



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

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

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

Newsletter No 452

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

September 2003

Next Month's Meeting - Tuesday 2nd. September, 7-30pm at the MASC.

Simple Aerials by Paul Prior G8IXC.

Members will recall Paul's visit to the Club last November in which he gave one of the most remarkable demonstrations we had ever seen! As Eric G8ADX said in his write-up, it was in true amateur tradition showing what could be done using readily available materials. A Yagi made out of balsa wood? Yes, with the help of a few bits of kitchen foil! At the end of his talk Paul said that he still had a few tricks up his sleeve and offered to visit us again. Definitely a meeting not to be missed.

As usual we will be holding our usual raffle which, this month, is in the capable hands of Ken G7RFT.

Stop Press It is with regret that I have been informed that Ralph Polley, G3NAA passed away Friday night, 22nd August after a short illness. He was a long term Member of CARS, Friend of the Science & Industry Museum, great woodworker and supporter of Marie, his Wife. Our sympathy to Marie & his Family. More details later.

Dates for Your Diary.

September 2	CARS Meeting. ATV & Other Aerials, Paul Prior G8IXC. MASC 7-30pm.
September 10	CARS Committee Meeting, Danbury Village Hall, 7-30pm.
September 14	Suffolk Data Group Rally, Foxhall Stadium, Ipswich, 9-30am.
September 19/20	Leicester ARC Rally, Castle Donnington, Leics.,
October 7	CARS Meeting. The AGM. MASC 7-30pm.

The Last RAE.

The last ever Radio Amateurs Exam which will enable you to get a Full licence, without needing to do Foundation and Intermediate, will be held at the Chelmsford Exam Centre on Monday 1st December. Those wishing to take the exam should contact **Clive Ward M0SIX** by E-mail:training@g0mwt.org.uk or Tel: 01245 224577 or Mob: 07860 418835.

Please note that applications should be in by mid September.

Congratulations!

Well done all the following Members who recently passed the Intermediate Exam:
Tony Froom, Dennis Lewis, John Sanderson, Matt Shaw, Michael Sullivan and Francis Xavier
Congratulations also to the course organiser Chris IPU and all of his support team.

Amateur of the Year Award.

Members are requested to vote for this shield, which will be presented at the AGM in October. A list of candidates will be available, so please make your choice for this prestigious award.

Nominations to Join the Committee

A number of Committee Members wish to retire at the AGM in October. We would like YOU to consider joining the Committee to ensure the continuing success of CARS.

Please approach Chairman John or any Committee Member

CARS meets at 7-30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the MASC, Beehive Lane, Chelmsford.

For details contact our Secretary: David M0BQC on 01245-602838.

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375 (3rd) 1.947 (4th) 28.325 (5th) 145.375 All +/- QRM.

Newsletter Editor: Geoff G7KLV, CM2 8HY 01245-473822 or email: geoff@g7klv.free-online.co.uk

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Last Month's Meeting. The Tabletop Sale by Colin G0TRM.

Another August, and another Club Tabletop Sale has come and gone, this last one, was possibly the most successful we have yet held. Over 80 people were known to have attended as members, vendors and visitors. Our best-known visitor Zippy (G4ZPY) was again much in evidence and with help from Simon, he had many happy customers at their table vying for all sorts of goodies from the depths of the Waters and Stanton store. Particular thanks to them for the super prize they gave to the Club raffle, the SSB transceiver attracted many hopeful punters and it helped to raise a goodly sum for Club funds.

We had sellers from afar a field as Chingford in one direction and Bexley, Kent in another, we hope they will come again another year and join in the very friendly and social evening. As usual the event was widely advertised both in the press and on local radio. Trevor AKA made sure that readers of Radcom, PW and other mags had all the necessary details. Murray JYB distributed information to the Marconi companies and I produced leaflets for display in libraries and other places.

The decision to allow entry for buyers at a specified time proved a success, as it allowed sellers to arrange their displays unhurried and it gave all buyers an even chance for the bargains. We had expected to be housed in the smaller of the two rooms for the evening, but thankfully a last minute change of plan by the Social Club management meant we were able to have our usual accommodation and very glad we were too.

I would like to thank all the Club Members who came along to sell, to buy or just to have a look and to exchange views with others. Thanks of course to the stewards and others who played their part in helping to make it a very successful evening. Due to the generosity of W&S we had our most profitable raffle yet, organised by Tony, G4YTG.

The Late Arthur Butcher G3KPJ by Geoff G7KLV & Others.

Arthur Butcher was born in 1935 in West Hanningfield, the youngest of three brothers. There was a particular affinity between the young Arthur and his oldest brother Ernest, eventually both pursuing amateur radio as a hobby as they grew older. I knew Ernie from early days at Marconi's but I didn't meet Arthur until many years later. My wife and I were visiting her Aunt Annie who used to live next door to the Butchers and was then living in a nursing home. It was her 90th birthday and it was there that I met Arthur who was also visiting the old lady. She was Arthur's Godmother and he always visited her on

her birthday. That simple act of loyalty was absolutely typical of Arthur!

Arthur went to the Grammar School and then joined Marconi's as an apprentice and later on worked in the Test Department. He was called up and soon became a Corporal, serving in the RAF as a wireless technician. He also worked with the electronics firm Avely for a while before joining the "Tech" in charge of the electrical laboratories. It was there that he met Geoff G3EDM, who takes up the story.

"I first met Arthur in 1963 when we were working in the same department at the Mid-Essex Technical College (now the APU) and I soon discovered his many hidden talents, especially in electronics. Outside of College I soon found out that he was also interested in amateur radio including participation in the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Club direction finding events. After these events it was the practice for all competitors to meet and picnic together and Arthur turned up with his mother (known as Mother Butch on the Shaving Club). Mother Butch always brought sweets or potato crisps for the children who had come along with their parents; and to them she was known as "Auntie." The Direction Finding (D.F.) events were on 160 metres, as was his early morning transmissions for the Shaving Club. He had been Chairman for the latter for around 46 years and today we would say he was net controller. The Shaving Club was started on 27th January 1927 by "Nick", G2KT and named because members were shaving before going to work for the day and like the DF events was on top band and used a crystal-controlled frequency of 1760 kc/s (Now kHz). When the band edge lower frequency was changed in 1950 to 1800 kHz the frequency of the SC moved to 1875 kHz; but it was still crystal controlled and everyone had to net on to 1875. Amplitude modulation was the order of the day on both DF and the SC, although from time to time CW (Morse) was used. Arthur was a proficient operator of the Morse key.

One of Arthur's skills was his ability to use his archery to fire an arrow, plus line, over a specified bough of any tree so that a halyard could be positioned to haul up an aerial. This skill was invaluable for National Field Day (NFD) events. NFD was a portable CW 24 hours contest on low power. Arthur manned the key for several hours and if not doing that was logging the QSO's. Arthur was there to help get the portable station ready and often this would involve him climbing the mast to get the beam aerial into position.

Arthur had been a regular attendee at the annual International Marconi Day, (IMD) station. At this event he brought along his home-built organ and played this in order to entertain and to raise money for the Helen Rollason Cancer Fund. He was building a new organ prior to his sudden death on 11 August 2003. At the cremation ceremony we heard that the new organ had a number of new innovative ideas and we trust the

organ-grinders club members will be able to finish the building of the organ.

In 1997 Arthur produced a booklet and an audio cassette tape to commemorate and record for posterity the history of the SC. Suffice it to say that when the SC started it was a novelty to hear one's name/callsign mentioned on air as radio was still in its infancy. To listen in one had to build a receiver and even had to make the components. These receivers would have been powered by batteries/accumulators; the latter being taken to the local garage for charging ! This booklet and audio tape was a task requiring lots of dedication and Arthur received a plaque from members to record their gratitude at a meeting in Maldon on the 26th June 1997... the 70th Anniversary of the Shaving Club. Many of the recorded transmissions have been taken off-air or from reel to reel tapes. Listeners and hams from Clacton to Deal are mentioned; and several hundred members are listed as having belonged to the SC at some time, even if they had only appeared once."

The late Ralph Polley, G3NAA has also provided us with his thoughts.

"My memories of the Butcher family from Hanningfield goes way, way back. I went to the Grammar School with "Big Brother Butch " (Ernie) G3CUH. Radio was not on the menu in those days!

Arthur came into the picture when he used to attend meetings of the Hart Special Mob, who used to meet at 4 Hart Street in early 1958 with a bunch of young hopefuls studying for the RAE. Eddie G3IIS did the talking and members included those who eventually became G3MWT, G3MWD, G3NAA, G3NAB and several others. Arthur was the in the RAF and joined us most Fridays when he could get a weekend pass. Bill Mosely was the host.

Later on several others and I went on the Shaving Club net, when we remembered to get up in time - work had a nasty habit of interfering! Arthur will always be remembered for his interest in all things and his help for his fellow men."

Arthur also had a very good memory with instant recall, his reminiscences always delivered in clear and precise language. He remembered all about the early foundation of CARS and was a very useful source on more than one occasion!

Arthur G3KPJ will always be remembered with affection by all those who knew him. He is a great loss to amateur radio, CARS, Organ Grinders, Archers and to all his wide circle of friends. He will be sadly missed!

Arthur was cremated and a full house of friends, relatives and a large group from CARS attended the service to say farewell. There were addresses by his niece Susan, Geoff G3EDM and a member of the Organ Grinders to remind us of some of the highlights of his life.

It was a pleasure to have known G3KPJ.

Eighteen Months as an M3 by Nick Rowland M3NIC

Well, its some 18months now since I became an M3 at Colchester and I thought it might be an opportune moment to review my progress.

There hasn't been much activity on my behalf on HF since the end of last year as the conditions have not been that brilliant. I have had a long arranged but never fulfilled sked with N7ZI in Utah to complete and another one with maritime mobile station David Cowper, VP85DEU, who is trying to circumnavigate East-West on the MV "Polar Bound" via the north west passage. I have been trying to reach him every Sunday on 15m since the end of last year when he left the Falklands, with no success at all (15m is all he can use). If anyone catches him on 21.300mhz SSB please let him know that I have been trying.

I have joined a couple of Amateur Radio Clubs, CARS and The Suffolk Data Group. I haven't managed to get to a CARS meeting yet, but I have managed to make two of the SDG meetings and they seem a very friendly bunch.

As a future project I am planning to sort out some bits and pieces to get into data modes as it's probably the area I've become most interested in. I fancy RTTY, PSK31 and APRS on HF. I shall possibly also use data as my first serious foray into construction projects.

Morse code is also a hurdle that I must cross, as its ability to get through when all else is failing makes it still a very worthwhile mode. When I get a full licence I will be active maritime mobile myself and Morse will be quite relevant. I plan to give one of the Morse camps a go next year.

My equipment has grown a little since I first started and I now have Yaesu 757 for HF, Yaesu FT1500M for 2m and a Kenwood THD-7E for mobile and 70cm.

My antennas have improved a little with a pole on my garden shed supporting the W300 collinear and also my 40m dipole. In the fullness of time I'll get a crossed rotating Yagi on the roof, well, when the YL gets used to the idea.

My main area of concentration has been trying 2m FM and in particular APRS. I was lucky to live near a chap called Ciemon G0TRT who helped me out with advice on how to set up. I run a spare 2.4 GHZ 256mb Athlon PC supporting Uiview32 (registered!) through a DRSI DPK-2 TNC (anyone got an instruction book I can borrow please?) in to my 1500M.

What I have found very useful with APRS is the ability to see where your transmission goes as a direct signal and also what your receiving range is. Because a map is displayed on the screen and stations that RX you reply, it is reasonably straightforward to see where your paths are.

I had assumed my best path would be straight down the river valley towards Ipswich but

for some reason its up the side of a hill across another valley and cross country to Rendlesham, I guess I'll work out why one day.

Another handy use of APRS is keeping up with pals abroad, I have a friend in Utah and sometimes I'm able to see him driving around and using UIView's packet message facility pop him a quick message. This only works if you are both on-line and is not like a BBS system where the message sits waiting to be collected.

I did have a bash at BBS but my antenna is a tad to low for a reliable connect with GB7TGE so I will try again when I get a directional Yagi mounted on the roof.

I'm also contemplating setting up a weather station (another of my hobbies) and linking it to APRS and the Internet. I have been running APT satellite for a couple of years now and a live station is a natural extension. One of my recent trials has been receiving RTTY (USB 50 baud, 425 shift, reverse tone) data from Hamburg (Offenbach) radio on say, 10.101mhz (10.0996) and decoding the file through a program called Digital Atmosphere. This creates synoptic charts from the data and you can become your own weather forecaster. The data from Hamburg contains live weather readings from stations all round the world and also many ships at sea, giving a good view of the weather all round the globe.

I have done a little bit through the Ipswich 2m repeater GB3PO, but no success yet with a QSO on 70cms. I guess it will happen one day.

So, its quite busy really with plenty of plans afoot to keep me busy for the next year. My next stage was to complete the Intermediate exam but again the RA and RSGB have conspired against me. The Foundation suited my work style very well with a weekend course and a weekend exam, but the Intermediate seems mostly to be run as an evening class and is examined on the one day a week I find hard to get off...Mondays!! Hopefully somehow and somewhere (I don't care where) I will be able to do the Intermediate over one or two weekends and take the test at the same time. Until then I will stay an M3, which quite honestly isn't the end of the world and I must say still great fun!

We look forward to another instalment in due course.

CARS Contests for 2003 by Chris M5CSM.

On the 7th December (9am to 5pm) is the 144 MHz Affiliated Societies Contest. CARS hope to be entering the following contests during 2003 using the Club callsign G0MWT.

6th September - 144 MHz Trophy, 6 Hours Others section (3pm - 9pm BST)

7th September - 144 MHz Backpackers, 10 watt multi-op section (12pm - 4pm BST)

In this contest you operate from your home station. I will be collating the Club Members' log entries and submitting them to the RSGB Contest Committee.

If you wish to take part in any of these contest then phone or send me an e-mail.:

Chris M5CSM, CARS Contest Manager

Tel: 01621 480923 Mob: 07719 915872

E-mail: contests@g0mwt.org.uk

2M Backpack Contest Report by Chris M5CSM

On the 27th of July I ventured out onto one of the "mountain" tops of Essex, a grand height of 75m. OK, the height isn't fantastic but isn't bad for a VHF site, clear views all round, ground sloping away etc.

In previous years I have used a 5 element Yagi, a 10m telescopic mast. This year I invested in a 11 element Tonna. Since the top segments of my mast get quite thin I decided that it wouldn't be strong enough to hold up an aerial with a boom length of 4.5 metres. Instead, I used a thin walled 20-foot mast and then used the old telescopic as a gin pole to lever the mast into the air.

When doing contests solo it is especially important to ensure that the guy ropes are the right length so when its pulled up it doesn't end up going too far over and landing on you! Once the mast was safely up I then set up my beach tent and placed the equipment inside.

For the contest I used my trusty FT-290 giving me 2.5 watts of output. The radio was connected to a small 12-volt battery. I was a bit late starting the contest so went straight into "Search and Pounce" mode, tuning around and working various stations calling CQ Contest. The contest started off quite well, managing to work a station in Northern Ireland and Northern Scotland giving me distances just over 500 km.

The July contest is the quietest contest out of the 5 available since there is no other contests that coincide with it. I managed 21 QSOs and typically don't get any more than 30 in this contest. The other 4 contests run towards the end of the bigger contest when the big 400-watt stations welcome a sudden surge in activity.

I have been very lucky in all the contests I have done, it has always been nice and sunny. I often take suncream with me to prevent getting sunburned! This year thankfully has been no exception. My only annoyance was that my tent got invaded by 3 to 4 wasps, which persisted in buzzing around my ears. This was extremely distracting!

The last backpacker contest is in September and is typically one of the most enjoyable.