

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.273

October 1988

NEXT MEETING - Annual General Meeting and Yackit Night.

On Tuesday 4th October the Annual General Meeting will assemble, the agenda will follow the traditional order with reports from honorary members of the committee on our achievements in the 1987/88 session.

We hope as many members as possible will be able to attend, not only to show their appreciation to the retiring committee for all their hard work but also to participate in the election of the new committee and join in the discussion of your likes and dislikes in our Society's activities.

Please note:- if you have any nominations for the new committee please inform the President before the proceedings begin.

From past experience we are repeating the opportunity for a Yackit session after the AGM when members can join in open forum to discuss any technical or operational problems they may have encountered for which other members may have the remedy.

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

JACKPOT RAFFLE

As many of you are already aware, each time you purchase tickets for the evening raffle at the meetings another ticket is set aside for the jackpot raffle.

The draw from this cumulative collection will be made after the AGM and the winner will receive a free membership subscription for the coming year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 Oct. C.A.R.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - also Yackit Night.
- 16 Oct. DF EVENT - Mid Essex Trophy.
- 1 Nov. CLUB MEETING - The annual junk sale.
- 27 Nov. Verulam Amateur Radio Rally - St Albans City Hall, (11.00am).
- 6 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Fire and Rescue Communications. Dave Elwell G4MUS.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Brian G0BDS.

Historically speaking, radio broadcasting has turned full circle with the establishing of a Chelmsford based non-commercial B.B.C. local radio station. The first ever broadcasts of course coming from 2MT and 5SW all those years ago at Writtle and New Street

We were therefore fortunate to have John Lettice, Engineer in Charge of B.B.C. Essex visit us to talk about the running of the station technically and financially, and with him he had brought some very expensive equipment such as a selection of "Mic's" with different audio characteristics for studio and outside use. One of these being the famous "lip mic" type used by sports commentators. The characteristics of some were able to be changed by substituting different elements or voltage control.

The portable mono tape recorders he displayed costing £500 and £5000 a piece demonstrated amply the high demand by the public and given by the local station when interviews etc., are recorded for later transmission.

The most significant fact that I think was given is that B.B.C. Essex can only transmit three hours of Performing Rights Society music per day with the rest having to come from the B.B.C. Copyright Library. Whilst Essex Radio can transmit as much as they like and also enjoy a better pricing scale for the transmitted music than the B.B.C. Essex Station. This comment also highlighted the budget difference between the two Stations. B.B.C. Essex having recently been told that it would have to "lose" three staff due to cost cutting, whereas Essex Radio was having no cuts and making a profit.

It seems a great shame that a local radio station having been opened only two years ago is already pushed into an unfair trading position.

Ample leaflets were given out showing the aerial sites and output powers of the various transmitter sites throughout the County. John indicated the complicity of the Great Braxted aerial site which is used as a repeater for data and O.B. reception as well as a broadcast transmitter of 12KW.

After the break which for the first time that I can remember was devoid of tea because of a burst pipe (some of us went to the bar especially opened for us by courtesy of Roy), we heard a tape with a selection of comic snippets taken from B.B.C. broadcasts over the years where presenters had dropped "clangers" or become tongue-tied whilst on the air.

Then followed a video of the preparation and making of the Radio 2 late evening show hosted by Brian Matthews. The trial runs and music editing featured along with many shots of large control panels and R.F. plumbing.

A most interesting evening enjoyed by all those who listen to B.B.C. Essex who now have an inkling of what goes on behind the scenes.

VISIT TO STANSTED AIRPORT

Planning ahead, Brian, G3CVI has arranged for a party from our Society to see some of the workings in the Stansted complex. For obvious reasons the visit must be during the off-peak season over the winter months and the most likely time will be at the weekend.

Will you please inform a committee member if you are interested in joining the party.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

The 5th Chelmsford Event took place on the 9th September when Frank Pearson G4JVM was the hidden station.

Something very peculiar happened at the start. We could all hear the hidden stations signal but nobody could get a bearing. After some discussion an approximate bearing was given and all teams set out towards Colchester.

From Colchester the bearings indicated Manningtree, and it became commonplace to encounter other teams driving in the opposite direction whilst trying to determine which side of the river Stour to go.

Finally most teams arrived at Flatford Mill, some later than others, where the transmitter was located in a hedge about half a mile beyond the mill.

The contest was extended to allow latecomers the chance of collecting some points. I arrived very late, having had my Rx battery go flat when I was half a mile from Flatford and half a mile from the spare battery in my car. However, I was in time to witness a remarkable arrival.

Andy Collett had forgotten his torch and only realised his problem when it got dark. He kept going, but had to negotiate a mile of footpath through swampy ground, herds of cows etc, in almost total darkness.

Results:-	1 Ian Butson	8.51	6 Alan Williams	9.10
	2 Paul Clark	8.52	7 Dick Brocks	9.20
	3 Roy Emeny	9.02	8 Colin Baisden	9.37
	4 Mike Hawkins	9.03	9 Andy Collett	9.37+
	5 Andrew Mead	9.09		

Future event - 16th October Mid Essex Trophy.

A report on the National DF Final will appear in these columns next month.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The October Committee Meeting will be held in the Marconi College Residence at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 12th October. You are most welcome to join us.

DIARIES FOR 1989

Orders can still be taken for the Amateur Radio diaries as seen at the September meeting, samples can be viewed by arrangement with Ela G6HKM.

CLUB NET

The 10 Metre Net operates on the Tuesday evenings between meetings on 28.325MHz at 8.30pm local time. Gwyn, G4FKH has kindly offered to keep the net going, particularly in view of the rising sunspot cycle and the possibility of long distance stations joining in!

The main purpose of the net is to keep members in touch between meetings and to update any information regarding the activities of the Society, however, many other interesting subjects are discussed and it is well worth tuning in to hear what is going on!

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

Telephone, Home (0245) 360545
or Office (0245) 353221 Ex.3815

1, High Houses,
Mashbury Road,
Great Waltham,
CM3 1EL.

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Now is the time to plant your Conifer Trees! Assorted sizes, 50P each or 11 for £5
Ela G6HKM, Tel No. (0245)360545.

WANTED

Does anyone still have the handbook for the Eddystone 659 Receiver that they would be willing to lend to make a photocopy?

Martin G4T00, Tel No. (0245)266728.