



## NEXT MEETING - VHF Packet Radio

This month we welcome to the rostrum John Gilliver, G6JPG, to present a talk and live demonstration of Packet communication as used in amateur radio.

With the advent of the microprocessor chip, digital information can now be relayed by modest home-based stations on local VHF networks and throughout the world by linking into amateur HF stations.

This mode of operation has brought a whole new set of jargon for amateurs to understand, TNC, BBS, LAN, PBBS, Clusters, etc, etc, the meanings of which John will unravel for us. We look forward to greeting you all on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30pm in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2 Feb. CLUB MEETING - Packet Radio - John, G6JPG.
- 7 Feb. SOUTH ESSEX ARS RADIO RALLY - Canvey Island.
- 21 Feb. EAST COAST AR&C RALLY - Clacton-on-Sea.
- 27 Feb. RAINHAM RADIO RALLY - Gillingham, Kent.
- 2 Mar. CLUB MEETING - History of Radar - Stan Woods.
- 6 Mar. VHF CONVENTION - Sandown Park, Surrey.
- 13/14 Mar. LONDON AR&C SHOW - Picketts Lock Centre.

### DF NEWS - Dick, G3WHR

This year the Snowman Event will be held on Sunday 31st January, and will use the Bury St. Edmunds Map OS155.

The start will be from Great Green, NGR 917559 with the first transmissions at 12.50pm.

Afterwards there will be the usual Bring-a-Bite tea.

### JANUARY FILM SHOW - Harry, G2HPF

The main video, introduced by Charles G0GJS, was one made by the New Zealand tourist board. Charles and his wife had been on a world tour last year, stopping off in Fiji for a week before going on to New Zealand.

The country has a population of 3.35 million (and 90 million sheep); the land mass is about the same size as the UK. The population is 80% European descent, 10% Maori and 10% other ethnic groups. At one time it was possible to get there on an assisted fare of £10 when they were trying to encourage immigration. They are still looking for people to go there but mainly for those with capital to start up in business, so that rules me out.

The Country suffers from lack of natural resources, i.e. no oil and very little coal, which makes a very heavy burden on their economy with the import of fuel for transport and power generation, although they have been very ingenious in the application of hydro and thermal electric generators.

Agriculture is dominant, the export of frozen lamb just balances the import costs of fuel and the UK buys most of their wine, but as I did not win the raffle I can not judge it. Other exports are dairy products, fish and fruit (Kiwi).

They had approx: 1 million tourists last year and hope to push this up to 3M by the year 2000.

Charles found the people there very friendly, Ela and Roy said they also enjoyed their visit there in 1982. The video showed a very pretty country and a New Zealand member in the audience said afterwards it had made him feel very homesick.

After the tea break we had two Tom and Jerry cartoons which brought the usual mirth from the audience. Some of us may be getting a bit old, but still young at heart, and enjoy cartoons.

On behalf of the club, thank you Charles and Chris for the videos.

### THE CLUB NET

The response to recent nets has been very encouraging with many stations checking-in for a brief chat and the exchange of news, views and ideas.

For the benefit of new members, the Club Station G0MWT opens the net at 8.30pm on 28.325MHz, SSB, each Tuesday evening between the Club Meetings.

### FIELD DAY - Dick, G3WHR

The results for NFD '92 were published in the Nov: Radcom. Thanks to Charles reporting his visit to the HF convention we already knew our position (16th in the Open section), nevertheless its still educational to study the scores and compare performances.

When the contest ends, a small team take the logs away and examine them very carefully - not only for the obvious duplicate QSO checking, but also for the validity of each QSO. This involves comparing band to band, sometimes year to year and, in desperation, reference to the operators scribbled notes. The accuracy of our entry is revealed by the difference between claimed score and published result. As I remarked at our AGM, I consider that a loss of only 4 points in 3161 is a remarkable effort by all concerned.

Fewer stations took part in 1992, but our 16th out of 39 represents a definite improvement over the previous year (20th of 47) and is our highest placing since 1976 (12th). As a final comment, according to my NFD archives the last time we came 16th was in 1965 - when the callsigns in use were G4VF and G5RV.

### MEMBERS NEWS - Ela, G6HKM

Congratulations to Fred Ott who has passed the R.A.E. and has gone straight for a Class A Licence, Freds Callsign is G0SQP, how about joining in on the 10M nett Fred?

### BRING AND BUY

Further to the suggestion of a "Bring and Buy" table at each meeting, will vendors please introduce themselves to the Treasurer, Brian, G3CVI at the beginning of the meeting and make their intentions known regarding the items for sale.

Brian will then be able to calculate the usual 10% commission on transactions to club funds (except where high values are involved when a reduced commission will be accepted).

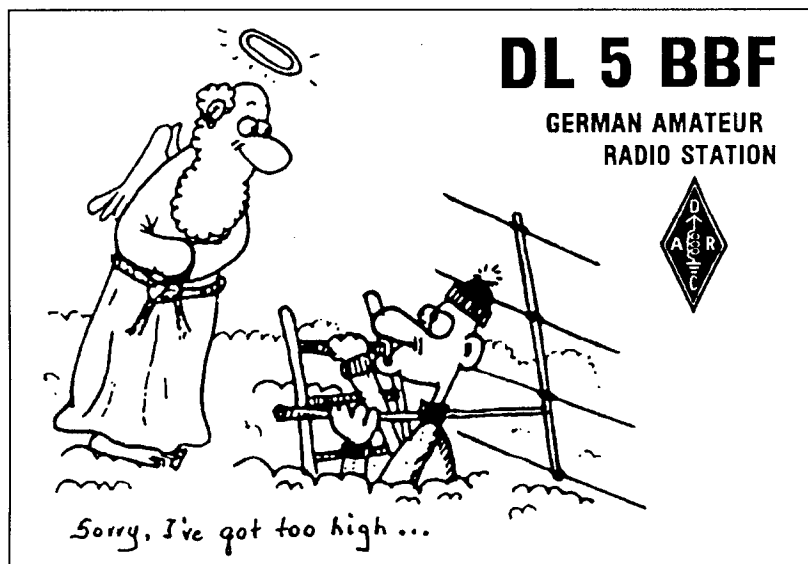
Vendors must be responsible for the safety of their sale items.

### COMMITTEE MEETING

The February Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.45pm on Wednesday 10th February, you are most welcome to join us.

## COMEDY CORNER

Everybodys ambition is to get their antenna as high as possible; an amusing QSL card received recently by Ela, G6HKM illustrates that this could be carried a bit too far!



## NOTHING TO DO WITH RADIO Overheard in Suffolk recently:-

There's them as does  
An' them as doesn't  
An' them as should, or shouldn't,  
But them as doesn't, when 'em should  
An' them as does when 'em shouldn't  
Aren't as good as 'em as tried.....  
..... An' couldn't.

Think about it! Brian, G3CVI.

## THE NEWSLETTER - Roy, G3PMX

With the introduction of scanned pictures into the Newsletter as from last month, I thought it was timely to take a nostalgic look at some early editions to see how we have progressed over the years.

Being a bit of a magpie I keep lots of "useless" records, amongst these are not only one copy of every Newsletter but some of the small slips of paper known as:- Circulars to Members - advising the next meeting, back to 1960, which was when I first became associated with the Club.

Newsletter No.1 was produced in January 1966 by Tony Dix, G5IX by cutting the text directly into a Roneo Stencil on a very basic typewriter. The copies were distributed by hand, mainly through the internal post systems of Chelmsford based companies.

It is worth quoting from the opening paragraphs of No.1 .....

*"This news sheet replaces the monthly circular which has been used for many years to inform members of the Society Meetings and Special Events only."*

*"It will be distributed free to members for an experimental period of 3 months to measure its popularity; the success of this venture entirely depends on the contribution of news items given regularly by members to our edition."*

Looking at the issue number on this edition, it seems that we have met the criteria for popularity and long may it continue!

Over the years the editors chair has been shared by many volunteers, Tony G5IX (Nos.1-34), Jon G8CYI (35-57), John G3KRZ (58-81), Jim G3VDB (82-90), Bill G4CUE (91/170), Les G4CUT (94/129), Andrew G4KQE (170-224) and Ian G4BYR (225-241); throughout the period, Ela and Roy arranging the typesetting and distribution.

Significant dates are Oct.1973 (93) when we changed from stencils to photocopying, Jan.1984 (215) when we put away the Snopake in favour of word processing on the trusty BBC Model-B and "Wordwise" which remained up to Sept.1991 (308) when desktop publishing on the Opus-PC began and July 92 (318) printing on the HP-LaserJet-III became affordable.

It is hard to forecast where we go from here, technology for the Personal Computer is advancing at such a pace that anything is possible, even colour, all we need is a rich uncle!

## RSGB INTERNATIONAL HF & IOTA CONVENTION

*Continued from last month, the report by Charles, G0GJS.*

I decided to concentrate on the talks dealing with Packet Cluster, take in some of the demonstrations, check in on the RAFARS stand, listen to some more DXpedition presentations and find out from the Reading Club "How to Win NFD". The packet cluster session was a question and answer forum and I appreciated the other side of the story when a gent from Curacao with an XX call said that he was a DXer who liked to 'ragchew' and as a consequence he often made early pleas with stations not to broadcast his presence on the cluster nets in order to try and avoid the whole world descending on him! As I had tried out one of the CW pile up competition tapes in the HF Committee's room a few minutes previously I had a fair idea of his problem, it was a rather chastening experience.

But it was to John G3WGV and his colleague of the Reading Club and their briefing session on how in 1992 they won NFD for the second year running and intended making it a 'hatrick' next year, that I gave even closer attention. With a 100 members they are split roughly 50% Class A, 50% Class B, plus a few novices.

They had not really been a competition group but the Club had taken part in HF and VHF NFD's over many years and usually attained a mid-band result i.e >20th. In recent years they had gradually moved up to around 7th place by improving some of their equipment (changed from FT-748 to FT-1000), "sorting out the operators" and changing the site. Their current site is 700' AMSL.

*More next month - Ed.*

## MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENT

*(in the form of a letter to the editor)*

You will recall that some months ago I mentioned that the mains transformer in my Telequipment D43 oscilloscope had failed and that I need a replacement.

No luck so far and, furthermore, no possibility of fixing the problem as the EHT winding is shorted in the core and cannot be isolated.

So, wanted, "Telequipment D43 mains transformer or otherwise a scrap scope to recover the transformer".

I could of course junk the scope and buy a new or secondhand one but repairing it has become an objective based more on emotion than logic - which tells me that it would probably be cheaper and involve less aggravation to junk it!

Anyway, somebody may have an old D43 gathering dust somewhere.

73, John Greenwood, G3KRZ, QTHR.(1993)

Tel: (0205)820583

## MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENT

FOR SALE Dragon 64 Computer with Dragon 5 1/4 Disk Drive, complete with DOS, manuals and in original boxes. £40

FOR SALE Dragon 32 Computer with Dragon 5 1/4 Disk Drive, complete with DOS, manuals and in original boxes. £30

Roy, G3PMX.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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