

Summary of the Packet Radio Project Meeting
Saturday 27th November 1999

Present: Alan Bain, Michael Wells, Elizabeth Blackburn,
Steve Whitehouse, Mike Adlesee, Steve Platt

Current Project Status

The current status of the project is that the equipment is in the Inglis lab (CUED), and the diamond 2m / 70cm antenna has been put up on the roof of this building. The set up is waiting only for a rig to be placed into test. The machine has a new hard disk with OS software (Linux) installed and ready to use (it worked with Steve's rig).

[The TNC is a Tiny-2 costing about L140]

Current equipment set up is only sufficient for 1200 baud, so can connect to G70IP on 2m; as ORL (now AT&T) labs have a 70cm access from GB70RL (only on 9600 baud) this is possible as a first step, but would require a faster TNC. They use 432.625MHz (allocated for High Speed TCP/IP use) as the 70cm frequency. They also have a 56kbs link to Dave Brook (G6GZH sysop of G70IP) at Over.

2m Access

Cambridge and District ARC donated us two Pye M294 rigs (6 channel crystal controlled ex-pmr) for use on the 2m band. We need to decide what frequencies these will be used on and I will order appropriate crystals.

For 1200 baud use the DataComms subcommittee specify:
[see <http://www.rsgb-dcc.demon.co.uk/bandplan/2mband.htm>]

144.875 MHz TCP/IP User access (12.5kHz)
144.925 MHz TCP/IP User access (12.5kHz)

It is believed that 144.925 MHz is already in use around Cambridge as Dave Brooks user access frequency, and so maybe we should consider using the other. As custom Xtals are quite expensive (about eight pounds each) we will need to make some decision on this before I order any.

Another possibility mentioned by Michael Wells was the use of an old Sound Blaster card to generate 9600 bps packet to avoid the need for a (costly) 9600baud TNC.

Future Plans

Steve will hand on running the equipment in the engineering department to Michael when he leaves (date as yet uncertain!). Plans are to get something up and running as quickly as possible so high speed plans will be shelved temporarily.

The computer in CUED needs a new monitor. I have acquired as a skip special an old Mono VGA monitor; subject to confirmation that it works(!) this can be passed on to the project.

Michael will investigate the sound modem idea as this could be a cheap way to get everything up and running; however the old 486 may not be sufficiently powerful for this.

We will use the 70cm FT790 from the shack for the moment. Security may be an issue -- how does the insurance for this stand if it isn't at the shack? On the other hand engineering is full of security so this may be no problem.

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