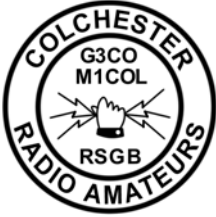


THIS & THAT & WHAT HAVE YOU

The Newsletter for Colchester Radio Amateurs



**Meeting #04 on 29th November 2007 at Colchester Institute:
Kevan Pugh, 2E0WMG "My 1st 100 DXCC"**

FROM THE LAST TIME— 2008 EVENTS AND NATTER FRANK (G3FIJ)

The Chairman Kevan 2E0WMG reminded members that the Annual Dengie Quiz would be held at the usual venue on Monday 26th November 2007. Members indicating their intention to attend included Alan, G0HKG, Robert, G4KTI and Jaqueline, 2E0VRG. It was expected that Brian, G4CTS would also be present with his wife. Good luck to all teams participating and enjoy the evening.

It was noted that extremely good publicity had been obtained in the local press following the recent activity at the Prettygate Junior School

Alan, G0HKG said that the Heathkit Oscilloscope he had collected from the estate of Micky, G4YK, has been successfully restored and was available for use by any club member.

Jonathan, G0DVJ and Frank, G3FIJ then reported on the Club Calls Contest which was held last Saturday evening. Jonathan was one of the operators at Harwich using their club call G0RGH/P, making 119 contacts, hoping for a top ten place, while Frank using G3CO/P made 43 contacts hence finishing rather lower down the results. G3YAJ was also active and Ken, G0VDP gave a very welcome 8 points to Frank.

The Chairman then outlined the aims of the main discussion for the evening, Events in 2008. It was acknowledged that a priority was the finalisation of a programme for club meetings at the Colchester Institute and at St Helena School. Firm ar-

rangements have been made for the meeting on 20th January 2008 but suggestions were needed for other dates hopefully soon enough for items to be published in RadCom and other magazines as well as in the local press and on GB2RS news broadcasts. Alan, G0HKG suggested an evening of short talks by club members and Bill, G4SOB offered to arrange a further visit by Denis who is responsible for activities at Duxford,-

A request has been received for support over the Thinking Days on the Air in February from the Girl Guides who meet at the Prettygate School and it was agreed to take up the invitation from the organisers of the Aldham Rally to join them over the 2nd weekend in June. Interest seems to be developing at Philip Morant School in support of Science Week during March when it is hoped that on-air activity can be used to cover some assessments at Foundation level. Tutorials will continue in preparation for the Full Certificate Assessment in March and a repeat of the successful Intermediate Course was scheduled for May to July 2008. Another school interested in having an Amateur Radio input is the primary school at Langham, Bill, G4SOB will continue his contacts there.

A public session at Cudmore Grove was also discussed concluding with suggestions that we avoid the August Bank holiday weekend and seek to obtain a mains electricity supply

COMING SOON

- 02 Dec 09:00—17:00
144 MHz AFS contest
- 04 Dec 20:00 - 22:30
144 MHz Activity
- 11 Dec 20:00 - 22:30
432 MHz Activity
- 13 December
Inter Club Convention at St Helena School

CONTACTS

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AERIALS FOR TOP BAND 1.8MHZ

FRANK (G3FIJ)

Unless you have access to a large estate your aerial size will be limited by local circumstances. A half wave dipole requires 264 ft in a straight line as high as possible for best results.

Shorter aerials can be very effective providing they are properly tuned and matched. In the past Top Band was the first choice band for mobile operation when inductively loaded whip aerials were attached to the car.

In those days most trains were steam driven so overhead high voltage lines were not in use and long whips were common with base loading coils attached to the rear bumper.



This type of aerial is still very efficient if placed over a good ground plane and in a fixed location there is no height restriction except possibly if you are near the flight path of air ambulance helicopters flying into the local hospital!

The length is around 100ft and runs from the operating position, where the ATU is placed, to the top of the bungalow chimney, then up to the top of the tower carrying the VHF/UHF aerials and on to 20ft poles at each corner across the bottom of the garden. Any spare wire is tied off in the cherry tree.

Aerial tuning units are essential for this type of end fed

aerial and they introduce considerable loss of RF. The inductor used should be wound with heavy gauge copper wire, I use 1/4in copper tube on a 6in diameter former.

The tuning capacitor must be reasonably wide spaced with lowest possible losses. These are connected in parallel with the aerial at one end and the earth at the other

My inductor has tapping points on alternate turns to enable the best L/C ratio to be obtained.

For easy tuning up I use a low power MES bulb which is shorted out when tuned.

Changing



THE NEWSLETTER

JAMES (MOZZO)

I hope everyone likes the new format. Those of you receiving the paper copy at meetings or by post are missing out on the full colour version.

I hope to add more pictures and diagrams in future issues and will consider any and all articles with photos and other graphics.

Elsewhere in this issue I have included some submission guidelines. Please read them carefully and try to get some material to me. If something interests you it will interest others so please don't be shy.

If you have an article and really can't get it to meet the submission criteria, submit it anyway and I will see what can be done.

The new format will give more space in the newsletter so it may be possible to run multi part articles.

As I have said on several thousand occasions, my job is to edit the CLUB newsletter. In order to do this I need articles from the MEMBERS.

Even if you can't send me a article please tell me what you would like to see in the

newsletter, tell me what you don't like as well.

It is my intention to make the newsletter quite dynamic. To do this I need lots of feedback, both positive and negative.

Production in the new format is going to take me a lot longer than it did previously but I think the results are worth the extra effort..

I am looking forward to another year as editor and hope you all enjoy reading this issue and the others throughout the year.

Santa on air

Santa Claus Land (OH9SCL) will be active in December from the Artic Circle Activity will be on 10-160 metre CW, SSB and digital modes.

Trevor (M5AKA)

144 MHZ AFFILIATED SOCIETY CONTEST

DAVE(GIOGY)

After storming from a poor third place in 2003 to capturing the top spot in subsequent years, the Colchester RA efforts in the 2 Metre AFS are seemingly on a roll.

That said, careful analysis points up the classic case of 'set 'em up - shoot 'em down'; with the opposition getting uncomfortably close in the 2006 event.

Conditions, effort and QSO support from non-competing members are all key to a good result in this short contest.

The 2007 event, due on Sunday 2 December (09:00 - 17:00 UTC), provides us with an opportunity to put clear blue ether beneath us, to the detriment of the opposition.

The declared team includes G4ZTR; 2E0XIS (leading Intermediate Licensee in the SF section, 2006); M0NAS and me, G1OGY(/P) at extreme range, out portable this side of Basildon; with others clearing the decks for a big December QSO party.

Sure, 99% of the operation will be on SSB but I would urge all members with the capability to try to get on sometime during the day to work all and any fellow club members, actively competing or not.

This is a team event, as mentioned. Teams of 5, any number of teams!

Teams are assembled by the VHFCC in attainment order - so your 3 hours on Sunday morning will not be entered up against G4PIQ or G3NNG.

So those members happy to hold their scores up to examination can forward their logs to me - in any format (SD, SDV, TACLog, Excel spreadsheet!, er... notepad? YES! notepad, if you like) - for pre-adjudication by the Colchester Contest Group software and hence onward submission to the RSGB VHFCC adjudication team.

Don't forget that "active" use of the DX Cluster or any other public 'logger' is 'verboden' under the new contest regime. So if you

intend to send in a log - keep you fingers off that keyboard!

Now, that does not mean that contest stations cannot listen/watch the cluster so, if you are on simply for 'giving points away' and can't be heard due to beam direction, for example, a cluster message might well bring that errant QSO to conclusion.

Completed logs should be emailed as attachments to vhfafs-entry@g1ogy.com along with Callsign, name, station address and a short description of the equipment and aerial(s).

Your log will be emailed back to you for ratification before being added to the entry bundle.

The new "G3MEH AFS Trophy" is up for grabs for the first time this year.

Harwell ARS got close last year.

How hungry are we for 4 in-a-row?



RSGB HFCC CONTEST CHANGES

JAMES (MOZZO)

The Calendar page on www.rsgbhfcc.org now contains dates and rules for 2008. The following are changed from 2007:-

1. Team composition for 80m AFS has changed to 4 per. team on both modes.

2. Log deadline for 80m club events reduced from 10 to 7 days.

3. Beru rules updated to include the team event in the main body of the rules.

4. Following favourable reception of the sprint events

in October, they have been expanded to a series of 80m Club Sprints in August to November, following the 80m CC series. Like that series, there will be a club table. CW and SSB modes only.

Committee Meeting

A committee meeting was held on Wednesday 21st November. Minutes will Appear in the next edition of the newsletter

James (M0ZZO)

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Your input is always valuable and very necessary. There do have to be some ground rules though.

Articles can be submitted electronically up until The Sunday night of club meeting week. Articles on paper (only if you REALLY have to) need to be with me by the Thursday preceding the club meeting.

Articles of 200 - 300 words stand the best chance of being published. Anything over 600 words will almost certainly not get published.

Short "Fillers" are very welcome as they help to balance the pages.

Don't worry about layout. If you are submitting an article with diagrams please keep the diagram separate from the text and write "see diagram" rather than "below" or similar.

Please just submit something and I will fix it for publishing.

James(MOZZO)

THE CLUB NETS

Keep in touch - join the nets

(UHF and VHF Nets take place on the weeks that have no club meeting)

<u>VHF net</u>	145.400MHz, 2030 local time-, alternate Thursdays
22 Nov	G0HKG, G3FIJ, G7GCB, M1AMI, M1BQF, 2E0VRG, M0BVQ
<u>UHF net</u>	RB14 GB3CE (Repeater) at 2030 local time - alternate Fridays
23 Nov	G3FIJ, G4SOB, G7GCB, M1AMI, M0BVQ, M0DEQ, M0FAQ
<u>Wetzlar Group</u>	7095kHz + / - QRM at 1000 local time - Sundays
11 Nov	DL2DN, G0HKG, G3FIJ, G0VAE, M0DEQ, G4SOB
18 Nov	DL6FAS, G4SOB, G0HKG,
<u>Herbert Group</u>	7105kHz + / - QRM at 1200 local time - Tuesdays
	No reports for this issue

CLUB WEBSITE

As well as changes to the newsletter, I will also be changing the website in the near future.

If anyone has any photographs from Club events, I would be grateful if they could pass them to me.

I am especially interested in "Crowd Shots" From the Annual Rally, but will take anything.

I would prefer to receive photos by email but I will take prints and return them to you after I have scanned them.

James (MOZZO)

BUSY, BUSY OFCOM

JAMES(MOZZO)

Ofcom Have been very busy of late. Here are a few items of potential interest to club members.

13 November

The Ministry of Defence conduct occasional tests on military systems which may result in some loss of service to civilian users of the Global Positioning System (GPS) including in-car navigation devices and networks which rely on

GPS signals. Ofcom has today launched a new email update notification service to give advanced notification of these tests.

14 November

Ofcom has today published proposals to amend regulations to require certain Short Range Radar equipment in cars in the 24 GHz band to be automatically deactivated when operating

within areas around five UK radio astronomy sites. This is in order to protect these sites from harmful interference.

23 November

Ofcom today published proposals to allow digital Public Mobile Radio 446, or "walkie talkie" equipment, to be used on a licence-exempt basis.



TRAINING AND EXAMS

The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) will be holding an Advanced Radio Communications Exam on Tuesday 29th January. Tel: 01245-224577 e-mail: training2008@g0mwt.org.uk

Trevor (M5AKA)