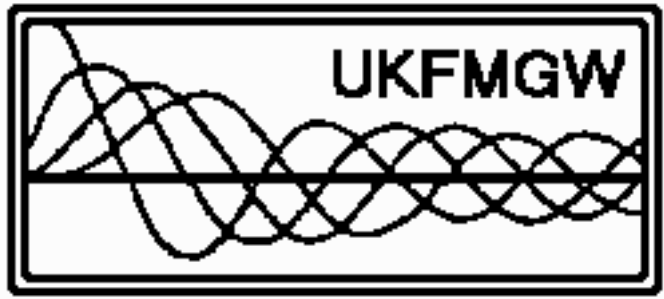


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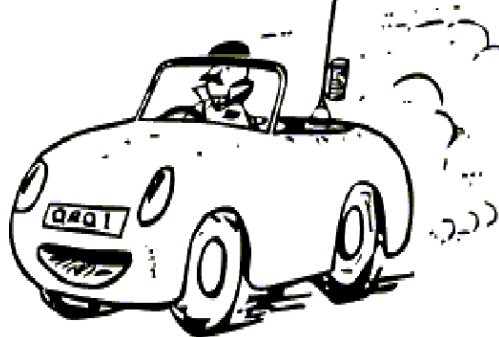


The News Sheet of
UKFM Group (Western)

!! STOP PRESS !!
UKFMGW AGM
15th September 2003

Grappenhall Youth & Community Association
Grappenhall, Warrington.

Members are requested to attend, getting there for 19:30 so the meeting can start at 20:00 Hrs.
***** SEE PAGE 7 SEE PAGE 7*****



Issue 53

Summer / Autumn 2003

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The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the article's author and not necessarily, except where indicated those of the UKFM Group (Western) committee or those of the editor.

From The Editor's Pen



Here we are again, and summer has passed it's peak and we are moving into the autumn now. Well I still need lots more input for stories and articles that other members may be interested in. So what have you done over the summer ? Write me a report for inclusion in Talkthrough to let others know.

I have started to archive old issue of Talkthrough scanning them in to the PC so that they can be saved on to CD Rom, that can be sold at rallies, price TBA but will be to cover the production cost + an amount for group funds. We want to make all the back issues available for those that might be interested in reading the news sheets from bygone years. Well this is where I have a problem !! I am missing the following issues :-

1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 45

If you have a good condition issue N°1 that you give up I will pay your membership for the next year and give you a copy of the completed CD Rom when finished.

I am willing to return any issue loaned to me so please have a look in the back of the draws for the old issues that I need.

I can be sent articles for inclusion by e-mail to this address: -



Talkthrough@g1gyc.demon.co.uk

Or by post: -



The Editor, Talkthrough
Martin Hallsworth, G1GYC
15 Stokesay Drive
Hazel Grove
Stockport
SK7 5PW



07788563619 (my mobile)

Just a Bit of Fun – The Answers

Well how did you all do? So who are the famous radio pioneers :-

Miguel or glam icon, is Guglielmo Marconi

So ream mules, is Samuel Morse

Hope you liked that. 73 Martin G1GYC

Inside Front Cover

UKFM Group (Western) Committee 2002 / 2003

President - G3LEQ Gordon Adams

Officers: -

Chairman - M0OBW Dave Wilson
Secretary - M0DFD Steve Sparkes
Treasurer - 2E1EAP David Hughes

Committee: -

M1CNY Kath Wilson (Membership Secretary)
G1GYC Martin Hallsworth (Talkthrough Editor)
2E1CYS Ian Limbert (Property officer)
G8LZO John Hibbert (Repeater Network)
G8NSS Peter Leach (Repeater Network)
G8FQF Morris Wickham (Webmaster)

Meetings are held at the Grappenhall Youth & Community Association
Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall, Warrington, Cheshire unless other wise stated.
Non Committee members are welcome to come along and observe the meeting.
But the committee ask you please do not interrupt the meetings.

Calendar Dates

Committee meeting dates are: -

~~27th January 2003~~
☞ ~~7th April 2003 *** DATE CHANGED ***~~ ☞
~~26th May 2003~~
~~28th July 2003~~
8th September 2003
AGM 15th September 2003 THE AGM SO BE THERE !!!!

Rallies at which the UKFMGW will be present with the display stand :-

2003
~~26th January Oldham Rally Oldham~~
~~16th March NARSA Blackpool~~
~~5th May Mid Cheshire ARC Rally (My Birthday you can buy me a pint !!)~~
~~1st June Red Rose QRP Festival~~
31st August Telford & DARS Rally
8th November North Wales Rally
9th November North Wales Rally
November Rochdale & DARS Rally
7th December Red Rose Winter Rally

The Network - Repeater Reports

GB3SX:

This is the only 6 Metre repeater that is operational by the group and again receives little use by the members. It is used on a regular basis for the reading of RSGB news on a Sunday Evening. The repeater is still affected by intermittent electrical interference due to overhead and ageing power cables.

GB3VT:

Continues to give good service, (I always cringe when making that statement as inevitable something goes wrong) so lets leave it at that.

GB3SM:

As most members will be aware, GB3SM went off air over 12 months ago, following the loss of the repeater site. The repeater was located at 1450 feet ASL; views from the site were breathtaking! A VHF / UHF operators dream come true, however not much fun in the depths of winter, no gas central heating, “no gas”. On several occasions no electricity either, the owners of the site decided to sell up and move to warmer parts, i.e. below 600 feet ASL. It has to be said that I would have loved to have bought the property myself, but short of a lottery win the £250,000 asking price was just too much for a humble radio amateur as myself.

The good news is that we do now have a new site to install the equipment at, the bad news is that it is only some 900 feet ASL and somewhat “tucked away” in the hills, but beggars can’t be choosers! I have given the equipment a good “going over” and all is now ready for installation, once the aerials are in position (by no means an easy task) the re-birth of GB3SM can take place.

GB3ST:

For some time a sort of telemetry type of signal has been intermittently heard going through the repeater, this apparent signal is indeed on the exact input frequency, and with a semi-regular pattern with regards to it’s timing when it seems to occur. Although it is not to strong in signal strength, it does however prove to be a problem in causing time out. There have been several theories regards its true purpose. Unfortunately this band like some many others is under increasing pressure by the primary users. As secondary users, we have very little say in matters, including apparent interference caused by the primary users, a matter that seems grossly unfair by any ones standard.

GB3SE:

This is the only microwave repeater that the group has operational, despite its coverage area being very good; it is unfortunately very under used, but maybe its use, as a beacon for propagation purposes is somewhat different.

A final comment. I have noticed that on most nights there are regular nets and rag chews that take place on GB3VT. We have two repeaters i.e. GB3SX and GB3SE both with excellent coverage, that are little used, it would make sense for these nets to take place elsewhere. Now this may mean that some operators will have to try a bit harder, perhaps (dare I say it) experiment, even return to Amateur Radio as it used to be. Perhaps though not a bad thing, all it requires is a little thought, come on its not that hard to try. something

new. You are licensed to experiment so why not try a few experiments with aeri-als and remember the golden rule: Use it or Lose it !

Regards, Geoff G8DZJ.

GB3WP:

Just to let you know that the repeater is ok, We have had some problems over the last few months, but a new (well newer than the old one) Transmitter has been put into the site, and all seems fine now, so keeping fingers crossed. We have had some abuse on the repeater, and are keeping a close watch on the matter along with the RA, but things are quite as I write this.

Regards all, Steve G6YRK

GB3MN:

Repeater has been operating for some time with out any major problems although the voice announcement no longer works and just gives a "Nasty Buzz" we are looking in to either getting it reprogrammed or removed. There has been the odd "Squeaky" keying over people. Internet linking is no longer available but will be reconsidered if there is sufficient interest from the users of this repeater. (At the time of writing GB3MN has been off air for several days, Dave informs us, he has been up to have a look at the station and got it going but it then failed with in an hour so he has taken the transmitter out and back for bench testing and repair – Editor)

Peter G8NSS / John G8LZO

GB3MR:

Operational no problems reported other than a few periods off air due to power supply problems during bad weather

Peter G8NSS / John G8LZO

GB3MB:

Operational with no problems reported.

Peter G8NSS / John G8LZO

GB3MA:

Operational with no problems reported.

Peter G8NSS / John G8LZO

GB3MP:

No news is good news is the saying and I hope it stays that way. Since we carried out some changes to GB3MP some time back (at the end of the last century) the unit has been working away without too many problems - a testament to Peter, G8NSS's skills and construction techniques. The squelch tail has extended a little so perhaps before the bad weather I may try and get up to the site and bring it back a little but in the meantime I hope it doesn't spoil your use of the repeater. We do get some problems occasionally but these aren't engineering issues they are operator issues

Without alluding too much to the problem we all know the answer to resolving these issues and every time I give a presentation to a local club or group of people regarding repeaters I mention the way to combat the problem – IGNORE IT. To do anything else is infringing your licence and giving someone fuel to add to the fire. I know it's difficult but that is the only way to stop it - it works honestly. The cost of site rental for GB3MP isn't cheap since NTL and CTI decided to charge groups like us somewhere closer to commercial site rental but I'm pleased to

say that for the time being we can still afford to pay the charges - only another handful of groups still have repeaters on these sites. We can only do this thanks to the people who use the repeater joining the group and contributing to the rental. As NoV holder for GB3MP and as Chairman of the group thanks to everyone who does contribute and if you know someone who isn't a member a gentle nudge might just mean another member joining the group.

Best 73 Dave M00BW

GB3CR:

Operational with no problems reported.

GB3LL:

Operational no problems reported – exceptional coverage and can be received in Bolton.

GB3LI:

Operational no problems, has had some work done to replace a faulty power supply.

GB3MF:

Non operational, still no progress although we have now identified a site and the owner has no objections to us putting the repeater in. Paper work being pulled together for the new site. We are not likely to get much further at the present time as the MOD has stopped processing / looking at all new and current applications awaiting site clearance.

Martin G1GYC

GB3UK:

Non operational – this will be the last of the three repeaters that were at Winter Hill to be put on air from the new site at Blackrod. There remains some work required to get the Tx/Rx setup ready to move the equipment to the site.

GB3MT:

Non operational – this will be the second repeater to come back on air the only real hold up here is time and availability of people to get the aerials in place and install the equipment with the final adjustments being done on site.

GB3MC:

Non operational – yes this will be the first one to go back on air- not for an particular reason other than it is all ok and just needs “a Kick and a tweak” when installed after the aerials are in place.

There are many reasons why these valuable repeaters are taking so long to get back on air and yes we know that they leave a big hole in the networks coverage. But it is hoped that we will be able to get all the right people with the right equipment in the right place soon so that at least “MC” and “MT” can be heard again. Remember that those whom build and service the network have other lives and commitments apart from running round keeping our old Ex-PMR gear lavished with TLC

Thanks go to G8NSS, G0MRL, M1CNY, G1GYC, M00BW, M0DFD, G1ITV, G4YYB and many others who support the group raising funds to get this far with the move and getting GB3UK for being a just concept. We still have to make the last mile, to pass the finishing post though and this will be the hardest part of getting these three on air.

GB3PZ:

The repeater is going from strength to strength with increased activity due to some changes to the internet linking hardware now being wired directly in to the repeater and the broadband data connection. I have had some help from a Canadian friend who came across to get these mods and several software parameter tweaks set just right. All this work along with a new receive preamplifier has ensured that the coverage is as wide as can be expected. Giving good service across Manchester and surrounding areas, also out across Cheshire and in to the Liverpool area.

73 Ian G4ZPZ

Notice of AGM 2003

It's nearly time for this year's Annual General Meeting which will be held at the Grappenhall Youth and Community Centre on Monday 15th September starting at 8.00 pm.

Nominations are invited from paid up members for positions on the Committee for the next twelve months. Anyone interested must be 18 years or older and nominations need to be sent to the Group Secretary, details as below.

Included on this year's agenda will be the proposed amendments to the Group's constitution. Under the present one no one under the age of 14 can be a member of the Group and also there is currently no provision for family membership. These amendments will be outlined in the paperwork provided on the night for those attending.

Hope to see you there.

Steve Sparkes Group Secretary UK FM Group (Western)
4 Shaws Fold, Styal, Wilmslow, Cheshire. SK9 4JB
Telephone 01625 528462 Mobile 07732 061049
Email m0dfd@f2s.net

Whats my Call ?

Here is an extract from a letter sent to Kath from Adrian Norcross.

“As you know I also have the call sign M1ZRP as well as M3ANR. I am not sure if I told you the story how the call sign M1ZRP came about, I think you will like this. The Call M1ANR to match my M3 call had been allocated so I was going to accept the next call sign in the series however my wife Deborah suggested that I let our little lad Luke choose it. The alphabet was then written out three times, cut up and placed in a dish. Luke drew out combinations of letters but as call signs they would have been allocated A’s and B’s etc, then low and behold a group of letters were drawn that would guarantee a call sign that would be available. The trouble was I did not fancy becoming M1TIT despite protests from Deborah !!! I’m sure you will agree that it’s remotely possible that some leg pulling might have resulted. I wonder what the odds are of that happening again? Anyway on the next attempt ZRP appeared so M1ZRP was applied for and issued.”

Thanks for sharing that with us Adrian, made me smile ;-)) Martin

A Rogue’s Gallery

A few pictures of some of the people you might hear on the air using UKFMGW supported repeaters.



Billy G0SX A



Ian G4ZPZ



Stan The Man !! M1HLL



Kath M1CNY

Pat G0PAT



On Your Soap Box

Well the 2Mtr Policeman caused a stir, I think one or two took it too seriously and not in the way Ernie had intended. So for this issue I decided not to put in any of the many replies (too hot a subject hi.) so here is some thing I found on the internet before the recent changes to S25 of the international regulations or the dropping of the Morse requirement in the UK Martin G1GYC

" Laurence J. Peter (famous for the Peter Principle) pointed out that insecure people often adopt jargon as a secret language to set themselves apart and make them selves special. Some of us who know the Morse code have used that to set themselves apart from other radio hobbyists as if being a telegrapher conveys some sort of special moral or intellectual status.

One of the disturbing themes which, has floated through some of the threads and comments is the equation of dropping the telegraphy requirement with political liberalism. Huh? One wonders if the any one holding such a view has a grasp of the political history of 20th-century America.

The idea of federal regulatory agencies came out of the progressive movement in the early years of the 20th century. It reached full flower during the New Deal in the '30s, that is, at the time the FCC was created.

Political liberals generally favour government regulation while political conservatives generally favour a free-market deregulated approach. Of course, conservatives recognize that some regulation is necessary for public order and safety, but only a minimum of regulation. Hence, one would expect a liberal to be more likely to support continuing to regulate hams with respect to telegraphy and a conservative to favour removing an obsolete requirement.

Now, someone will argue that eliminating the telegraphy test amounts to a welfare handout for CBers, and welfare equals liberalism. Among the many problems with this line of reasoning is the idea that since "I learned the code, I earned my license." Nonsense! First, a license cannot be earned. One does not perform labour and receive a license in return. If one is qualified, then a license may be issued. Second, the licensor determines the qualifications, not the licensee. Under our system of government, those qualifications are there to assure that the licensee operates in the general public interest. Because the world changes, license qualification criteria change. The conservative approach to such change is, to paraphrase Jefferson; government regulates best which regulates least.

If any argument is like that of a political liberal, it's "let them in without code and the bands will turn into CB." Doesn't that follow the same logic as the liberal argument against once hailed: - "Let them have guns, and the streets will be like Dodge City." The desire to continue restrictive regulation with respect to firearms has been shown to be well-intentioned but wrong in over 30 states. The desire to continue restrictive telegraphy requirements may be similarly flawed.

73 de W3JJH John "

Well what do you think ? Code or No code, Ham Radio or "Multiband CB" what makes a good operator / "Real Ham" ? Have your say and get "On Your Soap Box"

Auntie Vilma's Agony Column

Hello again boys and girls.

Well it's typical of how things happen, there I was just getting comfy with my copy of Readers Husbands D.I.Y. Special, when young Martin knocks on my door with a few letters he had received after my previous serving for you and he has asked me to cobble together another portion for you.

Eeee.. aren't those reader's husbands a wrinkly and small pair, they remind me of the "Good Ol' Boys" I met on the Cow Boy holiday I mentioned in the last issue. Well they were a couple of wags making moonshine and riding their "Harvey DaliSum" motorbicycles in the altogether on a hot day. And I can tell you that a girl got a flash of an Ol' Boys Tally-Wacker, now that brings a smile to most faces.



Well lets get started on the first letter. It is from Colin in Bangor, he is looking to get some kind of aerial up but needs it to be disguised. He asks if the metal frame of an umbrella could be used as the local WX always seems to be wet and this would provide a good cover to have the umbrella up. You may well be able to make use of the broly that way but I would say be very careful if you intend to open it in your back passage as you are suggesting on the drawing you enclosed. I would suggest the use of a good ATU and earthing system. But remember not to let any one touch the wire frame or to grasp the exposed shaft as this could have them and you will be leaping about a bit.

The second letter is from a young lady operator M1SSX whom from the photo is very big for her 14 years. She say's "we've been using 2 plastic cups and a piece of string to make a telephone at sea cadets and it was great fun but it does not provide the desired coverage as the string sags too much."

I suggest a length of mooring rope would give you greater coverage and a couple of 5 litre buckets should provide ample support to lift any old chest.

Simon wants to know how to stop his girl friend twiddling with his knob! Especially as it can be a distraction during long QSO's and it certainly blows your head off when you un-key if she's had a go on the volume.

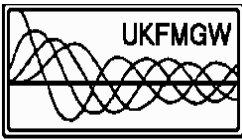
Simon you do not state your age but I guess that you need to get out more and take your girl friend with you. I would recommend that you both go and do some operating in the field, the fresh air, country views will take your mind off radio and this should make twiddling more fun for both of you.

Just time for one more, this is from an anonymous writer, they ask about M3's using alternative phonetic alphabets. Well dear I know nothing about M3's but here are some of the phonetics that my daddy taught me when he was on the Titanic.

A's for 'orses , B's for Honey , C's for ships , D D D's for when y'don't know words , That's all I have for at the moment. But I would like to thank the very nice young gentleman that put a good condition Cat's Whisker in my old crystal set, next door's Persian seems to be a much happier pussy now. So as I sign off again it is 83 and 78

Auntie Vilma

Inside Back Cover



UK FM GROUP (WESTERN)

I, the undersigned, hereby apply for membership to the UK FM Group (Western), undertake to abide by the rules of membership of the Group and only to make use of the Group's repeaters in the approved manner and in accordance with the licence conditions. I further understand that the Group cannot guarantee to maintain operational repeater facilities at all times.

On becoming a member my first annual payment will take effect from the date of submission of my application, and my membership renewal shall become due one year later. I agree that no portion of my membership payment shall be refundable.

Should I participate in any Group activities or use any vehicle in connection with any Group activities, I understand that I do so entirely at my own risk. Furthermore, should I be involved in carrying equipment belonging to the Group in any vehicle, I understand that I would do so at my own risk and that the Group cannot accept claims arising out of accidents involving vehicles either directly or consequentially.

Furthermore, I consent to my particulars being held in the form of computer data, for record purposes, by the Membership Secretary, and agree that the Group is not required to register such information under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1984.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Call-sign	Previous Call-sign
Full Name	
Full Address	
..... Post Code	
Telephone No	E-Mail Address

Subscriptions	£4.00	Paid by:	cash / cheque / PO *
Donations	£ _____	* Please delete as appropriate	
Cheques payable to "UK FM Group (Western)"			

Signature	Date
-----------------	------------

Send to: Membership Secretary
 Mrs K. Wilson M1CNY / M3CNY
 12 New Street
 Elworth
 Sandbach CW11 3JF

PLEASE TICK 3 REPEATERS YOU OPERATE MOSTLY

MN		SE		MF		WP	
MB		LL		MT		SX	
MP		LI		MR		PZ	
VT		CR		SM		UK	
MC		MA		ST			