

# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.269

June 1988

## NEXT MEETING - Constructors' Competition.

At this time each year we reveal what some of our members have been beavering away at throughout the past winter months, collectively known as the Constructors' Competition.

For the meeting on Tuesday 7th June the competition judges will be Philip Green G0ELM and Roy Martyr G3PMX who have kindly agreed to officiate.

Under the guidance of our chairman each entrant in turn will describe their product for the benefit of members and judges alike, following this there will be an extended tea-break during which members can examine the projects and the judges can meditate.

Depending on the number of entries, the prizes will be £7, £5 & £3 for 1st, 2nd & 3rd respectively, in addition and at the discretion of the judges a £3 'Novice' prize may be awarded to the best entry from a member who has not previously won a prize.

The meeting will commence at 7.30pm at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4/5 June NATIONAL FIELD DAY.
- 5 June SOUTHEND & DISTRICT RALLY - Rochford.
- 7 June CLUB MEETING - Constructors' Competition.
- 21 June VISIT TO MARCONI MUSEUM.
- 5 July CLUB MEETING - To be announced!
- 16 July R.S.G.B. EXHIBITION - Have you booked your seat on the coach?
- 24 July ANGLIAN MOBILE RALLY - Colchester.
- 2 Aug. CLUB MEETING - R.S.G.B. Liaison, Ted G4TUO and The Nostalgia Night.

## NATIONAL FIELD DAY 1988.

The Newsletter is arriving early this month to remind you that next weekend is the time to prove our ability to run a first class station.

Members willing to participate are asked to assemble at Howletts Hall Farm, on the Blackmore-Highwood road, Grid ref: TL616018 at 9.00am on Saturday 4th June, when the site clearance, erection of tents, aerials and installation of equipment will begin.

Transmission start at 4.00pm and continue until 4.00pm on Sunday. We appeal for as many operators as possible to come forward, especially for logging, our weak point last year! and of course to help with the packing-up at the end.

## VISIT TO MARCONI MUSEUM

We have arranged to have our summer evening visit to the museum at Baddow on Tuesday 21st June, starting at 7.30pm. In order that we can advise our hosts of numbers we need names of members who would like to attend? The list will close at the June meeting.

Parking is plentiful nearby and we recommend you take some refreshments with you in the car as none are available on-site.

## DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

The second Chelmsford DF event took place on the 6th May, when G0BTH/P was the hidden station. Eight teams set out from Tiptree Heath and soon converged on the river Chelmer at Beeleigh. Everyone expected that Paul would not be easily found and this was true. There was plenty of wire - dummy tee-ins and the usual multiple earth stakes.

It's said that 'you can't fool them all, all of the time'. Philip proved this in a respectable time and then had the pleasure of watching the rest of us.

It's also said that 'you can fool some, all of the time'; as proved by those of us who arrived much later, having first searched the entire wood when Paul was actually hidden by the riverbank.

Perhaps the greatest enjoyment was had by the mosquitos - who had no trouble in locating the hidden station operators.

## RESULTS

1	Philip Cunningham	8.14	5	Andrew Mead	8.43
2	Mike Hawkins	8.26	6	Dick Brocks	8.44
3	Alan Williams	8.28	7	Mike Farmer	8.45
4	Colin Baisden	8.40	8	Roy Emeny	8.54

Future Events	17 June	Chelmsford	26 June	RSGB Coventry
	12 June	RSGB Northampton	1 July	Colchester

Finally, some sad news. The RSGB National DF Organiser, Eric Mollart, died on Tuesday 17th May, after having a second stroke.

Eric was a magnificent ambassador for DF, winning the National Final on several occasions, and visiting radio clubs to encourage greater participation with his highly amusing talks on the art of DF. Eric last visited our club in February 1980, and many older members will remember what an entertaining evening that was.

Though unable to compete, Eric was at the Oxford qualifying event in April - and in very good form at the tea afterwards. We will miss him.

*Editorial Notes:- We are particularly grateful to Martin Final G4T00 for the extended report which follows because of the limited numbers that were able to attend the meeting.*

#### **LAST MONTHS MEETING - Visit to Essex Police Headquarters - Martin G4T00.**

Instead of meeting at the usual Marconi College venue, this month's meeting took the form of a visit to the Essex Police Headquarters in Chelmsford. Coffee and a copy of the police newspaper "The Law" were given to the visitors on arrival. When everyone had arrived, Sgt. Mick Davies introduced himself and explained the evenings itinerary, visits to the Information Room, the Photographic Room, the Criminal Prevention Section and the Driving School.

The Essex area, he explained, stretches from Saffron Waldon in the north to Tilbury in the South and Eastwards to Harwich. The force is divided into six divisions covering this area which contains 1.5 million inhabitants. Four groups were formed which visited the different sections in turn.

#### **The Information and Control Room.**

At the heart of the Headquarters building, and reputedly bomb proof, is the Information and Control Room reached, five at a time, through security doors. Overlooking this room is the Command Room from which we looked down into the Information Room. Almost covering the far wall is a map of the county split into the six divisions. In front of this map sit the police and civilian staff who man this room. All 999 calls for the police in this county are routed through this room. Last year this amounted to 72,000 calls and this has increased by twelve percent this year. All the patrol cars in the county are controlled exclusively by two of the operators here, the remaining operators dealing with all other functions. Each operator desk has a switchboard for the emergency phone lines and radio links, most have a computer terminal in addition. An incoming 999 call illuminates a red light on the operators' panels and is extinguished when any one operator accepts that particular call. It is often necessary to ask people calling in, what town they are calling from since they assume that their local police station is handling the call. To the right of the Information Room are the terminals linked to the Police National Computer. This contains details of car registrations, criminal records, wanted and missing persons and almost anything that has a serial number including marine engines and caravans. This system is said to be reliable, unlike the teething troubles experienced with the Essex Police Honeywell computer system to which all other terminals are attached. This system blew up on the night of the hurricane last October and entailed the airlifting of specialists from America to restore it.

On the left of the room is a map of the Essex sections of the M11 and M25 motorways. The control desks in front of this map are not permanently manned since at present only breakdown calls on the M11 are sent here. When the necessary computer equipment has been installed, gantry lights will be controlled from here on the M11. The Home Office requires that at least two patrol cars are present at all times on each motorway.

The Command Room above is used only in emergencies and contains VHF and UHF radio controls, direct access links to five Ambulance services and a direct link to Stanstead airport.

Problems with radio communication are quite often a problem with the odd trawler appearing now and then. Cellular phones also cause problems, calls for police services from as far away as Carlisle, the current "dx" record, appearing.

#### **The Photographic Department.**

The Photographic Department provides the Police with the facilities for sending forensic evidence, such as fingerprints, and Scene-of-Crime photography in the event of road accidents and murders and suchlike.

The main room of the department contains lighting equipment and large-format cameras on calibrated benches which can be used for accurate recording of evidence where this can be brought into the Headquarters. There are two processors each for Black and White, Colour and Colour Reversal developing and the department also has a very comprehensive darkroom. Black and White photography is usually used for road accidents at night so that no legal argument can occur concerning the colour of street lighting.

The standard of equipment for a Scene-of-Crime officer comprises a Mamiya R367 camera with standard and wide-angle lenses, a flash gun with extra power packs and the "Essex Fingerprint Camera" which was originally designed and built here, being a fixed focus camera with a built in spacing frame on front of the camera and giving 1:1 picture ratio.

Gentian Violet is still used to reveal fingerprints with metal deposition used on plastic bags and the traditional Silver Nitrate. In some cases superglue is used as it reacts with the amine acid secreted from the skin. In cases where a body has suffered long immersion in water, a cast of the digit is made first.

To assist in forged document detection, infra-red fluorescence is used in a device using infra-red light and a photo-multiplier. Since different 'Biro' ink reacts with varying degrees of fluorescence, it is possible to detect additions and alterations to documents.

Video tape is also used, mainly as a means of providing fast distribution of information to other police stations.

Samples of the departments work were on display..... enough said.

#### **The Driving School.**

With the increasing numbers of motor cars on the roads during the 1930's, it became necessary to issue the police with cars to patrol the highways. However, it was soon found that the police had far more accidents than anyone else!

At this time, Lord Copland wrote a book entitled "Roadcraft". With few amendments, the same principles are taught to police students today.

A police officer who wishes to become a traffic patrol officer would undergo the following training.

First, after two years of ordinary police work, he is given a three week driving course, which, if he passes will entitle him to drive Panda cars and vans. He will also undergo a refresher course every two years. If he applies for traffic duties, he will come to the driving school for a four week advanced driving course. He may pass this with a grade one or grade two pass and despite a grade two pass signifying a very high driving standard, will usually only be accepted for traffic duty with a grade one pass. He's not there yet! A five week intensive course in Traffic Law will provide him with information on as many offences as possible. He will also be instructed in the use of speed guns, radar and associated equipment. Only now is he entitled to drive the 2.8 litre injection patrol cars and four wheel drive vehicles.

The skid pan was demonstrated with three brave volunteers going along for a ride. Normally only recovery from skidding during a right hand turn is taught to police students although both turns were demonstrated.

A tip. There will usually be one tree by the roadside if you go into a skid and if you look at the tree you will hit it. Try ignoring the tree!

#### **The Crime Prevention Support Group.**

There are 72,000 crimes committed in Essex every year and the aim of this group is to reduce this. An Architecture Liaison Officer gives advice and assistance to planners to minimise opportunities being given to criminals when planning new buildings and developments. For example, a car park that arranges cars in diagonal lines leaves less opportunities for a mugger to hide behind a line of cars, and plant pots are best put on stems instead of placed at ground level. A Police Station Security Officer deals with making police stations more secure and gives advice to police officers themselves concerning security. An Explosive Officer is also resident here and he recently disposed of a shipwreck in Liverpool Harbour which had been a nuisance for the last twenty years. It's also his task to ensure that when the "Sealed Knot" plan a mock battle, the necessary documentation is held and that proper safety precautions are observed.

The group attempts to determine patterns in criminal activity in an attempt to thwart the criminal. They discovered that, when asked to give a lecture on security to a Beekeepers Society, the beekeepers hives are a target for thieves due to the availability of pollination grants to farmers of between two and three thousand pounds, thus creating a market for stolen hives. The group devised the Victim Support Group who offer assistance to victims of domestic crime and assist with insurance claims and other help for victims.

A notable success for the group was the recent Weapons Amnesty. This netted 800 weapons including 135 firearms, tracer shells and grenades.

A few tips:-

Protect your home with a garden gnome, install an infra-red sensitive alarm in it! Don't put up a sturdy fence, since it can be climbed easily. Put up a flimsy one instead and plant rose bushes behind it, the larger the thorns the better. Asters also work well! A burglar looks ridiculous climbing through a venetian blind, and it can cut him to ribbons!

This was a most enlightening evening being shown the parts of police work that are not always thought of or appreciated and thanks must go to the Essex Police for this look behind the scenes.

O.K? Will you let me out now?

#### **R.S.G.B. EXHIBITION - N.E.C. Birmingham.**

The coach has been booked for the trip on Saturday 16th July. The plan is to leave Writtle at 8.00am to be in good time for the opening and to leave the N.E.C. at 5.00pm for the direct homeward journey. Andrew, G4KQE is now collecting the fl deposits necessary to reserve your seat. There are still some seats available so please spread as WIDELY as possible that 'Chelmsford' are running a coach and to contact Andrew on (0376)83094.

#### **RSGB QSL BUREAU**

The QSL Bureau will be closed for the month of July, if you have cards to send get them posted as soon as you can.

#### **SPECIAL EVENT STATION GB75MVF - Dave, 8BUUD.**

An Amateur Radio Station will operate at Mildmay Junior School, Robin Way Chelmsford, on Saturday 25th June, starting at 1.00pm.

Operation will be on 2 metre SSB and FM, 70 centimetre FM and possibly 6 metres.

If any members would like to assist with this 75th anniversary station please contact Dave. In any case please call the station during the afternoon and provide some demonstration QSO's.

#### **NOSTALGIA NIGHT**

Our version of the Antiques Roadshow at one of our club meetings is coming together, however, to ensure variety - we dont want you all turning up with an AR88 - Dick Brocks, G3WHR has been volunteered to act as exhibits co-ordinator.

If you have an Amateur Antique, and dont mind sharing your pleasure, then please contact Dick at the next meeting or by phone on 0621-891868.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

The June Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 15th June. You are most welcome to join us.

## THE JULY MEETING - Cancellation.

We regret to report that the advertised talk for the July meeting on Auroral Propagation by Charlie Newton, G2FKZ has had to be cancelled since Charlie is moving QTH to Yorkshire and is now out-of-range for an evening visit.

## VISIT TO RSGB VHF CONVENTION SANDOWN PARK - Ela, G6HKM.

On Sunday May 1st Roy and I set off for Sandown Park, a new venture for us, the weather was wet, however, perhaps that would mean less traffic on the roads! The event opened at 10.30 and we arrived approximately one hour later, to our surprise we found a queue to get in trailing for well over a 100 yards! By now it had stopped raining and the queue moved quite quickly, a fl to get in, so no change required.

The Convention was held in the Grandstand complex which we thought offered very good facilities. Once in, it was a case of battle with the throng, we were amazed at the popularity of the event. If you were looking for components for construction, connectors, cables etc., you had an abundance of stands to select from.

Whilst doing the rounds it was nice to meet other CARS members, namely, Phil G0ELM, Murray G6JYB, Ken G6WHY, Howard G3PGN and Ken G3LVP who now lives in Gloucestershire.

The presentation of VHF Trophies was to take place at 13.30 in Lecture Hall A, this was very spacious and had plenty of seating, even the PA was of good quality. Malcolm G3ZNU introduced the RSGB President, Sir Richard Davies, G2XM, who addressed the Convention and presented the Trophies for 1987. I was keen to see this event as I was interested to see the winners of the various contests as I do a lot of contest operating myself. What a happy young crowd they were (at this point I felt quite old!). Now another CARS member appeared on the scene, Paul G4PVM was in the "Hillbillies" contest group, and what a group, I did not count them but there must have been 14 or 15 at least, they had two trophies to collect, the Surrey Trophy and the Mitchell Milling Trophy. Congratulations to you Paul and the rest of the gang.

A programme of 3 lectures were arranged for each of the 3 halls during the afternoon.

It was now time for a late lunch and another trip around the stands meeting many people whom I have contacted on the air but not had the pleasure of meeting before. We left Sandown just after 4 O'clock and arrived home 1 hour and 25 minutes later, with no hold-up at the Dartford Tunnel. The route was A12, M25 to junction 10, a short run on the A3, then A244 to Esher. A most enjoyable day, next time we plan to get there for the start.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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