

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No. 296

Callsign G0MWT

September 1990

NEXT MEETING - The history of Marconi.

This month we welcome the return of Stan Wood to present the fourth talk in his series on the life and work of Guglielmo Marconi. In his later years Marconi devoted his attention to the development and application of VHF. Stan will relate, with the aid of illustrations, the achievements of this remarkable man. The meeting will start promptly at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th September at The Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- 4 Sept. CLUB MEETING - Stan Wood on The History of Marconi.
- 30 Sept. HARLOW A.R. & ELECTRONICS RALLY - Harlow Sports Centre.
- 1 Oct. ESSEX REPEATER GROUP A.G.M. - Danbury Village Hall, 8pm.
- 2 Oct. CLUB MEETING - Annual General Meeting.
- 15 Dec. CLUB SOCIAL - Details in next Newsletter.

LAST MONTHS MEETING "WATERS & STANTON" - Brian G0BDS.

This month we had the pleasure of the company of Peter Waters, G3OJV and his colleague Mark Francis, G0GBY. Peter is the Waters out of Waters & Stanton and Mark is the Manager from their Hornchurch shop. They very kindly came along to tell us about their Company, its products and their method of retailing to the general public and to Amateurs in particular. Peter began the evening with a potted history of his early days in retailing when he sold a particular type of imported aerial that he liked and also apparently so did others; in fact he liked it so much that he stored them in his bedroom. One thing led to another and in the end he took the plunge, took on the franchise for some HiFi equipment (knowing that man cannot live on bread alone) picked out some other items he thought would sell to Amateurs and opened his shop in Hockley.

Things have progressed since then quite a bit and now there's a shop in Hornchurch, a mail order business and a new tie up with Maplin at Southend. Obviously a lot depends on the amount of advertising, but the statement that an annual sum of £40,000 is spent on putting the "Waters & Stanton" name in such publications as "RadCom", "Practical Wireless" etc., came as quite a shock. Their name is also seen on the cover of many specialised books, some of which list PMR frequencies or give advice on learning CW, and they are always on the look out for any subject material that will be of interest to the amateur. Mark, G0GBY had himself taken the trouble to write a book based on his methods used to learn CW and pass the Morse test in the hope that it would make him a fortune and help others to pass the test as well.

One subject that is to be promoted by their company is the issue of Novice Licences. They propose to offer lecture accommodation at Hockley to encourage schools or other groups who want to teach the newcomers to the hobby the relevant facts to get started.

Whilst the question of "Novice Licences" may be a ticklish subject to some, I am sure that "Waters & Stanton" are to be praised for their forward thinking even if they are sowing the seeds for the next generation of Black Box purchasing young Amateurs.

Also highlighted by the duo was the immense effort of attending the various Mobile Rallies. The recent one at Woburn Abbey meant hiring a large van, loading in the evening, starting at 5 o'clock in the morning, driving there and back with all the hours in between serving and then on returning late at night, unloading all the unsold items.

During the break Mark was able to show us several of the new handheld transceivers and scanners that have recently come on to the market and are available in their shops, and he said that if you call in on him at Hornchurch and mention the "Club" 10% discount awaits.

Our thanks to Peter and Mark for a most interesting and pleasant evening.

MEMBERS NEWS - E1a G6HKM.

Congratulations go to the following members; John, G0NVM, (ex G7EJT) on passing the CW Test and David Bradley who has passed the R.A.E, and is now G7HFC.

Our commiserations to Eric, G8ADX who has been in Broomfield Hospital as the result of a ladder accident, he has damaged both his heels, and looks like being incapacitated for some considerable time. Eric is now at home and can be heard on 2 metres/Wheelchair.

Best wishes for a full recovery Eric from us all.

ANNUAL AWARD.

We have only received two nominations for our Annual Award, as outlined in the August Newsletter, it would be nice to have some more. We can still publish the voting forms with the October Newsletter but we think you will agree that it will be more fun to have a larger selection. Your nominations (not more than 100 words) to any committee member as soon as possible please.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

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

DF NEWS, Part 1 - The July Event - Dick, G3MHR.

For this event Alan Williams G4PQY/P was the hidden station. From Tiptree the bearing went towards Bradwell and the footpaths of the Essex Way. I went to Silver End for my second bearing which was almost a reciprocal of the start bearing, clearly I had overshot.

Two further bearings were required to pinpoint a railway crossing between Kelevedon and Witham. The map gave no indication of any cover but when I arrived there was an abandoned lane - totally overgrown; ideal for DF, why it even had an aerial stretching along one side. I followed the aerial to where it was tied off on a wire fence.

Experience has taught me to examine ends of aerials carefully, and in this case I discovered a thin wire feed-in which led to the transmitter. Daphne and John were nearby, but where was everybody else? Answer - in the Pub; they'd been and gone - and so had the points.

Results:-

1 Mike Hawkins	8.23	6 Richard Witney	8.32
2 Peter Larbalestier	8.24	7 Dick Brocks	8.33
3 Andy Collett	8.24.5	8 Daphne Mead	8.42
4 Philip Cunningham	8.25	9 John Chandler	8.45
5 Peter Graves	8.25.5		

DF NEWS, Part 2 - Future Events.

31st August = Colchester.
9th September = RSGB Torbay.
21st September = Chelmsford.

DF NEWS, Part 3 - RSGB Qualifying Event.

During one of our pre-event meetings it was suggested that we use a different map. Several maps were scanned and that offering the greatest scope for DF was OS 169, Ipswich. Over 50% of the map was water with three large river estuaries, Stour, Orwell and Deben. Several sites were surveyed and signals tested.

All DF's need a starting point, here we were particularly fortunate when Gt. Bentley Parish Council gave us permission to use their magnificent village green.

Come the day, Sunday 29th July was a scorcher, eighteen teams signed in. The start bearings were almost the same, so no difficulty with which way to go. The problem was distance - the bearings crossed up to 8 river banks.

In DF you can't be sure which bank a station is on unless your toes are getting wet, several teams learned or re-learned this fact in attempting to find their first station.

Those with damp feet, or who guessed correctly, found Pat and Mike Hawkins, G4JAA/P, in a strip of woodland on the N bank of the river Stour. Local conditions were rather prickly and a long dummy aerial severely delayed those who like to follow aerials.

The second station G4PQY/P was over 30km from the start on the N bank of the river Deben by Sutton Hoo. The strong signal from this station lured some teams into choosing this as their first station. Unfortunately, access required a 2km run in and out, a long way in competition time. Bill and Doreen Pechey used a ferry from Woodbridge but had trouble with mudbanks. Alan Williams had also used a boat to get the transmitter on-site.

By 4.30pm, several teams were very close to finding their second station, but this time the operators had defeated even the best, so the results were declared on a single station basis which clearly favoured the 'B' station with its shorter access.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS**WANTED**

Small rotator - working or even not working.

Richard G4ICP (0376)84478.

FOR SALE

YAESU FT101B Transceiver in excellent condition, fitted with CW filter. DC power cable, AC mains lead and manual included. £225

Roy Martyr G3PMX. Tel: (0245)360545.

Some frustration was expressed, but this was soon placated by a superb tea at Ipswich Airport. The facilities were excellent - incidentally it is normally open to the public.

Results:-

Pos'n.	Name	Club	TxA	TxB
1	P.Cunningham	Colchester	----	3.12
2	P.Lisle	Mid Thames	----	3.19
3	R.Goodearl	Mid Thames	----	3.20
4	G.Whenham	Coventry	----	3.23
5	P.Larbalestier	Colchester	----	3.24
6	A.Simmons	Mid Thames	----	3.24.5
7	T.Gage	Mid Thames	----	3.25
8	G.Nicholls	Banbury	----	3.25.5
9	W.Pechey	Mid Thames	3.38	----
10	A.Collett	Chelmsford	3.40	----
11	A.Lisle	Mid Thames	3.41	----
12	A.Malbon	Mid Thames	----	3.43
13	R.Witney	Chelmsford	----	3.44
14	P.Clark	Torbay	----	3.54
15	G.Foster	Mid Thames	----	3.54.5
16	R.Grey	Mid Thames	----	4.32

Two Competitors failed to find either station.

Congratulations to Philip Cunningham and Ray Goodearl, who qualify for the final.

A CHEAP AND EASY WAY TO GET ON 4M FM - Part 3 - Andrew G4KQE.

Having converted the "P" band Pye Westminster transmitter to "E" band (4 metres), the receiver should present no problems.

Firstly, deal with the oscillator multiplier board. Simply lift off the three screening cans, and replace each of the three 15pF capacitors with 22pF. Finished.

Next, remove the RF front end board from the set. L1, L3 and L4 are each nine and a half turn coils, and they need to be increased to eleven and a half turns. These can be re-wound in situ on the board simply by unsoldering the top of the coil from the pin and adding two extra turns of similar sized enamelled wire.

Now comes the most difficult part of the entire conversion - the modification of T1 and T2.

Remove T1 from the P.C.B. noting that there is a plated through hole again. The secondary turning of one and three quarter turns needs completely removing and rewinding with two and a quarter turns of similar sized enamelled wire. This will mean that the start of the coil is on a different pin than the old winding and is effectively reverse wound, but that does not matter. Add one turn on to the top of the main winding and replace the 12pF capacitors with 8.2pF. Replace T1 onto the P.C.B. and do exactly the same for T2.

Put a coating of your wife's favourite nail varnish over the new windings to hold them in place, and replace the screening cans. Put the RF board back in the set and the receiver is now ready for tuning up.

The conversion of "P" band Westminster described over the last three months provide an excellent way of getting operational on 4 Metres FM, for very minimal cost. I have seen such equipment heaped up at Rallies for £10-£15 a piece.

Add to that the cost of crystals, unfortunately about £10 a pair, and you have a good transceiver for well under £30.

I have been on 'four' for over two years now and it is a band with tremendous potential, but very under utilized. It must be the ideal mobile band, as it propagates far better than 2M. I hope you will look again at the pile of ex-PMR gear at the next Rally and who knows - C U on 70.45!