



THE ANNUAL JUNK SALE

This popular event will take place at 7.30pm on Tuesday 7th November in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. The meeting provides the opportunity for members to bid for bargains as well as turning some "spare" items into cash to fund "wanted" goodies.

Our auctioneer will be Colin, GØTRM who has requested that items for sale should have a label bearing the sellers name and any reserve price.

The sale is designed to top-up Club Funds, either from the commission of 10% charged on all transactions or from the sale of items specifically donated to the club.

Our Treasurer Brian, G3CVI requests that bid increments should not be smaller than 10p to simplify the cash flow, he will be ably assisted by two committee "runners".

Please note:- while maintaining the quality of our auction, we hope to improve on last years silly prices by offering realistic values for both sellers and buyers alike.

We hope there will be a "good turn-out" and feel sure that it will be supported by some spontaneous humour.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 7 Nov. CLUB MEETING - Recycling of used equipment.
- 3 Dec. VERULAM ARC RALLY - Watford Leisure Centre.
- 5 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Centenary Marconi Lecture.
- Saturday 16th December - CHRISTMAS DINNER.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Your Committee are busy planning our Christmas dinner, this will be held on Saturday 16th December at the same venue as last year, the Dining room associated with Telford Lodge (in the grounds of the Marconi College).

We will meet at 7.30p.m. for dinner at 8.00p.m.

MENU

Tomato and Basil Soup
or

Melon and Grape cocktail

Roast Turkey Garni

Roast Potatoes, Brussel Sprouts and Baton Carrots

Glass of red or white wine

Christmas Pudding and Brandy Sauce
or

Profiteroles and Chocolate Sauce

Coffee and Mince Pies

In order to assist in catering it would be appreciated if you could advise (when booking) as to choice of starters and deserts required, this will then be shown on your tickets.

Ela, G6HKM ☎ (01245)360545 will be pleased to take names and payments of £12.50 per person. Bookings should be made by 5th December (Club Meeting), so that we can inform the College of the final number, unfortunately after this date it will not be possible to make refunds. Family and friends are welcome.

PME IN THE SHACK - Geoff, G7KLV

In the June Newsletter I promised to return to this subject with particular regard to the case where the shack is within the house or "main equipotential zone" as the power engineers call it. To be honest I was rather unsure of the best way of tackling the problem.

That item in the Newsletter had provoked a response from Charles GØGJS who was about to have his house rewired and Eastern Electricity were proposing to provide a PME earth. He referred me to the relevant note in the new RadCom Handbook. I found this reference rather misleading and inaccurate. This is rather distressing as it's in the Safety chapter and I am intending to query the points in dispute. It did, however, refer to an article in the June 1987 RadCom by an ex-club member, Peter Chadwick G3RZP, which shed much useful light on this rather mis-understood subject.

The provision of protection against shock by indirect contact is the consumers responsibility. The electricity boards recognise the problems facing consumers in maintaining an earthing system and wherever possible will provide an earthing terminal for the consumers use. In the past this has usually involved connection to the sheath of the supply cable or a connection to a suitable earthing cable. In many cases this was not possible. To overcome this and to cater for overhead distribution systems and for use with cables without a continuous earth conductor i.e., where the armouring serves for neutral and earth, a system known as PME is offered to the consumer.

PME is a relatively new system which can provide a very reliable means of earthing. Apart from one possible limitation it is a far more reliable means of earthing than leaving the average consumer to provide his own.

It will be recalled that with PME the electrical installation has to meet certain requirements. The incoming services to the house, such as gas and water, and the circuit protective conductors (i.e., the earth wires in the "twin and earth" etc.) are all bonded together at a bonding terminal using conductors of 10mm CSA. From this point a similar conductor is then connected to the incoming supply neutral by the EE meter fixer.

Complications arise when a radio frequency earth is required in the shack. There are two approaches, each of which will comply with the regulations. The RadCom article details both but one is much easier to implement than the other. This is the one discussed here.

The method proposed treats the RF earth in exactly the same way as one of the incoming services. It is connected to the bonding terminal using a 10mm CSA conductor. The cable connecting the earth rod itself should also be of a similar size because, under fault conditions (severed neutral), it may have to carry heavy mains supply currents.

From the point of view of good RF housekeeping it is advisable to insert ferrite rings in the bonding conductor so as to confine the RF currents to the RF earth. This together with ferrites in the supply leads should help to minimise EMC problems.

The use of a residual current device (earth leakage breaker) to feed the radio equipment is always worth while.

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THE 1995 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Report by Charles, G0GJS

The following is a synopsis of the events that took place at the CARS October AGM. The 1994 AGM Minutes were read and agreed.

As retiring Chairman, John G8DET spoke of the great pleasure that the office had given him during his term and was grateful for the excellent backup that he had received from the Club and the Committee. On a personal note of achievement John spoke of the success of his lobbying of the RA over their use of the term "hobby" for amateur radio! He praised the Committee as a whole for their sterling efforts in producing a first class series of meetings as well as professionally conducting the general affairs of the Society. He reminded members of the 28.325MHz net.

Charles G0GJS, in his report as Secretary, mentioned a number of activities that had occurred in the past year:-

1. A consequence of our letter to the Director of the Science Museum, undoubtedly one of many, has produced a promise to relocate GB2SM.

2. Christmas Dinner and a Social evening was held again in the restaurant at Marconi College and members and their ladies enjoyed a fine evening.

3. An important association has been formed with the Chelmsford Science and Industrial Museum, as a result of participating in International Marconi Day and operating GB0MWT from two stations installed by members and friends in the Writtle Hut. Thanks to a fine multi-band 300 ohm feeder antenna, which was rigged by Tony G4YTG, a very successful event resulting in 470 QSOs and many pileups were achieved. Excellent TV coverage was provided by Anglia News. CARS supported the Museum's Open Day, operating from the same venue.

4. The Committee wished to create a Memorial Trophy to mark the achievements of silent key former Vice President Les Turner G4CUT. (This was debated as an agenda item and referred back to Committee for resolution.)

5. A working party was formed to put together the History of the Club.

6. The Chairman's Garden Party was held at his QTH on July 9th and was a great success.

7. A letter was sent to the Licensing Advisory Committee supporting the policy line taken by the RSGB with respect to their response to the IARU Region 1 proposed VHF and UHF band changes.

8. During the year the Secretary and other Committee members received a number of calls from people of both sexes and various ages wishing to take a Novice or RAE course.

Charles said that a major activity of the Committee was persuading first class speakers and presenters to come and talk to CARS each month for no money!! He listed the events that had occurred in 1994/1995 and gave details of the planned 1995/1996 activities out to December 1996.

Our Treasurer, Brian G3CVI, presented his report which detailed the Income and Expenditure of the Society and his statement that we were solvent and indeed in surplus and that there was no need to increase the subscriptions for 1996, was greeted by the members with gratitude and approval. The subscriptions for 1996 will therefore remain at the level set for 1995 - £5 and £4 (concessionary). Brian reflected the concern of members of the Committee that realistic moneys should be paid at auction for goods offered in our November Junk Sales.

Ela G6HKM, our Membership Secretary, said that our membership currently stood at 60 'A' Class, 19 'B' Class and 4 SWL's - a total of 83 members and the highest figure since 1985. 11 new members joined CARS in 1995. Unfortunately we had one silent key this year, Les Turner G4CUT, who was a Vice President of our Society.

Our President, Roy G3PMX, commenced his report by making some observations about the progress of the Club's participation in HF NFD. He felt that due to a shortage of resources in certain areas serious consideration should be given to diverting our interests to other events, such as IMD, where from this year's experience, in association with Chelmsford's Science and Industry Museum, much pleasure had been given to our members and the friends of the museum. Roy commented that Chelmsford is well represented in the RSGB National D/F competitions, although apart from Dick and Andrew we do not often see the "famous" names at our meetings! He said that following many years of canvassing GEC-Marconi for sponsorship of the QSL card, they had finally agreed and a sample of the card appeared on the notice board. He thanked Pat G0SBQ and Colin G0TRM for their support with the design of the card. Roy said that the College, which provided a very fine venue for our meetings, now has to justify its existence financially by marketing its facilities to many different areas and he had thought it appropriate to negotiate a modest fee for our use (details of which appear in the Accounts). He thanked all members of CARS on behalf of Ela and himself for their continued support and trusted that we can maintain together the opportunity for the exchange of ideas and friendship.

The Chairman then retired the Committee.

The President then proceeded with the election, saying that all committee members had expressed the wish to be re-elected should the Club so desire, with the exception of Harry G2HPF and Pat G0SBQ. Harry G5HF proposed a vote of thanks to the Committee and said that those wishing to stand again should be re-elected en bloc and without further ado the motion was passed unanimously. Roy invited other nominations and Jan Swanwick G7UVP was elected to the new Committee which now comprises,

President	-	Roy Martyr, G3PMX (ex officio)
Vice President	-	Dick Brocks, G3WHR (ex officio)
Chairman	-	John Bowen, G8DET
Secretary	-	Charles Shelton, G0GJS
Treasurer	-	Brian Thwaites, G3CVI
Membership Sec.	-	Ela Martyr, G6HKM
Vice Chairman	-	Andrew Mead, G4KQE
Librarian	-	Geoffrey Lovegrove, G7KLV
Venue Organiser	-	Chris Chapman, G0IPU
Deputy Secretary	-	Colin Page, G0TRM
Member	-	Geoffrey Cockerill, G2AMQ
Member	-	Jan Swanwick, G7UVP
News Letter Ed.	-	Roy Martyr, G3PMX

(Note: Pat, G0SBQ has agreed to continue as QSL Manager for G0MWT.)

Under AOB, the Amateur of the Year Award was won by Roy for his outstanding efforts in producing the highly professional issues of the Newsletter throughout the year.

The Jackpot Raffle was won by Fred G2HNF and he will receive the prize of a Year's free membership.

Dick advised the meeting that Mike Hawkins G3WMM had won the National D/F Trophy (so keeping it in the Club for a second year).

After the tea break, Andrew, G4KQE and Dick, G3WHR provided a very entertaining 'Grope Bag' session with 20 mystery packages for members to identify and list. Congratulations to Dennis Phillips, G8AAE for achieving the best score of the evening.



Ela, G6HKM

Yes, it's subscription renewal time, inflation has not caught up with us and the rates are the same as last year, the Full rate is £5 and Concessionary rate is £4. If you have already paid, thank you very much; to those who have yet to pay I will be happy to take your money at the next meeting or you may wish to send by post to me at the address at the end of this newsletter, cheques should be made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" please.

PME IN THE SHACK - (continued from Page 1)

I hope that these and my previous notes have cleared up some of the mysteries surrounding PME.

Charles has since told me that when his re-wire job was finished and the supply re-connected he was not given the PME facility. Presumably this was because the existing local distribution system was such that there is a guaranteed low impedance path via the cable sheath back to the neutral point at the supply transformer.

I can supply a photocopy of the RadCom article for anyone interested.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are pleased to announce that Ela, G6HKM has received DXCC Certificate #206 from ARRL Headquarters, confirming that she has worked and exchanged QSL's with 113 countries worldwide.

This is a major achievement considering that all the contacts were made using two way SSB Phone on the 6 metre band.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 15th November, in Telford Lodge, you are welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,
G3PMX & G6HKM

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