

Kent Repeater Group Directory

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KRG Newsgroup: <news://news.radio-ham.org>

KRG Newsletters: www.radio-ham.org

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Next Newsletter - December 2004

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 **Dec 2004 issue** is **22nd November**. Please ensure all Editorials; Technical Reports, Pictures etc are emailed to krg@g8puo.co.uk by this time. Thank You.



Kent Repeater Group



Bumber 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.

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.

Regards
Dave G8PUO

Repeater GB3RE Interference**Alan Stanley G10MH**

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.



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

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.

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)

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

EK is reported to be working well.

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 (M0CRY) Group Secretary
Dave Dowson (G7UZN) Repeaters Technical Engine
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

Chairman's Report

There have been two Committee meetings during the year to organise the Group's business.

The Rainham Radio Rally was held in March and much of the subscription income due from December and March 2004 was collected and 1 new member was recruited.

The Group has encountered the usual range of difficulties during the year and these have been overcome by the hard work and persistence of the various repeater working party members. These included some problems with the new TETRA system and car wireless key fobs.

The Group retains its presence on the Internet and has recruited members via its site (<http://www.krg.org.uk>). Developments in this area include the use of Echolink software to link two of the repeaters to the Internet. This has resulted in more activity including international contacts.

A new repeater GB3FK is being established in Folkestone. The organisers are independent of the KRG but we are in touch with them.

My thanks go to the Committee for their continued support throughout the year. Members of the respective Repeater Working Groups are thanked for their hard work during the year. They work quietly in the background making, in a number of cases, a very significant contribution to the Group as do a number of other individuals who work as professional radio engineers but give their support to the Group as well.

M W Stoneham G4RVV
Chairman

25 June, 2004

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 go off line. Unfortunately due to personal commitments, it was not possible to resolve this until 10th September.

[Page 8](#) [KRG Newsletter Issue 114/115- September 2004](#)

Minutes of Meeting - 19th March 2004 Martin Stoneham G4RVV

Present: G3YCN, M0ZAA, G1TVJ, G8HLE, G8PUO, G3PAG, G4TKR & G6DIK.

- 1. Apologies for absence** - M1BKI & G4AKQ.
- 2. Minutes of the previous meeting** - the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2003 were agreed as a correct record. There were no matters arising.
- 3. Chairman's Report** – G4RVV advised that G8VXH who lived in Otford had donated various items for the Group to sell. The items sold at the Rally had raised £22.00. The remaining items were handed to G8PUO for use by his Novices group. The Group would also advertise an additional item in the Newsletter.
- 4. Treasurer's Report** – £170 had been collected at the Rainham Rally by way of renewals and 2 new members had been recruited. The Group had a total £3,845.41 in hand. Total income to date being £950.53 and expenditure £593.07. M0ZAA added that the insurance costs for all of the repeaters had yet to be advised by the RSGB.

5. Technical reports

GB3CK – M0ZAA advised that there was a wind related noise on the repeater. This was to be investigated the following day. A new feeder cable was also expected shortly.

GB3EK – G4TKR reported that the repeater was fine. The cavities did, however, need cleaning or more probably replacing. A new set of cavities had been donated and were in transit from USA.

GB3KN – G3YCN advised that the repeater was working well.

GB3KS – M1BKI had reported by email that the repeater has been working ok. G1OMH had called at the site and done a full check on the repeater. This was due to a report of deafness in the last newsletter. Nothing was found wrong with the repeater and a detailed report on its performance will be published in the newsletter. G4TKR commented that the current amateur radio equipment was much more sensitive which had the effect of greatly increasing users' expectations. The performance of repeaters was not keeping up with these improvements. *He added that he was prepared to assist if invited to do so by M1BKI.*

[Page 5](#) [KRG Newsletter Issue 114/115- September 2004](#)

[Page 5](#)

GB3NK – G4RVV advised that there had been a problem with the new Tetra system opening the squelch. A notch filter had been installed to minimise this interference. *Due to NK's connection to the Internet it was up for long periods. This was causing problems for a neighbour's remote locking system on his Rover car. An antenna and receiver had now been fitted on the site boundary listening on 433.90 MHz. If a signal was received the repeater's signal was cut momentarily by a relay to enable the car remote control to operate.*

GB3RE – Working well. Nothing had been heard from the site's new owners apart from one call regarding keys for site access.

GB3SK – G6DIK advised that the squelch had suffered during the cold weather. This had now been resolved.

6. Newsletter – G4RVV congratulated G8PUO on the excellent quality of the recent newsletters, this was endorsed by those present. G8PUO asked about the publication of the Committee minutes, it was agreed that items that were not for publication would be in a different

7. New Repeater Proposals

GB3OK – This proposal is being made by the Bromley Repeater Group who have already secured much of the required equipment. They had approached the Group for a donation, it was agreed not to contribute.

GB3FK – This proposal came from a Group in Folkestone, they also had largely secured the necessary funds and equipment. Members of the Group had spoken to the manager M1CMN. It was suggested that although they were based in the county they did not wish to become part of the KRG. It was agreed that G4RVV would email them congratulating them on their achievement, noting that they wished to remain independent but offering them the opportunity to seek support from the Group from time to time if they so wished.

GB3KI – This proposal e from G4TKR and involved a fill in repeater to provide coverage along the north Kent coast. Additional development for this repeater included digital voice and data traffic.

8. Other matters – it was noted that G3PAG's term as President would cease at the AGM in 2005. He would eligible for a further term of office.

9. Future meetings

AGM - Friday 8th October at UKC. [See following Page]
Page 6 KRG Newsletter Issue 114/115- September 2004

NOTICE

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Kent Repeater Group will be held on **Friday 8 October 2004 at 20.00 hrs in the Electronics Building, the University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent.**

Secretary

AGENDA

1. To receive apologies for absence.
2. To approve the minutes of the previous AGM held on 28th June 2003 as published in the Newsletter.
3. To receive the Chairman's report, G4RVV.
4.
 - a) To receive the Treasurer's report, G6ZAA.
 - b) To agree the Subscription for 2004/2005
 - c) To appoint an Independent Examiner for 2004/2005
5. To receive Technical Reports from Repeater Managers.

| | |
|---------------|---------------|
| GB3CK - M0ZAA | GB3NK - G4RVV |
| GB3EK - G4TKR | GB3RE - G4AKQ |
| GB3KN - G3YCN | GB3SK - G6DIK |
| GB3KS - M1BKI | |

6. To elect officers and confirm the appointment of Repeater Managers for 2004/2005

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| President [2002-2005] | |
| Chairman | |
| Secretary | |
| Treasurer | |
| Newsletter Editor | |
| Ordinary member (a) | |
| Ordinary member (b) | |
| GB3CK - M0ZAA | GB3NK - G4RVV |
| GB3EK - G4TKR | GB3RE - G4AKQ |
| GB3KN - G3YCN | GB3SK - G6DIK |
| GB3KS - M1BKI | |

7. To consider any other business.