

# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No. 272

September 1988

## NEXT MEETING - B.B.C. Essex.

In previous meetings we have described the historic associations of Chelmsford with radio broadcasting. To bring us right up to date on the subject, we welcome to our meeting on 6th September, John Lettice, Engineer in Charge at B.B.C. Essex, who will give an illustrated talk on the AM/FM station that provides the 24 hour service to our county.

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

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 3/4 Sept R.S.G.B 144MHz Trophy/I.A.R.U. Contest - (the big one!)
- 6 Sept CLUB MEETING - B.B.C. Essex, a description of the station.
- 11 Sept. Vange A.R.S. Rally - Nicholas School, Basildon.
- 18 Sept. D.F. National Final - (see DF NEWS)
- 25 Sept. Harlow Mobile Rally - Harlow Sports Centre.
- 4 Oct. C.A.R.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - also Yackit Night.
- 1 Nov. CLUB MEETING - The annual junk sale.

## LAST MONTHS MEETING - Bill G4JUW.

There was a diversity of interest at last month's meeting with the first half devoted to a talk, followed by a question and answer session with Ted Whitworth, G4TUQ, our Regional Liaison Officer to the RSGB. After tea Dick, G3WHR, hosted a nostalgic half hour among amateur radio equipment spanning the last sixty years.

Ted introduced himself to the Society and briefly explained the task for which he had volunteered. Basically he is the first point of contact for any RSGB member having a query with the RSGB. Instead of the member calling Headquarters directly, and being dealt with by a receptionist who may not be in a position to offer any assistance, a call to Ted (he has an Answerfone) and he knows just who to go to in the organisation for the correct answer - which, he adds, may not be the one you wanted!

The conversation then moved on to the new licensing conditions as published in the August RadCom (and whether so much of the magazine should have been devoted to that subject). This led to a discussion about the proposal for a 'Student' (or Novice) licence.

This proposal must be the most contentious to be raised for some time with proponents both for and against. Ted described the suggested training scheme for such a licence; viz. a 30 hour course in which he/she would construct simple test gear and a transceiver. Also a 5 WPM CW test would be mandatory. A documented (by QSL cards) on-air trial would follow during which the applicant would learn operating procedure including netting (Do I hear you say "What's that?").

There also appears to have been a difference of opinion between RSGB Headquarters staff and RLO's such as Ted about the direction in which the 'Student' proposal was going - the result being the RLO's have been given a full 12 months in which to canvass the views of the rank-and-file membership of the RSGB.

One thing to come across clearly was that the DTI are very receptive to the idea of such a class of licence which will encourage younger people to enter the Hobby. Amateur Radio would again become a training ground for the engineers of the future.

After tea such weighty matters as the future of the Hobby were put to one side, as Dick introduced some items most definitely from the past.

On show were cherished items owned and some still operated by Society members. Equipment such as the RCA AR88D resplendent in it's black crackle livery; a National HRO with a full set of plug-in coil trays; a 19 set complete with Cyrillic marked PSU; a 52 set from the Canadian Marconi Company; and a modern (?) SSB transmitter from the '60s rejoicing in the name of 'cannonball'. A nicely preserved B28, which some may know better as the Marconi CR100 - the first 'real' communications receiver (?).

Home brew of a previous era was represented by a nice 'little' AM transmitter with the ubiquitous Gelo VFO; to check it's harmonics, a Wavemeter, Class D, No.1 accompanied it.

The Boat anchor fraternity (sorry, Brian) was catered for by an R109 set, which I am told was used in tanks - as a Door step!; And who am I to doubt it?

Among the smaller items were various valves which my tender years prevent me from identifying, and a marvellous old Wheatstone Bridge which had terminals and contacts of polished brass mounted in a hardwood case; and to avoid any possible confusion in connecting the cell, the legend engraved on an Ebonite panel read 'Zinc' and 'Copper'.

All items were available for 'knob twiddling' both to those becoming reacquainted with old friends, and those handling for the first time a small part of Amateur Radio history.

Our thanks to both Ted and Dick for a most interesting evening.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

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

## DIARIES FOR 1989

We have received from a local printer some samples of Amateur Radio pocket and desk diaries at very reasonable prices. These will be on display for the placing of orders at the next Club Meeting or can be viewed by arrangement with Ela G6HKM.

## MEMBERS NEWS

Congratulations go to John Dodson on passing the RAE, his callsign is G7BWG. On the 8-8-88 John visited the shack of G3PMX/G6HKM and what an evening it turned out to be, 2-SM's and 2-OZ's worked on 23cms, both being new countries for us on this band. It was a very narrow duct and we were just in the right place at the right time. Tony, G4NBS (Cambridgeshire) said he heard us working the stations but he could not hear the SM's and OZ's at all. The equipment used was an Icom 1271e, UR67 feeder, masthead pre-amp with about 4.5W at the 43 element SHF antenna. Whilst monitoring the calling frequency on 6M I heard two foreign voices in QSO, when they had signed I said 'QRZ this is G6HKM' and back came OH1VR/2. We all had a great evening but pointed out to John that not every night was like this, in fact its been very quiet since, so 8-8-88 was lucky for us.

At the last committee meeting we again discussed the forthcoming AGM. We are seeking nominations for the post of Treasurer.....anyone good with money like to volunteer?

## DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

With just one qualifying event left, our preparations for hosting the RSGB National Final are at an advanced stage.

The RSGB President, Sir Richard Davies has kindly accepted our invitation to attend the proceedings and will present the RSGB National DF Trophy to the winner.

An extra Chelmsford event has been arranged for Friday 23rd September. The results of this event will form the final round of the Chelmsford DF Trophy.

## Future Events.

4 Sept.	RSGB Grimsby	23 Sept.	Chelmsford
9 Sept.	Chelmsford	30 Sept.	Colchester
18 Sept.	RSGB National Final		

## CALLSIGN FOR OUR SOCIETY

For a long time the committee have discussed the virtues of having a callsign for our Society for occasions such as Field Day, the Club Net, etc.

We have tried without success to obtain previously issued calls with historical association to Chelmsford but recent changes in DTI policy have now taken these out of reach. To avoid further delay we have decided to look ahead at the list of callsigns to be issued in the near future and have settled for G0MWT ("Golf Zero Mike Whisky Tango" or in other words "Marconi's Wireless Telegraph")

To this end the callsign has been reserved with the Radio Amateur Licencing Unit.

## CLUB NETS

The 2 Metre and 10 Metre nets have been running since 13 November 1984 to provide members with up-to-date news of activities and a point of social contact on the Tuesdays between meetings, however, the response to recent nets has been very poor and the committee have decided to terminate the 2 Metre net for the time being.

Gwyn, G4FKH has kindly offered to keep the 10 Metre net going, particularly in view of the rising sunspot cycle and the possibility of long distance stations joining in!

Our thanks go to Brian G0BDS for being net control for so long, we hope he will now have the opportunity to fire up the HF rig and call in on 28.325MHz.

## SPACE FILLERS - Brian, G3CVI.

Some more "heard on the air" segments which I hope will provide a smile or two.

From a very well Known user of open-wire feeders "To find the position of current maxima I just screw the key down and see which swallows fly first"

A:-"Can you give me your name for the log?"

B:-"I never disclose my name so I always answer to Old Man .... over"

A:-"Oh I see. The QSL card I had from you says 73 de Nigel so I'll call you Nigel"

A new G7 station on 2m, "CQ CQ CQ the continent .... CQ CQ CQ the continent .... over"

In reply, the voice of an old-timer, "Does that mean you only speak to people in complete control?"

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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## MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

### FOR SALE

TRIO 9130 2 Metre all-mode transceiver, used as base station, complete with microphone, mobile mounting bracket and handbook, all in original box. One carefull owner, £325.

Ela G6HKM, Chelmsford 360545.