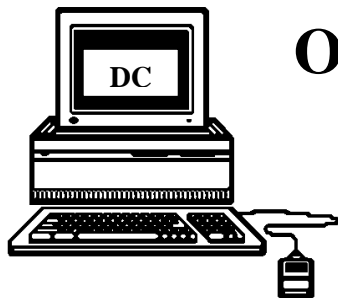


DIGICOM

The Newsletter of

The Midlands Packet User Group

DC63



Oct/Nov
2002

In This Issue

Node/BBS News.	1
Forthcoming Members Meetings.	1
Chairman's Jottings.	2
Future of our Members' Meetings	3
Minutes of September's Maxcom Meeting	4
GB7PMB Update	6
Who's who in <i>MAXPAK</i> .	7

Node/BBS News

GB7MAX

BBS is working satisfactorily.

GB7NWP

The National White Pages Server is working OK.

GB7PMB

BBS is working satisfactorily on its 2m and 70cms ports but not on 4m at present. See later article.

GB7WV NODES

All nodes and the UI digipeater are working OK

DY NODES

These nodes are working OK

G7BUG-8 NODES

The SALOP nodes are working OK.

G0CNG-8 NODES

The BPQ nodes are working OK. It is hoped to change to XROUTER during October.

Any feedback should be sent to Chris
G0CNG@GB7MAX

2002 MEMBER'S MEETINGS

held in the Perton Centre near Wolverhampton

Oct 7th (Monday)

Natter night.

Nov 4th (Monday)

member's Meeting - to be decided. An Email and BBS announcement will be made closer to the date.

Nov 17th (Sunday) at Camp Hill School for Boys, Vicarage Rd, King's Heath. MARS King's Heath Rally. Maxpak in attendance.

December 2nd (Monday)

Christmas Social. Bring along some food and drink and get into a festive mood.

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

Greetings to all Members. My apologies for the slightly late release of Digicom 63. Time has been at a premium since gaining a Promotion at School to Assistant Examinations Officer at the start of September with its consequent learning curve; this on top of my normal teaching duties! The major feature of my Summer has, no doubt, been my four week holiday in Australia, staying in Brisbane, Darwin and Sydney. Murphy's Law, being what it is, dictated that WV10's receiver (WV10 is the 9K6 node which links the WV Node Cluster at Mander House with BLOX and GB7MAX at my house) should go deaf, two weeks into my holiday, resulting in the loss of my main mail forward link into the UK Network, as well as the link to/from the Perton PP nodes. In addition apologies are due to users of the PP nodes for the inability of these nodes to connect to GB7MAX for much of the summer. Hopefully we've resolved these problems now, which was due to NetRom Routing peculiarities, which, I have to admit took some time to track down. My thanks to Peter G6KUI, sysop of GB7DBY who managed to crack the problem for me and advise me accordingly.

I have decided to publish the minutes of our September Maxcom Committee Meeting held on Sunday 29th September for the information of all Members.

I am in the process of replacing BPQ on my BLOX node with G8PZT's excellent XROUTER Node Software. This will not only give both myself and users more facilities including TCPIP Routing, but will enable me to link the system into the Internet, initially via my Dial Up Connection and if this proves successful, eventually by a permanent Broadband Connection. This would enable me to offer Telnet Access to GB7MAX as well as radio connection.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!

Tony, G7BUG and myself hope to be able to offer Broadband 24 hr/day Telnet Access to GB7PMB over the next few weeks. Tony already has BlueYonder Broadband Access so its a matter of installing XROUTER on his system and then getting our heads around the problem of setting up the IP Routing correctly so that it all works! Please bear with us both whilst we struggle to get it working, as Networking and IP Addressing are a new thing to both of us!! With Tony's QTH in Newport Shropshire being at the bottom of a RF 'black hole' I'm sure the Broadband Access will be warmly welcomed by many, unable to connect successfully via radio. Again, **WATCH THIS SPACE!**

Finally, remember to keep visiting our Web-Site; address below.

Thanks to Joe, G4VYA for his sterling work in maintaining the Site.

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

www.maxpakgb.org.uk

Future of our Members' Meetings

It has recently been of concern to the Committee about the very low level of attendance at our monthly Perton Centre Meetings. Apart from the AGM and Roger's TCPIP talk which were both reasonably well attended, our normal Meetings have had no more than 3 or 4 present. Clearly it is not possible to continue to afford the Hire of the room at the Perton Centre for such a low number.

I, as Chairman, am proposing to discontinue the Monthly Meetings as such, after the AGM next April and reduce the Member's Meetings to Once a Quarter, still on a Monday Night, as from April 2003, when our Rental of Perton Centre expires.

Since most of our attendees come from the Bloxwich area, it makes sense to consider moving the meetings over this way, possibly at my School, St Thomas More Catholic Comprehensive, in Willenhall, West Midlands which is very centrally situated for the vast majority of our Membership, immediately adjacent to the A454 Keyway and Black Country Route, in Willenhall.

If you have any feelings for, or against, the above proposal, would you please send me your views, as to possible alternative evenings for our meetings, and Venue, either via Email, Post or Packet (See below for my contact details). This will be discussed at our October and November Committee Meeting, so your views will be very warmly welcomed to help us to come to an informed decision for the benefit of all our Members. We plan to announce a decision at next April's AGM.

I look forward to feedback from as many members as possible concerning this important issue.

Chris G0CNG, Chairman.

Mr C J Roberts,
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Bloxwich,
WALSALL.
West Midlands,
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Email chris.g0cng@nasuwt.net
Packet G0CNG @ GB7MAX

Minutes of Maxcom Committee Meeting, held at G0CNG's QTH on Sunday evening 29th September 2002

Present: Chris G0CNG, Tony G7BUG, Bob G8KHV, David M0DCM.

Apologies: Miles G4GSB, Joe, G4VYA.

1. **Approval of Minutes from the last committee meeting**
The minutes of the last committee meeting were read and approved by all present.
2. **Secretary's Report**
Due to G4GSB not being able to attend, there was no secretary's report this month.
3. **Treasurer's Report**
Chris gave the Treasurer's report. He reported that the Club's finances are currently in a healthy state with a pleasing number of membership renewals over the past few months. Membership of the Club remains at a stable level. He has just renewed the Club's Public Liability and Equipment Insurance policy held with ARIS. He also mentioned equipment purchased over the Summer from SPUG, the Shropshire Packet User Group, when they formally disbanded earlier in the Summer. Purchases have included some Tiny 2 TNC's a Kenwood TM531 23cms transceiver. Also 4m and 6m AKD Transceivers which are to be used at GB7PMB. Also a Spirit 2 9K6 TNC purchased from Robert, G1LOA.
4. **Digicom Editor's Report**
Chris reported briefly on the October/November Digicom which should be ready for distribution via Email and Post over the weekend, 5th-6th October. He apologised for the slightly late release, due to pressure of work. He said that if any members would like to have an article of interest included, that they should please feel free to email them to Chris. See Committee contact details for his Email address.
5. **GB7MAX Sysop's Report**
Chris reported that GB7MAX continues to serve well. He apologised profusely for the problems encountered during August with the failure of the BLOX to WV10 link causing all forwarding to be cut. Unfortunately it happened when Chris was in Australia. Chris expressed his sincere thanks to Pete, G1WXA, Sysop of GB7BHM and also his Dad, G7PHQ for their efforts in setting up an alternative link to WV22 to keep things ticking along until he returned to the UK.
He plans to introduce G8PZT's XROUTER Node software onto the BLOX node with the aim of allowing Internet connectivity and also making TCPIP over radio a possibility locally. This will involve some outages of GB7MAX on some Saturday's during early October, but such outages will be kept as short as possible and advance warning posted to all users via the Carbon

Server when work is planned. Chris apologised for these but hopes the end result will be a more comprehensive system.

6. **GB7PMB Sysop's Report**

Tony, G7BUG summarised the current position of GB7PMB. He apologies for the lack of 4m and 6m User ports so far. This was due to a problem with the transceivers. Chris hopes to help him to get the 4m port on air on a frequency of 70.3375MHz, 1K2, by the weekend of 5-6th October 2002. We hope to install G8PZT's XROUTER node software on the system and to permanently connect GB7PMB to the internet via Tony's Telewest Blueyonder Broadband connection. This will enable Telnet Access to GB7PMB as well as making its forwarding of mail and bulletins much more rapid and efficient than is currently the case.

Tony also asked all users to bear with him whilst he learns the ropes of FBB BBS Software as he is a newcomer to operating a BBS system.

7. **DY and WV Sysop's Report**

Apart from WV10, which serves the 9K6 70cms forward link to BLOX and GB7MAX, the WV nodes have performed well over the summer. As mentioned in the GB7MAX Sysop's report, the Storno CQM5664, operating WV10 mysteriously went deaf during August, unfortunately exactly half way through Chris's holiday in Australia! On his return, he replaced it with his Yaesu FT8500 which served well whilst the Storno was repaired. The Storno was placed back in service early September and has performed well since then. Thanks to users who reported that DY25 had gone off air at the beginning of September. Following a visit to the DY site at Sedgley Scout HQ, Chris discovered the DY25 TINY 2 had crashed. He cleared out its RAM and performed a hard reset and it has once again been working correctly since. Again, apologies are due to those users who suffered inconvenience.

8. **Member's Meetings 2002-2003**

Chris again expressed his wish to reduce the frequency of Meetings to one a quarter and meet at a more central location. Chris's place of work, St Thomas More Catholic School in Willenhall, West Midlands, adjacent to the Black Country Route was thought to be a good possibility when our Perton Centre Rental expires next Easter, 2003. It was agreed to put a questionnaire for all members to have a say, for or against this proposal in the October/November Digicom. It is hoped that as many members as possible will take the trouble to send in a reply to this.

The pattern of Meetings until the 2003 AGM will, however, remain as advertised, on a monthly basis at Perton Community Centre.

October 7th's Meeting will be a natter night. November's meeting remains to be announced, although it may well be a talk about the upgraded facilities at GB7MAX if Chris's October modifications work out OK.

December's meeting will be the traditional pre-Christmas Social Gathering. The 2003 Meetings remain to be discussed at the next Committee Meeting.

9. **Maxpak Web Site**

Chris, on behalf of the Committee expressed his continued appreciation to Joe, G4VYA on his sterling work as Web Manager, who, in spite of having to

spend much of his time nursing his wife through a period of illness, continues to maintain and update the site regularly.

10. **Rally Reports**

Maxpak have attended the Wythall, Drayton Manor, Elvaston Castle, Aldridge and Telford rallies this year. Unfortunately, due to lack of available man power, we were unable to attend Leicester Show this year. We plan to attend just one more rally this year, the MARS Kings Heath Rally in Mid November to be held at Camp Hill School for Boys.

11. **AOB**

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was formally closed at 22.00 hrs.

Minutes by Chris, G0CNG, Chairman

GB7PMB

Work will be going on during October to improve the services offered by GB7PMB. GB7PMB is currently working with the following User Access Radio Ports:-

4m 70.3375MHz 1K2 (to be operational by 5th October 2002)

2m 144.950MHz 1K2 (currently operational)

70cms 433.650 Mhz 1K2 (currently operational on **attended basis only** until arrival of NOV)

In addition we are to install G8PZT's XROUTER Node software onto the system which will operate the SALOP front end node on the above radio frequencies with the important addition of **Telnet User Access**, available via the Internet, 24 hours daily utilising Tony's cable Blue Yonder Broadband access, currently available.

News updates will be made available as progress proceeds.

Please remember that Tony, GB7PMB's Sysop is still very new to FBB and your patience whilst he becomes more familiar with the software would be very much appreciated. If he cannot answer your question, he will direct you to myself to help. I can perform many functions on GB7PMB as remote sysop, such as granting full access and setting up passwords etc. so **please don't not be afraid to ask and one of us will get you sorted!**

Tony's contact details are in the Who's Who section of this issue.

MAXPAK modems price list for 2002

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 £36.00
Non members price £38.50
Ready built and tested modems available
£5.50 extra

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

Members price £5.95
Non members price £6.50

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 £55.50
Kit including ext power kit £60.50
Retro fit power kit £ 5.00
Pre drilled case £11.00
Ready made and tested modems are available for £11.50 extra.
agw software on 3.5" floppy disk. FOC

Non members prices
Kit including PCB £57.50
Kit including ext power kit £63.00
Retro fit power kit £ 5.50
Pre drilled case £11.50
Ready made and tested modems are available for £11.50 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

MAXPAK who's who

2002 - 2003 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman

Chris G0CNG QTHR or @ GB7MAX
chris.g0cng@nasuwt.net
Tel: 01922 494680

Secretary

Miles G4GSB @ GB7MAX
milesclifford@aol.com
Tel: 01952 585447

Acting Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Chris G0CNG
Details as above

SysOp GB7MAX, WV, MB7UV & DY nodes

Chris G0CNG
Details as above

Technical Manager

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Hon. Webmaster @ maxpakgb.org.uk

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Digicom editors

Chris G0CNG
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and

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Sysop, GB7PMB / SALOP Node

Tony G7BUG @ GB7PMB
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Hon SysOp GB7PP nodes

Mick G1DKI QTHR or @ GB7MAX
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