

# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.263

December 1987

## NEXT MEETING - Packet Radio.

If you have ever wondered what is contained in the strange bursts of data we hear on the amateur bands, the meeting on Tuesday 1st December should provide the answer.

Bill Cole G4JUW and Phil Green G0ELM will introduce us to the subject of Packet Radio and will bring along their station equipments respectively to provide live demonstrations across the room and to a remote station in Essex.

The meeting begins at 7.30pm at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford and we look forward to seeing you there for an interesting evening of information.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Packet Radio.
- 5 Dec. CLUB SOCIAL.
- 5 Jan. CLUB MEETING - Film/Video Show.
- 2 Feb. CLUB MEETING - Interclub Quiz, Chelmsford/Braintree.

## SOCIAL EVENT - 5th December 1987

There is still time to reserve a place at the Club Social, the venue will be the Suffolk Room, The County Hotel, Chelmsford. 7.30pm for 8.15pm The Buffet Menu will consist of a selection of sandwiches, salmon and egg/cress bridge rolls, savoury vol-au-vents, Gala pie, Quiche Lorraine, chicken nuggets, sausage rolls, slice of pizza, Fantasie salad and coffee, the cost will be £5 per head, drinks of your choice extra from the Bar. Car parking is in abundance, just pick your way through the new road system!

Names and £1 deposit to Andrew G4KQE please AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

## REPORT ON LAST MONTHS MEETING - Brian G0BDS

"Where does it all come from?" was the cry from the assembled company, even if they didn't actually say so.

Yes, there we all were again gathered together to admire many relics of wireless and electronics past that had painstakingly been gathered together over many years, if not decades. This was the annual JUNK SALE.

Gwyn G4FKH took the leading role as auctioneer and then with gavel in hand proceeded to get blood out of a stone with some very large amounts of money being paid for some items. A box of about twenty VHS video tapes used only a couple of times went to Harry G2HPF for £14.00, he said they were a peace offering to his wife so that she would let him keep all the other large items he had bought, which included a 4 channel TX/RX that needed Superman and a few others to lift it (I wonder how Harry got it out of his car at home?).

Ron G5XV invested heavily in antiquary with the purchase of an EKCO Receiver circa 1946 at £3.50 (without a plug top), an old 'Q' meter at £7 and several other large old items.

Also much sought after were small project boxes of which there were a couple of dozen and ranged in price from 25p to £1.50. The speed at which the 25p ones were sold left me quite out of breath running up and down the aisle collecting the money.

We also had the pleasure of the company of Lisbeth Stedman who is on the editorial staff of the magazines "Amateur Radio" and "Radio & Electronics World". Lisbeth had come to the club to see at first hand a typical gathering of 'Hams' and generously donated several current copies of both magazines, and also several interesting books which have been put into the club library. The magazines, sold in pairs, raised £3.20 for club funds.

Also announced at the meeting was that Simon Tonks G6ZKG a Committee Member since 1986, is unfortunately leaving the club because of a move of job to Cambridge. We all wish him the best of luck I'm sure, and hope to see him in the future perhaps.

At the end of the evening a vote of thanks was given to Gwyn who had done sterling service literally to the amount of £51.83 to club funds, which I know pleased our Treasurer Bill G4JUW, because he had a smile on his face all evening as I kept handing to him the money collected.

## MEMBERS NEWS - E1a G6HKM

The Society extends a welcome to two new members who joined us at the last meeting, Lisbeth Stedman and Richard Sneath G8XOX.

Congratulations to Chris G1JRG who has passed the CW Test and is awaiting a new G0 callsign, well done Chris.

Have you renewed your subs yet? if you have, breath a sigh of relief, if NOT this could well be your last newsletter! Subs payable to me at the meetings or direct at my home QTH, cheques made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" please.

## DF NEWS - THE CHELMSFORD DF TROPHY - Dick, G3WHR

This is a new Trophy, awarded to the competitor with the best overall performance in any four Chelmsford DF Events. I hope that the winner, Philip Cunningham, will be at our December meeting to be presented with the cup.

### Full Results

Posn	Name	Points	Posn	Name	Points
1	Philip Cunningham	22	8=	Pat Cranmer	6
2	Mike Hawkins	18	8=	Alan Williams	6
3=	Paul Clark	17	10	Mike Farmer	4
3=	Ian Butson	17	11	Richard DeLaRue	2
5	Dick Brocks	13	12=	Roy Emeny	1
6	Richard Whitney	9	12=	Frank Pearson	1
7	Jeff Herbert	7			

## DF NEWS continued - Future Events

The 1988 season will start with a Snowman Event - weather permitting. More details of the time and location will be announced next month.

## NOVICE LICENCE - What is your opinion?

For those of you who do not regularly read Electronics Weekly we include an extract from the columns of the 4th Nov.1987 issue.

Under the heading "Novice licence could bring youth back to amateur radio" Ian Able G3ZHI, secretary of the Amateur Radio Novice Campaign, published an article proposing a solution to an 'age-old' problem.

The article began "The concept of a novice class of amateur radio licence is not new. Some 30 countries already have one. We were promised one in Parliament way back in 1968 by the then Post Master General E.Short but nothing came of it. The DTI is now actively reconsidering the idea."

The article continues "The whole nature of amateur radio has changed during recent years. The traditional entry into the hobby is now much less followed. This had been a long period as a short-wave listener to learn and gain experience about the hobby, prior to the taking of the Radio Amateurs Examination. Also, there is now a serious problem with a lack of young people coming into the hobby. Each year the average age of radio amateurs gets one year older. This was highlighted in the speech by John Butcher MP Under-Secretary at the DTI when he opened the RSGB's National Convention at Birmingham in March 1987.

He said: "Communications is a huge growth industry and the UK urgently needs skilled radio engineers. Some of the top radio engineers were launched into their careers as a direct result of an interest in amateur radio - today's enthusiasts are tomorrow's technologists."

Further down the article Ian wrote: "Today's young are no longer impressed with the ubiquitous 'Black Box' that is found in today's amateur radio. They are surrounded by sophisticated communications equipment which allows them to communicate without studying hard for nine months to pass the RAE. Indeed, as amateur radio equipment gets more complex the technology it employs goes way beyond the understanding of the beginner.

Remembering that the purpose of an amateur radio licence is self-training, the novice licence would employ simple 'low-tech', home-made, low-powered equipment (less than 5W) using Morse code only. The frequencies used would be in a CW portion of the 28MHz band, which for most of the time is very under used. The choice would allow the novice to take advantage of changing propagation which would provide local, and on occasions worldwide communications."

The article goes on to outline the involvement of the RSGB and radio clubs in providing facilities in teaching, examinations and the building of kits, with the comment: "This could well breath some life into some clubs"!!!

Ian concludes with: "If you support the novice licence, what can you do? First write or phone the DTI. They do want to know about your support. You can also write to your MP, the President of the RSGB or myself, G3ZHI but please include a self addressed envelope."

We wonder what CARS members feel about this subject? The full text of the article will be on the notice board at the next meeting or if you would like a personal copy please ask your Newsletter editors.

## SPECIAL EVENT STATION - GB1ECN

In co-operation with the "BBC Children in Need" appeal, a special station GB1ECN (Essex Children in Need) will operate on 2m and 70cm from 7pm on 27th Nov. to 4pm on 29th Nov. at the QTH of Dave G8UUD. Advance sponsorship is requested for the total number of QSO's and support on the air from all local stations with VHF and UHF to hand.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

The December Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 9th December. You are most welcome to join us.

# A very happy Christmas to you all.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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## MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

### WANTED

Handbook, including circuit, for EXPERT PD-8500, 80 channel, SSB/FM, C.B. Transceiver (similar types may be under other trade names).

Albert, G0AEH. Tel No. (0277) 821996.

### FOR SALE

Connifer trees 2' to 4' high, 50p each or 11 for £5.

Ela, G6HKM. Tel No. (0245) 360545.

### QUARTZ CRYSTALS

A reminder that John G8DET still has a large quantity of the club's HC6U crystals taking up his house-space. All the multiples of amateur carrier frequencies have gone but there are hundreds in between!

Tel No. (024541) 4677.