

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.259

August 1987

NEXT MEETING - Television Telerecording.

For the August meeting we are pleased to announce that Max Pemberton, G4ZMQ will present a talk based on his lecture at the IEE last November on Television Recording.

Max is widely recognised for his contributions to television engineering, in particular with the development of the Marconi fast-pull-down film recording system.

The talk will be illustrated with slides and 16mm film. The meeting opens at 7:30pm on Tuesday 4th August at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 Aug. - Television Telerecording - Max Pemberton G4ZMQ.
- 7 Aug. - DF Event - Colchester
- 16 Aug. - RSGB DF Event - Chelmsford/Colchester
- 30 Aug. - G3EDM Garden Party.
- 1 Sept. - Crime Prevention - PC Jeff Butler.
- 6 Oct. - Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society - A.G.M.
- 3 Nov. - Junk Sale (start collecting now!)
- 1 Dec. - Packet Radio.

SOCIAL EVENT - Garden Party at the QTH of G3EDM.

To provide the opportunity for a summer social for C.A.R.S. members and their families Geoff and Sylvia Mills have kindly offered to hold a garden party on Sunday 30th August.

The location is 'Tanglewood', The Ridge, Little Baddow, beginning at 3:00pm, please bring along your own deck/folding chairs. As well as enjoying the pleasant setting, members will be able to view the esteemed H.F. station.

This event can only be held with the weather permitting, if you have any doubts on the day please check on S20 or G83ER or by phone to Roy & Ela on Chelmsford 360545.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - How to work VHF-DX by meteor scatter - Simon, G6ZKG.

Ken Willis, GBVR, is probably best known for his 'VHF/UHF' column in RadCom and he came to C.A.R.S. to talk about a particular speciality of his in this area, meteor scatter (MS) propagation. He began by giving a brief summary of the more usual modes of VHF Dx propagation such as tropo and sporadic-E, and pointed out that MS has been used by amateurs for over 30 years now, whereas commercial and military applications are relatively recent. This effect is caused by small bits of debris left in the trail of comets which burn up in the Earth's atmosphere causing temporary ionisation along the meteor's trail. This then acts as a mirror to radio waves in the same way as conventional ionospheric propagation. As meteors occur at an altitude of 60 to 70 miles, this gives a theoretical range of some 1400 miles, which is rather better than the normal 2 metre range.

The lower the frequency, the better the reflections, with the new 50MHz band being extremely good at this mode. However, MS can vary dramatically in a short time in the same way as sporadic-E, and thus needs to be monitored in order to get the best results. This is done by listening to continental Band 1 TV stations, and 50MHz beacons.

The days of the year when meteor showers hit the earth is given in astronomical tables, together with information on the direction from which they are coming. When these are combined, usually by a computer program, predictions can be made as to which days, and on which hours, an 'opening' is likely to occur in a given direction.

Protocols have been established to cater for random calling on odd and even minutes, a modified RS numbers system, and four standard messages used to convey all the information necessary to confirm a QSO. In addition to this, messages are usually sent repeatedly for the whole minute (SSB) or 5 minutes (CW) so that the breaking-up effect of short but frequent trails can be overcome. Another way around this problem is to use very high speed Morse, up to 1000 letters per minute in some cases, produced by electronic keyers or variable speed tape recorders. Unless you fancy trying to listen to 200 wpm, a variable speed tape recorder is also used to decode the message.

Finally, Ken played us a number of tapes recorded off air to show that it is all quite realistic, although MS operation can require patience and a good ear. After several fascinating hours, he had certainly changed some misconceptions of mine about "ping jockeys", and he looked to have a few possible converts in the audience.

D.F. NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

The fourth Chelmsford event took place on the 17th July, and featured two hidden stations. Station A was provided by Richard G4ICP/P, who was hidden in a hedge near Rivenhall. Richard had chosen a site where two tall hedges ran parallel for about 80m and had erected a highly visible dummy aerial along the opposite hedge to the transmitter.

Station B was provided by Paul Clark G0BTH/P who had chosen the old railway track at Maldon. This site was made for DF, it contains all the ingredients - power lines, dense undergrowth, water hazard, etc. Added to these was a G0BTH special antenna with earth stakes. By the time I came to find Paul it was also nearly dark, and without a torch some assistance was necessary.

RESULTS	POS	NAME	TIME A	TIME B
	1	Mike Hawkins	8.15	9.13
	2	Alan Williams	8.23	9.20
	3	Dick Brocks	8.28	9.29
	4	Philip Cunningham	8.32	9.30
	5	Pat Cranmer	8.36	9.31
	6	Jeff Herbert	9.10	----
	7	Colin Baisden	----	9.14
	8	Ian Holmes	----	9.23
		Dave Adlington		
		Jeremy Hegerty		

The Chelmsford/Colchester RSGB National Qualifying event will take place on Sunday 16th August. If you would like to book a tea then please contact me or Ian Butson.

BRADWELL MEMORIES - Eric G8ADX

The Bradwell visit report awakened memories of its opening which was performed by the Lord Lt. of Essex, Sir John Ruggles Brice, in conjunction with the opening of a similar nuclear power station at Barclay, Gloucestershire. Unlike other sites, Barclay is rarely in the news but its claim to fame lays in being the home of Dr. Jenner who, in about 1790, produced the first Smallpox vaccine.

Marconi's television Demonstration Unit was hired to link the two sites by television and sound. These signals, together with two way communications were relayed between the sites by the Post Office. In those days this was generally done by land lines and often just using the overhead telephone wires which were 'equalised' with a special GPO box with a large array of knobs.

At Bradwell, Godfreys, the tent makers, (now sadly demised) provided an 'auditorium' made from 4 or 5 marquees. We sited cameras at various strategic positions and television monitors were mounted on shelves attached to the tent poles. A 'mobile control room' was rigged in a 30cwt Commer van.

One of my tasks, apart from operating a camera, was to ensure that Sir John was fitted with a pendant microphone before he went on stage. Needless to say he marched straight onto the stage without it! So there was nothing to do but march out after him and fix it around his neck.

Thankfully the opening ceremonies were performed without a hitch. However, while 'derigging', gale force winds blew up and the marquees were being lifted off the ground. Godfrey's men would'nt go anywhere near them and just as we rushed out with the last of our equipment, THE WHOLE LOT BLEW AWAY.

Just one memory of many from the good old "pioneering days".

QSL BUREAU

For all the avid QSLers, please remember that the Bureau is closed between 1 August and 23 August inclusive.

CLUB NETS

Remember that for up-to-date information on the activities of the society between meetings join in the Tuesday club nets.

The 2 Metre FM Net begins at 7.45pm, on 145.225MHz (or nearby if this channel is already occupied) and the 10 Metre SSB Net on 28.325MHz starting at 8.30pm.

MORSE TUTORS

If you have a Morse Tutor on loan and would like to return or extend the loan please arrange this with Ela, G6HKM at the meetings, both Tutors are out at the moment, however, your name can be put on the waiting list.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The August Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 12th August. You are most welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela, G3PMX & G6HKM
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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Heathkit 101 H.F. Transceiver, 5 bands, Manuals, Power supply, Loud speaker and spare valves. £155 or near offer. Ron G2AGY, Chelmsford 259883.

FOR SALE

As new, in original packing, Spectrum Communications SC29 Synthesizer Conversion Module for CB's using the LC 7137 PLL IC to 29MHz FM. Purchased at NEC this year for £15 but now not required. Complete with detailed fitting instructions, will accept £10. Roy, G3PMX.