



The ANNUAL JUNK SALE

This popular event will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 1st November in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. The meeting provides the opportunity for members to bid for bargains as well as turning some "spare" items into cash to fund "wanted" goodies.

Our auctioneer will again be Gwyn, G4FKH who has requested that items for sale should be accompanied with a label bearing the sellers name and any reserve price. The sale is designed to top-up Club Funds, either from the 10% commission charged on all transactions or from the sale of items specifically donated to the club. Our Treasurer Brian, G3CVI requests that bid increments should not be smaller than 10p to simplify the cash flow, he will be ably assisted by two "runners", volunteered from the committee.

We hope there will be a "good turn-out" and feel sure that it will be supported by some spontaneous humour.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 Nov. CLUB MEETING - Grand Junk Sale.
- 11 Dec. VERULAM ARCRALLY - note the New Venue.
- 6 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Hi Fi with Valves - Dr. McMahon.
- Saturday 17th December - CHRISTMAS DINNER.

LAST MONTH'S MEETING

1994 Annual General Meeting - Charles, G0GJS

The AGM was attended by some 40 members. In his report the Chairman John, G8DET spoke of the excellent backup that he had received from the Committee and their sterling efforts in producing a first class series of meetings as well as conducting the affairs of CARS in a professional manner. His particular thanks were extended towards Roy and Ela (the Raffle contributed more than £150), the tea ladies and those anonymous "givers" who provide gifts from time to time.

The Secretary in his report said that attendance at the monthly committee meetings averaged ten and it is now the practice to summarise details on the following "Tuesday 28.325MHz net" (Ed. why not QSX?). Among the Club's activities for 1994 Charles highlighted, new NFD site exploration using radio monitoring; NFD CW participation; the Christmas Dinner and Social; the visits to Stansted Airport; visits by members to HF and VHF conventions; the FOC meeting at Lords' and attendance at rallies near and far; CARS response to the DTI concerning the future of the radio spectrum and the dialogue with the Chief Executive of the RA; our protest to the Director of the Science Museum concerning his proposal to close down GB2SM; participation in International Marconi Day and the outstanding success of our members in D/F competitions. Charles reminded the meeting of the first class speakers and subjects that we had been privileged to hear commenting that they gave their services free of charge and rarely accepted expenses. He said that the 1995 schedule was virtually complete and gave details.

Our Treasure Brian, G3CVI reported that not only was CARS solvent but as his published statement showed we were in surplus. There would be no change to subscriptions for 1995 (£5 or £4). Brian's accounts were unanimously approved. Fred, G2HNF made the observation that subscriptions did not cover the direct operating costs of the Club. The President replied that the method of contributing to such costs by "friendly voluntary activities" i.e. raffles, junk sales, batteries, etc., epitomised the spirit in which CARS was run and we do not intend to alter our policy unless there is a dramatic change in our circumstances. A list of CARS' assets was posted on the notice board.

Ela, G6HKM as Membership Secretary said that our numbers were 53 Class A, 16 Class B and 6 SWL members. The reduction of 5 on 1993 figures was partly due to our sad loss of Albert G0AEH and Denis G4VGS.

During this meeting we will have the pleasure of presenting the Chelmsford DF Trophy to the overall winner of this years events. We hope that Phillip Cunningham of the Colchester Club will be able to attend to reclaim the Trophy which he held last year.

Prior to retiring his Committee, Roy our President congratulated the team on their performance and hoped that its activities had given pleasure to members. He said that the anxiety of missing a N/L deadline due to computer failure had been removed with the recent acquisition by Ela of a powerful 486 Notebook Computer. Harry G5HF in a Vote of Thanks proposed that the Committee should be re-elected en bloc and the motion was passed unanimously. Geoff, G2AMQ and Pat, G0SBQ were also elected to the Committee.

Under AOB, Dick Brocks, G3WHR was presented with the CARS Amateur of the Year Award for his outstanding performance in D/F competitions and the efforts that he makes in assisting in organising such events. In his reply Dick reminded the members of the successes of other individuals and gave an interesting dissertation on the various awards. Members were delighted to hear that Dick had just learnt that he had won the National Final D/F Trophy.

The Jackpot Raffle was won by Colin G0TRM.

A technical forum followed the close of business, the prime subject being the charging of Nicad Batteries.



Ela, G6HKM

Yes, it's subscription renewal time, inflation has not caught up with us and the rates are the same as last year, the Full rate is £5 and Concessionary rate is £4. If you have already paid, thank you very much; to those who have yet to pay I will be happy to take your money at the next meeting or you may wish to send by post to me at the address at the end of this newsletter, cheques should be made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" please.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Don't forget to see Harry, G2HPF to reserve your seats and pay for our Society Christmas dinner to be held on December 17th. we look forward to seeing you there.

LIBRARY - Ela, G6HKM

Roy and I had a chance to visit the Leicester Show for a couple of hours and we bought a book for the library, the New Radio Communications Handbook published by the RSGB, at a special show price of £15, Geoff our Librarian will have this at the next meeting.

DF News - Dick, G3WHR - The RSGB National Final

The National Final was organised on behalf of the RSGB by the Mid-Thames club using OS maps of Northampton and Kettering. The final is a 3 station event and starts 30 minutes earlier than qualifying events to allow time for competitors to find the extra station.

The bearings from the start went roughly E, NE, and SE for stations A, B and C. The B station had the strongest signal and an examination of the map showed only 3 likely locations on that bearing, two wooded areas and an old railway track with a disused tunnel.

Bearings on the second transmissions would reveal the general area of the three stations. We decided to go to a position which was the right distance for the railway track but sufficiently far off-bearing to obtain a reasonable angle on the other locations if we had guessed wrongly. It wasn't far, so there was time to look at the access to the tunnel area. From the road we could see the tops of the ventilation shafts, and we hoped that the aerial did not go down one of them.

It was soon time for the second transmissions. When we plotted the bearings, the A station was near Kettering, the C station near Northampton and the B station was on the railway track. We quickly returned to the tunnel area and were just leaving the car when another transmission gave us a bearing further to the S and just beyond the nearby A14 dual carriageway. There was no easier access, it would just be a longer run. I had just about run out of puff when we came to the junction with a bridleway and read a notice about dark tunnels and the necessity for a torch - ours was back in the car! The next transmission gave bearings which changed rapidly within a few metres, clearly we were near the aerial - and we were soon following a wire strung along a nearby hedge. I found a very obvious tee-in and then, further on, another tee-in which was just as obviously disguised. The hedge was much thicker here and not easy to enter. I encouraged Paul to investigate and he soon found the transmitter, I then followed behind using the hole he had made, much easier! There was no-one else about so we were able to leave the site without alerting others. It wasn't until we were half way back to the car that we met Andrew and Phillip - on their way in.

En-route to Kettering there was time to compare the latest map with an earlier version. The older map showed that there was another railway track passing through our area of interest, whereas the present map just showed disused quarries. We turned off the main road to inspect an access route, and came across a number of parked DF cars - ours was soon parked too! Within a few yards of entering the quarries we met Chris Wells (the organiser) and Clive Trotman (RSGB Vice President), clearly they hadn't been birdwatching. We ran past them and found a steep sided cutting about 25 metres deep. There was more aerial wire strung through the bushes along the edge of the cutting and then right across to the other side. I asked Mike to investigate the far side, but he reported that the aerial was tied off. However, from the far side he could also see a tee running down my side of the quarry from behind a dense piece of scrub. It was quite a descent, Paul lowered me the first few metres, then I slid the rest - remembering to keep both feet together. Paul followed me and found the transmitter half way down, with the operator well concealed under a camouflage net. If getting down was difficult, then scrambling about getting back up a muddy slope was worse. Once signed in, I attempted to climb up and was grateful to be pulled up by Paul, - then Mike, to a point near the top. A further boost from below got me to the top - but also boosted me into a vicious thornbush - next time I'll wear gloves.

During the journey to Northampton we obtained two more bearings on station C, these agreed with the bearing from the second transmission - all passing through an old quarry on the top of a hill. We ran up to find that the workings had left the ground very undulated, all mounds and gulleys. Nature had reclaimed the area with plenty of nettles and trees. We met another team, but our concerns were somewhat modified when we learned that they had been there all afternoon. This time we were in difficulties, my bearings kept taking us towards a particular mound - and there was no sign of the transmitter. Paul had slid down another slope without keeping his feet together - fortunately no damage. We were joined by Alan Simmons, also looking for his third station. The 4 O'clock transmission came and we were still looking. Finally, near one end of the mound, I found something that stimulates the pattern recognition neurons in every hf DFers brain - amongst all of natures variety of curved shapes - a straight line - AERIAL WIRE. With the excitement came caution, how to summon Paul and Mike without alerting the others; to shout "I've found the aerial" would not be a good idea. Fortunately Paul and Mike were very attentive whereas the other teams were otherwise engaged and didn't see us slipping away. My glasses got all steamed up but Mike doesn't wear glasses and took over the lead. We followed the wire for about 50 metres, then lost it; frantic searching revealed it at shoulder height, then lower - until YES our third station.

The transmitter operator told me that I was only the second person to find him that afternoon, the previous team being Andy Collett - as his second transmitter. Well, Chelmsford was on a winner either way.

At the Tea we learned that Andy had experienced similar difficulty with his third transmitter and had just made it before 4.30, - the trophy was ours. Brian Bristow had found station C ahead of Alan Simmons, they came 2nd and 3rd. Andy Collett was the last person to find all 3 stations and came 7th. Mike Hawkins came 8th with Andrew and Phillip 9th, both teams finding 2 stations.

The Trophy is awarded to an individual but I can't recall anyone winning the final on their own, although several people have qualified for the final as soloists. There is no doubt in my mind that the TEAM of Mike Williams, Paul Clark and Dick Brocks were the winners of the 1994 National DF Final.

VHF - UHF - SHF DX NEWS - Ela, G6HKM

At last it happened, the long awaited tropo conditions, the best we have had for several years. Whilst you were all complaining that your TV's were playing up I was having a ball. On the 21st net I heard the comment 'I bet Ela is enjoying the good radio conditions' but at that time it was only 145MHz that was going well on FM, with the repeaters going crazy, however it soon came my way for 144MHz SSB, in fact the evening of the Committee Meeting (12th Oct) the bands were buzzing, (Murphys law strikes again), however I started at 2217gmt on 1296MHz, by working GD4GNH, followed by G4XUM (Cheshire), HB9AMH/P (JN37) and F6CBH (JN19), Chris was using just 400mW. On 432MHz HB9MIN/P (JN37) and DL7UDA (JO62TK) 909KMs, then 2 SP's on 144MHz, best distance 1266KMs.

3½ pages in the log on Thursday (lucky 13th), I ran out of ears, all bands were busy, briefly I worked OZ, SM, DL on 1296MHz, 432MHz and 144MHz, the best dx on 1296MHz was the SM at 1001KMs.

Saturday/Sunday 15/16th on 144MHz I worked lots of stations in Berlin, many using low power and indoor antennas, also OK's and SP's, best dx was a SP in KO02LG, distance 1398KMs. It was a long night, getting to bed just before 3.00am!

On Sunday 23rd, 50MHz came alive, after many weeks of silence (Murphy working overtime as I was trying to cook a roast beef dinner!) There was a mixture of Sporadic E and Meteor Scatter (MS). Anyway I found the time to have QSO's with GM0GLV (IO75), GD0TEP (IO74), DL9USA (JO71), SP6RLA (JO81), F5LJA (JO10 this was tropo), after the Backnag net QSO's with 4 Italian stations.

During the Backnag net with Peter, DK7SP, he switched on his automatic keyer with a continuous CWCQ call on 50.200MHz, we monitored and received several meteor bursts of Peters transmission, these were heard by Peter from our loudspeaker in the background while Roy was transmitting on 3.75MHz.

Jim Bacon, the Anglia Weather man, has the theory that Meteor showers trigger off Sporadic E, and this seems to be what happened, as the Orionids Shower was expected to peak on the 21st.


COMMITTEE MEETING

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

100 YEARS OF RADIO - Ela G6HKM

Eric, G8PHN has passed on to me an advertisement by the IEE requesting papers for an International Conference on 100 years of Radio, to be held 5-7 September 1995, Savoy Place, London. There is a wide variety of radio related subjects listed, please see the notice board at the next meeting for further information. Many thanks for the info Eric.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,
G3PMX & G6HKM

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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE

Hewlett Packard 606A Signal Generator, 50KHz-65MHz, complete with manual. £40

Marconi Instruments TF801D/I Signal Generator, 10MHz-470MHz, complete with manual. £40

Marconi Instruments TF144H/I Signal Generator, 10KHz-72MHz, complete with manual. £40

Marconi Instruments TF2012 Signal Generator, 400MHz-520MHz, complete with manual. £40

Eddystone 770R Receiver, 10MHz-165MHz, complete with manual. £30

Eddystone 770U Receiver, 165MHz-470MHz, complete with manual. £30

Enquiries to Les Turner, G4CUT, QTHR, ☎ (01245)266993.

PRINTING SERVICE

Custom Callsign/Business Cards printed to order (short runs a speciality) at a very reasonable price. Enquiries to Eddie Henrard, ☎ (01245)268756.

TREES

Free to good homes, slow growing conifer trees, from self sown seed in our gravel driveway, ready to transplant at just the right time of year, must be moved!

Enquiries to Roy or Ela.