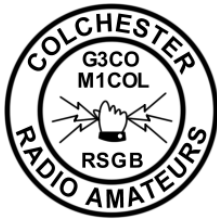


This & That & W_{HAT} H_{AVE} Y_{OU}?



The Newsletter for COLCHESTER RADIO AMATEURS

Chairman: Kevan(2E0WMG),
Hon Sec: Frank Howe (G3FIJ) Tele: 01206 851189

T&T&WHY? Edited by James (MØZZO) james@mcginty.net or (01255) 242748

Club Callsigns:- **G3CO & M1COL**

Please submit copy for inclusion by the Sunday of club meeting week; by phone, post or email.
Distributed by:- Direct Email (send your email-address to the Editor); or posted to absent members by prior agreement.

**Meeting #03 St Helena School
2008 Events discussion and natter night**

CRA 2007 Diary & Meetings Programme. (Thursday evening meetings commence at 19:30)

Enquiries and/or suggestions for talks should go to the Programme Secretary – David M1AMI

17 Nov	Contest: RSGB 2 nd 1.8Mhz Contest 21:00 – 01:00 CW 1820-1870kHz, RST+Serial+District.
20 Nov	Contest: RSGB 1.3/2.3GHz Activity. All Modes. 20:00 - 22:30 Local. RS(T) + S/N + Locator.
27 Nov	Contest: RSGB 50MHz Activity. All Modes. 20:00 - 22:30 Local. RS(T) + S/N + Locator.
29 Nov	Meeting 04 Colchester Institute Kevan 2E0WMG content TBA
02 Dec	Contest: RSGB 144MHz Affiliated Soc. 09:00 – 17:00 all modes RS(T) + Serial No + Loc.
04 Dec	Contest: RSGB 144 MHz Activity. All Modes. 20:00 - 22:30 Local. RS(T) + S/N + Locator.
11 Dec	Contest: RSGB 432 MHz Activity. All Modes. 20:00 - 22:30 Local. RS(T) + S/N + Locator.
13 Dec	Meeting 05 Inter Club convention (Christmas “do”) St Helena School
18 Dec	Contest: RSGB 1.3/2.3GHz Activity. All Modes. 20:00 - 22:30 Local. RS(T) + S/N + Locator.
26-29 Dec	Contest: RSGB Xmas Cumulatives 50/70/144/432 See Volume 9 No 2 for details
11 Jan	Meeting 05 Colchester Institute TBA
13 Jan	Contest: Affiliated Societies Team Contest 1400-1800. CW 3510-3590kHz, RST+Serial
19 Jan	Contest: Affiliated Societies Team Contest 1400-1800. SSB 3600-3750kHz, RS+Serial.
20 Jan	Foundation training course – Marks Tey. - Volunteers required

1> From the Last Time – Photovoltaic Cells

Frank (G3FIJ)

Kevan, 2E0WMG opened the meeting with a welcome to all members present and then giving a report on the successful involvement of the Club in JOTA at Fordham Heath. The station was operating on Saturday and Sunday on HF and on VHF with contacts made with many other Scout groups around the UK and Europe. Richard, G7BIV arranged for visits by local cub and scout groups. The event was reported in the local newspapers with excellent photographic coverage. Thanks to all who visited the site and made contacts by Amateur Radio. Members were reminded that the Club Calls Contest would take place on 1.8MHz on Saturday 10 November 2007. Alan, G0HKG reported that he had completed refurbishment of a Heathkit Oscilloscope, donated from the estate of Micky, G4YK and that it was available for loan to members.

The Wetzlar Net on Sunday mornings at 10am would QSY to 7.180MHz to avoid heavy activity on 7.095MHz as suggested to Bill,G4SOB by Josef, DL6FAS now back from Uist.

Change is on the Way
Watch out for changes in future issues and give plenty of feedback.

1> From the Last Time – Photovoltaic Cells (Cont)

Frank (G3FIJ)

Members welcomed Kevin, M0BCK who returned to the club after a break due to a heavy workload and his recent efforts to install a renewable energy supply at his QTH in Stanway. He gave a detailed account of the planning and design of the installation of solar panels on his south facing roof and the comprehensive control and monitoring system to achieve the maximum benefit from the sun and the most effective balance of this green energy with brown energy from the national electricity grid. A bank of batteries was used to store energy collected from the sun during the day and to provide a standby supply. Control of the charging programme for the battery was one of the main considerations to ensure a long battery life.

The available power from the solar cells was about 2.5kW around noon on a sunny day but was dependent on the angle of the sun as well as it's elevation. The cost calculations are quite complex but since completion in February 2007 the electricity bills have been very significantly reduced. At present there is no provision for energy to be fed back into the grid but it is seen as a future development. Monitoring consumption has focused attention on conserving energy use particularly on those loads which are always on, chargers for battery devices, telephones and standby systems. It seems that for best results a high level of monitoring and some tweaking of the balance of the load between green supply and grid supply is essential to obtain the most cost effective operation.

Clearly management of the system has become a major hobby for Kevin limiting his Amateur activity but he now has a Yaesu FT 817 so next time you hear him it may be via a green energy supply. Many thanks Kevin for a most fascinating talk, we wish you good luck with the system and hope the sun continues to shine on you!

2> J.O.T.A 2007 Great Porters Farm.

Richard (G7BIV)

A lot will be written, and there will be many discussions on the Radio side of the event, so I would like to comment on the Scouting aspect.

Radio Scouting is alive and well, we do still have a Communicator badge, which has various choices. I always recommend Amateur Radio to the young people!!

ALL those I spoke to were very impressed with the look and feel of the station. Young People are very aware of most of the commercial electronic gadgetry but few have met up with Amateur Radio...so if they were impressed then that's a success.

They were all made to feel very welcome and had an explanation of what it was all about...and most were able to pass a message, so the feel was positive towards the Young people...another success.

We have learned lessons over the weekend and our review will mean another JOTA may be structured slightly differently to ensure we have "visitors" for the whole weekend. The weather was remarkable for October so we shall order the same again.

The links we have forged will need topping up. I would like to suggest we try and target the young People who are interested in Amateur Radio to another event, perhaps backed up by visits to individual Scout Groups or such ...to try and impart the wonder and interest of our hobby.

And finallya BIG thank-you to every one who was involved in the station in any way... there are too many to mention individually..... so thanks all from Colchester North and Estuary Districts.

Change is on the Way

Watch out for changes in future issues and give plenty of feedback.

3> “CLUB” CONTESTS

James (M0ZZO)

It was good to hear lots of UK wide, and some continental, activity on “Top Band” during the club calls contest on Saturday 10th December. Our own club call, G3CO was aired by Frank G3FIJ. Other local clubs were also on air including Sudbury, G0SWI and Harwich, GX0RGH.

Not many of our members were heard on the air this time around. It is hoped this will not be the case on 2nd December for the 2m Affiliated Societies Contest (see diary for details). We need 5 members for a team but if more members go on air we can field as many teams as we like.

In January there are 2 further Affiliated Societies Contests on 80m Metres. Dates, times and exchange are in the diary above. We need 5 members for a CW team and 3 for an SSB team. As with the 2m AFS if we get more members than the minimum we can enter multiple teams.

4> The Treasurer says...

Ed (M0HDK)

Many thanks to all members who have renewed their membership. Those that have yet to renew please do so as soon as possible as not sending out reminder notices reduces the Club's admin costs.

There has been a very good response to the drive to recruit new members from those who took our Foundation and intermediate courses last year and we have about a dozen new members.

5> Prospero X - 3

Ed (M0HDK)

On a recent edition of the BBC TV programme "Coast" there was a piece about Prospero X-3, the only British satellite launched by a British rocket on 28th October 1971 from Woomera rocket range, South Australia. It weighed 66 kg and was put into orbit to study the use of solar panels to power space vehicles. Although no longer used it is still in orbit and will be for another 100 years and is still sending signals on 137.560 MHz, although this will vary a little due to the Doppler shift.

Details of the orbit are:

Lowest/highest altitude: 531/1402 km

Time for each: 104.4 minutes

Inclination: 82 degrees.

Also a request:

I have a couple of VHS tapes but now no player: has anyone the technology to create a DVD from them?

Change is on the Way

Watch out for changes in future issues and give plenty of feedback.

6> Annual Dengie Quiz Night 2007

James (M0ZZO)

The Dengie Hundred Amateur Radio Society will be holding its ANNUAL QUIZ NIGHT on Monday 26th November 2007 at 7.30pm at the DHARS clubs usual venue.

Everyone is welcome to the Annual Quiz (all clubs in the area are invited). We have good food and a super raffle with good prizes for hams and Mrs. Hams.

Please try to arrive by 7.30pm and also can you please rsvp so we can plan the level of food required to feed all.

Location: The Annual Quiz Night will take place at the DHARS club location: 7.30pm at the Henry Samuel Hall, Steeple Road, Mayland (about 200 yards on the left past the Mayland Mill).

7> The Newsletter

James (M0ZZO)

As mentioned in the last issue, there will be some changes to the newsletter over the next few issues and I would be grateful for both positive and negative feedback on this as the changes occur.

No one has indicated that they will have difficulty opening the newsletter if it is distributed as a .pdf document, so this is likely to be the format of future issues.

As ever the important issue is going to be content and I need to build a decent library of articles. I will give some publication guidelines in the next issue but in the meantime I am looking for lots of articles around the 200 word Mark.

8> The Club Nets: (E&OE). ALL RADIO AMATEURS ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN THE CRA NETS.

This should bring the list of net participants back up to date following the lack of info last time, due of course to the famous Harwich Pony Express being unable to deliver a letter from Colchester in under a week.

Wetzlar Group on 7095kHz +/- QRM at 1000 - Sundays

Thanks to Frank for the Logs.

28th Oct 3 Stations G3FIJ, G0HKG, G4SOB
04th Nov 4 Stations DL6FAS, G3FIJ, G0HKG, G4SOB

Herbert Group on 7105kHz +/- QRM at 1200 local time – Tuesdays.

30th Oct 2 Stations DL2DN, G3FIJ, G4SOB
06th Nov 2 Stations G3FIJ, G4SOB

VHF net on 145.400MHz, at 2030 local time – Thursdays, alternating with club meeting.

08th Nov 6 Stations G0HKG, G3FIJ, G4SOB, G7GCB, G7RLH, 2E0VRG
UHF net on RB14 GB3CE (Repeater) at 2030 local time – alternate Fridays.

09th Nov 4 Stations G3FIJ, G4SOB, M0FAQ, G8UNZ.

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