

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 241

March 1986

NEXT MEETING - Mobile Radio

This month we are pleased to welcome Peter Gill, G3YTE, Technical Manager, Mobile Radio Division, Marconi Communication Systems Limited, who will give a talk entitled "Mobile Radio, the present position and the future".

Give yourself an update on this interesting subject at 7.30 pm. on Tuesday 4th March at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

CONSTRUCTORS' COMPETITION

It's time to finish off the last touches to that homebrew project that you've been working on over the winter... The annual Constructors' Competition is approaching... 3rd June is the day!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 Mar. - Mobile Radio, G3YTE.
- 1 Apr. - Chelmsford Urban Traffic Control, G0BDS.
- 5/6 Apr. - RSGB Exhibition at NEC.
- 3 June - Constructors' Competition.
- 7/8 June - HF National Field Day.

LAST MEETING - B.N.O.S. - Dick G3WHR.

This Featured a visit by Lawrence Hobbs, G6FQE, and Andy Sharpe, G8UYN, of BNOS Electronics; who came to tell us about their company and its products.

Lawrence began with the history of BNOS, from its early days dealing in Ni-Cad batteries at Mobile rallies, to becoming a major UK manufacturer of Amateur radio equipment. He explained that some credit was due to the Japanese, for introducing the 2m multimode portable rig. This created a demand for Linear amplifiers and the PSU's to power them.

BNOS responded to this demand by licencing an American designed linear amplifier from V-J Inc. and introducing their 'A' Series of 12V power supplies.

When changes in multimode output power made the V-J design outdated, BNOS designed their own range of 2m linears, and ordered their first ton of extruded aluminium heatsink.

The Japanese intervened again, this time with a 70cm multimode. BNOS responded with a further range of 70cm linears.

More recent products have included a range of low pass filters to improve the harmonic performance of non-BNOS equipment.

Lawrence then described the theory of operation of the 100W 70cm amplifier and the design philosophy of its relay switched signal paths. Several amplifiers were offered for inspection, so we were able to see the high quality of the components and construction.

After tea, Andy Sharpe and Howard Buckingham joined Lawrence on the platform to answer questions. We congratulate BNOS for becoming a UK equipment manufacturer, and wish them lots of success for the future - tons of it.

RSGB CONVENTION AT NEC

As for the last few years, the Committee propose to organise a coach trip up to this event near Birmingham, for all those who want to see the new goodies and perhaps bring some of them back (the goodies, that is!). Last time we got a coach with more than enough room for all at a cost of about £7-00 per person.

This time, it's intended to make a non-stop journey there and back, as not everyone wants the delay involved with stopping at a pub on the way back. A "comfort stop" will be available, however! As the rendezvous point will be Writtle village green, those who want to socialise can migrate to the "Rose and Crown" to round off the day.

All this can happen if enough people want to go. Names please to the Secretary, Andrew G4KQE, with a deposit of £1-00 per head at the next meeting or by phone (0376-83094).

RSGB HF NATIONAL FIELD DAY

Yes, I know it is early days yet, but... There will be a preliminary planning meeting (sounds a bit like work, doesn't it?) chez Gwyn G4FKH, 21 Borda Close, Chelmsford (Tel. 260831), on the Tuesday after the next Club meeting - 11th March. The event itself is on the weekend of 7/8th June.

NEW MEMBER

The Society extends a welcome to Ken Daniels, G6WHY.

TIDINGS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST - Jim G6ZC

My grandson, William, aged eleven, at present lives with his parents in the Sultanate of Oman. During his visits home he has sat in on QSOs in my shack and has been fascinated by the friendly voices calling in from remote parts of Britain, from across the North Sea, and further. He has even sat in at A4XYQ in Muscat for a QSO with his "grand-dad" and is now extremely keen to become a radio amateur. He and his sister, Kirsty, aged seven, have already learned the Morse code, with the help of letters which I have been sending them, written in Morse. On a recent visit to Oman I made them a pair of key-and-buzzer sets to allow them to communicate from bedroom to bedroom. This was a great improvement on conversing in "de-dahs". When last seen they were sending and receiving at five or six words per minute and improving rapidly.

I would now like to equip them with an HF receiver. This must be capable of CW reception (and SSB if carefully tuned). Small size may be desirable for transport to Oman. I have in mind something like an Eddystone EC10.

Does anyone have a suitable receiver to sell to me, and thereby help the next generation of radio amateurs (and simultaneously do themselves a favour by making space in their own shack for their next piece of the latest high technology)?

Incidentally, when in Oman I was invited to visit A4XRS, the headquarters station of the Royal Omani Amateur Radio Society. Housed in a palatial 3-storey building with marble walls and staircase, it includes the "shack" with two complete HF stations (including RTTY, SSTV, and comprehensive monitoring and test gear), a large lecture room, plush committee room, well stocked library and sumptuously furnished reading room, glittering comfort stations, the Society's administrative office, and a caretaker's flat.

On the roof there was a massive signal-squirter having the no-doubt appropriate name of "The Thunderer". I forgot to ask if it covered top band!

Coming down to earth, any help on the A4 SWL project mentioned above would be greatly appreciated.

- Jim Watt, G6ZC, Tel. Ingatestone 353357

BCI FOR 6m OPERATORS - Brian G3CVI.

Now that more privileges have been granted on this band, it is worth reminding ourselves that we must be on our best behaviour. Any second harmonic can fall within the VHF FM broadcasting band, which incidentally is still shared with important PMR services. Could it be worth buying one of those band-pass filters we saw last month?

CHANGES AFOOT - Roy G3PMX

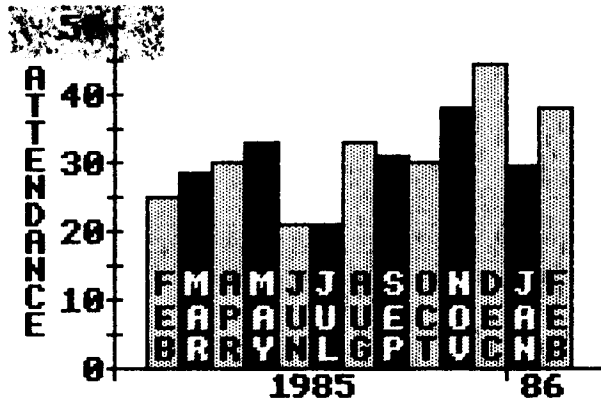
As this is the last Newsletter (for the time being at least) under the management of Ian, G4BYR, on behalf of the Society I would like to thank Ian for a good job well done.

Until further notice all information for the Newsletter should be sent to G3PMX/G6HKM to arrive not later than the Wednesday after the committee meeting.

MEETING ATTENDANCE - Andrew G4KQE

Over the last few months the Committee has noticed a gradual increase in attendance at our monthly meetings - a most encouraging lift, in fact.

There have not been fewer than 30 members present since June. I have drawn a graph (computerised by Ian and Roy into a Bar-Chart) of attendance for the past 12 months to illustrate the point. (Does everyone take their holidays in June and July?)



The signing-in book is a valuable source of feedback to the Committee. It enables us to see which meetings are most popular (and to produce interesting statistics like these). The overall conclusion so far is that you like to hear talks about Radio, Radio, and possibly Radio as well and roughly in that order!

Please look out for The Book at each meeting, and let's keep that graph on its upward trend...

COMMITTEE MEETING

The March Committee Meeting will be held in the bar of the Marconi College at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 12 March 1986. We assemble in the bar beforehand and then retire to a little room out the back, so as not to disturb the residents too much. You are most welcome to join us for the meeting or just to have a quiet rag-chew over a drink.

73 from Ian, G4BYR.
Harlow 441244 (ex.307) (day)
(0279) 33049 (any other time)

40 Great Leylands,
Harlow, CM18 6HR.

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Ex-Marconi employee, G4PTD, moving to Suffolk in July and reluctant to dismantle his workroom and cosy shack, invites enquiries regarding the purchase of his Holland-on-Sea 2-bedroom bungalow. Contact Mr J.E.P. Penniall, QTHR or Clacton 813697.

WANTED

Has anyone got in their junk-box some extruded aluminium heat-sink, approx 3"x5" that they would care to sell for a nominal sum? Please see me at the next meeting. Andrew, G4KQE, Silver End 83094.

FOR SALE

Marconi Instruments TF-428B Valve Voltmeter, 0.1 to 150VAC, 20Hz to 200MHz, 0.2 to 300VDC, complete with service manual, £4.00
Advance A37L Attenuator, 75Ω, 6 to 36dB, as new, £3.00
BSR, 4 Speed, Auto-Record-Player, 240V, 50Hz, good condition, £4.00
For more items please see notice board at club meeting. Bernard, G6RM, Chelmsford 352500.