

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY.
NEWSLETTER NO.178.

December 1980.

Next Meeting.

For the December meeting there will be a talk entitled "Professional Satellite Communications" by Peter Cott, G3BDV. Peter is the Assistant Chief Engineer for Satellites for a large electronic company, and is coming to tell us how the professionals use the satellite service, in contrast to the Amateur satellites. Venue as usual, Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford, on December 2nd at 7.30 p.m.

Future Meetings.

January - Film Show, February All about Top Band, March (Provisional) - An R.S.G.B Official will visit the club to talk about the workings of the R.S.G.B.

We have a special meeting being planned for sometime in the Spring, when we hope to have a famous television personality talking about his/her specialist subject. Watch this space for further details.

June is traditionally the Constructors Competition. So with the long winter evenings now upon us, now is the time to start weilding soldering irons to produce some gear to enter next years competition. We had some superb entries this year, so with six months to go, lets get busy and produce some more high class equipment for the Constructors Competition.

Committee Meeting.

December 10th, Wheatsheaf 7.30 p.m. The Committee is considering changing venue to a quieter establishment, so if anyone knows of a suitable place around Chelmsford, please let a member of the Committee know.

New Members.

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members, P.West G4ADG, M.Nixon BRS 35457 and C.Mildenhall.

Report on last Months Meeting.

Last month Ted G4ELM gave us a talk about the tape and slide lecture he is putting together for the R.S.G.B. To tackle such a project demands a great deal of effort, and Ted showed us the many difficulties involved. His ideas and demonstrations were well received and he raised some very interesting points concerning V.S.W.R. An enjoyable evening was had by all, so thanks very much Ted and keep up the good work.

Raffle.

Next meeting is the last before Christmas so we have some extra special prizes this month, these will include a bottle of wine, some chocolates and a large full colour calender specially designed to brighten up any shack ! See Bernard at the meeting for your chance to win a fabulous prize in the raffle.

Items for Newsletter.

This month Barry G8NMP has sent me an interesting article. It has been printed by his new PET word processor and printer, and is attached at the end of the newsletter. Thanks Barry.

You can now see the sort of thing I am looking for to put in the newsletter. Articles, circuits, anything to make your newsletter more interesting.

D.F.

The last event of 1980 was held by the Colchester club on the night of 7th November. Results as follows :-

1	Ian Butson G4HKC	8.01 p.m.
2	John Hawes G4JHP	8.06
3	Ron Newman G4JIE	8.15
4	Dick Brocks G3WHR	8.15 ¹ / ₂
5	Pat Hawkins G4JAA and Pat Butson G4HKB	8.17
6	Jeff Herbert G4JJH	8.24
7	Dave Brown G4FCJ (using only a domestic receiver)	8.31
8	Roy Emeny G4JAC	8.42
9	Richard de la Rue G4FJC	8.42 ¹ / ₂
10	Andrew Mead G4KQE	8.51

You will see that your scribe finished the season in disgrace, by arriving within 100 yards of the hidden station at 8.15 p.m. and getting hopelessly lost in dense undergrowth and coming last at 8.51, after slipping down a steep bank and getting covered in thick mud.

With regard to next years DF, we are thinking of changing the day from Sunday afternoons. It has been suggested that Friday evenings are used, with adjournment to a nearby pub after the event. Would those interested in DF please complete the form at the bottom of the newsletter and return to me so we can see if an alternative day is acceptable.

Membership.

Unfortunately there are some of last years members who have not yet renewed their subscription. It is very much regretted that this will be the last newsletter sent to those people, if the subscriptions are not renewed by the New Year. If you have not yet paid your subs, and would like to do so, there is a form attached which can be posted to the Membership Secretary, G8WQZ at the address below.

Thats all for this month, next month sees the start of a new regular feature about power supplies by John G3KRZ. As this is the last newsletter before Christmas, I will take this opportunity to wish all members a Happy Christmas and a good DX New Year. See you all at the meeting, and don't forget the raffle.

73,

Andrew.

Braintree 23821 (Day)
Silver End 83094 (Any other time)
or GB3ER or 144.30 MHz.

9, Abraham Drive,
Silver End,
Witham.

WANTED. PF1 or similar monitoring receiver for RB10 - G3EDM.

WANTED. General coverage receiver, anything considered, AR88, CR100 etc. C.Mildenhall, Chelmsford 67945 (evenings)

FOR SALE. Moseley TA33, 3 element trapped yagi for 20, 15 and 10m - G3GNQ.

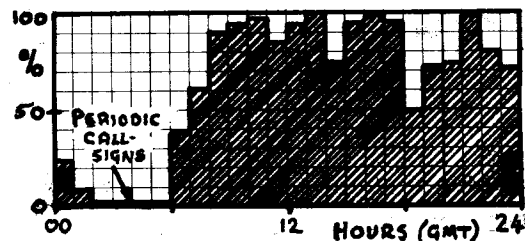
The Repeater Scene

by Barry, G8NMP.

For the benefit of those who use FM repeaters, here is a summary of the state of the local repeater art, starting with the three machines run by the Essex Repeater Group.

The old faithful 70 cm repeater GB3ER at Danbury continues to operate (on RB10) although there appears to be an intermittent instability problem which causes eerie 'zoodle wurdle' noises to emanate at times.

The new 2-metre machine GB3DA (channel R5), also at Danbury, went into operation on 2nd. October 1980. After some initial problems with water in the antenna harnesses, operation has been reliable. A remaining technical problem is that the receiver is a bit 'deaf', due to difficulties with the duplexer cavities. Nonetheless, coverage (to mobiles) is more-or-less as predicted, and extends reliably out to North Kent, Brentwood, Harlow and Colchester.



The activity of GB3DA has been very gratifying; the graph shows a typical daily record of usage averaged over each hour of one weekday (Thursday 9th Oct.) a week after switch-on. This was obtained by connecting a PET computer to the squelch of a receiver tuned to the repeater output; the PET sampled the state every second, and calculated the hourly average activity.

We have fortunately been fairly free of jamming and general idiocy on 'DA, and to maintain this situation, it is recommended that if you should suffer from deliberate interference, it would be best not to acknowledge the fact on the air - recognition only encourages the 'IQ-zeroes' !

The East London repeater GB3EL (Havering-atte-bower, channel R0) is currently off the air. This is because the equipment temporarily installed at 'EL was needed for GB3DA, and the new GB3EL wasn't ready. It is hoped that it will be back on very soon, using an IC240 donated by Thanet.

News of other repeaters: All the Phase 4 VHF repeaters are now licenced, including GB3KN (Maidstone, R4). When this is operational, the Dover machine GB3KR will move from R4 to R1. The West London repeater GB3WL is off the air because the entire installation was stolen from the 'secure' room where it was housed. Replacement will be a big problem for the London FM Group, since they are short of money having recently financed both GB3WL and GB3NL.

UHF machines GB3NX (Nr Crawley, RB2) and GB3HW (Romford, RB13) are operational. The use of odd-numbered (i.e. 25 kHz spaced) channels has been necessitated by the density of 70 cm repeaters; however, until synthesisers become more common at UHF, only channels RB11 and RB13 (and perhaps RB15) will be used.

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DF SURVEY.

Name Call Sign

I think a change of day to Friday evening is/is not a good idea.

A more suitable day would be

To: - Andrew Mead, G4KQE,
Secretary,
9, Abraham Drive,
Silver End, Essex.

