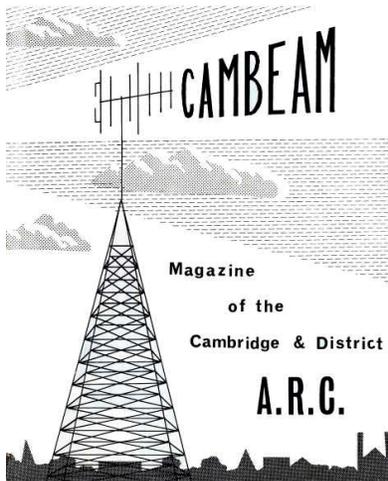


Cambridge and District Amateur Radio Club

1919 – 2006

cdarc.org.uk

President Gordon Mallion G0TZQ



Cambeam – August 2006 Vol.1 No.1

Distributed by: - email (send your address to the editor), or posted to absent members by prior agreement.

Editorial

Welcome to the August issue of Cambeam. The picture from the mid 1960s cover of Cambeam now features at the top of this page. The two-column style is also a first and your comments on the layout (as long as they are printable) are welcome.

I hope that you will find something of interest in the following pages, and indeed that you might be inspired to write an article yourself. We would be only too pleased to have any hints, tips, information on your projects, or other news of your amateur radio activities.

Items may be emailed to the temporary editor, cambeam@g8jkv.co.uk or handed to him on a Friday evening.

From our President

As time passes, our lifestyle, direction in Amateur Radio, and technology changes. It is essential that the Club moves forward as well. One way of doing this is providing understandable information and lectures in both new and old aspects of the hobby, for all age groups.

It is also important to hold external events, contests and visits, which will appeal to a wide cross section of members. These should include events that families may attend, such as Wipole Hall and the Annual Dinner. These must not be regarded as being set in stone and should be varied according to the interests of the members.

Remember the Club is what you, the members make it. Most importantly encourage others to join the Club!

73, Gordon, G0TZQ
President

Chairman's Foreword

I can't remember a time when I was not interested in wireless or radio as it became to be known when the first "Radio Times" was published in 1923. I was brought up in a house full of crystal sets, batteries, valves and components, as my father was an avid experimenter. I made my first crystal set in 1938 and was hooked for evermore. When you could listen to the world on a simple short wave receiver you had built yourself it generated a thrill and excitement for me that has never diminished.

In 1954 I got my HF licence and the world was my oyster. Amateur radio is a hobby, which covers a huge range of interests and now embraces digital and computer technology. Young people today already have the ability to communicate with each other using mobile phones and computers so trying to interest them in amateur radio is not easy. It is also not easy to keep up our own club membership and the numbers attending our weekly meetings has fallen drastically in the last two years. What is our problem? Is our annual subscription too high? Do we need more and better club projects? Should we revive the weekly morse class? Can we have more than one talk a month? Should we ask former members why they have stopped coming? Please can we have some feedback on this?

We do have a lot going for our members, including a full working HF shack for you to operate, a long list of test equipment for you to borrow, advice and assistance on putting up antennas and help with equipment repair. Amateur radio is a first class hobby and can be enhanced by belonging to your local club. For me, the magic of wireless is still there.

Ron Huntsman, G3KBR Chairman

Club Notices

Log keeping and QSL cards.

Can all members who operate the club stations please ensure that they enter their name and callsign in the logbook. Operators are also asked to fill out the QSL cards for their contacts.

Procedure for disposal of club equipment.

1. The decision to dispose of any equipment belonging to the club shall be agreed by committee members at a committee meeting.
2. The committee members shall decide a reserve price for the equipment.
3. A dated list will be placed on the Club's notice board and on the web site stating the reserve price, with paid up members invited to submit sealed bids to The Chairman.
4. After a period of one month the sealed bids (if any) will be opened and the sale agreed to the highest bid above the reserve price.
5. If no qualifying bids are received within the one month period, the goods can be sold externally at the committee's discretion.

Procedure for engaging guest speakers.

1. The guest speaker should be informed that the talk/demonstration should commence at 8pm and finish not later than 9-15 pm, to allow for a short question time. Our contract

requires vacation of the premises at 9-30 pm. Unauthorized extensions to this time are not permitted.

2. At the time of the booking, or at least two weeks before the event, the member organizing the booking must ascertain what equipment the guest speaker requires:

The club can provide: -
Overhead projector;
Extension mains leads;
Data Projector with standard connection cables;
Whiteboard and pens.

Normally the club cannot provide laptop computers.

Guest speakers will normally be provided with bottled drinking water and drinking glasses, (currently arranged by the Hon Sec). For guests traveling long distances, more sophisticated refreshments may be required. The Programme Coordinator should make arrangements for this.

3. About a week before the event the member organizing the event should contact the speaker and confirm the time and date.

Membership.

The Club membership year runs from the 1st of April, so far we have 29 paid up members. If you haven't paid your dues this year please do so. If you are reading this and are not a member please consider joining us.

Windmills on the Air



Cattell's Windmill

National Mills Weekend took place over the 13th and 14th of May. This event is designed to promote interest in, and raise funds for Water and Windmills. Radio Amateurs activate a number of mills by operating from the mill sites. This both helps promote the site itself and introduces the public to Amateur Radio.

The club ran a special event station, using the callsign GB0CMW, at Cattell's Windmill in Willingham, by kind permission of the owners Sarah and Richard Cowley, G8FTE. A licensed amateur himself Richard took the mike after many years of inactivity, proving amateur radio is like riding a bicycle once learnt never forgotten. Cream teas were on the menu once more!

David, G6KWA provided the mast and the clubs G5RV was used with the IC751A. Twenty-five other mills were amongst the stations worked over the weekend. A special QSL card has been produced for this occasion.

Wimpole Hall Fete

The weather was once again on our side at the Wimpole fete. We ran a HF station for several hours, using the Clubs IC751A a G5RV strung between convenient trees. David, G6KWA brought his gazebo to protect the operators from the sun and his generator to power the station.



Ian G4AKD was very pleased to make contact with a group of youngsters who had recently passed their Foundation Licence all aged between 11 and 13.



Several members brought picnics, and for those who didn't there were stalls at the fete providing a selection of food including cream teas.

VHF Field Day

Saturday the 1st of July saw us heading for the contest site, David, G8JKV towing the trailer assisted by his co pilot Robbie. Robbie thoroughly enjoyed the event despite nearly

everyone stepping on him or tripping over him at some stage.

We operated three stations in the low power section of the contest 4m, 2m, and 70cm. A 4m cluster system was also set up on Sunday using a rig kindly donated by Michael Wells G7VJR. This will be used in anger during the September contest.



A quiet moment

Several members came from some distance to attend Martin, G8OFA from Salisbury, Graham, G0UUS from Southampton, Daniel, M0ERA from Oxted and lastly Steve, with his XYL Belinda from Newmarket. Others attended at various times over the weekend, to help set up, dismantle, operate, or just chat. At least six camped overnight.

The weather was if anything too hot and it is suspected that this, combined with the World cup, conspired to keep the bands fairly quiet even though conditions were good.

An FT225 was used on 2m, an SGC2020 and transverter on 4m and an TS780 with masthead pa and pre-amp on 70cm.

33 contacts were made on 70MHz with the best DX 558 kilometres. 106 contacts were made on 2m with the best DX 855 kilometres. 77 contacts were made on 70cm contacts with the best DX 965 kilometres.

The return of the trailer to its home requires reversing it down a narrow lane with an interesting kink in it. This provided much entertainment

for the locals who gathered to watch the progress or lack of it.

PW contest

The PW 144MHz QRP Contest took place on Sunday 11th June 2006. The PW QRP Contest is an annual event aimed at newcomers to amateur radio contests and those keen



G2XV/P

on QRP operation in the 144 MHz band. The transmitter output power limit is 3 watts.



The club station was located at the rear of the Wimpole estate. A solar panel and batteries powered the FT290; the antenna was a 9 element Tonna.

Last year we were came 18th in the contest. This year 88 contacts with 22 multipliers were made, the results were not available at the time of writing.

RSGB Club Championship

The RSGB club championship is a series of short weekday evening contests on 80m, based around competition between affiliated societies. Individual scores in every event count towards the clubs overall score so its important for members to join in as many sessions and as many modes as possible. The contest runs between February and July with different modes on different weeks (CW, SSB, and Data).

This year, thanks to Daniel, MOERA we had an entry in the data section for the first time. Other members taking part were Ron, G3KBR; John, G0GKP; David, G6KWA; Elisabeth, MOELI; Steve, M3MVB and Bob, G3PJT.

Currently we are placed 32nd but several logs still have to be processed.

Dates for your Diary

C&DARC Rally.

The Britten Arena at Wood Green Animal shelter is booked for next years rally. It will be held on Sunday 4th March 2007.

Constructors Contest.

The constructor's contest takes place on February 23rd 2007. All entries are welcome, kit built, or homebrew. Now is the time to plan your project for the contest, or brush the dust off the one under the bench that never got finished!

AGM.

The Annual General Meeting takes place at 8pm on Friday 23rd March 2007

Foxhunts



The last club foxhunt was held on the 14th July, starting at 7.30pm from Coleridge.

Clive, the fox, reports "Sadly not a single hunter actually got within miles of the fox. The only person to even get in touch with the fox was David G6KWA so we met at 21:30 in the Wagon and Horses pub in Milton, about 400 yards from the fox's den in Milton Country Park - and I had to buy the beer!"



Would you have found this?

Our thanks to Clive for his efforts as the 'Fox', and our apologies for the failings of the hunters - the usual excuses flat batteries, deaf receivers etc.

Another foxhunt will be held on one of the informal evenings or possibly on a Saturday morning. Comments please to David G8JKV

Web site

The club web site has been undergoing some updates, including a new look front page.

The Club programme will always be up to date, as will the "What's on at the next Club meeting" displayed on the front page. Please visit the site regularly to check the programme, latest news, and the For Sale / Wanted adverts. Send your adverts to webmaster@metermana.co.uk

Shefford & DARS

Shefford & DARS have kindly invited members to a presentation by Peter Hart on "High Performance Radios for Successful DXing" at the Shefford Community Hall on September 28 at 20.00 Hrs (please see www.sadars.org.uk for locator).

There will be a prize draw on the evening, which should prove to be very interesting.

Please contact Ian G4AKD if you intend to go so that we may give some indication of numbers.

Amateur News

Rocket Fails

The largest ever deployment of amateur satellites has ended in disaster. The second stage of the rocket carrying the 13 cubesats failed soon after launch, and all the satellites were destroyed.

Amateur breaks UK 10GHz distance record

Ian Lamb, G8KQW, broke the record for the longest distance terrestrial contact on 10GHz from the UK. On Sunday 16 July, he exchanged

reports with Lars-Bertil, SM4DHN, on 10,368.2MHz using CW at a distance of 1,347km Ian was only using 2W of power. According to Ian, his success was down to "being in the right place at the right time".

Microwave Workshop

The UK Microwave Group is hosting a microwave workshop for beginners in Wimborne, Dorset on Saturday 30 September. The event is intended for those who want to try out the microwave bands for the first time. The full programme of activities will include an introductory presentation on microwaves and talks on simple 10GHz transceivers, microwave antennas suitable for radio amateurs and the Dorset-based microwave beacon complex. There will also be practical demonstrations of microwave contacts at 10GHz. The event takes place at the Flight Refuelling Amateur Radio Society's venue at Cobham Sports and Social Club in Wimborne. Further information about the event and the UK Microwave Group can be found on the web at www.microwavers.org.

The Committee for 2006

Chairman Ron Huntsman G3KBR
Secretary Roy Henson M1GRT
Treasurer John Bonner G0GKP
Programme Co-ordinator Ian Alexander G4AKD
Ordinary member Steve Norman M3MVB
Ordinary Member Mike Addelee M0BLP
Ordinary member David Leary G8JKV
Ordinary member Peter Howell M0DCV

Non Committee Posts

Contest manager David King G6KWA
Newsletter editor Peter Howell M0DCV
Webmaster David Leary G8JKV

Lost and Found

Lost Trio 2200GX

Lost Lowe HF225

Lost Yaesu FR101 and speaker

We have lost track of these items. If you know of their whereabouts, or if you have any equipment in storage for the club could you please let Ron G3KBR know, as we would like them to be found, so we can update our records!

For Sale / Wanted

For Sale Icom IC706 MkII (All bands 160 thro' 2). Very good condition, fitted with DSP unit, manual, box. Little used on HF tx; not used mobile. £415
Contact Martin, G8OFA,
mcranage@sgul.ac.uk Tel 01722 334083 (weekends) or 07940313568 (mobile, anytime)

For sale 5 Band Vertical Hustler Antenna, good condition £75.
Roger, G7IAY 01223 242646

For sale Yaesu VX5R Tri Band Handie. Â£120
Contact Mark, M1MPW on 07980092275 or email bigfathairybiker@hotmail.com

Wanted Aluminium scaffold poles.
David, G8JKV 01223 355254, or email david@blackershill.co.uk

C&DARC Programme

Enquiries and/or suggestions for talks are always welcomed and should be directed to the Programme Co-ordinator Ian Alexander, G4AKD.

August 18th:	Informal
25th:	NiCd and NiMH Rechargeable Battery Technologies and a review of the Powerex MH-C808M charger - Mike M0BLP
September 1st:	144MHz Trophy Contest Preparations and briefing
2nd:	144MHz Trophy Contest
8th:	Solar cell voltaics - Peter M0DCV
15th:	Programme the Morse Code Reader PIC - Mike M0BLP
22nd:	Mike's Aerial Extravaganza - G8VCN
29th:	Informal
October 6th:	Quiz Night
13th:	Informal
20th:	Home made valve projects - Andrew M0BXT
27th:	Informal
November 3rd:	Vintage Wireless - Ron G3KBR & Tony G1RTV
10th:	Informal
17th:	Cambridge Repeater Group AGM
24th:	Informal
December 1st:	Spectrum Analyser Evening - Mike M0BLP
8th:	Informal
15th:	Christmas Party
22nd:	No meeting, College closed
29th:	No meeting, College closed
January 5th 2007:	Informal
12th:	TBA Roger G3XBM
26th:	Scanning Electron Microscope - David G8JKV
February 2nd:	Informal
9th:	Q&A Evening
16th:	Informal
23rd:	Constructors Contest
March 2nd:	Preparation for Rally
4th:	C&DARC Rally at Wood Green
9th:	TBA
16th:	Informal
23rd:	Annual General Meeting - 8pm (posted 13/05/06)
30th:	Informal