

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.232

June 1985

NEXT MEETING - CONSTRUCTORS' COMPETITION

The June meeting is, as is traditional, the Constructors' Competition. As in previous years there will be prizes for the best entries, as well as a further "Novice" prize for the best entry from a member who has not won in any previous competition. This year, we are also giving a free strip of raffle tickets to each entrant. The venue will be the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford, commencing at 7:30pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 31 May. - Colchester DF event.
- 1/2 June. - RSGB HF National Field Day weekend.
- 4 June. - CARS Constructors' Competition.
- 9 June. - Dartford Heath DF event.
- 14 June. - Chelmsford DF event.
- 2 July. - Radio Quiz: Chelmsford vs Colchester.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING - John, 68MKX

Thirty-three members packed themselves into a smaller room than usual to hear John Lemay's lecture: "An Introduction to 23cm". The lecture commenced with a history of John's operation since obtaining his licence as 68KAX in 1975 and how he gradually moved higher and higher in frequency, despite obtaining his full call, G4ZTR. In each case John chose to transvert, initially from 28MHz for 70cm operation and then from 144MHz for 23cm operation. He tried constructing his own yagi aerial for 70cm but eventually resorted to buying a commercial one.

John thought that an "average" 23cm station consisted of 25 watts to a 23 element yagi and "average" contacts which could be obtained with his station were 100km for a "normal" day and 400km using tropo. scatter.

The talk was then illustrated with a series of slides showing some of the transverters which John has used. The first transverter used modules from UHF Units of Sweden, and another used an LT23S transverter from SSB Electronics of Germany. There were a number of slides of the Havering club's contest stations featuring plenty of antennas including a 4-foot dish for 23cm.

The craving for higher power resulted in John purchasing a 100W valve PA module also from SSB Electronics and then constructing the ancillary parts to turn it into a working amplifier. Successive optimisation has resulted in about 100W output for 3W of drive.

His interest has now moved on to 13cm operation (2.3 GHz) and he has almost completed a 68LMW transverter kit. It looks like contacts may be a problem on this band so perhaps another local amateur would like to join him?

John had brought along the valve PA and the 13cm transverter together with pieces of coax used on 23cm. It is no good using UR67, as on a normal cable run most of your signal would have disappeared by the time it arrived at the antenna, and, worse still, even with a decent masthead preamp your receiver would be very deaf. John uses LDF 4-50 heliax which is of the order of £2.50 per metre and the connectors are about £15 each!

The evening finished with John answering questions before being thanked for an interesting lecture.

RSGB HF NATIONAL FIELD DAY

Once again, I invite all club members to spend a day (or two) in the countryside this weekend. The NFD sub-committee have everything arranged - tents, rigs, food, tea, film, etc. The club station will be operating throughout the weekend, with kind permission of the owner, from Howletts Hall Farm, near Blackmore, Grid Reference TL616018.

We will be very pleased to see visitors on-site at any time, especially from 10am on Saturday to help set up the station. There are jobs to suit all abilities, from holding a rope (but remembering to let it go when the arrow is loosed), to assembling the tri-band HF yagi. This year we hope to extend the "telomast" to the full 40 feet, which means we need more people to help put it up.

If you wish to operate the station, then you must be an RSGB member. We have arranged operating schedules for the first part of the contest, but there are plenty of opportunities on Sunday afternoon. If you can spare the time, come on down.

As you may have noticed at the last meeting, this year's NFD entry will be recorded, in sound and vision.

Access is via the Blackmore-Highwood road, a bit less than a mile east of Blackmore. Turn south off the main road at the farm and follow the track past the farm buildings, right at the pond, on about a quarter mile, and shout...

QUIZ - 2 July

Colchester are sending a team of three people to take part in the July Radio Quiz. The question-master will be Brian, G0BDS, (by the way, Brian, congratulations, on your recent upgrade from G6FLI) and John, G8DET, will be vetting the questions to make sure they are fair... Our Treasurer, Bill, G4JUW, will keep score (because he can count?). So far we have one volunteer for the team - Martin, G4T00 (brave man!). Any more? or do we take conscripts on the night?

We are still looking for more (short) questions based on Technical matters, Operating, History, and General Knowledge, all with a radio flavour. If you have any, please jot them down on a piece of paper and give them to Brian at the meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting will be in the bar of the Marconi College at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 14 May, 1985.

CQ DIXIE - Bill, G4JUW

Would anyone else in CARS like to participate in an "on-air" get-together with a club in Georgia, USA? They certainly would like to talk to talk to you!

Bill Atkins, KC4WU, who is the Secretary of the Central Georgia Amateur Radio Club wrote to me recently suggesting a liaison between our two clubs. What Bill has in mind is an exchange of Newsletters and he enclosed one of CGARC'S with his letter. Also he would like to start an informal "natter" between members of our clubs, maybe once a month depending on demand.

In terms of size the Georgia Club is similar to our own with 113 members. An average of 41 attend the meetings which are on the second Friday of each month. The club is ARRL affiliated with "special services" status.

For the benefit of hams in the Central Georgia area, the Club operates a 2m repeater with auto-patch facilities. The Club does Public Service work similar to our own Raynet. One example was the provision of communications for the Special Olympics for paraplegics in Warner Robbins, the Club's home town.

Anyone interested in joining QSOs with the Peach State contact me and I will co-ordinate with Bill Atkins.

DF NEWS - Dick, G3WHR

The DF season is well under way with two local events and the National Qualifying Event already completed. Future events are shown in "Dates for your Diary" above.

In April, Peter, G4TEB/P, hid on Fordham Heath with the following results:

1	Ian Butson	8:04	5	Frank Pearson	8:16
2	Alan Williams	8:05	6	Paul Clark	8:17
3	Dick Brocks	8:14	7	Pat Cranmer	8:22
4	Jeff Herbert	8:15	8	Roy Emery	8:43

In May, I hid G3WHR/P deep in Chalkney Wood:

1	Mike Hawkins	8:21	5	Alan Williams	8:37.5
2	Frank Pearson	8:22	6	Peter LARBALRESTIER	8:38
3	Ian Butson	8:34	7	Roy Emery	8:44
4	Paul Clark	8:37	8	Pat Cranmer	8:46

On 19 May we held our RSGB Qualifier, when Colin Merry and Bill Pechey came first and Fourth respectively, both qualifying for the final. More details next month.

WANTED URGENTLY!

0 - 5 Amp Panel Meter made by S.E.W. (Shinohara - Japan), model MR45P, or information on a source of supply. - G4DAN, QTHR.

WANTED

High Power RF Attenuator, Range 30 - 36dB; for frequencies up to 500MHz if possible at power levels up to 200W intermittently. Also, lower power attenuators, detectors, etc. - Howard Buckenham, G3P6N, QTHR or Tel. Blackmore (0277) 822891.

FOR SALE

Icom 1050 CB set converted to 10m band: '10; 25W "burner", also tuned to 10m: '10; Codar PR40 preselector, 1.5 - 35MHz: '8. - Martin, G4T00, Tel. Chelmsford 84485.

73 from your Secretary,
Ian, G4BYR.

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