

April 1983.

Next Meeting.

You may remember that in July 1981 we had a demonstration of professional television equipment by courtesy of the Marconi College. This month we have part 2 of the lecture given by Jim Wild. It may be that small groups are easier to demonstrate the equipment to, so there may be chance for a chat as well at the next meeting. The meeting will commence at 7.30 p.m. at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Springfield on April 5th.

Last Months Meeting - John G8MKX.

We were fortunate to gain the services of Brian Collins, G3MXA, the Technical Director of C & S Antennas. Not only did he prove to be an excellent lecturer but he managed to make all his demonstrations work! His lecture covered a wide range, beginning with the Company's HF loop aerial (see the article in ? Rad.Comm), he has used these successfully on the amateur bands hidden amongst the rose bushes in his garden! The UHF interest was in a 1500MHz yagi which featured novel techniques. The yagi consisted of a thin wooden boom with a thin wire element placed into a tuned circular cavity resonant at 1500MHz and fed with a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave dipole. Brian said that he had not seen this technique used elsewhere and believed that it could be used on 23cms. This got a few members thinking. Using a transmission-reflection test set Brian demonstrated basic yagi design and how directors improved gain and directivity but narrow the bandwidth. After the lecture Brian managed to answer everyone's questions. If you want to put up a pair of aerials then stacking them vertically will result in a reduced vertical beamwidth and the same horizontal beamwidth as one aerial. Thus you increase your gain but do not narrow your reception area. The lecture was not over technical and everyone appeared to enjoy it, if you missed it then I believe that you missed the best lecture we have seen in recent years.

Meetings coming.

May 3rd A talk by Ted Drury G4MOV who is a white stick operator.

June 7th Constructors Competition.

Also in the pipeline Amsat UK, RSGB and Computers.

New Member.

The club extends a welcome to George Thorndyke who is a SWL.

National Convention Coach Trip - Ian G4BYR.

CARS members completely filled a 16-seat mini-coach bound for the National Exhibition Centre at Birmingham to see the RSGB National Amateur Radio Convention trade displays on Sunday 6th March. Starting from Chelmsford about 8.30 a.m. the coach arrived outside Roy and Ela's house near Great Waltham, the last pick-up point, about 9 a.m. The displays were up to the usual bewildering and mouth-watering (or should that be wallet-emptying?) standard. Separating the purveyors of "shiny new boxes" from the bargain bins was a welcome innovation, but the lack of a conspicuously displayed map of the stands was rather frustrating. After four or five hours' browsing and haggling we returned to the coach footsore but satisfied. Some took minor diversions on the way, but remained in radio contact with the main party! The now cramped travelling conditions were relieved by a "comfort stop" at a roadside pub on the way back. This gave time to chat, compare bargains and meet the several newer members who came. The excursion ended with all participants delivered to their boarding points shortly after dark.

D.F. News - Dick G3WHR.

This years events will follow the same pattern as last year. Apart from the joint event, all events will be on Friday evenings starting at 7.30 p.m. Chelmsford events start from Tiptree Heath NGR 884148. Colchester events start from Fordham Heath NGR 945264. All events use O.S. map 168 Colchester and the Blackwater. The start details for the joint event on 9th October will be announced later.

1983 Events	Chelmsford	Colchester
	15th April	29th April
	13th May	3rd June
	15th July	1st July
	12th Aug.	5th Aug.
	23rd Sept.	2nd Sept.
	9th Oct	9th Oct.
	- joint -	11th Nov.

The Mid Essex DF Trophy will be awarded to the highest placed competitor from a local club in the 9th October event. The Colchester ARS DF Trophy will be awarded to the competitor achieving the best performance on Colchester Friday evening events. Volunteers to operate the hidden station for any of the above Chelmsford events should contact Dick G3WHR. A complete "hidden station" kit is available on loan.

Details of the National Qualifying Events have been announced by the R.S.G.B.

24th April	Oxford	26th June	Dartford Heath
8th May	Chelmsford/Colchester	10th July	Salisbury
22nd May	Coventry	31st July	Mid-Thames
12th June	Rugby	21st Aug	Slade.

The final will be held on the 18th Sept. by the South Manchester Club. For start details see Rad.Comm.

Learning Morse the RSGB way with G4FKH.

Some background info first. The Royal Air Force in their infinite wisdom taught me morse up to a speed of 22 WPM in 1965. I can still remember my first overseas posting out of training to a CW only station. Of course I volunteered for the first 24 hour shift (being a believer in "in for a penny - in for a pound"). It was one of the most daunting experiences of my life - I found I couldn't read a character and my sending was **abysmal**. It only took a couple of weeks for the operators at the other end to whip me into shape. Whilst browsing through Rad.Comm late last year I came across the slow morse transmission schedule and decided to have a listen. I can't remember the call of the operator concerned, but the quality of the sending was almost as bad as mine on that first posting. That, along with the request for more operators to do slow morse transmissions, started me off. After a discussion with Mac, the person organising the slow morse transmissions, I decided to use the following format, 5 WPM, 8 WPM, 12 WPM and 15 WPM P.L. followed by figure groups. The P.L. I take from a book or paper. The aim being a little more than the test requires. Once solid copy is achieved on the 12's, and preferably on the 15's, the test can be applied for with confidence. At £15 a go I certainly would not suggest anyone undertakes the test without first being completely happy at 12's. There are a lot of operators, of which I am one, who derive a great deal of satisfaction out of the CW mode and there is always room for some more. Whether your reason for learning is to just get a class 'A' ticket or whether the passion of the mode and everything that goes with it is envisaged, regular practice is a must. Although learning is not always easy, the fulfilment of the mode is there for everyone to enjoy. Good luck.

NOTE. Gwyn's slow morse transmissions are on 3.550MHz on Wednesdays at 1930 refer to your January newsletter.

Other news.

Following the success of the recent coach trip to Birmingham, we are considering a coach trip to Woburn, on 7th August. This is a long way off at the present, but we hope that this day could be a family day out.

Would members who borrow the clubs morse tutors please ensure that they are returned by the agreed date, so that the next member on the list may have use of it.

Apologies to Dave Barber G8OQW who was omitted from the paid up members list in the Feb issue.

As from Good Friday the address of Arthur Butcher G3KPJ will be 160, Lupin Drive, Springfield, Chelmsford SM1 5FJ.

73,
Andrew.

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

9, Abraham Drive,
Silver End, Witham.