



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: Martyn M3VAM

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

Newsletter No 467

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

January 2005

This Month's Meeting Going Digital, Digital Switchover & Ofcom's Plans by Murray G6JYB Tuesday January 4th. 7-30pm at the MASC

It doesn't seem all that long ago that Murray introduced us to the concept of Freeview and Digital Television. It was his talk back in December 2002 that inspired me to get a DigiBox, although I do confess to using it only occasionally! Nowadays 40000 boxes are being bought each week

This time Murray is going to tell us about the plans being drawn up for the great changeover. A couple of remote Welsh villages are being used as guinea pigs with DigiBoxes supplied free to the 800 viewers affected! In fact their changeover started on the 29th. November and their analogue TV will cease to operate in late February 2005. The experience gained should iron out problems that will inevitably arise before we all follow suit in 2007-2012. It all sounds quite exciting.

He is also going to tell us more about DAB / DRM which will eventually be replacing AM and FM radio. Already people spend more money on DAB than ordinary radios, and more spectrum is likely to be released in Band II for this

After the break Murray will also summarise Ofcom's recent proposals for licenses and spectrum. These present a serious threat to amateur radio as we know it. Many of the threats are TLAs (Three Letter Acronyms) so you will hear about BPL, PLT, SFR, UWB, ACC & SRR, and why YOU need to help.

This month Colin TRM and Geoff KLV are doing the raffle, please support us.

We wish you all a happy and prosperous New Year

Dates for Your Diary

January	4	CARS Mtg. Going Digital by Murray G6JYB 7-30 pm. MASC
January	12	CARS Committee Mtg. Danbury Village Hall 7-30 pm
February	1	CARS Mtg Summits on the Air by James M0ZZO
February	6	South Essex ARS Rally The Paddocks Long Rd. Canvey Is.
February	9	CARS Committee Mtg. Danbury Village Hall 7-30 pm

The Club Net Controllers

January Colin G0TRM

February Geoff G3EDM

March Ron M3CAM / Denis 2E0BIA

The Canvey Rally, Sunday 6th. February

It is time to make your resolutions for the New Year. Although you have tried and failed in the past, if you keep just one this year, make it the one about sorting out the shack/loft/garage.

Why? Because we will be having our table as usual at the rally and we are in urgent need of stock! Please get in touch with either Colin TRM or Geoff KLV (Contacts below) or any Committee Member, who will arrange for collection of anything you can spare. Sales from the rally have contributed handsomely to Club funds in previous years and help to keep our Subs down. Let's do the same this year.

Why not go and have a look now and earmark a few things you are never going to use!

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

For details contact our Secretary: Martyn M3VAM on 01245-469008

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.

Last Month's Meeting CARS Christmas Social Evening.

As a change from our usual restaurant Christmas Dinner, 7th December 2004 saw us gathered less formally at our usual venue. Chairman, Chris G0IPU welcomed some seventy Members, wives, partners and guests to our new venture, a Social Evening, when we enjoyed a large selection of hot and cold food, covering a wide range of tastes and palates. Quiches, rolls, sandwiches and spreads of every description were laid out in a grand manner to set the evening off to a good nourishing start. Tea and coffee on call, was available to those not imbibing stronger fare from the bar.

Chris introduced our guests who included Dr Geoff & Helen Bowles, Keeper of the Science & Industry Museum at Sandford Mill, Malcolm Salmon, Past Region 12 RSGB Rep. and Phillip Brooks, G4NZQ his replacement, who had travelled down from Norwich to meet us. Marc Litchman G0TOC (Sec) & John Mulye G0VEH (Chairman) came from Loughton & Epping ARS while Andrew Mowbray G0LWS came from the Silverthorne Club. All were made very welcome and apologies were received from a number of local clubs.

Prior to the food being served Members, visitors and friends were able to pass greetings to each other and to catch up with the latest news, gossip and interests. Eating, however, was not all that occupied us during the event as Chris IPU had arranged a couple of mind-bending quizzes for everyone to ponder over while digesting their food. Also to keep us busy and keep our thinking caps well in place Pauline and John DET produced some 40 small sealed linen bags. Each bag contained a mystery object that had to be recognised by feel alone, some were fairly obvious, while others were quite undetectable. Nobody however guessed all of the objects. Prizes were awarded to those with the highest score.

John G8DET in his inimitable style ably assisted by Chris IPU kept things going throughout the evening with timely remarks and comments prompting us all to buy raffle tickets, to take part in the quizzes and to enjoy our food to the utmost.

Very many prizes, a feature of any good raffle, were distributed to numerous lucky winners. The raffle organisers Chris IPU and Martyn VAM were very well supported in this popular event.

Thanks to the superb culinary efforts of Jill, Phyl and Pauline, the XYL's respectively of David M0BQC, Geoff G7KLV & John G8DET, three fine iced cakes appeared and were devoured with relish to finish off the gourmet part of the evening. Chocolates were circulated which were quickly devoured.

Vice President Charles G0GJS echoed the thoughts of all us when he thanked John and Pauline for their efforts in the new venture and suggested that maybe we could have a repeat performance in twelve months time.

At the end of a very enjoyable evening Tony

was called upon to bring the evening to a close send to us all home in a happy mood by playing many well-known favourites old and new.

Our thanks to Marconi Sports & Social Club for providing the room & food and to John DET, Chris IPU, Martyn VAM, Tony YTG and Geoff KLV and others who had helped in making the evening a great success.

Report by Colin G0TRM

My WW2 Story by Alois Ochojski DL3PD.

My fate in WW2 was rather different from many other young German boys!

I was born on the 24th. of January 1924 and grew up in the village called Orzesze which was then situated in Polish Silesia. Our village was only 12 Km east of the Third Reich border and 16 Km from the German town of Gliwicz. This is where WW2 began at 5.00 am on the 1st. of September 1939.

I was sixteen years of age and was a Polish speaking Silesian student at the nearby Elektronik Collage. By 8.30 am the German army had occupied our village. Our lives were to change for ever!

Two weeks later, my family was classified as "Third Class Germans" (Deutcher - Volksliste drei). This means that sons of this family have served in the German Army and had taken part in the war with the Germans!

In January 1940 I was sent for hard labour to a farm in Saxonia. As a young tender boy of seventeen I contracted a serious lung inflammation after working for three weeks outside at temperatures of -15 degrees C and below. After three months in hospital I recovered, Thank God, and was sent home to my parents.

Three months later, after a short course of training as a tinsmith, together with others, I got employment at the Lutwaffe air base near Breslau. I was beginning to learn the German language. I found this employment with the aircraft of very great interest, being engaged in all kinds of work on many types of aircraft. Although engaged in this type of work I was still classed as Third Class Booty German!

At the end of 1941 I tried to become a member DASD - Deutscher Amateur Sende und Empfangs Dienst. This was the organisation of radio amateurs in Germany (1926 - 1945). Today we have the DARC, Deutscher Amateur Radio Club representing almost all amateurs in Germany.

The answer to my application was no because of my police record and in 1942 I was ordered to "join" the German Army, not the Luftwaffe but an Antiaircraft Unit called FLAK - Flieger Abwehr Kanonen.

After four weeks of military training all of us 'elektronik' students were given further training in maintenance of Anti-Aircraft Radar Equipment, with the code names Würzburg Mainz and Mannheim.

This field of work was also of great interest to me and luckily I was not involved in any direct war

activity. I was employed at Altenstadt / Schongau in Bavaria until the spring of 1945.

With automatic advancement over the years I now had the rank of "Unteroffizier", almost unbelievable for a Booty German!

The end of War was approaching with many cities destroyed including Munich. U S troops were stationed along the Donau River. In this situation we were supplied with "Panzerfaust" (bazokas) and sent to the front to repel the US tanks. Believe me, not one tank was damaged by my small unit!

For us, WW2 was over and we were taken into a PoW camp near Regensburg, together with about 100 000 other soldiers.

On the 15th of May 1945 I was discharged from the PoW Camp and the question of where to go arose. I certainly wasn't returning home with the Soviet Army and Polish Komunistis in occupation. Dressed in a dirty German army uniform, with Ruksak on my backside, the Soviets couldn't wait to send me to Siberia!

I decided to stay in Bavaria. If you ask me for my thoughts of D-Day I can tell you I was just very happy to see the end of the war!

What with the Cold War, the Iron Curtain and the political situation after WW2 it was ten long years before I was able to visit my homeland once again and meet my family!

RSGB Deputy Regional Managers Report

As another year draws to a close our hobby faces more challenges than ever before. On the HF bands BPL presents a very real threat, see the Southern Electricity website: <http://www.southern-electric.co.uk/broadband/index.asp>

Further up the spectrum we are threatened by the spread of WiFi, WiMax, UWB and car radar systems such as Adaptive Cruise Control. The recently released Ofcom Consultative document questions the need for any Amateur Licensing at all.

It is at times like this that the National Society needs the support of Affiliated Societies and their members. You will see in the January issue of RadCom that the Society has taken on the services of a Professional PR Consultant who will advise the Board on a PR strategy to protect our bands. Clearly this will be an expensive exercise but unless we take action now Amateur Radio as we have known it will cease to exist.

In Essex over the past year many of the clubs have been running Foundation and Intermediate courses and there are now many more new calls on the air as a result. This is a dramatic change from the situation in the 1990's when the number of Amateurs was falling year by year.

I was particularly impressed by the activities this year of the Chelmsford Scout Amateur Radio Fellowship (ScARF) who organised a mass home-construction exercise at the week long Essex International Scout Jamboree during which some 800 Scouts build Medium Wave radios. Over 7000

Scouts attended the camp and ScARF ran a variety of Amateur Radio related activities. There's no doubt that it's youngsters like these that we need to get involved in the hobby if Amateur Radio is to have a long term future.

Finally I'd like to wish all you all a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year,
Trevor M5AKA Tel: 0794 103 9832

The Marconi Collection

The Marconi Corporation has recently announced that they have reached a decision regarding the future of the Historic Marconi Collection. The Corporation has been working to find a lasting and appropriate home for the whole Collection. Their priorities have always been to keep the Collection safe and together in one place, for it to be cared for by world-class experts and available for research access and public display.

Following an extensive review of all the options, they have selected The University of Oxford, the oldest English-speaking university in the world, as the permanent home for the whole Collection.

The artefacts (the items of equipment) will be held at The Museum of the History of Science and a number of the most important items will be put on permanent display there. The Museum houses an unrivalled collection of historic scientific instruments in the world's oldest surviving purpose-built museum building. The ephemera (paper and other items) will be held at the adjacent Bodleian Library, the main research library of the University, where they will be properly available for use by scholars from around the world. It will join an existing collection of Marconi items donated in the 1930s. The university have indicated that they are planning a major Exhibition of the Collection at the Museum of the History of Science in the spring of 2006.

The Wireless Preservation Society have announced that they intend to make a very generous donation to the University such that a dedicated Marconi Archivist will be appointed to oversee, conserve and fully catalogue the Collection. The photo archive is remaining at the Essex Record Office.

This announcement will come as a shock to Chelmsfordians who had believed that the verbal agreement made by representatives of the Marconi Company would be honoured. It would appear that the collection will be in safe hands. However, all is not lost, as it is understood that there is an agreement that items from the Collection would be available for display locally provided somewhere can be found to display them. This seems to be the same old, old stumbling block.

Remarkable Range of Capacitors

The catalogue of a local well known supplier of electronic components, Maplin, is offering a range of capacitors with mind boggling performance characteristics! They are bound to find many

applications where a capacitor with an enhanced performance is required.

Look no further than page 793 of the latest catalogue for the standard range of radial electrolytic capacitors. They come in various sizes and various voltage ratings and their temperature range is -400°C to +850°C.

Some performance! Someone's obviously boobed by a factor of 10:1.

Seriously though they are offering another range of electrolytics with a life expectancy of 10 to 15 years and they only cost pennies more than the standard range.

Slow Scan TV

Interested in SSTV? Then you will be pleased to learn that Jim 2E1GUA will be hosting a Slow Scan Television net on the 10m band on Thursdays from 8-30 - 9-30pm. Look out for him on 28.680 MHz.

Broadband over Power Lines

Trevor AKA has brought to our notice that Southern Electric are offering Broadband over powerlines from the usual starting price of £19.99 per month.

They claim that it's amazing but really simple. "Our broadband system brings the world of the web right to you via your power sockets from your existing electricity supply cable. Simply plug in the broadband modem. There's no need for new wires, cables or phone lines and you can use your PC and your phone at the same time."

Needless to say that the RSGB are totally opposing the system. See January RadCom. Should I cancel my contract for the supply of both gas and electricity from Southern Electric in protest?

Essex Slow Morse Net

The Essex Slow Morse Practice net is held every Wednesday at 2100 on 145.250 MHz FM (keying audio tone oscillators).

The net controller is Alex M3HSK. All are welcome to join in.

Essex Repr. Group's 30th Birthday

On 10th January 2005 the Group celebrates the 30th. anniversary of it's founding. From those early days it maintains beacons and repeaters in Essex; GB3DA (2m), GB3ER (70cms), GB3DB (6m), GB£ZP (23cms) and GB3CMS (10GHz) which are located on the Danbury and Rettendon hills. There are over 50 Members, a number of whom are also Members of CARS.

Meet them at the Canvey Rally or if you would like to know more about ERG contact Murray G6JYB on e-mail : mjniman@iee.org

Advanced Course Training Material

Many Clubs have folded and died. Not so with CARS and it's dedicated team of qualified trainers, six of whom have completed the RSGB 'Train the Trainers'.

The Club has developed a range of training material for its Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced courses which is freely available for downloading from the 'Training' page on the Club website at www.g0mwt.org.uk. The *Advanced Power Point* slides are the latest addition. If you want to know more contact Clive M0SIX on 01245-224577 or e-mail: training2005@g0mwt.org.uk

We are keeping our fingers crossed for the nine Advanced Course candidates awaiting their results, due out towards the end of January.

The Constructors Competition

By long standing tradition the June meeting is always the Constructors Competition. Yes, June seems a long way away in January but time has that nasty habit of flying! So this is the time to start thinking about making something and entering the competition. Last year due to an Editorial oversight very little advance notice was given and only those in the know entered.

There is absolutely no excuse this time, so start doing something!

And, on a Lighter Note!

The following quotes are taken from actual performance evaluations:

1. Since my last report, this employee has reached rock bottom and started to dig.
2. This associate is not really so much of a has-been, but more of a definitely won't be.
3. This young lady has delusions of adequacy.
4. Works well when under constant supervision and cornered like a rat in a trap.
5. When she opens her mouth, it seems that this is only to change whichever foot was previously in there.
6. He sets low personal standards and consistently fails to achieve them.
7. This employee is depriving a village some where of an idiot.
8. This employee should go far, and the sooner he starts the better.

Items for Sale

- 1) Watson 2M/70cms base stn co-linear, vgc £25
 - 2) Maspro KSB50 570mm offset boom, vgc £15
 - 3) 25M LDF4-50 Andrews 1/2" Helix .c/w N plugs. Not fitted but can help fit if required. Offers over £75.
 - 4) Sigma SLS-40K- PRO-C 40M shortened Dipole. Only 38' long, vgc. £75.
- Contact Dick G4DJC on 01245-256416.

Wanted A Sony Air 7 to replace the one stolen from my house. If anyone offers me my set, I'll call the Police!
Harry G5HF 01245-354118