

RADIO TODAY

News about amateur radio compiled by Richard Lamont G4DYA

MAY RAE

According to the City and Guilds of the London Institute, which sets the Radio Amateurs' Exam, about 7700 people took the exam on May 16. This figure is slightly down on the May 1982 exam. The C&G says that results will be issued in early August.

AMATEUR ELECTRONIC MAIL

RTTY enthusiast Roger Barker G4IDE is calling for the development of an automatic, amateur electronic 'mail box' system, to store and send RTTY messages between amateur stations. He says that similar systems are already operational in several countries, and he wants the RSGB to seek Home Office approval for the system in the 'all mode' section of the 144MHz band.

CAMBRIDGE REPEATER

The North Cambridgeshire 70cm Repeater Group has submitted a proposal

for a 432MHz repeater in the Wisbech area to the RSGB Repeater Working Group.

The North Cambridgeshire Group says 70cm activity is increasing, and they hope that a repeater would cover the gap between neighbouring repeaters 'in an area which is of a low-lying nature in the heart of the Fens'.

AMSAT LATEST

At the time of writing, the Phase-III B satellite is due to go up on June 16th.

HELP WANTED

The organisers of the amateur radio display at the National Town and Country Festival are looking for people to help man it. The Festival, which will be held at the Royal Showground, Stoneleigh, Warwickshire on 27-29 August, will include an ambitious amateur radio display staged by several clubs in the area. As well as HF and

2m special event stations using the call-sign GB4TCF, they hope to have displays of home construction, amateur TV, RTTY and microwaves. The organisers say that assistance would be greatly appreciated from both licensed and unlicensed enthusiasts. Anyone interested should contact Roger Harris G3ZFR, on Coventry 365117 before the event.

BROADCASTING COURSE

Broadcasting - Marconi to Channel 4 is the name of a weekend residential course looking at the development of broadcasting from the early days to the present. The sessions will be enlivened by using models and archive material, including 'fireworks' in the form of a replica of Marconi's spark transmitter and receiver, and a Baird 30-line *Televisor*.

Other topics covered are: high power equipment for short wave broadcasting; microphone technique and scripts; the television camera and scenic design.

The course director is Ralph Barrett (at present with the BBC) who will lead the sessions. The organisers' publicity blurb says that "Theobalds Park College is 3 star accommodation, an amenable social atmosphere, 13 miles from London, by train or car. Fees, for the weekend, inclusive of full board: 28 pounds sharing (make up a party?); 50 pounds single."

Details from: Theobalds Park College, Bulls Cross Ride, Waltham Cross, Herts. Tel. Waltham Cross 37255.



If you must install a transmitter without a licence -- don't get caught!

SWL FINED

A shortwave listener has been prosecuted for installing an amateur band transceiver under Section 1 (1) of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 1949.

Michael John Craven, of 29 Chantry Road, Disley, Cheshire pleaded guilty to installing an Icom 720A transceiver at Macclesfield Magistrates Court. He was fined seventy five pounds with twenty five pounds costs.

After the case, Mr Craven told *HRT* that his equipment was in use purely for listening purposes and had been disabled in the transmit mode 'by a local dealer'.

This case highlights the fact that it is illegal to install, let alone use, any form of transmitting equipment without the appropriate licence. Although no legal precedents have been set, it underlines the problem faced by Class B amateurs who own HF transmitting gear, in anticipation of a Class A licence, while at the same time using that equipment purely for listening purposes.