



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: Martyn Medcalf G1EFL

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

Newsletter No 502

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

December 2007

Happy Christmas & a Healthy New Year to all our Readers

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 4th December. 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.

“Photographic Social Event”

By CARS & Colchester Radio Amateur Members.

The idea is for YOU to project photos you think may well be of interest to others, be they of you, your shack, your rig(s) or what you did or where you went this year, or in the past 70 years!

We will have a Laptop with CD/DVD reader, a digital projector and a 35mm slide projector.

Preferably, you give the pictures to a Committee Member before the event but don't worry if you think of something on the night - just turn up and we will see what we can do with it (them). Colchester are assembling something similar to so it will be nice to see what they get up to.

A slice of Christmas Cake may well be available at Break Time.

See you there. There will be our usual good Raffle - proceeds to the Essex Air Ambulance.

Dates for Your Diary

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Sat/Sun 24/25 th Dec | CQ WW CW Contest from Sandford Mill using M2T. |
| Monday 26 th November | Dengie Annual Quiz Night at Mayland starting at 7.30pm |
| Saturday 1 st December | CARS Christmas Lunch at The Bell, Rettendon Common, CM3 8DY |
| Sunday 9 th December | Wireless for the Blind at Sandford Mill with RSGB President, Angus Annan. |
| Wed 11 th December | CARS Committee Meeting – Danbury Village Hall - All welcome. |
| Tuesday 8 th Jan 2008 | CARS Meeting - Software Defined Radios by Peter Waters, G3OJV of W&S. |
| Saturday, 26 th April | International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill |

Membership Subscriptions are now due for 2007 to 2008 and are £12.

Please pay Brian at the next Meeting or send a cheque made out to C.A.R.S. to: -
Mr B Thwaites, G3CVI, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD. CM2 7BU
Please enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope for the Membership Receipt/Card.

Thanks to Denis, M0FHA & Joy for arranging the Postal Members Newsletter for the past couple of years. Geoff, G7KLV is going to do it for a few months, thanks Geoff. - Could it go by E-Mail?
Inform Membership Secretary, Brian, G3CVI, of any changes to your call-sign, E-Mail address, etc.
E-Mail Brian at: - g3cvi@g0mwt.org.uk Tei:01245471919.

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375: (3rd) 28.375/1,947 (4th) 1.947: (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.
Net Controller for December is Patrick M0XAP.

Last Months Meeting:- "Changing Face of Radio" by Elaine Richards - Editor of Radio User.

Elaine drove for 4 hours from her home in Ringwood, Hampshire to be with us. She confessed immediately that she tended to stay working in her office, but had made an exception for CARS in that the Club has sent her 'so much copy'. It then transpired that CARS was the first club she'd visited in her present capacity! (*Editors Note* - Programme Sec, Martyn, G1EFL had worked for 3 years to persuade her to come - well done Martyn)

Her first job was in 1975 for Marconi's Stingray project. She needed a different outlet, and peering over the shoulder of a fellow public transport traveller revealed an ad for a post in Practical Wireless, (PW). She passed her Morse test and holds the Call-Sign G4LFM. Her main responsibility is news and club pages.

There have been many more changes in Amateur Radio since she joined PW 27 years ago than previously; apart from Ham to Ham QSOs there'd been little else except broadcasts to listen to. The 'Pippy' bird scarer was an early project she recalled and soon after - as she put it - microwave broke out, PW selling as many 10GHz microwave transceivers as it could obtain. Lots of folk 'played' with Gunn diodes, using 2m for talkback communication, whilst the microwave systems were set up. This was closely followed by the legalisation of Citizens' Band, and a certain fragmentation of the amateur radio world into 'real' Amateurs with their Morse and RAE vs the CB'ers. The latter solved the problem by becoming an important source for the former.

Cellphones appeared in 1984, notably c/o Racal Vodaphone. The 'wonderful privacy' was considered a virtue; famous last words indeed! It linked into the public telephone system with its large number of small base stations, and thus a fruitful source of new technology for hams to experiment with was born. Closely following were scanners. Initially crystal controlled 10- channel devices were replaced by programmable synthesisers, and a real question of 'permission to listen and to what' arose.

Hard on the heels of scanners came computers controlling radio, exemplified by the 'BBC-B' and ICOM R70. AMTOR led to AX25 packet, adopted by the IARU. For listeners a really useful 137MHz link-up to the American NOAA and Russian weather satellites arrived - no licence needed!

Licence-free, legal 2-way radio was heralded by the PMR446 radio in April 1999. Elaine felt that this marked the end of the 'behind closed doors' feel of Amateur Radio, and the beginning of the end of 'mike fright'.

The advent of the Kosovo crisis produced a huge amount of military radio traffic and scanner sales shot up. The subject of 'permission to listen' seemed ever more pressing, but the overall effect of these developments caused many old hams to reactivate their hobby and fresh entrants to join it.

Elaine told of her Dad's AR88 and how he was fond of repairing it and other electronic items. Indeed one suspects that her Dad seems to a large extent to have been the driving force behind her entry into radio. She likes accents and what she termed 'characterful speech' and is not keen on the digitisation of voices. She views encryption as a challenge to amateur code-breakers, citing chips on cigarette packets and wine bottles! More seriously she's concerned about the testing of imported domestic electrical devices for TVI (EMC) ... is it still going on? If so, who's now doing it? The Press seem not to be interested. She shared our concerns about broadband signals via power cables. Also, Lead-free solder not only isn't as good as the old type; it actually causes more interference because of the poorer joints!

Elaine then participated in a question and answer session chaired by John, G8DET. There was loud applause at the end of this lively presentation; Elaine was encouraged to give thought to further talks to clubs, who we are all sure will be most appreciative of her presence. She again graciously thanked us for all the items that CARS had sent her for publication.

Other Matters

- The raffle was drawn, the first of 16 tickets by Elaine. Organiser was Fred, G6FXM with prizes obtained by Tony, G4YTG.
- A discussion about a possible visit to Tollesbury lightship ensued.
- Peter Graves, G0KSJ produced under "you saw it here first", a 21 LED, GU10 lamp being a direct replacement for a ceiling downlight. This was shone around the audience.
- The visit to RAF Henlow Signal Museum on Saturday, 10th November, with Geoff, G7KLV the co-ordinator.

Report by Patrick, M0XAP.

Brain Teaser

By Malcolm Granville, G18AFS.

Malcolm is the Club Secretary of the Foyle and District Amateur Radio Club, Northern Ireland and has E-Mailed John, G8DET as he has found an old QSL Card from the Marconi Apprentices dated early 1960s.



Soon after the initial E-Mail, Malcolm then said he had found a photograph of himself (foreground) and an unknown Amateur - who is he?



This was circulated to CARS Committee Members and a number of Honorary Members & Peter Chadwick, G3RZP replied with the following comments: -.

After St Mary's Lodge (aka Basildon Cottage?) the station moved to the Apprentice Hostel at Brooklands, just over the road from the nurses hostel (more stories there!) and the Rising Sun. About that time, 1963, although the RG44 seen in the photo was still there, there was also an Eddystone S750 under its Marconi number. In 1964, the main transmitter was an 80m Command TX with home brew PSU and modulator belonging to Mac, who became G8BAR.

Then we got a Marconi TGS571F, which had 6x807s in push-pull parallel in the PA, and dreadful key clicks - and TVI.

By then the licence was held by, I believe, Barry, G8SXX, and then it was held by me until I left in 1969. Other people around were Gilbert, G3PDK, Malcolm, G3RHU & Ewen, G3RTF.

The Nissen hut at Brooklands was far too wet, and we got Dorset House down by the railway station. A big disused house - now it's gone and the site is some posh office, but I think it's still called Dorset House. We ended up there with a Marconi H2301 (Eddystone 880) and an NT201 - the civilian/navy/marine version of the Army D13 ISB transmitter. In about 1967 or so, we moved to a nice dry Nissen hut behind the old Crompton Parkinson Apprentice hostel in London Road, just down the road from the Rising Sun. By this time, there were a different set of people - Barry, G3WFF, Ron, G8BUD, Jon Naunton whose call I can't remember, Dave Ponting G8CVD?, Paul Selwood, G3YDY all come to mind. Some of them I'm still in touch with. We also got some 60 odd feet of tower section from Baddow. What they didn't tell us until later was that it wasn't really safe to climb!!

Peter G3RZP

Feedback from "Congratulations, Space 60 years On"

As reported in the October CARS Newsletter, Sputnik (Fellow Traveller) first flew on 4th October, 1957 - did you hear it?

A number of CARS Members remember listening to it and Ken, G7RTF thought he had a copy of the actual signal as it went around the world. However after extensive searching, he cannot find it. He says he has found a number of other articles which were 'lost'!

He has however found a copy of the sound track of Lunar 3 as it crashed onto the Moon - but this was only 42 years ago. A copy is going to be made available on the CARS Web Site as sound does not travel well in paper Newsletters.

John G8DET & Ken G7RTF

Wireless for the Blind at Sandford Mill on Sunday 9th. December at 2 pm.

Wireless for the Blind is a charity providing free radios, on loan, for the blind and one of their fund raisers is a Contest called Transmission. This event is held once a year in September and is open to licensed Amateurs, either as individuals or as a Club.

The idea is to seek sponsorship and to make as many QSL's as possible over a 48 hour period. There are two Trophies to be presented, one for the maximum number of QSL's and the other is for the maximum amount of money raised. Last year the winners were the Bitterne DX Club and the Cray Valley Radio Society. The organisers choose an interesting venue with radio connections for presentation of the Trophies This year the chosen venue is Sandford Mill!

The RSGB has always given help and support in helping to organise the contest and to support the fund. Angus Annan MM1CCR, RSGB President is presenting the Trophies this time. Brian, G3CVI is organising a working station and the Friends of Chelmsford Museums are providing light refreshments so please come along and support this event.

Wireless for the Blind has it's origins in the Boer War when a very brave officer, Captain Touse, was blinded. Later on he founded the organisation which was officially launched in 1929 by Winston Churchill. So, join us and support the activities of this worthy charity. You can do a bit of operating with the superb SFM aerial, meet the RSGB President or just host the guests on Sunday 9th. December at 2 pm.

November & December Contests from Steve G4ZUL

CQ WW DX / CW - Entered by CARS with M2T

24/25 November, 48hrs

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

Exchange: RST + CQ Zone.

Categories: Single operator (single or all band)

Multi operator (single Tx, Two Tx, multi Tx)

QSO Points: Own country 1 point, own continent 2 points, different continent 3 points.

Multipliers: US States & VE areas 1 point,

CQ Zones 1 Point

Final score: QSO points x Multipliers.

Full details from www.cq-amateur-radio.com

ARRL 160 Metre 1 CW

01/02 December,

Starts: 22:00, Finishes: 16:00 UTC. 42hrs

Exchange: RST only

Further information from www.arrl.org/contests

144 MHz AFS Contest

02 December,

Starts: 09:00, Finishes: 17.00 UTC

Exchange: RS + Serial number + Locator

Sections: SF, O. (Special rules S3)

Full rules from www.vhfcc.org

ARRL 10 Metre. SSB/CW

08/09 December, 48hrs

Exchange - RS(T) + Serial number

Further information from www.arrl.org/contests

For any further information please

E-Mail Steve G4ZUL

contests2007@g0mwt.org.uk

CARS M2T Contest Callsign

CARS will be using M2T on the CQ WW DX - CW on Saturday & Sunday the 24/25th November from Sandford Mill with kind permission of Dr Geoff Bowles. Would you like to operate sometime between 9am & 5pm?

If so, contact Steve, above.

Steve, G4ZUL

Dengie Quiz - 26th November

CARS are regular supporters of the Dengie Club Annual quiz. Please put Monday Nov-26th in your diary. Their hospitality and catering is renowned at this very enjoyable event.

See new Web Site & map.- <http://www.dhars.org.uk>

Visit to RAF Signals Museum, Henlow By Geoff G7KLV

Believe it or not the origins of this story really go back to the mid 1940's and 50's!

I was a young Technical Assistant, at that time, working under the direction of Dr. George Grisdale, G5GZ. George will be remembered by some Club Members as the Manager of the Communications Research Group at Baddow but before that he was an Engineer in D2A which was the development group responsible for the CR series of communications receivers, the CR100, the CRI50, CR200 and the CR300 during WWII.

The superiority of diversity reception was well known at that time and after the end of the war Marconi's were producing a range of suitable HF

receivers for this mode. The HR10/HR20 receivers were produced in quantity for a number of years and lasted out the valve era! These receivers were used by organisations such as the Post Office, Cables & Wireless, the MoD and similar organisations in countries under British influence.

These receivers used common units in the front end for signal frequency tuning and a common first frequency change oscillator, both crystal and variable frequency. I was involved with both of these units working under George's supervision in the late 1940's.

Then this year, over 60 years later I heard from Michael O'Beime G8MOB about an HR24 which was looking for a good home. There was just one snag! It was at Westport on the west-coast of Eire in County Mayo!

I badly wanted that receiver for Sandford Mill! It would be the perfect complement to our Self Tuned Transmitter! With an amazing amount of good luck and with help and encouragement from Dr Geoff Bowles and Brendan Minish, E161Z, that HR24 is now at Sandford Mill.

Chairman John, G8DET publicised its arrival on the Club Web Site and it was spotted by Alf Fisher, G3WSD, the Curator of the RAF Signals Museum at Henlow in Bedfordshire. He got in touch with us and it transpired that unlike ours, his HR24 was not in very good nick, short of a power unit and without any bump! Alf, Dave Thompson, G3OXG and Michael Harrison came to Sandford Mill on the recent Science Discovery Day to see our HR24. They photographed the missing power unit and borrowed our handbooks and we were invited to visit Henlow!

I raised a party of twenty Sandford Millers and Club Members and we went to Henlow on Saturday 10th November. We were welcomed by Alf, Dave, Mike and Vic Ludlow G3JLZ. On walking through the entrance door my initial reaction was, quite literally, Wow!

In an area probably somewhat larger than Sandford Mill, artefacts are laid out neatly and each with helpful labelling. There was so much to see that I just found it over-whelming! As you might expect it was aeronautically orientated with a huge range of RAF receivers and transmitters going way back to earliest times. Items of enemy equipment were also on view. There were some items quite familiar to me such as a CR100, an R1475 (the Writtle designed receiver with the Christopher 'Hovercraft' Cockerell tuning scale)

and, as you might expect, the 1154/1155 combination. There was a selection of test apparatus from many stables.

Radars were also on display, with a mannequin viewing a radar console, wearing an army jumper! An adjacent ante-room contained a mock-up of a 'Y' listening station, complete with telephones and a typewriter. Displayed elsewhere was a section devoted to telephones and a small exchange, all essential means of communication. Automatic Morse was also featured with instruments by Greed and Great Northern Telegraph. One instrument was capable of translating a transmitting tape back into letters on a tape. Not only was there a vast array of RAF radio equipment but examples of enemy equipment as well. A very well stocked library contained a multitude of equipment and training manuals together with many of the classic radio text books. A selection of training memorabilia was also displayed with many of the items on display, loaned from the RAF Museum at Hendon.

Most Marconi Engineers will have heard of SWB8's, short wave transmitters, but how many have actually seen one! I certainly hadn't and I was looking forward to seeing the one at Henlow. This had been donated from Dr. Graham Windbolt's personal collection which was housed at Bletchley Park. The SWAB, as they are affectionately known, was moved to Henlow with the help of RAF personnel and transport facilities, no mean task as it weighs in at around half a ton! Although not complete, it is being restored with dedication by Dave Thompson to its original condition. Henlow, being an RAF engineering and communication centre means that the Museum has available a large range of specialist facilities which they can call upon. Their HR 24 is certainly not in such good condition as ours at Sandford. Alf is building a power unit and I have no doubt that eventually it will be up and working!

As a Museum of Communication, Henlow is outstanding and I found it very difficult to absorb all there was to see! Had it not been for my involvement with the HR24 nearly 60 years ago, it is most unlikely that I would ever have visited Henlow, but I'm glad I did! Another visit is on the cards - watch this space.

The Museum Web Site is www.geocities.com/raf_signals_museum/index.html

E-Mail Geoff at g7klv@g0mwt.org.uk or phone 01245 473822 to book a place.

Report by Geoff, G7KLV

E-Mail Chain Letters (SPAM) Is it genuine?

It's very simple to find out. Check them out on a website such as scambusters

<http://www.scambusters.org/legends.html>

Or just take a key phrase from the E-Mail and Google for it. I've not yet met one of these that isn't a hoax.

Anthony, MIFDE.

Advanced notice of possible interruption to Global Positioning Systems

The UK Ministry of Defence conduct occasional tests on military systems which may result in some loss of service to civilian users of the Global Positioning System (GPS) including in-car navigation devices (SATNAV) and networks which rely on GPS signals.

Ofcom has launched a new E-Mail update notification service to give advanced notification of these tests.

To sign up for these email updates please register here:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/subscribe/gpsjamming.htm>

More CARS Centenary Newsletters

We have updated the Newsletter section of the CARS Web Site so you can see the previous centenary/birthday issues.

www.q0mwt.org.uk/newsletter/

Lighting the Shack

George Civil, G0LKY at the November Meeting pointed out that many of the early ceiling 'Mains, 50 Watt Down-light' fittings have now been discontinued and banned from use due to the fire hazard they present. Also, fitting them too near anything flammable (0.5 metres min is now quoted), fitting them in a void in the ceiling without adequate ventilation and not having a fireproof blanket over the fitting is also banned. Fittings certified OK now have the words 'Fire Safety' or similar printed in the packing.

If the lighting beam is NOT to project heat down (typically at bald heads!, flowers, vegetables or valuable paintings) a Dichroic Halogen bulb is used. This is even more of a problem as 47Watts has to be dissipated in the lighting fitting - few fittings are rated to take such a bulb. Early lamp failure with cracked lamps or even smoking

fittings is a sign of such a mismatch. Early Halogen Downlights provided poor lighting coverage so many were needed to give a decent coverage of the shack - this costs a lot in electricity.

Halogen bulbs are dimmable although it does not really save much money!

| Brightness | Energy Saving |
|------------|---------------|
| 100% | Nil |
| 66% | +20% |
| 33% | +40% |
| 5% | +60% |

To dim to a glimmer still uses 40% of the bright lamp energy.

Peter Graves, G0KSJ produced a 21 LED GU10 replacement for the traditional mains Halogen ceiling Downlight. The traditional mains Halogen Downlight is 50Watts each and now come in different angles of spread, 15, 38 & 50 degrees have been noted, the 50 degree gives a very wide spread of light and is quite recently available.

Peter's LED bulb used far less electricity - 1.2 Watts per bulb but does not produce quite the same light output. It produces a 'Cool Light'; quite blue in colour and with a typically 20 degree beam with little side scatter. It is best used to illuminate an object - display shelf - book shelf - rig with a digital display. It is bad to look directly into the LED light - like looking into a modern car headlamp. It is supposed to run for 30,000 hours but there have been reports of a single LED failing in the bulb before this time. Maybe the voltage sharing resistor has failed as LEDs do not normally fail.

High output LEDs are available but VERY expensive. A 5 Watt GU10 bulb is typically £25 while a 3 x 5 Watt torch/bicycle lamp with Li-Ion Batteries by Exposure Lights is £300.
<http://www.exposurelights.com>

An alternative to the LED is a multitube Compact Fluorescent fitting. 7, 9 & 11 Watts are readily available. The 11 Watt produces about the same amount of light as a 50W Halogen bulb. It does however take about 15 minutes to get to normal operating light. They are also a little deeper in size at 76mm compared to 60mm for the standard GU10 bulb. Providing the fitting has a 'floating' connector - they will fit (if it is a fixed connector, they will protrude out a little bit).

They have a wide beam at 119 degrees and produce a cooler light to the Halogen, but very acceptable.

If a number are used in a shack - typically 6 - the shack will really operate cooler in the summer months - 66 Watts compared with 300 Watts! These bulbs are advertised to run for 15,000 hours when used at 25 degrees and cycled 3 hours on - 15 minutes off.

Costs and sources.

Typical 50 Watt Halogen - £1.00 - everywhere
21 x LED - £4.50 from B&Q by Innovation
11 Watt Multi-tube Compact Fluorescent by Megaman, about £9.50 from B&Q.
- were £11+, 6 months ago.

The now standard Compact Fluorescent bulbs are getting cheaper in some shops, but not B&Q! Netto at Heybridge (near Maldon) have 11 and 18W Philips at 79p each and are well made and only 130mm long. Tesco Direct at the Army & Navy have dubious tubes which are longer and more cheaply made for £4.47 for a pack of 6. Chelmsford Wilkos have 18W (cheaper looking) lamps for less than £1 but they strike ON all together and seem to run okay.

High power Compacts are difficult to obtain - 23Watt are available for approx £5 from AFL Lamp Distributors, Kingsdale Industrial Estate (rear of the old PO Sorting Office) opposite and down a bit from Riverside Ice Rink. These are typically Philips but 15,000 hour rated and unconditional switch ON/OFF and are only 150mm long. 23 Watt gives out a good light - really more than a 100 Watt hot bulb type.

All Compacts last longer if run base down - the electronics do not appreciate being run base up in an unventilated fitting. Also avoid squeezing the glass tubes when fitting - they are fragile and hairline cracks can lead to early failure.

Would you like to share your experiences with shack lighting? E-Mail the Editor, please.

John G8DET

2007 National DF Final

Peter Graves, G0KSJ has supplied a detailed report that while he was a "Hidden Station", Phil Cunningham came 1st, Paul Clark 2nd and Bill Pechey 11th. Congratulations to all concerned.

www.topbanddf.org.uk/07finalsres.htm

CARS Christmas Lunch

We have had evening Dinners and Finger Buffets but a common comment from many of our older Members is "Cannot eat late at night" so this year we thought we would have a change and have a Saturday Midday Lunch.

It is at the same venue as last years Dinner: The Bell at Rettendon Common on the old A130 Do not use new A130!

The Menu has been already sent out but if you have not had one for any reason, log on the CARS Web Site and download one. Price is great value at £12 per person.

Advanced Exam Success

Myra Davis, 2E0MYR was a candidate on the current CARS Advanced training course. She recently took the Advanced Exam while attending the RSGB HF Convention and passed. She is now awaiting her new M0 callsign. Congratulations Myra!

The other candidates on the course will be taking their exams on the 10th December and 29th January. Good luck to all of them.

Next Foundation Course

The next Foundation course starts Thursday 10th January at Danbury Village Hall. If you know anyone who might be interested ask them to contact Clive G1EUC on Tel: 01245-224577 or Mob: 07860-418835 or E-mail: training2008@g0mwt.org.uk

You can download a CARS course poster to print out and put on notice boards from: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/poster3.pdf> (monochrome, uses little ink).

CARS Training Course Calendar for 2008

| Course No. | Dates |
|----------------|---|
| Foundation-16 | 10 th January to 14 th February |
| Intermediate-7 | 6 th March to 8 th May |
| Foundation-17 | 12 th June to 17 th July |
| Advanced | 28 th August to 8 th December |

More details on the CARS Training website <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/>

RSGB To Leave Potters Bar

After twenty five years at Potters Bar, the RSGB is moving its headquarters to Bedford.

Modern IT technology and business practice, mean that Lambda House is no longer cost effective to run as an HQ and due to the age of the building it is proving increasingly costly to maintain.

The move which the Society hopes to complete by March 2008 will also involve a relocation of the museum, shack and library. Discussions are taking place with the Bletchley Park Trust, the aim being to establish a heritage centre dedicated to Amateur Radio and the RSGB at Bletchley Park.

The Society is in the process of purchasing a modern office building located on the Priory Park, Business Park on the eastern side of Bedford. This will house the admin operation.

It is envisaged that the Bletchley Park site will be the centre of the Society's training activities and will also be the home of the RSGB HQ station GB3RS which it is hoped will be on the air daily.

A fuller statement will appear in RadCom shortly.

World Radiocommunication Conference

The final working session of the 2007 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-07) in Geneva drew to a close on November 15. Principal achievements and disappointments, as they relate to the Amateur Services, of the conference are:

Achievements

- A new worldwide secondary allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz with a max power of 1Werp. (given the low efficiency of practical antennas for these frequencies, the limit is not as severe as it may sound). (UK already has 136k)
- Inclusion of an item, "to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in part of 415-526.5 kHz to the on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services" on the provisional agenda for WRC-11 (set for 2011).

Disappointments

- No new allocation for the Amateur Service in the vicinity of 5 MHz, and no agenda item to consider such an allocation at a future conference.
- No future agenda item to consider an amateur allocation at 50 MHz in ITU Region 1 (Europe, the former Soviet Union, Mongolia, Africa and parts of the Middle East).
- IMT Advanced (for next generation mobile comms) designated in bands amateurs share with at 2.3 and 3.4GHz

The amateur issues were of course a minor part of the WRC-07 agenda, but the Amateur Service was involved in one of the most contentious agenda items dealing with allocations between 4 and 10 MHz. A series of European Proposals had proposed changes to allow for an increase in HF broadcasting, with a footnote for administrations to allow the Amateur Service to use 5MHz on a secondary basis. However, this had no support from the other regions and no compromise could be found. Ultimately the Europeans had to accept "no change" for broadcasting, effectively scuttling our chances for a 5 MHz allocation.

Next WRC Tentatively Set for 2011

The IARU had hoped that if a 5MHz allocation could not be achieved at WRC-07, an appropriate agenda item could be included for WRC-11. The 2007 conference, however, had little interest in taking up HF issues at the next conference, tentatively set for 2011, having little to show for a great deal of effort expended on HF in preparing for WRC-07.

And Finally

John, G8DET edited this edition. Material by Colin, G0TRM; Murray, G6JYB, Trevor, M5AKA, Steve G4ZUL, Geoff, G7KLV & Malcolm Granville, G18AFS & Peter Chadwick, G3RZP, Special thanks to Geoff for assisting "rescuing" this Newsletter - G8DET has had a major computer failure.

Items for the next Newsletter should be sent by Friday, 28th December 2007 to the Editor: -

editor@q0mwt.org.uk