

DIGICOM

The Newsletter of MAXPAK, The Midlands Packet User Group

DC 77

March/April/May 2005

Node/BBS News

Correct 22 May 2005

GB7MAX /BLOX Node

The BBS/Node, using WinFBB/ XROUTER continues to perform satisfactorily.

User access to both BLOX and GB7MAX

2m 144.9375 MHz 1K2

2m 144.825 MHz 9K6

70cm 432.675 MHz 1K2

4m 70.4875 MHz 1K2

Direct Telnet access to the BBS on Port 4001 is available. (Telnet gb7max.ath.cx Port 4001) Telnet access to the BLOX node on Port 2323 is 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, and 432.675 MHz (attended only).

The 4m port is temporarily QRT.

Direct Telnet access to the BBS on Port 4001 is available.

Telnet access to the SALOP node on Port 2323 is also available.

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

Any feedback should be sent to Chris
G0CNG@GB7MAX

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2005 MEMBER'S MEETINGS to Sept. 2005

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 downstairs Lounge Bar are:

Wednesday 1st June

Wednesday 6th July

Wednesday 3rd August

Wednesday 7th September

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

CHAIRMAN'S JOTTINGS

My sincere apologies for the lateness of this issue. This was due mainly to allow inclusion of a brief report of the Packet Conference 2005 held in Worcester on 7th May. Also, we have decided to issue Digicom once a quarter as from this Year's AGM.

Following the April 2005 AGM, the Committee remains unchanged. Thanks to all for standing again for this year.

My feeling is that packet activity in the West Midlands remains at a healthy level. GB7MAX has a good number of regular users, both radio and telnet. It has been good to welcome a number of new radio users since the last Digicom. David, G7BNK, sysop of GB7WAL, my immediate neighbouring BBS, reports a healthy userbase on his system too. Well done David, keep up the good work you do.

GB7WAL may be accessed on 144.850 MHz and 432.650 MHz, both ports 1K2.

The informal Maxpak Members Meetings held at the Sir Robert Peel, Bloxwich on the first Wednesday of the month, have all been enjoyable occasions and it has been good to see recent attendances improving. Do come along if you have not done so far. You'll enjoy the natter the company and the beer. The Robert Peel has a good selection of popular local brews.

We hope to welcome you to one of our meetings soon.

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

www.maxpakgb.org.uk

UK Amateur Packet Radio Conference 2005

Held at the Poacher's Pocket, Warndon, Worcs on Saturday 7th May 2005

Below is a brief report of this year's proceedings, as recorded by Chris, G0CNG. The full minutes of the day's events should be released in due course on the Packet Network by Paula G8PZT and will be available on her website www.pzt.org.uk.

The day started at 09.30 hrs with a welcome cup of coffee and the opportunity to meet other delegates (about 25 in all) before the formal start of proceedings at 10.00 hrs.

Steve, G4FPV was elected Chairman of the meeting and chaired the rest of the day's proceedings to a high standard.

The first major item was an update of the current state of the UK packet network given by representatives of each of the main packet groups. I did the honours for our MaxPak Network. In spite of several key node sites having been closed recently, most notably the FOD (Forest of Dean) due to high site fees in recent years, the UK Network has continued to grow thanks to Internet Linking filling the gaps in the RF coverage. This has resulted in internode connectivity being better than ever with the elimination of slower RF internode links.

There followed a open-forum discussion about practical issues regarding management of the UK node and BBS networks.

After a coffee break, Paula G8PZT gave a presentation about her "voice over packet radio" experiments. She has been applying the "VOIP" principle to digitise analogue voice waveforms and reduce the bandwidth sufficiently to send the digitised packets via 9K6 packet radio links. Some interesting discussion ensued and her experiment continues.

Paula followed this with an update on her XROUTER node software (in use here at BLOX/GB7MAX) currently on Version 1.86b with possible new developments/bug fixes.

After lunch, enjoyed in the restaurant, the bulk of the afternoon session involved a brainstorm/discussion open forum about the future of UK packet radio. The consensus of the meeting was that UK packet radio has currently reached a stable state with the number of users rather less than a few years ago, but those who remain are enthusiastic and with some new nodes and BBS's opening to replace those which have closed.

After a tea break the final session was dominated by a discussion led by Bryan G0SYR about inter UK and overseas node linking via both Internet and radio links. Much discussion ensued and the meeting came to an agreement that Route Qualities of 120 should be used on internet links between UK nodes with a quality of 50 and MinQual 49 being used on overseas links and to UK nodes not complying with the agreement. This should ensure that node tables do not become full of overseas unconnectable nodes. Radio linking qualities should fit in with the above, with qualities set so that traffic passes either via the radio or the internet depending on which is the faster at the time. I have attempted to implement the agreement on both my BLOX node and also our GB7WV nodes in Wolverhampton.

The final session and the day's proceedings concluded at about 17.30pm.

Report by Chris G0CNG, Chairman of Maxpak and Sysop BLOX node and GB7MAX BBS.

MINUTES OF MAXPAK A.G.M. HELD ON 6TH APRIL 2005 AT THE SIR ROBERT PEEL

Present: G0CNG, G4GSB, G0KFS, G6KUI, and G3CAQ.

Apologies: G7BUG and G7VBJ.

The A.G.M. started at 20:40

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

- The minutes of the 2004 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 G6KUI.

2. **MATTERS ARISING.** Non-registered.

3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.** The chairman reported:

- This has been a quiet year. All the nodes are running O.K. and have required very little repair.
- He has installed an end filter program on the BBS, which captures all 7plus bulls. This enables me to check their content, and release all parts onto the system. This stops potentially bad messages, and guarantees all users can have a complete 7plus file.
- GB7PMB is also working O.K.
- The chairman's report was proposed by G4GSB and seconded by G6KUI.

4. **PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS.**

The accounts were presented by G0KFS, who showed that we had a £56.62 excess expenditure over income.

- He had done an inventory of all Maxpak equipment, and valued their total at £3430 (second hand value).
- Our insurance was £147 per annum, but this included public liability as well as theft etc.
- The accounts were proposed by G0CNG and seconded by G4GSB.

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 G0KFS and seconded by G0CNG.

6. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

G0CNG said he was willing to be chairman for another year.

7. **ELECTION OF SECRETARY**

G4GSB was willing to be secretary for another year.

8. **ELECTION OF TREASURER**

G0KFS was willing to be treasurer for another year.

9. **ELECTION FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS.**

M0DCM, G8KHV and G7BUG had previously agreed to stay on as committee members.

Note. The above items 6, 7, 8 and 9, election of committee etc were retained due to lack of attendance. It was agreed that should members require a change, the committee would accept it.

10. **VOTE ON CLUB DAY CHANGE.**

The club meeting day was reviewed, and accepted by all to leave it standing on the first Wednesday of the month.

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

- G0CNG informed us that the Telford rally was re-locating this year to the Shrewsbury Show grounds. G0KFS would check out and report to the committee on parking, stands etc. It was agreed we would attend the Elvaston Castle rally on 12th June as well this year.
- G4GSB informed the Meeting that due to an impending house move, he has had to close down his G4GSB-8 Node. He hopes to re open it at a later date from his proposed new QTH in the Dudley area.

The AGM finished at 21:15.

Minutes by Miles, G4GSB, Secretary.

**MAXPAK modems
price list for 2005
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

**PRE DRILLED AND PUNCHED CASE
including installation kit etc.**
Members price £5.00
Non members price £6.00

JUST A FEW NOW REMAINING!

MAX-02 1200 & 9600 baud MODEM.
This unit is available and comes complete with, PCB, all the components required to populate the PCB, and full construction details.

Member's prices
Kit including PCB/power kit £30.00
Pre drilled case £ 5.00

Non member's prices
Kit including PCB/power kit £40.00
Pre drilled case £ 7.00

Both the MAX-01 and MAX-02 work with the SV5AGW driver software, readily available from the internet (links on the MaxPak Website).
AGW software for Windows interfaces well with Winpack, UI-View and other terminal software.

MAXPAK who's who?

2004 - 2005 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman and Membership Secretary

Chris G0CNG QTHR or @ GB7MAX
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Secretary

Miles G4GSB @ GB7MAX
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Treasurer

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**SysOp GB7MAX, GB7WV, MB7UW
& GB7DY nodes**

Chris G0CNG
Details as above

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