



## NEXT MEETING - Aerials for the Maritime Service

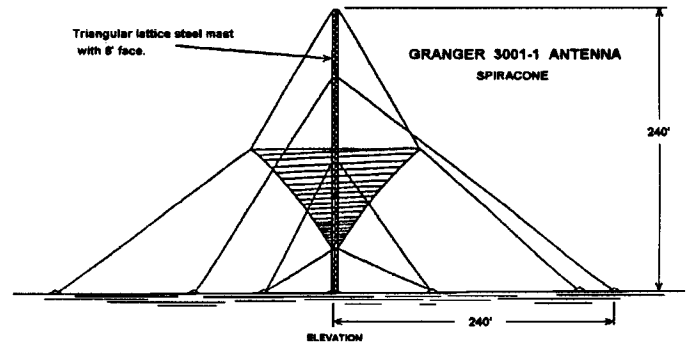
This month we welcome back to the rostrum Tony Gilbey, G4YTG, who will explain how the Maritime Service works. Tony, now retired, was Engineering Planning Manager for BTI Maritime Radio, being responsible for the design and installation of many of the HF aerial systems currently in use for communicating with ships on the high seas.

A number of aerial designs will be illustrated and described, just one of which is shown here.

There is no doubt that as Radio Amateurs we shall feel envious of the aerial systems that the Maritime Service use, but unless we are prepared to buy a large chunk of real estate and tall masts, we will just have to be content with our Half-wave dipoles and magnetic loops in the garden.

The meeting opens at 7.30pm on Tuesday 4th May in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

We feel sure that members and friends attending this meeting will enjoy the informative evening.



### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 May CLUB MEETING - Maritime Aerials.
- 5 May CARS CW CONTEST - 8.30pm on 10m.
- 9 May WATERS & STANTON OPEN DAY - Hockley.
- 11 May PRE-NFD MEETING - at QTH of G4KQE.
- 16 May RSGB '93 EXHIBITION - NEC Birmingham.
- 30 May EAST SUFFOLK WIRELESS REVIVAL - Ipswich.
- 1 June CLUB MEETING - Constructors' Competition.
- 5/6 June HF NATIONAL FIELD DAY - Howletts Farm.
- 6 July CLUB MEETING - Louis Varney, G5RV.

### SECOND CARS CW CONTEST

By popular request there will be another opportunity to brush up your CW in preparation for Field Day.

The date is Wednesday 5th May, the time is 8.30pm (local time), the band is 10 metres (28.040-28.050MHz) and the duration of the contest will be 30 minutes.

The rules are the same as published in the April Newsletter with report exchanges containing RST and serial number commencing 001; check-logs to Gwyn, G4FKH as soon as possible.

Reporting on the results of the first contest, Gwyn said that 7 stations participated with the winner scoring 18 QSO's. The general comment on the overall results is "it is obvious from the check-logs that we need more practice, so please support the next event".

### LIFES' NOT EASY!

The recession manifests itself in unusual ways and can even affect the plans for future club activities. Our Secretary, Gwyn, continues to mail various organisations to request information which would enable our Society to enjoy meeting guest speakers or to arrange for parties of members to visit sites of interest.

One such request was made for a return visit to the Baldock Monitoring Station. Unfortunately the request was refused on the basis that there is now insufficient staff to deal with parties of visitors. Thanks for trying Gwyn - thats life!

### COMMITTEE MEETING

The May Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.45pm on Wednesday 12th May, you are welcome to join us.

### PLANNING FOR 1993 FIELD DAY

The second meeting for Members who are offering their assistance to prepare for Field Day will be held at the QTH of Andrew G4KQE at 8.15pm on Tuesday 11th May to plan strategy for this years event.

If you are able to attend, please give Andrew a call on (0376)583094 to reserve a chair and for directions.

### DF News - Dick G3WHR, The Snowman

There was plenty of drama before the contest started. Peter was well on his way towards his site when a disturbing thought intruded - had he repacked the morse key after a bit of morse practise the previous evening. He stopped the car to check, curses - no morse key, and horror of horrors - no mic either! This called for some improvising, but a borrowed CB microphone failed to work. Peter went in search of another mike - Mike Hawkins. This proved to be more successful, but in checking the borrowed key and mic he discovered that the transmitter he intended to use would not produce any RF. Fortunately Peter had packed a spare Tx and this worked perfectly.

The Green at Long Melford had been closed to all vehicles in order to conserve its grass, therefore we moved the start to Great Green which is about centre of the map. Both stations were clearly audible with bearings to the East and Southwest. The six competitors set out and divided up - three to each station.

I had chosen a site just South of Stowmarket for G3WHR/P. The Badley Walk provided some cover and the opportunity to erect a longwire aerial which ran under some powerlines. I decided to hide near the road end of the aerial in the hope that competitors would follow the wire to the wrong end, however, the first team to arrive spotted where I had trampled the undergrowth and were not misled. Unfortunately they could not slip away without alerting the others so I soon had more visitors. Most found the easy way in, but it was very encouraging to see the determination of those who had to struggle a bit - special praise for Daphne. Things went quiet until the teams arrived from the other station, with Roy being very unlucky to be just beyond shouting distance at 4.00.

Peter had found an unmarked wood near Belchamp Otten for G0KSJ/P. Here there was a very close finish - there are no dead heats in DF - with Mike Hawkins winning by a nose.

Afterwards we all enjoyed our Bring-a Bite tea at Great Cornard as guests of Mike and Pat Hawkins.

Results.	TxA	TxB
1 Mike Hawkins	3.03	1.55
2 Philip Cunningham	3.03.10	1.52
3 Peter Larbalestier	2.09	3.29
4 Andrew Mead	3.46	2.25
5 Richard Witney	3.04	3.59
6 Roy Emey	2.30	--

# PACKET MESSAGE FROM BACKNANG - John, G6JPG

V 28082

Msg# 28082 Type: P Stat: Y Date: 12 Mar Time: 0215

To : G6JPG @ From : DL1SBF MID: 40242\_DB0RBS

Subject : CARS

R:930312/0215z 28082@GB7NNA.#31.GBR.EU [Witham, Essex ] NNA V2.02

R:930312/0203z 74967@GB7ESX.#31.GBR.EU [Witham, Essex ] NNA V2.02

R:930312/0127z 39728@GB7ZAA.#34.GBR.EU [Canterbury ] NNA V2.02

R:930227/2121Z @:ON4HU.HT.BEL.EU [Mouscron] FBB5.15a #:12177

R:930227/2220Z @:ON1KPU.HT.BEL.EU [Dour] - FBB5.14d #:2723

R:930227/2217Z @:ON1KGX.#CLR.HT.BEL.EU [Charleroi, JO20FI] - FBB5.14d #:72346

R:930227/2215Z @:ON7RC.BT.BEL.EU [Brussels V-UHF] #:54464 Z:B1044 FBB5.15

R:930227/2213z @LX0PAC.LUX.EU [BOURSCHEID, JN38AV, THEBOX 1.9 LX1JE / LX1PF]

R:930227/2216z @DB0GE.SL.DEU.EU [BBS Saarbruecken, DieBox 1.9]

R:930227/1733z @DB0IZ [Solingen, JO31NE, Op: DG2EAT]

R:930227/1418z @DK0MWX [Langenfeld JO31LC, DL-HF<<VHF-Port 20m OP:DL1WX]

R:930227/1248z @DB0GV.HES.DEU.EU [Maintal-Frank4t JO40KD 438.025 SYSOP: DF5FF]

R:930227/1123z 40242@db0rot.BW.DEU.EU [RotBOX Bad Herrenalb OP:d15uy]

R:930227/1010z @:DB0RBS.BW.DEU.EU

Copy of message. From: DK7SP To: G6JPG@GB7ESX Date: 27-Feb-1993 0942Z

Hello John

Roy, G3PMX told me th other day that you sent a packet message via the european packet net. Up to now i received nothing from CARS. Please try it once more. My BBS is DB0SDX. I would like to hold the link to CARS via this way too. Looking forward to getting a message. 73's Peter DK7SP

<End of message 28082>

GB7NNA BBS >

## Explanation for non-packet readers:

The 'V 28082' is my command to the bulletin board (GB7NNA at Witham) to read message number 28082. The 'V' instead of 'R' means 'read in verbose mode'; if I had used 'R' (as I usually do of course), the MID (message identity) would not have been shown, and the 'Path' would have been shown just as:-

Path:

GB7NNA!GB7ESX!GB7ZAA!ON4HU!ON1KPU!ON1KGX!ON7RC!LX0PAC!  
DB0GE!DB0IZ!DK0MWX!DB0GV!DB0ROT!DB0RBS

Each line shows something about each BB the message passed through - always the date and time the message reached it (note that it crossed Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium in 12 hours 11 minutes [assuming ON4HU had his clock set wrongly hi!, but then waited over FIFTEEN DAYS to cross the channel, before reaching Witham in less than an hour. Must have been a go slow on the ferries - roll on the chunnel hi!), and usually the message's number at that BB. The BBs' identities are given in the full 'hierarchical address' form, giving usually the region (the UK uses # and a number based on RSGB areas), the country by an internationally-agreed three-letter code, and the continent. (One of the Belgian boxes subdivides the region as well.) The location, sometimes with locator code and sometimes the operator, is usually given too, and most tell what software and version they are running (NNA is GINNA software, written by Brian who runs GB7NNA but it is in use widely around Britain and Europe; FBB is also in wide use around Britain and Europe and is written by a French station; and THEBOX or DieBox is common on German BBs).

The network is sufficiently reliable that I am pretty certain that the missing 'e' in ('th other day') originated at the sending end! I don't know why the message I sent the night of my talk didn't reach him; I sent it to him @ DEU.EU, which should have reached every BB (bulletin board, sorry) in DEUtschland!

Note that although Peter says his home BB is DB0SDX, the first one shown in the path is DB0RBS(BW.DEU.EU); this presumably means that he was sending from ('logged in to') a different one to that he normally uses.

I think I did send a reply, but I have heard nothing further.

<End of message 28082>

GB7NNA BBS >

These two lines are produced by GB7NNA; the first one is fairly obvious, and the other just tells me it is ready for me to type another command.

## LAST MONTHS MEETING - ESSEX WATER COMPANY - Geoff G7KLV

Why do Ela's jellies now have a limescale sediment at the bottom?

Why did Andrew's water suddenly become soft for a fortnight and then revert to the original hardness?

These and many other questions were put to our guest speaker, Mr Roy Radford, Distribution Engineer of the Essex Water Company. Although he was unable to answer these specific questions, many other questions were answered and we all know a lot more about how clean water reaches our taps not only in times of plenty but also in times of severe drought.

Roy began his illustrated talk with a brief history of our local company which is now the largest wholly owned subsidiary of the French parent company Lyonnaise des Eaux Dumez which has interests in many parts of the world including South Africa, China and Australia. The company's roots go back to the mid nineteenth century. The present company was formed in 1971 when the Southend and the South Essex companies were combined, together with the local undertakings at Chelmsford and Maldon (Borough and RDC).

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In 1974 when the regional authorities were set up the Essex company survived, the shares were mostly held by the directors at that time, like other similar companies, sold to the French.

Parts of west Essex are serviced by the Lee Valley and north Essex by Anglian Water with Thames Water operating in southern parts of the county. What a mix up!

Most of the water for Essex comes from the rivers Chelmer, Blackwater and Stour and is stored in reservoirs and treatment works at Langham, Langford, Abberton, Hanningfield and Chigwell. Supplies from bore holes tend to be uneconomic nowadays. For instance the spring at Hall Street has now been capped.

Since 1971 supplies have been augmented by the Essex River's Ely-Ouse bulk transfer scheme taking water from the north of the region where demand is lower, pumped into the rivers and eventually into the reservoirs. This scheme was widely regarded as a white elephant at the time but has proved a boon in recent years with changing rainfall patterns. It takes about five days for water to arrive locally. Another bulk transfer scheme is under review and in the future increasing demands will be made and be met by supplies from the north.

Although our water is hard the Company is complying with current regulations and a staff of thirty is engaged on routine testing.

Roy said that as soon as compliance to a current standard is reached the goal posts are narrowed and standards raised. Guess who will be paying!

Local distribution to our houses comes from either water tower's or underground reservoirs pumped from the main reservoirs and treatment works. The service reservoirs are taken out of service periodically for inspection and despite advances in technology a satisfactory method is to wait for a really wet day and inspect for roof leaks! Polyethylene pipes are now used in place of metal. It is interesting to note that our hard water forms an insulating barrier in lead pipes so that in our area lead poisoning is not significant.

The industry has until the year 2000 to produce an alternative to charging on the basis of rateable value. A pilot metering scheme is being installed locally. John, G8DET told us that he has elected to be put on meter! No doubt he will keep us informed of his water bills. Remember that once one is put on meter there's no going back! From the experience of my neighbour, a single person should be able to make a saving of about half after breaking even in the first year including the £150 installation charge.

Roy gave us some facts and figures but it is re-assuring to hear that our reservoirs are full and that £30M (to be increased to £70M) is being re-invested in improved services to all customers.

Of his many anecdotes and descriptions the one that particularly interested me was of the installation in Gibraltar. They have two supplies there-one clean water for drinking, cooking and washing and another of sea water for the other essential purposes! The clean water costs about £4 per cubic metre (ten times what we pay) but the overall cost is similar to ours.

Should we be considering this method for the future? After all we do go to a lot of trouble and expense to purify a lot of water that doesn't require it! We have two waste water systems, one foul and one surface water.

Incidentally the sewage charge per cubic metre is about double the fresh water charge based on 90% of the fresh water consumption. Anglian Water and Thames Water provide sewage services in our area. Their charges and also those of National Rivers are collected by Essex Water - so don't blame them for increased sewage and river charges!

In his vote of thanks to Roy for his interesting presentation Chairman John asked for our thanks to be conveyed to his management for providing such a reliable service in water distribution.

Although in complete contrast to our radio orientated talks in the past year, it seemed to me, judging by the lively discussion resulting from Roy's talk and the applause in response to John's vote of thanks that the evening was enjoyed by all.

## MEMBERS NEWS

Congratulations to Colin Page on passing the CW test at Picketts Lock. The new callsign has not been announced yet, we believe he is shopping for a "nice" one.

Many thanks for the anonymous donation of batteries to be sold to members. The proceeds are to be used towards the wire and insulators for new aerials at the Field Day events.

Battery sizes are U2(two), U11(two) and AA(four), all packs are priced at only 90p. Some of these are still available for sale at the May Meeting... Please note that we also still have some Darlington Power Transistors and circuits for the Ni-Cad Battery Charger project.

**DON'T FORGET THE CONSTRUCTORS' COMPETITION!**

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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