



GB3PO - 145.650; GB3IH - 433.100; GB3EF - 50.720;
GB3EA - 145.6875; GB3EZ - 430.975

Web Site: <http://www.sargroup.co.uk/>

Chairman – Dave Sparrow G8XOR
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Minutes from the 2010 SARG AGM – held 23rd April at Stowupland Village Hall

Present: - G7CIY, G1YFF, M0MUD, M0JAY, M3PUY, M0SDY, 2E0EVE, M0MJH, 2E0BCM, G0YAP, M1TES, M0JVC, M0PDA, 2E0MBF, M1ACB, 2E0TYL, G6PDE, G7SDC, 2E1FZH, G4BAV, G6OHM, 2E0XFH, M0JAJ, G7OPO, G0OZS, M1NIZ, M3FDQ, G7OOW & G0FEA

Apologies: - G8CJL, G7DWN, G7SMW, M0SRS, G4GGC, G8XOR, G7LNU, G0NQU, 2E0EB0, G4LRB, M3SAD, M3VDO, M0YEP & G1ZAF

Welcome and Introductions:-

Keith – G7CIY opened the meeting at 7:30pm and welcomed everybody. He then explained as Dave was unable to attend due to work commitments and that he would be chairing the meeting. Russell – G7OOW then very kindly volunteered to stand in as secretary for the meeting to take notes.

This was a new venue for us following on from comments received at the last AGM that it was too far away from the rest of the region bearing in mind the extended coverage of GB3EZ/EA. The question was asked as to how many people from the west were here tonight that were not present at the last meeting. No hands were raised, although those who did attend agreed that it was a more central location.

Minutes and Matters arising from the last meeting held 21st April 2009:-

The minutes of last years meeting had been emailed out to the SARG mailing list and were available from the web site. As there were no corrections or amendments, these were duly accepted as a true record of events.

Proposed by G6PDE, 2nd by M1TES and carried by all.

The outstanding actions from last year were:

Keith – G7DNT to continue his work and liaise with SARG on GB3IH Internet Linking

G7DNT was not present at the meeting and no further progress has been made in this area. As there did not seem to be a large interest in this and the fact that G7DNT’s own link in Ipswich provided an excellent service, this action would be put on hold for the foreseeable future.

Pat – G8VZZ to investigate the possibility of getting a donation to Ipswich Hospital Transport Service

G8VZZ said that he had written to these people but did not receive a reply. G7CIY felt that the group should make some sort of charitable donation and G0FEA reminded us that we had talked about the hospital radio service previously. G0FEA and the SARG to follow this up

Bob – M0MUD to continue work on the 10m Repeater and perhaps arrange for some path testing with local amateurs

M0MUD had done some preliminary work on this but although there was a small interest in 10m at the meeting it was felt that the group had enough projects to work on currently. It was proposed by G7CIY and 2nd by M3FDQ that this would be put on hold for the current year and we would re-visit to see how we stood.

SARG to carry on with investigation of low audio on GB3PO

Effectively, this action is closed as the problem should go away on completion of the new GB3PO

Dave – G8XOR to find a suitable gift for Alan – G8CJL

No information available

SARG to investigate 1750Hz and Digital Access to GB3EA

No progress on the digital access, but some work had been done on the 1750 and Jake hoped to be running some tests later this year

Jake – G1YFF and Jason G7OCD – to investigate possible linking of repeaters

See later discussion topic

SARG to arrange date and venue for next year

Done

Keith – G0FEA to include contact points on the Web Site for SARG officers and positions.

Done

Chairman's Report:-

Firstly my sincere apologies for not being able to attend to-nights meeting. My Employer has decided that they require me to attend a training course in Glasgow ready for the launch of a new radio product later in the year. This has landed in my lap at short notice and it would not be right to try and re-arrange the AGM with all the work that Keith G7CIY has done to send out invitations and book the venue.

All the repeaters operated by the Group have continued to work well over the last twelve months.

I must acknowledge the very generous donation of the Tait base-station equipment from John G4BAV which has allowed Jake and I to replace GB3PO with a virtually identical system ton that in use for EA/EZ . Jake's design of a PIC based logic for all the repeaters in the Group has taken a considerable amount of time and effort by him to achieve his goal. The new GB3PO will incorporate the latest version and so eventually will all repeaters in the Group.

Progress with the new PO is going well, at this time I am waiting final wiring information from Jake and hope to have it up and running on the bench by mid May, with it fitted into the rack by the end of May. Since acquiring the equipment Jake has done a number of re-designs of both the logic and the hardware configurations which has resulted in a number of wiring modifications. I had hoped that it would be installed by the date of the AGM but this has not been possible.

Under Jake's guidance the Group will be running a totally Tait based repeater network if he can procure another UHF unit to replace GB3IH. This repeater is suffering from a problem with the stability of it's transmit frequency due to crystal ageing. Due to the effort required to access the equipment to adjust the frequency we have decided to wait until the replacement PO is installed so that we can kill two birds with one stone.

I am sure that there will be a great deal of debate at the meeting as to the next project/s the Group should embark upon. All are welcome to suggest a project to be discussed and voted upon. As previously stated you may be asked to lead on the project in terms of research and depending on your enthusiasm engineering aspects.

The TV repeater has taken a step forward with G6PDE submitting the application form to obtain the licence. May I thank all those people who have supported the work of the Group over the past year by way of donates of time, equipment and money. Without your help and support the work being done would not make it worthwhile.

I hope this coming year will be as successful as the previous years. The Group has taken significant steps forward and has progressed from running two repeaters to a total of five, soon hopefully six when the TV repeater is fully licensed over the last few years.

Dave Sparrow
G8XOR
Chair SARG

South Anglia Repeater Group Accounts

Balance sheet as of 28th February 2010

| Bank Statements | <u>28th February 2009</u> | <u>28th February 2010</u> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Current Account | £457-14 | £804-62 |
| Premium Account | £816-35 | £816-66 |
| Cash in treasurers hands | £0-00 | |
| SubTotal | £1273-49 | £1621.28 |
| Unpresented cheques | | £18-50 |
| Total | £1273-49 | £1602-78 |

Income

| | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Loan from Treasurer | £250-00 | |
| Subscriptions/donations (See separate list) | £555-00 | £482-00 |
| Bank interest | £9-57 | £00-31 |
| Total Income | £814-57 | £482-31 |

Expenditure to 28th Febuary 2009

Cheque

| | |
|---|--------|
| 100140 to Alan Dorling Inv No. 14 insurance for 5 repeaters | £56-04 |
| 100141 to Keith Gaunt for key cutting | £8-50 |
| 100142 to Pat Marks final re-payment on loan (unpresented) | £18-50 |

Cash Payments

| | |
|---------------------------------|--------|
| To Pat Marks stationary | £5-98 |
| To Pat Marks re-payment of loan | £64-00 |

Total Expenditure

£153-02

Profit /Loss

£329.29

Auditor's statement

I have checked the accounts and find that they represent a true picture of the funds held by South Anglia Repeater group. This year they show a healthy profit due to a low level of spending on large projects this is thanks to those people who have donated equipment that we would have had to purchase. We thank those and all our user's for their donations and encourage them to continue to support the group

Signed Russell Keen G7OWW

Nominations and Election of Officers:-

G8VZZ announced at the meeting that due to health reasons, he felt unable to carry on as Treasurer so we would be looking for a replacement at this meeting. All the other officers were willing to stand and be re-elected.

G7CIY explained that it was not a difficult job and strongly asked for some new people to put themselves forward and join the team. There were no volunteers from the floor but Jake said that Juliette – G7RVS would take on the job if there were no other volunteers so the officers for 2010/11 are as follows:

Chairman – Dave Sparrow – G8XOR david.sparrow5@btinternet.com
Prop M0MUD, 2nd G4BAV and carried by all
Secretary – Keith Gaunt – G7CIY g7ciy@raynet-uk.net
Prop M0MUD, 2nd G6PDE and carried by all
Treasurer – Juliet Bevan – G7RVS g7rvs@hotmail.co.uk
Prop G1YFF, 2nd M0MUD and carried by all
Auditor – Russell Keen – G700W russell@keen901.fsnet.co.uk
Prop G7CIY, 2nd G1YFF and carried by all

Grateful thanks were noted both to Pat and to Russell for their work.

Additional positions within SARG are:

President – Alan Dorling – G8CJL

Repeater Keeper GB3PO, GB3IH & GB3EF – Keith Gaunt – G7CIY g7ciy@raynet-uk.net
Repeater Keeper GB3EA & GB3EZ – Jake Bevan – G1YFF g1yff@hotmail.co.uk
Technical Consultant – Jake Bevan – G1YFF g1yff@hotmail.co.uk
Western Area Representative – Terry Beddington – G0TMX g0tmx@btinternet.com

We forgot to talk about this position on the night and Terry was not present at the meeting, so unless we hear otherwise we'll assume that he is happy to continue. SARG to confirm

TV Repeater – Chris Irish – G6PDE cjirish@btinternet.com
Internet Linking – Keith Handscombe – G7DNT keith@g7dnt.co.uk
Web Master – Keith Hotchkiss – G0FEA g0fea@yaesu.org.uk

Web Site News and feedback:

G0FEA reported that he was still happy to run and maintain our web site. The SARG notes that this was all self funded. There was no feedback from the floor so we can only assume that people are happy with the current format. The URL for this site is <http://www.sargroup.co.uk/>

Repeater News and Updates:

G1YFF took the floor and gave some updates on all the repeaters that we maintain:

GB3EA has been totally upgraded to a Tait T800 (the same as PO) donated by My Employer. There are still some sensitivity issues - investigation ongoing I've commissioned a new custom build duplexer, which should further improve EA's performance from Nathan G7LNU.

1750 access is on its way but has been proved to be a bit of a challenge. EA is still in need of a replacement aerial (around £150.00) the last one becoming faulty. Currently in use is a temporary one supplied by G1YFF.

GB3EZ is under used considering the coverage that it has. G0YAP asked that if you hear anyone calling through this repeater (or any repeater for that matter) that you at least acknowledge the call even if you can't stop to chat. There's nothing worse than calling through and not getting a response.

There is a lot of pressure from the RSGB and management on under used repeaters. Use them or Loose them is a message we want people to take away with them!

GB3EF – again all running OK but under used.

GB3PO low audio should be addressed with the new Tait based repeater which will hopefully come online very soon. The long term plan will be to have all the repeaters managed by the SARG to be based on the same equipment and logic to make maintenance that much easier.

GB3IH as noted in Dave's report we hope to replace this in the next few years once a suitable donor unit has been found.

M3FDQ asked the question as to whether initially GB3PO and then later perhaps the other repeaters could have a streamed audio feed to our website. That way, users could monitor their local repeater from anywhere that they had an internet connection. This was thought to be a good idea but if it was set up it needed to be available 24/7 to be of benefit. SARG to take this away and discuss

G7CIY thanked G1YFF for the work that he had done over the last year and reminded the meeting how lucky we were to have the likes of Dave and Jake onboard with us. Without them we would not have the repeaters that we currently have. There was a round of applause from the floor.

Special Project: Viability to RF link GB3IH to GB3EF

Proposed by G0FEA

Rationale

GB3IH is underutilised & GB3EF has a few regular users

There is a risk that under utilised frequencies may be reclaimed for D star or alternative use by Ofcom

Proposed internet linking to GB3IH has not moved on since its original proposal 3 years ago. The number of amateur operators having access to 50MHz is small however those with access to 70cms are larger. There are very few 50MHz PMR radios available however there are many 70cm PMR sets on the open market.

Linking of the two repeaters will enable greater use of both frequencies and enable wider coverage for more operators. Operators who currently struggle to use GB3EF in Ipswich will have good access.

This was then put to the floor for open discussion –

G8VZZ – in favour, a good idea

G0YAP - in favour, especially in built up areas where 6m coverage is poor due to generated noise

G0FEA – said that it might encourage new licensees who could use cheaper equipment.

M1NIZ – generally in favour as long as it didn't upset existing users of those repeaters.

G1YFF – generally in favour but needed careful thought and discussion

G7OOW – in favour and raised the question about linking GB3EZ as well.

As part of his proposal, G0FEA raised the following questions:

Is there a need to link the two repeaters?

Possibly, the meeting seemed to think it a good idea

Is RF linking of the two repeaters possible?

We're not sure at the moment, will have to find out

Will the linking increase user of both frequencies?

It should do in theory...

Will the cost of undertaking the project outweigh benefit?

Have to investigate and report back

Will the linking offer an enhanced benefit to new operators?

It should do!

How do existing users feel about possible increases in traffic on both frequencies?

Not known at this stage, consultation would have to be sought

Is this something that the 'Geeks' from SARG have time to undertake?

Not likely to be achieved this year, but the SARG hoped to be able to have a feasibility for next year's AGM

ATV Repeater:

Chris – G6PDE took the floor and gave an update on the current state on the new ATV repeater.

- Obtained coverage maps and other info required and submitted E1 application form to RSGB ETTC
- Application has been accepted and approved by ETTC – provisional call sign GB3IT allocated

- Now awaiting approval from primary user (PU) i.e. Civil Aviation Authority – Currently very slow to respond but RSGB-CAA-Ofcom meeting scheduled for May 6
- Completed and submitted repeater application form

Still to be done:

- Build repeater into suitable enclosure for rack mounting (limited space) -Volunteers?
- Design, build and install suitable remote control for shutdown- Volunteers?
- Once we have licence NoV- GB3IT has been allocated
 - Obtain insurance
 - Install & Switch on!
 - PSU to be obtained

AOB:

G8VZZ mentioned that a TS60s (<http://www.rigpix.com/kenwood/ts60s.htm>) was to be sold for SARG funds and offered to the members by sealed bid to G8VZZ by the end of May after which it would be advertised on Ebay. It was noted that these were excellent radios and quite rare.

MOMUD proposed a vote of thanks to all those on the Committee on behalf of the members for a job well done.

Date and venue of next meeting:-

There being no other business, the meeting was formally closed at 21:00. Subscriptions were then gratefully received by G8VZZ. Many thanks were noted to Russell – G7OOW for taking the notes for tonight's meeting at short notice.

Next years venue will be discussed by the SARG.

Keith Gaunt – G7CIY
SARG Secretary
25th April 2010

Outstanding Actions as at 23rd April 2010

- AP01/10 G0FEA and the SARG to follow up on information to provide a donation to the Hospital Radio Service
- AP02/10 G1YFF to continue working on GB3EA – specifically to conduct tests with 1750Hz tone access later this year
- AP03/10 SARG to confirm with G0TMX that he is happy to remain as the Representative for the Western Area
- AP04/10 All to make more use of our repeaters and respond to anyone calling through. Use them or loose them!
- AP05/10 SARG to investigate Audio Streaming of initially GB3PO and then perhaps our other repeaters to our web site
- AP06/10 SARG to investigate RF Linking of GB3EF and GB3IH and to have at least have a feasibility study completed by the next AGM
- AP07/10 G6PDE to continue with outstanding work on GB3IT as per minutes
- AP08/10 G8VZZ to sell the TS60s by the best means possible for SARG funds