

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.221

July 1984

NEXT MEETING

Following the constructors competition, we are to have a talk on "Home Brew". Not the electronic, but the liquid variety. Jimmy Carter is a connoisseur of the juice of the grape and will enlighten us as to his home wine making skills. There will be samples available, so each member is asked to bring his own small tasting glass! (and Chauffeur for the journey home!) Meeting as usual, Tuesday July 3rd, Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Springfield at 7.30 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday July 11th, 7.30 p.m. in the bar of Marconi Residence.

MEETINGS TO COME

- August - High Power Transmitters.
- September - Change to "JUNK SALE".
- October - Annual General Meeting.
- November - "RTTY, Amtor and Packet Radio".

REPORT ON LAST MONTHS MEETING - GWYN G4FKH

There were four entrants this year, John Bowen G8DET, Peter Neave G4DAN, Dick Brocks G3WHR and Martin Final G4TOD. Our two distinguished Judges were visitors from the Colchester Club, Frank Howe G3FIJ, who is deputy Director of the Colchester Institute and Robin Cobbold G8CKW, who is Chairman of the Colchester A.R.S. The entries were shown in the above mentioned order. G8DET explained the various stages he went through to finally, after 3 attempts, produced "The Transistor Tester". This tester was very well made and had a professional finish, tests can be carried out on any 3 legged device including Thyristors, with current limiting in collector etc.

G4DAN this year brought along a Balun from a design by G3PTN in Nov.74 Rad.Comm. (He stated the low-loader was being used elsewhere so something smaller was called for). This very attractively finished Balun is 50 ohm impedance and a previously constructed model is currently in service with a TA33 beam. The device has a trifiler wound coil on a 5/8" ferrite rod with 18 gauge E.C.W. Capacitors were 47pf 8KV, polyurathane varnish was used to anchor the turns in place. Peter of course used a lathe but explained this was not absolutely necessary.

G3WHR brought along his Frequency Synthesiser for his top band DF Tx. Dick had many attempts before producing this very intricate and compact discreet component design. There is still a problem with the frequency output jumping around when the equipment is viberated but a solution is forthcoming. Dick was able to show us the unit working and explained the output is about 2v Peak to Peak and the main oscillator runs 3.6 - 4.0 Mhz.

G4TOD provided the final entry this year of a VHF Wavemeter. Martin build this piece of gear last year to satisfy the licence requirements. A design out of Practical Wireless consisting of (1) Variable Capacitor, (2) Fixed Capacitor, (3) Coil, (4) Germanium diode, (5) Meter. The small number of components enabled Martin to produce a very compact neat Wavemeter covering the frequencies 144Mhz - 288Mhz.

Frank Howe was the spokesman for the Judging Panel and confirmed the opinion of all there that the entries covered a range of relevant projects which were a credit to the constructors. Robin Cobbold announced the prizes and had also arranged with Club Officials to give all four prizes away in reverse order. (The fourth prize was supposed to be for a new winner). The pecking order being :-

- Joint 3rd - G4TOD, VHF Wavemeter and G3WHR, Frequency Synthesiser.
- 2nd - G8DET, Transistor Tester.
- 1st - G4DAN, For his well made and necessary Balun.

All that remains to be said is to thank the judges for their time and efforts on behalf of CARS and hope we have the opportunity of further meetings.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE

Members will have seen on page 473 of June "Radio Communication" that there are five nominations for regional representative for region 16. Despite a plea in last months newsletter, a disappointing number of members brought along their ballot paper for submission en-blocc. We therefore urge all of you to bring your paper to the next meeting, so that we can submit them to the RSGB by the deadline, July 6th. Remember, support your local candidate, our Vice-President, Les Turner G4CUT.

JACKPOT RAFFLE

Once again it is time to draw the jackpot raffle. Just a reminder that every time you buy a strip of 5 normal raffle tickets, you automatically have a chance to enter the jackpot raffle. This is drawn every six months and this time the prize is the choice of any RSGB book to the value of £6.

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP

Roy G3PMX recently attended an Extraordinary meeting of the ERG. He reported that the Group is now under new leadership and they are planning to build two standby repeaters for both GB3ER and GB3DA. They are progressing well, but lack immediate funds. The committee have therefore agreed to donate £10 to the group, and anyone who wishes to make a donation or pay subscriptions should contact the Secretary, Peter Hale G4OAD or the Treasurer, John Guilliver G6JPG (a club member).

NFD 84 - Dick G3WHR

I should have written that producing screed for the June newsletter was the final item in my PRE-NFD action list. There are 3 POST-NFD actions :- (1) SLEEP. (2) Send in Entry. (3) Produce screed for July newsletter.

The "arranged" WX was just right, two fine days with a little overnight rain to keep the soil round the earthstake moist and a few rumblings of thunder to keep the operators from dropping off.

The organising was nearly 100% - I forgot the pulley blocks for the telomast, but we improvised. The tent and aerial erection team carried out their tasks with the ease and efficiency - 'ere, where does this bit fit' - that comes from having done it all before. All the aerials were erected by 4.45, which was just as well because at that point we discovered that this years contest had been brought forward 1 hour and started at 5.00.

Scoring was a little slow to start with, while the operators learnt how to use the rig, but soon speeded up. The station operated on 160m, 80m, 40m and 20m, but there was very little activity on 15m or 10m.

There were some interesting moments during the 24 hours. While working 20m using the beam we found that rotating the telomast did not result in a change of beam heading! clearly something had worked loose aloft - fortunately Les had tied a halyard to the end of the boom so we could tow it round. So how did we do :-

Year	1982	1983	1984
QSO's	402	403	424
Points	1618	1596	1728 (claimed)
Position	31	31	?

Congratulations to all who took part. Our thanks to all those who loaned their gear, brains or brawn.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR

Congratulations to Mike Hawkins and the Arthur Butcher - Andrew Mead team who both qualified for the RSGB National Final at Dartford Heath. Also to Ian Butson and Bill Pechey who qualified at Coventry.

For the June event Alan Williams had found an excellent site near Hoemills on the Chelmer and Blackwater Navigation. Unfortunately a problem with the ATU meant that G4PQY/P was RS 53 at 300m. Despite this, all teams located the Tx.

Results:

Peter Larbalestier	8.21	Roy Emeny	8.34
Frank Pearson	8.30	Pat Cranmer	8.36
Dick Brocks	8.31	Richard DelaRue	8.36
Mike Hawkins	8.32		

Future events :- 29th June Colchester
15th July Mid Thames
20th July Chelmsford

73,
Andrew.

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

9, Abraham Drive,
Silver End, Witham.