

D I G I C O M

The Newsletter of MAXPAK, The Midlands Packet User Group

DC71

February / March 2004

Node/BBS News

Correct 7th March 2004

GB7MAX /BLOX Node

The BBS , now using WinFBB continues to perform satisfactorily.

Direct Telnet access to the BBS on Port 4001 remains available. The XRouter Node continues to work well. Telnet access to the BLOX node on Port 2323 is still very much available and is working well.

Contact Chris, G0CNG, sysop, for further information or access password authorisation.

GB7PMB

GB7PMB is currently active on 144.950 MHz, 70.3375 MHz and 432.675 MHz (attended only).

The 4m Port currently has antenna problems and it is planned to install a replacement folded dipole this Spring.

Direct Telnet access to the BBS on Port 4001 is now available. Telnet access to the SALOP node on Port 2323 is also available and is working well.

Contact Tony, G7BUG or Chris, G0CNG, for further information or access password authorisation

GB7WV NODES

All nodes and the UI digipeater are working OK

DY NODES

These nodes are working OK

PP NODES

Currently off air.

Any feedback should be sent to Chris
G0CNG@GB7MAX

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2004 MEMBER'S MEETINGS

Monthly Member's Meetings continue to be held at the **Sir Robert Peel Public House**, located on the main A4124 Bell Lane adjacent to the Lichfield Road / Broad Lane Junction and traffic lights (opposite the old Tildesley Ford Garage).

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The next meetings, all at the Sir Robert Peel at 20.00 hrs in the Upstairs Meeting Room are:

Monday April 5th (AGM 2004)

Wednesday May 5th (Bill G3CAQ will give a talk and slide show about the History of Radio in the West Midlands).

Please note change of day for May Meeting

Please put these dates in your diary.

We hope you may be able to pay us a visit at one of these meetings.

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

Greetings to all Members and Friends,

Once again we come to the end of another Year in the life of Maxpak, a year which has seen some significant changes in the way Maxpak operates. The major change which, I feel, has been well received, has been the change of Meeting Venue to the Sir Robert Peel in Bloxwich. With the majority of regular attendees currently originating from this general area, the move from Perton, I feel, has been a sound one and has resulted in some improved attendances at our Monthly Meetings.

December's Complimentary Christmas Member's Buffet proved very successful and enjoyable and it is hoped to repeat this in December 2004.

Sadly, we, as a group, have had to pull out of the Sale of the Max-01 and Max-02 Modems this year. Our former Chairman, Joe, G4VYA was instrumental in developing and promoting the sales of these modems and for quite a while they proved very popular. In this modern day and age of always-on Broadband Internet connections, this has led to a big increase in packet bulletin boards (including the two Maxpak BBS's GB7MAX and GB7PMB) offering 24/7 Telnet Access which makes even 9K6 radio connections look very slow, coupled with cheap, or even free modems, supplied with many packages, it has become impossible financially to continue to supply the modems at anything like a sensible price, and coupled with falling sales over the past 18 months or so, the Committee reluctantly decided to discontinue modem sales once current stocks are exhausted.

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the AGM 2004 which is on Monday 5th April in the Upstairs Meeting Room of the Sir Robert Peel in Bloxwich. An important Agenda Item is the proposal to change the Club Meeting night from the first Monday to the first Wednesday of each month. This will, in the view of the Committee will have several advantages, including eliminating the Bank Holiday Problem, always a problem with Mondays and, more importantly, allowing members of the local Charlie Delta ARC, which also meet on Mondays to attend our meetings. You will notice that we have already booked our May Speaker, Bill G3CAQ for Wednesday 5th May. Please make a note of this in your diaries and try and come along to support Bill, who will give a fascinating insight to the History of many of our local Amateur Radio Clubs with some fascinating photographs. This Meeting will also be in the upstairs Meeting Room at the Sir Robert Peel starting at 20.00 hrs Local.

I wish to close my Chairman's Report with a "thank you" to David, M0DCM, our Web Site Manager who has continued throughout the Year to develop and update the excellent Maxpak Web Site. Please bookmark it in your Favourites and visit it often. There is lots of excellent Amateur Radio related Software for download as well as a For Sale Forum for which any member is invited to advertise F.O.C. any Amateur Radio or Computer related items for sale. Please email your ADVERTS for inclusion directly to David, (m0dcm@blueyonder.co.uk).

73's until the next issue
Chris Roberts, G0CNG , Chairman.

www.maxpakgb.org.uk

Maxpak Node News 2004

During the Christmas Holiday 2003/04, I upgraded the Maxpak GB7WV (WOLVES) Node System, located at Mander House, Wolverhampton City Centre to G8PZT's XRouter Node Software, finally discarding the NetRom "TheNet X14J" Firmware which has been in operation since the early 1990's. XRouter provides many more facilities both for the User and the Sysop as well as coping more efficiently with large numbers of Nodes in its Node Table, a problem which caused occasional crashes in the X14J Firmware when the node table size exceeded the buffer capabilities of the TNC's. In addition, the IP Routing Capabilities of XRouter will enable a comprehensive IP LAN to be set up in conjunction with my own BLOX node, also running XRouter. My thanks to Paul, G1DVA, Sysop of GB7SOL for his help in configuring the IP Routing side of the System, since he has a far better understanding of this aspect of packet operations than myself. Work is currently proceeding with the IP Routing of both BLOX and GB7WV and it is hoped to have completed this soon. More news to follow soon, together with a full listing of IP Addresses.

It is hoped sometime this Spring, to open a new Node in Telford at the QTH of our Secretary, Miles G4GSB in Madeley, Telford, which will, it is hoped provide the Shrewsbury and North Shropshire Area with improved RF links into the Maxpak BBS's. Work is proceeding on the installation of antennas. It is planned initially to offer two 1K2 Ports on 144.950 and 70.3375 which a 23cms 2K4 link to GB7WV to come later. The Node Callsign has yet to be finally decided. More news to follow.

Chris G0CNG
Node Sysop GB7WV (WOLVES) Nodes

MAXPAK AGM AGENDA 2004

To be held in the Upstairs Meeting Room at the Sir Robert Peel, Bell Lane, Bloxwich, West Midlands on Monday April 5th at 20:00 hrs Local.

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2. MATTERS ARISING
3. CHAIRMANS REPORT
4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS
5. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR
6. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
7. ELECTION OF SECRETARY
8. ELECTION OF TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY
9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS
10. VOTE ON THE CHANGE OF THE CLUB'S MEETING NIGHT
11. A.O.B.

Please contact Miles G4GSB @ GB7MAX or email: milesclifford@aol.com if you would like to submit any items for the agenda. The committee will consider all requests.

The latest date for submission will be **15th March 2004.**

**MAXPAK modems
price list for 2003/04
Specially reduced prices
Prices include P & P
Whilst stocks last**

MAX-01 1200 baud PACKET MODEM

Baycom type modem (3 IC's), PCB, circuit diagram & parts list plus all the components required to populate the PCB.

Members price £15.00

Non members price £20.00

Ready built and tested modems available
£5.00 extra

**PRE DRILLED AND PUNCHED CASE
including installation kit etc.**

Members price £5.00

Non members price £6.00

MAX-02 1200 & 9600 baud MODEM.

This unit is available and comes complete with, PCB, all the components required to populate the PCB, full construction details and agw software on 3.5" floppy disk. FOC

Members prices

Kit including PCB/power kit £30.00

Pre drilled case £ 5.00

Ready made and tested modems are available
for £10.00 extra.

agw software on 3.5" floppy disk. FOC

Non members prices

Kit including PCB/power kit £40.00

Pre drilled case £ 7.00

Ready made and tested modems are available
for £10.00 extra.

agw software on 3.5" floppy disk. FOC

The MAX-01 has been tested with,
Windows 3.1x, Windows95, Windows98
and Windows ME

The MAX-02 will NOT work with Win 3.1x
but has been tested with,
Windows95, Windows98
and Windows ME

MAXPAK who's who

2003 - 2004 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman and Membership Secretary

Chris G0CNG QTHR or @ GB7MAX
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**SysOp GB7MAX, GB7WV, MB7UV
& GB7DY nodes**

Chris G0CNG
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Hon SysOp GB7PP nodes

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**All sales items available from Chris
G0CNG, QTHR as above.**