



## NEXT MEETING - SATELLITES and SEA WATER

At our September assembly on the 7th, we will welcome Pat Gowen, G3IOR who is making a return visit to present to our Society his 1993 information up-date.

Pat's illustrated talk will be divided into two parts, the first entitled "The Latest Propagation Information from Space" followed by "The Rise in Sea Level and Pollution". From his involvement in both subjects, Pat is an acknowledged expert and we can look forward to receiving some interesting and useful data.

The meeting will open at 7.30pm and the talk will begin after the Chairman has made the customary announcements and introduction of the Guest speaker.

Members and their friends are welcome to this event at the Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 5 Sep. DF EVENT (R.S.G.B.) Chelmsford / Colchester.
- 5 Sep. VANGE ARS RALLY - Laindon Community Centre.
- 7 Sep. CLUB MEETING - Satellites - Pat Gowen, G3IOR.
- 9 Sep. VISIT TO STANSTED - Reservations to G3CVI.
- 26 Sep. HARLOW R & C RALLY - Sports Centre, Harlow.
- 5 Oct. C.A.R.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

### VISIT TO STANSTED - Brian, G3CVI

As announced at the last club meeting by Brian, G3CVI, a visit by CARS to the inner workings of Stansted Airfield is possible. This is now confirmed although the number per visit must be limited to twelve members. The first visit is at short notice, on Thursday 9th September, so please ring Brian on Chelmsford 471919 with name and car number, as soon as possible for "First Come First Served". Please arrange to travel with four in a car if possible because parking is tight after we pass the security gate. A waiting list will be kept for a second group visit later this year.

Approach Stansted from the M11/A120 roundabout and keeping left you should find Brian in his white CIVIC at the exit of the LONG STAY car park on your left. Promptly at 1.30pm please follow him to the security gate for check-in and issue of identity tags.

We shall divide into two groups for viewing Control Tower and Radar installation, at half time we shall change over and return to our cars at about 3.00pm. After returning your identity tags, follow Brian in your cars to the Diamond Hanger.... the route is tricky so stay within sight!!! There we shall again be processed by security and taken for a trip round the establishment.

Finally after security release, just follow the Way Out signs to regain your freedom at the main road roundabout.

It will be important to be reasonably quiet when in the Tower and Radar because the airfield will be active and distractions could be dangerous. However there will be ample opportunity for questions, so have some ready. See you on the 9th.

### ANNUAL AWARD OF MERIT

Our Society Award of Merit will be presented at the October AGM to a member who has made a substantial achievement in the past year in the field of Amateur Radio. Nominations should be made in writing (not more than 100 words) and sent or given to a committee member by the 7th September.

Voting will take place during the AGM.

### COMMITTEE MEETING

The September Committee meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge at 7.45pm on Wednesday 15th September, you are welcome to join us.

### SILENT KEYS

It is with sadness that we record the passing of two founder members of our Society.

Ron Ager, G2AGY passed away on 2nd August after another brave attempt to overcome the recurring illness which had restricted his activities over the past few years, however, this did not diminish his interest in radio and we were pleased that he was able to attend the July Meeting and chat with his friend Louis Varney.

On behalf of the Society, a message of sympathy was sent to his devoted daughter Bette and a floral tribute was arranged for the funeral, which was attended by Society members.

Wilfred J. Ridley, VE3DLR died recently in Canada after a short illness. Jack, formally G2AJF formed strong friendships with many of the founder members of our Society but never lost contact when he moved to Canada. The regular Monday evening contacts have provided great pleasure as well as a bench mark for aerial performance tests and the study of the HF propagation for many Chelmsford stations; George, G3GNQ alone had 553 QSO's over the years.

Jack will be greatly missed in every respect.

### VISIT TO WATERS & STANTON - Ela, G6HKM

Those of you who did not attend the visit to our local emporium missed a very interesting evening, however the 20 members who did, had a most enjoyable time.

We were welcomed by Mark Francis, G0GBY, (Sales Manager), who then introduced Peter Waters G3OJV who spoke about his antenna experiments on his recent holiday to Scotland. Jeff Stanton gave us an insight to advertising costs in Amateur Radio magazines as well as functions and features on radios of the present and in the future. Bob Boddy, G6AKL (Senior Service Engineer) talked about servicing and the reliability of products in the 1990's, (can handhelds really get any smaller!)

This was followed by a conducted tour of the building, Frank Thorogood, G8ORV, (Mail Order Manager) was very proud of his mail order department, Bob's repair section was well equipped, there was even a small photographic room for preparing advertisements.

At 9.15pm it was time for refreshments, I think Matthew Boddy had a hand in this. It was now time for a free raffle, Ken G3PMW won a very nice shack clock, John G3VMJ a book and Fred G0SQP a European locator map. (Sorry I can't do free raffles folks we need the money for club funds).

The evening rounded off with Mark Francis talking about new products from the first samples to getting goods into stores, followed by any questions. About 10.00pm the formal part of the evening was over and we were invited to stay and chat or see Mark for an extra special bargain!

Thank you to all those involved for such an interesting evening.

## LAST MONTHS MEETING - Charles, G0GJS

Your Committee, with its remit to acquire first class speakers for our CARS meetings was once again able to fulfil its obligations when for our August meeting we persuaded a member to tell us about another passion in his life other than amateur radio. Brian Thwaites, G3CVI, who is of course our Treasurer, proved a master not only of the subject of Gliding but also in presenting it, as was witnessed by the very interested audience which gathered at Marconi College.

Brian told of his early aspirations to become a flyer all of which were thwarted by wartime bureaucracy but became fulfilled in his early sixties when a voice spoke to him from a lay-by at North Weald (it was his XYL) and told him to go and join those glider pilots wheeling above the car if he was still so inclined. He took us through his flying training and the realism of powerless flight was conveyed to the members through two excellent videos which had been made by Brian and the Chief Flying Instructor of his gliding club.

The history of gliding and the leading role that the Germans played in developing and producing machines was well covered with the aid of slides - the statistic that early gliders had a horizontal movement/sink ratio of 10:1 which had now become 57:1 in top of the range models (£180,000) demonstrated how the technology had moved.

Brian also covered the theory of flight as applicable to gliders and took us through some amusing cartoons that pictured the various methods of getting airborne viz., by cable winching from a fixed installation or vehicle, the bungee launch and being towed off by a tug aircraft. Cockpit instrumentation in a glider is quite basic although adequate, particularly when airspeed is capable of not only being indicated via the conventional pitot head tube but can also be well judged from the noise level of the air rushing past the canopy. We all felt for Brian as he described a landing a few months ago when an unusual met phenomenon called 'wind shear' struck his machine on final approach at a height of thirty feet and the cockpit noise became a deathly hush as his airspeed was reduced suddenly to zero from 60 knots and the glider plunged to the ground. After two severe bounces followed by a ground loop to avoid a stationary colleague it came to a stop and our Treasurer, although he suffered a fracture of the spine, is making a good recovery.

The relationship between the Civil Aviation Authority and glider movements was covered in the detail of Brian's references to the aeronautical navigation environment which is a complex but vital subject for all who use United Kingdom airspace.

'Captain Jack' of Stapleford airfield put our speaker through his successful paces for his VHF Radio Operator's licence, which obviously did not include such terms as "73's" but required being familiar with the peculiar R/T phraseology of the world of Air Traffic Control as he carried out a simulated flight in a powered aircraft to a diversionary airfield via the busy airways of South East England.

A most intriguing evening but for those members of the audience accustomed to doing their flying with either a minimum of two propellers driven by "ruddy great thumpers" or the very reassuring high speed hiss of air passing through turbine blades, such phrases as "a glider cannot climb" and "you can't go round again!" undoubtedly accounted for their absence from the queue which formed to accept Brian's "Come fly with me!!" invitation. A super occasion was enjoyed by a large audience, many thanks G3CVI!

## MEMBERS NEWS

The Society extends a welcome to Peter Uhrich, DK7SP, Peter is the mainstay for the Sunday evening Backnang/Chelmsford twinning sked on 80m, we hope we will see Peter at a meeting one day.

At our August meeting we had the pleasure of the company of Roy Philpott G3VCH/DJ0OW, Roy is an ex Chelmsfordian and has been living in Germany for a number of years but returns annually with his family for a holiday. On a couple of occasions Roy (DJ0OW) has joined in on the Backnang sked, he works for the same Company as Peter but not at the same location.

## 6M & 2M NEWS - Ela, G6HKM.

Some of you may recall that a few years ago we had a lecture from Ken Willis, G8VR on Meteor Scatter, Ken was well known for his VHF Columns in Radcom. I found it a fascinating subject and was somewhat fired with enthusiasm, however I could not see myself having hourly skeds, high speed cw taped transmissions etc. The way I prefer to use MS on 2m is by working a dxpedition station on a published frequency.

The "Five Bells Contest Group" are well known for their activities in distant locations, these trips are planned to coincide with the "Perseid Meteor shower" in August, operating on 6m and 2m.

Last year their dxpedition took them to the Faroe Islands and I had my first experience of MS, I started calling for one minute and listening for one minute, after about 20 minutes of this procedure I began to wonder what I had let myself in for, however I was then rewarded with a long meteor burst and completed a successful contact very quickly.

This year the lads were in Iceland, now Iceland on 144MHz would be a dream come true for me because contacts by tropo are very rare. The shower was due to peak about 00.30gmt on the 12th. and they had to stop transmitting at 05.00 to dismantle the station for their return journey home.

I had done my homework reading up all the dx news and decided I wanted to work G4DHF/TF/P for Iceland on 144.215MHz, Jerry, G4SEU operating portable on the northern tip of Scotland (IO78) on 50.370MHz, a square that had always eluded me and my other aim was to work HB9 on 50MHz, because Switzerland restrict operating times to outside TV hours and there was a good chance that one or two HB9's would be around for the Meteor shower. Switzerland is difficult to work on 6m, too far for tropo, too close for sporadic E (or very rare) I had worked HB9 via aurora but it had always been during the forbidden transmission times, so could not be claimed for any Awards.

I should explain that MS and Aurora is easier to work on 6m than 2m, GM4SEU/P was going to start operating (according to my dx list) at 17.00gmt on the 11th, we had a Committee meeting that evening so I made sure that I was in the shack at 17.00 and could not believe my luck when I heard Jerry calling, so that was one down and two to go! Once back from the Committee meeting we had a cup of tea, agreed we were not going to worry about time, after all Meteor showers don't happen that often and we were going to make the most of it.

Roy and I agreed that it looked as though we were in for a rather late night, but if you are enjoying yourselves what does it matter, Roy kept the cups of tea flowing and we had a most interesting time. I achieved TF at 00.44gmt on 2m, we did a lot of listening and it was fascinating, however there was still HB9 to work on 6m, so I started calling CQ HB9 at 01.44gmt I was called by HB9ASB but after 10 minutes we had still not completed, at 01.55 I worked DK2PH and at 02.04 DL7QY, at this point I made a statement that I was not going to pull the switch until I had worked HB9, thankfully at 02.49 my CQ was answered by Pierre, HB9QQ.

The bedroom lights went out at 04.14am local time, for two tired but happy people, which goes to prove.... You don't have to be mad to be a dx'er on VHF but it helps!

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73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM



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## MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

### WANTED

I am looking for a small UV Light Box for printed circuit exposure. If not a box then a source of reasonably priced UV Tubes so that I can make my own unit.

Information to Stan, G0SXX, ☎ (0245)251978.

### FOR SALE

ICOM HS-51 Headset with microphone and PTT/VOX Control, suitable for mobile/portable use. Boxed as new. Cost £50, will accept £45. Eddie Henrard, S.W.L. ☎ (0245)268756.

### WANTED

I am looking for a SMALL FREEZER in any working condition.

Eddie Henrard, S.W.L. ☎ (0245)268756.

### FOR SALE

Effects of the late G8DPB.

70cm SWR Bridge £5 : 70cm 2C39A Power Amp.£20 :

2m SSB Transceiver £25 : 2m Transistor Power Amp. £15 :

2m SWR Bridge £5. All items to very high standard.

Contact Paul, G8CDB, QTHR, ☎ (0245)358342.