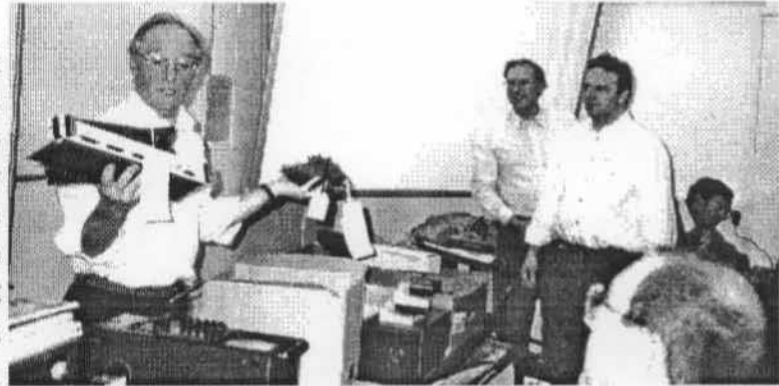




THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The picture reminds us that a whole year has passed since the last distribution of surplus equipment was organised. This year the master of ceremonies will be Gwyn, G4FKH who hopefully will be surrounded by lots of goodies waiting for auction. One difference this time is that any 10% profit from sales or donations of items for auction will be passed into the Equipment Fund. Please remember to label items for sale with your name and any reserve price. Treasurer Brian, G3CVI says "starting bids should be 20p with increments not smaller than 10p"!



The meeting opens at 7.30pm in the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford. Indications are that there will be a "good turnout" this time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 5 Nov. CLUB MEETING - The Annual Junk Sale.
- 16 Nov. LONDON AR & COMP: RALLY - Picketts Lock.
- 3 Dec. CLUB MEETING - The R.E.B. Crompton Story.
- Saturday 14th December C.A.R.S. CHRISTMAS SOCIAL.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Your Committee are busy planning our Christmas gathering, this year to be held on Saturday 14th 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 Cocktail

Roast Turkey Garni

Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Glass of Red or White Wine

Christmas Pudding with Hot Brandy Sauce
or

Assorted Ice Creams

Coffee and Mince Pies

(Vegetarians can be catered for if known in advance)

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 £12.95 per person. Bookings should be confirmed by the 30th November, 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 very welcome.

VISIT TO POLDHU - Charles, GØGJS

The newly formed Radio Officers Association of Europe - whose membership comprises current and former marine, flight and land station R/Os - recently held an inaugural event at Poldhu, Cornwall. Some 50% of its members hold amateur licences and the Poldhu Amateur Radio Club kindly hosted the special event station, with the GBØROA call, for the first two weeks in October. A number of us visited the station which was managed by Duke G3PLE, and operated in the "pileups" which occurred on 40 and 80 metres using both CW and SSB. The rather handsome QSL card will be sent to each one of the 1001 amateurs who contacted the station. Those of us who were fortunate enough to be on the transmitting end, received the special Poldhu Club certificate given to all visitors who operate their club station GB2GM. Quite a number of past and present R/Os "called in" and among a number of the QSOs which I enjoyed, was a contact with a 25000 tonner that was off Dundee. Carolyn MØADA, who is the Club secretary (with husband John GØJBR runs the Kite Workshop in Mullion), assisted in operating GBØROA and spoke to at least 3 members of CARS.

The Poldhu Club, which was formed in 1990 to mark the 90th anniversary of Marconi's transatlantic propagation achievements, has a permanent building on the site of the experimental station which is situated 300 feet up on the cliffs above the very attractive Poldhu Cove. Adjacent to it is the former hotel where Marconi and Franklyn stayed and which is now a private nursing home. The memorial bust of Marconi stands proudly on the cliff top looking straight out to sea. Nearby, the concrete foundations and metal rings of the securing stays, which were part of a 4 tower antenna system operational from 1907 - 1935, can be clearly seen. The Club antenna system which comprises a W3DZZ trapped dipole on two 30 foot poles, is a rather modest array in comparison, but driven by a Kenwood 730 and a 400 watt homebrew linear, it achieved 59+10dbs on 40 metres in Chelmsford and this was a typical figure for most of the UK coverage. Duke told me that he had recently organised planning permission to erect two 60 foot masts on the site. The Poldhu Club possesses an impressive array of memorabilia which includes vintage marine radio equipment and an interesting collection of headphones. Photos are on display of a visit in July 1995 by Princess Elettra Marconi (the daughter of the Marchesa) and her son. Duke told me that she wistfully recalled the famous Elettra yacht, which is featured on the Club's QSL card and its sinking by the British Navy!

My wife and I were made very welcome by Poldhu Club members and I know that any CARS' members would receive a similar reception if they planned to be in the area and decided to visit and, of course, operation of the GB2GM station is available. If you are very fortunate you may be able to sample "the best Cornish pasty in Cornwall!". However, I was unable to authenticate Duke's claim due to time, petrol and dietary considerations but I am willing to wager that he was right - they were delicious.

MEMBERS NEWS

This month the Society extends a welcome to a new member, Dick Baker, G4DJC, who has spent much time recently sorting out the shack of Silent Key Les, G4CUT.

Report of the 1996 Annual General Meeting - Colin, G0TRM

The meeting was opened by the Chairman John G8DET. The Minutes of the 1995 A.G.M. were read by the Assistant Secretary, Colin G0TRM.

The Chairman presented his report and said the office had continued to give him great pleasure during the current term and expected another very good year with the continued outstanding support from the Club and the Committee. He gave special thanks to our President, Roy G3PMX and Ela, G6HKM for their work in producing the Newsletter. Mention was made of the excellent standard of submitted lecture reports and articles, in particular those written by Geoff, G7KLV on many and varied topics.

The Assistant Secretary read out the Secretary's report previously prepared by Charles G0GJS, who was on holiday in Cornwall.

The report noted an average attendance of 10 members at Committee meetings. Successful activities of the year included, the Christmas dinner at the Marconi College, events at the Chelmsford Industrial and Science Museum included- International Marconi Day, the Annual Museum open day, and NFD which was held for the first time at the Museum site. Many members enjoyed the Garden party given by Geoff G3EDM and Sylvia.

Help continues to be given by members. Peter Cott G3BDV made a generous gift of a Transceiver to our youngest member, Peter Mead, son of Andrew. Harry G5HF coached a youngster to obtain his Novice Licence and pass a Morse test. Harry was also engaged in disposing of a silent key's equipment to the benefit of charities and Club funds. Mutual assistance between many Club members was also mentioned. Successful talks by resident and guest speakers had taken place, reflecting hard work in their preparation.

Our Treasurer, Brian G3CVI reported that the general funds were in a very healthy state and an increase in subs was not required.

Ela, G6HKM our membership Secretary reported our membership is currently 87 members, composed of 59 'A' class, 22 'B' class and 6 SWL's. Thanks were given to Ela for her continued good work for membership and keeping the monthly raffle in profit.

Our President commenced his report with a few remarks concerning the recent sad loss of his Father. He thanked members for their support at this time. He also thanked Eric G8ADX for the obituary in the Newsletter.

Time for radio had been confined to the regular skeds, Tuesday and Sunday for 40m and 80m to our friends in Backnang, the regular Tuesday Club Nets on 10m using G0MWT and the opportunities to use 2m and his favourite 160m to join in the "21 net" arranged by Tom, G4INM.

He spoke of the votes of confidence for the work of the Club committee he had received via the nets from our members in Germany.

He spoke of silent keys that members may have known, Bernard G6RM, Ray G3OET and Dai G3MWD. Overall he thought the Club had had a successful year. Roy finished with thanks to all the committee and to Ela for her support over the last difficult months.

The President then retired the committee indicating that they had all offered their services for another year. No further nominations were received so Harry G5HF proposed that all the committee members be re-elected, this seconded by Arthur G3KPJ and accepted unanimously.

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.)

A.O.B. Ideas were requested for fund raising, to boost the equipment fund. A suggestion from the floor was the possibility of making equipment rather than buying, such as ATU's and a headphone patch panel for use on field days.

Our Amateur of the Year Award received two nominations, one from our Chairman John, G8DET and one via the E-Mail from Jan, G7UVP, both were for Chris, G0IPU, seconded by Ela, G6HKM.

The award was made in recognition of his work for the Club, and for his fine SSTV lectures, this together with his work with the Scout Movement and other organisations. Congratulations to Chris.

The jackpot raffle was won by Gwyn, G4FKH who receives a years free membership.

The AGM was concluded at 9.04pm

After tea a competition was held in which members had to recognise the flags of some twenty countries and give a typical call sign. This proved none too easy but two members, Pat, G0SBQ and Charles Minchin, came top with 44 points out of 60, and were presented with a bottle of wine and a Digital Test Meter. Many thanks to Jan for some superbly produced colour prints and to Roy for running a very interesting finale to the evening.

A LOW FREQUENCY EXPERIENCE - Dick, G3WHR

(continued from last month)

Everything in the ATU building appeared to be in order, well there wasn't much to go wrong in there - except the aerial current meter, it was faulty. Well we would be running on the dummy load to start with. I had a look at the load too, nothing complicated here - just a resistor in a tank of water, like a giant kettle.

It was time to switch on the transmitter. Curt wasn't too worried about the green PA valves or the wobbly earthing switch. The first attempt took out the mains circuit breaker, as did the second. We disconnected all but the mains transformer and tried again, this time the breaker stayed in. Reconnecting the rectifiers and smoothing choke produced the required HT and we never tripped the breaker again.

Now we could start with the original problem - why wouldn't it tune. You can't dip the PA current on an LF transmitter very easily, because the tuning capacitors are varied by strapping different values of fixed capacitor into and out of circuit. Hence the need for tuning discriminators which compare the phase of the grid and anode signal voltages. It was possible to tune the Penultimate stage which used a motor driven vacuum capacitor in parallel with fixed capacitors. This was where we found the problem, the pen stage was off-tune and would not resonate within the range of variable capacitor. Before getting too theoretical we gave everything a good look over and checked for loose connections. This was rewarded by the discovery that although the connections to a tapped coil were screwed down tight, the wire from the screw terminal had parted company with the coil - poor soldering during assembly, but it had lasted 20 years.

With the tap reconnected things began to happen. The transmitter may have been 20 years old but Curt was determined to have full power, he even had the meter readings from the time when it was first commissioned. From the expressions on the operators faces it was clear that the transmitter had not been operated at full power in their memory. The load was soon steaming and there was a satisfied look on Curt's face. Now for the operational test - into the aerial. Without an aerial current meter we had to rely on the VSWR meters for tuning and the recorded value of PA current for forward power. Then came the final test, could it be heard - a receiving station confirmed the signal strength as satisfactory, time to pack our bags.

Editors note:- Dick supplied a series of photos to emphasize the size of the components used at low frequencies. The objects are so large that scanning and stitching the pictures together for the Newsletter could not reproduce the scale, so Dick suggests we display them on the notice board.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The next Committee meeting will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th November, in Telford Lodge, you are welcome to join us.



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 below, cheques made payable to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" - Ela, G6HKM.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr,
G3PMX & G6HKM

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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

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HEATHKIT CANTENNA, 1kW RF Dummy Load, for use at HF, oil filled version. Has been tested OK. Modest price secures.

Contact Gwyn Williams, G4FKH.

FOR SALE

POWER AMPLIFIER 3.5 to 28MHz, 2 x 4CX250B valves, switched coils, fully TV-proof, meters for Anode, Screen & Grid currents, voltmeter & RF Output, c/w 3kV Power Supply using solid state rectifiers. Offers to G5RV ☎ (01444)242734.