

# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.271

August 1988

**NEXT MEETING - Presented by Ted, G4TUD and Dick, G3WHR.**

This month we welcome Ted Whitworth, G4TUD, the RSGB Liaison Officer (RLO) for Essex. This is Ted's first visit to our club since the introduction of RLO's earlier this year.

The roll of the RLO is to direct members problems or queries to the most effective source of solution, each RLO has a detailed breakdown of the effort available within the Society. By making contact with your RLO you should be directed to the best advice available, whether it be from HQ staff or a volunteer.

We look forward to hearing about the progress so far and any queries our members may bring along to the meeting.

For the second half of the meeting Dick Brocks, G3WHR will present the nostalgia night.

Those of us who went to the RSGB Exhibition at the NEC had the opportunity to see the display of 75 Years of Radio, arranged by Eddystone Radio. It was interesting to see some of the old sets particularly the early Eddystone receivers. As you walked around it was noticeable how certain models of equipment dominated the market until advancing technology pushed them aside. The increased pace in recent years has meant that this no longer happens - new models are introduced every year. Also, most transceivers produced since 1984 look much the same, even between manufacturers.

For our nostalgia night we have arranged for some classic receivers to be brought along. However, please don't think that everything has to be pre 1950 to qualify for the word nostalgic. Just think to yourself 'what was my first experience of Amateur Radio' and have a look around the shack for the earliest piece of gear you have. If its reasonably portable, and not in a glass case, then think about bringing it to the next meeting - someone will want to talk to you about it.

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2 Aug. CLUB MEETING - R.S.G.B. Liaison, Ted G4TUD and The Nostalgia Night.
- 6 Sept CLUB MEETING - B.B.C. Essex, a description of the station.
- 4 Oct. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - See members news.

## IN MEMORIAM

The Society records with regret the death of one of our founder members. Wil Mosley died on 14th July at the age of 83.

Although never aspiring to a call sign, Wil always showed a keen interest in the hobby and provided the club with his support in the early days when it was most needed.

On behalf of the Society a message of deepest sympathy has been sent to Wil's family. Arthur G3KPJ, George G3GNQ, Fred G2HNF and Gerry G4WML attended the funeral.

## DAY TRIP TO THE NEC - Brian, G0BDS.

Saturday 16th July was a day to rise early if you wanted to go with the other CARS members to the 75th Anniversary Exhibition of the R.S.G.B. at Birmingham. The coach left the Writtle Duck Pond car park at 0810 so that we would arrive at the NEC about the time the doors opened. Its the only way to make sure that bargains to be had are not missed.

Twenty three members and guests were on the coach which left plenty of spare seats so that I had lots of room to stretch out my legs and enjoy the journey. The cost of the entrance tickets was £2.80 and the coach fare set at £7.50 with the odd few pounds subsidy from out of club funds to offset any increase over that figure.

When we arrived we found that we were only the second coach in the car park, the other being the Vange Club, who had left at 0700. The early bird and all that! Inside the hall was the usual array of high priced all singing, all dancing out of this world rigs, all displayed to maximum effect, these all tended to be on one side of the hall whilst on the other side laid out in the traditional; 60% on the table and 40% on the floor, were the components and junk.

The coach was to leave at 1700, which gave everybody 6 hours to walk around, this may have appeared excessive but Albert G0AEH and I never did have time to see the exhibition of old radios going back 75 years. By the time it came to catch the shuttle bus to the coach park my "little legs" were aching and I was pleased to sit down and relax on the journey home, which we all did, after such an enjoyable day out.

## SPECIAL EVENT STATION GB75AC

Did you work one of the stations at the NEC exhibition site? Our Gwyn G4FKH did sterling work during the week leading up to and during the exhibition period. Only a few of our coach party managed to visit the transmitter complex due to lack of time but by all accounts the operating was quite impressive - well done Gwyn.

## MEMBERS NEWS

At the last committee meeting we had a preliminary discussion about the AGM. Two members expressed their wish for personal reasons to stand down at the end of this term which means that we shall soon be seeking nominations for the posts of Secretary and Treasurer.....help!!!

## DF NEWS - Dick, G3WHR.

The fourth Chelmsford event took place on 15th July. This was a double event with Mike Hawkins and Alan Williams as the hidden stations.

Seven teams assembled on Tiptree Heath for the start. Both stations gave good signals but later analysis showed that although fairly sharp bearings were obtained, nobody got an accurate bearing. As they left the start three teams headed for Mike and the remainder for Alan.

I chose Alan first and drove to Feering for my second bearing; great minds think alike so the lay-by was quite crowded. These bearings were very much better (though we didn't know it then) but gave me a problem because the intersection of my bearings on Alan was well off the edge of the map. The teams then diverged for their third bearings, seeking shelter where they could, the British Summer being in full spate.

The cross from my second and third bearings took me to a wood N. of Pattiswick where I found another DF car parked next to Alans Volvo. As I ran in, Paul Clark and his team ran out. Their brief attempt at disinformation was thwarted by a transmission from the hidden station. This provided me with the general location of the station but I couldn't see the aerial or find the operator. I did find Philip Cunningham but we had to wait in the rain for another transmission before both arriving at the base of a tree with a strange growth about 15ft up the trunk, which was muttering 'Test DF'.

Legged it back to the car. By now I'm soaked but no time to change so use bin liner and towel to protect car seat. Drove to junction of A12 at Marks Tey for a fourth bearing on Mike. By now there were plenty of intersecting bearings but still no clear indication of the exact site. Met up with Philip again and took fifth bearing. Disaster struck! in all the confusion of bearings I plotted it 180 degrees out and ended up leaving my car over 2 miles from the transmitter. As I ran through the fields I could hear Mike issuing 'hints' to assist Paul, who had been on-site for over 30 minutes, without success.

The event was supposed to end at 9.30 but Mike extended it to get full revenge on Paul for all those earth stakes. Sadly, I was still puffing through the fields 200m from the site when Mike went QRT. I arrived to find that Mike had hidden in some tall reeds near a pond and there were tracks everywhere made by competitors beating the bushes. A very good event - pity about the rain.

RESULTS	G3WMM/P	G4PQY/P	G3WMM/P	G4PQY/P
1 Roy Emeny	8.40	9.27	5 Andrew Mead	9.11
2 Philip Cunningham	9.35	8.32	6 Colin Baisden	9.41
3 Paul Clark	9.40	8.17	7 Peter Hamshire	-
4 Dick Brocks	-	8.32		

### Future events:-

31 July - RSGB Mid Thames, 5 August - Colchester, 14 August - RSGB Dartford Heath.

### LAST MONTHS MEETING - Gwyn G4FKH.

Charlie Newton had previously accepted our invitation to give a talk this month, but due to personal circumstances he was unable to turn up. In his stead three members of the club agreed to give talks.

The first was from Les G4CUT - "Scratching the Surface of 6M". Les was one of the favoured 40 who obtained a licence for this band back in January 1983. Operating times were restricted due to the possibility of co-channel interference with European TV stations. Les has modified 4M and 2M equipment to work on 6M. The kind of components he changed are crystals, inductors and capacitors, indeed complete boards. Les was lent a BNOS linear for 6M (for evaluation) and after returning it he then bought it. A good advert for the unit. From day one of the 6M operation all Amateurs sent reports to France for research purposes. The research continues and I presume anyone can now provide the required data. The kind of contacts Les has enjoyed so far include QSO's with the U.S.A., Scandanavia and Italy. Most of the activity is on SSB and to date no interference with other services has been reported.

Next came Ela G6HKM who talked about "Contest Operating and Logging/VHF Operating". As was evident from the awards on display Ela is eminently qualified in this respect. She is a self confessed fanatic with a set up consisting of rigs for the 6M, 2M, 70CM and 23CM bands, with suitable antenna's. It all started for Ela when her husband Roy G3PMX left the shack with the rig on and Ela was required to hunt around for him when someone called via the repeater etc. Ela passed her RAE on the second attempt, and is currently practising for the morse test. Ela has worked as a DX station in the guise of ZL0TAC. An important feature of the G6HKM shack is a card index system, which now covers over 5,000 callsigns. The kind of information recorded is name, date of QSO, band, locator etc. Ela will stay in her shack overnight if there is a lift on and says that being a YL is a boon during pile-ups. Poor old G3PMX has to stay as well, providing the tea and cakes. Ela likes to work in VHF/UHF contests often staying in her shack 18 out of 24 hours. During this period G3PMX provides Microwave soup, presumably to go with Microwave operating, no doubt warmed up on the rig. Ela suggests the use of aids such as a prompt sheet containing phonetics, Locators, antenna heights in feet/metres etc. All her QSL cards are produced on a computer. She has written a program for the purpose. The last point covered was that of locals hearing her but not working her during a contest. Ela says that a local call can be worth much more than 1 point if the contest has a multiplier scoring system, such as counties and countries.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Continued.

The last talk was by Paul GØBTH, "Direction Finding". The idea being that someone hides themselves in an inaccessible place and lots of like minded Amateurs attempt to find him using Amateur Radio. Paul brought along his receive kit consisting of a receiver, map, luck, ESP, etc., all of which are necessary for this facet of the hobby. He also brought his antenna's, simple, beginners and advanced. Earth stakes play an important role as well. The station to be found hides in an unlikely spot, whilst the aeralis for transmitting are cunningly concealed nearby. Its the placement of the TX aeralis that appears to be critical. For example, utilizing one or more dummy quarter wavelengths of wire attached to earth stakes. Coupled by space to the end/s of the active aerial, can send would-be hunters astray. This is of course achieved because nulls and high spots appear where they would not normally be expected. Paul showed via slides, ways in which he has in the past caused confusion in the seekers ranks. Brian GØBDS our Chairman summed up by saying that tonight we were entertained/educated by a variety of fun, seriousness and an insight to research. It was a well presented set of lectures. Our thanks to Les, Ela and Paul.

**SPECIAL EVENT STATION GB1CBC - Dave, G8UUO.**

A station to commemorate the Chelmsford Borough Centenary will be in operation from the evening of 29th July for a 28 day period. 2 metre FM and SSB with 70 centimetre FM will be used from the QTH of G8UUO.

**THE NEW SATELLITE - Roy, G3PMX.**

Congratulations are in order to all the AMSAT organisations worldwide for the successful launch of Phase IIIc which went into orbit on Friday 17th June and became OSCAR-13.

After the subsequent careful manouvers to correct the inclination relative to the earth the transponders were switched on last weekend and I had a successful contact with Ralph, WB6NNL in San Francisco on 70cm/2m on the second day of mode-B operation.

**NATIONAL FIELD DAY 1988 - Postscript.**

There were a few shortages in equipment this year, does any member know where the following items reside?

1. The U bolts and fixing accessories for the Mosley Triband antenna.
2. The multi-way coaxial switch we use for changing between antennas.

Any information on their whereabouts will be welcome.

**COMMITTEE MEETING**

The August Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 10th August. You are most welcome to join us.

**SPACE FILLERS - Brian, G3CVI.**

Brian has sent in some "heard on the air" segments which we will include as space permits over the next few months.

In strong cockney accent, "Ah well, see, my 'alf wave's a lot longer than wot yours is"

A:-"You have very bad audio and are spreading widely....over"

B:-"OK, George, I'll turn up the mike gain and see if its any better"

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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## MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

**FOR SALE**

Marconi Instruments TF1330 Oscilloscope, Vert: Amp: d.c. to 6MHz, complete with manual.

Solartron D-300 Oscilloscope, Vert: Amp d.c. to 6MHz, complete with manual.

Offers for either around £10

Gwyn G4FKH, Tel.(0245)260831.