



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

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

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: Chris Chapman G0IPU
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Newsletter No 470

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

April 2005

This Month's Meeting BBC Radio Essex by Simon Baldock Tuesday April 5th. 7-30pm at the MASC

Just for a change our April meeting has nothing to do with amateur radio at all! Instead we have invited Simon Baldock to talk to us about Essex Radio. For those who don't know, Simon is the presenter of the afternoon Drive Time show which is on air from four until seven on weekday evenings. Wives and sweethearts are very welcome to come to this meeting (they are always welcome at any of our meetings!) which promises to be of broad general interest. By the way, Simon is coming along to meet us directly after being on air!

This month the raffle is being run by Tony G4YTG assisted by Geoff G7KLV. Please support the Club.

Dates for Your Diary

April	5	CARS Mtg. BBC Essex, Talk by Simon Baldock
April	11	Waters & Stanton Open Evening for Essex Clubs See below
April	13	CARS Committee Mtg. 7-30pm DVH All Members cordially invited
April	17	Remembering Donald G0VIS. Sandford Mill 2.00pm, with the ROA
April	23	International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill. New Members welcome

The Club Net Controller for April is Harry G5HF

Waters & Stanton Open Evening

Mon. April 11th. is the W&S Open Evening. Contact me on 01245-474969 or murray.niman@btopenworld.com

Congratulations

Clare Abbott, Eleanor Maddex, Mandy Taplin, Tony Cooper, Mark Champness, Alan Eades, Alan Hanna, Martin Hignett, Barry Larman, Simon Savage, John Wilson for passing the Foundation Exam and to David M0ZLB/KG4ZLB who has just passed the USA Amateur Extra Exam in Florida.

Remembering Donald Imber G0VIS Sunday 17th. April

See Geoff KLV's note on page 3 and come to Sandford Mill. Everyone welcome.

International Marconi Day Saturday April 23rd.

See Brian CVI's note on page 4 and sign up to do some operating or logging. Everyone welcome.

Ofcom

The RSGB have just issued a Briefing Note which predicts that De-Regulation may mean the end of Amateur Radio as we know it. You are requested to look at the CARS Website & click on Ofcom to read the many pages of worrying information. Thanks to Murray, G6JYB for his efforts on our behalf.

Amateur of the Year Award

Who should win this prestigious award? Think about it and give your suggestion to a Committee Member.

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
Assistant Editor: Colin G0TRM 01245-223835 or email: colinpage@ukgateway.net

Last Month's Meeting. The RSGB QSL Bureau by Marc Litchman G0TOC

The meeting started with our Chairman Chris IPU announcing that in future there will be just one raffle ticket for £1, as opposed to five. It certainly uses less paper and doesn't require so many folds. Sounds like a good idea but what do you think? Let's hear from you.

He then invited Murray G6JYB to give a run down of the latest OFCOM releases of papers and, in particular, the 70cms operational news. Because of testing of an installation in Yorkshire from April through to August, all those who can operate on 70cms should make as many contacts as possible and report any interference they experience. The use of 23cms is also under review and needs more occupancy by us. The old adage "use or lose" is very relevant.

Chris then introduced our guest speaker Mark G0TOC to give a talk on the RSGB QSL Bureau. He was accompanied by John G1DJI, who together with Mark, writes the QSL column for RadCom.

They became involved after visiting HQ to hand in their clubs QSL cards and collect their own cards, and this then led to them sorting cards at the Bureau every Thursday afternoon. The Bureau has only part time staff under the supervision of Mrs Jan Moir, who is responsible for the day to day running, the appointment of Sub Managers from a list of volunteers as well as sorting the cards. The 76 Sub Managers are all unpaid volunteers who have offered to do this job. The HQ part time staff are not amateurs so to assist them incoming cards to the Bureau should be pre sorted into prefix order [Country and numeral], because if this is not done your incoming pile is put aside to be sorted at a slack time.

Mark then showed photos of the internal physical arrangements including the various bins labelled with the outgoing destinations. Out going cards should be labelled clearly with the callsign, remembering that the Bureau does not have lists of QSL managers, then if the card is via a QSL Manager mark the card VIA MANGER CALLSIGN.

Please note that CARS cards have the callsign highlighted with a marker pen.

If you wish to receive cards, lodge stamped address envelopes with your relevant Sub Manager, their addresses are in the Year Book or can be obtained from Jan at HQ.

Use only stamps marked 1st. or 2nd. not with a value, then you will not be caught by future rises in postal costs. Also lodge some spare stamps to make up postage if the cards are over weight.

One of CARS members who works at our sorting office also mentioned that the envelopes should be good and strong, not the cheap flimsier type, as the cards can break out of this type of envelope type, as I know from experience. If you do

NOT wish to receive cards please write to the Sub Manager telling him so, then he can bin them.

This is very helpful as the sub managers will only have to store them for a number of months or years, as most are reluctant to destroy cards.

If you have a problem with incoming cards write first to your Sub Manager and then if the matter is not resolved, to Jan at HQ.

It was quite obvious that he and John put in a great deal of their spare time providing us with this service which Marc said was all the easier in the long run by computerising the whole operation.

Marc pointed out that this was his first presentation on the subject. If he hadn't told us we wouldn't have known! Our thanks to Mark for an interesting and informative presentation.

The evening finished with a short quiz organised by Colin TRM asking us to recognise various flags and quote the relevant callsign. Thank you Colin.

Report by Carl G3PEM

Early Memories of CARS by Roy Philpott G3VCH

I guess I was in CARS from around 1963 or 1964 until around 1975, I do not know exactly. I cannot even recollect if I was actually an official member or just turned up at the meetings at the Marconi College in Arbour Lane. I remember that it all seemed a bit formal and stuffy to me. I was around 15 or 16 at the start, and cannot remember any other younger people of my own age there at all. Ron Ferguson G4VF was the President, and then I remember Roy G3PMX being elected. I got to know Peter Chadwick G3RZP at the MAA [Marconi Apprentices Association], and I remember there was many a beer quaffed at the Railway Tavern with him and the others from the MAA.

I used to enjoy the NFD and after I obtained my license, used to join in. There were not too many of us CW types available. After finishing my studies in 1967 and going to sea, I am afraid I virtually lost touch and moved to Germany in 1984.

One interesting thing is after being made redundant by CP ships, I was employed as a systems test engineer by a local company ANT which made microwave link equipment. This was bought up by Bosch a while later. The ANT research and company headquarters was in Backnang. Later Backnang was twinned with Chelmsford!

When Bosch took over, they were very supportive towards amateur radio as a retired Bosch MD was an active radio amateur. They supported the radio club in Backnang. We here in Offenburg had tried to get a club running in the ANT period, but ANT were anything but friendly to the idea, and we got nowhere. After Bosch however, things changed. I was contacted by Peter Urich in Backnang, and we started our own radio club in Offenburg, of which I was elected president. This was around 1997 I suppose. I was invited to attend the Bosch Amateur radio group AGM held in their headquarters at Stuttgart every year, where I met Peter Urich, as

well as many others from around Germany - and in fact the world. Here we discussed how to get new equipment for needy clubs, and how to spend the several thousand Marks given to us by Bosch as support. They were certainly generous.

I was responsible, together with Peter Uhrich (another Pactor enthusiast like myself), that all Bosch groups received a PTC-2 Pactor modem to enhance internal communications within the groups.

The be- all and end-all for Bosch was that we could act as emergency communications from a Bosch facility (within the limits of the amateur license) in case of any local or national emergency which fouled up normal communications. Sometimes, our radio equipment was run from the works UPS system so we always had power. Later, Bosch, after having their fingers burned with some unwise communications projects, sold us off to Marconi. Shortly afterwards, Marconi too did a nose dive, and I baled out.

I now work in international customer support for a small local company making specialized temperature control equipment for the international chemical production and research industry.

Best wishes from Roy Philpott DJ0OW / G3VCH.

Email: philpott@t-online.de

We are always pleased to hear from Members and friends who remember the early days of CARS. This article arose from Harry's wartime experiences and we have at last found a space for it.

Thank you Roy!

My New Portable Aerial by Martyn M3VAM / G1EFL

I was looking for a portable aerial that I could put in the back of the car or my travel bag when Val & I popped over to Guernsey for a long weekend or when we are off on our summer holiday. It is made by W3FF in the USA, and it is called the Buddstick.

The Buddstick is a multi-band, portable aerial for the 40m - 10m bands. It will work with any rig up to 250 watts. It comes in a small padded bag and it measures 13 inches long 5 inches wide and 3 inches high and weighs only 3 pounds this includes the mini Tripod (this is an extra) and does not come with the Buddstick. When fully extended it is 29 inches high and the coil with the taps and the stainless steel telescopic whip sit on the top. Total height above the ground is approx. 95 inches, but this depends on which band you are working as the tuning for the aerial is carried out by adjusting the tap on the coil together with adjusting the whip and the radial wire, which is also supplied.

There are three variables you have to work with when dealing with the aerial, the whip, coil and radial. I started with 15m.

1). I set up the aerial on the tripod with the feed line I was going to use and turned the TX power down to 10 watts.

2). Raise the whip up all the way, and unplug the coil tap. I tuned the radio to 21.078 MHz15m or any other frequency you wish.

3). Listen for the noise level, hold the tap lead against the top most of the coil and start moving it down until you get the loudest noise. This is a good sign you might be close.

4). After the tap is set, do a quick TX to get an idea where you are. I adjusted the radial wire and the SWR was approx 1.9. I was using my FT897 with the bolted on Auto Tuner and this fine tuned the SWR to an acceptable level.

For my location all sections of the whip were used. On 20m the SWR was 1.5 with 48 1/2" Whip...

Tuning for each band is fairly easy. Of course you can use an SWR Analyzer which would speed up the process. I have not yet had time to check out the other bands. Not bad for a small Multi Band HF Aerial!

I recently tried the aerial out in my back garden during the UBA Contest over the weekend of 29/30 January 2005. Val found me jobs to do but I did make 48 contacts during the contest. These were 9A Croatia, ER Moldova, HG Hungary, IS Sardinia, IZ Italy, LY Lithuania, N2,USA (New York), OH Finland, OL Czech Republic, SP Poland,

SV Greece, UU Ukraine, UW European Russia, UZ Asiatic Russia, YL Lativa and YT Yugoslavia. These were made with my FT897 and using 10watts.

I am very pleased with this aerial and I think I have the best aerial for my needs.

If anybody is interested in seeing this aerial please let me know and I will bring it to a Club meeting.

The Chelmsford Award

Just a short reminder about this award which was devised by Martyn M3VAM/ G1EFL. Details on our Website or from himself. It's all in a good cause.

Remembering Donald Imber G0VIS by Geoff G7KLV

Donald Imber G0VIS, although he rarely came to Club meetings, will always be remembered for the talk he gave us on his experiences as a Marconi Marine ship's Radio Officer. It was agreed at the time that Donald's presentation, assisted by a family friend Nick Hines, was one of the best we had ever had and such was the interest generated that he promised to continue his reminiscences on another occasion. Alas, Donald passed away unexpectedly quite soon afterwards.

After spending many years at sea Donald opted for a shore life and worked for a large police force in a technical capacity until his final retirement, when he became a 'house father', while his wife Fiona continued working as an accountant.

Retirement enabled him to pursue his interest in radio by gaining his amateur radio license, not too difficult a task, and it also gave him time to create a mock-up of a typical ship's radio cabin in one room of the family home. By the time he died this was very well advanced, with the assistance of Nick.

Unlike many of us, Donald had made plans for the final disposal of all his radio gear, should it become necessary, and he bequeathed it to the Radio Officers Association, of which he was a member. There was just one problem! The ROA do not have access to a permanent storage or display facility.

One of our Vice Presidents, Charles G0GJS is also a member of the ROA. Cars enjoys a close relationship with Sandford Mill. A ships radio room is also one of the Friends of Chelmsford Museum's ongoing projects at the Mill. Mix that lot together and something's bound to happen!

Eventually it was agreed that Geoff Bowles, the curator at Sandford Mill, would accept into his own collection all the Marconi equipment and a vast amount of technical data in the form of equipment handbooks. The only proviso was that there should be a plaque commemorating and acknowledging the source of the equipment and literature ie. Donald Imber and the ROA.

To mark the event there is a an official unveiling of the plaque at Sandford Mill on Sunday 17th April at 2pm.when Donald's family, ROA members, the Museum hierarchy and media will be present. Members of CARS and their families are cordially invited to attend and remember Donald Imber GOVIS.

April Contesting by Steve G4ZUL

RSGB 1st RoPoCo / CW Sunday 03 April

Starts: 07:00 UTC Finishes: 09:00 UTC

Band: 80 Metres

Exchange: RST + Postcode received

RSGB Club Championship

Dates for April as follows:

CW 04 April. 20:00 – 21:30 UTC

SSB 13 April. 20:00 – 21:30 UTC

DATA 21 April. 20:00 – 21:30 UTC

First 70Mhz Contest Sunday 10 April,

09:00 to 12:00 UTC

Sections: SF,O, (Special rules S2)

First 50Mhz Contest. Sunday 24 April,

09:00 to 12:00 UTC

Sections: SF,O, (Special rules M3)

All other VHF contests are listed in January Radcom, Page 22. For any further information regarding contests please email

Steve G4ZUL: contests2005@g0mwt.org.uk

or visit the RSGB at: www.rsgb.org.uk

I would like to hear from anyone who is interested in contesting. Don't feel that inexperience is a bar, we all had to start somewhere. Come and have a go!

IMD April 23rd, by Brian G3CVI

The International Marconi Day is an annual event to celebrate the life and work of the Great Man and is held on the nearest Saturday to his birthday which was April 25th (1874)

This year that Saturday is April 23rd. and we shall be working the world during 24 hours starting at

2400 GMT on the night of Friday/Saturday which means that, due to BST, the clocktime will be 0100.

During the dark hours with the "real" aerial we are lucky to have on site we usually work almost anywhere from Chelmsford to New Zealand depending upon which band we choose and ionospheric conditions at the time. The station will be set up in the Writtle Hut inside the Engine House at Sandford Mill. This year we shall be using the second room in the hut rather than the first one which has been earmarked for other uses. This requires me to alter the feeder "design" by extending it over the top of the hut and brought down into the second room. Open wire feeder to a half-wave at 80 metres which is about 50 feet over water must be almost unique and often results in "you are the strongest signal on the band". I shall produce an entirely new tune-up chart so there will be no problems with rapid band changes.

The rig we use is a very fine transceiver viz. The FT.748 which runs 100w on all bands up to 70cm however we stay on the HFs during IMD. Upstairs Tony Gilbey will set up his FT.101 plus linear and probably a beam or a vertical for 20m. Usually the "upstairs boys" stay on 20m but often try other bands if we are not too strong in their cans...it beats both ways of course but we very rarely cause trouble even though 400w at 100 feet is a bit S9 plus. We usually stay on SSB although occasionally somebody brings along his favourite key and shows us how it should be done.

Visitors will come and go because the event is an open day at the Mill so we shall have an eye on possible recruits to our science and members are to act as hosts to offer information and details of our club and Ham Radio in general.....which brings me to a most important item: operators will be required to man the station from 2400 through Saturday till about 1800 or later depending on conditions and the supply of coffee etc!!! We shall need "volunteers" and a roster will be on my table at the next Tuesday meeting. Usually I do the graveyard watch (midnight till 0400 when I dash home for some shut-eye ready to return for the close-down in the evening but it would be a wonderful opportunity for some newly licensed folk to sit with an old hand for a while to get the feel of things and keep the log then to take over the mike and experience that great thrill of real DX.

During the day we need a few seniors to do about two hours each or more if they can arrange it with as many loggers as care to join in. IMD is not a contest but it sounds like it sometimes because as soon as you announce your presence as a special event station with the call GX0MWT all hell can be let lose and you pick one out of the noise. We have always had great fun and people will often hang around the frequency for half an hour or more just to eventually make a contact and exchange reports. Of course we may very well QSO with other IMD stations anywhere in the world.

So how about some of you new folk joining the fun....join up with an old hand as logger for a half hour or so then grab the mike and try your knowledge with the jargon!