

Kent Repeater Group - Newsletter - Issue 118 - Winter 2005



# Kent Repeater Group



- \* Repeater Updates
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- \* .. and much more!

The past six months have flown past, starting with excellent Thanet Airshow where many thousands of people enjoyed the dedication and superb pilotage. We then had to suffer (not!), the summers scorching heat, drying up reservoirs; hose pip bans, participate in interesting club activities and now subject to the extreme of rain, cold temperatures, frozen windscreens and the winter projects.

Having a bit of a nostalgic moment, together with a few picture searches on the trusty Google, it is hoped my front cover collage brings back some memories from the past decades in amateur radio.

See if you can spot some of the trusty models which many of you have tended the odd bottle of midnight oil in its revival and continued operation – some may even have a tale or two to tell?

On that note, I am sure that one or two of you could put pen to paper and send us an interesting story for the next KRG newsletter edition? So, while you're recovering from the festive activities why not spare a thought and get your rendition in the KRG print! Many thanks to Ken Austin for his contribution. Also a warm welcome to Fiona M3BZY.

Seasons greetings, see you in the March issue. Remember articles do not grow on trees! Please feel free to email yours to [krg@g8puo.co.uk](mailto:krg@g8puo.co.uk)

### **Next Newsletter - Winter 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 2006 issue is by mid March (TBC).

Please ensure all Editorials; Technical Reports, Pictures etc are emailed to [krg@g8puo.co.uk](mailto:krg@g8puo.co.uk) by this time. Thank You.

We can now deal with newsletters by email, (or notification of it's availability). If you wish to save the group a few pence then send an email to [john@wellardj.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:john@wellardj.fsnet.co.uk) subject "newsletter" and the next one will arrive by email.

For those that receive your newsletter by email, I will have to devise a method of reminding you by email. (another one for the to do list). There will also be a problem with your receipt, which we will have to consider soon.

Also due to reduced frequency of the newsletters some of you could be receiving receipts that may seem old, it's just due to catch up.

To check your renewal date for those that pay by cash or cheque then the renewal date is at the bottom of the address label.

I wish you all a Merry Xmas and a Generous New Year. We would also like to Thank You for your support in the past, without it there would be a few less repeaters.

Regards John

**The Welsh Connection****Ken Austin GW4GJA**

Well I had many happy years back in Kent after getting my license when living in Luton Bedfordshire, as some will know, I was born and bred in Margate and took the RAE at Ramsgate college as it was known then, Tutor was G3BAC and course was arranged by the late G3RAD in Broadstairs back in 1968.

I had been a keen constructor of short wave radio sets (valves) my Father being my guide



Myself on the left with the late GOAES from Maidstone

at the time, our home in Dane valley road was full of Home made TV's and radio sets including the wooden box radio in the old Ford Popular. So I had some good training before taking the RAE.

Like my Father, I became an Electrician and trained with E.Saunders Cliftonville. My Father Ken Austen!, Yes I have the same Name (Ken Junior) is now 85 and very fit and agile for his age.

So I was Licensed eventually as G8LLU using home made valve gear in Bedfordshire Tuning the band for a contact, I think I had more fun in those days Hi. Took the CW in London one day as I was working near the Training centre that week back in 1973 and became G4GJA, Shortly after this I returned back to Kent with my Wife working for a Local security company.

This of course is when all the fun started meeting such hero's as G3TLB, G3YCN, G4HHX G3SZC and many others including Dave



160m group photo taken at the Rainham Rally about 10 years ago

G8PUO via the Kent Repeaters. Still to this day Old Mother Hubbard G1OMH insists I use a ball of string to find my way as my Famous U turns were heard many times over KN or KS. Strange.? Company cars were good at U turns, but my own car a little more difficult.

Well as the years went on, I got older and My wife (Heather) her Allergies became worse. We found a soft water environment was the answer , a water softener on its own was only a part cure, so 3 years ago we decided to tour the UK for a suitable environment. this turned out to be Merthyr Tydfil an area of Stunning beauty as all the Slag heaps look like beautiful green covered mountains HI. As it happens they kindly removed the slag heaps behind us after we arrived making way for another Retail park. So I have semi Retired from my old profession and pursuing other things. Have Great neighbours and hope to be back on HF soon.

But I am still to be heard via Echo Link and will remain a member of the KRG as I will be back in Kent several times a year . If you hear me please give me a call. Also MSN and Skype name galaxy512.

Many thanks to all the dedicated KRG members who put so much effort into the upkeep of the Kent repeaters and putting up with me for many years. Have a look at the enclosed 160m group photo. How many do you recognise.

Look forward to hearing from some of you .

Best 73 GW4GJA (Ken Austen)

*I can be contacted on:*

[gw4gja@homecall.co.uk](mailto:gw4gja@homecall.co.uk) or [gw4gja@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gw4gja@yahoo.co.uk)

## AGM Minutes - June 2005

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Kent Repeater Group held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2005 at 20.00 hrs in the Electronics Building, the University of Kent, Canterbury, Kent.**

**G4RVV in the Chair and 21 members present.**

### **1. Apologies for absence.**

G1TVJ, G1OMH, G8OSN, G4AKQ, G4OJG, G3DET, G3PAG.

### **2. Minutes of the previous AGM**

The minutes of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2003 were proposed by 2E1HOJ, seconded by G8HLE and agreed as a correct record.

### **3. Chairman's report**

"As you will be aware due to newsletter production problems the AGM was not properly notified to members and after careful consideration the Committee decided not to hold an AGM in 2004. We are, therefore, reviewing two years business.

The Committee has continued to meet to organise the Group's business. The present routine is to hold two main meetings and a brief meeting after the AGM. It was also decided to reduce the number of Newsletters to 2 per annum. The first one in the Spring to notify members of the AGM and the second in the Autumn. Since this has only just started it is not possible to comment on its success or otherwise. The sponsored colour printing of the newsletter has been much appreciated.

The Rainham Radio Rally was held in March and much of the subscription income due from December 2004 and March 2005 was collected there and two new members were recruited.

The Group has encountered the usual range of difficulties during this period 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, car wireless key fobs and a 'drain pipe' type of noise.

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.

My thanks go to the Committee for their continued support throughout the

year. Particular thanks go to John Turnbull G1TVJ who is stepping down from the Committee after several years membership. There is also a special welcome to Fiona Godfrey M3BYZ who has joined the Group as its Secretary thus relieving me of that job. Members of the respective Repeater Working Groups are thanked for their hard work during the year. They work quietly in the back ground 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”.

**4. a) To receive the Treasurer’s report.**

The accounts, which had yet to be examined, for year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2005 were tabled. (copy attached to signed minutes). MOZAA noted that the accounts were overall steady. The large expense for GB3KS of £596.50 was also noted. The RSGB has been very prompt in collecting the insurance premium this year, and therefore two insurance payments have fallen within the financial year. There are some cheques waiting to go in following the newsletter. The Treasurer noted that as with other groups, it was likely that the KRG would lose members.

£225 have been requested for GB3EK; the rates, currently standing at £11/month, have been reduced to £6/month. G6RMA mentioned that the site rental bill had not yet been received for GB3NK.

The accounts will be fully audited by the publication of the Autumn newsletter – the delay is due to the auditor’s change of email address.

**b) Subscription for 2005/2006**

After some discussion, the Treasurer recommended that the existing subscription rates should be retained. This was seconded by G4TKR and agreed. It was felt that following a successful ‘local fund-raising’ for GB3EK cavities, this may be replicated in the event of major “one-off” expenses although some doubts were raised as to support base for other repeaters.

**c) Auditor for 2005/2006**

It was agreed to invite the existing independent examiner, G4NPM to continue. This was proposed by G6RMA and seconded by G4MIX and agreed.

**5. To receive Technical Reports from Repeater Managers.**

**GB3CK** – MOZAA reported that the repeater has been working well, apart from a couple of minor problems, but needs more users.

**GB3EK** – G4TKR reported the repeater was working well, and that activity had been good. There had been an interference problem which had been resolved (as fully reported in the last Newsletter). G4TKR reported that Ofcom are always pleased to be informed about low power devices causing

interference, particularly on repeaters. Ofcom will also rigourously investigate music broadcasts, and the perpetrator will have their licence removed as this is classed as running a pirate station. There are currently a couple of other interference problems, including a person keying up – this is being investigated.

**GB3KN** - G3YCN reported that with the exception of realigning the Duplexer last summer, there had not been any problems in the year gone by. The system continues to work well but could do with more use.

**GB3KS** – M1BKI reported that the repeater has been working well. Since the last report, quite a few jobs that needed doing had been done, and covered in the last Newsletter. There are still a couple of jobs needing doing which hopefully will be seen to soon. As per the group's promise to keep the site tidy, this was done and cleared of weeds in May by the resident gardener. G4TKR explained that a new aerial had been erected, but as the day was foggy it was positioned 30° north of where it should be, with the consequence that the Marsh area is not covered. However, other coverage is excellent. The rigger is willing to come and move the aerial around so that the Marsh is covered too. There is some interference on site from the Ambulance data transmitter, which G4TKR has reported to the ambulance service, who will try to have it seen to. Once this interference has been resolved, there is more sensitivity to be had from the repeater, namely by taking the filters apart and cleaning them, and changing the receive filter to transmit filter and vice-versa. G8FEZ had kindly agreed to provide a spare set of filters to cover this maintenance period. The Ambulance service has no objection to having two aerials on site. G4TKR suggested two aerials, with Rx and Tx separately. The cost for a new aerial and the rigger will amount to approx. £150.

**GB3NK** – G6RMA read the report provided by G4EGU: the repeater is working well, but just needs more activity. The site was visited recently by Ofcom, as a routine visit following reports of interference to satellite TV, but the repeater was not involved. During the visit, the question was asked of the office regarding "Key fob interference" Their reply was that it was unlikely that GB3NK was interfering with key fobs. This was reported to the surrounding area, via the enquirer. There is an ongoing update programme for the Echolink DTMF decoder. Brian M1WPB has donated hardware and software to decode DTMF more accurately, and is in the process of being tested prior to installation taking place, in the near future. This will enhance the repeater, and more facilities can be added to it. G6RMA mentioned that at the time of the key fob issue, consideration had been given to possible wide-split, which was investigated with the RSGB – new cavities would be required.

**GB3RE** – G3YCN reported on behalf of G4AKQ that the PA failed during the Spring bank holiday. G8OSN had a PA board which he passed to G1OMH. Tuning was difficult but eventually 18W was obtained, and G3YCN expressed his thanks to G8OSN and G1OMH. The repeater needs more use.

**GB3SK** – G6DIK reported that the repeater had experienced 35 minutes of downtime this year. A key fob issue has been resolved (squelch needed adjusting).

**6. To elect the committee members and confirm the appointment of Repeater Managers for 2005-2006.**

	Proposed by	Seconded by
President [2005 – 2008]	G3PAG G4RVV	G8HLE
Chairman	G4RVV G4TKR	G1HQJ
Secretary	M3BYZ G4RVV	G4TKR
Treasurer	M0ZAA G6RMA	G3YCN
Newsletter Editor	G8PUO G4TKR	G6DIK
Ordinary member (a)	G8HLE G4RVV	G3YCN
Ordinary member (b)	2E1HYN G4RVV	G3YCN
Repeater managers:		
GB3CK	M0ZAA	
GB3EK	G4TKR	
GB3KN	G3YCN	
GB3KS	M1BKI	
GB3NK	G4EGU [G4RVV on Cttee]	
GB3RE	G4AKQ	
GB3SK	G6 DIK	

There being no other nominations the committee members were declared elected and the appointment of the repeater managers was confirmed.

**7. Other business.**

**A: G3TIS, Jeff Clarke** – G4RVV reported that sadly Jeff, who was a for long time manager of GB3CK and supporter of the KRG, had died earlier this year. Members then stood in silence in memory of G3TIS.

**B: Newsletter** – G8PUO mentioned that there was still a lack of input, and that more articles were needed. G4MIX enquired about the option of receiving the Newsletter by email. There was some discussion about this, and G8PUO felt that with the introduction of colour, members may prefer to receive a hard copy. It was decided to have another 'push' and see how many members would prefer an electronic version.

**C: Attracting younger people to our hobby** – 2E1HOJ brought up the issue of attracting younger people and felt that the attitude of some older radio amateurs was very negative. He mentioned a forthcoming event (Model Viking ships rally) on 4<sup>th</sup> September in Ramsgate, at which the Hilderstone Radio & Electronics club would be running a station, in the hope of interesting some young people. A general discussion ensued. It was felt that the bad attitude problem was a small minority.

The possibility of introducing the hobby to schools (perhaps in the context of longer school days) was discussed at some length, and the problem of youngsters' lack of interest was raised – why advertise talking to people around the world when there were numerous other means to do this nowadays?

The hobby offers different facets and youngsters may, ultimately, be interested in the technical aspect more than the communication aspect, though it was felt that perhaps Echolink might be a good starting point. The conclusion of the debate was that input from the RSGB would be valuable as a first line of approach to the education establishment, which could then be followed up locally by clubs, in the form of science days or after school clubs, etc. This topic was generally recognised as a challenge. In addition, G8HLE suggested reintroducing talks to clubs advertising the work of the KRG.

M3BYZ  
19.6.2005

### **GB3CK Update**

**John Wellard M0ZAA**

We have now installed a new commercial built antenna at same height as last. At the same time the Icom repeater was returned. Cavities were also changed and adjusted.

The coverage seems to be better away from the shadow which lays towards Ashford itself. Nothing we can do about that unless someone knows how to remove 10 metres of the chalk downs.

In general the received signal looks down on past performance but the receive is greatly improved. Many Thanks to Don G4TKR for the work at ground level, never knew about his fear to go above three feet AGL!!!!

John Wellard M0ZAA

*See pics opposite!*

## Kent Repeater Group Directory

**KRG Web Site:** [www.krg.org.uk](http://www.krg.org.uk)  
**KRG Email (Member Details Update):** [members@krg.org.uk](mailto:members@krg.org.uk)  
**GB3EK Margate Web Site:** [www.gb3ek.co.uk](http://www.gb3ek.co.uk)

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