



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. 450

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

July 2003

The July Meeting. UI-View by Clive Ward M0SIX. Tuesday July 1st. 7-30pm at the MASC.

We had arranged for Dave Sampson M1DOZ from the Dengie club to give this talk but due to unforeseen circumstances he will not be with us as planned. So to Plan B! After a little persuasion from our Chairman, and the promise of assistance from Murray G6JYB, Clive M0SIX has very sportingly agreed to come to our rescue and avoid disappointing those eager to learn all about UI-View.

What is UI-View? It is a subject of which I am totally ignorant - one of many! - so I am greatly indebted to Clive for this brief explanation:-

UI-View is a packet based APRS system using a PC, a TNC and a radio. It gives visual indication of each user's position in the world via digipeating. It is used in the amateur context mainly for direct messaging via the digipeaters.

So there you have it! It looks like being a very interesting evening with live demonstrations, so join us at the usual place, usual time, on Tuesday 1st July. Posted copies of the Newsletter have not been up-dated.

Congratulations to the Winners in Last Month's Constructors Competition!

See write-up on Page 2

First Prize, Anthony M1FDE; Second Prize, David M0BQC; Third Prize, Colin G0TRM

First Time Entry Prize, Dennis M3BIA (below left)



Denis M3BIA



Brian G3CVI

Sandford Mill Operating Days in the School Holidays.

Yes, it's that man again! Above right, not looking quite as fierce as last time! Our Club needs you!

As an experiment this year the Museum will be open on Sunday afternoons during the school holidays from 2pm until 5pm. We have been invited to set up our main station in the Writtle Hut.

We are appealing for volunteers to man the station. Ideally there would be an operator, a log keeper and a host. This is an ideal opportunity for our newer Members to come along and have a go. It will just be a leisurely afternoon's operating. There is nothing competitive whatsoever!

The afternoons are: 27th July, 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th August. Contact Brian G3CVI either at the July or August meetings or on 01245-471919 and let him know when you will be available.

Dates for Your Diary is on Page 4 this month.

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.

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Please advise changes of address to Geoff G7KLV.

The Constructors Competition by Tony G4YTG.

This year the competition produced an enjoyable evening with plenty of audience participation and social activity not available when a speaker is invited, and we must all sit quiet and listen waiting for question time. The six entrants to the competition displayed their efforts on the tables at the front of the hall and we were able to examine them at close hand and even do a bit of "hands on" if the entry allowed it.

Colin G0TRM had constructed a pair of paddle type morse keys using old style round pin mains plugs, a 15amp and a more compact 5amp one. They were upturned on a wooden base and the paddle, slotted into the earth pin was a nail file which had a convenient insulated plastic finger pad. Quite ingenious on Colins part as the original concept, from a PW mag. article, used a piece of hacksaw blade. Colin was the first to introduce his masterpieces and gave an amusing description including a demonstration and showed us a 2amp plug for a third, even smaller, version for the future.

Anthony MIFDE gave us a very professional presentation of slides and detail of the development of a CTSS tone oscillator for his "rally acquired handheld" including details of circuits found not suitable and difficulties encountered on the way. He used a circuit analysis program called Simitrix. Anthony assured us that all the slides were produced on his home computer, and the PCB at home "on the figurative kitchen sink". A very impressive exercise and unit only about 2" by 1/2" in old money, and it worked!

Denis M3BIA said he had not come prepared to give a presentation but described his beautifully made Morse key made from brass stock with knurled adjusting knobs, in matter of fact terms. No problem for a man who builds 5 1/2 inch gauge railway steam locos! The contacts on the key were from a spare set of points from an old Peugeot motor car. Denis also entered a power supply unit, all in a neat case and told us of the tribulations of getting it working with enough output and no hum.

David MOBQC built and introduced a QRP transmitter to the design of G3OXX and of course it had to be in an Oxo tin, supplied by his XYL Jill. David demonstrated how brave he was by telling us that whilst he went to the Maplin shop at Lakeside to buy the 14.023 MHz crystal and some other bits to complete the project, he allowed Jill to make a visit to Marks & Spencers. He did not tell us which place had the most damaging effect on the bank balance, and we dare not ask, but he is, I am sure, an example to us all!

Geoff G7KLV reminded us that two years ago he made some last minute mods. to his entry and on the night it wouldn't work! No such problem this year when it worked perfectly. He also told us

that some 55 years ago he worked for the late George Grisdale who was responsible for many receiver developments and in those days they were able to adjust the IF bandwidth of receivers by mechanically and electrically varying the coupling between two tuned circuits. Geoff's entry was a breadboard development of an IF receiver filter which had both band width and frequency shift, variable from two control knobs.

The secret of the circuit was that it brought into play the very sharp and deep cut off characteristics of low pass filters. The IF signal was frequency shifted to the low side to allow a filter to chop one edge then frequency shifted on to the other side by the required amount for another filter to chop the high side. The same shift oscillator was used to shift away and shift back so no drift effects were introduced. The low pass filters had a very sharp and deep cut off (80dB plus). This produced an IF filter which could be varied in band width by the difference between the two shift oscillators (sliding door effect) and in frequency by the actual frequency of them compared with the nominal IF frequency. Geoff's setup with a sweep oscillator and a scope demonstrated the effect the 80dB sides and the variation in bandwidth from narrow to wide very clearly.

The assembled company was issued with voting slips and in the interval the votes were counted and the results announced in the traditional reverse order afterwards. The prizes were presented by Dick Brocks, a previous Club President. The very prestigious certificates will be presented at the AGM at the October meeting. The third prize was awarded to Colin for his mains plug Morse keys. The second to David for his very neat and tidy Oxo transmitter. The first and well earned prize went to Anthony for his tiny CTSS tone unit tucked away in the very small space available down the side of his cheap (to buy) small hand held. The prize for the "first time winner category" went to Denis for his brass traditional style key. From the many comments I have heard it was a very enjoyable meeting with something for everyone, be they novice or expert.

Foundation Course Publicity - Can You Help? by Trevor M5AKA.

In its first year the CARS Foundation Courses relied on the fact that there were a large number of people waiting for an opportunity to get into Amateur Radio but had been unable to do so because there had not been any sort of courses run in the area for many years.

There was a steady stream of people wanting to do the courses so we could rely on doing nothing more than some low key publicity in the Amateur Radio Magazines (preaching to the converted).

This initial surge has now died down and we

are going to have to be more active in promoting Amateur Radio to the general public in order to attract many more newcomers to the hobby. One way all of you can help in this process is by printing out and putting up copies of the Clubs Foundation Poster and Foundation Leaflet at your places of work, worship and recreation. The more posters we can get up the better.

Copies of the poster and leaflet can be found on the CARS CD in the folder: /1 Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society /Publicity Material/ or you can download them from the club website www.g0mwt.org.uk Just go to the bottom of the home page and click on the appropriate links.

Intermediate Course by Trevor AKA.

The Club will be running yet another Intermediate course in November. It will be held on Thursday evenings from 7pm-9pm at Danbury Village Hall. The exam will be held at 6:30pm on the Monday following the course at the Springfield Exam Centre.

The total cost of the course is £50, payable in advance, which covers the cost of the room hire, course manual, component kit and exam fee. The course tutors are all unpaid volunteers who give up their spare time to run the course for the benefit of Amateur Radio

The next course runs from 20th November until 12th February, with a break for Christmas, and the exam is on the 23rd February. If you wish to book a place on the course then contact Clive Ward M0SIX.

Tel: 01245 224577

Mob: 07860 418835

E-mail: training@g0mwt.org.uk

Picketts Lock at Stevenage by Geoff G7KLV.

So far as I'm concerned a so called train station will always be a railway station; kilohertz will always be kilocycles and the London Amateur Radio and Computer show will always be 'Picketts Lock' wherever the venue may be!

If my memory serves me correctly the first move away from Enfield was to somewhere near Ware. The parking was an absolute disaster, little of it and very muddy. I went with Alan GOLSH and when he got home he had to give his car a bath! Then there was a trip to Godmanchester, near Huntingdon to the Wood Green Animal Shelter. Plenty of parking space there but it was very dusty and sticky and clay-like when wet. Anyway the food was pretty good there, with the largest sausage butties I've ever seen, produced on a machine which defies decent description!

I may have forgotten the odd venue but this year Picketts Lock was at the Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre. It was my turn to drive and together with Tom INM we were soon there under the excellent navigation provided by Stan G0SXK.

Plenty of decent parking close by at £1.70 a day. We got there at about ten and as it had opened at nine I don't know if there was the usual mile long queue outside. I rather think not as the two halls were comfortable filled and viewing the stands was relatively easy. As for the all important culinary arrangements, they were good together with a well stocked bar and plenty of comfortable seating. All the usual exhibitors were there plus a few new ones. We only met one CARS Member, Bob G4MDB so I don't know if the change of venue put people off but I found it a very pleasant change and enjoyed the day far more than I was expecting.

Talking of rallies, Colchester is the next one and it happens to coincide with one of the Museum open afternoons. It's on the 27th., by the way, at St.Helena's school in Sheepen Road.

The Late Patrick Smith M0AQL by Geoff G7KLV.

News of the sad passing of Patrick, at the age of 81, was given in our last Newsletter and since then his friend Charles Minchin M0APJ has gathered together some details of his life. Patrick wasn't a frequent visitor to Club meetings, partly due to failing health, but I did meet him on at least two occasions and my memories are of a quiet unassuming man, so Charles piece, which we publish below, came as rather a surprise! But that's often the way with folk who have done a lot in their life! Over to you Charles:

"Patrick was a pilot in the Royal Air Force and a Senior Captain in BA. He had a long association with radio transmission. His father was one of the early radio enthusiasts in the twenties and Pat himself used radio, in the air and also while at sea in his 32 foot yacht the Van der Stadt Sea Cracker, "Pocahontas". He was only recently persuaded to take out a full amateur radio licence.

He was a first class navigator, of the old school, using star sights, sunsights, sextants and tables. He did use a GPS but only to make sure that it was accurate!

As a bomber pilot, while in the RAF during WW 2 he carried out twenty nine missions, in Lancaster bombers operating from Lincolnshire, ten of which were to Berlin. He served with No.44 Squadron, a Rhodesian sponsored squadron.

He fought many battles at a time when there was no other way of attacking the enemy and he was, in fact, very fortunate to survive but one incident may be worth recording.

As I was told, Patrick and his crew, returning from a mission in their Avro Lancaster

saw a British Walrus flying boat on the water, in the English Channel drifting towards the coast of France. Patrick made the decision to break radio silence and reported the position of the flying boat. The crew were picked up by an Air Sea Rescue launch. The grateful crew later thanked Patrick and his comrades for saving them from possible attack and, at the best, several years imprisonment in an enemy prison camp.

I believe that only his own bomber crew can verify this incident and I can only report it as it was told to me.

After the war as a Senior Pilot first with BOAC, and later with BA, he was a pilot on various Arab and African routes. He also travelled all over the world moving from piston engined aircraft to jet propelled aeroplanes."

I am indebted to Charles for this account of his friend who, I also learnt, had a wide range of other interests quite apart from amateur radio.

Amateur of the Year Award.

This award is presented to the Member who has made the most significant contribution to amateur radio in the last year. There is surely no lack of possible candidates this year!

Forms will be available for nominations at the door. All you have to do is to nominate your choice and give a few brief reasons for your choice.

A small group of Club elders actually make the final choice if there is more than one nomination.

There is a shield with the names engraved upon it which is held by the winner for the year and it is presented at the AGM in October.

So, get thinking and name some names at the next meeting!

Some Safety Observations.

In this day and litigious age when safety is paramount it behoves us all, in our constructional endeavours, to cover our backs!

One point that is easily overlooked is the correct wiring to screw type tubular fuseholders made by such firms as Belling Lee. The live mains should always be connected to the tip end so that as the fuse is unscrewed and withdrawn the live metal parts are dead. Yes, it's obvious when you think about it but then that's the way with much of Health & Safety Regulations.

Another point is that the main earth connection to earthed metalwork should always have its own exclusive fixing. It is bad practice to slip the solder tag under the screw fixing of a nearby convenient component. Another safety point but somewhat less obvious!

Thank you Dick G3WHR.

The Chelmsford Award.

So far nearly a hundred pounds has been raised for the Essex Air Ambulance and the sponsor is seeking to raise another hundred!

The idea of this award was suggested by Martyn M3VAM. His was the enterprise which organised the Club T-shirts and other fashion accessories.

For those who have forgotten or just don't know, here is a reminder of what it's all about.

To obtain this award you must use any one letter from the suffix of a callsign of a station worked or heard to spell :- CHELMSFORD THE BIRTHPLACE OF RADIO. There are a number of rules and conditions. For more details contact Martyn M3VAM on 01245-469008 or see him at the next meeting or visit the CARS website

In Memory of Louis Varney G5RV.

The G5RV aerial is known worldwide and Louis was for many years a Member of CARS. He spent his retirement at Burgess Hill and on his passing the local club donated much of his memorabilia to CARS via Harry G5HF. Geoff Bowles of Sandford Mill kindly agreed to the Club setting up a little display in one corner of the Writtle Hut in his memory. Visitors on IMD will have seen the display which Harry and Ethel set up. It has been admired and Harry sent a photo to his widow Nelida.

Nelida has since replied thanking Harry and wishes to be remembered to the Club Members she had met over the years

Party in the Park 2003.

This year marks the 90th. birthday of the RSGB and the vent is being celebrated on the weekend 26/27th. July. Those of you who have read our front page will have noted that we will be on the air at Sandford Mill on the afternoon of the 27th. where we hope to join in the celebrations!

See RadCom for more details.

Dates for You Diary.

- July 1 CARS Mtg. 7-30pm. MASC
- July 9 CARS Comm. Mtg. 7-30pm DVH.
- July 27 Colchester Rally, Sheepen Road.
- July 27 S'ford Mill Open A'noon. 2-00 to 5-00pm.

Some Pam Ayers'isms by Fred G6FXM.

1. Fix one end to the house and the other end to that tree he said airily!
2. Mine's got six elements he beamed!
3. I've just had a shock he said exstatically!
4. DX is poor today he said distantly!
5. QCM he said accusingly!
6. This transformer is getting very hot, don't panic, don't panic he shouted hysterically!

Any more for any more?