

Metre Wave

This page last time took a look at the 'Why' of the repeater concept (in order to help VHF mobile stations maintain communications over difficult terrain) and the 'How' (how repeaters have been brought into existence by enthusiastic groups all over the country). And now, after the 'Why' and the 'How', the 'Do', in other words, when you have designed, licensed and commissioned your repeater station, in what way do you expect it to be used?

many other development of the technological twentieth century — the motor vehicle, atomic power — it should be used with some respect.

Its purpose is to provide two-way communication between 'the disadvantaged' who without its aid would not be able to talk to one another at all. Every mobile operator comes within this category of 'the disadvantaged'. There he/she is with a few quarter-wavelengths of antenna perched only a few feet above basic ground level on

compelled to use a repeater or repeaters.

Which repeaters? If your daily driving pattern is a moderately unchanging one within a given radius from home you will know by custom and practice which your local repeater is and therefore which channel will provide you with the best talk-return. But, if your driving pattern takes you farther afield, then make sure your transceiver is channelized for all the repeaters in whose areas you will appear.

The Repeater story: Part 2 — Usage and Abuse. *By Jack Hum, G5UM*

Identifying Repeater

Note those three words "to be used". Add one syllable to them and you can change them into "to be abused". Some of them are. Hence the word "abusage" in our title-line.

Let us dispose straight away of the unsavoury business of the abuse of repeaters the more readily to move on to the more positively orientated matter of their normal and proper use. Abuse of repeaters takes two forms. Deliberate jamming, countered by the passive tactic of ignoring the jammer and the active of one DF-ing him, is one of them. Loose talk is the other, perpetrated by legitimate operators whose style of through-repeater conversation is no credit to their call signs ("There was so much rubbish on the repeater tonight it was painful to hear" remarked a man on the local 2m net on the very evening when this article was being drafted).

Enough of that: on now to the "positive orientation".

High Technology Invention

A VHF/UHF repeater-transponder is an ingenious invention derived from high technology. Like

the top of his vehicle and waving around in the slipstream of his passage along the highway. Girt about by high buildings and by vehicles much taller than his own, he has every reason to believe that communication on the metre-wavelengths is a practical impossibility. His is the station most in need of the services of a repeater. To him, through-repeater priority should be given at all times.

There is another, slightly less imperative-priority operator who comes within the description of 'the disadvantaged'. It is the one who can communicate with a companion so far distant that only the through-repeater process will provide a link, assuming that all other avenues of communication have been explored, such as SSB or CW or the use of a 'gainy' beam antenna, and all have been found wanting.

"What Channels Should I Carry?"

Right, then: you are one of the disadvantaged. You are a mobile operator who for most of your driving time will be unable to set up direct contacts at VHF/UHF and will be

How do you know which these repeaters are likely to be? Answer: by using the RSGB Repeater List obtainable for 32p (including postage) by RSGB members or 35p by non-members from RSGB HQ at Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3JW. However, remember that the RSGB Repeater List, like many others which have been published in the amateur radio press, must be regarded as obsolescent from the day it appears. Any directory is. A repeater directory, especially, becomes outdated quickly, simply because so many new repeater projects are in the proverbial pipeline at any one time that all the mobile operator can do to keep reasonably abreast is to update his printed list himself, as information about additions to it become known.

On 70cm in particular new repeater schemes are proliferating to the extent that the even-numbered channels are virtually all taken in areas of high amateur radio activity. Odd-numbered channels are now being increasingly assigned on 'Seventy'.

And what are these channels? They were tabulated here last time; but the information they give is so important to mobile users that we make no apology for reprinting here the two Repeater Channel tables for