



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: David Bradley M0BQC

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

Newsletter No. 440

September 2002

The September Meeting.

Amateur Radio Observation Service. Tuesday 3rd. September, 7-30pm, MASC.

Club Members will be aware of the work of the AROS and some may have actually had need to use their services, but for the majority, I expect an in-depth discourse on the finer details of their work would be most welcome. To that end we have Barry Scarisbrick G4ACK to tell us all about the organisation, its origins and some of its solved problems and perhaps, some unsolved. In general, his work covers such things as licence infringements, poor operating practices and troubles caused to other users of the frequencies. All Amateurs are welcome to attend and our Chairman John G8DET will be calling us all to attention at 7.30pm with his regular round up of current topics and an invitation to purchase a raffle ticket or two, run this month by Tony G4YTG. Where will it be? At our usual venue, the Marconi Social Club in Beehive Lane Chelmsford.

Wally Mills G3MCO by Geoff G7KLV

It is with great sadness that we have to announce that one of our Club Members, Wally Mills G3MCO passed away peacefully at his home on Saturday 10th. August. He had been unwell for a number of months. He was seventy-two.

Wally had served an apprenticeship with Marconi's and, after National Service in the RAF, joined the late George Grisdale G5GZ, engaged on communications research at Baddow and Guys Farm. I first met Wally in the mid sixties when we worked together in the Line Communications Division at Writtle. At the time I was unaware that he was a licensed amateur!

I left a few years later and it wasn't until the mid nineties that I caught up with him again when he rejoined CARS after a prolonged absence. In the meantime he had become a Section Leader and eventually progressed to Group Leader of the Telegraph & Data Development Group in Line Comms. He developed severe health problems and after a brief spell in Sales eventually retired early on health grounds in 1987.

For some years prior to retirement he had studied for the priesthood and was Ordained in 1985. His first appointment was as Curate of St.Marys Broomfield. Later he became Priest in Charge of Chignall Smealey with Mashbury and also of the Retreat House at Pleshey. He also helped out at St. Andrews, Melbourne as required. He retired from full time ministry in 1997. On retirement he often officiated at burials, cremations and weddings. His sermons were highly thought of and gave comfort to those involved. You may remember that he conducted the late Roy Martyr G3PMX 's funeral.

In his 'spare' time he took an Open University course, and was eventually awarded an Honours Degree.

Wally was a member of the Duxford Radio Society and often manned their station during the week. Likewise he was always ready to operate our station on Open Days and IMD, spiritual activities permitting. He was an active member of the World Association of Christian Radio Amateurs & Listeners as well as the International Short Wave League. He won second prize for an article he wrote in a competition organised by the ISWL entitled "It's Only a Hobby?" We hope to publish it shortly. He also contributed an article to our Newsletter entitled "Going Digital" last May.

Recently, he had received the 50-Year Membership Award from the RSGB.

He had an extremely kind and gentle disposition and was always ready to help his friends and colleagues. He had a remarkable inner strength and faith. Wally was a truly wonderful character. We will miss him.

Wally leaves his wife Joan, daughter Mary and son Trevor together with four grand children. Our thoughts are with them in their sad loss.

Last Month's Meeting. Table Top Sale" **by Colin G0TRM.**

Although this year's sale was held during the height of summer, (what summer) attendance broke all records or at least the raffle takings did. Many thanks to Ken RFT and to Ralph NAA who ran this month's raffle. Takings from the table fees and Members donations also reached a good figure, a reflection of very worthwhile sales at some of the tables. If there are any more Members who have yet to pay !0% of their takings will they please contact our treasurer Brian G3CVI at the next meeting. As always we were very pleased to see Mike Wheaton, G4ZPE, or 'Zippy' as everyone knows him, from Waters and Stanton who came with the usual abundance of worthwhile goodies which were eagerly snapped up. Also many thanks to W&S for the Shack Clock that made an outstanding contribution to the raffle prizes. Another visitor was Eric Hayes from BHI, he was showing a new, fully adaptive electronic noise eliminator for use at the output of a receiver, which had the ability to track changing noise levels and greatly improve the resulting signal to noise ratio.

Many favourable comments were received about the evening, as Members had plenty of time to meet and put faces to call signs, at the same time as having the opportunity to pick up a few bargains from a variety of sources. Peter Chadwick one time Club Member and past President of the RSGB paid a visit to the sale and met many old friends and some new ones and could not resist the temptation to buy a few goodies himself. A good time was had by all.

Amateur of the Year Award.

A further reminder that voting will take place at the next meeting for the Amateur of the Year. It will be for the Member who you think has made a significant contribution to the activities of the Club during the past year. Forms will be available for Members to select their preferred candidates in 1, 2, 3 order.

SINPO Reporting System.

The SINPO reporting system being used on 60 metres with its reports of 53443 instead of the more usual 59 may not be familiar to some members. This is what the numbers mean:

S: Signal Strength. 1-5. One is very poor and five is very strong.

I: Interference. This is interference from stations on adjacent frequencies. 1-5. One is none and five is severe.

N: Noise. This is atmospheric noise, not station interference. 1-5. One is none and five is severe.

P: Propagation. This refers to band conditions. How well the transmission is being received, considering strength, intelligibility and noise factors. 1-5. One is very poor and five is excellent.

O: Overall Quality. This combines the first four reception categories. 1-5. One is very poor and five is excellent

Trevor M5AKA

Museum Open Day by BRIAN G3CVI

"OOP A' T' MILL"

Or is it down at the mill? Either way it was bloomin' 'ot...When I arrived at about 0845 the temperature was 25 and rising so on went the fan and it remained so till shut-down at 1645.

A rapid check of the bands informed me that they were not in very good shape due to recent Sunspot activity, which had left a high noise level. That precluded any real DX but was OK for signals of S7 and over provided they were "in the clear"...what a joke that was because it was the last half day of an IOTA event and there were literally thousands of stations on 40m. John G3VMJ and I settled to ferret out some call signs from the general hubbub and we managed a few of the more patient folk who stood by and finally made it. It was hard going till the replacement ops. took over and when the IOTA closed the QSOs began to tot up.

The afternoon stalwarts braved the ever climbing temperature and the visitors' questions very sportingly so that the total was eventually 69 which was excellent for the existing conditions. Charles GJS was delighted to make the best DX contacts in CW mode the "new" rig performing very well. It is rather more complicated than the "old" rig but really repays the little time needed to master it.

The team of hosts "entertained" the visitors and their questions most gallantly as I heard one such person remark...that made my day. When I returned near 1530 a couple of bystanders asked to see the aerial and were amazed at its size when directed to look up. An impromptu lecture on the connection between wavelength and the antenna dimensions followed under the direct heat of the afternoon sun so I do hope they got the messages when I beat a hasty retreat inside. So a very big THANK YOU to all who took part especially the M3 folk who gave us their time, And a special mention for the operators who stayed on for an extra tour of "Duty" on the day. Shall we see them and others on IMD 2003? I hope so...it occurs at a time of the year when more folk are available, not on holiday or at rallies.

73 and good DX to you all, Brian G3CVI.

A Web Site of Interest

www.mods.dk/

Has details on widebanding most models of Amateur rig to permit operation on our new 60 Metre band.

In most cases it's just a matter of cutting a diode link. It seems the Auto-ATU's built in to some models cannot be easily converted in which case an external ATU will be needed. **Trevor M5AKA.**

Dates for Your Diary

Sept. 3rd Club Meeting AROS Marconi Social Club
Sept. 8th Suffolk Data Group Rally. Foxall Stadium Ipswich
Sept. 11th Committee Meeting Danbury Village Hall
Oct. 3rd Annual General Meeting Marconi Social Club

The Funeral of Wally G3MCO.

A number of Club Members attended the funeral service for Wally G3MCO at St. Mary's Parish Church, Broomfield, on Tuesday 20th August. The church was full with family, friends, neighbours, work colleagues, parishioners and Club Members bearing eminent testimony to the high regard and affection we all felt for him.

The service was conducted by a friend and colleague, Mr Reginald Morris, Reader at St. Marys. Mr Arnold Gandy played the organ for the two very appropriate hymns, O Jesus I have promised to serve the to the end and Here I am, is it I, Lord?

Mr Delmas Ashford read from the Book of Corinthians and John Mann, Rural Dean, Chelmsford Diocese led the prayers.

Reg Morris gave a brief but moving account of Wally's life and many achievements. He said that when Wally started work he wished to be called Charles rather than be known as a 'wally'. We all know that he was anything but! Dennis Lewis M3BIA also recalled some of his own personal memories. A Book of Remembrance was available for entries together with a display of some of Wally's achievements and photographs.

The Committal took place at the Chelmsford Crematorium, attended by his immediate family. They returned to the Church afterwards to host mourners in the Church Hall for refreshments and to continue to remember and celebrate the life of Walter Charles Mills.

Members might wish to send a donation in remembrance to, the Prostate Cancer Charity c/o Messrs Pennack & Sons Maldon Road, Great Baddow. Chelmsford CM2 7DW.

Report by Geoff Lovegrove G7KLV.

A History of CARS.

As some of you will know, Trevor, M5AKA is putting together a history of Cars. As a basis, he is using the 'Early Years' notes created by Geoff KLV for our nostalgia evening, a year or two back. We are publishing these notes again, in the next column so anyone with a long memory may be able to contribute a word or two to enable us to get as many facts as right as possible. In the meantime Trevor would like some answers please, to the following questions:

1. *CARS was called the 'Chelmsford Amateur Radio Club' from 1957; does anyone know when "Club" was changed to "Society"?*

(I know that one, September 1963, Colin TRM Dep. Ed.)

2. *Were any radio clubs/groups active in the town in the period between 1920-1940?*

3. *Are there any pictures of Amateur Radio activity in Chelmsford between 1920-1940?*

4. *I have seen a note that the Braintree Club was formed by a group of CARS members does anyone have any further info dates etc?*

5. *Is it correct that the club did not have its own callsign until GOMWT was issued, which I guess must be about 1987-88, anyone know when?*

The Early Years.

Fred E. Smith, a watchmaker by trade, ended up working in the instrument section of Cromptons during the Second World War. He organised the Chelmsford RSGB group and during the early 1940's they met in his bungalow at the top end of Stuart Road. During the late 40's the venue moved to a room over Fred Smiths radio shop in Moulsham Street (later known as Moulsham Electronics). Fred Smith was never licensed but members of the group included Louis Varney G5RV and Jack Ridley G2AJF. Arthur Butcher G3KPJ joined the group in late 1951 and only attended a few meetings in Moulsham Street before the venue was changed to Marconi College in Arbour Lane. Fred Leach G2HNF was also a keen member of the group at that time. Meetings were quite informal and more of a natter club with no officers or bureaucracy. Louis, however, seemed to be the main driving force. Another member of that early group was Eddie Cole G3IIS.

The Chelmsford RSGB Group's main activity in the 1950's was the annual National Field Day (NFD) which was held in Galleywood in the field behind the Running Mare which was run by a Mrs Warner. A maroon was fired to get the aerial over the highest branches. The location close to Louis G5RV's QTH was not purely coincidental! As a keen and determined youngster Arthur G3KPJ believes he was the first SWL to be allowed to log for a Chelmsford NFD event. NFD in those days consisted of running two stations, an "A" Station which operated on 160 and 80 metres and a "B" station on 40, 20 and 10 metres.

(There was no amateur 15 metre band at that time). During the late 1940's and 1950's a group of Marconi apprentices had the use of a house in New Street owned by the Marconi Company called "Basildon Cottage" (demolished July 2002). (*So called because the Basildon factory was supposedly designed there. Dep.Ed.*)

They established a radio shack in one of the first floor rooms and used the ground floor rooms for meetings and Morse practice sessions.

Alan Davies G3INW was one of the leading lights of the group.

It would seem that the Chelmsford RSGB Group were not keen on letting apprentices operate the NFD station so the apprentices set up the Danbury NFD group which was active during the 50's and early 60's.

The change from Chelmsford RSGB Group to Chelmsford Amateur Radio Club occurred sometime in 1956 or 57.

The Marconi apprentices, who were led by Mike Barlow G3CVO, packed the AGM and won the vote. Mike G3CVO emigrated to Canada in 1957.

There are virtually no formal records available to trace the development of the club until 1963, or are there? If you have can add any more information about the Society Please pass it on to Trevor or any Committee member.

HAVE YOU ANYTHING TO SAY, YOU WOULD LIKE THE WORLD TO KNOW ABOUT?

THEN THERE IS A SPACE LIKE THIS, WAITING FOR YOU, IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.

CALL THE EDITORS NOW!
PLEASE!

5 MHz Channel Designations.

Amateur Radio Courses

The club started another Foundation course Thursday 29th August and further courses are planned to start on October 24th and January 9th. As our usual venue of Danbury Village Hall isn't available in the autumn we will be using St. Mary's Hall in Great Baddow for the October course. The new Intermediate course syllabus will be formally announced at the RSGB H.F Convention. This will be shorter than the old City and Guilds course since all the elements that have already been covered by the Foundation course will be removed. The course will require the candidate to construct a radio related electronic project and there is the option of building this at home rather than on the course itself. It will be a requirement that candidates first successfully complete the Foundation Course before doing the Intermediate.

At present there are no plans for the club to run an Intermediate course in Chelmsford. This is due to a lack of people willing to teach it. There is no shortage of M3's wanting to do the course so if anybody is willing to teach let me know. As far as I'm aware the only Intermediate course that will be run in Essex will be at Colchester, contact Frank Howe G3FIJ on 01206 851189 for further details.

The City and Guilds Full RAE will be scrapped in 2004 and there are only 3 more exam dates left until then. These are **Mon 2 Dec 2002**, **Mon 12 May 2003** and **Mon 1 December 2003**. The C&G RAE is totally theoretical and devoid of any practical work but it enables the holder to get a Full Amateur license straight away without needing to know which end of a soldering iron gets hot or how to conduct a QSO. From 2004 anyone wanting to get a full license will have to complete both the Foundation and Intermediate courses first, before doing a further short course to get a Full license. Frank Howe G3FIJ (01206-851189) will be running a course for the Full RAE in Colchester to prepare candidates for both the December 2002 and May 2003 exams. The course starts on **Tuesday September 10th at 7pm** so if you want to get your full license contact Frank now.
Trevor M5AKA

CW on Two Metres

Are you interested in VHF CW operating? this e-mail reflector might be of interest to you.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/twometrecw/>

You can also find out more from the Reflector Homepage at:

<http://www.qsl.net/g0hga/2mCW.htm>

Do we still have anyone in the Chelmsford area who uses CW on 2 metres ?
If so Please call
Trevor M5AKA

Tel: 0794 1039832

Note the use of Upper Sideband.

5258.5kHz USB 1st Working Channel="FA"
5278.5kHz USB 2nd Working Channel="FB"
5288.5kHz USB 3rd Working Channel="FC"
5398.5kHz USB Primary Calling Channel="FE"
5403.5kHz USB Secondary Calling Channel="FM"

WANTED

I am looking for any old photo's of Amateur Radio (not just CARS) in the Chelmsford area from the 1940's, 50's and 60's for inclusion on the CARS-CD. If you were licensed during this time perhaps you could put pen to paper or finger to keyboard and let me have some of your recollections of Amateur Radio operating and club activities (both CARS and Danbury Group) during this era.

Trevor M5AKA E-mail: m5aka@amsat.org
Tel:07941039832.

For Sale 1

An ICOM 725 H.F.Transceiver in good working order and in excellent condition, together with a matching power supply unit, Icom PS-55 £250, for both items.
Contact John O'Brien (Ex G4OGL) on 01245 400825

For Sale 2

Kenwood TH-7D 144/430 MHz handheld with built-in packet modem, and speaker-mic. £175 Contact:
Trevor M5AKA E-mail: m5aka@amsat.org
Tel:07941039832

Dengie Club Quiz Night

A little later this year the Dengie Club will be holding one of their famous quiz nights, to which all local Clubs are invited. We have in the past couple of years or so sent a team, and we have shown ourselves to be very good competitors, coming a very close second on both occasions. If you consider yourself good at quizzes and would like to represent the Club, contact Geoff Mills G3EDM at the next meeting and reserve your place. If we have enough contestants we could field two teams. It is a very good evening with excellent vitals at half time.

Newsletter Editors.

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Deadline for the October N/L is Wed. 11th.September.