



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: David Bradley M0BQC

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Newsletter No. 449

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

June 2003

The June Meeting The Constructors Competition Tuesday 3rd. June, 7-30pm at the MASC.

One might assume that by now, those Members intending to enter their latest masterpiece for the Constructors Competition will have all but finished the major work and be administering the final touches and sitting back to admire their efforts in readiness for the judging. But we know differently, do we not? From past experience we know full well that not only will entrants still be working on their items at the last moment; others may not even have started and will be busy on them, almost until they are put on display, ready for judging.

So, if you have not started your project yet and think it is too late; absolutely not! You have almost a whole week to impress your fellow Members who will be admiring and judging your efforts. So stop reading and get your soldering irons warmed up straight away. You never know, you could be among the winners of our fabulous cash prizes! (Well, modest cash prizes.)

It is with regret, that we record the sad passing of Club Member, Patrick Smith M0AQL. Patrick came to Amateur Radio later in his life after many other activities. During WW2 he served in the RAF and flew many missions. His friendship with fellow sailor and member Charles Minchin M0APJ, led Patrick to join and take an active part in our hobby. In our next newsletter we hope to have an appreciation by Charles on the many aspects of Patrick's life. Our thoughts are with his family in their sad bereavement.

Dates for your Diary

- 31st May - 1st June London Communication & Computer Show, Stevenage.
- 3rd June Club Meeting, Constructors Competition.
- 11th June CARS Committee Mtg. 7-30pm Danbury Village Hall.
- 14/15th June International Museums W/E.
- 15th June East Suffolk Wireless Revival Felixstowe.
- 25th June IEE Outing to Baldock Monitoring Station & a Botanical Garden.
- 26/27th July RSGB 90th Birthday Party in The Park.
- 5th August Club Table Top Sale. Bring along that redundant equipment.

Congratulations again to Club member Jim M3GUA for winning the HARIG Silver award for the Harwich Amateur Radio Interest Groups 2002 Challenge. His picture and citation appear in the current issue of Radio Active.

The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society meets at 7-30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the Marconi Athletic and Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford. For details contact our Secretary: David M0BQC on 01245-602838.

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375 (3rd) 1.947 (4th) 1.947 (5th) 145.375 All +/- QRM.

Newsletter Editor: Geoff G7KLV, 64 Vicarage Lane, Gt. Baddow, Chelmsford CM2 8HY 01245-473822

or email: geoff@g7klv.free-online.co.uk

Assistant Newsletter Editor: Colin G0TRM 01245-223835 or email: colinpage@ukgateway.net

Please advise changes of address to Geoff G7KLV.

Last Month's Meeting. "Organising a DXpedition" by Neville Cheadle G3NUG.

Neville is President of the CDXC (Chiltern DX Club) which is "The UK DX Foundation", offering support to DX expeditions worldwide. He explained how he became involved in arranging expeditions when he operated from some Malaysian islands in support of the IOTA (Islands on the Air) award programme administered by the RSGB.

IOTA was created over 30 years ago by Geoff Watts a leading English SWL and taken over by the RSGB in 1985. IOTA is an amateur radio award programme designed to encourage contacts with island stations worldwide. To see how popular it is just look at any recent RadCom, which will give some idea of the number of amateurs who are participating. About 18 separate awards are available and, naturally, these awards cannot be obtained unless amateurs are prepared to travel to the islands and operate from them.

As well as participating in single operator operations, Neville was also team leader on the 9M0C expedition to Spratly Island under the CDXC banner and the D68C Comoro Island expedition under the Five Star DX Association banner.

He introduced his talk by listing the stages which he suggests that a single operator or a team of operators should consider when planning a DXpedition. He used the headings from his recently published book as a basis for his talk.

The first stage would be a Project Plan which would consider the following; what is feasible, operating bands, is it to be lightweight single person operation or a team effort and what is the expected total budget.

Marketing and Public relations are vital. It is necessary to inform the DX community about where and when you are going so they will want to work you. Marketing is vital so as to obtain sponsorship to help with cost.

Licences and Permits. Consider, if you can be covered under the CEPT arrangements otherwise you will have to apply for a licence to operate. Talk to others who have been in the country and try to obtain a named person to send the application to. This is far better than applying into a bureaucratic jungle! Remember if you propose to work from an island you will need permission (permit) to operate from the owners or custodian as many islands have special environmental conditions applying.

If at all possible carry out a site survey to establish accommodation and power generation. Are there any historical difficulties due to past operations? For example, it is now difficult to obtain permission to operate from Mellish Reef due to the mess left on a previous expedition by amateurs who left wire and rubbish there.

Next consider the Logistics, modes of transport and accommodation etc. Neville showed us a modern transceiver in a waterproof case consisting of an FT900 with Switch Mode PSU. This

was so packed that it would go into the hold of an aircraft. The complete station then only requires antennas. For the larger expedition it is an advantage to ship all the equipment required well ahead of time. Equipment and Technology. Good transceivers are available, but you must choose the very best antennas and a small laptop with a computer logging programme. It is worth spending time running the propagation predications for the various regions to be worked. This will enable one to use the most suitable bands for the countries involved.

Neville then concluded his talk by dealing with QSL'ing and pointed out the importance of also sending letters of thanks to the sponsors.

He then presented a video of the D68C expedition which made 130000 ISO's, a world record by this UK team.

Our thanks to Neville for a very interesting talk which highlighted the work that is required to give a new island and new DXCC countries to those of us who have the DX "bug". My thanks to John DET for his fine Chairmanship and to Martyn and Chris for running the raffle.

Report by Carl G3PM

IMD 2003 Technical by Brian G3CVI.

Year 2003 IMD was to some extent unique amongst our efforts because we installed a VHF station to be manned by Chris IPU and his band of Scouts. Even though QSOs via vhf do not count for any of the awards the interest from the public and members justified the work entailed in erecting the antenna and installing the gear. John VMJ and I, as usual, worked the graveyard watch 1 AM till 5 AM and covered several pages of log.

With some nice medium distance contacts on 40m. The severe QRN from cosmic disturbances and electrical storms somewhere in Europe caused us to QSY to 80m on which we had some good reports. We had "arrived" when we worked Signal Hill in Canada because spanning the "pond" on 80m is not easy at any time and very rare during daylight in UK. The station was VO2 and they were just as pleased as were we.

Up stairs the other John CQK was calling VKs by the page full with queues forming to contact and a glance at the log makes daytime operators go green with envy. We knew he was on air because there was just a very slight suspicion of break through from 20m to 40m but nowhere near as problematic as the general conditions which, at times were diabolical. This shows how good is the "new" rig with a 400w linear only a matter of 100feet away and the antennas less than that.

Once again I must say many thanks indeed to all the operators and hosts and installers who helped to make the day so successful, for such it was.

IMD 2003 General Waffle by Geoff G7KLV.

There is always a lot of preparation involved with the Museum open days. As far as CARS's is

concerned we have to erect the aerials, the big dipole and Tony YTG's vertical for the upstairs station. This year there was also the colinear for Chris IPU's VHF station. On this occasion he had set up shop in a space, which will eventually be used to house a mock up of a ship's radio room which the Museum will be filling with some recently acquired ex Marconi Marine equipment including transmitters, receivers and radio locators etc. However I think Chris would prefer to set up his station on future occasions outside under canvas with their pump-up aerial. After all, Scouts do it in tents, as they say!

On IMD I always form part of the Friends of the Museum team and together with other Friends we do a lot of work beforehand getting everything ready. On the day itself we act as general dogs-bodies, doing anything that needs doing. The main burden of preparation always falls on Geoff and Caroline who have been working like Trojans for the preceding weeks with frenetic activity in the last day or so before the great day, but there is always an air of relaxed calm come opening time!

I always find it a most rewarding day mainly because of meeting and talking to the visitors, many of them from Marconi's and non-club amateurs all attracted by the publicity.

Was it a successful day? We had 350 visitors of all ages and the operators notched up 650 contacts throughout the eighteen or so hours of operating! I certainly enjoyed myself, and wish to thank all those who gave their time and efforts to contribute to a very successful and enjoyable IMD 2003.

The Dunstable Downs Rally by Geoff G7KLV.

There are rallies and there are rallies! Everyone says they're not what they were and they're probably right! They aren't! But there's one rally which doesn't seem to change too much and that's the Dunstable Downs Radio Club rally. I've been going for ten years now and it's one that I never fail to enjoy. It seems to maintain it's standard and the number of stalls, car boots etc seem to remain the same. It is, as far as I know, unique. It is held completely in the open, the only shelter being the trees and the loo's. In the years I've been going I don't ever recall it raining, but I could be wrong but never enough to spoil it. It is on high ground totally exposed and it can be a bit draughty but I can only remember one freezer. Catering has always remained the same; burgers, chips, donuts and ice cream with no shortage of seating, on the ground!

It's the only rally I know where there is no set opening time. This year Dave G3PEN was there with a wide range of goods on offer. He said he was there at eight and there were stalls and car boots already set up and trading. We got there just before ten and everything was in full swing. There is so much to see that it took us three hours to get round not including a short high calorie break for lunch. With advancing years we can only manage one round trip, whereas a few years ago we would go round a second time!

The range of goods on offer is truly phenomenal. There are the well known component stalls, computers and accessories, electricals, test gear, amateur gear, tools and just about everything else of which you could think There that's avoided finishing a sentence with a preposition! Perhaps it would have been better not to! In spite of all that I was unsuccessful in one of my quests which was to purchase a rather exotic transmitting valveholder. This year there seemed to be more than average pre-war radio equipment and components on offer including those two knob wireless sets with an opening lid. Underneath the lid would have been unshielded 150volt from an HT battery or even more dangerous still from a Battery Eliminator providing HT from the mains! That was before the infinite blessings bestowed upon us by the HSE! Life is now so much safer!

I certainly enjoyed the day out. The weather was fine, if a trifle chilly. The M11 and the M25 behaved impeccably. What more could one wish for? I think Tom INM enjoyed it as well, having been expertly chauffeured by Alan GOLSH whom we thank.

Long Serving Members.

Club History Wizard Trevor AKA has compiled list sourced from the CARS membership database 2003-03-03 it reads as follows:

Members First licenced 50 or More Years Ago:-

Harry Heap G5HF
James Watt G6ZC
Fred Leach G2HNF
Brian Thwaites G3CVI
Geoff Mills G3EDM
Arthur Wreford G3EHZ
George Cutting G3GNQ
Les Barclay G3HTF

Not Quite 50 Years:-

Arthur Butcher G3KPJ - 10th October 1955
John Greenwood G3KRZ - Lincoln - 1955
Ralph Polley G3NAA - 1957

Have we missed anybody? Please let us know!

Eclipse information.

Annular solar eclipse: 2003 31st may
Total lunar eclipse: 2003 Nov 09
Total solar eclipse: 2003 Nov 23

Jim - M3GUA / 2E1GUA

m3gua@blueyonder.co.uk

M3GUA @ GB7ESX (packet BBS)

Web-Site: <http://www.gsl.net/m3gua>

Equipment for Sale

- a) FT102 c/w cw filter, & mike £250.
- b) FR101 c/w filters, 6m & 2m converters £125.
- c) FT101E c/w mike, dc lead & lots of spares £150.
- d) YO100 c/w leads, suitable for use with c) £75 or £200 the pair.
- e) FT221R c/w Mutek front end and mike £130.
- f) FT221R standard version with mike £120 or £200 the pair.
- g) Lincoln 10m all mode, TVCR, c/w mike £125.
- h) Lincoln 10m all mode, TVCR, c/w mike £125. Or £200 the pair.
- i) FT900 CAT c/w mobile lead, ATU, mike £450.
- j) IC R75 300Hz - 60MHz receiver plus DSP £400.
- k) IC 3200A/E 2m/70cms FM TVCR with mike and aerial £175.

All items complete with manuals.

Contact Brian Welland M1/3UKC.

Home 01621-893319 or mobile 07739-671878.

Poetic Utterances.

Continuing the theme started by Dave G3PEN last month, we have had some items from Charles G0GJS,

....."It came to me in a flash!", recalled Charles G0GJS, as he remembered the aftermath of the 1992 lightning strike on his radio station.....

..."A squirrel has chopped its way through the co-ax cable to my magloop! "

complained Charles G0GJS. "Well that's why its called 'feeder', " explained Harry G5HF on the CARS net.....

Thank you Charles.

Any more contributions, please?

What do you want? 'Blood' said the Editor in a similar vein.

IEE ESSEX SUMMER OUTING WEDNESDAY JUNE 25th

This year's summer outing comprises of a two hours guided tour of the Radiocommunication Agency's Baldock Radio Monitoring Station followed by lunch and a 1½ hours guided tour of the Cambridge University Botanical Garden.

If you would like to reserve a place(s) please phone or or e-mail Mike Gibson as soon as possible

Phone 01245 357620

E-mail mikegibson@iee.org

Numbers are strictly limited to a maximum of 20 and places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. As usual transport will be by coach.

The Baldock Radio Monitoring Station, among other things, aims to keep the radio spectrum clean for authorised users, particularly safety of life and the emergency services. The station operates 24 hours a day

The Cambridge University Botanical Garden covers 40 acres and includes the Rock Garden, Winter and Autumn Gardens, historic systematic beds, Scented Garden, Herbaceous Beds, the finest collection of trees in Eastern England and other attractions.

And to end with; A Fallible Aid to Word Processing by John G8DET

A Spell Checker (or My crow sought spelling Chequer)

I have a spelling chequer

It came with my pea sea

It plainly marques for my revue

Miss steaks eye cannot sea.

When I strike a quay or right a word

I weight four it to say

Whether eye am wrong oar wright

It shows me strait aweigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid

It nose bee four two late

And eye can put the error rite

It's rarely, rarely grate.

I've run this poem threw it

I'm shore your pleased two no

It's letter perfect in it's weigh

My chequer tolled me sew!

(Reprinted from Sept. 1998 N/L)

Source unknown