month or so), add both live QSO log and Callsign log pages to the GB3EK website. This will enable you to see who and when stations connect – in real time.

Ernie was well aware of how painfully subtle Bert could be when he had a plan. "I obtained a quantity of the latest Walters and Sprocket product catalogue, an eclectic collection usefully described as - 'Essential Electronic Equipment for the Enthusiastic Extractor', and proceeded to place them around the house, in strategic locations, opened to the correct page of course".

So this succeeded then, did it? It seemed strange to Ernie, that to date, he had seen no evidence of this technological marvel.

"Well I must admit", said Bert "it wasn't *quite* as successful as I would have liked. It started off really well. I left them in *subtle* little places; you know, on the kitchen table; on the sofa, under her pillow; in her wellingtons. A particular master stroke I thought of was - the washing basket! It seemed to me that it was a good, you know subtle, place to casually hide a catalogue with the intention of it being 'accidentally' discovered".

Ernie was rapidly coming to the conclusion that 'subtle' was the 'word du jour'. However Bert's use of the word gave it a whole new meaning.

"Well somehow Mrs Bert didn't actually notice the 400 page catalogue when she sorted the washing, she can be blind as a bat when it suits her". He paused - "You know you would be surprised just how much Papier-Mache you can get from one of those catalogues when mixed with the weekly wash". Bert paused again. Thoughtfully, he continued, "I've been retrieving bits of paper from my underwear for weeks". An overly colourful image arose unbidden in Ernie's mind, he tried unsuccessfully to push it away and attempted to concentrate on his empty pint glass instead. He realised that Bert was going on - "plus there were bath towels in the wash as well, so now it's like getting dry in a ticker tape reception".

Ernie managed to suppress a smile. "I imagine Mrs Bert was really pleased at the interesting condition of her weekly wash - must have added some local colour" Ernie ventured.

Bert ignored the comment and ploughed on, "As a consequence, my Christmas stocking was filled with the usual Christmas flotsam and jetsam". "You know, socks; handkerchiefs, oranges; a jumper; 25 piece hexagonal Metric and Imperial Allen Key set, just normal sort of stuff really'

"Yes" said Ernie "normal sort of stuff" and then after a moment "So where does this leave you now?"

"A good question, but not, I am pleased to say, one without an answer. As you know I am not one to give up that easily".

GB3FK - Plans for a proposed 2m repeater to "fill in" the Folkestone area are well underway. The proposed call sign GB3FK Will cover the Folkestone area, Hythe, the Romney Marsh, and all the surrounding villages.

The site for the repeater is located in Cheriton not far from Junction 13 of the M20. The repeater itself is all ready built, and ready to go. We are now waiting on paperwork.

We hope things will continue to go well, and GB3FK will cover the gaps in the area on 2m.

For more information contact the Repeater Keeper

Matt Curtis M1CMN
Email - matthew.curtis@btinternet.com



KRG - Just a quick line to say that I'm looking forward to the next newsletter.

I am told by Dave G8PUO that the newsletter is also now available directly from www.radio-ham.org on the internet for all members. (this is both A4 and A5 Booklet). Can I suggest that members that have this capability download the newsletter and inform Dave of this so that postage cost can be saved and possible printing cost's.

(Please email your confirmation to change to members@krg.org.uk John M0ZAA who maintains the KRG mailing database, will then remove the printed label which I am provided to mail the newsletters Ed.)

All money,s that may be saved could be invested in shaping up one or two of our local repeaters,ie KS and SK. Preferably KS as we have an abundance of 70cms box's to cover the area, but nothing for East Kent on 2mtrs.

Changing the subject, thoroughly enjoyed Brian G4RIS's short story, lets hope he has another one up his sleeve.

(I have received a few comments about Brian's renditions but please feel free to email me idea's and themes, which I could pass on to Brian! - long may they continue Ed.)

Cheers for now Dick G4HHX

I am writing to you as a result of the KRG newsletter, issue 12 – December 2003.

It concerns me that unfounded reports are still being made that GB3KS is “deaf”. I have visited the site three times in 2003 to check the entire installation and reported twice in the site logbook. On each visit the equipment and aerial was found to be working correctly.

The repeater aerial has a 180-degree beam width and is lined up along the Kent coast so as to give minimum pick up of interference from the continent. Aerial cable is genuine Andrew LDF550 with Andrew “550” connectors. A modified Pye “black box” filter is installed in the receiver path from the cavity receiver output port to minimise EXTERNAL interference. This intermittent interference has the effect of making the RX appear to be dead. Remember a year or so ago that the site owner – Kent Ambulance Service - complained of interference from GB3KS. This was caused by EXTERNAL site RF and mixing by intermodulation back into their receivers as well as GB3KS. The EXTERNAL PROBLEM was demonstrated to two RA [now Ofcom] officers at the time.

On Saturday 14th February I again visited the site to carry out performance checks. The repeater keeper, Jim Cairns, M1BKI, witnessed the figures listed below. All figures were measured on a calibrated Marconi 2945A test set. The transmitter frequency was high by 650 Hz – but within original equipment specification.

VSWR	14 watts forward.	0.8 watts reflected.
		[last checked at 200 m/watts]
	Measured at aerial cable port to aerial cable.	
Duplexer [cavities]	TX port	-1.5 db insertion loss
	RX notch	-85 db rejection
	RX port	-2.5 db insertion loss
	TX notch	-67 db rejection
		[includes band pass filter]
RX performance	Squelch opens @	0.282 uV @ 5.3 db S/N
		0.475 uV @ 12 db S/N
		1.410 uV @ 20 db S/N

The discrepancy between the two notch and insertion loss figures is probably due to internal corrosion within the duplexer / cavities. These are NOT repairable as they are totally sealed / welded at the base. This is not bad for Storno equipment manufactured in 1981 converted to work on amateur frequencies by Ted, G3YCN and myself. More information in the next news letter regarding site conditions etc.

Ernie and Bert were languishing in the public bar of the “Long Wire”. They had decided it was too late to finish putting up the G5RV but too early to go home. As Bert had remarked ‘This is the trouble with this time of year, it just doesn’t stay early nearly late enough’.

Bert was idly flicking through the latest copy of the Maplin catalogue, looking but not seeing anything particular to invest in. Ernie was just hoping that Bert would consider investing in another pint.

The ‘Long Wire’ wasn’t the pub’s real name of course; it had just acquired the nickname after some novice had discovered the Beverage antenna in an old copy of the ARRL antenna handbook one evening and in a five minute round of word association and extrapolation and despite many disparaging groans from the rest of the club, the pub had acquired the name. It had long since become the adopted meeting place.

“So what did Mrs Bert pop into your Christmas stocking this year then Bert?” said Ernie breaking the silence.

“Well Ernie, I really fancied a new PDA, one of the latest state of the art handheld computer device. As you know I had been dropping hints for some time, since the Leicester Rally in fact”.

Ernie nodded. “I seem to remember that the one you had previously met its maker in a flash of genius or should that be trousers?”.

“There was one I saw at Leicester”, continued Bert, now warming to his theme and ignoring the untimely reminder, “I probably mentioned it to you, absolutely brilliant”. He reflected for a moment. “About the size of a small multi-meter, it’s got a built in camera, word-processor, diary, calculator, currency converter, GPS, street map of Europe, not to mention the wireless e-mail, internet, 4 giga-flop processor, countless rims and roms and the latest 92 million twiddly bit colour screen all running from a battery the size of a Fishermans Friend.”

“I remember it well” agreed Ernie, he recalled that the process, of viewing, reviewing, poring over specifications and comparisons with every electronic adding machine that had been manufactured since 1974, had taken on epic proportions after Leicester.

“So in a bid to influence ‘her indoors’, point her in the right direction so to speak, I put in place a plan - to drop, you know, *subtle* hints”.