

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB

President: Harry Heap G5HF

Secretary: David Bradley M0BQC

Club Call Sign: G0MWT

Chairman: John Bowen G8DET

Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

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Web Address www.g0mwt.free-online.co.uk

September 2001

The September Meeting - The Table Top Sale.

This will be our third Table Top Sale and we hope it will be as successful as the last two. These events are the brainchild of our Assistant Secretary Colin G0TRM and he has been appointed our Hon. TTS Manager. By the way, Colin is establishing a reputation for himself (so far impeccable) in the retail trade, appearing at rallies and boot sales all over the county.

We hope that apart from providing an enjoyable social evening the event will help to top up the Club coffers! There's always a catch, isn't there!

Non Members are welcome and the cost to them is £3 per table. Members do not pay a table charge but are requested to contribute 10% of their takings to Club funds up to a maximum of £3.

Colin has been advertising the event. We are expecting contingents from neighbouring clubs and Bob Boddy to attend with carloads of interesting items. Even if you can only find one or two items for sale yourself, you will be welcome. Colin has reserved a space just for you!

This sale should not be confused with our Junk Sale, that comes early next year, so no junk please. All unsold items must be removed by their owners. Bring along your working and non-working surplus radio, electronic, electrical, audio, photographic goods and those half built items you never finished, there's bound to be someone who can use them! So now's the time to have a good look through your shack, up in the loft and garage. Get the XYL to help you, she's probably got a good eye for what you don't need any more! The more items that are offered for sale, the more interesting the event will be!

Our Chairman John G8DET will formally open the proceedings at **7-30pm (doors open at 7pm.) on Tuesday September 4th. at the MASC Beehive Lane.** All Members and non Members are requested to support our raffle which, this month, will be run by Tony G4YTG.

Dates for Your Diary.

4 Sep. CARS Table Top Sale. MASC 7-30pm.

12 Sep. CARS Comm. Mtg. 7-30 pm Danbury Village Hall

15/16 Sep. Transmission 2001 British Wireless for the Blind.

Ring John on 01634-832501 for details.

20/21 Sep. Leicester ARS Show. Castle Donnington.

The Net Controller for September is TBA.

Last Month's Meeting.

Part 1. RSGB Regional Representation.

By Malcolm Salmon G3XVV.

The first part of the evening was devoted to a talk by Malcolm Salmon G3XVV on the improved structure of regional representation of the RSGB. Malcolm is the Regional Manager covering Kent, Essex, Suffolk, and Norfolk. Working with Malcolm are several deputy Regional Managers including Alan M1DKP who is our own Club Member and representative for Essex. In addition each affiliated club will have its own RSGB contact person.

Malcolm asked how many members of the audience were not members of the RSGB and about four people put up their hands. Malcolm gave the example of the valuable work that the RSGB does for its members such as the EU1954/EC directive on allowing only 24vm around cars which would severely limit mobile operation. Amateurs are unlikely to know about this directive let alone be able to do anything about it, whereas the RSGB as the national representative body of amateurs can fight such things on our behalf. The free affiliation of school radio clubs illustrated the RSGB's efforts in encouraging younger members into the hobby.

In future our first point of contact with the RSGB should be through Alan. Alan as the Deputy Regional Manager (Essex) is appointed by Malcolm but our Club representative will be voted for by Club Members. Regional Managers will be elected by the RSGB members.

Malcolm assured Fred G2HNF that projects for RADCOM could still be submitted on typed manuscripts but the preferred method for economy is electronic.

Finally Malcolm asked that we give the new structure a fair try as it is a final effort to make the RSGB stronger and responsive to its members.

John G8DET expressed the Club's thanks to Malcolm and Alan.

In Memoriam.

It is with regret that we record the passing away of Bridget, Harry Heap G5HF's daughter after a long and exhausting illness. Our condolences to Harry, his family and friends in their sad loss.

In Memoriam.

It is with sadness that we must record the passing of Emily Gilbey, Tony G4YTG's Mum. Had she lived a few more weeks she would have been 104, Chelmsford's oldest inhabitant. Up until the age of 99 she was very independent and lived on her own, albeit with plenty of support from Tony and June, but due to a fall they felt it was time for her to have constant supervision and she went to Admirals Reach..

She had retained all her faculties up to a week or so before she died when she was feeling just a bit off colour. She passed away peacefully in her sleep. Gilly, as she was called, led a most interesting and varied life with her husband Walter who died in 1973. She was still running her own part time business up until she was in her eighties. A most remarkable lady!

A week or so earlier Tony's cousin Terry Mayne also died, having suffered a stroke. As well as being a well known car and motor cycle racer, Terry had his own engineering business.

Our thoughts are with Tony and June, their family and friends.

Part 2 The Essex Repeater Group by Murray Niman G6JYB.

The second part of the evening was devoted to Murray G6JYB who provided a most comprehensive guide to the work of the Essex Repeater Group. Murray is the Hon. Secretary of the group and he informed us who the other officers are. The group operates repeaters on 6m, 2m, 70cms, and 23cms, plus a microwave beacon on 10.36896 GHz. Murray illustrated the input and output frequencies, the frequency shift and the corresponding percentage split.

The make up of a repeater was described as a transmitter and receiver (offset in frequency), diplexer, aerials and feeders, control logic and power supply (preferably uninterruptible). More details were given on the cavity diplexer explaining that it enables full duplex operation on a single aerial, prevents desensing of the RX by the Tx. The insertion loss is ~ 1dB, and rejection at offset frequency >90-100dB. The control logic detects access toneburst, CTSS, Squelch, controls audio TX-PTT, incorporates CW, Ident, timers, and computer control of all key parameters.

The aim of the group is to provide what the members require, to attract new members and to encourage band occupancy. Internet developments are also closely watched. The group aims to provide county wide general coverage on 6m.

Details of the repeaters were presented as follows-

GB3DA 2m FM Voice Repeater at Danbury.

GB3DB 6m FM Voice Repeater at QTH of M1DTA at Danbury.

GB3ZP 23cms FM Voice Repeater at Rettendon.

Both DB and ZP use Mk3 G8CUL logic units while DA and ER and spare use Mk2's.

GB3ER 70cms FM Voice Repeater at Danbury.

Murray then went on to describe the use of radio - Internet simplex gateways. This enables users to chat to Australia on 2m! Details of how to do this are available on DCC website:-

<http://www.dcc.rsgb.org/>

Ideally one needs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week access which costs about £300 per year. The software is Iphone and is freely available. There is 24 hour live Internet radio is on 433.225MHz.. A website is available with webcam at :-

<http://www.g3crc.co.uk/>

Clacton Radio Club has GB3CL Duplex linked. You are advised to contact RMC local chief Tony Horsman G0MBA for more details.

Our thanks to Murray for an interesting and informative talk.

Report by David M0BQC

Random Ramblings by Geoff G7KLV.

Number 1.

I usually start to panic about ten days before the Newsletter is due out because I've got a huge hole to fill and nothing to put in it! At the last Committee Meeting I voiced my fears to the assembled gathering and threatened to leave a blank column to emphasise the point that I was short of copy! They are quite a decent lot really, and two of them promised to help me out! Fine, I thought, but when I said I wanted something in the next few days there was a touch of the umming and arring! But, as I've said before, you never know what's round the next corner! It's probably a good thing really!

It was a hot evening and fortunately we finished our Committee business in nearly record time. The XYL was still up and very wide-awake! Had a most interesting evening said she.

While I was out our 'bottom of the garden neighbours' had come round and introduced themselves. We are separated by a six foot Countryside Properties fence so the opportunities for social

intercourse are somewhat limited, which explains the lack of previous contact!

They explained that while their own next door neighbours were on holiday a van had stopped outside and the occupants had put up a ladder against the front corner of the house, went up and had a good look round which gave them a good view of my garden. The van side displayed a name and an Essex address. My BOTG N noted the proceedings and informed his neighbour on his mobile. He said he wasn't expecting any workmen and contacted the firm. They denied that they had a van meeting the description. The Old Bill was duly informed, but so far no action or arrests. Being somewhat 'street cred' my BOTGN, having noted the sheds and Slim Jim (rarely used) in my garden warned me to be on the look out for possible intruders! He didn't realise that all my sophisticated 30-year-old test gear purchased at scrap metal prices is of sentimental value rather than actual cash value! But it's the kind thought that counts! It makes one feel ill at ease to think that dubious characters are casing one's joint. On the look out for a handy point of egress!

The moral of this ramble? Be observant, be on your guard, consider installing alarms, review your security arrangements and note seemingly unimportant details.

Number 2.

Some months ago we bought a new cordless kettle. It behaved faultlessly for a few months and then I was informed that it switched itself on, come to the boil and then switched off! Frankly, I just didn't believe it and said so! After that it behaved for a week or so and then it did exactly the same thing again. Humble pie and all that! It seemed to work OK for a day or two and then failed to come up to the boil. Enough's enough!

We found the blurb. Oh dear! Failure up to a month after purchase and the retailer would supply a replacement. With failures after a month it instructed us to return it to the makers. At least £5 postage and it would have to be very securely packed to avoid the inevitable 'it was damaged in the post'!

After some debate we decided to return it to the retailer. Having worked up a good head of righteous indignation we were prepared to be difficult and we were very surprised when the charming young salesman apologised profusely.

"I'm afraid we don't stock that model any longer. Please chose an alternative one and we'll adjust any difference." Completely deflated, we chose a P...s instead of a M...- R... , adjusted the 49p difference and left C...t, thoroughly satisfied customers!

I have to admit that the before we went we studied a very useful little booklet obtained by my daughter from the Citizens Advice Bureau on consumer rights issued by the Office of Fair Trading. Recommended reading for all shoppers!

The only unsatisfactory thing is that we don't know how a kettle can switch itself on? It did happen on both occasions at about afternoon teatime! Clever stuff? Rather spooky though!

If you are fed up with my ramblings, please provide me with material! Contributions, long, short or in between would be most welcome. It's up to you!

Members News.

Last but not least, a warm welcome to new Member Ron Keefe G4SIS. He comes from Billericay.

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Deadline for the next N/L is Wednesday 12th. September.