

# DIGICOM

## The Newsletter of MAXPAK, The Midlands Packet User Group

DC 82

Spring 2007

### Node/BBS News

Correct 25th May 2007

#### GB7MAX /BLOX Node

The BBS/Node, using WinFBB/ XROUTER continues to perform satisfactorily. Current user access to both BLOX and GB7MAX is as follows:

**2m 144.9375 MHz 1K2**

**70cm 432.675 MHz 1K2**

**\*The 4m port has been closed down.**

Direct Telnet access to the BBS on Port 4001 and to the BLOX node on Port 2323 is **now available**

Contact Chris, G0CNG, sysop, for further information or access password authorisation for either or both BBS and the Node.

#### GB7PMB

GB7PMB and its associated SALOP node is regrettably off air until further notice.

#### \*GB7WV NODES

The GB7WV Node cluster was converted to TheNet-X1J4 during January 2007 and the WV11 to Coventry link restored to service.

**User Access to WV22 on 144.975 MHz 9K6**  
**Coming Soon: A new 70cms 1200 Baud access port, WV72 on 432.675 MHz**

#### \*DY NODES

These nodes closed down on 25th May 2007 when our current agreement at Sedgley Scout HQ ends.

#### SHREWS Node, Shrewsbury, UK.

It has been decided to close this node due to lack of use.

\* See Chairman's Jottings for more information. Any feedback should be sent to Chris G0CNG@GB7MAX

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#### **MEMBER'S MEETINGS to September 2007.**

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.

**A to Z Reference: Square 7G, Page 25.**

**Postcode = WS3 2JS**

The next meetings, all at the Sir Robert Peel at 20.00 hrs in the downstairs Lounge Bar are:

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007** Natter evening

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007** Natter evening

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2007** Natter evening

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> Sept. 2007** Natter evening

**PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY TO FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH**

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

## CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

A warm welcome to the Spring edition of Digicom at the end of a busy late winter/early spring 2007 period which has seen several alterations to the MaxPak local radio network.

I converted the GB7WV Node Stack at the Mander Centre, Wolverhampton back to TheNet-X1J4 Node firmware in January 2007, meaning the computer required for XRouter Software could be dispensed with which has freed up a considerable amount of room in the cabinet and should also reduce overheating problems in the hotter summer months with the extra space, so gained, allowing more ventilation as well as reducing power requirements. See the MaxPak LAN on the last page for the current setup. The current setup comprises three PacComm Spirit 2 TNC's for the three 9K6 links and two modified Tiny 2 TNC's for the 2K4 links to Stoke and to Dudley, all linked with a Coaxial LAN.

In addition the APRS Node MB7UV operates as a standalone APRS node on 144.800 Mhz. Following the closure of the GB7DY Sedgley nodes at the end of May 2007, it is planned to open a new 1200 baud 70cms User Access Port at GB7WV. Its alias will be WV72 on 432.675 MHz whose coverage area should be even better than the current DY72 which it is intended to replace.

The DUDLEY Node, G4GSB-8 has been further updated by its Sysop, Miles, G4GSB with user access on 144.850 MHz, and 432.650 Mhz with a 70cms experimental 9K6 access port planned soon (frequency to be decided ) which has a dedicated 23cms 2K4 link to the GB7WV node. After some discussion, the Committee have decided to close down the DY nodes at 1st Sedgley Scout Headquarters when our current agreement expires at the end of May 2007. There have been some QRM problems of late with both DY25 and DY72 and general lack of use particularly of the 2m port, DY25. The new WV72 node should cater for existing users of DY72 adequately as well as providing better linking facilities to other UK and worldwide nodes. The 144.850MHz User Access Port at the DUDLEY node should give adequate coverage of DY25's current operational area.

At GB7MAX I have decided to close down the 4m link to GB7WAL (Sysop, David, G7BNK) in Pelsall, since a good link has been established between GB7WAL and the DUDLEY node on 70cms for which I thank Miles and David for their efforts. Mail forwarding between GB7MAX and GB7WAL now goes via this route most successfully. This has enabled me to ditch a homebrew triplexer which attempted to make my Watson W60 Collinear share 2, 70cm and 4m. This has been in use for about a year. The inevitable result was a degradation in performance of the 2m and 70cms user ports to the frustration of several users. Replacing this with a Kenwood 2m/70cm Duplexer has restored these ports to their full sensitivity again and I can only apologise to the users concerned for the poor performance of these ports lately. Hopefully normal service has now been resumed!

I also plan to replace my Watson W60 collinear this summer as it is now 12 years old and is starting to look rather the worse for wear!

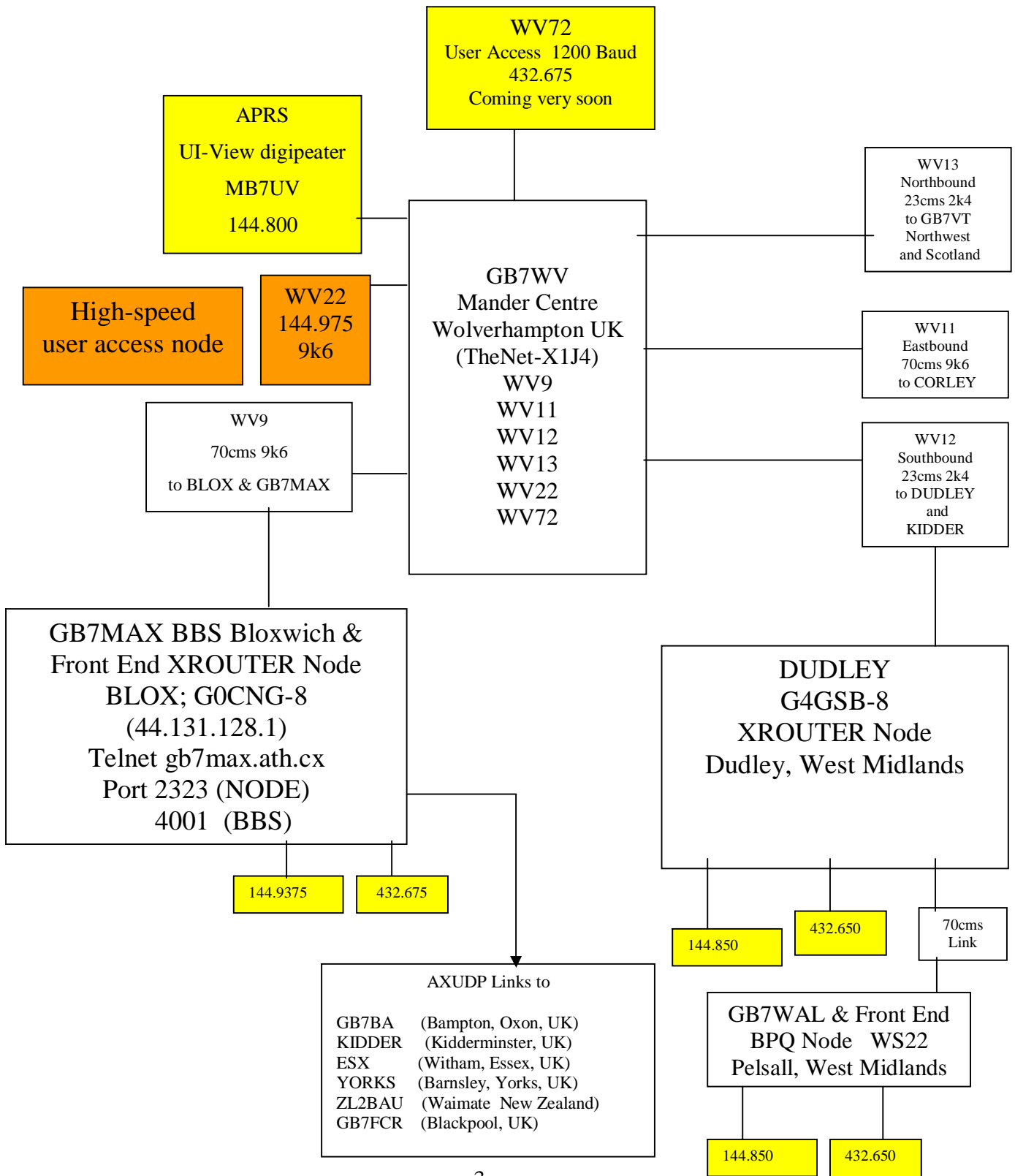
We attended the recent Aldridge Rally which was enjoyable and enabled us to meet many of you! We are attending the Elvaston Rally on 10th June and the Telford Rally at Enginuity, Coalbrookdale on 30th September.

73's for now,  
Chris G0CNG @ GB7MAX  
Chairman and Sysop GB7MAX

[www.maxpak.org.uk](http://www.maxpak.org.uk)

# The MaxPak Local Area AX25 Network; May 2007

1K2 user ports in yellow, 9K6 users ports in brown



# Minutes of MaxPak A.G.M. held on 16th April 2007 at the Sir Robert Peel.

Present: G0CNG, G4GSB, G0KFS, G6KUI, G7BNK G3TIN M0DCM and G7VBJ.

Apologies: G8KHV G0CIX M0FHM and G7BUG.

The A.G.M. started at 20:13

## 1. MINUTES FROM LAST YEARS A.G.M.

- The minutes of the 2006 A.G.M. had been published in Digicom, and were also handed out to all present. They were proposed as a true record by G0KFS and seconded by M0DCM. It was unanimously accepted by all.

## 2. Matters Arising. Non-registered.

## 3. CHAIRMANS REPORT.

4.

- The Chairman reported:
- “It has been a quiet year, with the club and nodes ticking over nicely. I have changed the WV nodes from x-router to “The Net”. This has enabled the removal of the computer from the node, which was causing the equipment to overheat.
- The DY and new Dudley nodes are all working well, as is the main BBS.
- Myself and Miles, demonstrated packet radio to the Stafford ARS, in a well attended talk.
- We have attended rallies last year, and this year plan to attend the Aldridge, Elvaston and Telford rallies.”
- That concluded the chairman’s report.

## 5. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.

- The accounts were presented by G0KFS, who showed that we had a £359 excess income over expenditure.
- We have a healthy deposit account and current account.
- It was pointed out that the rent for the WV node was not on last year’s accounts, due to the site owner failing to send us the bill. We have paid double this year.
- It was also pointed out that there were one off expenditures for the Dudley node
- The accounts were proposed by G4GSB and seconded by G7BNK.
- All unanimously accepted them.

## 6. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR.

- It was accepted by all that we leave the subscription at £10 and continue with the £5 subscription for persons 65 and over.

## 7. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- G0CNG said he was willing to be chairman for another year.
- He was proposed by G7BNK and seconded by G6KUI.
- He was elected unopposed.

## 8. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

- G4GSB was willing to be secretary for another year.
- He was proposed by G7BNK and seconded by G6KUI.
- He was elected unopposed.

## 9. **ELECTION OF TREASURER**

- G0KFS was willing to be treasurer for another year.
- He was proposed by G4GSB and seconded by G0CNG.
- He was elected unopposed.

## 10. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

- M0DCM was proposed by G4GSB and seconded by G0KFS
- G7BNK was proposed by G4GSB and seconded by G7VBJ
- All unanimously accepted them.

## 11. **A.O.B**

- G3TIN asked whether the club insurance included public liability (required in these litigious times). G0KFS informed us that it included £5 million as a standard.
- G7BNK informed us that the DY 2 metre node was very “wide”. G0CNG and G4GSB to investigate.
- G4GSB asked for a contact name and number for the scout’s hall where the DY node is situated. G0CNG to furnish him with the info.
- G0CNG had received an E-mail from G0CIX with regards holding a packet workshop, on the lines of the recent microwave workshop’s. G0CNG to contact other packet clubs about this.
- G0FHM had sent a request that a little help was required with his Shrewsbury node. G4GSB to contact him, and assist where necessary.
- G7BNK asked about this year’s packet conference. G4GSB to contact G8PZT, with regards MaxPak hosting it later this year.

The AGM finished at 20:54.

Minutes prepared by G4GSB.

# MAXPAK Accounts as at 7<sup>th</sup> April 2007

**Current Account** **£265.95**

**Deposit Account** **£3,989.31**

**Petty Cash** **£9.19**

## **Income Vs. Spending 2006/07**

03/04/2006 Through 07/04/2007

### **INCOME**

Transfer from Deposit A/C	£500.00
MaxPak Membership	£265.00
Donation	£51.00
Interest(Deposit A/C)	£17.52
Software Sales	£13.00

**TOTAL INCOME** **£846.52**

### **EXPENSE**

Donations(£300-Air Ambulance,£100-RAIBC,£100-Rad Coms.)	£500.00
Equipment Purchase	£179.89
Insurance	£147.00
Node Site Fees(GB7WV 2006&7)	£140.76
Maxpak Domain Name	£79.87
RSGB Membership	£44.00
Xmas Social	£39.00
Component Purchase	£22.50
Licence(Ofcom)	£15.00
Postage & Delivery	£9.68
Rally Fee/Table	£28.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE** **£1,205.70**

**EXCESS EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME** **£359.18**

Prepared by :-  
Albert Purcell-GOKFS  
**Treasurer**

Audited by :-  
Miss Nicola Ellis

At the request of several members we have included a copy of the revised MaxPak constitution for information.

## MAXPAK CONSTITUTION

### **Preliminaries**

1. The name of the group shall be "MaxPak".
2. Meetings shall be held not less than once per year.
3. The group's year shall be the 1<sup>st</sup> April to the 31<sup>st</sup> March.
4. The group's aims shall be to foster and encourage the use of AX-25 packet radio in the Midlands, and to liaise with other groups of like minds in other areas.

### **Membership**

5. Membership shall be open to all, at the discretion of the committee, and on payment of a subscription.
6. The committee may at their discretion, waive the requirement for payment of the subscription, if in their opinion it would be in the interests of the group to do so.
7. Any member who has payment of his subscription waived shall not be entitled to vote at any Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting.

### **Committee**

8. The group shall be run by a committee, which shall comprise: - Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and not less than two ordinary members of the group.
9. The committee shall serve until the next Annual General Meeting.
10. The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the group.
11. In the event of him not being present, a committee member may be deputed by those members present to preside.

### **Accounts**

12. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the financial affairs of the group and shall maintain such records and books as may be required.
13. The Treasurer shall, upon the request of any member of the committee, provide within reasonable time a written statement of account.

### **Secretary**

14. The Secretary shall record all decisions made at committee and general meetings.
15. In his absence, a member may be deputed for the meeting.

### **Meetings**

16. The Annual General Meeting shall be held, as soon after the group's year-end as possible, and not later than the 30<sup>th</sup> May, to elect a new committee, receive the accounts, and any other business.
17. The new committee shall commence duties at the end of the meeting.
18. The Committee shall notify each member in writing or by (internet) e-mail by sending the notification to the postal or e-mail address held by the Membership Secretary at least 21 days prior to the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting.
19. Any member may request a specific matter be included in the agenda by written notification to the Secretary.
20. Any officer or member may request an Extraordinary General Meeting by writing to the Secretary.
21. Any such request must be supported by at least 4 ordinary members.
22. The committee shall, on receipt of a properly constituted request, notify each member in writing or by (internet) e-mail by sending the notification to the postal or e-mail address held by the Membership Secretary at least 21 days prior to the date fixed for holding the Extraordinary General Meeting, and the meeting may not discuss any other business.

### **Subscriptions & Resignations**

23. The annual rate of subscription shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting.
24. Membership shall last for a period of 12 calendar months, commencing the date the subscription is received and accepted by the membership secretary on behalf of the committee.
25. Further subscriptions shall be due on each and every anniversary thereafter.
26. Membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if payment has not been received within 30 days of the due date.
27. A member may resign at any time, by informing the membership secretary in writing, but no refund of subscription shall be made unless in the opinion of the committee it would be fair so to do.

### **Dissolution**

28. In the event of the group being wound up by a decision of the membership at either an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting, two independent trustees shall be appointed to supervise the execution of all debts of the group and the distribution of all assets of the group.
29. All assets shall be disposed of to a registered charity. The charity shall be determined by the members at the said meeting.

### **Changes to the Constitution**

30. No alteration shall be made to this constitution without the holding of an Annual General Meeting or an Extraordinary General Meeting.
31. A vote in favour shall be indicated by a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3rds) of the total paid-up membership in attendance, including postal votes.
32. A quorum shall be a minimum of 15 paid-up members in attendance.

Revised

2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.

## **Stop Press**

MaxPak will be hosting the 2007 Packet Conference at the Sir Robert Peel in Bloxwich on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007.  
Further details and an agenda will be circulated nearer to the date.  
Please keep this date free in your diaries.

**MAXPAK who's who?  
2007 - 2008 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Chairman and Membership Secretary**

Chris G0CNG QTHR or @ GB7MAX

[chris.g0cng@nasuwt.net](mailto:chris.g0cng@nasuwt.net)

Tel: 01922 494680

**Secretary**

Miles G4GSB @ GB7MAX

[g4gsb@btinternet.com](mailto:g4gsb@btinternet.com)

Tel: 01384 254199

**Treasurer**

Albert G0KFS @ GB7MAX

[albert@g0kfs.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:albert@g0kfs.wanadoo.co.uk)

Tel: 01922 409705

**SysOp GB7MAX, GB7WV, MB7UV**

Chris G0CNG

Details as above

**Technical Manager**

Bob G8KHV QTHR

[g8khv@lichfieldtechnology.co.uk](mailto:g8khv@lichfieldtechnology.co.uk)

Tel: 01543 257500

**Webmaster**

David M0DCM @ GB7MAX

[davemaydew@aol.com](mailto:davemaydew@aol.com)

Tel: 01902 609339

**Digicom editors**

Chris G0CNG

David M0DCM

Details as above