



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 478(e-mail)

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

December 2005

This Month's Meeting Christmas Social Tuesday December 6th. 7-30pm at the MASC

Geoff Lovegrove, Brian Thwaites and Ron Ingate have organised this years Christmas Social to be held again at our usual venue. It is a ticket only event and these must have been purchased in advance so that the catering arrangements could be settled in good time. There will be a cold buffet with cakes to follow. Tea and coffee will be available free of charge and of course the Bar will be open from 6.30. (Sadly NOT free of charge). If you have not purchased your ticket by now I am afraid you are too late.

❏ CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS ❏

Dates for Your Diary

28 November	Last Minute Reminder Of Dengie Quiz Contact Geoff Mills 223494	See page 2
2/4 December	ARRL 160 Metre CW Contest	(Details page 4)
4 December	144 Metre AFS Contest	(Details page 4)
6 December	CARS Meeting. Christmas Party. Ticket Only 7-30pm. MASC	
10/11 December	ARRL 10 Metre SSB/CW Contest	(Details page 4)
14 December	CARS Committee Mtg. DVH 7-30pm. All Members welcome.	
15 December	Colchester invites CARS to Inter-Club Convention, 7.30 at the Abbeygate Room, Colchester Institute - Bring food to share - Free drinks. See www.g3co.ccom.co.uk	
03 January 06	CARS Meeting. Life Aboard Caroline by Carl G3PEM 7-30pm. MASC	

The Club Net Controller for December is Chris G0IPU

DID YOU KNOW ISSUE No 1 OF THIS CARS NEWSLETTER WAS PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 1965 AND AS FAR AS WE KNOW IT HAS BEEN PRODUCED MONTHLY WITHOUT FAIL EVER SINCE WE THINK THIS RECORD SHOULD BE MAINTAINED?

Then please think very seriously about filling the vacant Editors post, so brilliantly held by Geoff Lovegrove for the past seven years. Geoff, with some input from his deputy carried out all editing, printing, labelling and posting. The task has now been divided.

Denis M0FHA and his wife have taken on the job of printing, labelling and posting with some initial help from Geoff. The Editor's job is now a separate post. Would you like to try it? You will receive very full support from Geoff Lovegrove, and the deputy Editor.

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 This issue - Colin, G0TRM

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

Please keep our Membership Secretary, Brian G3CVI, informed of any changes to your call sign or various addresses etc.

Last Month's Meeting Rig Testing

A very enthusiastic Geoff Blake G8GNZ came to the Club laden down with a whole range of Test Equipment which set a number of hearts pumping with its quality and variety and an equally enthusiastic selection of members queued up to have their rigs given the once over. Aply assisted by Chris IPU, Geoff took in his stride a wide collection of transceivers (9 in fact) covering many years of manufacturing techniques. In some cases just a few suspect parameters were checked and the rigs owner went away happy. In other cases more thorough checking took place and numerous tests were carried out, with mostly the rigs passing with flying colours.

Our very grateful thanks to Geoff who fulfilled the task undaunted. Initially Nigel Hull hoped to come, but new job requirements ruled that out. Stewart Little G7KSQ was set to take over but due to the sudden illness of his son he was unable to do so.

During the meeting Brian G3CVI convincingly demonstrated the BHI Noise Cancelling loudspeaker to Members. As expected, the results were very good and John DET was able to spread the news via the PA system to all concerned. A number of members were convinced there and then and requested that their names be added to the current list of prospective purchasers. (See Below)

BHI NOISE CANCELLING Mk2 LOUDSPEAKER (Page 30 November RadCom)

As you may be aware, a number of Members have tried the Club's BHI loudspeaker for a short while to check its capabilities with a view to making a purchase.

As sufficient Members are now interested in buying, Brian CVI has negotiated with the manufacturer a reduction on the advertised price and a post free delivery. They are available for £90 each to Members. If you would like your name added to this list please let me know by email: colinpage@ukgateway.net or 'phone: 01245 223835.
Colin G0TRM

Antenna Parts By David G8OQW.

B&Q do a number of 1m lengths of brass and aluminium rod & tube that fit very nicely inside each other. Quite expensive but ideal for experimenting and available on that boring Sunday afternoon! Also if you are in need of smaller aluminium antenna poles quickly, 1", 1.5", 1.75" x up to 3m and want to avoid paying extortionate prices for them, give Moulsham Electronics in Moulsham Street a try. I have found them most helpful when I haven't had time to order in from my usual supplier and remember when you go there you are returning to the roots of amateur radio in Chelmsford.

David G8OQW

[Note from Trevor M5AKA. In 1946 Fred E. Smith provided the club with a permanent HQ in a room above his radio shop at 184 Moulsham Street (later known as Moulsham Electronics). The room was fully equipped with a workbench and test equipment. The first recorded meeting at this venue was in December 1946 it was attended by 6 members.]

CARS Helps Train Electronic Engineering Apprentices

A small Essex based company had cause for a double celebration recently, when two of their apprentices successfully completed their Foundation Licence course. RPF Technical Services Ltd, an electronics company that primarily specialises in the design and manufacture of modules for OEM's in the Broadcast, Communications and Military industries, sponsored their employees to undertake the course provided by Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (C.A.R.S) at Danbury Village Hall. Phil Osborne G4RPF, Managing Director (and South Essex Area RAYNET Controller), said "I suggested the course to my staff partly as a way of getting more young people interested in the hobby and partly to give them an introduction to electronics. The whole exercise has been a great success and I'm thrilled by the outcome!" Michelle Stiffel and Hugh Montgomerie, who have since commenced ONC courses in Electronic Engineering, said they found the course to be 'fun yet informative' and that it has helped them in their work" RPF Technical Services Ltd website can be seen at <http://www.rpftech.co.uk/>

CARS at the Inter-Club Quiz

The Essex Inter-Club Quiz will be held on Monday 28th November 2005 at 7.30pm at the Dengie Hundred Amateur Radio Society
<http://www.dhars.org.uk/>

Dengie always put on a magnificent Buffet for this event with a wide variety of food to suit all tastes so they'll be no need to eat before you go! Everyone is welcome and CARS hope to be able to enter 2 teams but we need more support! If you would like to be on one of the CARS teams (it's a very simple general knowledge quiz not at all difficult) then contact

Geoff G3EDM Tel: 01245 223494 Email: glmillsq3edm@onetel.com

If you don't want to be on one of the quiz teams then why not attend as a supporter. The event only costs £2 - Yes that's all! - just £2 covers everything coffee, Buffet and a great evening. For information or rsvp please contact Mark (club secretary) Email: Markybukdj@aol.com or Dave M1DOZ Email:

davidsampson@blueyonder.co.uk Tel: 01376 573777 or 07770 873787 to confirm attendance so that Dengie can plan the catering requirements. Location: The Henry Samuel Hall, Steeple Road, Mayland CM3 6EG (about 200 yards on the left past the Mayland Mill). For a map go to <http://tinyurl.com/d4mnx>

CW FOREVER

You must have, at times, thought into the past.
Where some things go out, while others last.
What comes to my mind is the Old Morse Code,
That has weathered the storms from many abode.
To talk with ones fingers, is surely an art,
Of any info you care to impart.
In most conditions the signals get through,
While the same about phone is simply not true.

Those dits and dahs cut through trash,
Of nearby noise and lightening crash.
To the sensitive ears of the ham receiver,
Who records this data with ardent fervour.
He knows he's doing something unique,
In such poor conditions, that is quite a feat,
To roger the message that came off the air,
These brass pounders sure do have that flair.

They say Morse ops are a dying breed,
But don't despair, there's always a need.
That when conditions get rough for the new automation,
Be rest assured, there'll be a need for your station.
CW dying? Believe it never,
This mode will be around for ever and ever.
But one thing is sure, what we really need,
Is to relay our knowledge to the younger breed.

To carry the torch, long after we're gone,
To send Morse Code thru the air like a song.
When at last, Silent Keys pull the final lever,
We can rest in peace, it's CW forever.

Jim Hatherly, WAITBY

Chelmsford Amateur talks to Astronaut on International Space Station

Chelmsford Amateur David G8OQW struck lucky when he listened to a pass of the International Space Station on 145.800 MHz on the evening of Thursday 3rd October. He heard NA1SS calling CQ from the Space Station, he replied (on 145.200 MHz) and had the QSO of a lifetime with Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur KC5ACR who was operating NA1SS.

This is David G8OQW's description of the contact. "It was pure chance, luck and a mad scramble to get the radio on and the tracking and Doppler setup. Had just switched the PC on to check my emails and having done this went into Ham Radio Deluxe to check visibility on the sats. ISS was showing as 'up', turned on and manually tuned the radio to hear nothing but the expected packet, however just as I was going to turn off, I heard Bill calling CQ. Then a mad scramble to connect the computer to radio, setup the split operation, get the recorder and hope he was still there! "

David told Bill that Chelmsford, where he lives, is regarded as the Birthplace of Radio. It's the town

where Marconi established his first factory over a century ago. See (<http://www.marconicalling.com/>)

He will be getting the special ISS QSL card for the contact, which I'm sure, will take pride of place in his collection.

Full details of David G8OQW's contact with NA1SS and an MP3 recording of the QSO are available at:- <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk> & click on "Past Events & Sandford Mill". The QSO File is now only 109kbytes & can be listened to on a "dial-up" internet connection. Trevor M5AKA & John G8DET

Ofcom Response

It is interesting to compare the percentage of UK Radio Amateurs who responded to Ofcoms Amateur Radio Licensing consultation 2.2%, 1400 replies out of 62010 individual licences, with consultations in other countries.

In the USA the ARRL are pleased that they have got 2600 responses to the FCC's consultation on it's highly controversial proposals to abolish the Morse requirement. 2600 sounds a lot, but when you consider there are 663,710 amateurs in the States that's only a response rate of 0.39% a fraction of the UK figure.

The Amateur community in this country should be proud of achieving such a high response rate. On the subject of the Licensing Consultation the MORI Poll on the subject should be released in the next few days. Keep an eye on the Ofcom website:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/#content> 73 Trevor M5AKA

A Million Kilometres on 2 Metres FM

The Chairman of Colchester Radio Amateurs James MØZZO thinks there is a need for a new challenge on two metres, so he has come up with the following:

The Award.

A certificate and stickers will be available to mark certain total distances achieved in QSO's. Initially a certificate will be awarded to an amateur making QSO's totalling 5,000 Kilometres. Stickers to update the certificate will be awarded at 25,000, 50,000, 100,000, 250,000 and 500,000 Kilometres.

A fresh certificate will be issued at 1,000,000 Kilometres. Additionally, two annual awards are offered for the furthest distance in a year claimed by (1) a CRA Member and (2) a non-member.

The Rules.

Rules will be kept to the barest minimum, as it is more important that people look at the spirit of this award rather than the detail.

1. All contacts must be made in the FM simplex section of the band plan, which for the UK is 145.200-145.600 MHz.
2. Contacts must be direct station to station. Repeater contacts including satellite do not count towards the award. Moonbounce, meteor scatter, etc are also excluded.

3. Multiple contacts with the same station count only with 6 calendar months in between.
4. Only contacts made on or after 1st January 2006 can count towards an award.
5. All contacts must be made from the registered address of the Station.
6. Maidenhead locators should be exchanged during each QSO. If this is not possible then enough detail should be exchanged to allow later calculation of the Locator.

Measurements.

Distances will be based on the Maidenhead locator system as used in VHF contests. A spreadsheet for calculating the distances will soon be available.

In the UK an OS grid Reference can be converted to a Maidenhead Locator using the spreadsheet provided for the logging of this award. Go to www.streetmap.co.uk where there is a facility for converting a point on a map (post code or street name) to an OS Grid reference, so it should always be possible to ascertain the locator of a given station.

The purpose of this challenge is to promote activity on the Two Metre FM Simplex Channels from home-based stations. It is open to all licensed amateurs worldwide and there is a small charge for the awards- profits go to the local Hospice. Additional info from James MØZZO. Email: james@mcginty.net Tel: 07785 933 309

CARS SLIDES 1

UK--Australian Co-operation on Foundation Course

The Society was recently approached by Peter Kutas VK2UPK of the Westlakes Amateur Radio Club in Australia. They have just followed the UK's lead and introduced a Foundation Licence. Peter wanted to make use of CARS UK Foundation Power Point slides to produce a version customised for the Australian Foundation licence. CARS readily agreed to the idea and Peter adapted the slides to suit the local Licence conditions. The Australian versions can now be downloaded from <http://www.westlakesarc.org.au/>

The original CARS UK Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced Power Point Slides produced by the **CARS Training Team** can be downloaded from the CARS website at: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training>

CARS SLIDES 2

Charles G0GJS sent the following email to Trevor and some other Club members: in case you missed it here it is.

"I had an interesting SSB QSO yesterday (16/11/05) on (7.150MHz.) with Robin/GM3ZYE/P who was operating from an RC Primary School, Saint Ninians, which is in Newton Stewart near Dumfries in Galloway. He was teaching the Foundation course to children during their lunch hour and making very good use of CARS slides. He also runs another course at Minnigraff Primary School nearby. I had a very FB chat

with a 7 and an 11 year old - their confident use of the phonetic alphabet was most impressive."

73 de Charles G0GJS

Training Courses

Amateur Radio licences are now obtained by passing a progressive system of Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced levels of the Radio Communications Examination. Anyone entering the hobby must go through each stage before progressing to the next. Foundation and Intermediate levels include operating and practical assessments as well as theory.

The entry level Foundation permits operation on all Amateur bands from 136 kHz to 440 MHz with the exception of 28 MHz at a power level of 10 watts. We are now taking bookings for the following courses that will be held on Thursday evenings at Danbury Village Hall. Foundation - 12th January to 16th February Intermediate - 2nd March to 4th May Clive Ward, M0SIX is the CARS Training Co-ordinator. Those wishing to book a place should contact him on Tel: 01245-224577 Mob: 07860-418835.

E-mail: training2006@g0mwt.org.uk

144MHz Affiliated Societies Contest

The 144MHz Affiliated Societies Contest is being held on Sunday 4th December and runs from 0900-1700.

CARS will be entering but we need more support from members to make up our team. You operate the contest from your own station and afterwards send your log to the CARS Contest Manager Steve G4ZUL. It doesn't matter if can only operate for a couple of hours. If you'd like to take part email Steve at

contests2005@g0mwt.org.uk

A copy of the rules can be seen at

<http://www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc/index.html>

December Contest News from Steve G4ZUL

ARRL 160 Metre / CW

02/04 December,

Starts: 22:00 Finishes: 16:00 UTC. 24Hrs

Exchange: RST only

Further information from www.arrrl.org/contests

ARRL 10 Metre. SSB/CW

10/11 December, 48HRS

Exchange: RS(T) + Serial number

Further information from www.arrrl.org/contests

144 MHz AFS Contest

04 December,

Starts: 09:00 Finishes: 17:00 UTC

Sections: SF, O. (Special rules S3)

Full rules from www.blacksheep.org/vhfcc

For any further information please email Steve G4ZUL

Contests2005@g0mwt.org.uk

Editors note. Regret to say I have not checked all the web addresses they have been printed as received. Colin G0TRM