



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: Martyn M3VAM

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: Chris Chapman G0IPU
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Newsletter No 469

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

March 2005

This Month's Meeting The RSGB QSL Bureau by Marc Litchman G0TOC Tuesday March 1st. 7-30pm at the MASC

The RSGB QSL Bureau is a service provided free for Members and is run by volunteers. For the benefit of new Members it enables QSL cards to be distributed cheaply, avoiding postage costs on each card, although, it has to be said, it is inevitably rather slow. In essence you send a bundle of cards to the RSGB and eventually you get a bundle back from them.

Marc Litchman of the LEFARS Club is coming along to tell us all about it. He came to our Christmas Social so he is no stranger to us! Marc should know what he's talking about as he has recently volunteered as one half of the QSL Supremo team appointed to run the RSGB QSL Bureau. Incidentally they are reviving the RadCom QSL column. This looks like an interesting meeting and no doubt there will be some interesting discussion generated. It is suggested that you bring along any unusual QSL cards you have received for others to see

This month the raffle is being run by John DET, Chris IPU and Ron CAM, but don't be disappointed if there isn't a large bottle of the 'amber nectar' this time or have I got it mixed up with something else?

Dates for Your Diary

March 1	CARS Mtg The RSGB QSL Bureau, Marc G0TOC
March 9	CARS Committee Mtg. Danbury Village Hall, 7-30pm
March 20	Cambridge Club Rally. Wood Green Animal Shelter, Godmanchester
April 5	CARS Mtg. BBC Essex Talk

The Club Net Controllers

March Ron M3CAM / Denis M0FHA

April Harry G5HF

May David M0BQC

Waters & Stanton Open Evening

Mon. April 11th. is the W&S Open Evening. Contact me on 01245-474969 or murray.niman@btopenworld.com

Advanced Exam Successes

Congratulations to Jeremy Barley, Vincent Frostick, Tony Froom, Denis Lewis, and Patrick Xavier,

CARS Member Sponsors Two RSGB Trophies

Jim M3GUA / 2E1GUA is a keen and successful contender on VHF and UHF and to encourage newly licensed amateurs to enter contests he has donated two shields to the RSGB to be awarded annually. They would be held by the winners for a year and are in addition to the normal certificates and thus provide winners with a more tangible memento of their achievements. The shields will be known respectively as the 'Foundation Trophy' and the 'Intermediate Trophy'. They will be awarded to the holders of Foundation and Intermediate licenses who have won the most appropriate contests throughout the year using a power level of 10 watts maximum.

CARS meets at 7-30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the MASC, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford.

For details contact our Secretary: Martyn M3VAM on 01245-469008

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

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Last Month's Meeting. Summits On The Air by James MOZZO.

James introduced his presentation by answering the question: what is it about. He told us that it was a sort of awards program to encourage both hill walking and operating amateur radio from radio gear self transported to high point...summits and having fun.

Who can take part? Anyone or everybody. You don't have to be a Hilary or Sherpa Tensing but if you want to take it to extremes you can. SOTA enthusiasts are divided into three main groups:

Activists who actually go out and climb summits and set up and operate gear they have brought with them.

Chasers who work the activists whilst down at the lower level or even from their home QTH's and finally SWL's who log the stations two way QSO's they have received.

James pointed out that you don't have to restrict your activity to any one group as you can stay at home and compete for an SWL or a Chaser award or go out with a party to a summit and then climb (walk) to the summit and work those who have just come down.

The awards system is worked out so you can compete for any kind of award depending on the kind or kinds of participation you are taking. Activators awards are for 100, 250 and 500 points and a special award called Mountain Goat for 1000 points. Chasers and SWL awards are for the same number of points and the special award of 1000 points which is called Shack Sloth.

James then showed a chart which illustrated the points scoring system based on how many contacts and what height the Activator was at the time. It is divided into bands of less than 500m, 500 to 600, 600 to 700, and 700 to 900 and above 900m. Activators score an extra 3 points over 500m during winter (defined as 1 Dec. to 15 March) according to the rules.

What is a Summit and how is it described?

A Munro is a Scottish hill above 3000ft. Munro wrote a book listing all Scottish hills above 3000ft.

A Corbett is a hill in Scotland between 2500 and 3000ft with a drop of over 500ft. Mr. Corbett did the research and made the listing.

A Graham is a hill in Scotland between 2500 and 3000ft. with a drop of over 500ft.. You've guessed it, Mr. Graham did the listing.

Hewitts are hills in England, Wales and Ireland over 2000ft.. No not Mr. Hewitt! This time Hills England Wales & Ireland Two Thousand ft....clever!

A Marilyn is a hill of any height with a drop of 150m or more on each side. The 1552 British Marilyns are all listed in a book called The Relative Hills of Britain by Alan Dawson. At this point James was asked by some wag in the audience if two Marilyns side by side could be called a Marilyn Munroe? James took this in his stride which

complimented his very amusing and competent style of presentation.

Where are the Summits?

Scottish Borders to the Tyne

Lake District

Northern and Central Pennines

Lancashire and Cheshire South

Welsh Border

Central and Eastern

Cornwall and Devon

South Central England

James told us that the table, the rules and forms to fill out to make an award claim are available on the web at sota.org.uk. There are already 600 members and this being an environmentally activity you may not use any non-replaceable (fossil) fuels. It is not a good idea to contemplate carrying a generator up a mountain. Rely on lightweight batteries if you can find them.

Access and Environment. Radio hams can easily get a bad reputation by leaving litter or tramping over other peoples property. Use recognised routes and/or seek permission.

Ensure you have legal access. In Scotland you can walk anywhere, in England that is not so.. Do not disturb others with high sound levels or aerials installed across pathways.

Radio Equipment. Lightweight radios, antennas and masts with extra batteries for longer stays – you might have to deal with pile ups. Car or solar chargers for two day, or more, expeditions. Have basic tools, fuses and bits of wire. Kendal Mint or Mars bars to reward yourself at the summit!

Other Equipment. Small shelter – bivi. Change of clothes – lots of socks. Maps, compass, GPS and phone etc.

James then illustrated the need for good preparation and carrying safety gear with a couple of stories of his own experience when he and his XYL climbed an area which killed at least one person each year and they found someone who had found three bodies on their way up. In the other incident they misread the map, climbed down a ledge, were trapped, unable to go forward to a shear drop or into a river or back up the way they came. They were able to call the Mountain Rescue and made good use of the phone, map and the GPS to be easily found and rescued by helicopter.

After the refreshment break James demonstrated his lightweight nesting masts and a very clever 2m beam with the three elements fitting inside the boom for transport – make it yourself or buy from SOTA Aerials. Remember you have to carry it all yourself up the last bit – no 4 by 4's or mule trains.

This talk was very well received and there has been lots of interests and the locals have been talking about it on the net. The local repeater carried a group discussing the subject the next day but, as someone said, it's a pity all the hills in Essex could be called Twiggys.

Congratulations James, it was a really great presentation!

Report by Tony G4YTG.

US/UK Reciprocal Licensing by David M0ZLB/KG4ZLB

Here are my experiences of gaining US and UK licences which may be of any use to fellow club members in the future.

After doing the CARS Foundation Course and obtaining my M3 in December 2002, I very soon relocated to sunny SW Florida and having checked with the FCC, in writing, I found that I was able to operate by appending "W4/" in front of my M3 callsign and had all the privileges offered by the FCC under the reciprocal arrangements. I never checked whether that meant that I could only run a maximum of 10w or not and therefore, I didn't, who would?

Pretty soon after, mainly because I was getting bored of having to call W4/M3CCM and finding that no-one recognised the call, I decided to go for the FCC Technician licence. It's interesting to note that US amateurs really only still recognise a G call from the UK, but I am educating them!

In Tech exam out of 35 questions got 25 right, no problem. So I had a US licence and a US call, KG4ZLB. Then it got interesting because I signed KG4 for VHF/UHF and W4/M3CCM for HF, didn't actually appreciate that having entered the US system, the reciprocal arrangements cease and I was stuck with the operating privileges of a US Tech, namely 50 MHz and up!

Next thing was to progress up the ladder so I took the General written exam and passed that without any problem but under current FCC rules, a 5wpm Morse test was and indeed still is, required. My General written pass gave me 365 days to pass the CW or face the written again. Now CW is not my favourite mode of operating and I procrastinated long and hard hoping that the FCC would drop the requirement! No such luck and by a cruel twist of fate I ended up taking the CW exam 366 days after the written pass – hadn't bargained for a leap year! Anyway, I failed spectacularly that Thursday evening and at that point hadn't had any US HF privileges for over a year and had to face the written exam again as well!

Luckily, FCC exams are administered by the ARRL VE (Volunteer Examiners) about twice a month in these parts and the following Saturday I took the written again, and passed, and then took the CW on the Thursday evening after that. Call it divine intervention, call it luck, call it what you will, but I scraped through and got my General ticket.....HF hello again!

So, what's next? Go for the Amateur Extra or worry about upgrading my M3? I decided to go the UK route and e-mailed Clive and others in CARS about how to go for the Intermediate. I ordered the Intermediate manual which duly arrived, agreed with Clive that I could forgo the class sessions and just make sure that I was available in May 2005 for the assessments and the exam itself. I therefore started to make little projects and revise the manual, realising that it was very similar to the General syllabus in the US except for the practical elements.

Sometime early November 2004, I was corresponding with Trevor M5AKA via e-mail about various subjects and one of them was the reciprocal arrangements between the US and the UK and visa versa. Trevor suggested that I contact Ofcom and see what could be done which I duly did. They told me that with a General ticket in the US, and providing I had a main station address in the UK (which I do); I could pay my £15 and get a full UK licence! Quite unbelievable! I sent off my £15, copy of my licence and held my breath!

A couple of weeks later I hadn't heard anything and was beginning to believe that this was a dead duck, so I called Ofcom again and they said that they needed my original US licence, not a copy! So I sent at great expense, my original to my Mothers QTH with a request for her to send it on!

At this point in the story, things got a bit difficult in the personal side of things and I ended up on a plane two days after I had sent the licence home. Needless to say, I arrived at 8.00am on the Monday morning and my letter with the licence arrived at 8.30 – doh!

So I sent another £15 cheque, plus the application form and my original licence to Ofcom, recorded delivery and then held my breath again! Although the application form is quite clear on what overseas licences are acceptable for the three types of UK licence, I still believed, and still believe to this day, that the US General licence should be equivalent to an Intermediate. Never one to look a gift horse in the mouth, I waited two days and then the full licence arrived, complete with the call that I had requested.

Still being a bit sceptical, I called Ofcom just to confirm that this was correct, even spoke to Trevor M5AKA again, but it was accurate and I now have an M0 call.

If anyone has any queries about reciprocal licensing, please feel free to e-mail me at kg4zlb@arrl.net and I would be most happy to help in any way I can.

Now on to US Amateur Extra! That one really sorts the men from the boys!

The Canvey Rally by Geoff G7KLV

In spite of a number of appeals in the Newsletter we had very little to offer and, with my usual pessimism, I was predicting utter disaster and feared we wouldn't even cover the cost of our tables, let alone make a profit. But in the few weeks just before the great day we had a number of offers from Members who were downsizing their accumulated collections of all those useful things which would come in handy someday!

So much was on offer that the next problem was transport but by careful loading of our cars we managed to get it all there by 8-30 am on the great day. It's quite hard work this unloading and setting up our tables but, with the help of our hosts, we managed to be ready, or almost ready, by opening time. There's always a little friendly horse trading

before the doors open as the dealers see what we've got on offer!

The first hour is quite hectic as the crowds surge in but under the leadership of our Sales Manager Colin TRM, Martyn M3VAM, Clive M3HTD and I were kept quite busy. Chris IPU should have been with us but was down with cold, but now recovered. We managed to take quick breaks in turn and sample the excellent refreshments on offer. The sandwiches were plain, wholesome and superb value, served by friendly Club volunteers.

By around 2-30 the punters were nearly all gone and we started to clear up and load up the leftovers into our cars, mine seemed to be just as full as when I arrived!

All done, we emptied our pockets and did a count up. After one or two false starts and recounts we realised that we had broken our previous record quite handsomely! How wrong can one be! We grossed £480 with a net profit of just over £450!

We would like to thank all the Club Members for their magnificent response, with their generous contributions to our wares! Finally, a big thank you to our hosts the South Essex ARC and their rally organiser Brian Bellamy for such an enjoyable day, they are always so helpful and make us so welcome!

March Contests by Steve G4ZUL

CQ WW WPX / SSB

26/27 March, 48Hrs.

Exchange: RS + serial number

Categories: Single operator (single band & all band)

Multi operator (single TX, Multi two, Multi TX)

Scoring: 3 points on 28, 21, 14MHz / 6 points on 7, 3.5, 1.8MHz, if on different continent and if same continent then 1 point & 2 points respectively.

Prefix multipliers: The number of valid prefixes worked.

For full details please refer to February issue of CQ

Magazine or www.cq-amateur-radio.com

RSGB 68th Commonwealth / CW

12/13 March, 12:00 - 12:00 UTC, 24HRS

Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28MHz

Exchange: RST + serial number

Sections: Open, 24Hrs Restricted: 12Hrs

Scoring: Contacts with Commonwealth prefixes 5 points and a bonus of 20 points for each of the first 3 contacts with each Commonwealth call area on each band.

Further information and rules from www.rsgb.org/hfcc

RSGB Club Championship

This contest runs from January to July each year and is a series of short evening contests.

Dates for March as follows:

DATA 07 March 20:00 - 21:30 UTC

CW 16 March 20:00 - 21:30 UTC

SSB 24 March 20:00 - 21:30 UTC

Please try to support these short contests and send your log by email to HFCC using the excellent free SD contest logger by EI5DI, download from www.ei5di.com

RSGB VHF Contests

5/6 March: - MARCH 144/432 Mhz (24Hrs)

Starts 14:00 UTC Saturday

Finish 14:00 UTC Sunday

Please refer to the RSGB website www.rsgb.org/vhfcc for full details of all VHF contests, or look for the VHF contesting feature in January RadCom on page 22.

Peter Naish VK2BPNAn Obituary

Peter Naish died from a heart attack on Sunday 9th.June.

Peter was born in England in 1931, and graduated from University College London in 1952 as a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering.

From 1952 until 1967 Peter worked for Marconi, initially to install, commission and maintain television transmitters in various countries, including Australia, later to design TV transmitters, particularly high power UHF transmitters, and later high power satellite earth stations.

Peter finally settled in Australia after many visits, starting around 1952. Between 1967 and his retirement in 2001, Peter was employed by STC Australia, later Alcatel Australia, initially as an engineer, later as a Marketing Manager then as a Product Manager and then working as Project Manager for projects ranging from telephone exchange contracts to microwave link projects.

Peter was first licensed as G3EIX, then as VK2BPN. Peter has held various positions in amateur radio. Peter became Federal Secretary of the WIA in August 1995, a position that he held apart from a brief period until his death. In addition he was Federal President from March 1998 until April 2001.

At the time of his death Peter was Secretary of the WIA, continuing the role he held in the previous Federal Structure. Peter enthusiastically supported the restructure of the WIA to a single national body. Just as importantly, Peter was elected a Director of IARU Region 3 at the Darwin Conference in 2000, and was appointed Chairman of the Directors at the Region 3 Conference, in Taipei, Taiwan in February 2004..

Peter married Monica in September 1961 and had two daughters, both engineers, one an amateur with the callsign VK2KFN. He had 4 grand children

Despite his great contribution in such positions, Peter was above all a true amateur. He was a member of the First Class Operators Club (FOC). Membership of FOC is reserved for those who can display exemplary CW operating skills and is by invitation only. At any one time there are only 500 members worldwide.

At a moving funeral service at St Kevin's Catholic Church, Eastwood, on Friday, 14 January 2005, IARU both Regions 1 and Regions 3 were represented, and very many of his friends from amateur radio and the WIA were present. Tributes had flowed in from many national radio societies, as well as from his many friends in so many countries.

The loss of Peter is a great loss to amateur radio. It is a great loss to the amateur radio organisations he supported, including the WIA. But above all, Peter was a true gentleman and a true amateur. His passing is a loss to all of us.

Michael Owen VK3KI, Barry White VK2AAB,
Chris Jones VK2ZDD

Peter was a Member of CARS in the fifties and early sixties and was also a Past President of the RSGB.

CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

CARS CLOTHING ORDER FORM

SWEAT SHIRTS	POLO SHIRTS	FLEECE JACKETS FULL ZIP	T SHIRTS
XS 34" S-36" £13	34" 36" 38" 40" £13	S,M,L £28	S 38" M 40" L 42" £8
M 38"-40" L 42"-44" £14	42"44"£14	XL, XXL, £30	XL 46" XXL 48" £9
XL 46" XXL 48" 3XL 50" £16	46" 48" 50" £15		

ITEM NAME	QTY	SIZE	COST EACH	TOTAL

NAME:

TEL. NO:

DATE:

FULL PAYMENT OF £ ENCLOSED. PLEASE HAND FORM TO MARTYN MEDCALF

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

PLEASE NOTE THAT ORDERS FOR WRONG SIZES CANNOT BE EXCHANGED AS NO STOCK HELD

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT MARTYN MEDCALF G1EFL / M3VAM ON 01245 469008