

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No. 310

Callsign G0MWT

November 1991

The ANNUAL JUNK SALE

This important annual event will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 5th November in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane Chelmsford.

This meeting provides the opportunity for members either to turn radio items they no longer require into cash or purchase "just what I've been looking for!"

Our auctioneer will be Gwyn, G4FKH; he has requested that items should be accompanied by the vendors name and an indication if there is a reserve price.

The Club funds should benefit from this sale either from the 10% commission on transactions or the whole value if goods are donated for this occasion.

Our accountant, Brian, G3CVI, has requested that bid increments should not be smaller than 10p to simplify the cash-flow.

This should be a fun evening and a "good turn-out"

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 5 Nov. CLUB MEETING - The Annual Junk Sale.
- 3 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Radar by Stan Wood.
- 8 Dec. VERULAM CHRISTMAS RALLY - Details next month.
- 14 Dec. CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - 8 places still available.

THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

As announced last month, we will again hold our celebration at the William Boosey, Hatfield Peverel.

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, at the time of going to press there are only 8 places left. For the evening dinner of Christmas fare the cost will be around \$10

THE EQUIPMENT FUND

At the August Meeting it was proposed that the next item of equipment to be purchased for the benefit of members should be a quality Power/SWR meter to jointly support the Club Transceiver and provide a reference unit for the calibration of members own meters; this recommendation has been progressed and we have received an attractive quotation from Aspen Electronics for a Bird model 43 Power Meter, complete with 100W HF element (2-30MHz) and carrying case.

Although there is not sufficient reserve in the equipment fund the committee have decided this opportunity should not be missed and will make individual interest free loans to enable the purchase to proceed.

We hope this will also provide the incentive for some more fund raising ideas.

"LOOKING" AHEAD

To complement the January Video/Film show it has been suggested that we could show some 35mm transparency slides. If any member has a collection, perhaps they could spare a moment to select a few to bring along to the meeting. Any subject of general interest could add some variation to the evening.

MEMBERS NEWS

We extend a welcome to Geoffrey Lovegrove, G7KLV who joined the Society at the last meeting.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The November Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th November, you are welcome to join us.

MICROPHONE CABLES - Andrew G4KOE

I have recently discovered a way to make good solder connections on microphone cable wires which is both mechanically sound and electrically good; I expect the technique is well known to many, but for others I will try to describe my findings.

The type of cable to which I refer is usually that found in a "curly mic lead". The individual conductor appears to me made of several very thin flat strips of copper wound spirally round a nylon base. Any attempt to clean and tin the wire usually results in a tangled mess, the copper strips being too thin to overcome the natural springiness of the nylon base. I have tried burning out the nylon, but this only leaves a very fragile copper "wire".

I have found that to make a good connection it is necessary to wrap thin wire around the whole of the exposed copper and nylon, after removing the outer coloured plastic covering.

First strip off 3/8" outer covering, being careful not to "nick" the copper, as it is very thin. Next, clamp the wire in a small vice, 1/8" from the stripped end, in other words, leave 1/4" of the end of the wire protruding from the side of the vice.

Next, cut a piece of stranded 7/0.2 wire about 4" long and take out just one strand. Hold the end of the strand against the top of the vice and wind it round the end of the mic cable, starting over the outer of the mic wire and winding towards the end, you will find that the "coil" so produced will give surprising strength to the flimsy conductor as you are winding.

Finally, cut the surplus off the single strand of wire, tin the whole end of wire and remove surplus solder with solder wick.

You will then have very neat and strong ends to the microphone cable to solder into a plug, terminals etc.

If anyone would like to see the finished article, please give me a ring and I will bring a cable to the next club meeting.

Happy soldering and 73.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR

If you look up p60 of the Oct: Radcom you'll find a whole page of DF news. There's a very good picture of us all at Banbury, but note that 3 out of the 4 events reported have been won by Chelmsford - even if not reported as such.

The last Chelmsford local event took place on the 20th September with Richard Witney as the hidden station. These end of season events can suffer from sky-wave interference so we were pleased to receive a very strong signal from G4ICP/P, at S9+ he couldn't be far away. Most of us went about 2 miles to the East and waited for the next transmission. We were not so pleased when the signal was still S9+ and we had a parallel bearing - clearly Richard was using a very good aerial.

I took my third bearing from Abberton reservoir, this placed the transmitter in the Mersey-Brightlingsea-St Osyth region - a very awkward area for DF hunters. Despite taking two separate bearings in Fingrinhoe I was unable to determine which bank of the river Colne to try. With time rapidly running out, I guessed North and headed for Brightlingsea.

At 8.55 I was in Thorrington listening to a rather lonely Richard commenting on the lack of DF hunters nearby and offering advice about driving through a caravan site. >>> READ ON >>>

The station was on the beach at Point Clear and I wouldn't get there before being out of time. Nothing for it but to open the envelope and go to the pub.

Unfortunately you don't get any points for being first in the pub. However, all the other teams had the same problem, so nobody got any points off Richard that evening, his special kite-borne aerial had fooled us all.

The RSGB National Final - Sunday 29th September.

Seventeen teams qualify for the RSGB final event; this year five of them came from the Chelmsford/Colchester clubs, a very good performance.

The weather forecast was for rain, and they were correct - a steady drizzle that lasted all afternoon. But that was not going to dampen our spirits, nor those of the other teams who had their hopes of winning a trophy.

There are 3 stations to find on the National final, but we could only hear 2 of them at the start, and one of those was subject to co-frequency interference. Nobody had heard the B station so we were given an approximate bearing and a distance band 10-20 Km. This was a bit of a giveaway since the edge of the map was only 14 Km in that direction and there was only one suitable wood.

By the time of the second transmission that wood was full of DF hunters, ourselves too. We soon found an aerial and spent some time following it - only to find both ends tied to sticks and thrown into the trees. On the next transmission I found a strong signal area and a little bush beating by Paul found the tx. One down - two to go.

The C station was quite a long drive to the South. I obtained a cross on an old railway track, but when we got there, all the activity was in a nearby wood. Some teams had already found the tx so we followed their tracks and soon had a second signature on my form. Two down - one to find. We spotted Andrew driving up as we left the site and exchanged waves.

My start bearing on the A station had been badly affected by the interference. This caused some confusion when subsequent bearings were plotted, and everywhere there were overhead power cables to add to the problem. The station was on continuous transmission, i.e. 15 minutes left, before we were sure of its location in a country park. Some fast running was necessary to get into the wood, where we found the tx with 2 minutes to spare.

The Tea was at Yardley Gobion, some 30 miles South of the start. The RSGB President, John Case, was there to present the Trophy, but there was no sign of the winner or of the organiser. Poor Derek Newman - he had skidded off the road into a deep ditch. He had been spotted by the winner, Chris Plummer and was given a lift to the Tea - fortunately the only damage was to the car. So how did we do:-

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|------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1st | Chris Plummer | 16.02 |
| 4th | Andy Collett | 16.16 |
| 5th | Dick Brocks | 16.26 |
| 10th | Andrew Mead | |
| 15th | Mike Hawkins | |
| 17th | Phillip Cunningham | - the wet got at his set. |

The Mid-Essex Trophy was not held last month as advertised. It has been re-scheduled for a Sunday in November. For details contact me near the end of October.

C.A.R.S. AGM - Gwyn G4FKH

This time the AGM was not quite as well attended as it has been in the previous years. Nevertheless, we had a good meeting and we managed to get through all the business by 21:50 when we closed.

Our chairman John opened by welcoming everyone to the meeting. He mentioned the Newsletter, and thanked Roy and Ela for all the hard work that they have put in this year. Some discussion took place on the merits of newspaper style blocking, but it was decided to leave the layout as it is now. John continued by saying that both the jackpot raffle and the Chelmsford Award of Merit will be decided tonight. Members were reminded that our annual dinner will be at the William Boozey and that Harry, G2HPF is now taking £5 deposits for reservations, places must be limited to 30, so it is first come first served!

Following this came the reports from the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and President; Roy announced that Richard, G4ICP had written to express his wish not to stand for re-election, Roy thanked him, in his absence for the contribution he had made in past years with the hope that he would remain as a club member.

The old committee were then retired, Albert (G0AEH) had proposed via a letter that those wishing to remain on the committee should do so. This was seconded by George, G0LKY. Therefore the 1991/1992 committee will be exactly the same as last years with the exception of Richard, G4ICP.

It was decided that the subscription would remain unchanged for this year. However, we were warned that it will almost certainly change next year, due mainly to the increase in postal charges and the possibility of incurring costs to produce the Newsletter in adverse weather conditions.

Following a well deserved tea break John re-convened the meeting, Charles, G0GJS commented on our good fortune as regards the excellent venue and facilities that we enjoy. A vote of thanks was tabled to the Marconi Co. for this.

There was some discussion about possible themes for talks in the coming session. A First Aid lecture was mentioned, one is already on the cards. Support for a weather satellite lecture was strong, we will try to arrange this.

The remainder of the evening was devoted to the draw for the Jackpot Raffle, won by Harry, G5HF and the presentation of the Merit Award.

Two nominations were announced, the first by Harry, G2HPF was for George, G3GNQ in his contribution to the liaison and hospitality to overseas members, one example being the weekly skeds to Canada now exceeding 500 QSO's. The second was by Gwyn, G4FKH for Ela G6HKM for her consistent VHF/UHF operation for contests and the league tables published in RSGB and National Journals.

In the ballot that followed, Ela gained sufficient votes to receive the Award, which was duly presented by Roy. Ela gave a short address of thanks for the support received from the membership and a brief update on the present radio conditions on six metres.

The meeting then closed with a reminder from John to support the forthcoming Junk Sale.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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GENERAL REMINDER

May we remind all members that subscriptions for the 1991/92 session are now due. The rates are £4 and £3 concessionary. If posted, cheques should be made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" please.