

Kent Repeater Group Directory

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Kent Repeater Group



Winter Edition!



Do we still
have the art of building ?

- * Repeater Updates
- * Meeting Minutes
- * AGM Details

Guess who? .. and the year.
... and no its not Val Doonican
or George Peppard!



Edline

Dave Williams G8PUO

It appears that despite bringing a new light to some shelves of the 'buy one and get one free' era, Tesla Coils are not sold at Tesco's! It would be unfair to totally blame my fingers for typing the incorrect caption annotation on the last issue cover, when the real actual culprit was the humble spell checker! How could it not know about Nikola Tesla? I subsequently stumbled on a website and wonder if this man eats more than four weetabix's for breakfast. See www.drmegevolt.com (some of us radio hams are sometimes called strange, even eccentric, but compared to this gent ... we are really quite human.)

The past six months plus have been a very busy period for me and has led to the unfortunately to the delay of the KRG newsletters. In a bid to bring us up-to-date, I have combined the July and September editions, packaged with the March edition and trust this meets with your approval. Other changes have been implemented, as you read later.

Changing the subject completely, earlier this year I had an interesting picture emailed to me – talking about the 'blast from the past'! Before you delve through any further pages, just wondered if you are able to work out who these 'local characters' are? Then upon seeing the full picture, can you work out the year?

If you have any other equally interesting pictures such as this, maybe even with enlightening stories, then please feel free to email them to me and I will pull together a special 'blast from the past' KRG newsletter which I'm sure many would almost pay us not to publish!

Till the next time. Have a great crumble, see you next year!

Regards
Dave G8PUO

Next Newsletter - Summer 2005

Next KRG Newsletter Issue Features: More members features, 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 **Summer 2005 issue** is **22nd April**. Please ensure all Editorials; Technical Reports, Pictures etc are emailed to krg@g8puo.co.uk by this time. Thank You.



Feature - 'Blast from the past'

Dick Edmonds G4HHX

Let us see who has got the best memory.

Here's one for our members to ponder over. Have a look at the photo and guess the year, the event and possibly the venue!

The Amateurs are as follows. In the background is G8FEZ Frazer, middle left ish G8SWA (now G4PCN) Chris, his wife Cindy on the right.

G3MDO Dennis (now sadly passed away), is in the foreground, whilst in the background center is me G4HHX (right) *[wearing the Val Doonican attire Ed]* and George (I think that was his name) who's callsign I cannot remember - can you?

If you think you have all the answers, then who's knee is in the bottom right of the picture and for a booby prize - who took the picture?

[Perhaps we could follow this up with interesting tales, in the next issue Ed]

Greetings Dick G4HHX.

The 'Art of Building'

Dave Williams G8PUO

Seeing this picture also brought back some other type of memories – 'the art of building'.

In working in a technical world, which continues to evolve, challenge and get more compact, it is the 'good old days' which are often remembered for the satisfaction and rewards of Homebrew and the humble 'Birdsnest'.

Whether you design and build it 'from scratch' in the basement workshop, bedroom or garage, or construct a kit of parts on the dining room table, homebrewing is not hard to do, is a lot of fun - and you get to use the equipment when you're done building it!

If any member has an interesting story about their homebrew project and would like to see this included in a future issue, then please feel free to email me details (ideally with a picture or two if you can).

73's
Dave

From Your Chairman

Martin Stoneham G4RVV

I extend my apologies to the membership for a number of problems that have arisen during 2004. Unfortunately only a few of you got the March newsletter due to delivery problems. This meant that the notice for the AGM was not properly issued resulting in there not being a quorum at the meeting in June.

The Committee took the decision to postpone the AGM until October thereby avoiding the summer holidays. Further difficulties arose with the production of the June newsletter and a joint June/September issue was produced but unfortunately it was not printed. Although more people knew about the postponed AGM it became clear to me in the few days before the meeting that a significant proportion of the membership were still not aware of the date. After consulting the Committee I personally took the decision not to hold the AGM. I hope that the message got through and that no one arrived at the University for the meeting. If you did I hope that you will accept my apologies.

Your Committee met on the 7th October and made a number decisions the most significant of which was that the Newsletter will now only be published twice a year. There will be a Christmas issue which you can expect in November. The other issue will be in the early Summer, you can expect to receive it in May. This will give notice of the AGM which next year will be on Friday 18 June 2005 at the University.

The Newsletter has, hitherto, been printed at no cost to the Group, this may change. Costs would also be significantly reduced if more members were prepared to accept their Newsletter and subscription reminder by email. This would also enable the Group to quickly circulate information to members when there are problems with a repeater as well.

The second major decision we made was that we would not now attempt to hold an AGM this year. The Committee members are prepared to continue in office until the 2005 AGM. We felt that it was improbable that many members would come to a postponed AGM in the winter months. Whilst this is somewhat irregular I hope that you will understand that it is done with the best of intentions.

I do hope that you accept my apologies and will continue to support the Group in your various ways. I look forward to seeing you all at next years AGM.

Martin G4RVV
g4rvv@krg.org.uk

Repeater GB3RE Interference

Alan Stanley G1OMH

It was originally reported on Wednesday 11 August, in the morning, that a "pulsing buzzing" noise was heard continuously coming from the GB3RE transmitter on 433.275.

After making local phone calls to have the input frequency monitored it was established that some form of "PMR" type interference was present. I was told that it appeared to emanate from the Medway Towns. I drove a suitable circular route round the towns to prove the basic area. It was established that the interference source was outside of the towns, location unknown.

I contacted Brian Reay, G8OSN, who had an "hour to spare" with a suitable DF loop and compass. At the first DF location in the Medway Towns our reading came up roughly along the north of the Kent coast. We then travelled towards Whitstable taking another three readings on the way from suitable locations. At Wraik Hill, Whitstable we had to attenuate the input by 40db to get a workable signal to detect a null. Each reading pointing way out into the Thames estuary. Our one-hour quick tour became almost three hours.

On Thursday 12 August I had business reasons to go to the Isle of Sheppey and used this to travel to the highest point near to the ATV transmitter at Minster to take a final DF reading. Again this pointed into the Thames estuary. I telephoned Ofcom and informed them of the findings. As it was now too late in the day they promised to deal with the problem on Friday 13 August. By mid day I was informed by Ofcom that the offending signal was indeed "way out at sea" and was high speed accurate positioning data carried out for the expected Electric Wind Generating Farm.

The contractors are using a legitimate international issued frequency licence on 434.875 and an ERP of ½ watt, BUT unfortunately, strictly NOT for use within UK territorial waters. It was calculated that the ERP was far in excess of the agreed transmit power rating. They have until Wednesday 16 August to apply for a UK licence when they have been told to cease transmitting on 434.875.

Meanwhile it was agreed with Ofcom that we are allowed operate GB3RE on CTCSS receive input only until the problem has been cleared.

UPDATE WEDNESDAY 25 AUGUST.

The offending transmitter was voluntarily turned off on Saturday 21 August at about 12.00 hours. Ofcom officially informed me on Tuesday 24 August.

Ted, G3YCN and I went to the site on Wednesday 25 August, to return the repeater to "normal" operation.

Alan Stanley, G1OMH For the Kent Repeater Group and G4AKQ repeater keeper.

KRG Repeater Technical Report - GB3KN

Ted G3YCN

KN is reported to be working well following the last re-tuning of the Duplexer.

KRG Repeater Technical Report - GB3EK

Don G4TKR

EK is reported to be working well.

New Repeater Group BRG - Repeater GB3OK

Tony G1HIG

As from the 31st December 03 a Repeater Group was formed named the Bromley Repeater Group, for the pending repeater GB3OK.

The Repeater Group has been made up with the following members:

Tony Ravelini (G1HIG) Manager/Coordinator
Alan Smith (G6XFI) Assistant Manager
Robert Scott (MOCRY) Group Secretary
Dave Dowson (G7UZN) Repeaters Technical Engineer
James Axford (G0UJA) Technical Support Advisor
Mark Hayman (G8RDE) Technical Support Engineer
Martin Abbott (G7WIR) Treasurer



Bromley Repeater Group (BRG). Has its members meeting at the Rock & Fountain Pub, Well Hill, Chelsfield, KENT. every 1st Thursdays of every month, commencing at 8:30 p.m., Talk in on S20 145.500Mhz & QSY...

All visitors, licenced or not, are welcome at our meetings. Bromley Repeater Group is a totally independent group and non-profit making voluntary organisation which is dedicated to maintaining & developing Voice Amateur Radio Repeater Systems for GB3OK in and around the Bromley and the South East of London

More news and emails at www.g1hig.com/bgr.html

Regards to tony (G1HIG) brg@g1hig.com

Ashford Radio Club G4ARR

Location: Scout Hut - Norton Lane, Bethersden near Ashford
Web: www.g4aar.fsnet.co.uk
Email: m0wye@thersgb.net
Secretary: Hugh Burnham MOWYE

Dover Amateur Radio Club

Location: Dover
Web: www.darc.org.uk
Email: g4sau@bcuff.freemove.co.uk
Secretary: Brian Cuff G4SAU

East Kent Radio Society G0EKR

Location: Herne Mill - Herne, nr. Herne Bay
Web: www.paulnic.me.uk/ekrs
Email: g3vjf@paulnic.com
Secretary: Paul Nicholson G3VJF

Folkestone and District Amateur Radio Club G2FA

Location: 11, Earls Ave Folkestone
Web: www.fadars.org.uk
Email: g0slj@fadars.org.uk
Secretary: Dennis Pepper G0SLJ

Hilderstone Radio and Electronics Club G0HRS

Location: Hilderstone Adult Education Centre - Broadstairs
Web: www.g0hrs.org.uk
Email: info@g0hrs.org.uk
Secretary: Fiona Godfrey M3BYZ

Clubs Around The World!

Location: Earth
Web: hamgallery.com/links/clubs
Email: k8cx@hamgallery.com
Secretary: K8CX

KRG Repeater Technical Report - GB3EK Gateway Dave G8PUO

The GB3EK Echolink Internet Gateway continues to work well.

In July, the Gateway transmitter decided to have a paddy and following a small tweak of the VCO which caused reduced drive, has continued to run well since.

A PC Server hardware failure on 24th August caused the Gateway to off line. Unfortunatley due to personal commitments, it was not possible to resolve this until 10th September.

No, don't worry boys and girls, you don't need the black armbands, no need to fork out for a wreath, it's just the end of an era. I'm not moving on to those great fields in the sky just yet; it's just that retirement has come sooner and more suddenly than expected. Many of you know by now that I have been made redundant, (I've been rattling on about nothing else for the last few weeks), so I'll not be keeping the repeaters warm with agricultural waffle this year.

I've been doing the Agricultural mobile thing for about twenty years and I have made so many friends in that time, and perhaps even become something of an institution on KS and more recently EK, that I'd just like to say 'Thank you' to anyone who has kept me company during the long hours I've spent in the fields. I have so many happy memories of the times spent with you on air. I know we have talked about every topic under the sun, had a lot of laughs and the long hours I've spent in the fields have flown by in your company.

I am looking on this as a kind of early retirement, (not long till the real thing,) so will still be doing a lot of nattering, though from the sun lounger in the garden or around the fields and lanes bicycle mobile. I will be able to keep an eye on the silly sods that are out in the fields from dawn to dusk and beyond and report on their progress and join the rest of you cursing that ruddy tractor that's slowing traffic to a crawl.

The changes in farming that have brought about my and my colleagues redundancies will have many more important repercussions as large impersonal companies take over the running of our countryside. They will have little or no interest in the environment and preservation of the English countryside or way of life.

Our farmers have taken some stick over the years, but they, at least had to live in the place where they made their mistakes, not removed to some distant city office just grabbing any profit they can.

Thanks again my friends, keep in touch and take care.

73's
de
Mike (G4MIX)



Present: G4TKR, G6DIK, M0ZAA, M1BKI, G3YCN & G8PUO.

1. **Apologies for absence** - G8HLE, G1TVJ, G4AKQ & G3PAG
2. **Minutes** - the minutes of the meeting held on 19th March were agreed as a correct record.
3. **Chairman's Report** – G4RVV reported that it had not been possible to hold the AGM because there was not a quorum present mainly due to lack of notice. The subsequent attempt to hold the AGM on the 8th October had been abandoned because only a few members were aware that it was due to take place since there had been problems getting the Newsletter copied. It was agreed that no further attempt would be made to hold the 2004 AGM unless it was requisitioned by the membership.
4. **Treasurer's Report** – M0ZAA tabled the annual accounts which had been examined by G4NPM. Current membership was 173 with 76 subscriptions overdue. Income to date £217 and expenditure £1,148 of which £560 was accounted for by the new KS repeater. Insurance had been paid for all the repeaters. It was noted that G4NPM had expressed a willingness to continue to examine the accounts.
5. **Technical reports**

GB3CK – M0ZAA reported that power supply had failed. A spare repeater was now in place and the repairs had been completed. A visit was required to return the original unit and to check a noise problem.

GB3EK – G4TKR reported that the repeater was working very well, it was now in its new enclosure with the new filters in place. There had been some down time on Echolink.

GB3KN – G3YCN reported that the duplexer had been realigned in the summer. The repeater was working well though usage levels are low. Most activity was in the late afternoon between stations going home from work.

GB3KS – M1BKI advised that all was well at the site apart from the fence which still needed repairing. The repeater itself is working well although the aerial still needed replacement. It would be placed at the top of the mast. Installation would be left until riggers were on a routine visit to avoid any special charges.

GB3NK – G4RVV reported that the repeater is working well apart from the key fob problem. Consideration was being given to changing to wide split frequency working which it was understood would be permitted.

A journey through the history of...
Kent International Airport
MANSTON

Presented by **Dave Williams, G8PUO** on **Friday 12th November**

Take a step into some of the history of RAF Manston from when it first become operational in 1916 as a RNAS unit, formation in 1918 as a RAF base, through two world wars, up to the present day as a fully operational civilian airport - where its vast runway has dominated the centre of Thanet for nearly 90 years!

University of Kent (Canterbury), Electronics Building.
Main Lecture Theatre. 7:15pm to 9:30pm. Adm £1.50
Doors open: 7:00pm Free Parking, Disabled Facilities.
Location map may be obtained from www.kent.ac.uk

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So who's got the kettle on?

Don and Dick playing RF



The new Cabinet and filters in place.



Dick & Mick looking for each other



GB3RE – G3YCN advised on behalf of G4AKQ that the repeater was working well but little used.

GB3SK – G6DIK reported that it was working well although the frequency had been adjusted recently.

6. Newsletter – G8PUO reported that the March newsletter had been printed but he and Kelvin had not been able to meet so that he could collect it. The June newsletter had not been produced and a joint June/September issue had been produced. Regrettably this had not been printed. Neither he nor G4RVV had been able to contact Kelvin. This remained unresolved.

Bearing in mind that there was now less to report about the repeaters it was agreed that only two newsletters would be issued each year in future. These would be a Christmas issue [November posting] and a Summer issue [May posting]. The latter would be used to give notice of the AGM. Content would arise from the Committee meetings [October and March] with the AGM in June and a Committee meeting on that day as well.

If necessary the group would pay for copying but alternative no/low costs options were being discussed with potential sponsors. The emailing and posting of the newsletter on the web site would coincide with its mailing. The Summer newsletter would give notice of overdue March subscriptions and those due in June. The Christmas newsletter would give notice of overdue September subscriptions and those due in December. The Chairman would do a special note for the next newsletter regarding this and related matters.

7. Other business.

A. Point to point linking via repeaters – G4TKR advised that he had built a small interface which allowed the use of a broadband line to link to a repeater by a remote connection. This had been discussed with the RA who had expressed a lot of interest in this idea which was undergoing further development.

B. Committee Minutes – it was agreed that these could be published in the Newsletter, items for exclusion to be in a red font for the benefit of the Editor.

C: Committee membership – G4RVV advised members that he wished to stand down as Chairman at the 2005 AGM. He expressed a willingness to continue if a Secretary could be found and members agreed to assist in identifying someone to do this work.

- 8. Future meetings in 2005** –
 - Committee meeting Friday 18 March @ G3YCN
 - Friday 17 June AGM @ Canterbury –
 - Committee meeting Friday 7 October @ ICOM

We have now installed on site the new cavities and cabinet for EK.

The working party consisting of, G3YCV, G4MIX, G8PUO, G4HHX and I (G4TKR), removed the old filters and cabinet, later installing the new ones.

Don't leave me here..



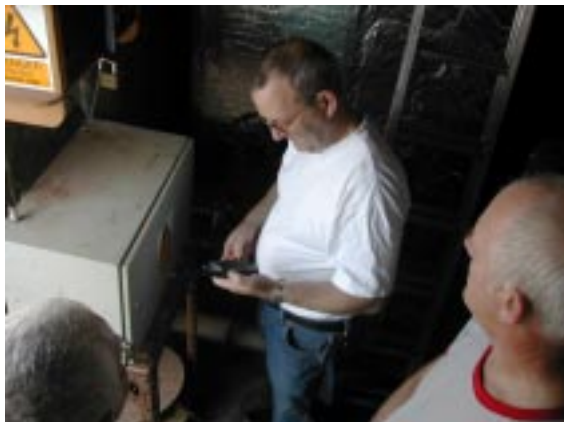
The old home made filters has served us well, lasting over 15 years. They will be re-furbished and be available as spares should we need them.

The new cavities are band pass, band reject and should help to keep out unwanted signals from TETRA etc. The filters are made by Procom and have a rejection of

better than 90dB per leg with an insertion loss of 1dB and are temperature compensated.

Many thanks to all of you for your donations towards there purchase.

There are 6 cavities in total, 3 transmit and 3 receive. The object is to keep the transmit frequency out of the receiver. The transmit cavities are tuned to pass the transmit



SPER 703-125



frequency and reject (notch out) the receive frequency and the receive cavities notch out the transmit frequency and pass the receive frequency. Thereby isolating the transmitter from the receiver.

Dick working the world on 1 watt!



There are of course some disadvantages in life. Although the cavities are band pass, band reject, any really strong signal that have a relationship to the receive or transmit frequency of EK can

still cause a problem. To protect against this I will de installing a band pass filter in the transmitter to start with. This will prevent EK's transmitter from causing other radio users any problems relating to harmonics. Installing any filters in the transmitter or receiver line has a cost ether in sensitivity or power loss, so getting the balance right can sometimes be difficult.

Don G4TKR



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