

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No. 261

October 1987

NEXT MEETING - Annual General Meeting and Yackit Night.

At 7.30pm on Tuesday the 6th October the AGM will get under way, the agenda will follow the traditional format with reports from honorary members of the present committee on the achievements of the 1986/87 session.

We hope as many members as possible will be able to come to the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, not only to show their appreciation to the retiring committee but also to participate in the election of the new committee and to join in the discussion period when likes and dislikes are reviewed.

When the dust has settled we will move to the second half of the meeting which has been coined with the new word "Yackit" used to describe the open discussion by members of their technical or operating problems connected with amateur radio. If YOU have any problems please bring them along, there is a wide range of experience in the membership that can be pleasurably shared.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 6 Oct. - Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society - A.G.M.
- 18 Oct. - Mid-Essex DF Trophy Event.
- 3 Nov. - Junk Sale (start collecting now!)
- 1 Dec. - Packet Radio.

G3EDM GARDEN PARTY 30th August - E1a G6HKM.

For a Bank Holiday weekend the weather excelled itself, thus this event was a great success. It was a little soggy under foot but we had SUNSHINE. About 20 people attended including John, who is a Canadian amateur and was visiting Geoff and Sylvia for the day. At four o'clock a number of us gathered in Geoff's shack for the usual Chelmsford (USA) net. Bob W1HH was a little confused as he was sure it was my voice but why was I using G3EDM as a callsign, had I upgraded my licence he asked? It was a larger than usual net with Brian G0BDS, John G8DET and of course Geoff, also taking part was Phil G0ELM who was operating GB2PCW, a special event station and Roy G3PMX who was operating from home, unfortunately Roy was not able to come along as he was suffering from back trouble. After the net we all participated in a delicious tea and had a good chat.

I took my camera along but was feeling relaxed (or was it lazy) and appointed John G8DET to be "Official Photographer" and take a few pic's for me, the results will be on the notice board at the next meeting, thank you John. John and his wife then set off to collect some watercolours that Pauline had been exhibiting at a local Art Exhibition, on their return we were fortunate enough to have a private viewing, well done Pauline.

All too soon it was time to depart, our thanks to Geoff & Sylvia for a lovely afternoon

LAST MONTHS MEETING - CRIME PREVENTION - Bill G4JW

Police Constable Jeff Butler, Crime Prevention Officer for Essex Police gave us some very important tips on Amateur Radio - How to prevent your rig being stolen! Well aware of the vast sums of money lavished on radio equipment he emphasised the importance of being able to identify your own property.

The best way of doing this is to mark each item with your Post-Code plus house number (or first few letters of the name). This mark will be unique! A visible marking will actually serve to dissuade the thief from taking the item because he won't be able to "fence" it. An invisible (under normal light) marking makes it possible for any Police Station in the country to identify the owner of recovered stolen property - many stolen goods are not returned because the rightful owner cannot be located.

Of course it is much better not to have had a break-in, and the security of the home was discussed. Deny the villain access to your home by the use of 5-lever mortice locks and Dead-latches. Fit additional locks to windows and patio doors; the latter are especially vulnerable to forcing.

Most thefts occur during the daytime or early evening, so don't advertise your absence from home by allowing newspapers or milk to accumulate. Leave living-room lights on if you go out for the evening - a lighted hallway actually means that YOU ARE OUT to a potential burglar.

Much more information was imparted, such as security of vehicles. Two video cassettes illustrated many of the points mentioned. The "Neighbourhood Watch" scheme was said to be an effective way of deterring criminal activity because it makes the people in a community aware of any strangers or unusual events; furthermore it opens a line of communication between the Police and the Community.

I am sure we all came away from the meeting aware that we had a few stable doors to shut - before the horses were encouraged to bolt!

D.F. NEWS - Dick G3WHR - Part 1 - RSGB Qualifying Event, Chelmsford/Colchester.

In common with most outdoor events, good WX normally results in a good event. This year was a scorcher, at the start I had to sit in the shade of a tree whilst taking names and issuing the official contest forms.

On all events, and especially on qualifiers, it's very important that the stations can be heard at the start. We made sure of this by test transmissions prior to the event and more tests on the day of the contest. As expected, nobody needed the approximate bearings.

The 'A' station, G4HKC/P, was provided by Ian Butson, who was hidden in a wood near St Osyth. This site was guarded by several water hazards provided by inlets and creeks of the river Colne. The transmitter used a large circular antenna with a number of tee-ins to

distract those who follow aereals. However, DF competitors are determined people who don't shy at waist-high nettles, brambles, etc., so after several teams had 'been-in' there was a fair sized path of flattened woodland leading to the transmitter.

The 'B' station, G0BTH/P, was concealed among old sand diggings near Heybridge Basin. Here Paul Clark had erected another circular aerial which ran along part of the sea wall and over several water filled dykes. For the second year, the station operators were augmented by 'Fred' the dummy, who was given a tx of his own and positioned to welcome competitors. Unfortunately some teams turned back, when Fred refused to sign their form, without spotting the real station just a few metres further on.

Once again the Tea arrangements were ably handled by the Prince of Wales PH, Gt.Totham; after tea we were able to use their garden for the results and prize giving.

Posn	Name	Club	Time of arrival	
			Station A	Station B
1	C Plummer	Mid-Thames	1541	1438
2	G Whenham	Coventry	1544	1437
3	C Wells	S Manchester	1551	1430
4	B Bristow	Mid-Thames	1553	1430
5	A Collett	Dartford Heath	1554	1431
6	M Hawkins	Chelmsford	1554.5	1429
7	C Metcalf	Mid-Thames	1443	1607
8	T Gage	Mid-Thames	1436	1607.5
9	P Larbalestier	Colchester	1441	1610
10	P Cranmer	Colchester	1440	1610.5
11	A Judd	Mid-Thames	1449	1621
12	R DeLaRue	Colchester	1444	1621.5
13	G Foster	Stratford	1437	1629
14	D Newman	Slade	1444	----
15	C Baisden	Chelmsford	1556	----
16	R Whitney	Chelmsford	1557	----
17	P Cunningham	Colchester	----	1609
18	P Woollett	Dartford Heath	1628	----

Two teams failed to find either transmitter.

Part 2 - September Chelmsford Event.

This was the final Chelmsford event of the 1987 season. The hidden station was provided by Andrew Mead G4KQE/P, assisted by Richard Whitney G4ICP.

The transmitter gave a reasonable signal at the start, but with a strange broad null, which was attributed to the gathering darkness. However, on leaving the start, no further transmissions could be heard by any competitors. By 8pm most had twigged that the transmitter was somewhere back on Tiptree Heath. At 8.20 there was plenty of activity with torches flashing in all directions.

The transmitter was connected to a special, and still secret, aerial which gave misleading bearings close-in. All teams managed to locate the transmitter before the WX turned nasty and we adjourned to the pub.

1	Mike Hawkins	8.31	5	Paul Clark	8.47
2	Philip Cunningham	8.32	6	Mike Farmer	8.51
3	Dick Brocks	8.33	7	Alan Williams	8.55
4	Ian Butson	8.39	8	Colin Baisden	8.56

To add some sparkle to the Chelmsford local events, it was decided to present a trophy to the competitor with the best performance over 4 events. I have to announce that, despite the valiant efforts of our teams, the trophy has been won by a COLCHESTER man. Congratulations to Philip Cunningham for his well deserved success.

For those staunch CHELMSFORD supporters, I must add that with 2 events to come, it is already certain that the Colchester DF trophy will be won by Paul Clark of Chelmsford.

Part 3 - Future Events

No silverware collection is complete without the Mid-Essex DF Trophy. This will be run according to National Qualifying rules on Sunday 18 October. For details of the start, etc., please contact me or Ian Butson at or after the next meeting.

Thats all for now - I've writers cramp, and I can't see the VDU screen for Tipp-Ex.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The October new Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 14th October. You are most welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela, G3PMX & G6HKM
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 or Office (0245) 353221 Ex.3815

1, High Houses,
 Mashbury Road,
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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Yaesu Tet, 3 Element Beam Antenna, 8ft radius, Unused. £80 Ron G2AGY, Chelmsford 259883.

LAST CHANCE!

Remember the Ad. in the June Newsletter for "Many years of magazines"? There are still many left and if no more are requested they will go for scrap paper!

Arthur G3KPJ, Chelmsford 460147.