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CCCCC      A      M      M  BBBB  EEEEE  A      M      M
C          A A    MM    MM  B    B  E          A A    MM    MM
C          A  A    M M M M  B    B  E          A  A    M M M M
C          AAAAAA  M  M  M  BBBB  EEEEE  AAAAAA  M  M  M
C          A      A  M      M  B    B  E          A      A  M      M
C          A      A  M      M  B    B  E          A      A  M      M
CCCCC      A      A  M      M  BBBB  EEEEE  A      A  M      M

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CAMBEAM

8 October 2004

Journal of the Cambridge and District Amateur Radio Club

Surprise! This is the new issue of CAMBEAM. A folder of CAMBEAMs found in the shack (that's where the fancy ASCII art header is copied from) sparked the idea to make a new issue. That's exactly what we need! Not all of us have time enough to come to the club every week, or to join the Sunday club net. The website is great, but it still doesn't reach everybody interested. So, to give everybody the opportunity to keep up to date with what's going on in the club, a journal is the best. But how much work is it? How much would it cost? How many people are interested? How many issues per year are feasible? To find that out we made this issue, possibly with more to come if there is enough positive feedback.

The journal is intended as a club newsletter that will at least contain the (commented) programme and club activities, but if you have any pictures, stories, ideas or circuits you want to share, please let us know.

Daniel Schlieper M3CAX and/or Elisabeth Stratmann M3DMR m3dmr@cdarc.org.uk
It is not planned to publish this issue of CAMBEAM online. If you want a copy, please let us know, or pay your subs.

Programme

The club meetings are (almost) every Friday from 7:30 to 9:30pm at the Coleridge Community College, Radegund Road, Cambridge. Morse Code class is available from 7:30pm if requested. Talks start promptly at 8pm. See <http://www.cdarc.org.uk> for updates.

- October 8th 2004: Informal: Building a simple RF Probe
- October 15th 2004: Project Evening
- ! October 22nd 2004: SHF Developments, Jenny & Bernie
- October 29th 2004: Junk sale/exchange
- November 5th 2004: Informal
- November 12th 2004: Care, repair and maintenance of pump-up masts, M1MPW
- November 19th 2004: Informal
- ! November 26th 2004: Digital Radio Mondial (DRM), Simon - BBC World Service
- December 3rd 2004: Informal
- December 10th 2004: Christmas Party
- December 17th 2004: Closed until 7th January 2005
- January 7th 2005: Informal
- January 14th 2005: Filters, M1KTA
- January 21st 2005: Junk exchange
- January 28th 2005: TBA

February 4th 2005: Informal: Building DDS, Mike M0BLP
February 11th 2005: New aerial behaving strangely, John G0GKP
February 18th 2005: Informal
February 25th 2005: Construction competition
March 4th 2005: Informal
March 11th 2005: TBA
March 18th 2005: Rally Preparation
March 20th 2005: CDARC RALLY - Wood Green Animal Shelter
March 25th 2005: Good Friday, school closed
AGM will be held in early April

Cutting edge technology: Talks from our guest speakers Jennie & Bernie (22 October 2004) and Simon (26 November 2004) have been extremely good in the past, so it would be a good idea not to miss these ones.

If you would like to give a talk, please contact Ian G4AKD. Also, apparently there are opportunities to visit the Cambridge Astronomy Institute as well as the Radiotelescopes. Anybody interested?

We got an invitation to join the Shefford ARDS contest group on the CQWW SSB HF contest on October 30/31. If you would like to operate, or just pay a visit, and need directions, get in touch with Mark M1MPW (also known as The Chairman) or Brian M0BIK at the Shefford Club.

Please note that our Rally is on 20 March 2005. It will again be held at Woodgreen Animal Shelter. The weather will most likely be better than this year. As usual, there will be a Bring and Buy table, so bring equipment you always wanted to sell off.

The AGM will be held in April 2005. How about a raffle? Does anyone have anything suitable to donate?

September 2m Trophy (G8EVY/p) and SSB FD (G2XV/p) Contest

Contest weekends are great. Will the stations be up and running on time? Will the equipment work? Will everything run smoothly? Will the weather hold? How many people will be there? Questions we all ask ourselves every single time.

This year we had to ask ourselves a new question: will the club's new 1kW linear be ready on time? Yes, for this year's September 2m Trophy we wanted to go big; and we did! David G6KWA had to do some last minute repairs and tests, but in the end we could actually use the monster. David's two stacked omni-directional cloverleaf antenna together with the 2 x 9 element beam also worked a treat. And so we made some good DXs and did rather well up on the Gogs this year.

To minimise interference, the HF contest station, managed by Dominic M1KTA, was moved to the other side of the road this year. After initial problems with the antenna set up – the third worked – the station was running well in time for the start of the contest. Of the five bands operated, the 20m band proved the most successful, both in the number of QSOs and best DX (Canada, China, Japan, Thailand, USA amongst many others).

The September contest weekend was enjoyable in a number of ways. The stations did well, we got new operators on the air, and others back on. It was a really good club effort, with many hands helping in many ways – and the weather was also brilliant: complete sun-protection gear was need! For NFD July 2004 info and pictures, see web updates over the winter...

G2XV

Here is a picture of G2XV himself. I found the QSL card on the internet. It is from 1937. I liked the shelf with the shiny valves and the big pressure meter on the left! See <http://hamgallery.com/qs1/country/England/g2xv.htm>



7 MHz band extension

Ofcom proposes to extend the 7MHz band for amateurs. There will be an extra 100kHz segment for us: 7.100–7.200MHz, secondary, 400W (26dBW) max, all modes. Unless there are any serious objections, which seems rather unlikely, we will be allowed to use these frequencies from Sunday, 31 October 2004. This is great news because we can finally have two-way SSB contacts with US amateurs on that band.

Quiz night

The quiz night was good fun. There were three teams: Cambridge University Wireless Society, Shefford ARDS and CDARC. It was an exciting evening, and a close finish: it needed 7 tiebreak questions, but finally the CDARC team won. Congratulations!

Informal

The fact that there are informal evenings in the programme doesn't mean that there is nothing to do on these evenings, or that they are boring. Not at all! The shack is operational now. We already had a couple of VFOs on the workbench and tested them with the oscillator. Also, the HF station is fully usable. The informal evenings provide a great opportunity to use the shack, test your own rigs, or use G2XV & G8EVY on the air. We are also working to get the ATV station up and running. It will be great to get G2XV on television! But it's not only the shack, there is also the meeting room, and there are plenty of things to discuss during an informal evening.

Construction

Mike plans to bring some little kits, so we can build RF probes in the club. As they don't have many parts, we should finish them on the night. Will be fun! There is also a bigger project to come. Ian G4AKD will be interested to hear about ideas. (Actually, I have got an idea: we could build a 'PSK31 interface' to connect the computer soundcard to the HF transceiver. These interfaces are based on optoisolators and protect the rig from computer noise. Shouldn't be too difficult to build, and it's great to use the computer for PSK31, RTTY, SSTV, weatherfax, you name it. Has anybody got a circuit for such an interface? Daniel).

Sunday Net

There is a club net on Sundays from around 11:00 local time on 145.550 MHz FM.

Mills on the Air

The Mills on the Air event is due again next spring. We had good fun this year in Willingham. And there was quite a lot of interest from visitors of the mill. We could take the opportunity and set up a demonstration table to show off. And showing off is the whole idea of special event stations in the first place. Maybe we will make some impression on future amateurs?

We could set up a digital receiver (RTTY or PSK31) and a SSTV receiver. That would only need one or two computers, HF receivers and antennas. But it comes even better: Mike G8VCN volunteered to set up a small ATV station. That would be quite a thrilling feature of a Mills on the Air special event station! Any more volunteers to help? We will need people to staff the table, as well as operators for the SSB HF station. Great cream tea will be the reward.

Adverts

Timewave 9+ digital signal processor audio filter. Random noise reduction, adaptive multi-tone notch filtering, and bandpass filtering. Suitable for voice, CW and digital modes. £50 ono. Can be tested with your station at home. Daniel M3CAX

Two 17 element tonna yagis. Contest grade aerial; serious 2m beam installation or contest groups (they are really long...). £30 each. Contact the Chairman M1MPW

Eddystone 940 boat anchor. Nearly working, free to good hands. The Eddystone User Group (>350 members, contact Graeme Wormold G3GGL, 15 Sabrina Drive, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 2RJ) will be happy to help to get it going again. The 940 was one of the last (and probably most sophisticated) Eddystone communication receivers and would make a great shack heater! Contact Peter M0DCV

Farnell PSU 100 Amp 13.8 Volt variable voltage and current. Current and voltage limiting. £75 ono. Also free UR67 coax and connectors. Mark M1MPW

Subs

The subs are £20 per year, with old timers, students, youngsters and unemployed free (although donations are always appreciated). Have you paid up for this year? If not, you are most welcome to send a cheque to John G0GKP.