

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.276

January 1988

NEXT MEETING - The Annual Video Show.

We start our activities early in the new year with four video-films loaned from British Telecom and The Department of Trade and Industry. Their titles are:- No Ordinary Cargo, Radio Regulations, Band Three and The Baldock Ground Station.

Les G4CUT has again kindly agreed to run the show and we look forward to meeting you all at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3rd January 1989 at The Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 3 Jan. CLUB MEETING - The annual Video Show.
- 15 Jan. THE SNOWMAN DF EVENT - Starting from Tiptree Heath.
- 7 Feb. CLUB MEETING - Penny Plain and Tuppence Coloured - Mr J. S. Wood.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - FIRE & RESCUE COMMUNICATIONS - Richard G4ICP.

Dave Elwell, G4MUS is the Communications Officer for the Fire & Rescue Service (formerly the Fire Brigade) in Essex.

With a service area of 1450 square miles containing 1.5 million people, this obviously demands most sophisticated control and communications facilities.

A 999 call requesting the F & R.S. is routed to Headquarters, located at Hutton near Brentwood, whose main computer gives exact status and availability of the localised resources best suited to attend the incident. Two fire engines (or 'Pumps') are automatically allocated in the case of a reported house fire.

Using the Callsign M2VD, Essex County F & R.S. control communicates with 'Pump' mobiles using a 5 station narrow-band FM system. Control transmits on 100.825MHz and mobiles on 82MHz tx. It is known as a quasi-synchronous system, with the main radio link at a mast at Danbury and a repeater system throughout the County with master control from Hutton HQ.

Since the 1979 WARC, existing Fire Communications that use a 97-102MHz allocation (along with the Police) will be moving, so both control and mobiles will use the Low Band VHF allocation. Headquarters being linked to Danbury by microwave.

The contractor for the new radio equipment is Philips (Pye) Telecom, the system using AM. Dave said that AM will become the common mode throughout the country, so that all adjacent Brigades will be comms. compatible.

The Pye/Philips MX293 mobile rigs are synthesised with a 16 channel capability with callsign pre-programmed and an automatic status function that updates the main control computer at HQ.

Crews attending an incident can use handheld UHF rigs like the Pye/Philips PF85 to communicate with each other over relatively short distances. Should an incident happen in any of the Essex tunnels along the M25, this portable communication is enhanced by the use of a local repeater using a 'leaky-feeder' aerial system located within the tunnel.

Dave went on to mention that Data transmitting and receiving equipment will become available to F & R.S. crews so, for instance, hard copy of detailed information about chemicals involved in a spillage etc., could be quickly received.

A brief question session followed, this took us to Tea break, after which we had the opportunity to meet Dave and handle some of the rigs he had brought along.

Our thanks to Dave for a most interesting evening.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

The 1989 season starts with another Snowman event (weather permitting) which will be on Sunday 15th January starting at 1.20pm. from Tiptree Heath. For more details contact me nearer the event.

MEMBERS NEWS - Ela G6HKM.

The Society extends a welcome to David Rayner, G0AFP.

Subscription renewals are now very overdue, if you have NOT renewed, hurry up or this will be your LAST newsletter. To prompt your memory the rates are £3.00 with reduced rate of £1.50 for Senior Citizens and Students. Payments can be made at the January meeting or may be sent to me at the address given at the end of this newsletter, cheques to be made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" please.

SOCIAL EVENT AND VISIT TO SOUTHBEND AIRPORT

These events will be reported in next months newsletter as this edition had to be printed early due to the Christmas holiday.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The January Committee Meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge (Marconi College Residence) at 7:45pm on Wednesday, 11th January. You are most welcome to join us. Please note the new starting time.

CLUB NET

The 10 Metre Net, held on the Tuesday evenings between meetings are proving to be very popular. Please join us on 28.325MHz at 8.30pm local time.

MY HOLIDAY IN THE USA - Albert G0AEH

I recently had a most enjoyable holiday in San Antonio, Texas, as the guest of my youngest sister, a resident of some 30 years, having taken my first ever flight. I had been in correspondence with Ralph KB5ZG and met him a couple of days after my arrival. Ralph loaned me a complete 2 metre station, a Kenwood 210, p.s.u., and 300ohm ribbon J pole aerial, which with the assistance of my rigger sister was pinned to a suitable point on my bedroom ceiling. Ralph had given me a book on repeaters, which is now in the Club Library.

Life became hectic with discipline necessary so as not to interfere with family social life. By coincidence my sister had arranged a meeting with another Ham, Burnley K5ZJA and through him was a guest at two meetings of the S.A.A.R.C. which has 400 members. There among others, I met Madam President of the Club, Marty N55H, credited I was told with 35 w.p.m. C.W. Marty's late husband I learned was the radio operator on the Kontike expedition. At the club I also met Ray K5ZMS the Secretary of S.M.I.R.K., (Six Metre International Radio Klub) which has 5,400 members who operate from a co-ordinating frequency of 28.885Mc/s.

During one of my QSO's, I received a demand from Bruce K5SQ0 that he come to see me. This was arranged and he arrived carrying 70cms and 2 metre handhelds. With these he demonstrated the use of phone patching, calling a repeater, then keying in a number and speaking to his wife. Further demonstration used the 'CACTUS' system, where as I understood, repeaters at 70cms in 10FM out, 2 metre in 6 metre out, and I think 220Kc/s in 10 metres out were used. He raised a short QSO and said that the conversation had been heard across Texas. It seems that repeaters are individually owned by beneficent amateurs who also pay link charges. The co-ordinator of the 'CACTUS' system is Joe Jarrett K5FOG in Austin Texas.

I trust that with dialect and slight language difference, I have not distorted facts. Through Ralph, I was also a guest at a luncheon meeting of the Quarter Century Wireless Association with members having a minimum of 25 years in radio, where again I was welcomed by members, some of whom I had met on air.

A most pleasant experience among a most hospitable people.

CLUB LIBRARY

Brian G3CVI is in charge of this service, see the list of books on the notice board at the meetings, the charge is 20p a book per month.

If any member would like to contribute a book, Brian would be pleased to add it to the collection.

MORSE TUTORS

If you have a Morse Tutor on loan and would like to return or extend the loan please arrange this with Ela G6HKM at the meetings, both Tutors are out at the moment, however your name can be put on the waiting list.

FINALE - Another heard on the air - Brian G3CVI.

"-----yeah well-----my beam has approximately eight elements"

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* A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL *
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73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM
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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED

Crystals. 8MHz and 44MHz, preferably HC6U for Pye Cambridge. Anything in range 8.073 to 8.087 and 44.875 to 44.958.

Richard G4ICP. Tel No. (0376)84478.