

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No.251

December 1986

NEXT MEETING - R.D.F. to Radar.

For our pre-Christmas meeting we welcome Brian Neale of Marconi Radar Systems Limited who will present an illustrated talk and film show on the history of Radar.

Most of us tend to think of radio frequencies being used mainly for communication and broadcasting but this is far from true. From World War II, large portions of the spectrum are used for navigation and the detection of radio waves reflected from objects (friend or foe) over land, sea and in space.

We can look forward to an interesting evening on Tuesday 2nd December, starting at 7.30pm at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

2 December - R.D.F. to Radar - Brian Neale.
6 January - Film/Video Show.
17 January - Club Social - Army & Navy, Chelmsford.
3 February - Rig testing session - Steve Dakman, G8MRO.
3 March - Kite Antennas - Tony Gilbey, G4YTG.

LAST MEETING - Junk Sale - Brian G0BDS.

Again we put into practice a fact we had learnt over the past few years, that is, having a whole meeting for selling junk rather than half meetings, and it really pays off.

The price, the quality and type of 'Junk' still amazes me when I see it, a single channel mint condition G.E.C. Envoy rig suitable for putting on 70cm sold for £5.50 and bags of new I.C.'s that must have been worth pounds sold for 20p a bag.

Recently I was given several speakers in 'nice' wood cases and when people realised what good value they were, the lot was sold like a flash, 50p complete and 20p without a backboard.

John, G8MKX as usual did an excellent job selling the stuff and I always wonder how he knows exactly what each item is, old or new, big or small. The amount of sales talk he gave can be judged by the fact he drank two glasses of water and a cup of tea during the evening.

Anyway, at the end of the evening £92.30 was taken, giving £56.90 to Club funds, which was more than welcomed by our Treasurer Bill, G4JUW.

At the end of the evening everything was sold except an ancient H.T. power supply which now resides in a rubbish tip at Ongar, and Albert, G0AEH has another square foot of empty space in his shack.

Our thanks to John for an entertaining and profitable evening.

ANNUAL SOCIAL

We have one vacancy left for the dinner and social evening at the Army & Navy, Chelmsford on Saturday 17th January, Your name and £1 deposit to Andrew, G4KQE will make the reservation. Final details next month.

NFD - '86 Round-up' - Dick G3WHR.

The results for NFD were published in the October Radcom. We came 25th in the Open section, one place lower than last year. Despite this slight disappointment it was interesting to study the results and contest log, and to compare them with previous years; 1985 results in brackets ().

BAND	1.8	3.5	7.0	14	21	28
QSO'S	49(66)	152(141)	83(98)	109(99)	39(25)	72(57)
POINTS CLAIM	392(512)	572(540)	322(376)	374(343)	138(92)	480(428)
POINTS RESULT	374(504)	565(540)	322(362)	370(338)	131(88)	480(418)

We had only four operators this year, but they worked very hard and managed to exceed last years number of QSO's. They're also getting better, the QSO/hour rate for each operator was higher - even me!

The logging was also more accurate, we only lost 36 points from our claimed score compared with 41 lost in 1985.

So where did we go wrong? - 1.8MHz! - After erecting a really impressive longwire for 160m we were very late in using it, consequently a low score on this band with its 2x multiplier. We'll set an alarm clock next year.

Finally, when the 1987 diary pops out of your Christmas stocking - pencil in NFD 6-7 June.

MEMBERS NEWS - E1a G6HKM.

The Society welcomes two new members this month, Ron Parry G5XV and Charles Shelton, Charles has passed the RAE and is aiming to go straight for a Class A Call.

Do you want to work the Isle of Man on 144MHz? because I.o.M. wants to work you! On the 23rd of November I had a nice QSO with Malcolm G0EEM in Ramsey, his antenna is fixed and beams to Essex running 150W, but gets very few contacts this way. Malcolm is on most evenings and weekends, he monitors 144.300 and his favourite operating frequencies are 144.385 and 144.390

As mentioned previously, subscriptions are now due, if you are unable to attend the meeting, renewals may be posted to me (see address over) cheques made payable to 'Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society' please.

SILENT KEY

Although not in our membership, the Society records with regret the sudden death of a local amateur, Ernie Butcher, G3CUH (brother of Arthur G3KPJ) on 16th November.

PROPAGATION FORECAST - Gwyn G4FKH.

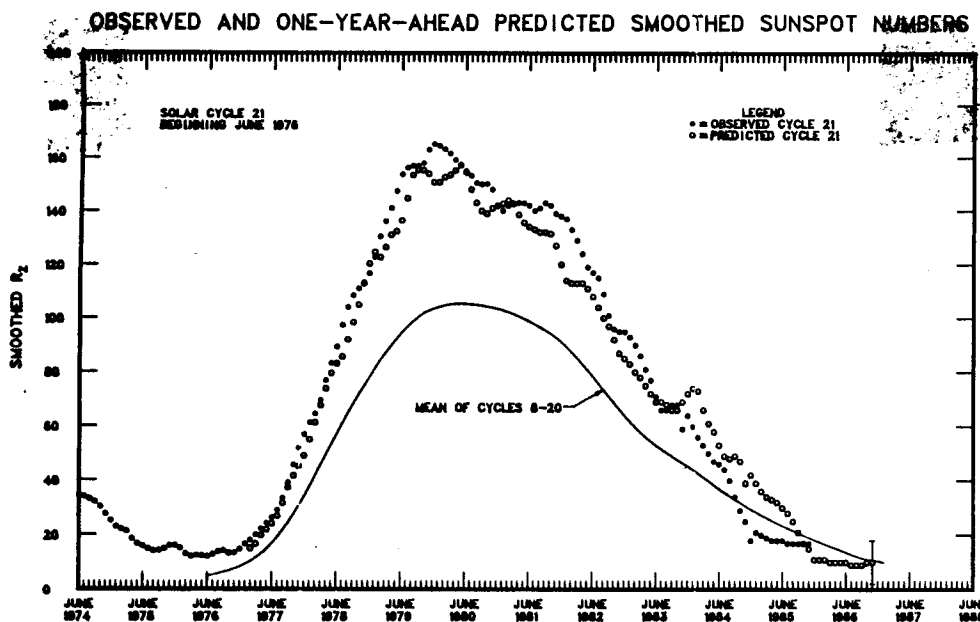
For the interest of members, here is a summary of Meudon Observatory's "Long Term Forecast of Geomagnetic Activity".

'Recurrent activity has now long passed, we can now expect some short series of disturbed days scattered through a quiet or nearly quiet background. These isolated events are relevant to the short term forecast in relation to the declining sunspot cycle. In the long term, evolution of the sunspot cycle in geomagnetic terms can be announced.

'1 - At present only a small plage of the new cycle has been reported but no groups. Many cycles have reported an isolated sunspot group about one year prior to commencement of the new cycle. Therefore the earliest beginning of the new cycle is expected in 1987.

'2 - For most cycles, minimum geomagnetic activity has a two year duration and begins at sunspot minimum. Geomagnetic activity levels will decrease for a further year from now. Geomagnetic activity will decrease to an annual level of "AA" equals 10 ± 2 gammas or AP equals 5 ± 1 , geomagnetic minimum occurring between the cycle in progress and the next. This means that during the two years interval 1987-88, the annual number of very quiet days ($AK < 10$) will reach 220 ± 20 and disturbed days (> 20) will not exceed 50 ± 10 .

'Consequently this quiet interval will be appropriate for all studies of the quiet magnetosphere and ionosphere as well as those studies concerned with the low energy part of the cosmic ray spectrum. Experiments devoted to the study of disturbed conditions will have a very weak chance of success, especially around the solstice, i.e. Dec. or June.'



CLUB NET

The addition of 10M SSB to the Club Net is a great success, not only does it enable stations without 2M FM to join in but unexpectedly it allows us to run the two nets simultaneously, to the extent that on the first occasion the remaining 2M stations logged more duration than the 10M group.

The next Nets will be on 9th December at 8.00pm on 145.275MHz (or 145.225MHz) and at 8.30pm on 28.200MHz (with Gwyn using his brand-new microphone!)

SPECIAL OFFER

We had a fair response to the ACE headset offer mentioned last month and an order for the minimum quantity of 10 units will be posted in the next few days.

CLUB LIBRARY

Further to last month's announcement, a list of the books available from Brian, G3CVI, together with additions and amendments, will become a permanent feature on the notice board at the meetings.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The December Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 10th December. You are most welcome to join us.

Finally a reminder that space is always available in the Newsletter for Technical Articles, Letters to the Editor and Members Ads.

73 from Roy & Ela, G3PMX & G6HKM

Telephone, Home (0245) 360545
or Office (0245) 353221 Ex.3815

1, High Houses,
Mashbury Road,
Great Waltham,
CM3 1EL.