

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No. 308

Call sign GOMWT

September 1991

NEXT MEETING - Low Bit-Rate Communication

On Tuesday 3rd September we will have the opportunity to take a glimpse into new technology when Mr M. Whybray of British Telecom Research, Martlesham, will present an illustrated talk on this new form of digital communication which makes possible the sending of high definition television over low bandwidth circuits (i.e. telephone lines). There are many applications, not least of which is the long awaited Videophone.

The meeting will commence at 7.30pm when John, our Chairman, will welcome members and their guests to the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3 Sept.	CLUB MEETING - Low Bit-Rate Communication.
8 Sept.	VANGE ARS ANNUAL RALLY - Laindon.
29 Sept.	HARLOW AR & E RALLY - Harlow Sports Centre.
1 Oct.	C.A.R.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
25/26 Oct.	LEICESTER ARS SHOW - Granby Halls.

DF EVENT FRIDAY EVENING 19th JULY - Daphne G8WQZ

Andrew had decided to hide on the old disused railway track at Stow Maries. After covering him up well I retired to an out of the way spot to await the first arrivals.

Five teams started from Tiptree Heath at 7.30 pm and Dick Brocks with his friend Roger arrived on site closely followed by Peter Graves, with Mike Hawkins not far behind. We had used a whole reel of thick black wire which was strung up in the trees on the right hand railway embankment. Dick, Peter and Mike all had a good look around in the bushes on the right, (as they were meant too!) before discovering the thin black wire which cunningly crossed the track where the trees met. Dick, Mike and Peter eventually found Andrew hiding in the undergrowth on the left side of the path.

Meanwhile Richard Witney and Roy Emney were busy searching around an earth stake at the beginning of the track. The thick black wire soon led them to the right area but the wrong side! After a while they too found Andrew.

We all ended up at the Round Bush at Round Bush, a really quiet country pub and sat in the garden to discuss the evenings event.

A good time was had by all especially the gnats which took huge bites out of Andrew and myself during the evening.

Results:-

1st Dick Brocks	8.26	4th Richard Witney	8.52.5
2nd Mike Hawkins	8.27	5th Roy Emney	8.53
3rd Peter Graves	8.29		

MEMBERS NEWS

The News Office has received from Tom G4INM some short articles on LOW POWER (QRP) for HF band operation, here is the first:-

ZL ON 2 WATTS

Yes I have worked both ZL and VK on 2 watts and I have the QSL cards to prove it. I also have the QRP Club's award for WAC also the American QRP club's award for WAC. All done on 2 watts.

QRP is a new experience for those who have been using QRO for years, and for the newly licensed amateur it is a way of starting for a very low cost. Something that the newly licensed have to take into account. Household finances usually take priority over buying a rig for over four figures. I can tell you how to get on the air and have successful contacts all over the world for a few pounds!

Good operating dictates that you should only use sufficient power to make a QSO. You can work all over Europe at strengths of 5-7-9 to 5-9-9 with outputs of only 1 to 2 watts.

Quite a number of radio amateurs are now turning to milliwatts, as they have worked the world on watts.

I have a whole lot of QRP designs that have worked and I will be pleased to let any club members have details.

One of my favourite designs is the ONER, a one inch square tx. You can have it crystal controlled on the internationally agreed QRP frequencies, or there is now a vfo to add to the ONER to make it more versatile.

I would be happy to talk QRP to any club member. I monitor S20 on 2m, the Repeater GB3EB (Brentwood) on 70cm, I am QTHR and my number is in the phone book.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The September Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th September, you are welcome to join us.

REPORT OF AUGUST MEETING - John G8DET

At the AGM in Oct. 1990 the Membership requested one evening during the year for a "Club Discussion Evening", this was it.

The Club welcomes visitors and at this meeting Melvin, GOEMK from Braintree was present and was able to contribute to the discussions - thanks.

At the July 91 meeting a Survey Form was issued requesting Members to answer a number of questions. 20 replies were received. This was used as the basis for the August Meeting.

The feeling was that now the Club owned a nice 747 HF transceiver the "Equipment Fund" should be used to buy some test equipment. Initially it seemed that a Frequency Counter might be useful but after a lively discussion it was decided to go for a Bird 'ThruLine' model 43 Wattmeter. This could be used with the Club Rig and also calibrate the many home constructed SWR Meters.

As a first request - does anyone know of a secondhand Bird and the plug-in elements needed for the amateur bands. About 4 elements will be needed to cover the more common applications. Please inform your Committee if you have any information which can save the Club money.

Another lively topic was "what is really needed in the TX shack". The licence makes general statements based more on yesteryears home constructed equipment rather than the modern very accurate digitally controlled rigs costing many hundreds or even thousands of pounds.

The modern rig is self checking regarding frequency and the stability can be in the order of a few parts in 10 to the 9th!. This really provides an inbuilt frequency check.

Power output is also self checking such that if the output is not correctly terminated the rig shuts down. A Dummy Load is required if there is a fault and there is a need to generate a test signal without a QSO.

The feeling was that the best check was another station a little way away informing the originator if a poor signal is produced. So many receivers cannot cope with a strong signal that an "in station" monitor was only a part check.

Although there was a good response for constructional assistance there was not one project which was common for all members. There was a number of different projects on the go so it is proposed by your Committee to have a Project List on the notice board. This will enable Members to state "What they have built - are building - would like to build - thinking about building". This may save valuable time, money and effort if you can find someone who has built the item you may like to build. As Fred, G2HNF said "I am waiting for the next issue of Practical Wireless to see if they have corrected the errors in the frequency counter project in the July and August issues".

The Noise Bridge was a subject of discussion. It is something which may well be the subject of a "Club Members Night" sometime in the future - if you have experience of this valuable piece of test equipment please inform one of the Committee Members. It being better for aerial work than a transistor GDO.

Charles, GOGJS brought along one of his "Magnetic Loop aerials" and gave his experiences with them. They are a very compact, high Q loop aerial which is remotely tuned to the required frequency and so ideal for use where TVI could otherwise be a problem and there is no room for long aerial wires. It does however generate a high E field and therefore should not be placed near persons, metal fences, cars etc.

THE G8DET RADIO GARDEN PARTY

A warm and clear day greeted the 20 or so amateurs and friends who braved the heights of Danbury Hill to attend the party. At 340ft asl the garden faces south with a beautiful view over Hanningfield reservoir and the Dartford Bridge could be seen in the heat haze.

The Club HF rig was attached to a 66ft + 66ft wire aerial at 35ft. This was constructed and erected between trees by Gwyn, G4FKH. Operators included Harry G2HPF, Charles GOGJS and Gwyn and contacts were made with Europe and North America.

Brian G3CVI assisted with the erection of the 8 element beam on a 25ft pole in the garden but due to a coaxial jumper being missing on the 2 metre rig there was no transmitted signal, this was rectified later in the evening and contact was made with G3PMX.

Cakes, sausage rolls, beer and the loan of a water filter assisted to make the day a great success, thanks to all, in particular to John and Pauline for their hospitality.

Now that passports have been stamped it must be repeated.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

A quantity of unused Panasonic sealed rechargeable 12V, 6.5Ah batteries with manufacturer dates 1990/89 will be available at the September meeting. Expected life at least 8 years on float charge @ 20°C, data sheet and connectors supplied. Prices £8.00(1990) £7.00(1989). Queries to Ken G6WHY, Tel: (0787)237876