

February 1982.

### Next Meeting.

Do those shining new transceivers whose pictures are spread all through Rad Com, and whose retailers sing their praises in never ending sales jargon really match up to their specifications ? Do they really surpass all others ? Are there any hidden spoofs that the ad-men never tell us about ? Well, we are going to find out a few truths at the next meeting entitled "Black Box Evening". The idea is for the owners of a certain make to give a short talk about his equipment, to say why he chose that particular one, and how he thinks it has performed. Then there will be test equipment available to check several parameters of the equipment to see its true performance. We have a good selection of equipment, HF and VHF for test, so it should be quite interesting. Venue as usual, Marconi College, Arbour Lane, 7.30 p.m. on tuesday February 2nd 1982.

### Future Meetings.

- March 2nd - A demonstration by Arrow Electronics.
- April 6th - "PCB CARE AND REPAIR" presented by the Marconi College.
- June 1st - Constructors Competition.

### Committee Meeting.

Wednesday 10th February, Sportsmans Arms, Hatfield Peverel, 7.30 p.m.

### Social Evening.

The social gathering held at the Oaklands Hotel recently was an overwhelming success. 26 members and XYLS assembled at 7.30 p.m. for drinks in the lounge bar, by a very welcome coal fire on a cold frosty night. We had a chat until about 8.45 p.m. when we moved to the adjacent room for a delicious buffet. There were chicken portions, ham, vol-au-vents, sausage rolls, pork pies, salads, etc., followed by various gateaux, fruit salad and cream, trifles and then cheese and biscuits and coffee, all for £4 per person ! After the meal, we then returned to the lounge for further drinks and various nuts and crisps dotted around the room. It was about 12.0'clock when we left the hotel, and everyone agreed that it had been a very enjoyable evening, and an event that should take place in the clubs annual calender.

### 144 MHz DF.

The first of the 2m foxhunts is due to take place on February 7th, starting at Springfield Green,. Further details from Richard G8XPK.

### New Members.

The club welcomes Bill Cooper and Richard Baker G4DJC as new members.

### Members Survey.

A good response has been received, so far to the survey and there are some very interesting comments on some of them. If you have not yet returned your survey form, there is still time, because we are waiting until after the next meeting before analysing them.

### Other news.

Raffle prizes next month include a tin of biscuits, a bottle of screen wash and some screwdrivers.

Have you got your CARS bookmarks yet ? these together with CARS pens and keyrings are available from Daphne G8WQZ.

A reminder from John G8DET that he still has a good selection of crystals holding his garage down. Anything that can be multiplied up to an amateur frequency is unlikely to be there, but the more obscure the frequency then the better are your chances.

The Constructors Competition is only 4 months away now. My entry is just about ready, (it just needs calibrating) so I hope other members have been weilding solderings irons during the long winter evenings.

#### Happy Anniversary - G3PMX.

On Saturday 22nd January 1972 while operating in the then regular Chelmsford/Australasia net I was called by Colin, ZL1AUM, in the 30 minute contact which followed we discovered that we shared many common interests including home-brew equipment monitoring the paths of ZL to G propagation. Although Colin had been in Chelmsford for a course in TV Engineering at the Marconi Company in a nearby department to my own, we had not met, even so our friendship was immediate. Last week we celebrated 10 years of regular Saturday morning QSO's and totting up the statistics some interesting facts emerge :-

All 429 contacts were phone SSB, made up from
189 on 20 metres, Short Path.
19 " " " Long "
190 " 15 " Short "
13 " " " Long "
18 " 10 " Short "

Not that the solar cycle needs confirming but our results show the ease of 20 metre contacts in the period 1972-77, 15 metres taking over from 1978 and a few 10 metre contacts possible during the 1979-80 equinoxes. Average reports were 5-6 and less than 2% of scheduled contacts were lost due to bad conditions. It must be emphasised that Colin's well maintained home-brew station, quad aerial and forecasting of propagation are the main contributory factors to the consistency.

Colin and I have not been alone in our enjoyment, many stations call in during our lengthy QSO's the most regular being Geoff G3EDM and George G3GNQ, we have also enabled some low power stations, less fortunately placed regarding beam aerials, to make their first ZL contact by taking a stand-by at peak times.

Some unexpected facts have come to light in preparing this article, Colin and I have been in QSO for 261 hours 38 minutes which is nearly 11 days continuous ! and if we had used the international telephone circuits at £1 per minute the bill would be £15,698.

The matter of meeting in person will soon be put right for at Colin's suggestion, Ela and I will be flying out to Auckland on 2nd April to visit his home, meet his fine family, tour his wonderful country and to cap it all change my call-sign to ZL for a month. X-rays permitting I hope to bring back a few slides to show at a meeting later this year.

Well thats all for this month,

73,

Andrew.

Witham 512316 (Day)  
Silver End 83094 (Any other time)  
or GB3DA

9, Abraham Drive,  
Silver End,  
Witham, Essex.

WANTED. 2 x 50-150pF Chip capacitors, 3 x 1-10pF piston trimmers. 3 x .5-2pF piston trimmers. (e.g. Johansson or Triko) 1 xtl 72MHz up to multiply to 1296.  
John Greenwood, G3KRZ.

FOR SALE.. FT101 Mark 2, FV101, SP101, G3LLL Clipper DBM, fan, cw filter, spare PA's and mike £295. Trio 7200G RO-R7, SA-S10, S14 -S23 and 144.775 £105.  
R.Baker, c/o. 65, Crompton St, Chelmsford, Tel.No. 69034