

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

* * STOP PRESS * *

November 1984

NEXT MEETING - 6th NOVEMBER 1984

Literally minutes before this newsletter was due at the printers we received the unfortunate news that Ian G3NRW will not be able to present his talk on AMTOR and Packet Radio to our Society owing to business commitments abroad.

The committee will endeavor to rectify this loss, be assured that a meeting of topical interest will be arranged in the mean time.

Roy G3PMX

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.225

November 1984

NEXT MEETING

Radiotelegraphy has been with us since the first days of radio. Since then a surprisingly large number of techniques for transmitting text from place to place have developed. These range from early mechanical "bug" senders and ticker tape receivers, through electromechanical keyboards and printers, to the present microprocessor controlled units. The use of microprocessors has opened up a complete new range of possibilities: RTTY can be set up more easily than ever before; sophisticated error correct on systems can be used, such as AMTOR; and packet radio opens up new areas including store-and-forward message passing, the ability to re-route messages if a link fails, and to allow many groups of people to use a single frequency simultaneously without interference. Ian Wade, G3NRW, Editor of the BARTG journal, "DATACOM", will be speaking about these matters at our next meeting on 6 November, 1984, at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. We wish to start at 7:30pm, promptly.

COMMITTEE MEETING

As usual the Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, 14 November, at 7.30 p.m. in the bar of Marconi Residence. Members are welcome to join us to see what goes on and socialise.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 Dec. - 10m FM and Traffic control?
- 1 Jan. - The Film Show.
- 26 Jan. - A Social Event? - details yet to be decided.

LAST MEETING - AGM

The Annual General Meeting last month was well attended. The committee is substantially the same as last year as detailed below. Bernard G6RM wished to retire as Vice President as he is moving from the area and Carl G3PEM wished to stand down from the committee. A number of suggestions were made about the running of the club. One involved the provision of a "rogues gallery" of members, on which we could introduce ourselves with, perhaps, a photo and a few details, like name, call, and any major interests. The committee liked the idea, and will be starting it off, with their details, shortly. All members are invited to join in if they wish.

CLUB NET

Another suggestion was for a club net. Bill, G4JUW, and Brian, G6FLI, have volunteered to turn up on Tuesday nights at 7:15pm on 145.275MHz FM (S11)+/-QRM (with occasional calls on S20), starting Tuesday 13th November.

CARS COMMITTEE

Your new committee is:

| | | |
|-------|------------------|-----------------|
| G3PMX | Roy Martyr | President |
| G4CUT | Les Turner | Vice-President |
| G3KRZ | John Greenwood | Vice-President |
| G3WHR | Dick Brocks | Chairman |
| G4JUW | Bill Cole | Treasurer |
| G8DET | John Bowen | Asst. Treasurer |
| G4BYR | Ian Maslen | Secretary |
| G6HKM | Ela Martyr | Membership Sec. |
| G4DAN | Peter Neave | |
| G3KPJ | Arthur Butcher | |
| G4FKH | Gwyn Williams | |
| G4KQE | Andrew Mead | |
| G6ADP | Malcolm Nixon | |
| G8MKX | John Donnithorne | |
| G6FLI | Brian Scroggs | |

SURVEY

The survey circulated with the last Newsletter was well received. So far there have been 33 responses (out of 63 members). Dick Brocks, G3WHR, won the prize of a year's CARS subscription. It was interesting to note that 97% of respondents are members of RSGB. There were a lot of good suggestions, too. Quite a few people wanted to have an evening on EMC (electromagnetic compatibility - RFI, etc.), operating procedures, and Air Traffic Control. Others wanted more contact with other clubs. More analysis results will be published as they come to hand.

HERE AND THERE - ELA G6HKM

I would like to welcome the following new members, Albert Hill G6GHL, J.L.McFadyen G4JMM (8Q7BT) and Peter Bell a SWL. Congratulations to Max Pemberton who is now G4ZMQ. The results of the 1984 HF NFD have been released and CARS were placed 29th, an improvement on last years 31st, definately a step in the right direction, keep up the good work, at this rate of progress we should be 1st in 1998!

A reminder to those of you who have not renewed your subs, they are now due, I will be PLEASED to see you at the next meeting or if you wish you may send to me at "Little Fellows", 1, High Houses, Mashbury Road, Great Waltham. Chelmsford, CM3 1EL. Inflation has not taken its toll, subs are still £2.50, OAP'S and Students £1.25

VISIT TO PLA THAMES NAVIGATION CENTRE, GRAVESEND - DICK - G3WHR

This visit had an unusual starting point - the Vange Mobile Rally car park. After a look around the stands and a bit of chit-chat 4 cars set off down the M25 to Gravesend. A 2m link-up ensured that everybody arrived at the same location. On entering the PLA building we were met by Ken Eastty and shown into a gallery along one side of the control room. Here we were given a very comprehensive introduction to the control room facilities and the procedures for handling ship traffic along the Thames from Crayford to the North Sea. There were certain similarities to the control room of PHQ regarding radio and telephone messages but suprisingly, no computers in sight. The movement of ships is controlled by a card-strip system adapted from air traffic control systems. Unfortunately our visit coincided with the dock strike so there was no opportunity to see the system in operation.

One feature of the PLA control room was the continuous radar coverage of the river from sites at Crayford, Gravesend, Cliffe and Sheppy. In addition to river traffic the radar displays also showed recognisable land features such as pylon lines and radio towers on high ground. We then went upstairs to see the communication and radar link equipment and kept Ken busy answering questions.

All too soon it was time to go home. Our thanks to Ken for arranging a very enjoyable and informative visit, and to the other PLA staff for their patient explanations of what-goes-on-here.

DF NEWS PART 1. RSGB NATIONAL FINAL - DICK G3WHR

We had 4 local teams among the 17 qualifiers for the final. The start was just south of Birmingham and quite close to both Daventry and Droitwich, which caused most sense amplifiers to cross mod; the exception being the one using valves. Unfortunately some of us required an approximate bearing on one station, the other two being weak but identifiable. On events like these you cannot afford to make errors which cost time if you are to find all three stations.

At the tea site the results were read out and we were very pleased when it was announced that Mike Hawkins had won. This was Mikes 9th victory and he now holds the record. Alas the rest of us were also-rans, having failed to find all three stations; ah-well there's always next year.

DF NEWS PART 2. MID-ESSEX TROPHY

On Sunday 14th October, 10 teams assembled at Layer Breton Heath and 1 at Fordham Heath for the start of the contest for the Mid-Essex Trophy. Both stations provided strong signals at the start, however most teams decided to find the one furthest from the tea-site first. Ian hid G4HKC/P near Halstead on the disused railway track. The antenna stretched partly along the track and soon had competitors beating the undergrowth on both sides. This proved fruitless and it was not until they had crossed a nearby river bridge that the hunters located the tx in a small wood. Dick was first to find this tx but was slightly delayed by an excess of parked cars in the narrow lane. Arthur was first to find Mike G3WMM/P near Arlesford. Here Mike had concealed the tx on a promontary stretching out into a small lake and surrounded by foliage. Dicks luck seemed to have deserted him when he ran into the wrong wood and emerged 1km later with the bearing indicating another wood further on. At this moment he met another df team who kindly but foolishly gave him a LIFT. The finish was exceedingly close with competitors hard on each others heels. Afterwards, chez Butson, we enjoyed a magnificent tea prepared by the two Pats. Results :-

| | | TX A | TX B | | | TX A | TX B |
|---------------|-------|---------|---------|-------------|-------|--------|------|
| 1, Dick | G3WHR | 1549 | 1437 | 7, Peter | G4TEB | 1551.5 | 1455 |
| 2, Alan | G4POY | 1549.25 | 1444.25 | 8, Roy | G4JAC | 1552 | 1505 |
| 3, John | G4JHP | 1549.5 | 1444 | 9, Arthur | G3KPJ | 1503 | -- |
| 4, Pat | G4TFP | 1549.75 | 1450 | 10, Richard | G4FJC | -- | 1546 |
| 5, Frank | G4JVM | 1551 | 1441 | 11, George | G4PWB | 1605 | -- |
| 6, Paul Clark | -- | 1551.25 | 1448 | | | | |

Many thanks to the organisers of the event and the tea ! There's just one event left - 9th Novmber, Colchester night event, 7.30pm. Fordham Heath.

ALL BAND HORIZONTALLY POLARIZED AERIAL - BRIAN G3CVI

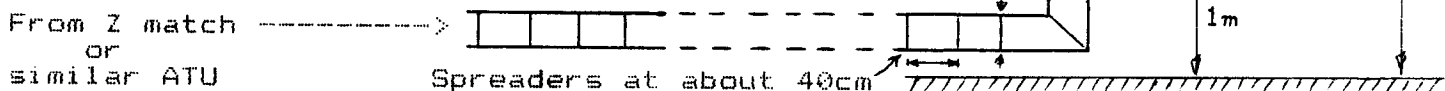
The article below was contributed by Brian Thwaites, who writes:

"I believe the following item would be of interest to readers of the Newsletter. I claim no originality for the principles involved, but the feeder is a bit unusual in its construction."

(a) "The bigger the better" is the general rule, but the aerial built at G3CVI has sides 9.5m long and the top is 13m above the ground.

(b) Since the wire is light weight a thin halyard is sufficient. Waxed terylene, as used for whipping ropes, is ideal.

(c) The guys can go to any convenient anchor point like trees, fences, gutters, etc. These can be waxed terylene, again.



The open wire feeder was made of PVC covered wire which was 'in stock' and the spreaders were plastic drinking 'straws' about 10cm long with a single miniature staple at each end to lock the wire and then a dab of water repellent seal as used under car bodies (Waxoyl) or similar. The radiation appears to be broadside and on 20m the gain over my vertical was about 3 S-points. On the higher bands there are obviously multiple lobes but by moving the guys a few metres at a time the nulls can be turned towards any source of 'unwanted' signals with considerable reduction in QRM from them. Even on 80m there was a useful reduction in local man-made noise although the actual signal strengths are less than on the inverted V dipole. Most of the local racket appears to be vertically polarized at my QTH. For QRP working this system is very good.....the feeder loss at 10m was measured as 0.1 dB!!!! for a length of 54m!!!! The central halyard is at the top of a tree and the sloping sides are in among the branches with no apparent loss of performance. The whole aerial need not be a perfect square but symmetry about the centre line is important to cancel vertical radiation. It will also perform quite satisfactorily when the square is not all in one vertical plane ie when the guys and mast or top point are not in the same straight line when seen from above.

ESSEX REPEATER GROUP

The AGM of the ERG was held on the 1st October at the Danbury Village Hall, Les G4CUT, Roy G3PMX and Ela G6HKM attended. Subscriptions have been increased to £3 and are payable to John G6JPG (a CARS club member) or at the Emporium at Hatfield Peverel, the increase was proposed to meet purchase of antennas, components, equipment etc.

YOUR NEWSLETTER

I will be pleased to receive any news or prepared articles for inclusion in the newsletter, short technical items are always of interest to our members. If accompanied by a drawing, please make this on a separate piece of paper (unfolded) to a scale suitable for the final copy, this can save valuable time in the editing process.

73,
Ian.

Harlow 441244 (ex307) (Day)
(0279) 33049 (any other time)

40 Great Leylands,
Harlow, CM18 6HR.

P.T.O. for MEMBERS ADS.

WANTED

Pye PF1 Transmitter.

G4KQE - Silver End 83094.

RAE COURSE

There are still two (2) places available on the RAE course at the Maldon Youth and Adult Centre, Friary,... Mondays at 7:30pm until 9:30pm.

Contact Brian Thwaites, G3CWI.

FOR SALE

Durst F30, 24x36mm black and white enlarger, complete with Minolta 50mm F4.5 lens, darkroom safelight, 600ml and 150ml measures, film squeegee (all boxed) also tongs (2) and large plastic tray. £60.
Brand new metal enlarging easel mask 20x25cm (Boxed) £8.

Ela - G6HKM, Phone Chelmsford 360545.

FOR SALE

Conifer trees approx 18" - 36" high, 50p each or 11 for £5.

Ela - G6HKM, Phone Chelmsford 360545.

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

- 1, Five unit code teleprinter mounted in a steel desk with paper punch and reader.
- 2, Rack mounted single channel VHF transceiver (75MHz valve type).

Contact Dave Steward, Home Chelmsford 73239, Work Chelmsford 354491.