



## CHAIRMAN'S FORUM

Looking back over the records of past meetings reveals that it is a long time (August 1991 to be exact) since we held an open discussion for members technical queries, therefore, the February meeting will be devoted to any current problems that members may wish to air.

Our Club Chairman, John, G8DET has kindly agreed to control proceedings and has requested in advance that members think of a question they would like to ask, this will enable John to make a random running order from a show of hands at the beginning of the forum.

If there are many questions we may have to invoke a kitchen timer to ensure fair play (which should add a fun dimension).

The meeting opens at 7.30pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 4 Feb. SOUTH ESSEX ARS RADIO RALLY - Canvey Is.
- 6 Feb. CLUB MEETING - Chairmans Forum.
- 11 Feb. CAMBRIDGE & DARC RALLY.
- 18 Feb. RSGB VHF CONVENTION - Sandown Park.
- 21 Feb. NFD-96 PLANNING MEETING QTH of G4KQE.
- 24 Feb. RAINHAM RADIO RALLY.
- 5 March CLUB MEETING - BBC News Lecture.
- 9/10 March LONDON AR & COMPUTER RALLY.

## NATIONAL FIELD DAY 1996

At the invitation of Andrew, G4KQE a planning meeting will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 8.00pm for members interested in participating in National Field Day on the 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> June.

The opening agenda will be:-

1. Shall we hold Field Day this year?
2. If yes, where will it be held?
3. Have we the resources, operators, etc.?

## CAN YOU HELP?

As well as serving on the committee of CARS, Chris Chapman, G0IPU devotes time to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Springfield Scout Unit in Lawn Lane.

On the evenings of 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February Chris is planning to set up an 80 metre portable station, GX0MWT/P, in the scout hut and would appreciate a helping hand to raise an aerial, etc.

Any member willing to assist can contact Chris on 01245-269207 (evenings only) or at the February club meeting.

## MEMBERS NEWS

We welcome Peter Mead, son of Andrew, G4KQE and Daphne, G8WQZ as a new member. We look forward to an entry in the Constructors' Competition from Peter in June.

## SILENT KEY

Sadly we have to report that Norma Willicombe, G0FPW passed away suddenly on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Norma was widely known for her editorial work preparing BARSCOM, the Monthly Communication of the Braintree and District Amateur Radio Society. A message of sympathy was conveyed to husband Bob, G6CJA and son Dave, G0DEC.

Also this month we sadly report the sudden passing of Gladys Frankland, wife of Tom, G4INM, on 17<sup>th</sup> January.

On behalf of all club members a message of sympathy was sent to the family and many members of the "21 Net" attended the funeral last Friday.

## Last Month's Meeting - Geoff, G7KLV

Life seems to follow a regular pattern. Just before Christmas we had the Ken and Eddie Show (Clarke and George that is). A quarter of one percent up. No, sorry, it was down, wasn't it. The savers lose and the borrowers gain! We had our excellent Christmas Dinner. And then after Christmas at our last meeting we had our traditional film evening. Our Tom and Jerry Show, but more on that anon.

Geoff Hardcastle of the College had been working hard setting up the Video Projection Unit they had recently acquired. We were to be the guinea pigs. We immediately found viewing much easier for those of us at the back. It also seemed to give the films extra presence! Assisted by our own Eric G8ADX, Geoff kept a watchful eye on the equipment all evening in case of problems which might arise due to overheating since it is now mounted differently from its original position.

To start the evening we had part of a BBC2 film about amateur radio, suitably edited to avoid the reference to the non-licensed nosey parker listening to Princess Di's mobile 'phone on a scanner.

To remind us that there are other uses for electricity than Morse, SSB and JVFAX, the second film of the evening was a reminder of times past in our own industrial heartland, in those far off days of full employment when we actually made things. Those of us with Marconi backgrounds tend to forget or remain unaware that there was another equally innovative electrical company in town. John Jay, the Stanley Wood of Crompton-Parkinson, loaned us one of their publicity films made in 1947. We saw scenes in the machine shops manufacturing motors and switchgear together with a row of attractive young ladies making moving coil meters. Other C-P factories were shown. Cable making at Derby, lamps at Guiseley, batteries at New Malden, electric vehicles at Leicester and Brum and transformers at Hayes. We saw sparks flying at the ASTA testing plant at Chelmsford where a piece of switchgear was tested to destruction with spectacular results.

Harry G5HF recalled the trouble caused when the skilled Crompton workers discovered that the film hands (the clapper loaders, best boys and all those other hangers on that seem to be inevitable necessities of the film and TV production industries) earned much more than they did!

Incidentally, John Jay has promised to talk to us about Colonel Crompton at our December meeting.

Getting back to our main interest, we had a very well produced video of the setting up of the Radioteam Finland station on the island of Curaco for the CQ SSB contest in 1990. Due to its position on latitude 12 degrees north it has been a favourite site for contests in the past. The equipment used would justify an entry in the Guinness Book of Records and I quote - 10,300ft of coax, 4,500ft of rotor cable, 2,800ft of electric cable, 508 metres of towers and 25 custom built antennas ranging from 10 to 160 metres. The antennas and the towers were built by their "Mr. Aluminium" OH6RM.

There were about 30 operators manning 15 brand new Yaesu FT-1000's. Logging was hand written and then transferred to 15 Compaq portables equipped with MUF maps and Miniplot using their own program.

Two sites were set up. A bulldozer and an 18 ton crane were in constant use.

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## LAST MONTHS MEETING - continued from page 1.

One operating site was in an existing building and the other some distance away had two purpose built Portakabins. Power was provided by a 300KVA generator with two 6KVA sets as standby. After various set-backs due to unforeseen weather conditions the station was ready on time.

Surprise, surprise! Radioteam Finland won the contest by notching up 52,300,000 points! Later they won the CQ CW contest with 39,300,000 points. The film ended with the team signing off individually and Ela was delighted to see some of her fellow 6 metre enthusiasts.

We stopped for tea halfway through the last film and Geoff noticed that the convergence was drifting off so the opportunity was taken to have a little tweak. After the break we resumed but the picture was a bit washed out. However, this did not spoil our enjoyment of the film. Towards the end it appeared as if the recorder was struggling as well. It was getting late so it was decided to forego the highlight of the evening-Chris's two Tom and Jerry's!

As soon as the film ended Eric delved into the equipment and found that the red gun had not been switched on again after the tea break tweak! I also discovered that the recorder was OK and that the original film had a fault.

So, it can safely be said that Video Projection is an unqualified success and our thanks must go to Geoff Hardcastle for his sterling efforts.

Our thanks also to Ela and Roy. Their final Pick-n-Mix sale raised £12.50 for club funds.

With my ear to the ground, and always ready for a juicy bit of gossip; I have to tell you that there are rumblings amongst the membership! There is a splinter group emerging with the express intention of introducing a TTTE element to our film evening. Puzzled? I mean, of course, Thomas The Tank Engine! So is it all out battle between the T&J mob and the TTTE mob?

Just one more thing. We have an exciting new surprise feature for our film nights. Unfortunately it wasn't possible to have it ready in time but I confidently predict that it will be ready in time for next years show!

STOP PRESS. For members unable to attend, a complete video of all the films is available for loan.

## SALE OF EQUIPMENT

We have been advised that a sale of Radio/Test items, on behalf of the widow of Les Turner, G4CUT is being organised by Dick Baker, G4DJC.

The list is reproduced below and anyone wishing to purchase should initially contact Dick to arrange viewing at his QTH.

Dick is not a club member but is QTHR. The details are:- R.J. Baker, 42 Rushleydale, Springfield, Chelmsford, CM1 6JX. Tel: 01245-256416.

### TEST EQUIPMENT

ADVANCE VM79-1

HP 400E

HP 606A

TEKTRONIX 184

WAYNE KERR S161B

WAYNE KERR R16I

WAYNE KERR B80I

MI TF1020A

MI TF2012

MI TF2300

MI TF1313A

RHODE & SCHWARZ SMLU

MEGGER SERIES 3 MK3

AVO VALVE TESTER

AVO 770S

AVO MODEL 7

TRIO DL-70S

PARAMETRON J174

HEATHKIT V-7AU

UHF Millivoltmeter

AC Voltmeter

Sig Gen

Time Mark Gen

VHF Bridge Source

VHF Bridge Detector

VHF Admittance Bridge

RF Pwr Meter/Load

UHF FM sig: Gen:

FM/AM Mod Meter

Universal LCR Bridge

PWR Sig: Gen:

Megger

Capacitance Bridge

Digital Multimeter

Pulse Generator

Valve Voltmeter

### RADIO ITEMS

Kenwood R820 + SP820: HF (Amateur Bands)

Receiver with matching speaker unit. £150 ONO.

BNOS L144-10-100: 2M linear amplifier.

10 Watts in, 100 Watts out. £110 ONO.

BNOS LPM50-10-100: 6M lin amplifier with preamp.

10 Watts in, 100 Watts out. £125 ONO.

Hanson FS-50VP: 50MHz-150MHz SWR/PWR meter, 20/200W. £50 ONO.

Hanson FS710V: 50MHz-150MHz SWR/PWR meter, 20/200W. £50 ONO.

Diawa NS-683PA: 432MHz+1296MHz SWR/PWR meter, 30/300W. £60 ONO.

## SLOW SCAN TV NET

### Progress Report by Roy, G3PMX

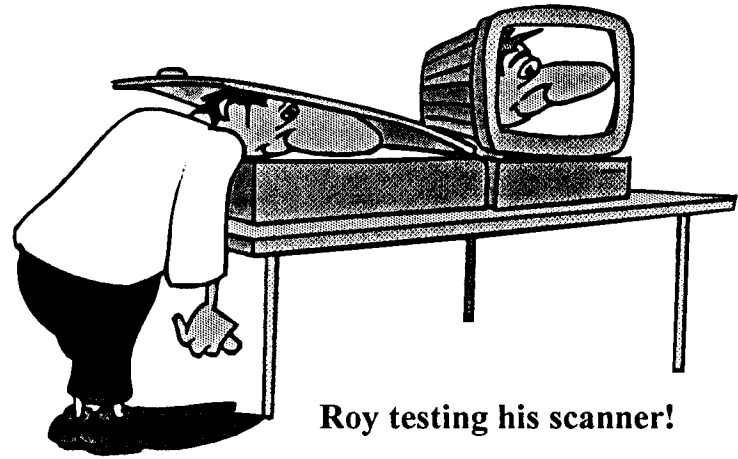
The Thursday evening net on 28.680MHz initiated by Chris, G0IPU is gaining in popularity and is providing an excellent foundation for members to fine-tune their JVFX systems through transmitting and receiving pictures.

As with the CARS phone net on Tuesday evenings, there have been a few cross polarisation problems with aeriels but most stations are now using verticals and the resulting increase in signal strength is producing noise free pictures. One of the problems with cross polarisation, when the signal is marginal, is phase distortion caused by passing aircraft; on phone this effect does not impair the readability too much but with pictures the definition and colours are spoiled by the multipath propagation.

Stations transmitting pictures are G0IPU, G3CVI, G0GJS and G4EZK with receive only stations G5HF and G3PMX who are able to report results on phone on the same frequency in between pictures, however, the net does not exclude stations who cannot transmit on 10 metres because Chris monitors 144.525MHz for any VHF stations wishing to give reports.

One of the difficulties in running the net is finding sufficient new royalty free pictures to transmit. Pictures available on CD-ROMS are rather expensive and somewhat restricted in their subject matter. Chris is able to "grab" single frames from his video camera to make original pictures and Roy is putting his flatbed scanner to good use by converting photographs to the digital mode, achieving at least 5 picture files on a HD floppy disk.

Setting up JVFX is now easier by the experiences and advice from the stations participating on the net and we expect more members to join in the pleasure. When the receiver and computer are working well together, further interest can be found by tuning round the amateur bands to see picture exchanges between other countries.



Roy testing his scanner!

## WHY NOT BUILD A PIECE OF VALVE EQUIPMENT?

by Geoff, G7KLV

Fed up with wrecking transistors? Why not try valves, they are virtually indestructible; well, almost! The club has a good selection of valves suitable for receivers and QRP transmitters. The mains transformer is the single most expensive item to start with; I have a number of suitable transformers and chokes available for a nominal contribution to Club Funds. The Library has a number of books on valve circuitry. So, there's really no excuse for not having a go at the technology of yesteryear.

## COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February, in Telford Lodge, you are welcome to join us.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,  
G3PMX & G6HKM

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