



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 2015 SARG AGM – held 29th April at St John HQ, Bramford

Present: - G7CIY, M6TCI, G0CFI, G8VZZ, G3XOK, G4ICP, M1NIZ, G4AQV, M0JSA, G0MGN, M3PBK, M1TES, 2E0ROP, M0ZAH, M1ACB, G8MXV, G7DWN, M6BFF, 2E0JBI, G3XVL, 2E0BCM, G7PRY, 2E0TNG, G4LRB, G0FEA, M3FDQ, G1YFF, G7RVS, G6PDE, M0MUD, G8XOR

Apologies: - G7SDC, G7SMW, G7OOW, G0TMX, G3XLL, M0SRS, G0OZS, M0SDY, 2E0EVE, G0CJX, G1ZAF, M6KJY, G0CFB, G7LNU, G0YAP

Welcome and Introductions:-

Keith – G7CIY opened the meeting promptly at 7:30pm and welcomed everybody to the meeting. It was, once again, very pleasing to see the group so well supported. G8XOR thanked G0FEA and St John for the facilities. G0FEA then went through the domestic arrangements for the building.

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 G4AQV, seconded by M1NIZ and carried by all. They were then duly signed by G8XOR.

Chairman's Report:-

Over the past year there have been problems with GB3IH which due to work commitments have resulted in delays in resolving the issues. With the grateful assistance of Mark 2E0TNG, Mark M1NIZ, Steve M6TCI and Keith G7CIY who successfully arranged access to the hospital roof with people responsible. The problems with the aerials causing people to not be able to open the repeater were largely resolved on the 10/04/2015. The main cause of the fault was the fact that the receiver aerial feeder had become disconnected from the aerial. Both the old aerials were replaced with new with transmit on a folded dipole and receive on a 2/70 dual bander. There is still further work to be done with rearranging the filtering which should result in better receive sensitivity by eliminating the loss through the diplexer.

At the same time the output power of GB3PO was increased to its full legal limit. When GB3IH filtering is sorted the opportunity to change GB3PO to two aerial working will be investigated. This will also hopefully eliminate some of the cavities in the diplexer. There is still work to be done to fine tune the performance of both repeaters.

I will leave it to Jake G1YFF to update members with the current position of GB3EA and GB3EZ but to my knowledge both these repeaters have performed well since the last AGM. Jake will also provide an update regarding the current position of DMR repeaters.

If possible I will also try and get an update on the current situation with the TV repeater either on the night or prior to the meeting.

Thank you to everybody for their support and patience over the last twelve months and carry on using the repeaters to make all the work that goes into maintaining them worthwhile and especially Jake for his continued support and helping drink the supply of tea!

Dave Sparrow G8XOR - Chair SARG

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

Balance sheet as of 28th February 2015

The accounts were proposed by G7CIY, 2nd by G6PDE and carried by all.

Bank Statements	28th February 2014	28th February 2015
Current Account	£1,074.35	£1,429.41
Premium Account	£818.26	£818.67
Cash in Treasurers Hand	£34.14	£16.14
Total	£1,926.75	£2,264.22

Income

Subscriptions/Donations (see separate sheet)	£243.00	£412.00
Bank Interest	£0.40	£0.41
Total Income	£243.40	£412.41

Expenditure to 28th February 2015

Martin Lynch and Sons (Diamond X-50N)	£74.94
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Total Expenditure £74.94

Profit/Loss £337.47

Signed by Treasurer

Signed by Auditor

Auditors Statement

Auditor's statement

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

Secretary's Update

We have been contacted by a solicitor acting on behalf of our President, Alan – G8CJL. Apparently his health has seriously deteriorated. Dave and myself will visit Alan at our earliest opportunity and pass on the well wishes of the Group.

We will soon have insurance once again for our repeater sites. After some chasing around through RSGB contacts we can get cover under the RSGB for about £15.00/site.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, the Internet Gateway, MB7IIP run by Keith – G7DNT is no longer on air. There are no plans currently to re-activate it. Again we wish Keith all the best for the future.

Peter – G4PAG/G8HUE contacted me yesterday to give me some interesting news. GB7PP - (DSTAR Repeater) will be on air within the next two weeks. All the kit has been purchased and installed and an NOV has been issued. Peter is more than happy to be part of the SARG and we welcome this new addition to the family. Full details of frequencies and means of access will be published on our web site.

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. G0FEA took control of the meeting temporarily and all were proposed on block.

Proposed by M6TCI, 2nd by M0JSA and carried by all

Chairman	G8XOR
Secretary	G7CIY
Treasurer	G7RVS

Auditor	Emma
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G0CFI thanked the Committee for their hard work and continuing running of the Group and proposed a vote of thanks which was accepted by the group.

Additional positions within SARG are:

President – Alan Dorling – G8CJL

Repeater Keeper GB3PO, GB3IH – Keith Gaunt – G7CIY

Repeater Keeper GB3EA, GB3EZ & GB3EF – Jake Bevan – G1YFF

Technical Officer* – Jake Bevan – G1YFF

DMR Project Leads** – Mark Austin – M1NIZ

– Mark Jaggard – 2E0TNG

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* Elected post

** Agreed at meeting

Repeater News and Updates:

GB3PO – As per chairman's report, back up to full operating power and working well. All at the meeting reported noticeably better coverage. We believe we can still make some improvements to performance as and when time allows.

GB3IH – Now back on air! Observations noted that pips between overs do not have CTCSS so that if you have CTCSS decode selected, you do not hear them. Also, audio appears to drop out with CTCSS decode on. The advice is for now to run with only CTCSS Encode and possibly run with narrow dev selected. We will have to revisit the repeater at some point to investigate.

From Jake G1YFF:-

GB3EF – Is currently working, but is suffering in performance. Much time has been spent on this repeater. It is noted that the usage of EF is very low, although many at the meeting had 6m capability.

The long term future of EF is uncertain – possibly a new site could be found?

GB3EA/EZ – all working well and no reported issues. Both have recently passed their electrical safety tests carried out at no cost to the Group by GW8MLA. The UPS has been removed as it had become unreliable.

DMR Digital Repeater

We have spent much time in investigating a DMR repeater to be based at Wickhambrook. We have had difficulty with the ETCC that the Chairman of the RSGB board has tried to sort out. In summary, the Wickhambrook site is not suitable for a new DMR repeater, as any DMR repeater should provide Hand-held coverage to a large number of users - so for SARG this would be a site in Ipswich or surrounding areas, Jake felt that as he'd changed jobs and due to the location someone else should run this project.

There followed some interesting discussion, including an interesting update from James – MOZAH, who runs GB7DS Norwich's DMR repeater.

G4AQV said that a decision as whether to go ahead or not should be made at this meeting. This was proposed by G4AQV, 2nd 2E0JBI and carried by all. The general feeling was that if there was a DMR repeater in the area people would obtain sets to use it. M1NIZ and 2E0TNG (Marks I and II) currently have DMR radios and so will lead the project, with assistance from the Committee, to see whether it was feasible. The Radio Tower at BT Martlesham is a promising site location. G7CIY and G8XOR will check this out and see if antennas are still in place for UHF.

Web Site News and feedback:

G7CIY generally keeps the website (<http://www.sargroup.co.uk>) updated and all felt that it was a good clear site and easy to use. Thanks were noted to Andy – M3FDQ who pays for the site. Andy also offered tuition to anyone who wanted it in the use of WordPress of how to run a Blog on the new DMR project.

AOB:

The ESWR will be held Sunday 21st June at the Orwell Truck Stop. Please tell your friends and we look forward to seeing you there. <http://www.eswr.org.uk/>. Anybody who wanted to help on the day for gate duty would be appreciated. We also felt that it would be a good idea for us to have a table promoting the repeater group at the rally. G8VZZ said that he might be able to help and other volunteers are needed.

Date and venue of next meeting:-

There being no other business, the meeting was formally closed at 21:00. 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 year's meeting will be held hopefully at the same location in approximately a year from today – date to be arranged

Keith Gaunt – G7CIY
SARG Secretary
30th April 2015