

# This & That & HAT HAVE YOU?



## The Newsletter for COLCHESTER RADIO AMATEURS

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

T&T&WHY? Edited by James (M0ZZO) 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 #02 on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2007 at Colchester Institute:  
Kevin Belle, M0BCK Collecting Sunshine, going green with PV Cells**

### 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

3-4 Nov	Contest: RSGB 144 MHz CW Marconi contest 14:00 – 14:00 RST + S/N + Locator.
6 Nov	Contest: RSGB 144 MHz Activity. All Modes. 20:00 - 22:30 Local. RS(T) + S/N + Locator.
10 Nov	Contest: RSGB Club Calls Top Band 20:00 – 23:00 1870-1990kHz, RS+Serial+Club Info.
15 Nov	Meeting 03 St Helena School 2008 Events discussion and natter night
13 Nov	Contest: RSGB 432 MHz Activity. All Modes. 20:00 - 22:30 Local. RS(T) + S/N + Locator.
17 Nov	Contest: RSGB 2 <sup>nd</sup> 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
20 Jan	Foundation training course – Marks Tey. - Volunteers required

### 1> From the Last Time - Club Policy Proposal

Frank (G3FIJ)

The meeting greeted the in-coming Chairman, Kevan, 2E0WMG who then welcomed the members of the Executive Committee. There is one vacancy that of Rally Co-ordinator. This will be a matter for the Executive Committee at it's next meeting in November when a small Sub-committee will be set up to organise the 2008 Rally. Members were asked to support the JOTA station to be set up at Fordham Heath over the following weekend and to prepare for the AFS activity on 144MHz in December and the Club Calls Contest on 160 metres in November.

Copies of the Draft Policy document were then distributed to all present. This draft (not) had been prepared, following discussion at Committee, by the Chairman and the Publicity Officer Martin, 2E0NOW. The Secretary then gave a brief report on the first committee meeting with members elected at the AGM together with Brian, G0GGM, co-opted as Training Co-ordinator. A more detailed report is included in this News Letter.

### **Back in the saddle**

**After a short break of exactly ZERO issues M0ZZO is once again the editor. Be prepared to be pestered for articles.**

**1> From the Last Time - Club Policy Proposal (cont)**

Frank (G3FIJ)

Priority is given in the Policy statement to Training which has been a major interest for the club since its inception under the previous C&G RAE system and the more recent 3 tier structure. It was suggested that the current format for Foundation and Intermediate levels should be retained and to take the opportunity to offer the Full Licence Assessment as soon as a sufficient number of candidates were ready.

The second most important item was the need for improving publicity both locally and on the Internet. Martin and Jonathan, G0DVJ gave a very interesting vision of the way forward and described some of the initiatives developed by other leading clubs with online demonstrations of their web sites. Recently the club has received excellent coverage following the activities in schools and for JOTA and further efforts should be made to participate in these, and other, community events. Clearly, suitable handout material would be needed to maximise these opportunities.

School liaison is beginning to develop and more such opportunities should be encouraged possibly including some hands on experience which could count towards the Foundation level assessment. The RSGB is keen to assist to make this happen. Further thought needs to be given to club nights particularly at St Helena School and to the introduction of new members to the group who need support to help them integrate with club activities.

The club News Letter is to be revamped by the recently appointed Editor, Jacqueline 2E0VRG including the introduction of colour where appropriate. (*See last page for update. - Ed*)

A lively discussion then developed on many issues including the inevitable one of cost. There was general support for the suggestion from the floor that having elected an Executive Committee that group should be encouraged to make progress on all these issues as soon as practicable.

**2> "CLUB CALLS" CONTEST 10/11/20707 2000-2300 UTC.**

Frank (G3FIJ)

This contest has become very popular over the last few years. Activity is restricted to that part of the 1.8 MHz band between 1870 to 1990 kHz using any mode and is open to clubs, club members and non-members to participate.

The scoring system encourages club call signs to be used and there is a bonus for club members too. The score is made up of 3 points per contact with 25 bonus points for contacts with club stations and 5 bonus points for any club members, there is no bonus for working non club members. The total score is the sum of the club station score plus the total of ALL its members' scores. About 100 contacts can be made in the 3 hour session for those stations in good locations.

Propagation conditions after dark support contacts all round the UK and across Europe, longer distance contacts can often be made during the night and early morning before dawn but there is now always plenty of strong European to work at the time of this contest.

The contest exchange must include a signal report, usually 59 on BE and 599 on AIA, a serial number starting at 001 and incrementing by 1 for each completed contact, identification of club station, club member or non-member together with the full name of the club as it appears in the RSGB club listing including "Amateur Radio" or "Radio" and "Club" or "Society". A logger makes this a little easier for the operator to record. For many years power levels were limited to 10 watts input on Top Band but higher power levels of 32 watts or 15 Dbw pep, may now be used above 1830 kHz.

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**3> Meeting of the Executive Committee 11th October 2007 Frank (G3FIJ)**

The Chairman, Kevan, 2EOWMG welcomed members elected at the AGM on 4th October 2007. New members joining the Committee were, Dave, MIAMI, Brian, GOGGM, and Jacqueline, 2EOVRG. Also in attendance were: Bill, 2EOBMG, James, MOZZO, Matt, 2EOXIS, Martin, 2EONOW, Frank, G3FIJ, Ed, MOHDK, and Alan, GOHKG, Assistant

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2007 were read and approved.

**Matters arising;** QSL card, picture of club tent sent to printer, draft expected very soon; Club flag being modified by Bill, 2EOBMG; JOTA 20/21 October 2007 station to be set up at Fordham Heath using call sign GB50CL assistance required with station and from home based members; draft Policy Statement distributed, discussion about web site upgrade; report on very successful day at Prettygate Junior School on 5th October 2007, need for visual aids for Assembly presentation (power point?) and reduction in number participating in future events; contact from Philip Morant School for input to Science week, March 2008. Thanks to all who helped at school and from home.

**Future contest activities;** it was agreed to support the Club Calls event on 10th November 2007 with Club station G3COIP at good location, with big aerial for Top Band and to seek maximum input from members at home. Frank, G3FIJ to write item for next Newsletter. It was also agreed to support the 2 metre AFS event on 2 December 2007 when it was likely that the Colchester Contest Group would assist. Aim for 2 teams of 5 members at least.

**Meetings at Colchester Institute,** 1st and 29th November as shown in newsletter, early dates in 2008 to be offered to David Hedges for a further talk about the work of the Duran Group. Ed, MOHDK to follow up.

**Meetings at St Helena School,** The October, November and December meetings are as shown in the newsletter. Venue for Inter Club Convention will be small hall near west entrance of school. On 24th January 2008, there will be an M3 activity night on-the-air to follow up from Foundation Assessment on 20th January 2008.

**Treasurer's report.** Donations so far for BWBF are totalling £96. New members from last M3 group... WELCOME TO YOU ALL. Kevan 2EOWMG to prepare list of members. Agreed to purchase two 100 metre drums of RG213 coaxial cable.

**Equipment Managers report,** Club equipment to be transferred to QTH of James MOZZO. It was agreed to purchase a trailer for transport of club equipment and tent to events.

**Training Co-ordinator's report,** There will be a Foundation Assessment on 20th January 2008; Intermediate Course and Assessment May-June 2008. Full Certificate tutorials with Frank, G3FIJ in preparation for March 2008 Assessment.

**Publicity Officer's report,** There was excellent press coverage of Prettygate School event.

**Contest report,** 2 metre Club Championship we are 14th in table with two more sessions this year.

Next meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2007 Committee Room Colchester Institute 7.30 pm.

Any Other Business, sub-committee for Rally 2008 to be set up at next meeting.

**4> For Sale James (MOZZO)**

Remember that you can use the newsletter to sell those items you no longer need. Most adverts here result in a successful sale so why not advertise here first (Members Only).

This time, Ken GOVDP is selling an Alinco DR605 2mtr/70cms, Dual Band FM Transceiver. Offers around £100.00. Contact Ken, GOVDP, Great Totham. Tel 01621 891411

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**5> The Newsletter**

James (M0ZZO)

Due to personal commitments Jacqueline 2E0VRG is unable to publish the newsletter with its usual frequency and has therefore decided not to become the editor after all. I have offered to continue with publication for the time being and look for your support in keeping the newsletter going.

There will be some changes to the newsletter over the next few issues and I would be grateful for feedback on this as they happen. The first changes are likely to be the addition of some colour to the electronic (web and email) versions and this means that the email copies will be changing to PDF format. If you don't have a PDF reader then download one now. When the change is made, a link to a reader will be included in the email.

I would also like to include some small technical articles with diagrams. This would be an occasional feature but it would be nice to get some early contributions so that a library of articles can be built up for later issues. Please do not lift articles from the internet as we could get into trouble over copyright.

I enjoyed my year as editor and look forward to producing more issues, but if anyone has a burning desire to take on the editor's role please come forward.

**9> 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.*

<b><u>Wetzlar Group</u></b> on 7095kHz +/- QRM at 1000 - Sundays		Thanks to Frank for the Logs.
30 <sup>th</sup> Sep	8 Stations DKIKF, DL2DN, G3FIJ, GOHKG, MOBQ, 2E0VRG, 2E0WVG, M3CDH.	
07 <sup>th</sup> Oct	5 Stations DKIKF, DL2DN, G3FIJ, GOHKG, M0DEQ	
14 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6 Stations DK1KF, G0HKG, G3FIJ, G4SOB, M0DEQ, 2E0VRG	
21 <sup>st</sup> Oct	7 Stations DK1KF, G0HKG, G3FIJ, G4SOB, M0DEQ, 2E0VRG, M0BVQ, G0VDP	
<b><u>Herbert Group</u></b> on 7105kHz +/- QRM at 1200 local time – Tuesdays.		
02 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	3 Stations DL2DN, G3FIJ, 2E0BMG	
09 <sup>th</sup> Oct	1 Station G3FIJ	
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	3 Stations DL2DN, G3FIJ, 2E0BMG	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	2 Stations G3FIJ, G4SOB	
<b><u>VHF net</u></b> on 145.400MHz, at 2030 local time – Thursdays, alternating with club meeting.		
11 <sup>th</sup> Oct	4 Stations G4S0B, M3XMK, G7GCB, G4KTI.	
25 <sup>th</sup> Oct	8 Stations G0HKG, G3FIJ, G4SOB, G7RLH, M0BVQ, M1AMI, M3ZZN, 2E0VRG	
<b><u>UHF net</u></b> on RB14 GB3CE (Repeater) at 2030 local time – alternate Fridays.		
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	6 Stations G3FIJ, G0KOY, G7GCB, G4S0B, MOBQ, M3XMK.	
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	5 Stations G3FIJ, G0KOY, G8UNZ, G0VDP, M0FAQ	

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