

MCBARG Climb Report

Date : 24th May 2026
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Ground Crew : Alan G3XPY, Keith G8IXN
Report : Ian G1JXP

OBJECTIVE

To remove and replace the Top Connector feeding the GB3NC Antenna at the 31m point and re analyse the Coax feeder to ascertain if the breakdown voltage has been improved.
Carry out visual assessment of the corroded Tower member at 18m with a view to planning how it will be removed and replaced.

WORKS

The GB3NC Antenna at the Top of the Mast was disconnected from the Feeder, and approximately 15 Cm of Feeder was cut off with the old connector still in place on the end.

The remaining end of the Feeder was inspected and found to be dry, but the outer screen was heavily tarnished.

The Feeder was tested open circuit from the Equipment room.

The Tarnished outer screen was cleaned and a new Connector fitted and the Feeder was tested again open circuit, and then tested again with a 50 Ohm Dummy load attached.

Before leaving the Tower, the corroded Tower Member which requires repair or replacement was visually inspected so that a plan could be formulated as to how it will be removed and replaced with a temporary member whilst repair or replacement of the original is decided.

The Feeder was also visually inspected at the lower end at around 15m from the Repeater Equipment and approximately 6m up the Tower.

OBSERVATIONS

The breakdown Voltage of the Feeder has not been improved by fitting the new Connector. Further analysis seems to narrow the fault down to approximately 15m from the Repeater Equipment end at approximately 6m height up the Tower.

Following a visual inspection, no faults were noticed pertaining to the physical integrally of the Feeder at the lower end. It is not deemed an urgent fault requiring immediate work at this Time.

The following observations remain in place from the last Climb:

The Central Top Pole requires the Retaining Bolts replaced.

Several of the Tower Members towards the top are showing signs of advanced Surface Rust.

The Tower Member damaged by corrosion approximately 15m up still needs to be removed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The GB3NC Antenna Feeder should be periodically monitored for advanced warning of any further deterioration.

The Central Top Pole hosting the GB3NC Antenna requires the Retaining Bolts to be replaced.

Many of the Feeder Cables on the Tower are now reaching an advanced age, so may require replacement in the not so distant future.

It would be prudent at this time to start to plan in future replacement strategies for Feeders, cables ect, together with associated routing and labelling of said Feeders.

Certain parts of the Tower, should be Rust treated and sprayed with galvanizing paint.

The structural member damaged by corrosion need to be removed and replaced by a temporary Strut whilst a replacement is fabricated.

