

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB.

President: Dick Brocks G3WHR
Secretary: Charles Shelton G0GJS

Club Call Sign: G0MWT

Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Newsletter No. 394

November 1998

The November Meeting

The CARS Annual Junk Sale (perhaps more politely called "The Annual Recirculation of Surplus Equipment around Chelmsford Amateurs") will be held at MASC on **Tuesday 3rd November**. In the meantime do have a turn-out of your shack, garage, cupboards etc to identify those items you no longer require but which may well be useful to others (hardly anyone goes home empty-handed!). More valuable items are welcome and you can attach a reserve price. Label them clearly. For private sales 10% commission is charged. The proceeds of the sale go to the Society to help minimise subscriptions so no silly bids, gentlemen! Bring the goodies along early so they can be sorted and arranged. **Doors open at 6-45pm and the sale starts at 7-45**. The heavy gang will be available to assist Members. Most importantly, bring yourself along to the meeting; it's a great "Fun Evening".

Don't Miss It!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 28/29 Nov. London AR&C Rally - Picketts Lock
1 Dec. CARS Mtg. "1st 10 Years of MWTCO."
Tim Wander.- MASC
10 Dec. CARS Christmas Dinner - The Beehive
Gt.Waltham. See notice below.
13 Dec. Verulam ARC Rally - Watford Leisure
Centre. Nr. M1 - M25 Juncn

Committee Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the QTH of Ela G6HKM at 7-30pm on Wednesday 11th. November. You are welcome to join us.

Subscriptions

Time to dip your hand in your pocket again! If you have already paid, thank you! If you haven't, please see Brian at the November meeting. Normal subscription is £8, Concessionary is £7 and under 16's free. Birth certificates at the ready, please! Cheques should be made payable to Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society. Cash accepted. By post to Brian Thwaites, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Gt Baddow, CHELMSFORD CM2 7BO

The Christmas Dinner

There are still a few tickets available for the CARS Christmas do! We had a grand time last year at the Beehive and this year should be even better with a menu to suit all tastes. As usual there will be a grand raffle. See David M0BQC on Tuesday next. To those who have already purchased tickets, don't forget to return your menu selection to him, please.

A New Repeater

Chris Lee 2E1GAD is looking for help in setting up a 6mtr repeater in the Brentwood/Romford area to cover London E&SE and parts of Essex and Kent.

If you are interested contact him on 0181-262-2524.

Thank You, Ela.

Ela has kindly donated the left-overs from her grand High Houses sale to be disposed of for Club funds. So far over £75 has been raised by 'private sales'. The remainder will be disposed of at the Junk Sale and the Canvey rally in February.

These monies will appear in the current year's accounts.

Last Month's Meeting - Andrew G4KQE

The Chairman, John G8DET opened the meeting at 7.40 p.m. and introduced the enhanced audio systems which would be tested throughout the evening.

The minutes of the 1997 AGM were read by the Assistant Secretary, Colin G0TRM and subject to a very small change, were agreed as a true record.

John then gave the Chairman's report, having first asked Members for their comments on the revised seating arrangements, the chairs having been placed at the other end of the room, which was thought to be a better arrangement. John reflected on last year's AGM, when Roy and Ela mentioned that they wished to stand down from the Committee, and following the events of the past year, how delighted he was that Ela had decided to carry on as a Committee Member for the coming year. He said that the past year had been a year of change for the Club, but we had come through it well thanks to the support and efforts of Committee Members.

The Secretary's report was read by Colin on behalf of Charles, who was unable to attend the meeting. He reported that twelve Committee meetings were held during the year. Our President Roy became a silent key. His considerable influence with the Society could have caused problems for its orderly continuation, but for the courage and commitment that he showed in ensuring that Committee Members were thoroughly briefed and all documentation handed over in perfect order. Vice President Dick Brocks G3WHR became President and Harry Heap G5HF was appointed Vice-president. Three new Members were co-opted to the Committee, namely Carl Thomson G3PEM, Tony Gilbey G4YTG and David Bradley M0BQC, bringing the total to 15 Members.

A major activity carried out by Roy and Ela for many years, the production of the newsletter was successfully handed over to Geoff G7KLV and Colin G0TRM, and together with printing being carried out by Jan G7UVP, they are ensuring that precedents are upheld.

Colin said that resulting from the closure of Marconi College we had to find a new venue after 43 years. We now meet at MASC. Committee Meetings are held at various Member's QTHs. The 1997 Christmas Dinner proved to be a very enjoyable occasion, and the 1998 event will again be at the Beehive, Great Waltham. The link with the Chelmsford Industrial and Science Museum continues, with the Society operating two stations on International Marconi Day, and obtaining TV, local radio and newspaper coverage for the Club and the Museum. The Club call sign G0MWT is now held by the Secretary, Charles, and the Club rig and other equipment is held by John. After the junk sale in November, Jan G7UVP and Chris G0IPU stored the surplus items and took them to the Canvey rally in January, boosting Society's funds. The SSTV net continues on 28680 kHz every Thursday, and the minutes of the Committee Meeting continue to be broadcast on 28325 kHz on the Tuesday following the Committee Meeting. The Society's DF competition participation at National level was led once more by Dick G3WHR and Andrew G4KQE.

A major activity of the Committee continues to be the organisation of first class speakers to come and talk to us, and Colin then reminded us of the twelve meetings throughout the year, starting with the junk sale in November and finishing with the present AGM.

The Treasurer, Brian G3CVI then gave his report. He displayed a graph of membership numbers on the overhead projector which showed that since 1984 the Society's membership has steadily increased. Brian highlighted one or two entries in the accounts of importance. Last year we had a cushion in the form of the sale of windfall shares, but that cushion will not last for ever. Printing costs are now very low due to the generosity of Jan's contact. An item of +£50 is shown in accounts for

rent, and this represents an amount from last year that was allowed for in last year's accounts, but in the event, never paid to our previous venue. Brian reported that the raffle continues to make a profit, and overall the Society's finances are healthy, but a little increase now would be a good policy just in case the rent is increased or for any other unforeseen circumstances. He therefore proposed that the subscriptions be raised to £8, with £7 for concessions, to be debated and agreed later in the meeting.

Our new President, Dick commenced his report by saying that this was the first time that he had been able to speak to all members since he assumed office. He said that it had been planned that he would be President with effect from this year, but as we all know, he had to take up the Presidency earlier than planned. Dick said we all had our memories of Roy and then gave his own very fitting tribute. He said that Roy was President from 1977. In the early days the newsletters were comparatively basic, but when Roy took over as newsletter editor in 1986, he used his considerable computer and desk top publishing skills to enhance the appearance of the newsletter and did a superb job over the years. Roy worked in the Test Equipment Department and gave him considerable help professionally in the use of test equipment and interpretation of results. If Roy didn't have a piece of gear, then he would build it. Usually in the annual Constructor's Competition there would be an immaculately turned out item constructed by Roy. Dick recalled only ever hearing of one criticism of Roy's workmanship! John Greenwood, another construction perfectionist, spotted that in a power supply which Roy had built, he had used the transformer mounting bolt to hold the earth wire as well, whereas IEE regulations state that earthing mountings should be held by their own separate bolt!

Roy tried his hand at several aspects of Amateur Radio, and Dick mentioned that last weekend we held the Mid-Essex DF trophy. The very first callsign on that trophy is that of G3PMX. The Committee was always in good hands in that Roy was a good organiser, and didn't like to see any Committee Member taking on too much. He was also a great innovator. The recent advent of the digital camera and computers gave Roy a challenge that he enjoyed. There was always a team behind everything Roy did, and Dick said that Roy and Ela made a great team. Roy was also a friend and Dick said he would be missed.

Dick continued by asking what a President should do! His first task was to appoint a Vice-President, and was delighted that Harry G5HF agreed to take up the post. Dick said that he saw the role of the Club Chairman as being the Captain of a ship, setting the course for the Club, and therefore the President and Vice-President were the lookouts for the Club, elevated to a high position to advise of any obstacles that might be in the way, and to keep an eye on the weather to avoid any storms or squalls that might be brewing. In this he felt that Harry, with his meteorological interest would be well suited! Harry was licensed in 1933, joined Crompton's in 1940, and went on to be the Head of Research, and is now a very versatile Vice-President. Dick said that if any Member wanted any help or had any ideas, then just give him or Harry a call.

One of the duties of a President said Dick was the election of a new Committee, and showed the present Committee on the overhead projector. Harry stood up and said that the Committee had had a tough year, but managed to keep going and on that basis he said he was prepared to give all Committee Members another chance! He was delighted to see that Ela had agreed to stay on as an ordinary member, although she was planning to leave, and therefore proposed that the present Committee be re-elected en-bloc. This was seconded by George G3GNQ, and carried unanimously.

The 1998/99 Committee is therefore as follows:-

President:	Dick Brocks G3WHR
Vice-President:	Harry Heap G5HF
Chairman:	John Bowen G8DET
Vice-Chairman:	Andrew Mead G4KQE
Secretary:	Charles Shelton G0GJS
Assistant Secretary:	Colin Page G0TRM
Treasurer:	Brian Thwaites G3CVI
Venue Organiser:	Chris Chapman G0IPU
Librarian:	Geoff Lovegrove G7KLV
Member:	David Bradley M0BQC
Member:	Geoff Cockerill G2AMQ
Member:	Tony Gilbert G4YTG
Member:	Ela Martyr G6HKM
Member:	Jan Swanwick G7UVP
Member:	Carl Thomson G3PEM

Our Chairman announced that David was taking names for the Christmas Dinner, to be held again at The Beehive, Great Waltham. He also mentioned that the duties of the Venue Organiser were far less onerous as MASC staff arranged the seating for us with Brian G3CVI keeping in touch with them so that the room is always arranged as we want it.

John then resumed the Chairmanship and invited the Treasurer to set the subs for next year. Brian suggested that the subs be increased slightly to £8, with £7 for concessions. He further suggested that a new rate be introduced, that of allowing under-16s free membership if accompanied by an adult member. These suggestions were proposed as being accepted by Pat G0SBQ, and seconded by Charles M0APJ, and carried unanimously. John then reflected that by supporting the raffle, members are adding to Club funds, and that this is a better than having an entrance fee for each meeting.

The meeting then turned to Any Other Business, and a brief discussion took place concerning the Club net. It was suggested that perhaps a 2 metre net could be run on the second Tuesday of the month instead of the 10 metre net. A further suggestion was that the Club obtain a class B licence as well as G0MWT, so that

class B licensees could take a turn running a 2 metre net using the Club call sign. These suggestions it was said would be further considered in Committee. The formal business of the meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.

After tea the Jackpot Raffle was drawn, and a year's free membership was won by Fred G2HNF.

The Amateur of the year award went to Chris G0IPU for his outstanding work with the Scouts, and as Novice Tutor. The recent issue of "Radio Communication" carried a picture of Chris and his pupils who had recently obtained their novice licences. Chris was proposed by John G8DET and seconded by Charles G0GJS.

Further audio tests were carried out with audience participation. See Colin's report below.

AN AUDIO ENHANCEMENT EXPERIMENT - Colin G0TRM

To help ensure that not a word is missed at future meetings an array of electronic wizardry was brought into practical use at last month's meeting. Sound equipment in abundance was provided by Chairman John G8DET and Tony G4YTG, and a little recorded musical input from yours truly! Together with assistance from Eric G8ADX and other members, three independent amplifier systems were set up with different microphone inputs. Two of these systems had been tried together throughout the AGM which in the event was not ideal, as an unpleasant edge to the sound was heard.

After tea the systems were compared individually with mic and loudspeakers positions being changed in sequence until a satisfactory result was achieved. Two main problems were overcome, firstly a certain amount of feedback was present, and secondly those sitting at the front could hear the speaker directly and through the speakers which was disconcerting. Moving the loudspeakers towards the rear of the audience cured both problems.

These tests were instigated because at a previous meeting some limitations were noticed with the Club sound equipment. However, it became evident that with careful placing of equipment all three systems tried were capable of providing very useful sound reinforcement. Nevertheless it has to be said the sound quality of the systems varied greatly. Tony's admittedly very expensive and necessarily large P.A. equipment produced outstanding results. John's 'Hi-Fi' system was also very acceptable followed with credit by the Club's own equipment. It was concluded that the Club equipment would be used in future due to the ease of transportation and installation, although some further tests may be in order on a reduced scale to fine tune results.

It is worth noting that considerable audio knowledge (and equipment) exists within the Club which might well be called upon in the future should the need arise.

Proposed 2 metre Net - Colin G0TRM

Would any Member interested in taking part in a 2metre net on the first Tuesday after the Club Meeting please contact Colin G0TRM at the next Club meeting or on 01245-223835.

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Deadline for the next News Letter is the 16th November.