



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: George Farr G3UTC

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Newsletter No 463

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

September 2004

This Month's Meeting Pedestrian Mobile Operation Tuesday September 7th. at 7-30pm at the MASC Beehive Lane

You've read the story! Now see the pictures! An appropriate introduction perhaps, to our next meeting, when Tom Robinson G0SBW, will be coming to tell us in person about his wide experience of operating Pedestrian Mobile or HF backpacking, as it sometimes known.

The story? See June RadCom, which had a write-up by Tom on this very topic: and the pictures; well, Tom will be bringing along some video footage of his activities for us to see. With the aid of some audiotapes and CDs he will describe the excellent results he gets, and why. Hopefully, if conditions are right, he will present a hands-on live demonstration. And who knows, we might even hear about a certain recent radio experience abroad.

This month's raffle is being run by husband and wife team Jean SWL and our Secretary George UTC, so please give them your full support.

Dates for Your Diary

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| Sept 7 | CARS Mtg. Pedestrian Mobile Optg. 7-30pm. MASC |
| Sept 15 | CARS Committee Mtg. Danbury Village Hall 7-30pm. |
| Sept 26 | Suffolk Data Group Rally Foxhall Stadium Ipswich |
| Sept 26 | Science Discovery Day Sandford Mill With CARS Station |

The Club Net Controllers

September Dennis M3BIA October Harry G5HF November David M0BQC

Successful Candidates.

All CARS Candidates as well as one guest from the Harlow club passed their Intermediate Exam on July 27th. This was the 3rd Intermediate course CARS has run and the first to have its exam held in the new Danbury exam centre. Congratulations to the following: Nigel Lightfoot M3NOD, Robin Emery M3NTB, Mark Barnaby M3DJQ, Brian Kemp M3BOD, Rob Hastings M3AHH, Vincent Frostick M3LIE, Kristian Baker M3SSX and John Creecy M3XJC.

Congratulations also to the successful training team: Chris G0IPU, Murray G6JYB, Carl G3PEM, Anthony M1FDE, David M0BQC the invigilator. Clive G1EUC, Daril D'Mellow 2E0WVK and remote operator Brian G3CVI. The next CARS course will be a new Advance one, starting on Thu Sept-2.

CARS meets at 7-30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month at the MASC , Beehive Lane, Chelmsford.

For details contact our Secretary: George G3UTC on 01277-622707.

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375 : (3rd) 1.947 : (4th) 1.947 : (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.

Newsletter Editor: Geoff G7KLV 01245-473822 or email: geoff@g7klv.free-online.co.uk

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Please advise changes of address to Geoff G7KLV.

Table Top Sale by Colin G0TRM

Another August, and another Club Tabletop Sale has come and gone, this last one, was the most successful we have held. Over 100 people were believed to have attended as members, vendors and visitors. Our very welcome visitor Zippy (G4ZPY) from Waters and Stanton was again much in evidence; he had many happy customers at his table vying for a fine collection of sort-after goodies. Particular thanks too for the super items he gave to the Club raffle helping to swell the prize list, which helped to raise a goodly sum for Club funds.

Once again we had sellers and buyers from far afield, some travelling many miles to attend. We gave a warm welcome to a number of new sellers, whom we hope will come again another year and join in what was a very friendly, social and we hope, profitable evening. As usual the event was widely advertised both in the local press and on local radio. Readers of Radcom, P W and S W M and other radio mags had all the necessary details to read. Many leaflets were produced for display in local libraries bookshops and public notice boards.

Many thanks to all the Club members who came along to sell or to buy and to those who donated for sale, some very fine items to be sold for funds. Finally thanks to Geoff KLV and Geoff EDM for their efforts, and to Jean and Tony YTG for the raffle, and all who played a part in helping to make it a very successful evening.

Letter From America.

The following letter from CARS member David Worboys M3CCM/KG4ZLB, was received by Trevor M5AKA and passed it to the editor.

The FCC works in mysterious ways! Here in the States the Morse requirement debate is still rumbling on even though the rest of the world has made changes. Having lived with this regime for the best part of two years, and now having experienced both sides of the pond, there is so much that could be adopted by the UK, to bring this great hobby to life. Everyone here moans continually about "dumbing-down" the exams, well maybe the Tech exam was easy, the General a bit harder, but take a look at the Extra class exam. I am studying for that with the intention of taking it on August 12th. The good thing is that I can take practice exams on-line and if I don't think I am up to it, I can then postpone it till the following month. Walk in exams, once a month, what a good idea!

I am also heavily into ARES and emergency communications generally here with local clubs. Its quite amazing how heavily reliant the served agencies (Red Cross) etc, are on ham volunteers- there is a great sense of pride in the amateur ranks and the hobby doesn't have the Tony Hancock, or OAP interest image. Of course the country is bigger, but I think its food for thought. The main advantage of public service here is that (I believe), the FCCS will

have to do everything possible to mitigate interference on HF caused by BPL. That's a main concern here and I am sure over there too. I had a chat with one of the ARRL SE Division people the other night and a trial of BPL is scheduled to start in the suburbs of Miami soon. The ARRL is already to descend on the area to monitor its effects.

So nice to see that other trials here are being abandoned as these providers realise that its not going to be the goose that laid the golden egg. I understand that some hams have been deliberately sitting under the power poles and driving a KW or so and reversing the interference! Nothing illegal about that, as Part 15 is clear and we are protected from interference. BPL doesn't have the same rights! Morally indefensible of course.

73's David M3CCM/KG4ZLB

Trevor M5AKA also passed on this report from David Worboys on his experiences after Hurricane Charlie

Hi All, Just had the power back on after 24 hours. Yesterday was amazing, winds like you have never seen and more rain than I have ever witnessed.

After ensuring that my family were ok, I set up a temporary station at a local hospital as part of my involvement with the local ARES. All of the patients were moved out into the hallways, as the windows were not coping with the wind in their rooms. At one point I was trying to close the windows but the wind pressure was so great, I couldn't even open the door to the room! I set up my Icom 746, with a power supply and a mag mounted 2m hamstick (which was on top of the nurses fridge and poking through the air conditioning vent!) Luckily the repeater that was designated for the emergency traffic was actually sited at the hospital so I could probably have accessed it with a coat hanger!

I was in touch with the Emergency Operations Centre and all of the hospitals and shelters in the county. Luckily, the communications held out in the hospital so I was not needed but it was important to have the ability if it really went all wrong! This morning we took a drive round and it looks like Beirut on a bad day. President Bush is coming down tomorrow....gosh, that will make all the difference. And just to cap it all, Tropical Storm Erwin (or Earl) is in the Caribbean and is following the same track as Charley did so we could all be in the same position come Wednesday!

Happy Days. David M3CCMK G4ZLB

Down 't Mill By Brian G3CVI

As reported previously we provided a station during three open days at the Engine House. The first was on July 25th and the second on August 8th. The last August 22nd. On each occasion the station was operational for three hours from 2 till 5 PM clock time and many HF bands were tried. On the first day we were pleased to have a number of visitors who showed keen interest in the set-up and our hosts

enjoyed chatting to them about Ham Radio and the RSGB, The rig was the usual FT 847 which performed perfectly, pulling in some really difficult signals with R5 when an inferior receiver would have yielded barely an R4. The DSP system does perform so well, specially considering the price bracket of the transceiver. The band conditions were far from ideal as they have been for many months this year, but we managed to contact as far as central Europe with S7 to 9+. During the preliminary warm-up time before the visitors arrived I worked the Athens based station SX1A/19 which would be /18 on the following day counting down to the commencement of the games on day 0. That was on 18MHz whereas the band faded later and after a fruitless trial on 14 MHz we settled for 7 MHz. and gathered the usual inverted contest type of pile-up The station was manned by several members, who swapped operating for logging from time to time to give them all a change of activity.

On the second occasion the bands were in slightly better shape although the heat-wave conditions made the desk fan an absolute essential. The distant thunderstorms punctuated the signals with some mighty blasts of QRM but the noise handling facilities on the 847 are so good that most QSOs were at least R4 and never less than R3. We managed on 18 MHz to raise Japan, with not less than 5/5 both ways even though the JA and JI were a little difficult to copy due to their accented English. Better than our Japanese anyhow!!!! The visitors were able to find some of the countries contacted on the wall maps...including one timid looking youngster, who, when asked to find Poland went straight to the map and plonked his thumb spot on first go!!!! The teacher in me again, no doubt, but I said "Well done" as genuinely as I could, while his Mum glowed. Because we like to get as many different folk to "have a go" as we can, the operators were not always the same ones.

Conditions were not at their best for the last event on August 22nd when more operators came along to experience the fun of a "real" aerial which frequently achieves reports such as "You are the strongest signal on the band" and "no problem to copy you even through the QRM from the continent". The mod quality is often admired by stations from all over the world so the "new rig" has surely justified the cost.....and of course the time taken to set it up correctly and monitor its output.

So again thanks to all who helped in any way to run the stations not forgetting the lusty "lads" who rig the aerial.

Essex International Jamboree – GB2EIJ, from a report by Chris IPU

This Scouting event that takes place every four years, was held this year from 31st July to August 7th at Kirby-le-Soken. Some 8000 Scouts and Guides and 1000 Leaders all under canvas enjoyed many and varied activities.

The Chelmsford ScARF, (Scout Amateur Radio Fellowship) played a large part in these

activities by setting up an Amateur radio station, together with numerous antennas to cover all the HF bands, 2M and 70cm. The RSGB Radio vehicle GB4FUN was also in attendance and provided coverage of Satellite operation as well as all the standard frequencies. No contact was made with the International Space Station, but it was tracked. Satellites FO-29 and SO-50 worked well, enabling many fine contacts, including one with Canada.

Fast-Scan TV working at 2.4GHz attracted much attention when a TV camera mounted in a hard-hat together with a transmitter sent pictures back to GB4FUN where a monitor displayed pictures the wearer was seeing.

The Chelmsford ScARF was also much involved in helping youngsters to build a MW radio from a kit. Under direct supervision some 750 radios were built and they all worked much to the joy of the constructors.

(PS For full details of the AMSAT-UK Space events see:<http://www.uk.amsat.org/>)

U K. Start Point's Special Role Following D-Day. By Stuart Frost. Retired engineer-in-charge, Start Point.

This article appeared in Prospero (retired BBC staff newspaper) in July 2004 and was sent to Chairman John G8DET by Brian CTS.

The D Day memorial services and celebrations were of particular interest to me. I live near Slapton Sands, where the Americans did most of their training for 6 June 1944. I was, however, a little disappointed that there was no mention of Start Point Transmitting Station in any of the reports, especially by the BBC. Start Point played an important role in the Normandy landings and for many months afterwards.

I joined the BBC Transmitter Department at Start Point in 1943 as a Youth in Training Transmitters (YT) at the age of 15. Start Point was designed and built in 1939, before the war, to radiate the then Western Programme on a frequency of 1050 kHz, using a 100 kW Standard Telephone & Cable (ST&C) type C100. The aerial system was two 450-foot lattice mast radiators; the Northern mast was the radiator and the Southern a reflector. This gave good coverage for all the West Country and the Southern part of England.

When I arrived at Start Point, there were two transmitters, the Original ST&C operating on either medium wave or short wave, the Other a 50 kW Marconi type SWB18, on short wave. All services radiated the European Service on appropriate aerial systems.

When the second front became imminent in May 1944, the ST&C transmitter was closed down. We didn't know exactly why, but we could guess that it was something to do with the forthcoming second front landings. Start Point Medium Wave Transmitter was chosen because of its locality. The functions of the mast radiators were to be swapped over, the

South mast was to be used as the radiator and the North a reflector; this was to transmit across the channel to France.

The transmitter power was increased from the originally designed 100 to 180 kW. This was quite an engineering feat. It required the four output stage water-cooled valves (4030C) to be increased to eight by using the spares; subsequently other spare components were brought into service to avoid overheating. On the completion of setting up the transmitter, we were told that it was in readiness for transmitting a forces programme to the second front. It was on standby for many weeks, closed down until D Day plus 2 when had one of those urgent priority messages to transmit this Forces programme.

The Programme was the Allied Expeditionary Forces Programme (AEFP). I remember it being a bright and cheerful opening and directed to all the armed forces taking part in the landings. There were three main bands, the British Band of the AEF, the American Band of the AEF (Glen Miller) and the Canadian Band of the AEF. Dance music in plenty, light entertainment, comedy, war reports and news were the main ingredients.

It was a jolly good mixture of English, American and Canadian programmes. It transmitted for almost 24 hours a day with maybe a short break at night for essential maintenance. Occasionally coded information was transmitted in the way of innocent prose.

As for myself I continued on shift work listening and enjoying this uplifting cheerful AEF programme for a few months before being sent to Maidavale and Droitwich on the Technical Assistance courses. On my return to Start Point, I was put on night shift immediately. All hands were needed to change frequency from 1050 to 583 kHz to increase the ground wave range to keep up with the allies advancing into France and Germany. This change in frequency had to be done in one night because the troops were informed that we were changing the frequency on the next day and to re-tune to receive their AEF programme. I do remember that night vividly, more adjustments to coils and capacitors within the transmitters and ATHs [Aerial Tuning Huts]. We finished about 6am just in time for the arranged start up; indeed we were all very weary, as it was a very hot night.

Start Point was the only transmitter that transmitted the AEF programme from the UK. However, much later as the Allies advance progressed, relay stations were used, receiving Start Point and re-transmitting from mobile low power transmitters positioned in France and Germany. The service continued until the cessation of hostilities.

Smile Please.

Brian G3CVI, our Treasurer and Membership Secretary would like to take everybody's picture to build up a rouges gallery (my words not Brian's.) The reason is twofold (a) he has a new camera he would like to the test and (b) he would like to put faces to the names he knows so well. He will take only a

limited number during the break, so it is best bibs and tuckers for the next meeting for some of you, if you are feeling photogenic on the 7th. September.

South African Amateurs Transmit Digital Voice On HF

South African amateurs made what is believed to be the first successful transmission of a Digital Voice signal over HF bands in the country.

On 10th August, Dennis Wells, ZS1AU and Andrew Roos, ZS1AN, successfully exchanged signal reports on 15 metre, completing the first known digital voice QSO in South Africa. The software used in this experiment was Ham Dream version 2.4, which is an open-source implementation of the Digital Radio Mondiale broadcasting standard that has been adapted for amateur use by HB9TLK. It can be downloaded free of charge from the SARL website, www.sarl.org.za. For more information, see HB9TLK's website, www.qsl.net/hb9tlk.

All you need to explore this fascinating new mode is a PC with a full-duplex soundcard, a soundcard/rig interface like those used for PSK-31 and similar digital modes, So get QRV on digital voice and join the fun! Andrew and Dennis are keen to make contact with other divisions using this exciting new mode. If you would like to arrange a sked please send email to Andrew, zs1an@qsl.net Or Dennis, zs1au@absamail.co.za.

Training the Trainers. Trevor M5AKA

The Chelmsford ARS is the only club in the country to have had members attending all three of the RSGB Train 'The Trainers' events held so far. Clive Ward M0SIX and Geoff Blake G8GNZ attended the session held at the end of July. Chris G0IPU, Murray G6JYB, Carl G3PEM and Trevor M5AKA attended previous sessions. The club is fortunate in having so many members take an active part in training the future generation of Amateurs, however more helpers are always needed. If you would like to assist in running the courses, contact Training Manager Clive Ward M0SIX Tel:01245-224577

Feedback Required 2

Last month we asked for your suggestions regarding topics for future meetings? Have we struck the right technical balance or would you prefer less technical talks? Please respond and let us have your comments.

Did you read this item last month?

We have had the following response:

I think over the last year the committee have got the balance just right, you've have arranged just the types of talks I like to see.

Trevor M5AKA.

Do you agree with Trevor or could your committee do better?