



NEXT MEETING - Shack Test Equipment

On Tuesday 1st December we will welcome to the rostrum Fred Leach, G2HNF to entertain us with his wealth of experience in DIY equipment for Amateur Radio.

Fred will describe in detail items that "you should have" to maintain a legal station as well as items which are "nice to have" and provide confidence that your radio system is working to the best of its ability.

In the majority of amateur stations, aerials create the greatest number of unknowns in terms of measuring their performance, which is confirmed by the elaborate and very expensive test equipment used in setting up commercial stations; Fred will describe how to ease the problem with the aid of basic units such as The Noise Bridge, Grid Dip Meter, Impedance Bridge and a Power Oscillator, which can all be home made. Further information will include the use of the Two Tone Oscillator for testing SSB Transmitters.

If past lectures by Fred are anything to go by, then we shall all return to our shacks fired with enthusiasm to make our own Test Equipment. See you all at 7.30pm, in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 1 Dec. MEETING - Shack Test Equipment - Fred, G2HNF.
- 12 Dec. C.A.R.S. CHRISTMAS SOCIAL - Hatfield Peverel.
- 13 Dec. VERULAM A.R.C. CHRISTMAS RALLY.
- 25 Dec. LOCK SHACK DOOR - Have a Happy Christmas!
- 5 Jan. CLUB MEETING - The Annual Film/Video Show.
- 2 Feb. CLUB MEETING - Packet Radio - John, G6JPG.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

When we first discussed arranging the Christmas Social at a Committee Meeting during the summer, it all seemed a very long way off, now here we are producing the December Newsletter and the Social on the 12th almost here. To remind you, the venue is the "William Boosey" P.H. Hatfield Peverel, we look forward to seeing you there (if you have booked of course), the time is 7.30 for 8.00pm. Let's hope we do not get a repeat of last years fog.

MEMBERS NEWS - Ela G6HKM

The Society extends a welcome to Dave Penny, G3PEN from Braintree and Eddie Henrard who is from New Zealand, Eddie hopes to take the R.A.E. next year, know doubt hoping to talk back to his homeland.

Charles, G0GJS is still busy sorting out his problems from the lightning damage, these things happen in a few seconds but it takes a long while to get sorted out and back on the Air again, we know after our experience of the hurricane in October 1987.

6M has taken a big dive this autumn, I monitor the band in the dining room on a 10M-6M converter, my last QSO was on the 2nd November to Spain, what we could do with is a really good Aurora to liven the band up. I have worked 97 Countries, 94 are Legal for DXCC and all 94 have been confirmed with QSL's, however with conditions as they are that DXCC could be along way off!

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS - Ela G6HKM

I am pleased to say that we have had a good response to the subscription renewals so far, but there are still a few outstanding. Thank you to all who have renewed and to those who have not yet responded PLEASE let me have your subs as soon as possible or regrettably this will be your last newsletter. If you are not able to attend the next meeting please post your renewals to me at the address at the end of the newsletter and make cheques payable to 'Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society'. If you do not wish to renew then 'thank you' for your support in the past.

LAST MEETING - THE JUNK SALE - Brian G3CVI

The evening commenced with long faces on those Committee Members who were directly involved. One (guess who?) thought "Have I brought the cash box on the wrong night?" Why the gloom one might ask. Truthfully, the amount of junk was so little as to cause surprise and anxiety..... Wow! we shall have to put on an alternative programme. Never fear, the stalwarts of C.A.R.S. began to stagger in with boxes and bins containing the usual hoped for "goodies" and disposables.

After a cautious start, the event hotted up and Gwyn, getting into his stride began to rake in the money and treasurer and runners were kept on the hop from then onwards. The usual jokes and back-chat were present and a few gems are memorable. The sale of an instrument case produced a remark such as "just in case you might build something into it". When Gwyn successfully sold a speaker unit and with characteristic straight face (knowing there was another identical one lurking in the box) produced its mate and started the bidding, it brought up such comments as "O.K. for Stereo" and one or two others which are better not printed here!! A small item which was apparently a surge arrestor engendered the remark "To be sold immediately, quick as a flash" (Sorry to remind you, Chas).

Harry bravely paid for "half" the valve tester for use by the "club" and then wondered if he would have enough room in his car to take the passengers home. Apparently it was accomplished with some "shoe-horning" and all arrived safely at their destinations.

Certainly some bargains were to be made, for example a few professionals present raised their eyebrows to see a VHF dummy load going for as little as £1 (a second one was knocked down for 50p!!! a little later). A solidly constructed low pass filter passed to Fred who was heard to lick his lips and mutter "Cor!! that will modify for 30MHz. dead easy..... a snip for three quid", at least I think they were his exact words, Hi, Hi.

By tea time it was obvious we were having a bumper evening and a rough check suggested about £150 total takings. However the final calculation, later, showed a gross of £161.30 and net £109.98. This is a very satisfying addition to our income and your Committee wended their way home with a sense of achievement and "Well done to C.A.R.S."

COMMITTEE MEETING

The December Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.45pm on Wednesday 9th December, you are most welcome to join us, please note the revised time.

DF NEWS - The National Final - Dick G3WHR

This year the National Final was run by Salisbury using the Bournemouth Map. The team rendezvous was at Downton where the Tea would be held. From there it was a 20 minute journey to the start at Matcham's Park, near Ringwood. We had all arrived in plenty of time so booking in and changing into our DF clothing was fairly leisurely. All that changed when the first signals were heard and we set about locating the three hidden stations. I could hear two stations but the third station was inaudible - an approximate bearing would be required. I wasn't the only one with a deaf DF set, several teams waited with us as we watched the others depart.

We decided to find the 'B' station first, this was 16km NE of the start. The 1.30 transmission is 4 minutes long so I was able to get two bearings from less than a mile away. This good fortune gave an accurate fix and we were soon investigating a number of aeriels erected in a young plantation. Paul traced one wire via a concealed crossing of the footpath into a nearby wood where we found the transmitter - One down and nobody else about.

The 'C' station was 9km E of the start and our route to this went via the New Forest. The fine weather meant that the forest roads were very busy with weekend traffic and consequently the journey was rather slow. Still, we were the fortunate ones, all those who had chosen to find 'C' from the start had been delayed up to 20 minutes by heavy traffic at an awkward road junction - unfortunately this included Andrew and Philip. My bearing on 'C' wasn't very good, and caused us to waste some time on a nearby railway track before entering the correct wood. Here we met Andrew and Peter, who had already found 'C', and were returning to their car. The next transmission took us to a small copse where Mike found the transmitter for me - Two down.

We guessed that the still unheard 'A' station was a long way from the start (24km SW), so made for the outskirts of Bournemouth. We were just passing the airport when we heard 'A' for the first time. Shortly afterwards we saw, but were unable to keep up with, Andy Collett. Two further bearings were necessary to fix 'A' in woodland near Poole. Here we chose the wrong entrance and had a long run in to the site. As we approached we could see a small group of DF hunters and they were WALKING - it was like Scott seeing Amundsen's flag - someone had got there ahead of us. The 'A' station was very well concealed and it took us nearly 20 minutes to find the transmitter and its operators - THREE.

We returned to Downton and met up with the other Chelmsford/Colchester teams. Mike and Andy had also found three stations, Andrew and Philip - only two. Strangely, Andrew and Philip arrived in the same car - five up in a Metro, must have been a bit of a squash in the back.

After meeting us, Andrew had headed for the 'B' station - via the New Forest roads. He arrived at the same junction with the A31 where I had taken my 1.30 bearings, BUT there's no way across this junction. Andrew had to backtrack and use the underpass - 8 more miles of New Forest. He then found 'B', but time had run out.

Philip had obtained a perfect three bearing cross on 'B', but it was centred in the wrong wood. He had left his car over 2km from the transmitter and consequently was very grateful for a lift back from another competitor. After they had been dropped off and the other team had driven away, his driver couldn't find the car keys. Philip had to run the 2km AGAIN to seek assistance. This time he found Andrew and was given a lift to the Tea site - where a search of the other competitors van turned up the missing keys, a considerable relief for Philip's driver.

After a very welcome Tea, the result - a CHELMSFORD winner, Andy Collett. Its really been Andy's year - first in several Qualifying events, winner of the Rosebowl, and now the National Final.

Results:

1 Andy Collett	8 Mike Hawkins
2 Chris Plummer	14 Philip Cunningham
6 Dick Brocks	15 Andrew Mead

RSGB INTERNATIONAL HF & IOTA CONVENTION

Continued from last month, the report by Charles, GOGJS.

Saturday was occupied with IOTA business and presentations until the evening. The committee sessions were quite lively particularly when debating inputs from overseas countries that proposed changes to the procedures and I mentally vowed that to be an IOTA adjudicator would not be on my amateur radio career path! The September 1992 Honour Roll was declared together with the Annual Listing and a question and answer session on IOTA HQ policy took place. In the afternoon we had a super presentation from Larry Mackay K5MK on how to mount an effective Island DXpedition; his list of "do's and dont's" was given against the background of his August 1992 first IOTA expedition to the Plover Islands (NA-172) operating as K5MK/KL7. Of the islands he chose Cooper Island - 071N 155W - which is 15 miles east of Barrow the northernmost town in Alaska. Larry who is from the deep South has a lovely accent and a sense of humour to go with it - he certainly needed it! Operating in a pop-up tent in an unsheltered position he used an ICOM IC-735 driven by a 600 watt Yamaha portable generator with TH-2 yagi antennas on a 15' mast and a nailed driftwood lumber mast supporting at 25' a dipole for the WARC bands. The temperatures were in the upper twenties(F) and constant winds were present at around 25 mph. Larry developed frostbitten feet but said they were improving. He took a bird watching companion with him (one of his tips was to take along a wildlife enthusiast because they are very good on local knowledge) and was extra cautious regarding polar bears as they were on an island which was used as a cross-over route by them and "one or two people had been eaten earlier in the year"! Larry worked CW and SSB mainly on 20 and 30 metres, only once did 15 open during his three day stay. 40m and 80m were impossible due to high noise levels. He was flown in and out by light aircraft.

Another expedition to the Baffin Islands (Province of Quebec 68N 75W) was described by a VE8 and yet another remarkable presentation was made by the South Georgia VP8SSI expedition.

More next month - Ed.

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A Very Happy Christmas
to all our readers

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73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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