

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No. 253

February 1987

NEXT MEETING - Rig Testing Session.

The last rig testing session followed the A.G.M. in October 1985 and although we ran out of time proved to be a very successful meeting. On this occasion we hope to accommodate more members equipments by devoting the whole evening to the subject.

Steve Oakman, G8MRO, of Marconi Instruments Limited, has kindly agreed to bring along some measuring equipment suitable for checking amateur transceivers. Steve will also be able to describe some of the benefits of modern instruments which carry out simultaneous measurements of several parameters.

Members should ensure that batteries in portable transceivers are fully charged and to bring along the microphone, D.C. (battery) leads, mains leads, etc. appropriate to their units. The standards of connection for the tests will be Type-N, BNC and PL259 (83UHF) for R.F., 13 Amp, 3 pin for mains and open end leads for 12 Volt D.C. supply.

We will provide a number of accessories for the evening, including a fully charged car battery, a 10 Amp D.C. stabilised power supply, various coaxial adaptors and an acoustic coupler for audio input through the microphone.

To avoid any disappointment in the running order, our chairman has recommended the use of draw tickets, one ticket for each item to be tested.

The tests begin at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd February at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 3 February - Rig testing session - Steve Oakman, G8MRO.
- 8 February - SNOWMAN D.F. Event (Rescheduled Date).
- 28 February - Rainham Radio Rally, Gillingham, Kent.
- 3 March - Kite Antennas - Tony Gilbey, G4YTG.
- 7 April - Short Waves and Beams - Mr J.S. Woods.

CLUB OUTINGS ?

To set plans in motion, at the February meeting the Chairman will ask for a show of hands from those members who are interested in club outings to the RSGB National Amateur Radio Convention, Birmingham, 27/28 March or the RSGB VHF Convention, Sandown Park, 26 April.

LAST MEETING - Videos and Films - Simon G6ZKG.

Things looked promising as we settled down in front of the two monitors displaying various test pictures, but the minutes came and went and eventually it transpired that the videotape (from the RSGB I beleive) of the W5LFL lecture had no sound on it.

Thus we swiftly moved on to the next showing: a video from Marconi Radar Systems about their various civil and military air radars. This included Martello, a 3-D transportable radar with 40 Tx/Rx pairs and a 2000 element phased array antenna. The mind boggles at the gain of a setup like this, but apparently it is sufficient to cover 4 million cubic miles.

Their 511 civil airport radar can be seen at Jordan International airport, and closer to home at Southend, with computerised displays that helped to eliminate a lot of spurious echoes or "clutter" from rainfall.

Other innovations were DF by VHF radio being displayed on the radar screen, and beam steering without moving the antenna.

Next up was a video about two of the very early amateurs, Dud Charman G6CJ, and Ken Alford G2DX. Together they recalled such events as the sinking of the Titanic, the declaration of WW1, and the news of it's end, all heard about on the radio of course. After the war, Ken became an active DXer, and an authority on aeriels, while Dud was involved in the setting up of 2LO. Dud's final thought was that Amateur Radio today is like "26000 private phone calls".

The final video of the evening was a short but apparently fascinating film on the lives of Thomas G0CAT and Jeremy M0USE.

Dick then brought the evening to a close with two genuine films (not videos): a high speed replay of NFD, and an account of the construction and installation of GB3ER, the 70cms repeater at Danbury.

ANNUAL SOCIAL - Report - Brian G0BDS.

As you all probably know, the Club had booked the Function Room at the Army & Navy pub for its annual social, the venue had been sorted out verbally, the rough price quoted and date of 17th January, 1987 put in the pub diary. When Andrew G4KQE did not receive any correspondence from them after a couple of months, we started to worry, so I telephoned them only to be told that the Manager had left, the pub was closing for redecoration and all bookings were cancelled. Well what luck! - because on the same date we all found ourselves in the beautifully appointed Springfield Mill.

We met at about 7.30 p.m. in the Chelmer Bar for drinks then assembled in the Carvery on the third floor of this recently restored water mill at 8 p.m. for a delicious meal (I starved myself all day). It was good to see 29 members and wives tucking into the roast turkey, beef, pork etc., preceded by the best mushroom soup I've had for many a year.

It had been arranged with the Manager that he would reserve all the tables at one end of the restaurant for us so that we could all be together and talk radio (well, if our wives had allowed us to).

Ela had arranged a free raffle for everybody and my XYL Sally was given the honour of pulling out the lucky ticket. Suprise, suprise, she pulled out her own number and then blushed as she received the chocolates from Roy.

The time quickly passed by unfortunately and it soon became time to say goodnight after a marvellous evening, and go home to relieve the babysitter Albert G0AEH who was still awake waiting for the cricket on television.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society extends a welcome to two new members this month, Chris Chapman, G1JRG and A.L.Smith who is a SWL.

INTERFERENCE - Brian G3CVI

There is a whole new generation of TV receivers now on the market and they appear to have improved immunity from interference. If you have experienced this please let me know the details either by post, 'phone or personal contact at the next meeting.

CLUB NETS

We are pleased that the nets, held on the Tuesday's between meetings, are well supported by transmitters and listeners alike.

A reminder of the times and frequencies, 8.00pm for 2M FM on 145.225MHz and 8.30pm for 10M SSB on 28.325MHz.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR The SNOWMAN event.

Due to the severe weather conditions and in the interest of safety the SNOWMAN event on 18th January was postponed and has been rescheduled for Sunday 8th February.

The event will follow National Qualifying rules with frequent but random transmissions between 2pm and 4pm. The start will be from Tiptree Heath NGR 884148, with first transmission at 1.20pm.

After the event tea will be available Chez Butson, 60 Churnwood Road, Colchester - NGR 021263. As usual, tea is on a 'bring a bite' basis. Please contact Ian Butson or me to confirm tea numbers.

The 1987 Chelmsford local events will be scored on a cumulative points basis, and the competitor with the highest score will be awarded a Trophy, to keep for one year.

CLUB LIBRARY

A list of the books available from Brian, G3CVI, together with additions and amendments, is on the notice board at the meetings.

If any member would like to contribute a book to the collection, Brian will be glad to add it to the list.

COMMITTEE MEETING

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I frequently find I would like to refer to magazine articles (especially from the US) that I don't have. Along with CVI's book list could we include a magazine list?

My interest is in Ham Radio, CQ and some earlier QST's, in return I can offer Radcom 1970/to date and I can obtain photocopies of QST 1980/to date at 4P per sheet.

My current 'wants' are:-

'Parabolic Reflector Antennas' by K2UYH in QST Aug 66.
by K2RIW in QST Aug 72.
by VK2ATN in Ham Radio May 74.
'VHF Antennas' by W6FZJ in QST Dec 74.

73, thanks, Paul Tittensor, 64PVM, Ch:267257

73 from Roy & Ela, G3PMX & G6HKM

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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Constant Type ASC100 stabilised-voltage modular power units. Output 15 or 30V at 1 Amp, or 24V at 1 Amp by 2 resistor and transformer tap changes. Overload and reverse voltage protection and remote sensing. Units may be operated in series or parallel. Circuit diagram etc. As new £5.00 each.

Mullard modules for DF receiver, LP1153 output and LP1165 IF module, as purchased but not used. £4.00 pair.

Morse key, up and down GPO type, chromium plated brass on polished wood base. As new £5.00.

Headphones, Telefunken, 4000 Ohm, adjustable, lightweight. £2.00.

100KHz quartz crystals, glass type with B76 base. Boxed new. £1.00 each.

Attenuator unit, Advance attenuator 750hm, 6,12,18,24,30,36dB, in metal case with F & E connectors, knob and scale. As new £3.00. Bernard, G6RM. Ch:352500.

WANTED

HC6U Xtal 15.677MHz, but frequencies between 15.625 and 15.750 would be acceptable. Bernard, G6RM. Ch:352500.