



## 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 474

Web Address: [www.g0mwt.org.uk](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk)

August 2005

### **This Month's Meeting The CARS Annual Table Top Sale Tuesday August 2nd. at 7-30 pm at the MASC**

Roll up, roll up for the sale of the year! Well, at least it's our sale of the year!

Yes it is Table Top Sale time again. Also known as The Annual Re-circulation of Equipment or The Recycled Equipment Opportunity or perhaps The Second User Equipment Event or even The Amateur Equipment Reclamation Occasion. Whatever, you are duly invited to book a free table with Colin TRM and bring along all those unused electronic and other items you have been thinking about passing on for a long time. It is time for a decision. When did you last look in your loft, or your shed and what about that collection at the back of the garage. DO IT NOW and earn some Brownie points from you know who, and possibly make a small contribution to Club funds. Call Colin now, see contact numbers below.

With only two weeks before the Ofcom Amateur Licence deadline on Aug-18 the meeting will also feature a Questions and Answer Table and Rolling Presentation by Murray G6JYB so that ALL amateurs are able to respond.

Support the raffle which is run by Chris G0IPU and Ron M3CAM this month.

#### ***Dates for Your Diary***

August 2	CARS Mtg. Table Top Sale	Colin G0TRM
August 10	CARS Committee Mtg. 7-30pm DVH	All Members cordially invited
<b>August 12</b>	<b>Recommended Deadline for Ofcom Submissions</b>	
<b>August 18</b>	<b>Final Deadline for Ofcom Submissions</b>	
August 7 & 21	CARS Operating at Sandford Mill	2 pm. to 5 pm.

***The Club Net Controller for August is Geoff G3EDM***

## **OFCOM AND YOUR AMATEUR RADIO LICENCE IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO ACT NOW - SEE INSIDE**

### ***Congratulations***

On July 14 the latest Foundation Course produced fourteen successful candidates:-

Michelle Stiffel, Tony Crabb, Martin Overthrow, Anthony Jermyn, Grahame Andrews, Hugh Montgomerie, Ken Hardy, Philip Bowles Garry Wright, Graeme Johnson, John Cromwell, Paul Bailey, Dennis Phelan and Norman Andrews. We look forward to seeing them on the bands, and the tutors are looking forward to their summer break

### ***Amateur of the Year Award***

Who should win this prestigious award? Think about it and give your suggestion to any Committee Member, or directly to Carl G3PEM. Nominate a Member whom you think has contributed the most to the Club's well-being and Amateur Radio in general and why.

**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](mailto:geoff@g7klv.free-online.co.uk)

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## **Last Month's Meeting**

### **A Contact too Far**

**by Tom Robinson GOSBW**

Some of you will remember that last season Tom came to tell us of his escapades with back pack mobiles using vertical whips and trailing ground planes. So, when the TV Documentary people from Granada were going to make one of their "Battlefield Detectives" series and look into the communication difficulties experienced in Operation Market Garden - the Arnhem Landings - the technical adviser, Dr. Austin G0GSF, knew of Tom's exploits and asked him if he would be able to give them the benefit of his experience and assistance in the actual tests.

They wanted to test the actual sites and, as far as possible, the conditions to answer the following communication problems which arose on the actual operation. a) Was it the operators, b) was it the equipment, c) was it the terrain or d) was it the frequencies used?

Tom didn't need much persuasion, and in the short time available before the days allocated to the filming on site, pressed his friend Peter G8BLS (incidentally a work colleague of mine in BT) into service to develop another backpack as two stations were obviously required. Tom already had his own gear in the shape of an IC703. ICOM very kindly lent another set to do the tests.

WS68Ps were the sets originally used on frequencies around 2.2MHz using 11ft whip aerials, and AM at 0.25W on the lower end of the band and 1 W at the higher end. Although a few of these sets are still in museums and military establishments there were none in working order that could easily be obtained for use. The WS68Ps are valved receivers and transmitters using dry batteries for HT and filament supplies. The IC703s were calibrated to produce similar power and the aerials were bottom loaded with a coil to get them on tune. No earth spikes were allowed. However they found that the boots they were wearing needed to be those that were used for the aerial coil adjustments and were chosen for best results.

Before they set off to do the filming Tom and Peter went out to carry out range tests locally in Essex to check that the gear would work and imitate the performance of the WS68Ps. They discovered that with the base loading coil shorted, the whip would tune nicely to 6m and using FM they were able to use this as a very reliable communication method over all the sites both for their own and the film crews use although this was not part of their remit. Tests were made around the coast near Felixstowe on salt marshes over about 3km, and on one occasion an MM station called and gave good reports over a 10 mile sea path. They set off with confidence that the gear was a fair copy in performance and the distances covered would not be a problem.

Tom showed an extract from the film which took about seven minutes but took over a day to film. It was all done in wet conditions making them glad they had made waterproofing for the rigs, but with admiration for the film crew who took it all in their stride. Some Dutch

radio amateurs came to the rescue with a working WS68P. This was compared with the IC703's and gave comparable performance and was the one shown in the film for authenticity. The tests showed clearly that the range expected from the WS68P was not attained even using the modern rigs. Some of the actual sites were okay over short paths and open country but as soon as the forested areas were encountered no communication was possible. Tom said that he thought that little was known about propagation conditions in wooded areas on MF but, since the event, he has met people who said "we knew it would not work" and others who quoted the MF broadcasters and said they do alright with vertical aerials but not with WS68P's at 0.25 or 1 watt!

Tom has done an extensive amount of research into both the *materiel* (look it up) for the battle and the reasons for using the sets that were chosen. Tom put over his story in an interesting manner and gave us his conclusions which came over to me as follows:- The operators did not stand a chance with the WS68P at the frequencies used and over the wooded areas encountered. The drop zone was badly chosen and too far away from the target (the bridge). When the plan was made and the glider loads were arranged higher power radio sets were not required as the expected ranges were well within the gear provided.

This was the largest airborne operation ever, to date, with some 35,000 troops 430 aircraft and all the logistics that pertained and all put together in a very short time. The IC703s were widely used as the as the links between the film crews and Tom and Pete on 6m FM and, although not part of the original remit, gave us interesting information. Thanks Tom (and Pete) for giving us the information on your findings and letting us draw our own conclusions.

**Report by Tony G4YTG.**

### **August Contests from Steve G4ZUL**

#### **RSGB 2<sup>nd</sup> RoPoCo / CW**

Sunday 07 August, Starts: 07:00 UTC

Finishes: 09:00 UTC Band: 80 Metres

Exchange: RST + Postcode received.

Further information from <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org/>

#### **European HF Championship SSB / CW**

Sunday 07 August (T.B.C.)

Starts 10:00 UTC

Finishes 22:00 UTC Bands: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28 MHz

Exchange: RS(T) + Year first licensed.

#### **VHF Contests**

06 August, 144MHz Low Power Contest

Starts: 14:00 UTC Finishes: 20:00 UTC Sections: SF, SO, M. (25W max).

07 August, 432MHz Low Power Contest Starts: 08:00 UTC

Finishes: 12:00 UTC Sections: SF, SO, M. (25W max)

21 August, 70MHz Trophy Contest

Starts: 09:00 UTC Finishes: 15:00 UTC Sections: SF, SO, M. (Special rules M1)

Full rules from <http://www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc>

Further information please email me at

**contests2005@g0mwt.org.uk**

or phone **07931-874464.**

## **August Operators Required by *Brian G3CVI***

Sandford Mill is open to visitors on all four Sundays in August from 2pm to 5pm. CARS has been invited to set up operating stations on the first and third Sundays, that is the 7th. and 21st. of August.

I will be running the station on the 7th and would like volunteer operators to join me. This is a good opportunity for newly licensed Members to join me and gain experience. We have a superb aerial and rig and the DX will only be limited by propagation conditions.

Ron M3CAM and Denis M0FHA will be in charge on the 21st. and they also extend an invitation to newcomers.

On both these occasions Members would be welcome to come along and act as hosts and spread the word about amateur radio. Please let me know if you can be available on either or both days. My phone number is 01245-471919

We will also be operating at Sandford Mill on Science Discovery Day which is Sunday 25th. This is an all-day event and operators, hosts and Members are welcome in any capacity, contact me.

Incidentally, the New Rig, as we call the FT847, has been modified to transmit on the extended 40m band which means it now covers the entire half-meg of each band although the band end signals are still operative. This requires that you must be careful not to go outside the ham sections because it will not warn you 'till you try to go off the ends of the half-meg spans. A band plan is always on the op table top next to the tune-up data.

## **A New Government Service by *Brian G3CVI***

To be quite frank the government's record with IT projects is not brilliant but this appears to be a very useful government sponsored FREE system called ITS SAFE. It is available on the internet and bulletins are sent to your e-mail address as often as necessary which contain warnings of nasties which are attacking computers and literally taking them over without the owners being aware until it is too late.

The bulletins are compiled in co-operation with MS, Norton and a consortium of ISP's To participate you just open your internet page for <http://www.itsafe.gov.uk/> and fill in the fields when asked. They warn us never to click on the blue links in a page of downloads but rather to enter the WWW address manually each time because it is in the links where the nasties are lurking.

## **Bargain Corner**

**RadComs Jan 1990 to 2005, complete volumes.**  
**Also quantity of PW's and SWM's. All free but must be collected (Springfield) .**

**Contact Dick G4DJC on 01245 256416.**

## **Mast Available**

**A Member of the Vange Club has a mast available for disposal. It is about 26 ft. long and was a mast originally from a boat. It has a track running up it's full length. It sounds useful! If you are interested get in touch with Steve G4ZUL at**

**Stephen\_Cocks@novar.com  
and he will put you in touch.**

## **Newsletter Changes – Relieving the Burden by *Murray G6JYB***

As previously reported, we have a vacancy for Newsletter Editor, as Geoff G7KLV will be stepping down at the AGM after an excellent innings. The Newsletter has now grown to a circulation of over 150 of which 83 are printed and posted, with the rest emailed (usually as Acrobat PDF). With a size of 4-6 pages per issue now common, this represents a huge amount of paper, printing, postage and effort by the gents concerned every month. This would be rather daunting to anyone who takes on the new editorial role, even with some help.

Therefore a proposal before the Committee is that to reduce the burden and to avoid an increase in Membership fees, greater use of emailed letters is desirable. To facilitate this Members are requested to ensure their email addresses are notified/updated when renewing at/after the AGM. Note that the option of a hardcopy posted newsletter will remain, but we wish to reduce the proportion of these significantly. Sensitive to Members concerns, the email circulation list will be separated from other CARS correspondence to control inbox volumes.

If you have any comments on the above, or wish to join the editorial team, do let us know.

## **Club Meetings by *Murray G6JYB***

We are always open to ideas and comments on the meetings and talks programme and our Secretary Martyn Medcalf G3EFL is currently compiling next years list.

We have noticed some lower attendances this year compared to previous years despite the excellent content on the day that was on offer - and plenty of raffle prizes!

The other thing we are keen to see is more participation, with more Members contributing to activities - talks, contest operation, IMD, Museum weekends etc. Is there something we are missing ?

Do let us know.

**Footnote - Deep Impact:** Following last months sad report on the Solar Sail mission, Murray G6JYB was more pleased a week later when his name was one of many on the side of the Copper 'bullet' that successfully hit Comet Tempel-I

## **Ofcom Funding and Amateur Radio Defence Fund Points raised at Region 12 Talks by Phillip Brooks G4NZQ RSGB Region 12 Manager**

The following questions were put at the recent RSGB Region 12 meetings on Amateur Radio Licensing.

**Question 1a:** It is understood that all the work done by Ofcom's Amateur Radio Division, (with the possible exception of Individual Amateur Licensing pending current discussions) will be done by the RSGB from the 1st Jan 2006 and that Ofcom will be forwarding all Amateur Radio enquiries directly to the RSGB. Will Ofcom provide any funding to do this?

**Question 1b:** Up until recently Ofcom were paying the RSGB £30,000 a year to carry out the administration of repeater and data links licences. Will this level of funding continue and if so will the RSGB be receiving any additional funding from Ofcom to carry out any extra work?

**Answers 1a/b:** No funding will be provided by Ofcom for doing any of this work. All such subsidies are being withdrawn.

**Question 2:** The ARRL is raising money to defend the spectrum? Does the RSGB think it should do something similar? (Maybe we will need to defend some of the spectrum when the Olympics come around in 2012?)

**Answer 2:** Things are on a much different scale in the USA and some amateurs such as The Eagles guitarist Joe Walsh WB6ACU pay huge amounts into such funds - the kind of donations that UK Amateurs only dream about winning! However, if a need arose in the UK to deal with a particular issue the RSGB would regard a "fighting fund" appeal as one way of dealing with the situation. Regarding the Olympics, the RSGB will be looking to play a significant role in communications provision although ideas and thinking are, naturally, at a very early stage.

**Question 3:** What was the outcome of Tuesday's (12<sup>th</sup> July) RSGB - Ofcom meeting?

**Answer 3:** The meeting was regarded as pretty unsatisfactory. It was viewed as something of a "fishing trip" by Ofcom to find out what was happening in the RSGB camp. One thing that did emerge was that although Ofcom had a vision of the future, there was absolutely no planning on their part about how they would actually get there. An example quoted was that no consideration has so far been given to how any new licensing system would validate the examination credentials of new applicants.

Finally, the theme of the RSGB Region 12 talks in Maidstone and Peterborough are summed up in the "Objective Document" Murray G6JYB was kind enough to put on the RSGB Region 12 Website

<http://www.rsgb-region-12.org.uk/> and is in the August copy of RadCom.

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### **IARU Region-1 Conference**

In September 2005 IARU Region-1 holds its conference at Davos in Switzerland. Papers for the C4 Committee on HF matters and C5 on VHF/UHF/Microwave have now been released for comment. The HF Papers cover varying ideas for HF Bandplans and harmonising Emergency Communication frequencies. They are available on the HF Section of the RSGB's Spectrum Forum website at <http://www.rsgb-spectrumforum.org.uk/>

Comments on these are welcome from all amateurs and a Yahoo Email group has been set up to facilitate discussion on the papers at <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/ukc4discussion/>

The VHF papers are available on the IARU Region-1 VHF website and UK authored ones including at least one by Murray G6JYB are available on the Operating Section of the UK Microwave Group site at <http://www.microwavers.org/>

## OFCOM – TIME FOR YOU TO ACT !!!

The formal consultation launched on May-26<sup>th</sup> with a deadline of 5pm on Aug 18<sup>th</sup>, but for many weeks most amateurs have held back from replying. If you want to ensure that the future of Amateur Radio is determined by you and not someone else there is only one course of action. Every amateur should respond personally to Ofcom. There are 9 questions (three of which we highlighted in the last newsletter) and below is guidance on the issues/answers (although of course you are free to your own opinion).

### CONSULTATION GUIDANCE NOTES

**Q1: Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process?**

**If not, please explain why.**

YES – It is time to modernise the process, but with safeguards for anyone who does not have or is not able/willing to use the internet. It will need sound online security against fraud and spam, as well as valid email addresses.

**Q2: Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the licensee?**

**If not, please explain why.**

Ofcom prefers a lifetime licence, with minimal checking and a risk of callsign database inaccuracies, email changes etc building up. The RSGB recommend a 5 year period – so State your preference – see Q7 as well

**Q3: Do you agree with the proposal to issue electronic amateur radio licences free of charge?**

**If not, please explain why.**

Electronic licences will undoubtedly be cheaper, but will need safeguards or maybe charges to deter frivolous requests. Any such system costs money to set up and run. Are you prepared to pay? (probably ~£10 a year compared to the current £15). Don't forget that under 21s and 75+ are free at present in any case. Is there such a thing as a free lunch? One idea might be to make new M3 licences (or others upgrading to Intermediate/Advanced) free as an incentive to join the hobby and improve themselves

**Q4: Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications for amateur radio licences? If not, please explain why.**

Ofcom do not say what the charge will be. On balance the answer is probably YES to encourage electronic applications which are cheaper to handle. Any such charge though should be at a modest level similar to the present one. It should not discriminate against successful examinees which at present only have paper pass slips.

**Q5: Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption is not currently practical?**

**YES AGREED – Deregulation is not wanted – it would destroy the entire basis of Amateur Radio and its privileges**

**Q6: What are your views on WT Act exemption in the longer term**

**No thanks !!! – not ever – Deregulation would destroy amateur radio as we know it.** Any modification should be fully agreed within the framework of the International Radio Regulations

**Q7: Is maintaining the existing licensing regime but with an extended renewal period your preferred option? If so, please state the renewal period that you believe would be appropriate and explain why.**

The existing annual paper based regime is unnecessary. Ofcom prefers a lifetime licence, with minimal checking and a risk of callsign database inaccuracies building up. The RSGB recommend a 5 year period – State Your Preference (NB this question is about time period - fees are covered in Q3 & Q4 so for example you could in principle have a free licence, but revalidated every 5 years)

**Q8: Do you agree that the current licensing system is over-burdensome? If not, please explain why.**

YES - Although it does not cause too many problems for Radio Amateurs, simplification, plainer-English Schedules and a reduction in paper (compared to current BR68/NoV renewals) would be welcome.

**Q9: Do you agree that [unspecified] admin charges should be applied for NoV's**

At present some NoV's are free (eg Beacons/Repeaters) but the subsidy will be disappearing. Charges are therefore likely but not specified in the consultation document. In your answer you may wish to distinguish between general service Beacons/Repeaters and personal, special event and other short term experimental requests (eg 5MHz). Note that NoV renewals and their charges are likely to be yearly. Modernising NoV requests/revalidation (e-NoV's) needs to be looked at.

## OFCOM CONSULTATION - RSGB KEY OBJECTIVES

1. Maintain the status of amateur radio and radio amateurs in the UK
2. Maintain the requirement for examination
3. Ensure that a licence requirement stays in place
4. Protect the integrity of the Amateur Radio Licence database
5. Safeguard the future of the hobby

### **RSGB Recommendation**

A 5 year renewable licence (fee or no fee as determined by the amateur radio community)

### **WHAT TO DO**

1. Obtain a copy of the consultation document either by downloading it, or ringing Ofcom (Tel: 020 7981 3000)
2. Read the document carefully and answer the questions. Remember its your individual views on the future of licensing that Ofcom need
3. **Ensure that you email or post your replies by 12<sup>th</sup> August 2005**  
– well in time for the 5pm 18<sup>th</sup> August deadline

Remember, at the start of this consultation Ofcom failed to recognise Amateur Radio had a voice in the UK. Failure to respond to the consultation will strengthen Ofcom's view that radio amateurs do not care about the wellbeing of their hobby

**So its down to you – All of you !!**

**Note: CARS and the RSGB Region-12 websites have an editable reply sheet which includes all nine Ofcom questions in Microsoft Word format to assist email replies.**

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/ofcom/> and <http://www.rsgb-region-12.org.uk/>

### **SEND RESPONSES TO:**

**Amateur Radio Licensing Consultation,  
Ofcom, Riverside House, 2A Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA  
Email: [amateurradio@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:amateurradio@ofcom.org.uk) Fax: 020 7981 3061**

### **USING THE REPLY SHEET**

The following two pages consist of a standard Ofcom declaration form and a copy of the nine questions with space . for your answers

The declaration form has a few spaces for you to put your name, affiliation and signature, and permits Ofcom to publish the response on its website (unless of course you prefer to remain anonymous).

The following page has copies of the consultation questions. Some of these can be answered simply with Yes or No, whilst others need more care as per our guide on the previous page.

Both the cover and answer sheets should be sent by post/email or fax to Ofcom at the address above.

# Cover sheet for response to an Ofcom consultation

## BASIC DETAILS

Consultation title: **Consultation on a proposal to reform amateur radio licensing (Of 243)**

To (Ofcom contact): **Amateur Radio Licensing, [amateurradio@ofcom.org.uk](mailto:amateurradio@ofcom.org.uk)  
Ofcom, Riverside House,  
2a Southwark Bridge Road, London SE1 9HA**

Name of respondent: .....

Representing (self or organisation/s): .....

Address (if not received by email):

## CONFIDENTIALITY

What do you want Ofcom to keep confidential?

Nothing  Name/address/contact details/job title

Whole response  Organisation

Part of the response  If there is no separate annex, which parts?

If you want part of your response, your name or your organisation to be confidential, can Ofcom still publish a reference to the contents of your response (including, for any confidential parts, a general summary that does not disclose the specific information or enable you to be identified)?

Yes  No

## DECLARATION

I confirm that the correspondence supplied with this cover sheet is a formal consultation response. It can be published in full on Ofcom's website, unless otherwise specified on this cover sheet, and I authorise Ofcom to make use of the information in this response to meet its legal requirements. If I have sent my response by email, Ofcom can disregard any standard e-mail text about not disclosing email contents and attachments.

Ofcom can publish my response: on receipt  once the consultation ends

Name .....

Signed (if hard copy) .....

**Consultation on a Proposal to Reform Amateur Radio Licensing (Of 243)**  
**Final Deadline for Responses 18-August 2005**

**Questions and Answers**

**Question 1:** *Do you agree with the proposal to introduce a lighter, electronic licensing process? If not, please explain why.*

**Question 2:** *Do you agree with the proposal to issue licences which remain valid for the life of the licensee? If not, please explain why.*

**Question 3:** *Do you agree with the proposal to issue electronic amateur radio licences free of charge? If not, please explain why.*

**Question 4:** *Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing postal applications for amateur radio licences? If not, please explain why.*

**Question 5:** *Do you agree that WT Act licence exemption for radio amateurs is not currently practical?*

**Question 6:** *What are your views regarding the possibility of WT Act licence exemption for radio amateurs in the longer term?*

**Question 7:** *Is maintaining the existing licensing regime but with an extended renewal period your preferred option? If so, please state the renewal period that you believe would be appropriate and explain why.*

**Question 8:** *Do you agree that the current licensing system is over-burdensome? If not, please explain why.*

**Question 9:** *Do you agree with the proposal to apply an administrative charge when processing applications for a Notice of Variation to an amateur radio licence? If not, please explain why.*