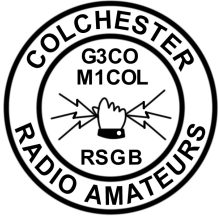


THIS & THAT & WHAT HAVE YOU

The Newsletter for Colchester Radio Amateurs



Meeting #13 on 17th April 2008 at St Helena starting at 7.30pm.
ZL Special by Alan G0HKG

From The Last Time, 2008 Summer Events

Frank G3FIJ

The Chairman, Kevan 2E0WMG opened the meeting with a welcome to all members and guests present. Bill 2E0BMG and Kevan then gave an update on the design of the Club QSL card with images projected from a lap-top computer and the projection system in the Board Room. A number of comments and suggestions were raised by members and these would be considered in discussion at the Executive Committee meeting (held on 8th April). The central image on the card will show the Club tent on location at Cudmore Grove together with the Club callsigns shown as G3CO and M1COL rather than the alternatives GX3CO and MX1COL. It was suggested by Jonathan G0DVJ that the CQ Zone, IARU Region and IOTA numbers also be added to the card, this was agreed. Because the Club station operates in various it was agreed that more precise locations, WAB Squares and Locators should be added as appropriate by using adhesive labels. A revised proof will be available to members before a firm order was placed. The Chairman read a letter from the Clacton Radio Club thanking us for providing a venue for the 3 club quiz held at the last meeting at St Helena School.

There was then a discussion on arrangements for the Club activities later this year. Aldham Rally 6th and 7th June 2008. A number of suggestions were made to make our display more relevant to the Alde-Tyme theme of the Rally and to provide more information for visitors to the Club tent. Suggestions included a display of vintage equipment, a background message (loop) in Morse Code and a map with coloured pushpins showing the locations of stations worked or heard. The need for volunteers was highlighted so that the tent could be safely erected and dismantled together with the aerial system, CRA members would also explain Amateur Radio to members of the public visiting the site.

Cudmore Grove 5th and 6th July 2008. By avoiding the bank holiday weekend as last year it was hoped that arrangements could be made to access a mains supply rather than use the club generator. More publicity for this event was required so that visitors were aware of the Club activity in advance. Amateur Radio Rally, St Helena School 27th July 2008. It was confirmed there would be an RSGB bookstall and W&S and Rapid would attend as last year. The IOTA station would again be operational from midday on Saturday until midday on Sunday. The need to review the security and procedure for the bring and buy stall was again stressed.

continued on page 2

FUTURE EVENTS

- Meeting Thursday 1st May 2008 @ Colchester Institute - Essex Trading Standards
- Meeting Thursday 15th May 2008 @ St Helena Constructors Cup
- CRA Intermediate Training @ St Helena School on nine consecutive Wednesdays starting 14th May with Exam on 9th July. Please contact Kevan 2E0WMG
- CRA Annual Rally Sunday 27th July 2008 @ St Helena School.

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From The Last Time (continued)**Frank G3FIJ**

A discussion then took place on the name of the event in view of the reduction in computer traders participating and to concentrate on the Amateur Radio theme. Five Parishes Show 3rd August 2008. This is a new event for the Club and brings together five parishes to the south of Colchester. Note was taken of possible interference with the PA and the inclusion of radio controlled cars in this event which we could overcome with thought. The Chairman again stressed the need for volunteers to support these events to ensure their success and to avoid overloading a small team. Lastly, Bill G4SOB gave details of our involvement at Langham Primary School on 27th July 2008 when local support from home stations would be welcomed for both sessions, a reminder will be made nearer the time.

Meeting of the Executive Committee 8th April 2008**Frank G3FIJ**

The executive Committee assembled at St Helena School, apologies for absence were received from Martin 2E0NOW and Brian G0GGM. It was agreed to co-opt Bev G0KOY to fill the vacant post of Equipment Manager and to invite Mick M0DEQ to join the Committee. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. Previous discussion on the Club QSL card resulted in a number of suggestions to be incorporated in a final draft. The Club Policy Statement was amended to include a reference to.. A forum for new members and new licensees on and off the air. The statement will be published in a future edition of the Newsletter. Following a report on the successful operation at Philip Morant School during Science Week it was agreed to support the development of a Amateur Radio Station at the School and offer facilities for Foundation training. Thinking Day On The Air was also a successful operation and it was agreed to support this event next year. After a lengthy discussion the following statement was agreed. Following a complaint by one CRA member against another the committee took a majority decision at the committee meeting on 4th February 2008 to exercise their constitutional right and revoke the membership of the individual complained about. The committee regret this decision, but now consider the matter to be closed.

2008 Summer Events Planning Evening was the subject of the Club meeting on 3rd April and this is reported elsewhere in the newsletter. Meetings at Colchester Institute previously reported were confirmed. The subject for the meeting on 4th September is to be determined. Meetings at St Helena previously reported were confirmed. The meeting on the 24th July would be an Operating Evening and the meetings on 7th and 21st July are still to be determined. The Treasurers Report confirmed a number of transactions which had been completed including the purchase of the Cushcraft MA5B HF beam. It was agreed that the Treasurer would gather information regarding the applications for lottery grants and report back to the next committee meeting with an outline plan of our application. The Assistant Equipment Manager Matt 2E0XIS agreed to assist with the transfer of Club equipment to G0KOY, Equipment Manager. The Publicity Manager provided copies of items prepared for the local press and the radio journals relating to recent Club activities. It was reported that the Training Co-ordinator Brian G0GGM had resigned. A further appointment would be sought from the membership. Kits for the proposed Intermediate Training sessions had been prepared. The Chairman would arrange for the examination entries to be complete. Club participation continues in the 80m and 2m Club Championships but more support is needed for both contests (see article page 4). Development of the Club Website continues with the assistance of Bev G0KOY and further details will be given at the next Club meeting. The next meeting of the Executive Committee was arranged for 20th May 2008 at 7.30pm in Room 1 at St Helena School.

The Beacon Network - A Talk @ Chelmsford Club by Leslie G0CIB**Trevor M5AKA**

On Tuesday 6th May Leslie Butterfields G0CIB will be giving a talk to the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) titled "The Beacon Network". Leslie is the RSGB Board Director holding the "Technical Committee & Propagation Studies Committee (PSC)" portfolio and he will talk about the NCDXF Beacon Chain and give a short demonstration. Following this he will put his RSGB hat on and give people a chance to ask questions about the RSGB, where it should go etc.

CARS meet on the first Tuesday of each month at the Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Great Baddow, Chelmsford, CM2 9RX. The doors open at 7:15 pm and visitors are most welcome. Car parking is free and a bar is available for refreshments.

For further information contact the Secretary Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL Tel: 01245 469008

Holiday DXpedition to Jersey EU-013 by Mark MJ0MJH and Kevan 2J0WVG

Kevan 2J0WVG

Between 20th & 26th April Mark M0MJH and Kevan 2E0WVG will be activating the Island of Jersey EU-013. Most operation will be on HF SSB although we also plan to operate 2m and 70cm SSB/FM as well as 4m FM. Mark will also be QRV on PSK31. The emphasis is on lightweight portable operating. For the HF bands we will be using either verticals, dipoles or long wires. Where we operate from close to the water we will look to use verticals where possible with dipoles mainly used on 80m and top band. If you need to work Jersey for DXCC or IOTA awards we will be calling in to the regular 40m (7.095MHz) Herbert net on Tuesday 22nd at 1500 local time, but we are happy to arrange skeds at other times for other bands as requested. We will have access to the Internet from our Hotel so requests for skeds can be sent via e-mail (e-mail addresses for both of us are on qrz.com) or I can be contacted by text or 07766543784. We on the weather fore- the time as our ac- be curtailed by in-

We hope to activate (pictured) which is tip of the Island. At walk out to the we intend to ma- the duration of a result in us having



called on my mobile will be keeping a close eye cast as we get a bit nearer tivities would inevitably clement weather.

Corbiere Lighthouse situated on the south west low tide it is possible to Lighthouse via a causeway, roon ourselves there for high tide as this should the place to ourselves.

Our base for the DXpedition is on the east side of the Island with the Hotel being a short walk from the beach at Grouville Bay, so most activity will be from the east coast, the north of the island is predominately high cliffs so we may well look for good spots here to operate VHF/UHF back into the UK.

We will be taking quite a few photographs as well as shooting video footage which we will be compiling into a presentation to give a talk on the DXpedition to Colchester and Sudbury Clubs later in the year. We will also be visiting the Jersey Amateur Radio Society HQ based in the former World War II La Moye Signal Station not far from Corbiere Lighthouse. We also wanted to activate Les Minquiers Islands EU-099, known locally as the Minkies. This is a small group of rocks about 9 miles of the south coast of Jersey. There is no permanent population on the Minkies although it is often visited by passing yachts and even intrepid kayakers from the mainland. Getting to the Minkies however may not be that easy at this point in the season.

Jersey has been claimed as worked by 47% of IOTA island chasers so we hope to see a reasonable level of activity, it is although it is always nice to work an new entity for yourself it is also nice to hear DX stations thank you for 'the new one'.

Software Defined Radio, Talk by Peter Waters

Patrick G0HUG

I would like to invite your Amateur Radio Club members to a meeting at the Sudbury & District Radio Amateur QTH on June 11th 2008, when Peter Waters of Waters & Stanton will be talking to us about SDR, and hopefully answering questions. If we have not had the pleasure of seeing you for a while this will be an ideal opportunity to organise a group outing to Sudbury.

The meeting takes place at the Old School, Head Lane, Great Cornard, Sudbury starting at 8.00pm

To give us some idea of numbers attending could you please let me know soon - we may have to buy another box of biscuits! We look forward to welcoming you, 73, Patrick G0HUG, Chairman, SAnDRA. (patrick@hemphill.org.uk)

Editors Bit

I was recently passed a copy of the Club Newsletter from May 2000. The Newsletter was Edited by Jane G4MGO and Ron G4JIE. Despite the Newsletter being an interesting read I note that Jane and Ron faced the same issues as we face today in terms of a lack of input for the Newsletter from the membership.

(thanks to this editions contributors). The future of the Newsletter and how this ties in with developments with the Website were discussed at the committee meeting and will be reported further later but in the meantime please send me your articles. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter.

73 Kevan 2E0WMG

THE CLUB NETS

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

VHF net on 145.400MHz, 2030 local time-, alternate Thursdays
10/4/08. G0HKG, G7RLH, G4SOB, G3FIJ, G7GCB, M3XMK, 2E0WMG, MIDQA/M, , M0BVQ, M3VSV

UHF net . on RB14 GB3CE at 2030 local time, alternate Fridays
11/4/08. G3FIJ, G4SOB, G0KOY, 2E0WMG, M0BVQ, M0FAQ, M0SUF, G0HJK, G8BLS, M3PBK

Wetzlar Group .on 7120kHz + / - QRM at 1000 local time - Sundays
13/4/08.

Herbert Group .on 7095kHz + / - QRM at 1500 local time – Tuesdays
8/4/08. G3FIJ, DL2DN

(Thanks to Frank G3FIJ for the Nets)

Also listen for and join the 'Unofficial Friday Nets' @ 1000 local time on 145.500MHz every Friday and 2030 local time for the UHF net on RB14 GB3CE the evening after Club Meetings, all stations are welcome.

80m Club Championship

Jonathan G0DVJ

The only regular contributors to this multi-session competition for CRA now are Dick G3YAJ and Jonathan G0DVJ. The most recent session was a CW event on Monday 7th April ... Dick managed 76 QSOs and Jonathan 121 QSOs on behalf of the club. The sessions are each 90 minutes long from 8pm local time. The April SSB session was on the 16th but a report on this would be too close to the CRA meeting next day to be included. There is a data session (RTTY and PSK31) on April 24th.

More contributors would be welcome. Dick collates all the CRA logs and sends them to the adjudicator so please send any contributions to him. Next month the events are SSB on the 5th May, Data on the 14th and CW on 22nd. Even with very few contributions CRA is still mid-table (30th out of 58) as shown at <http://www.vhfcc.org/hfcc/results/2008/80mcc2008.shtml>

TV Weatherman Jim Bacon G3YLA to talk at Leiston ARC

Dave G4HUP

Leiston ARC will be hosting East Anglian weather forecaster Jim Bacon, G3YLA, on Tues May 13th at Leiston High School. His talk will be on the general topic of 'Weather', but I'm sure there will be a number of 'amateur radio' interesting anecdotes in there as well! The meeting will be held in the 6th Form Social Area - signs will be up at the school to guide you in on the night! The meeting will start at 19:30.

Due to the popularity of Jim as a speaker, and the number of people who can be safely accommodated, we need to request that you 'book' in advance for this meeting - **don't rely on there being free seats left at the door.** We should also advise you that Jim is a professional 'speaker' - however, he is making no charge for his attendance or travelling expenses to this event. He has requested instead that donations are made to the Quiddenham Children's Hospice, in lieu of any fee, so there will be a collection during the evening, and we will be encouraging you to give generously to this very worthy cause. Looking at this another way - there's no charge to get in, but be prepared to pay to get out!

Richard, G0CFB, is keeping the list of requests for tickets, so please send him an e-mail (richardtyler@beeb.net) stating how many seats you are requesting. Friends and families are very welcome, of course! Confirmation of your request will include further details of the event.