

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No. 309

Call sign GOMWT

October 1991

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This important annual event will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st October in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane Chelmsford.

The agenda will be similar to previous years with reports from committee members on the past years' activities and the state of the clubs finances. Then follows the election of the 1991/92 committee; this done, there will be an open discussion on the coming year, the setting of the subscription rate and suggestions of subjects for future meetings.

In preparation for the A.G.M. at the last committee meeting, the majority of the present committee said that they were willing to serve again, this is good news because it helps to preserve the continuity of the team who serve us so well, but they must be re-elected by the membership. Any nominations should be handed to the President before the meeting please.

As is customary at the AGM, the Bumper Raffle Draw will be made for the prize of the next annual subscription to C.A.R.S. This is the free draw that accumulates from the purchase of tickets to the monthly draw.

ANNUAL AWARD

The October meeting will also be the occasion for the presentation of the trophy to the member of our Society who, in the view of the majority of members, has made a substantial achievement in the past year in the field of Amateur Radio. Last year you will recall the winner was Tom G4INM.

This year we hope to make the administration of the award even more straight forward by taking the nominations at the AGM and voting the winner during the same evening.

Nominations (not more than 100 words) should be handed to John, our chairman, at the beginning of the meeting, these will be allocated a number. When all the nominations have been received, John will make them known and display the names and numbers on the board.

At an appropriate moment, voting slips bearing only a list of numbers will be distributed to the meeting, during the break these will be collected, counted and the result announced.

Please note that even if you cannot attend the meeting you may still send your nomination to John or any member of the committee for forwarding.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 29 Sept. HARLOW RALLY - Harlow Sports Centre.
- 1 Oct. C.A.R.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
- 25/26 Oct. LEICESTER ARS SHOW - Granby Halls.
- 5 Nov. CLUB MEETING - The Annual Junk Sale.
- 3 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Radar by Stan Wood.
- 14 Dec. CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - Book your table early!

THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Based on the success of last years event the Committee have agreed to hold our celebration again at the William Boosey, Hatfield Peveler. Harry Lowe G2HPF is in charge of the administration and is now taking reservations and a £5 non-refundable deposit per person, with the balance to be paid at the December Club Meeting.

The venue has a cosy atmosphere but the dining area is restricted to 30 places, therefore you are advised to make your booking early. For the evening dinner of Christmas fare the cost will be around £10

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR

The fourth Chelmsford event took place on the 9th August, when I was the hidden station. The holiday season caused a drop in the number of teams, or was it the previous Colchester event where some of us ended up waist deep in river water.

By 7.30pm I was nicely concealed in some scrub near Heybridge Basin, with an end fed aerial running through the tops of nearby bushes. I had made one end of the aerial visible, but concealed the part where it crossed from one side of the path to the other.

The battle of Maldon was to be re-enacted the next day, so I was listening to the PA tests and hoping that it wasn't sensitive to 1.95MHz rf.

My careful aerial concealment was totally defeated by the first arrival on-site who caught it with his foot. A little bush beating on the correct side of the path soon found me out. The remaining teams were not far behind - so we were in the pub earlier than usual.

RESULTS

1 Philip Cunningham	8.10
2 Andy Collett	8.15
3 Mike Hawkins	8.18
4 Peter Graves	8.25

Future Events

The Mid-Essex Trophy double event has been re-scheduled and will now take place on Sunday 6th October. The start will be at 1.20pm from Great Green TL917560 on the Bury St Edmunds map OS155.

The Tea afterwards will be on our usual bring-a-bite basis.

MEMBERS NEWS

Congratulations to Stan Dodd on passing the R.A.E., his call sign is G7KJN.

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

FREE ELECTRIC POWER! QRP'ers have gone green

Modern QRP'ers are now running their equipment for free and are environment friendly. Solar panels are providing the answer. You can operate anywhere even at night with solar power! I use a solar panel and a small rechargeable battery to run my QRP equipment. You can even recharge a car battery with solar power. Solar panels are very sensitive nowadays, so that a useful amount of current can be obtained even on the darkest days.

Remember if you leave the solar panel connected to your battery it will be charging it up while you are otherwise engaged and a long trickle charge will top up a battery.

You can buy a 12 volt 3 watt solar panel for £14.00. You probably already have a battery, so you could go green and QRP at the same time with very little outlay.

I would be pleased to give details and addresses to anyone interested.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The October Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.30pm on Wednesday 9th October, you are welcome to join us.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Harry G2HPF

We were very lucky to have a talk on Low Bit Communication, by Mike Whybray of the British Telecom Research department at Martlesham.

A normal picture we see on our television set needs a bandwidth of 5 MHz and a telephone line has a bandwidth of 3KHz. So how do you get a gallon into a pint pot?

- a) Reduce the number of pixels in each horizontal line of the picture.
- b) Reduce the number of horizontal lines making up each frame.
- c) Reduce the number of frames sent per second.
- d) Instead of a variable luminance level transmit a discrete number of grey scale steps.

The information is converted to a digital format and transmitted as such over the landline and can be stored in memory at the receiving end. Much information is redundant if the picture is stationary, so we can compare one piece of information with the previous one sent and only transmit the difference. At the receiving end the equipment will then update the portion concerned.

The talk was well illustrated with slides and video and two terminal equipments were shown working, the first working to CCIT recommendation H261 at 64 k/bits, aimed at business conference use, and costing about 20K per terminal. The second one was designed for use by deaf people using an ordinary telephone line. For sign language by the deaf it is important to have a faster response time to catch the hand movements and this is more important than the number of pixels in the picture. It is hoped to get the price of this down to about £500 and the development costs of this have been borne by B.T. Satisfactory trials of this equipment have been carried out in conjunction with a deaf centre in Ipswich.

The final topic was a video tape demonstrating the use of the Model Based Coding system. In this the receiving end has a 3D model of a head in memory and adjusts this to the incoming picture information to get the outline of the face, and then the following information is more concerned with the pixels making up the mouth and eye movements.

Finally after the meeting one of the members said that maybe Baird's system was not so daft after all.

I thought I had a grasp of what Mike was talking about, but after doing this write up I am not so sure. If it makes sense to you maybe I did.

Many thanks Mike for all your trouble in giving us this talk.

NEWS FROM R.S.G.B.

Our Secretary Gwyn has received the following information on the results of a survey recently carried out by Headquarters.

- Q1. Are you satisfied with your society?
43.42% yes, 36.45% fairly, 6.34% undecided, 1.27% no answer and 12.52% dissatisfied.
- Q2. Should Raynet be independent from, but affiliated to the RSGB?
32.17% no, 58.96% yes and 8.87% no answer.
- Q3. If you prefer RSGB to run Raynet, should non-RSGB members pay Raynet Subs?
50.56% yes, 11.09% no and 38.35% no answer.
- Q4. Should a "Fighting Fund" be raised by RSGB to finance action by AROS and RIS?
69.10% yes, 23.61% no and 7.29% no answer
- Q5. Do you want advice from:
76.54% RLO's, 18.23% no answer and 5.23% New HQ Staff.

- Q6. Do you want RLO scheme to be extended to improve exchange of news and views between council, HQ and new members?
69.57% yes, 16.8% no and 13.63% no answer.
- Q7. The Age Groups of the Society:
53.83% over 50, 22.98% 40-50, 16.64% 30-40, 6.34% 20-30 and 0.16% under 20.

DX NEWS - E1a G6HKM

Arriving home late after the last meeting we made the fatal mistake of not checking the bands, what a disaster, we missed a big opening on 2, 70 and 23 to Scandanavia. However, determined not to miss anything else, a very close watch was kept and on the 4th, QSO's were made to The Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Poland.

The best DX of the day was as follows:-

144MHz.	SP2BDR	JO83VA	1180 KMs.
432MHz.	SP2DDV	JO93AC	1187 KMs.
1296MHz.	DF1AS	JO52GG	691 KMs.

On the 6th, stations were worked in LX, OK, OE, HE7 and D on 144MHz, best DX was OE/PA3CNX in JN77KR at 1128KMs.

Power used, 144MHz. 160W, 432MHz. 100W and 1296MHz, 10W (about 5W at the antenna).

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

Tel: (0245)360545
1, High Houses,
Mashbury Road,
Great Waltham,
Essex, CM3 1EL.

MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

SINCLAIR Spectrum 48K with interface-2 and PROTEK interface, ZX printer, joystick, cassette recorder and manuals, mostly boxed with a wide range of software cassettes, £60.00.

CANON V-20 MSX 64K, boxed with manuals and software, £35.00.

BROTHER MR5 Thermal Printer (Centronics parallel interface) with MSX cable and some stationery, £30.00.

FIDELITY 14" Colour T.V. boxed in fine condition £50.00.

J.V.C. Stereo Player (synthesized) Model TX2L, £35.00.

Martin Final, G4TOO, Telephone (0245) 266728.

FOR SALE

BOXFORD Lathe, 4½ inch, bench style model-C, £525.00 O.N.O. with 3 chucks, face-plate, live tail stock centre and change wheels including metric conversion wheel, thread cutting indicator and single phase motor.

The deal could include the bench with a large drawer beneath.

Peter Neave, G4DAN, Telephone (0206) 395968.