



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

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

Newsletter No. 442

November 2002

The November Meeting.

Homebrew Amateur Television Antennas, 13 & 23 cms. by Paul Prior G8IXC. Tuesday 5th. November, 7-30pm, MASC.

This is our second talk on amateur television matters. Way back in April Ian Waters G3KKD gave us a very interesting talk about the history and technicalities of this subject. However, Ian hardly mentioned antennas in his talk so we are lucky to have **Paul Prior G8IXC** to complete the story and tell us something about this subject at our November meeting. He will be telling us how to construct them and, no doubt, a little theory as well. He stresses that it will be a 'Blue Peter' type talk, by which he means that he will be showing us samples that he constructed 'earlier' rather than a full blown construction demonstration!

We will be meeting in our usual venue in Beehive Lane and our Chairman G8DET will set the ball rolling, as usual, at 7-30pm. As is our custom we will be holding a raffle, which this month is run by our President Harry G5HF and our Secretary David M0BQC. **The winning tickets will be drawn promptly immediately after the break.** So, if you want to claim your prize come back promptly from the bar at the time advised by our Chairman!

Dates For Your Diary.

November	1	LEFARS Fireworks. Details from Trevor M5AKA 07941039832
November	5	CARS Annual General Meeting, 7-30pm. MASC.
November	13	CARS Committee Meeting. Danbury Village Hall. 7-30pm.
November	23/24	London Comms. & Computer Show. Woodson Park Ware, Herts.

Subscriptions Now Due.

The new subscription rates were approved at the AGM last month. The new rates are £10 for adults, £5 for under 18's and under 21's in full time education. Subscriptions are now due and our Treasurer Brian G3CVI is waiting to hear from you!! Brian will accept cash but he really prefers a cheque which should be made out to either; 'Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society' or to 'C.A.R.S.' (don't forget the fullstops or it will bounce).

You can see him at the next Club meeting or send it by post to:-

Brian Thwaites, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Gt. Baddow, CHELMSFORD CM2 7BU.

His phone is 01245-471919.

It will be assumed that unless payment is received by Friday 20th. December your subscription has lapsed.

After this date no further Newsletters will be sent either by Post or by Email.

We don't want to lose you, so please take note and send your subscription promptly.

The CARS Christmas Party.

We will soon be counting the number of shopping days 'till Christmas! Important though that is, it is also approaching CARS Christmas Party time! We thought it was time to select a new venue this year. Accordingly we sent our Committee gourmet, Ken Whittle G7RFT on a reccy! He has been out and about sampling the fare at a variety of establishments within easy reach of Chelmsford. After much thought and careful analysis he has finally made a decision! I would state in passing that he has not (so far!) submitted any out of pocket expenses to our Treasurer!

This years Christmas Party will be held at The Anchor, Runsell Green, Danbury on Friday 13th. December.

There is a choice of dishes and prices. Ken will have the menu and tickets at the November meeting. But if you really want to be absolutely sure of a place ring Ken on **01245-257088** and get priority booking!

Firm bookings must be made before the end of November.

My advice is to ring him now for more details, as there is a maximum of 40 seats.

The Annual General Meeting by David M0BQC.

The CARS AGM took place at the Marconi Athletics and Social Club Beehive Lane on Tuesday 1st. October. The Chairman John DET began the evening with the very agreeable task of presenting the Club awards. He first called upon Harry HF to present the Amateur of the Year Award to Chris IPU for his continued, vast contribution to the CARS Foundation Courses. The Roy Martyr Award for Excellence in Amateur Radio was presented by Ela HKM to Colin TRM for his valuable contributions to Club activities and his response to Harry HF's challenge for alternative power sources.

The formal part of the evening was then started. The Minutes of the 2001 AGM had been distributed with the Newsletter. Their acceptance was proposed by Colin TRM and seconded by Martyn EFL. Our Chairman then presented his own report outlining the excellence of the CARS year. John DET outlined the contribution of each Committee Member. John also advised the Society of his intention to retire from his office at the end of the 2002/3.

David BQC then read the Secretary's report. The highlights of a busy year were the constructors meeting, celebration of the centenary of the transatlantic transmission, International Marconi Day, Club clothing, the web site and the very successful Foundation Courses.

John mentioned that another successful day had been held at Sandford Mill on 29th September where CARS operated an HF station and to Suzanne M3ZAN who set up a 2m station.

The sad loss of Wally Mills G3MCO was remembered.

Following a story describing Brian CVI's narrow escape from a Luftwaffe bombing raid, he presented the Membership Secretary's and Treasurer's reports where we learnt that the membership is at an all time high of 119. In the light of this number the occasional requirement to use the small room will cause problems and contingency plans need to be made. Following a question from Fred, Brian said he would review the accounting treatment of the purchase of the club rig. The Treasurers report acceptance was proposed by Martyn EFL seconded by Tony YTG.

In view of increased cost of the MASC hall the Committee recommended that subs. be increased to £10 (no concessions), up to 18 years old or 21 in full time education £5, 12 years of age and below at Treasurers discretion. This motion was proposed by Carl PEM and seconded by Murray JYB and accepted unanimously.

Our President Harry G5HF made his address. He emphasised what a successful year CARS has had. Well attended meetings and the Foundation Courses were picked out for praise by Harry. The audience were amused by the dying amateur who said to his hospital visitor, "dont let the wife sell the radios for what I told her I paid for them!"

Under Harry G5HF's guidance the retiring Committee was re-elected en bloc. Dave G3PEN proposed and Charles M0APJ seconded , no objectors.

Any Other Business.

Fred HNF mentioned the use of the 2m gateway to the internet and his feeling that this is not true amateur radio. Chris IPU summarised the general opinion that we must move forward and if people wished to use that aspect of our hobby then good luck to them. It was confirmed that the gateway operator must have a notice of variation from the RA, (but not the users). It was suggested that a talk on the subject would be useful.

John DET mentioned the wide range of club equipment available to borrow. The meeting was closed at 2045.

Following the formal business Chris IPU presented an over view of the Foundation Courses and Murray JYB showed some of their computerised teaching aids. These were admired and it was pointed out that some other clubs had asked to use them.

Science Discovery Day At Sandford Mill by Geoff G7KLV.

Sunday September 29th. was Science Discovery day at Sandford Mill. It was also one of those lovely autumn days which always bodes well for events at the Mill .One of the main activities at the Mill is the Science Days for Schools.Their purpose is to inspire science learning using museum collections and hands-on experiments. Primary school classes from all over Essex spend either a half or full day under the guidance of Geoff Bowles and Caroline Hammer with the assistance of Val Manning. These events are popular with schools as an adjunct to their science lessons. Many of the experiments and demonstrations are the result of the efforts of the Friends of Chelmsford Museums. They are very popular with the children and this event is an opportunity for children to bring their parents along to experience for themselves some of these activities. There were a number of sideshows and demonstrations

The Club was invited to set up an HF station. Our Station Manager, Brian G3CVI, had cajoled a number of Club Members to man the station throughout the day. It was hoped to get some of the newly licensed

Members to operate a high power station under supervision of the old hands! This was not quite as successful as we would have wished. However the theme of the day was 'hands-on' and Brian had to fend off one little lad who managed to worm his way between him and his lunch box!

I will let Brian continue the story.

As we were having difficulties deciphering the rather tinny quality of the extension speaker we had our heads bent very close to the rig and the same lad decided that was the way to listen. We had a most amusing huddle and eventually his MUM rescued us. However we were not offended.. .rather the opposite because he was not even five years old but asked some remarkably pertinent questions "get 'em young" indeed.

In the hut we made 40 QSOs including Japan and several to the western coast of USA which has always been difficult with the orientation of the aerial wire. Charles GJS worked about 20 QSOs CW and there was considerable interest in his logging display with numerous questions from the audience. Charles has now used the FT 847 on CW for many hours and has discovered its excellent performance in that mode. Next time we use it I shall bring my baffled speaker which I know gives vastly superior sound quality.

So many thanks to the "oldies" who manned the rig and especially to the M3 folk who supported us. Thanks also to the Tokeley Team, Suzanne and father Bob, who set up a VHF rig in the other room of the Marconi hut.

Marie and Ralph G3NAA, together with their team of FCM ladies provided tea, soft drinks, biscuits and crisps etc throughout the day.

It was a most enjoyable hassle-free day with 475 visitors through the gates. Many of them were surprised that it was all for free!

19-Set Variometers - They'll Load Anything by Dave G3PEN.

At a Braintree ARC meeting a while back, we were treated to a display of WWII vintage radios, courtesy of Ted G8NPF who has spent a lot of time and effort in bringing them back to original working condition.

The sight of a 19-Set Variometer reminded me of an incident way back in the early 60's, when I was employed on radio interference duties in the GPO. (Short for Gestapo, to most amateurs.) I then often used a small laboratory/workshop in a building by the North Circular Road, located on the top-but-one floor (the highest one was always the canteen in those enlightened days). We had other labs down in the yard, next to the motor workshop that maintained and repaired dozens of horrible little 2-stroke motorbikes, used by a horde of young lads employed as telegram messengers, so the upstairs lab was much quieter.

One of my duties while there (usually only one day

per week), was to monitor various frequencies, and scan the H.F. bands in general, looking for "undesirables" - mainly pirate operators using the 4-8MHz band - as North London had (has?) a large population of such types. Being so high up, I found the best aerial was simply a long wire, dropped out of the window, with a small weight on the end, and so positioned to be out of reach from the ground, and just below the windows on the ground floor. I think it was about 80 or 90 feet long, and it gave good ground-wave coverage for the bands of interest - so if I heard a strong signal on HF, it was likely to be in the neighbourhood.

I used various receivers, but my favourite rig was a Type 22 Set, which was an ex-WD transceiver, and capable of working on 80m, with about 4 to 7W output, after being modified suitably for amateur use. Normally I went on 80m in my lunch hour, using the central-heating system as a counterpoise. To help tune the aerial for any purpose, a 19-Set variometer had been added to the 22-Set, and could tune the proverbial bed-springs if needed, although it was not usually connected.

Normally, all went well, but one day I found the tuning was impossible, until the variometer was added, which finally gave a "tweak" that worked OK. A few minutes later, after a QSO on 80m, a knock came on the door to the lab, and standing outside was the smallest telegram messenger boy in the building - he looked about 12 years old!

A squeaky and quivering voice said " 'Ere, mister, is that your bit of wire hanging down outside?" "Yes - why?" "Well, our mess room is on the ground floor, under yours. We was 'aving trouble with our mess-room wireless, because the signals were weak, so when we saw that wire outside our window, one of the lads pulled it in and put it into the aerial socket on the set. It worked OK till just now, when the wireless made a lot of noise, then made a lot of smoke, and now its dead. We reckon its your fault! What are you going to do about it?"

So what would you do, or say? First came a (fairly) stern lecture about not touching things that weren't theirs, delivered with difficulty to avoid laughing (not least at being called "mister", being just 21 at the time). Then all I could do was inspect the damage - the simple B/C receiver had a completely burnt-out rf/mixer coil- and admit that it was truly a "dead duck". In fact, I was able to replace it with a somewhat better (but still very cheap!) item from the Ilford radio shop run by Junko (G2BRH). Probably that same receiver would now be a collector's delight.

Since then, I've tried to be a bit more careful about my aerials, to avoid other mishaps, so it was a useful lesson. Its probably a good job I didn't have one of today's modern rigs, with a 100W output, else they might have had a real fire. But I can recommend the old variometer if you can still obtain one - it does a GREAT job when you have a difficult aerial to load! Most war-surplus relics are not designed for very high power, though - keep to QRP.

Early Recollections by Peter Chadwick G3RZP - Marconi Apprentices Club and NFD.

In 1964 the Marconi Apprentice Radio Club (G3JTW) was mainly active in VHF contests. Earlier members G3CVO and G3LTF had gone by then and the members included G3OZS, G3RTF and G3SXX. They dropped out, and I became secretary in 1965. We had Willy G3VPK, G8BAR and G3PDK fairly often, and a number of others - G3WFF came to the club before he became an apprentice. I can't remember all the callsigns - G8BUD, G3RHU were amongst the crew.

The original 'home' of the Marconi Apprentice Radio Club was 'Basildon Cottage', which was in New Street. That got demolished when the railway bridge was widened for the electrification. We had accommodation in the back of a Nissen hut up at Brooklands which was at the top of London Road, opposite the Rising Sun, but that was damp. Then we had Dorset House, which was a rather spooky 17th century house down by the railway station, where the M & G building is now.

When I left in 1969, we had a nicely done up Nissen hut in the grounds behind what was the old Crompton Parkinson apprentices' hostel in London Road. Houses have been built in the old gardens now. Incidentally, I used G3JTW in things like the Short Wave Magazine Club Contest on 160m CW - NOT the best call for a CW contest! We did a number of VHF contests from the tower at Little Baddow - that was pretty good. AL23B in the old QTH Locator, pre Maidenhead!

Gear when I started there was an Eddystone S750 in its Marconi form as an HR100. There was also an RG44 - the civilian version of the RAF R1475. Then we got a Marconi TGS541 - a fearsome beast. Six 807's in push pull parallel in the PA, modulated by four. There were harmonics everywhere and in those days TV was on VHF! Later we managed to get some CR150 receivers and some test gear followed by an NT201 SSB Tx and an H2301 (Marconi version of the Eddystone 880). As a club, we were pretty active, especially in the QSY to the pub after meetings!

By 1965, CARS was short enough of operators for NFD that they let anyone in! The 1965 NFD was done from the Marconi D/F development site at Bedells End. One station was a Marconi Marine Atlanta from G4VF, and a copy of the G5RV TVI proof 25 watt transmitter, using a single 807. I can't remember what Rx the other station used - it had to cover 10 metres, and it may have been an AR88. The 5 watt dc-input Tx was the 150 watt (2 807) version of G5RV's Tx - which, according to tales I heard, was never designed by G5RV, but by people at Baddow. Similarly the antenna..... Anyhow, the 5 watt dc-input power limit for NFD was honoured solely in the breach!

We used an enormous Diesel generator, which managed to leak all over Barry G3SXX. We ended up with diesel tea, diesel bacon sandwiches etc.....I also ended up walking out to the site from my digs down by the Army and Navy, and walking back at the end of the contest, as no one offered me a lift! After no sleep for the hole period, I was just a little worn out!

After that, Don Beattie G3OZF got involved, and NFD was done from Danbury. Generally, we used KW2000's obtained by various means: gear was transported by G5IX and his pre war Landrover, and antennas were dipoles in trees. The lack of operators meant we ran a single station only. I always remember the look of horror on G3VPK's face as we happily took apart his Honda generator - the valves had stuck open during the winter storage.....but I got it going with no problems.

It's slightly surprising to realise that the Club has a lot of this history that's unrecorded, and could easily get lost - I suppose you only realise this as you get older.

Net Results.

Wanted!

A net controller.

Apply within.

No experience necessary.

A vacancy exists for a person or persons to take control of the Tuesday evening Club nets during March and September. A long way off I know, but a little practice in the meantime might be useful.

Members will be aware that a monthly cycle exists with Harry G5HF on duty for October. David BQC will take over in November with Chris IPU playing Father Christmas for December. It will be my turn in January, followed by Geoff EDM in February. This cycle is repeated throughout the year with the above gaps.

Currently, we use 145.375MHz on the second Tuesday, 1945KHz on the third and 28.325MHz on the fourth Tuesday. When a fifth occurs, it is 2m again. We can guarantee you some airtime to hone your skills, before any commitments are made.

If you can operate on the above frequencies, (Two, Top, Ten) with local area coverage, and would like to try your hand. Call me, Colin G0TRM. My phone number and Email address is given below.

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Deadline for the December N/L is Wed.13th. Nov.