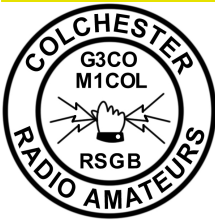


THIS & THAT & WHAT HAVE YOU

The Newsletter for Colchester Radio Amateurs



Meeting #06 on 10th January 2008 at Colchester Institute:
Visit from Waters and Stanton—Mark Francis

FROM THE LAST TIME, INTER CLUB CONVENTION— (KEVAN 2E0WMG)

.Due to redevelopment at Colchester Institute the 2007 Inter Club Convention was held at St Helena School. The Chairman Kevan 2E0WMG opened the meeting with a few apologies from those who were unable to attend but sent their best wishes. Thanks were given to those who took part in the 144MHz AFS, most stations reported flat condi-

As usual the practice of members bringing a 'random' item of food for the buffet worked well and ensured that nobody went home hungry, complementary drinks were then enjoyed over an informal chat. A small raffle took place raising a few pounds for the Club before Kevan introduced Dave G10GY. Dave gave a report on the year's activities and



tions. A warm welcome was given to guest Bruce Laker who is to take the foundation course and exam in January, he attended to meet a few members and enrol at the same time, we wish him luck. Kevan asked that anyone who could help out on the morning of Sunday 20th as an outstation for the on air contacts should speak to Alan G0HKG (for HF) or Frank G3FIJ (for VHF) who are co-ordinating contacts.

achievements from the Contest Group. Dave brought along some of the Silverware the group had won from their normal contest site at Walton on Naze. Amongst the prize haul were the Racal Radio Cup, The VHF Contests Committee Cup and the G6ZR Memorial Trophy. A good night was had by all in attendance and a special thank you should be made to Rosemary (XYL of David M1AMI) for her help with the food

COMING SOON

- 13 Jan 2008
10:00 -20:00
1str 70MhZ
Cumulative
- 13 Jan 2008
14:00 -18:00
80m AFS CW
- 19 Jan 2008
14:00 -18:00
80m AFS SSB
- 22 Jan 2008
20:00 -22:30
50 MHz Activity
- 24 Jan 2008
Meeting no 07
St Helena School
M3 Activity Evening

CONTACTS

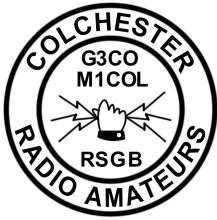
Chairman KEVAN
2E0WMG

Secretary
FRANK G3FIJ
01206851189

Editor
JAMES M0ZZO
James@mcginty.net

FANCY SOME SILVERWARE?

JAMES (MOZZO)



Many of you will have seen some members of the contest group, displaying silverware, at the Annual Inter Club Convention.

Pictured Below, left to right are: Dave G1OGY, Mike G0IBZ John G4ZTR, Jonathan G0DVJ and Matt 2E0XIS.

Several others have helped out at various VHF and above events but the group

club member who has made the greatest contribution to the club.

We have the annual construction trophy, which has been quite poorly supported in recent years so even simple projects stand a good chance of success.

It would be good to see what some of our newer members have constructed. It would also be great if some of our

through participation in club events and competitions both on and off the air.

So even if you don't desire silverware or are not of a competitive nature please support those who are.

If you know there is a contest on, spend a few minutes making QSO's with those who enter.

Pop along to our outdoor



do need more people to assist.

Please consider coming out to the Naze on a contest weekend even if it is just to see how it is done.

There are other opportunities for silverware throughout the year and nothing says success like a nice trophy.

We have the three clubs quiz, which we haven't won for a couple of years.

There is a Chairman's Trophy awarded annually to the

more experienced members would put in an entry to show others just what is possible.

The club has also had past success in the 2m AFS, which now has a trophy and we also won the inaugural 2m Monthly activity contest.

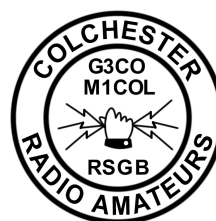
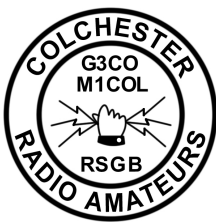
I have put this short piece together to remind everyone know that we are a very successful club with a good reputation.

This reputation can only be maintained and enhanced

events and join us for a cup of tea, sometimes a friendly face and a bit of moral support is all that is needed.

If it is an internal event like the 3 clubs quiz or the constructors trophy, make a special effort to get along to the club and provide some support from the audience.

Above all enjoy the clubs success and contribute to it whenever you can.



FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND TRAINING

JAMES (MOZZO)

Your Programme Secretary, David M1AMI, has been busy organising the club programme for the coming year.

The committee have also met and decided on some activities outside the club meetings.

This means that you can look forward to a full and interesting programme during the coming year.

There has been a drop in members attending club meetings and more support is needed for external events.

Please try and support the club by becoming a regular attendee and helping out

where you can.

The next event which needs your support is the Foundation Assessment on Sunday 20th January.

Anyone who can come along to the Village Hall at Marks Tey will be most welcome. Even if you don't think your skills are suited to training please come along and see how it is done, you may well find it is not so difficult to help out with assessments. Exam invigilation does not require too many skills but is an essential part of the day.

Out stations on HF, VHF and UHF are essential to the running of the day so please get in touch with your train-

ing co-ordinator, Brian G0GGM, and let him know when you are available.

The club meeting, at St Helena School, on the 24th of January is themed as an M3 activity evening.

Those who have passed the exam on the 20th are being invited along to gain some experience and get the first QSO or two under their belt. Please make a special effort to come along and help supervise the newcomers.

If you can't make the meeting, try and be in your shack to answer their CQ calls.

Other events on the horizon include:

February

Skyview weather Stations, Packet Radio, and thinking day on the air

March

Digital TV switch over, National Science week, Three Clubs Quiz.

Dat4es for these events and notifications of other events will give nearer their due dates.

EQUIPMENT FOR LOAN

JAMES (MOZZO)

As most of you are aware I am now the club equipment manager and am being more than ably assisted by Matt 2E0XIS.

Due to ongoing alterations at my QTH I have been unable to get an up to date equipment list published.

Don't let this put you off asking for things as there won't be many changes to the list produced by my predecessor.

There is a range of radios, both HF and VHF/UHF available.

If you do wish to borrow equipment, please contact myself or Matt and we will

arrange to have it brought to the next club meeting.



Ideally we need 7 days notice so that the equipment can be checked and tested before the loan commences.

We are not able to deliver equipment to your QTH or to events not organised by the club. If you cannot get to the club the you will need to organise for someone else to collect the equipment for you.

Please also remember that the idea behind loan equipment is to get you on air when newly licensed, try out a band you don't have, use for outside events or to temporarily replace faulty equipment while you await repairs.

Although there is no definitive time limit on loans they are designed to be short term. Please return equipment not in use.

Why not try some portable operation?

The club has a buddipole (pictured left) which, when used



with an antenna analyser, give surprisingly good performance.

So if you fancy doing a bit of holiday operating let me know.

Full set up instructions are provided and it only takes one person to erect it.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

I will leave this guidelines in place for a few issues just to remind people that articles are always needed

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(M0ZZO)

THE CLUB NETS

Keep in touch - join the nets

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

Due to the volume of activity since the last newsletter there is not enough space to publish all the call signs for the individual nets. A very rough count shows fifty or so call signs spread over 12 nets.

I didn't notice too many new call signs among these so please make an effort to participate in the nets whenever you can.

Dates times and participants are published in the newsletter so its easy to find out when they are happening

CLUB WEBSITE

I am still struggling to update the website and apologise to everyone for the delay.

I hope that I will have something fresh up and running in the very near future.

I would like to hear from people with views and suggestions of things they would like on the website. So far I have had no input and its difficult to provide what people want if they don't say what it is.

James (M0ZZO)

A FEW SNIPPETS

Trevor(M5AKA)

.Many thanks to Trevor M5AKA for the following items.

Video - Making a Triode

A video about making a triode has been made available on the web. It was posted by F2FO and shows step by step the making of a Triode valve (tube). It is called "Fabrication d'une lampe triode" but the soundtrack is simply background music so there are no language difficulties.

The construction is fascinating to watch, see it at URL1 below

Solar Cycle 24 has arrived!

The Solar Influences Data analysis Center (SIDC) at the Royal Observatory of Belgium has said that Solar Cycle 24 has arrived.

In the SIDC Bulletin for 4th January they say:

No flaring activity is expected in the coming days.

Active geomagnetic conditions (up to K=4) are expected over the weekend due to the influence of a recurrent coronal hole. Catania solar observatory reports the presence of a high latitude sunspot group. MDI images show a bipolar structure.

This bipole is however the first of the new solar cycle which actually develops into a visible sunspot group. Solar cycle 24 has arrived!

Long Delayed Echoes Programme

Long Delayed Echoes is an audio programme covering the early days of Amateur Radio. In the January edition, Pod-

cast #48, they go back to 1936 - and a Readers Digest article about amateur radio titled, 'Minute Men of Radio' by Earl Jerome.

The programme is 20 minutes in length, details at: <http://ke9v.net/>

Listen at URL2 Below

Chelmsford Talk on Micro-DXpeditioning

On Tuesday 5th February the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) will be given a talk on "Micro-DXpeditioning" by Roger Weston, G3SXW.

Colchester Radio Amateurs are most welcome to attend the meeting which will be held at the Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 9RX

URL1 http://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3wrzo_fabrication-dune-lampe-triode_tech

URL2 <http://ke9v.net/2008/01/06/1de-podcast-48/>