



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

Secretary – Keith Gaunt G7CIY

Minutes from the 2014 SARG AGM – held 23rd April at St John HQ, Bramford

Present: - G7CIY, G0FEA, C0CFI, M6TCI, M0JSA, G7SMW, G8XOR, G1YFF, G7RVS, G4LRB, M3PBK, G4ICP, G7OOW, G7OPO, M0JAJ, G6PDE, 2E0TYL, M6BFF, M3ZKH, G4AQV, M3ZPU, 2E0TNG, M0MUD, M1NIZ, G7DWN

Apologies: - M0MCY, M0SDY, M0SRS, M0BCT, M1ACB, G0OZS, M3FDQ, 2E0BCM, 2E0JBI, M1TES, M6KJY, G7SDC, G0CJX, G0YAP, G8VZZ

Welcome and Introductions:-

Dave – G8XOR opened the meeting at 7:30pm prompt and welcomed everybody to the meeting. G0FEA went through the domestic arrangements for the building. It was, once again, very pleasing to see the group so well supported. G8XOR thanked G0FEA and St John for the facilities.

Minutes and Matters arising from the last meeting held 23rd April 2013:-

As there were no outstanding actions from last year, the minutes were accepted as a true record of events. This was proposed by M0MUD, seconded by G4AQV and carried by all. They were then duly signed by G8XOR.

Chairman's Report:-

This year has seen a number of failures with the normal standards of service we try to provide to Amateurs in Suffolk and Ipswich.

There have been problems with the effectiveness of GB3EF due to inter-mod problems caused by a number of faulty items of equipment. It was found the one of the tails from the phasing harness at the top of the tower was intermittent open circuit. This was rectified on the day. Further testing by Jake and me also identified that the coax lead from the lightning arrestor to the cavity filters was generating spurious signals even when disconnected, this was replaced. Further problems have been identified with the cavities themselves and Jake will be removing these from site for detailed investigation.

The replacement of GB3IH repeater unit failed on the first attempt when the unit refused to pass the received audio to the transmitter however this also highlighted the fact that the homebrew aerials which have provided sterling service for at least twenty years now need replacing as their return loss is very poor. New aerials have been obtained to replace the faulty ones.

This leads to another can of worm as the Hospital Authorities will need Risk Assessments and Method Statements before work can start on their replacement. Contact will be made after the Easter holiday with the Facility Management Team to confirm what paperwork is needed to obtain the key to the roof area of the Maternity Block.

One good thing to come out of this is that one of the replacement aerials is a dual-bander allowing us to run two aerial working on both PO and IH reducing the amount of filtering required on PO. At the same time the output power of PO will be increased to the full legal ERP and the new IH base unit installed.

With regards EA and EZ the BT has changed the requirements for mounting hardware used on its towers, aluminium is no longer allowed. To this end Jake and I have been looking at sources of approved steelwork. By chance while speaking to the gentleman responsible for the approval of the steelwork he offered to order the required items at no cost to the Group. Another success achieved over a cup of tea and biscuits.

The deteriorating performance of GB3EA was located to a faulty aerial supplied by a well known manufacturer was falling apart inside the housing due to corrosion and metal fatigue. Due to the changes by BT mentioned above the opportunity has been taken to upgrade all the aerials and bring into service the third feeder.

The Group would like to acknowledge the help and support received from BT's rigging team with resolving all the issues some of which are still ongoing until the new steelwork is in place.

Finally I have received a number of reports regarding abuse on GB3PO, it must be emphasised that these people are looking for a response and that the standard procedure must be followed to ignore them and if necessary to vacate the repeater for a short time.

Mention has also been made about the topics of conversation on PO. Any QSO on any Amateur Radio frequency must comply with BR68.

My sincere thanks to all of you who have supported the Group over the past year in various ways, especially members of the management Team and Jake for all his efforts with resolving technical issues.

Finally we are hoping we have a fault free year on all the repeaters this coming year.

Dave Sparrow
G8XOR
Chair SARG

Treasurers Report - Accounts prepared by and signed by Juliet Bevan G7RVS

Balance sheet as of 28th February 2014

The accounts were proposed by G8XOR, 2nd by M1NIZ and carried by all.

| Bank Statements | 28th February 2013 | 28th February 2014 |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Current Account | £1,495.10 | £1,074.35 |
| Premium Account | £817.86 | £818.26 |
| Cash in Treasurers Hand | £17.24 | £34.14 |
| Total | £2,330.20 | £1,926.75 |
| Income | | |
| Subscriptions/Donations (see separate sheet) | £310.00 | £243.00 |
| Bank Interest | £0.40 | £0.40 |
| Total Income | £310.40 | £243.40 |
| Expenditure to 28th February 2014 | | |
| Postage | | £1.10 |
| Procom Rapid – Aerials EA/EZ | | £130.75 |
| P.Bailey – Aerial for EA | | £200.00 |
| Procom Rapid – Aerials EA/EZ | | £315.00 |
| Total Expenditure | | £646.85 |
| Profit/Loss | | -£403.45 |

Signed by Treasurer

Signed by Auditor

It was noted that cheques can still be sent to the post-box address (see website) and the possibility of Electronic Transfers was suggested by G7OOW. The Committee will look into this suggestion.

Auditor's statement

Emma has audited the accounts and finds them to be a true representation of the accounts and so duly signed them.

Nominations and Election of Officers:-

All the outgoing officers indicated a willingness to stand for another year; there were no other propositions from the floor.

| <u>Officer</u> | <u>Nomination</u> | <u>Proposed by</u> | <u>2nd by</u> | <u>Carried by</u> |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Chairman | G8XOR | M0MUD | M6TCI | All |
| Secretary | G7CIY | M6TCI | G0CFI | All |
| Treasurer | G7RVS | G8XOR | 2EOTNG | All |
| Auditor | Emma | | | |

G0CFI thanked the Committee for their hard work and continuing running of the Group

Additional positions within SARG are:

| | | | |
|---|--|----------------------------|--|
| President | | – Alan Dorling – G8CJL | |
| Repeater Keeper GB3PO, GB3IH | | – Keith Gaunt – G7CIY | g7ciy@raynet-uk.net |
| Repeater Keeper GB3EA, GB3EZ & GB3EF | | – Jake Bevan – G1YFF | g1yff@hotmail.co.uk |
| Technical Officer* | | – Jake Bevan – G1YFF | g1yff@hotmail.co.uk |
| TV Repeater | | – Chris Irish – G6PDE | cjirish@btinternet.com |
| Internet and Repeater Linking | | – Keith Handscombe – G7DNT | keith@g7dnt.co.uk |
| Web Master | | – Steve Thomas – M1ACB | m1acb@me.com |

* The constitution says this should be an elected post but this was missed at the meeting, although Jake was happy to continue in this role unless anyone else wanted to step forward.

Repeater News and Updates:

PO/IH see Dave's report for full details.

When the Aerials for IH are installed its planned implement 2 aerial working for PO which should improve performance, at the same time the time out will be updated and the TX power reset as it should be ;)

EA has had its aerial replaced late last year and the performance has improved since the changes and the usage has gone up too. EZ also has the aerial replaced but the water damage to the aerial has also damaged the feeder this is to be investigated further.

When the Aerial works were carried out BT's Rigging Team informed me that aerials mounted on the hand rail of the work platform (286 feet up!) were no longer allowed and would need to be moved or removed, since then Dave and I have been working with BT to engineer a solution to this issue, we now have agreement from BT that they will supply and install the required hardware and at the same time install a third aerial for the groups use.

EF (currently off air) has had ongoing issues, with faulty aerials and interference/inter-mod due to the FM Broadcast site close to EF's site. Away from the site all is well, these problems have been traced to the actual duplexer, work is ongoing to resolve these.

Jake G1YFF will lead a discussion to explore interest in a Digital pathway for the group based around DMR Tier 3 Technologies currently supported by a number of manufacturers, the outcome was the Group would support / fund a DMR box initially up to the sum of £250. I will be talking with a number of DMR suppliers and will report back if these lead anywhere.

GB3IT Updates:-

- March 2010: Application submitted to RSGB Emerging Technology Co-ordination Committee (ETCC)
- Since 2010 ETCC have been waiting for approval by the primary user.
- 11 December 2012 the ETCC decided not to wait any further and submitted the NoV request to Ofcom
- 10 Aug 2013 Application refused as CCA there is “potential for interference to the NATS en-route L band radar at Debden”
- April 2014 Application on hold awaiting possible resubmission

Reduced Power Options:-

- Reduce TX power 20 dB to 0.1W

Pro: Easy to implement

Con: Difficult to receive with simple equipment

- Replace TX Aerial with directional aerial e.g. HB9CV has a front/back ratio >20dB
 - Pro: No loss of power to west of IH
 - Cons: Loss of power for east of IH,, more work to build and install aerial

Implementation still to do:-

- Resubmit repeater application form – G6PDE
- 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-
 - Obtain insurance
 - Install & Switch on!
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After some discussion, it was agreed at this meeting that the Group led by G6PDE should continue with this work to come up with a working solution. This was proposed by G1YFF, 2nd by M3PBK and carried by all. Thanks were noted to Chris for his work so far. G7CIY suggested that Chris could visit the Microwave Round Table meeting planned for this weekend at BT Martlesham for expert guidance in this area.

Internet Linking

Keith – G7DNT was not at the meeting to provide and update to his service, but the Secretary would be in contact with G7DNT to see if an update can be put up on the web site.

Web Site News and feedback:

M1ACB and G7CIY have spent some time updating the look and feel of the SARG website (<http://www.sargroup.co.uk>). So far the feedback received has been positive. Please take a look at the site and any comments for improvements to G7CIY. Thanks were noted to Keith and Steve for their work so far.

AOB:

The ESWR will be held Sunday 22nd June at the Orwell Truck Stop. Please tell your friends and we look forward to seeing you there. <http://www.eswr.org.uk/>

G1YFF gave a very interesting and informative proposal on a project to investigate a [DMR](#) service within the Group. This is emerging technology, and we have a chance to be the first in the country to have a dual located analogue and digital repeater. New kit is coming out on the market which is well within the budget of most amateurs. After some discussion, it was proposed by G7OOW, seconded by G4ICP and carried by all that the Group has financial go-ahead to develop and investigate this exciting new project.

A gift/card will be purchased for Phil – G8MLA who is currently unwell. He has been a big supporter of the Group

Date and venue of next meeting:-

There being no other business, the meeting was formally closed at 21:10. Thanks were once again noted to Keith – G0FEA and St John for the kind use of the venue. Subscriptions were then gratefully received by G7RVS. Next years meeting will be held hopefully at the same location in approximately a year from today – date to be arranged

Keith Gaunt – G7CIY
SARG Secretary
25th April 2014