

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.217

March 1984

Please note that due to unforeseen circumstances the meetings for March and April have been exchanged.

NEXT MEETING

The talk for this month is entitled "Microcomputers and their application to Amateur Radio", by Arthur Butcher G3KPJ. Arthur has been interested in home-computers since their inception and been experimenting for about two years, he has gained some very useful knowledge as a result. On Tuesday March 6th starting at 7.30 pm. Arthur will introduce the basics of Microcomputers and explain some of the terminology, illustrating the theory with block diagrams. He will then move to the programming side of things and complete his talk by explaining and running programs as applied to Amateur Radio.

This promises to be a highly informative and interesting evening both for those new to microcomputers and those with machines of their own. Venue as usual Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING -BILL G4JUW.

Last month's meeting featured mainly..... yourselves!!! Yes, seven of the Society's members braved the rostrum to give a short talk on their rig. It was interesting to hear about these equipments from those who have actually used them, rather than to read glossy accounts in various magazines. Taking part were Ela,G6HKM with her ICOM 490E, 430MHz multi-mode; Arthur,G3KPJ with a TRIO 7500 2M FM mobile; Gwyn G4FKH and his FT101ZD HF transceiver (minus microphone); Les,G4CUT with an R820 HF receiver; Sporting 2 metre equipment were Tim,G6GUX; Andrew,G4KQE and Dick G3WHR. Lack of space prevents me from relating much of the useful information presented at the meeting, but I can say that the best rig of the lot was Gwyn's FT101ZD (he said so!) and certainly the oldest was a beautifully preserved 1924 receiver brought in by Tim.

FUTURE MEETINGS.

April 3rd - Steve Oakman of Marconi Instruments Ltd.
May 1st - "RF Power Transistors" by Dick Brocks G3WHR.
June 5th - Annual Constructors Competition.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The new venue for Committee Meetings at the Marconi college residence, Arbour Lane, has proved to be ideal for our requirements. The committee assemble in the bar for the warming up process then we adjourn to a comfortable room nearby for the working session. When all the decisions have been made the remaining members round off the evening back in the bar, a vast improvement on the previous venue, where we would now be competing with a large disco set up. Our thanks to Roy G3PMX for sounding out this new venue. Next meeting March 14th at 7.30pm.

NATIONAL AMATEUR RADIO EXHIBITION.

As mentioned last month, we are planning a trip to the NEC at Birmingham on Saturday 28th April. The Committee have decided we are going and have 15 names so far. Any one else interested please see or phone me for reservations.

NFD.

Another reminder that 2-3 June may sound a long way off, but it is only about 14 weeks away. We must therefore start to plan NFD soon, so please give this your thoughts, and there will no doubt be further news soon.

VHF NFD.

As mentioned last month John Donnithorne G8MKX is trying to put the club into VHF NFD this year. If there is sufficient response, a good VHF site will be arranged. The dates are 7-8th July. It would be good if the club could enter this contest as well as HF NFD, so please see John as soon as possible with a view to arranging this event.

HERE AND THERE - ELA G6HKM.

Congratulations to Gerry Parish who passed the Morse Test on 27th January and is now G4WML, Gerry's old Callsign was G6XKL.

If you heard W5LFL and would like his QSL card the address to send to is ARRL HQ, 225, Main Street, Newington, Connecticut, 06111, U.S.A.

Wednesday April 18th is "World Radio Amateurs Day" it is suggested that we try to do something new on this day, try a different band, do constructional work or just chat to other amateurs via the air waves.

My quarter-wave ground plane was a victim of the gales, so for the time being I'm using it fixed to a microphone stand in front of a small window in a bedroom in the roof of the house, the end wall has wire mesh in it for the external parting, not ideal conditions but I am getting some interesting results, still receiving Braintree OK, signals from the Colchester area very much down, but hearing more from Bishops Cleeve and on 24th February I worked Bourne, Lincolnshire (FM in flat conditions). By the way the antenna is only about 8' lower than before. Roy and I think that the window hole in the mesh is working as a slot beam aerial.

OTHER NEWS.

The secretary has received more interesting literature, so please look out for the blue folder at the meeting.

Members may recall seeing a copy of "Radio & Electronics World" at the December meeting (see newsletter Dec 1983). The Society has been mentioned in the March issue and the Editor has told us that any articles are welcome (as well as 35mm colour transparencies). This could be your opportunity to Literacy fame as well as obtaining further publicity for the club.

Please ensure that you sign the attendance book at each meeting. It helps us to see which meetings are most popular and sometimes there are important notices written at the top of the page.

I have a complete introductory/publicity package for anyone who wants to know anything about Amateur Radio or the RSGB. This has been supplied by the RSGB and is aimed at "the man in the street". If members would like copies for passing to their friends, please see me at the meeting.

Members of the RSGB would no doubt by now have seen the "Bulletin" inserted into "Radio Communication". What a splendid idea to provide up to the minute information.

73,
Andrew.

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