

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.244

June 1986

NEXT MEETING - CONSTRUCTORS' COMPETITION

At this time of the year, our members have the opportunity to show off their construction projects and stand the chance of winning a valuable prize into the bargain.

For the meeting on Tuesday 3rd June we will welcome John Saunders G3OLU and Dave Penny G3PEN, from the Braintree Amateur Radio Society, who have volunteered to judge the entries.

The rules for the competition are very straightforward, your entry should be accompanied by a card with your name, the title of the entry and a brief description or specification of the item. Please be prepared to give a short talk on your entry for the interest of members and information to the judges.

Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners will be awarded, each of £7, £5 and £3 respectively, in addition there will be a 'Novice' prize of £3 for the best entry from a member who has not won a prize in this or any previous competition.

Proceedings will get under way at 7.30pm, at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford, we look forward to seeing you there.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 June - Southend & District Radio Society Rally.
- 3 June - Constructors' Competition.
- 7/8 June - HF National Field Day.
- 1 July - Electricity Generation and Distribution.
- 12 July - Special Event Station, GB4NSC, North Springfield.
- 5 August - Sunspot Cycle Number 21.

NEW MEMBER

The Society extends a welcome to Simon Tonks G6ZKG.

HF NATIONAL FIELD DAY

Once again, all members are invited to spend a fun day (or two) in the countryside on 7/8 June. We hope to repeat the success (and weather) of last year.

The NFD committee have arranged all the equipment and will be very pleased to see visitors on-site at any time, especially from 10am on Saturday to help set up the station (come and see the arrows fired, live!)

The club station will operate throughout the weekend at Howletts Hall Farm, near Blackmore, Grid Reference TL616018. Access is via the Blackmore-Highwood road, approx. one mile east of Blackmore. Turn south off the main road at the farm and follow the track past the farm turning right at the pond and on for a quarter of a mile.

Operating schedules are in preparation, please contact Dick G3WHR if you would like to take part, in any case, if you can spare some time, come along.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Gwyn G4FKH

This time we were treated to a display of wisdom from amongst the membership.

The chairman opened the meeting with an extra informative item. Following on the comment in the May Newsletter on "Getting to Know You", we were taken by surprise by each being invited in turn to stand and introduce ourselves to the rest of the members. A good idea, especially beneficial to new members.

Then followed a series of mini-lectures. The first was a talk illustrated and quite professionally presented by Paul G0BTH. The topic was his new aerial system and how to appease the XYL.

Paul showed us a design from inception through to building and testing a loop aerial for H.F. Whilst the results are slightly down on a dipole at the same height some very good contacts have been achieved. Full details are available upon request to Paul.

Next John G8MKX discussed the beauty of breadboarding techniques as used by the Marconi Company. The general idea of mounting small pieces of P.C.B. on to large areas of P.C.B. From the examples handed round I'm sure has many applications around the shack.

Dick G3WHR followed with an illustrated talk on Strip-line Stub-tuner techniques as applied to double sided P.C.B., an absorbing subject if your maths is good and are lucky enough to own an impedance analyser!

Martin G4T00 did a 'my rig' on his FT102. He explained his reasons for choosing it and its operation. Generally he is pleased with the rig and suggested the continued use by Yaesu of valves in the final still had plenty of merit.

The evening ended with Roy G3PMX giving a very detailed talk on batteries. He explained how he first became interested in batteries through model boat enthusiasm to their use within Amateur Radio. All the popular batteries from primary cells to ni-cads were on display and Roy explained the make-up and use of them all.

All the members who took part in this evening receive my hearty congratulations for an informative and interesting evening.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

The second Chelmsford event took place on 9 May when G3WHR/P was the hidden station. I chose a site by a fallen tree on the canal bank near Maldon, and put up a long wire with a hidden tee-in near the centre. Just before 7.30 there was a mini-cloudburst and everything got soaked. After that the aerial refused to load properly and it was 8.00 before any RF could be persuaded to leave the site.

Despite the chaos, all teams found the transmitter, and swiftly departed to the pub.

DF NEWS (continued)
RESULTS

1	Peter LARBALRESTIER	8.04
2	Ian Butson	8.14
3	Alan Williams	8.20
4	Andrew Mead	8.24
5	Mike Hawkins	8.27
6	Paul Clark	8.28
7	Jeff Herbert	8.30
8	Frank Pearson	8.32
9	Roy Emeny	8.42
10	Pat Cranmer	8.44

RSGB QUALIFYING EVENT - CHELMSFORD / COLCHESTER - Dick G3WHR

A large turn out for this event, with 22 teams starting from Layer Breton Heath in search of two hidden stations and a place in the National Final. Following the Oxford Event some teams came equipped for swimming, but none did.

The A station, G0BTH/P was 20km SW of the start in a wood near Stow Maries. This featured a special balanced aerial, designed to draw competitors away from the transmitter and towards dummy aerials erected nearby. There were 2.5 operators; the 0.5 being Fred, who was the upper torso of a dummy, which was placed near the end of one dummy aerial.

The B station, G4HKC/P was 10km NE of the start at Wivenhoe. Those who chose the correct side of the river still had to fight their way through some fierce blackthorn to find the transmitter.

Afterwards there was tea at the Prince of Wales PH, Great Totham, with prizes for the successful and tales of how they had managed it.

Posn	Name	Club	Time of arrival	
			Station A	Station B
1	M.Hawkins	Chelmsford	1534	1423
2	B.Bristow	Mid-Thames	1555	1423.5
3	R.Goodearl	Mid-Thames	1556	1435
4	A.Simmons	Mid-Thames	1602	1439
5	P.Larbalestier	Colchester	1603	1424
6	A.Williams	Braintree	1610	1501
7	C.Plummer	Mid-Thames	1613	1507
8	G.Foster	Stratford	1614	1439
9	B.Mephram	Mid-Thames	1623	1426
10	G.Whenham	Coventry	1502	1628
11	W.Pechey	Mid-Thames	1456	--
12	P.Cranmer	Colchester	--	1509
13	T.Gage	Mid Thames	--	1533
14=	A.Mead	Chelmsford	1534	--
14=	R.Emeny	Colchester	--	1534
16	D.Newman	Slade	--	1535
17	C.Merry	Dartford Heath	1536	--
18	R.DeLaRue	Colchester	1540	--
19	P.Bishop	Chelmsford	--	1628
	F.Pearson	Colchester	--	--
	R.Sharma	Chelmsford	--	--
	P.Lisle	Mid-Thames	--	--

M.Hawkins and R.Goodearl qualify for the National Final.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The June Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 11th June. You are most welcome to join us.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO USE THIS SPACE?

A reminder that there is usually room to spare in the newsletter for members news items, articles and advertisements. Please send them to me. The dateline is usually the third Wednesday of each month.

To fill the space this month I include an item received via the RSGB Data Box service:-

"Class B Morse Facility. The facility for Class B stations to use morse code as part of their normal operation is now to be permitted by the Department of Trade and Industry as the result of RSGB action following the successful one year experiment which came to an end on 31 March 1986. The text of the DTI press release, issued today (2.5.86) follows:- Following the successful completion of the experiment allowing Class B Amateur Radio licencees to practice the use of Morse code, the DTI has confirmed, following consultations with the Radio Society of Great Britain, that the concession is now a permanent feature of the licence. The experiment restricted morse operation to the station address but this condition no longer applies. At the end of last year when the new frequency band at 50MHz was allocated to the amateur service, the Department took the opportunity to thoroughly revise the definition of the amateur licence. This revision had the effect of removing footnote A to the licence which restricts the use of Morse and takes into account the completion of the obviously successful experiment by varying the terms of the Class B licence to allow Morse code to be used. In confirming that the use of Morse code could now be fully regarded as a permanent feature of the Class B licence the department took the opportunity to remind Class B licencees that their use of morse code must be restricted to the bands for which they are licensed, ie above 144MHz. In order to minimise inconvenience to other band users, it is recommended that morse operation should be in accordance with the RSGB Guidelines. These guidelines are available from the RSGB on request."

73 from Roy & Ela, G3PMX & G6HKM
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