

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB

President: Richard Brocks G3WHR

Secretary: David Bradley M0BQC

Club Call Sign: G0MWT

Chairman: John Bowen G8DET

Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

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August 2000

This Month's Meeting.

EMC by Robin Page-Jones G3JWI.

Electromagnetic Compatibility or EMC as it's known for short. It's the incompatibility that causes the problems! To most people this probably means amateurs interfering with the neighbours telly! This must have been a very difficult problem in the far off days of Band 1 TV. The move to the UHF must have helped enormously.

EMC is by no means a one way problem. Computers with their square waves, dirty thermostats and discharge across power lines have been pin pointed as causes of incompatibility. With the increasing use of electronics in everyday life, so the problems with EMC proliferate.

Our guest speaker **Robin Page Jones** is an acknowledged expert in the field of EMC, having written the RSGB book on the subject and produced the regular columns in RADCOM for many years. The problems arising from high efficiency discharge lamps and our old friends, switch mode power supplies will be discussed as well as EMC generally. This promises to be a very interesting meeting. Definitely one of those 'not to be missed' meetings!

Chairman John G8DET will introduce Robin at **7-30pm. on Tuesday 1st. August at the MASC.** Ela is back refreshed from her sea cruise and will be running the raffle as usual. Support the raffle and keep us solvent!

Dates For Your Diary

July 29	RSGB Hamfest. Hatfield House, Hatfield.
Aug. 1	CARS Meeting 'EMC' MASC 7-30pm.
Aug 9	CARS Committee Mtg. Ela's QTH 7-30 pm.
Aug. 13	Kings Lynn Rally. QM Rd. Gaywood, Kings Lynn.
Aug 28	Huntingdonshire RC Rally. Nr Tesco, St. Neots.

October AGM.

Would you like to join the Committee or nominate someone? Also, think about nominations for Amateur of the Year Award. It's up to you to decide who's done most for the overall benefit for the Club and it's Members in the last year. Contact a Committee member to volunteer or make suggestions.

Members News.

We have some sad news. Don G0LLA and Louis G5RV are now Silent Keys. We will miss them both.

Now for some good news. We have two new members. Both are SWL's. Welcome to David Green and to Donald Imber.

The Net Controller for August is Geoff G3EDM

Long Serving RSGB Members.

Brian G3CVI would like to hear from any Members who have belonged to the RSGB for 45 years or more. Don't be shy!

Museum Open Day.

The recent Sandford Mill Open Days attracted over one thousand visitors. For the first time ever it was a two day event and there were a number of competing events on both days. Two visitors asked 'Where are the amateurs?' That's fame for you!

Everyone concerned with Museum activities was very impressed with the Scout presence on IMD. So much so, that they were invited to undertake car parking duties, relieving Museum Friends for other tasks. This is an activity the Scouts undertake in order to raise funds. They did a wonderful job under the guidance of Chris G0IPU, Nigel G6ZVV and Rhona 2E1GQL.

Essex Int Scouts Jamboree Camp GB2EIA.

The Scouts will be on the air from the Tuesday 25th. July until Saturday the 5th. August. On most days between 09:30. until 17:30 at Kirby Le Soken. They would love to hear from you on the following frequencies, all subject to +/- QRM: 4.735MHz. 7.055MHz.

14.140MHz. 6m 50.18MHz. 2m 145.550MHz. FM
2m 144.36MHz SSB 70cms 433.550MHz.

Table Top Sale.

Colin G0TRM is organising a table top sale as the main feature of our **September** meeting. We held a similar sale last year and it proved to be very successful. Colin is spreading the word among other nearby clubs, and their members are all invited to attend either as sellers or buyers. So, don't throw away that redundant or broken rig just yet. Book a FREE table (£3 to visitors) at the coming meeting. Now is the time to get together all that stuff you promised the XYL you would get rid of! Look in the shed, loft, garage, broom cupboard, and don't forget under the stairs, sink, bed, desk, bench, floor boards and other hidey-holes. All working, non-working electric, electronic, audio, photographic and half built kits etc will be welcome. But NO JUNK please.

So, get cracking and sort yourselves out! A small percentage on your sales donated to Club funds would be welcome. Contact Colin at the next meeting or by 'phone etc.

Silent Key – Don Morrison G0LLA.

It is with regret that we record the sad passing of yet another CARS Member, Don Morrison G0LLA. Don had not been to the Club meetings since last Christmas due to ill health and he did not regularly attend before that for the same reason. In spite of all that, when we did see him at the Club he was always very cheerful making light of all his problems.

Many Members were present at the Crematorium to pay their last respects to Don on the 4th. July last and were invited by Doreen to a buffet lunch afterwards. Many interesting and amusing things came to light in the eulogy presented by one of his friends.

Before he retired Don had his own business as a building

contractor concerned with specialist building renovation and he was a skilled woodworker. He had served in the Royal Navy as a petty officer. He was building his own boat in his front garden. As it was somewhat too wide to be contained within his own boundary, his friendly neighbour allowed it to protrude into his!. All was well until said neighbour sold up and moved away. Then the problems started! Failing health and other reasons forced him to sell the partly completed boat. The intention was to sail off to the Carribean with Doreen. They had both taken the Yacht Masters Radio exam and then he got interested in amateur radio, getting the full license, about fifteen years ago.

Don was a leading member of the 'Brentwood gang'. They held their own local meetings regularly in his house and their interests gradually turned to the construction side of the hobby. With expert tuition and endless encouragement from Fred G2HNF, Don produced a number of ancillary shack items and test gear.

Don was a popular Member of the Club and will be sadly missed by his many friends. We offer our condolences to Doreen and his family.

Geoff G7KLV, with gratefully acknowledged help from Fred G2HNF.

Silent Key - Louis Varney G5RV.

It is with regret that we record the passing of R.Louis Varney at the age of eighty nine. He was one of the legendary figures in amateur radio. It was his absorbing hobby from an early age, having obtained an 'artificial aerial' license in 1927 as 2ARV (paternal sponsorship) and full license two years later. His last contact was made in late 1999 with G5HF just before his health failed.

He worked for the Marconi Company for many years and was their sales representative in South America. He was an enthusiastic equestrian and had the unusual distinction of working /P while mounted! Latterly he worked for Preece, Cardew and Rider, the communications consultants as one of their representatives. His work and expertise in amateur radio brought him into contact with many government officials world wide. His CX5 (Uruguay) QSL card lists fifty five countries in which he obtained licenses. George G3GNQ operated Louis's home station while he was abroad, thus keeping him in touch with his family.

His call sign G5RV is, perhaps, one of the best known in the world due to the aerial he popularised in books and magazines. He was author of many articles. Although he rarely spoke about it, he was one of the very few amateurs who retained his license throughout WW2 in connection with Bletchley Park activities.

He was one of the early Members of CARS, meeting in Fred Smith's shop in Moulsham Street, and, in recent years, was a Life Member of our Society. He retired to Burgess Hill and his annual visit to stay with Harry G5HF and Pippa was always timed to coincide with a Club meeting. On those occasions his talks to the Club on aerial topics were always very popular and well attended.

Louis was a very keen CW operator and always the leading light in the local NFD entry and other events, his G5RV/A station winning the annual award on one occasion. NFD was held in a field behind the 'Running Mare' (his local). Arthur KPJ will always remember Louis' talents as chef – sausages cooked on a Primus in the early hours of chilly Sunday mornings!

He knew the right people in the right places, and managed to persuade the GPO to issue a "GB" call for the special event station GB2CRA, set up in what is now Central Park, to commemorate the QE2 Coronation. The station used his "Elizabethan" TVI proof TX. A picture (courtesy KPJ) and further details appear on our web site.

Louis was a *bon viveur*, enjoying good food and company,

living life to the full. He was also an accomplished still life, landscape and portrait painter in oils.

Our sympathies to his son, Peter, and Nelida in their sad loss. Our thanks go to Nelida who married Louis, after his first wife Marjorie died of cancer, and who looked after him so wonderfully for thirty two years. He will be missed by his many worldwide friends

Geoff G7KLV with gratefully acknowledged assistance from Arthur G3KPJ, George G3GNQ and Harry G5HF.

Harry and Ethel attended the funeral not only as friends but as representatives of the Society.

Last Month's Meeting. How I Got Started On 10GHz. by Ken Aston G0WZV.

Ken arrived early with a car full of intriguing dishes and horns. The plan was to provide a demonstration contact on 10GHz during the evening. However, first we had to find the direction of Danbury where the other contact was located, which proved difficult without a compass. Help from 70cms handheld with Andrew G6SPS/P meant that contact was soon established. Once Andrew started transmitting, Ken soon zeroed in on him within the 10GHz band and all was set for the evening.

G0WZV has been Ken's call for three years, prior to that he held the call G8CVT from 1969. His interest in 10GHz began during the 80's so he has 20 years of experience in this more unusual aspect of our hobby.

Ken opened with the demonstration contact on 3cms with G6SPS/P Andrew in Danbury. John our chairman showed his versatility by taking up Ken's offer of making the QSO using 1 watt. Several 'firsts' were achieved for all concerned. The initial mode was SSB which was a rather scratchy 35, then switching to FM improved things to 59+20. QSL exchange was confirmed.

There followed a description of the wideband equipment Ken began using back in the 80's. The variability in frequency caused by reliance on a mechanical gap affected by temperature etc meant that Ken was never quite sure if he was in the 10GHz band at all! Gunn diode oscillators were available in the surplus market. Ken also showed horn antennas.

The equipment Ken used for the contact with G6SPS/P consisted of an Icom 706 on 144MHz, driving a transverter. The dish was 90cms. Details of the transverter construction were explained and an information leaflet was distributed. High quality PTFE PCB is used with surface mount components (to eliminate lead inductances) and striplines. From IF to final frequency is by doubling four times to 2556 then x 4 to 10224 +144 = 10368MHz.

A Travelling Wave Tube was used to amplify from 1milliwatt to 1 watt output.

Ken then described his home QTH set up and his operations on Frinton sea front and various high spots around Essex. The greatest distance contact Ken has made is 582km to Germany. Rain scatter, temperature ducts, and tropospheric propagation have been used.

Thank you Ken for a stimulating and very well presented insight into 10GHz.

Report By David M0BQC

Joint Editors

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Deadline for the next N/L is Saturday 12th.August.