

DI G I C O M

The Newsletter of MAXPAK, The Midlands Packet User Group

DC72

April / May 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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2004-2005 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).

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

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

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 you all. After last month's AGM; minutes enclosed in this issue, the committee have remained the same and yours truly is still chairman ☺, It was good to welcome some new faces to the AGM too. This year promises to be a busy one with some important changes. Firstly we have altered the Member's Meeting night from the first Monday to the first WEDNESDAY of each month, at the Sir Robert Peel in Bloxwich. May's meeting on Wednesday 5th May, in the Upstairs Meeting Room at the Sir Robert Peel, commencing at 20.00 hrs BST, will be a talk and slide show by Bill, G3CAQ who will be telling us about the history of Amateur radio in the West Midlands, accompanied by some interesting slides. As some of you will know, Bill has recently published a book related to the above and a selection of the slides to be shown are published in his book. I'm sure Bill will be glad to take orders for his book at the Meeting.

Over Easter it was necessary to replace a faulty antenna at our Mander House GB7WV site which was damaged in the recent gales. This antenna formed the 70cms 9K6 link to BLOX / GB7MAX. The link is once again working well. At the same time Peter G6KUI, Sysop of ALVAST / GB7DBY, in Derby, and I experimented with the possibility of a 70cms 9K6 link from Wolverhampton to Derby using the radio and TNC from the now defunct GB7WV to GB7HL link. Due to loss of other routes, increased use of internet linking, and greater difficulty in accessing the Node site for maintenance work, the Sysops of GB7HL have decided to close the node. My thanks to them all for its many years of reliable service and much mail and Dx Cluster traffic was moved over this link over the years. Unfortunately the experiments were not a success. The signal strengths at each end were too low and fluttery for reliable 9K6 data transmission. The radio and TNC have now been placed on a vertically polarised collinear to enable possible future routes to be easily introduced; e.g a possible backup route to GB7MIP in South Yardley, Birmingham. Some antenna work is currently in progress at GB7PMB in Newport, Shropshire. The 4m Half Wave vertical has been replaced by a folded dipole and the 2m/70cm Colinear is to be erected on top of this new 4m mast soon.

G4GSB's "Telfrd" Node in Madeley, Telford, Shropshire is currently operational on 144.950 MHz, 1K2 with excellent coverage over most of the Midlands and connects well to GB7PMB on its 144.950 port. G4GSB currently reports teething problems with his 4m port but he hopes to have it available as soon as possible on 70.3375 MHz. Future plans for this site include a 23 cms link to GB7WV.

May 15th, sees the 2004 Packet Conference to be held this year at the Poacher's Pocket, Warndon, Worcester. Everyone is welcome to attend, please contact Paula G8PZT @ GB7PZT if you would like to attend. See also bulletins on the UK packet network. I will be attending so hope to meet some of you there.

Until the next issue, I bid you well and enjoy the Spring Weather!

73's Chris G0CNG, Chairman 2004-05.

www.maxpakgb.org.uk

MINUTES OF MAXPAK A.G.M. HELD ON 5TH APRIL 2004 AT THE SIR ROBERT PEEL

Present: G0CNG, G4GSB, G7BUG, G0KFS, G0DCM, G0WCI, G7BNK, G6KUI, G7NZN and G4MTG.

Apologies: G0OJR, G3STG, G7PHQ, G7VBJ, G8VPR and G8KHV.

The A.G.M. started at 20:10

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

- The minutes of the 2003 A.G.M. had been published in Digicom, and were also handed out to all present. They were proposed as a true record by G7BUG and seconded by G4MTG.

2. Matters Arising. Non-registered.

3. CHAIRMANS REPORT. The chairman reported:

- I have looked through the last 12 months of Digicom and see that we have had another good year. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support over the last 12 months. I think that moving the club from the Perton Centre to our present location is a good move. More members are able to attend.
- We attended several rallies last year, Drayton, Aldridge, Kings Heath and Telford. We missed Elvaston Castle.
- The use of telnet to the 2 BBS'S has been very successful. We have installed the old 2 metres co-linear from the Perton centre at GB7PMB, and this is performing very successfully.
- Some bad news we had from Rob G1LOA. The node/router he had spent a lot of time and money setting up at Turners Hill had to be dismantled. The owners decided that he wasn't allowed to have any equipment there. More bad news was that GB7BHM has shut down. I would like to thank Peter, G1WXA for all the help he has given me setting up XRouter and telnet.
- I attended the successful packet conference last year and hope to attend this year's one. Both organised by Paula G8PZT.
- During the Christmas break, I re-vamped the WV nodes from The Net to XRouter. I have also incorporated UIView onto WV. This was a separate unit.
- The committee decided to stop selling the Maxpak modems, as we are now unable to support them.
- This year we had a very successful Christmas social gathering and we hope to repeat it again this year.
- The chairman's report was proposed by G0WCI and seconded by G7BUG.

4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.

- The accounts were presented by G0KFS, who showed that we had a £274.15 excess income over expenditure.
- He had done an inventory of all Maxpak equipment, and valued their total at £3430 (second hand value).
- He also informed us that the e-mailing of Digicom saves us a lot of money.
- Our insurance was £52 per year, but this was only for public liability. None of the equipment was insured for theft or damage. So with the committee's approval, he had increased the insurance to cover all our equipment. The premium is now £126.00
- The accounts were proposed by M0DCM and seconded by G4MTG.

5. SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR.

- It was accepted by all that we leave the subscription at £10, this would encourage members to stay, and may attract new members.
- This was proposed by G4MTG and seconded by M0DCM.

6. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

- G0CNG said he was willing to be chairman for another year.
- He was proposed by G0KFS and seconded by M0DCM.

7. ELECTION OF SECRETARY

- G4GSB was willing to be secretary for another year.
- He was proposed by G0CNG and seconded by G7BUG.

8. ELECTION OF TREASURER

- G0KFS was willing to be treasurer for another year.
- He was proposed by G4GSB and seconded by M0DCM.

9. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS.

- M0DCM was proposed by G4GSB and seconded by G6KUI to be the Digicom editor and the web site manager.
- G8KHV was proposed (in his absence and with his approval) by G0CNG and seconded by G4GSB to be the technical manager.
- G7BUG was proposed by G0CNG and seconded by G0WCI to be the sysop of GB7PMB.

10. VOTE ON CLUB DAY CHANGE.

- G0CNG proposed that we change the club meeting day from Monday to Wednesday. He had polled various members, who stated that Wednesday was a more convenient day for them.
- It would also help with the bank holiday Mondays that affect our meetings.
- It was seconded by G0KFS and unanimously accepted by all.
- We were also informed that a talk and power point presentation would be given by Bill, G3CAQ on Midland Radio Amateurs past and present, on 5th May.
- G0CNG asked all present to attend and bring a visitor to what will be a very informative evening.

11. A.O.B.

- G7BUG thanked G0CNG for all the help he had given him in setting up GB7PMB.
- The chairman stated that we would not be doing the Drayton rally this year, but would be attending Aldridge, Elvaston Castle and Telford.
- We will also sell any members equipment at the Maxpak rally stand (for a suitable donation to the club funds).

The AGM finished at 21:15.

Minutes prepared by G4GSB.

Science Week Event 2004

Hi, here is a short write up of this years Science Week Events, which were held 15th-16th March.

This years Science Week Events were run in conjunction with the Charlie Delta ARC. The first event was March 15th and was held at St.Thomas More School, Willenhall. David (M0DCM), along with Tony (M3TBA), Pete (M1PTE) and Geoff (G7NZM) ran a PowerPoint lecture which showed the pupils what Amateur Radio is, and also what is involved to get into the hobby.

After each lecture Geoff, Pete and Tony ran a couple of on the air stations which allowed the pupils to pass on greetings messages. The HF conditions on the day were not very good, and only a few contacts around the U.K. were made on 40m, but on 2m quite a few contacts were made locally via simplex and GB3BX the local repeater. The Charlie Delta ARC would like to thank G0CNG Chris for helping arrange the event.

Tuesday 16th March, was at the Bentley West Primary School, Walsall. This event went better than Monday! The children were aged between 7-11 and they all thoroughly enjoyed the day. We did a couple of hands on demonstrations for the children, which included 2 plastic cups with a piece of string in between and also 3 446MHz 446 HT's and this went down a treat with each child taking it in turn to speak to each other. After lunch, a selection of children from years 4 & 5 were given the chance to pass a few greetings messages over the radio, and this time conditions on HF were much better, and messages were sent to New York and Canada. A couple of the children were hard of hearing, but this didn't stop them from joining in the fun. The Club has been invited back for next years Science Week, but this time for a 2 day event, as it went so well.

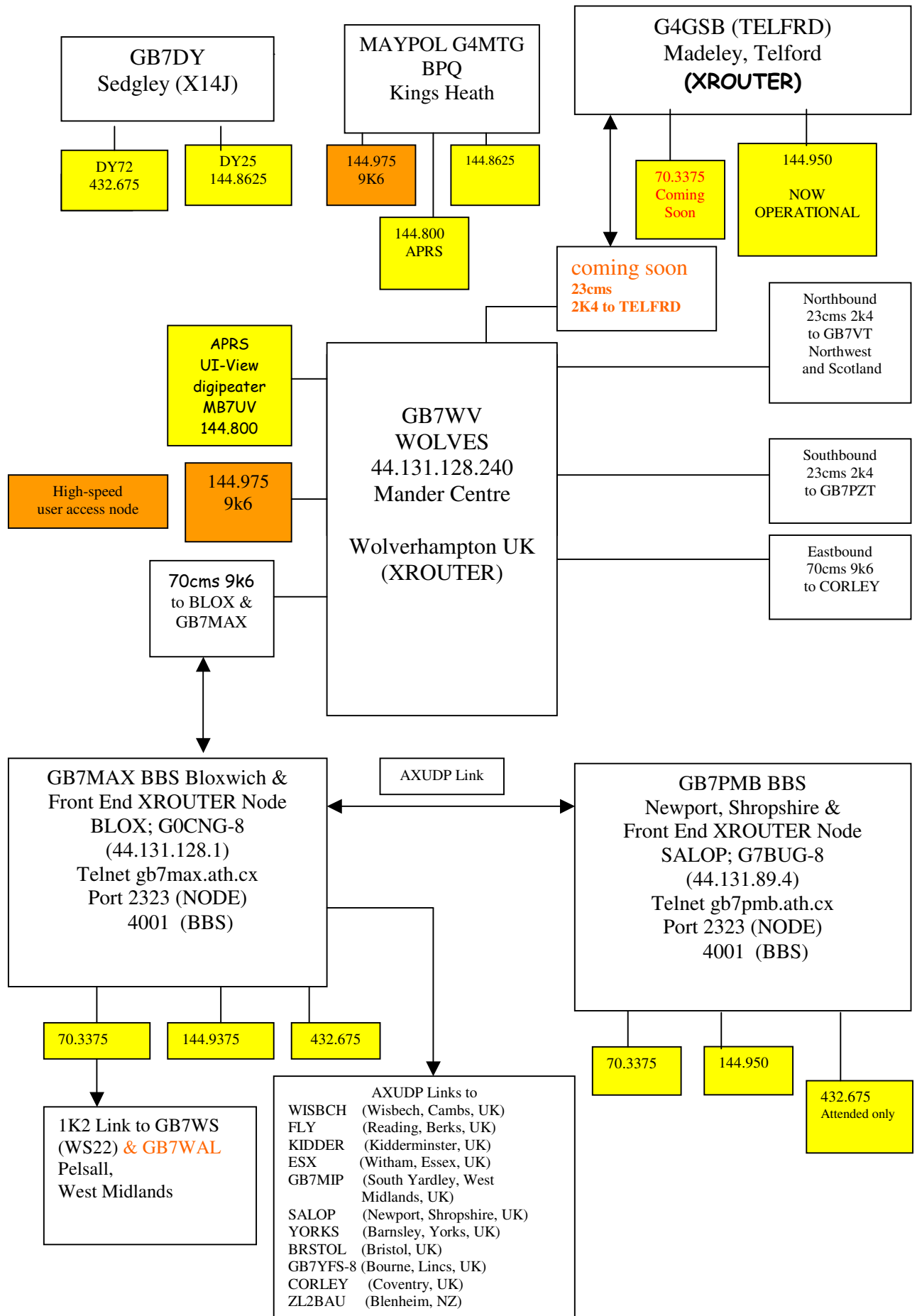
So until next years Science Week Events.....
73 de David M0DCM



Adam Dickens, aged 13, takes part in the radio lesson at St Thomas More school

The MaxPak Local Area AX25 Network; April 2004

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



**MAXPAK modems
price list for 2004/05
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

Member's 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 member's 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?

2004 - 2005 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman and Membership Secretary

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**SysOp GB7MAX, GB7WV, MB7UV
& GB7DY nodes**

Chris G0CNG

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