



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Harry Heap G5HF
Secretary: Martyn Medcalf G1EFL

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

Newsletter No 489

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

November 2006

This Month's Meeting - Chelmer & Blackwater Navigation 7th November. 7.30pm at the MASC.

CARS Committee like to provide one or two "Social Presentations" during the year. So this month we feature the Canal, which was dug in the late 1700s to provide a major trading link between Chelmsford and the North Sea via Heybridge Basin. Mr Colin Edmond will tell us a little of the history and the running of the Canal.

Bring along your Partners for a "different, non radio" evening.

CARS collects 1,000s of QSL Cards from its many Event Days, some more of these will be on display. If you were operating the CARS station and you recognise the contact - please take the QSL Card before it hits the bin. There will be another excellent Raffle.

Dates for Your Diary

November	Net Controller: David M0BQC
Sat/Sun Nov 4/5 th	144MHz Marconi/CW Contest
Sat/Sat Nov 11/12 th	Japan International DX/SSB Contest
Wed Nov 15 th	CARS Committee Meeting - Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm - All invited.
Sat/Sun Nov 18/19 th	RSGB 1.8MHz/CW Contest
Sat/Sun Nov 25/26 th	CQ WW DX/CW Contest
Tue Dec 5 th	CARS Meeting - VLF by Tony, G4YTG
Thu Dec 14 th	CARS Xmas Dinner – Chimes Restaurant at The Rettendon Bell

Subscriptions are now due.

Brian, G3CVI would like to remind Members that the Subs for 2006/7 are now due. It is the same rate as last year at £10. Please see Brian at the November or December Meetings. If you are not going to be there, please send your cheque for £10 made out to "Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society" to Mr Thwaites, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD. CM2 7BU. Also enclose a Stamped and addressed envelope for your Membership Card, thanks.

Christmas Dinner

For the past two years we have had a Buffet style Christmas Event - this year CARS is having a traditional Christmas Dinner. Murray, G6JYB has made a provisional booking at The Bell, Rettendon for Thursday, 14th December. Brian, G4CTS & Julie have kindly agreed to organise tickets etc. Please see the separate Booking Form, which should be sent to their QTH together with the money and a SAE. Julie will be at the November Meeting to give out Tickets in exchange for a cheque & a Booking Form. To make it more affordable, CARS is gently subsidising the event.

Our grateful thanks to Denis, M0FHA and Joy for posting this Newsletter. Could it have gone by E-Mail?

Please keep our Membership Secretary, informed of any changes to your callsign or E-Mail addresses, etc.

For further details contact our Programme Secretary: Martyn M3VAM on 01245-469008 or look on the CARS Web Site.
Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375 : (3rd) 1.947 : (4th) 1.947 : (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.

Annual General Meeting

Chairman John, G8DET opened the Meeting by welcoming Members and Visitors. He introduced Gwyn, G4FKH and asked the audience to note that he was wearing a blue tee-shirt - more later.

Carl G3PEM lead the Presentation by Vice President Geoff Mills, G3EDM of the "Amateur of the Year Award" to Brian, G3CVI for his services to CARS. Brian is Treasurer, Membership Secretary and he also organises the CARS events at Sandford Mill. Carl explained that he had obtained a new Trophy as the previous one was looking a bit worn.

Geoff Mills then presented the Constructors Competition Certificates.

- Firstly to Patrick Xavier, M0XAP - the Special Prize, for his antenna projects.
- 3rd Prize to Colin Page G0TRM, for his knife and fork Morse key
- 2nd Prize to Carl Thomson G3PEM, for his Vertical HF Antenna.
- 1st Prize to Anthony Martin M1FDE, for his Multi-band Triplexer

John thanked Geoff, G3EDM and opened the AGM by recording apologies from President Harry G5HF, Tony G4YTG, Brian G4CTS, Trevor M5AKA & Andrew G8LWS. He then read the Minutes of the previous AGM, which were agreed as being correct. Their acceptance was Proposed & Seconded. There were no questions resulting from this.

Geoff, G3EDM gave the President's Report by thanking everyone who had supported CARS & said that without help the Club would not succeed. He said that the role of the Radio amateur was changing, as more professionally constructed equipment replaced home construction & the development of new techniques such as Digimodes, the Internet & ECHOLINK.

This was followed by John G8DET who combined the Secretary's Report with his Chairman's Report. Jim, 2E0JPS is the Minute Secretary & Martyn, M0VAM is the Programme Secretary. Both did a great job during the previous year with their individual tasks but would not want to change. John thanked the Committee for the work they had done during the past year and noted that Chris, G0IPU was stepping down from the Committee after 19 years to reduce his work load. He will continue with the valuable Training role for CARS in Danbury. Ron, M3CAM & Denis, M0FHA were also standing down. Denis would continue as Postal Secretary, assembling and posting the 40+ CARS monthly Newsletters with help from his Wife Jo. Trevor, M5AKA also was standing down, it was thought due to work commitments.

Murray, G6JYB was thanked for his work as the Newsletter "finisher", Training commitment and his RSGB/Ofcom involvement.

Brian, G3CVI then took the stage with his Membership hat on and said that we now had 109 Members. This was down on last year but mainly due to the large coverage area the Training Group catered for, with many people not having any real association with Chelmsford.

Brian then changed hat to Treasurer. CARS major expenditure was the MASC Room hire but we could afford it even though he had been told it was going up during the year. The Raffle was a major source which, with donations, provided a steady income. He proposed that the subscriptions remained the same even though our previous year Income did not quite match our Outgoings. This was voted on and agreed.

Clive Ward, G1EUC, as Training Officer took the stage and told the audience about the previous years Training Program which had been very successful, including one Blind Candidate who very nearly got all questions correct at his test, except a controversial one. Clive asked the audience if they knew of anyone who would like to take the Foundation Course, as he felt they had nearly exhausted the normal supply of potential trainees from Chelmsford.

The Chairman retired the old Committee and asked Vice President Charles, G0GJS to present those retiring with a bottle of wine, as a token of CARS appreciation. These included Chris, G0IPU - Denis, M0FHA - Ron, M3CAM and Trevor, M5AKA. A bottle was also presented to Carl, G3PEM for his past work as QSL Manager for a number of years before handing the job onto Patrick, M0XAP.

Vice-President Geoff then Proposed that those who wished to further serve on the Committee for the coming year be voted-in, en-block. - this was passed. He said that CARS had the power to second Members to serve on the Committee in the future. The AGM closed at 8.25pm.

Chris set up the SCARF digital projector and John showed 218 pictures of the past 70 years of the Radio Societies in Chelmsford. It had started by being called 'The RSGB Group' with about 12 Amateurs, who used to meet in various houses including Lawrence Fuller, G6LB and James Watt, G6ZC. It then met in F E Smiths Radio Workshop in Moulsham Street before moving to Marconi College in Arbour Lane in 1952. In 1958 it became the Chelmsford Radio Club, and finally CARS in 1963. Tony Dix, G5IX produced the first Newsletter on an experimental basis for three months in 1966. Gwyn's tee shirt featured on two pictures taken in Arbour Lane 10 years ago as did Andrew, G4KQE and Geoff, G3EDM. Silent keys, Ron Ferguson G4VF. Roy Martyr, G3PMX and the Rev. Wally Mills, G3MCO, were also featured.

The audience recognised a number of other well-known personalities in the film show. Some of the material was obtained from Trevor M5AKA's CD and some from pictures and QSL Cards I had scanned in separately.

After the refreshment break & raffle, Carl showed a film of the Buncefield Oil Depot fire, which occurred in December 2005. Two Satellite images were shown taken by Doug Bone, G4MOI where the smoke cloud could be seen from space. Read more at:- <http://www.buncefieldinvestigation.gov.uk/>

John, G8DET Chairman.

Did you see . . .

The new 2007 RSGB Yearbook, (previously referred to as The Callbook) contains a couple of Chelmsford pictures and items related to CARS.

Page 83, has the picture I took of our Foundation Candidates and Tutors including Carl, Chris, Anthony and Murray, outside Danbury Village Hall.

Page 81, has the picture I took at the AMSAT-UK Colloquium but that's nothing to do with CARS.

Page 147, has a picture of Danbury Radio Amateur John Wood, G4EAT receiving the G3RPE Memorial Trophy. John is to give us an eagerly awaited talk on Microwaves next year.

Essex Repeater Group features in the clubs section, Murray also get a mention in the Stellar section, and CARS and local clubs are on the free DVD

73 Trevor M5AKA

Echo Link Chelmsford.

I was in my shack doing some paper work. My new handheld, an Alinco DJ-195 was monitoring the Danbury Node. Time was 22.04.

I was just finishing off what I was doing when the radio sprang to life. It was ZL2AUB, Pete from New Zealand calling through the Danbury Node.

I picked my handheld and we had a very nice long QSO using 0.5 Watts. To my amazement he stated he was born at St John's Hospital in Chelmsford.

His callsign was G3TUW and was a member of Havering Radio Club, but has been in ZL land for 32 years now. He stated he would welcome any calls by any modes. The Node he is on is 6943.

Give him a call.

Martyn, G1EFL/M3VAM/M0VAM

November Contests - Steve G4ZUL

144MHz Marconi/CW

04/05 November, 24hrs
Start:14:00 Finish:14:00 UTC.
Sections: SF, O, 6S, 6O.
Full rules from <http://www.vhfcc.org/>

Japan International DX/SSB

11/12 November, 30hrs
Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28MHz
Exchange: RS + CQ Zone
Full details from <http://www.jidx.org/>

RSGB 1.8MHz/CW

18/19 November. 4hrs
Start: 21:00. Finish: 01:00 UTC.
Exchange: RST + Serial number + District code.
Further info & rules from <http://www.rsgbhfcc.org/>

CQ WW DX/CW

25/26 November, 48Hrs
Bands: 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28MHz.
Exchange: RST + CQ Zone.
Categories: Single operator (single band & all band)
Multi operator (single TX, Two TX, multi TX)
QSO Points: own country 1 point, own continent 2 points, different continent 3 points.
Multipliers: US States & VE areas 1 point,
CQ Zones 1 Point
Final score: QSO points x Multipliers.
Full details from <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>

HF contests are listed in January Radcom, p33.
For further information please email Steve G4ZUL - contests2006@g0mwt.org.uk

Tip: - Enter 'sm3cer' into Google, and look on his website - it is very comprehensive.

Tip: - The RSGB would prefer you to submit an Electronic Log to help them with the tremendous task of checking so much data. This should be in the CABRILLO Format.

New CARS Web Site by RSGB

Radcom Editor Alex Kearns mentioned that the RSGB had provided space on their new server for affiliated Clubs to have a free Web Site. Thanks to Murray, G6JYB, you can now see ours at: -

<http://www.radioclubs.net/g0mwt/>

The site home page is the base for many other clubs;
<http://www.radioclubs.net/>

Murray G6JYB

Crypto Kids - Operation Dit Dah

The US National Security Agency (NSA) / Central Security Service (CSS) has a great fun site for young people wanting to find out about Morse Code.

Go to:- <http://www.nsa.gov/kids/home.cfm>

and click on Operation Dit Dah.

The Beginners page lets you get used to the sound of Morse characters. The Intermediate challenges you to decode written Morse and the Advanced page sends random words in Morse for you to decode.

The "Fun Facts" on the site reveal that each of the US Space Shuttles has a tiny Telegraph Key on the digital control panel of their HF Radio's in case of emergency.

Trevor, M5AKA

Ofcom Amateur Licensing Update

If you need to renew your licence during October, or November 2006:

You will automatically be sent a new annual licence (standard BR68) to temporarily replace your old licence **which you will not be required to pay for.**

G8DET & G4ZUL have already received this together with a sheet of paper from Ofcom explaining the proposed procedure. It tells one to go to

<http://www.radiolicensingcentre.co.uk/>

Or phone 0870-243-4433 if you have any queries.

From 1 December 2006, new free online licences should be available directly from Ofcom in London that will be to the new Ts&Cs in BR68s replacement, along with online access instructions. From that point onwards, those renewing/applying via a paper-based application will be subject to a £20 charge (*unless 75yrs+ as per a CARS request*).

Zipy G4ZPE's Halloween Night and W&S FT-2000 Launch Night

A reminder that Zipy, G4ZPE's Halloween Night in aid of the Little Haven Hospice and Essex Air Ambulance is on Saturday, October 28th, 7 - 11.30pm.

On Monday, October 30th Waters and Stanton at Hockley are holding the FT-2000 Launch Night.

Trevor, M5AKA

Congratulations Andrew, G4KQE.

Andrew Mead has won the National DF Final for the second year running. Not only that, but he has also won the Rosebowl again, for getting the most points throughout the season.

A report is on: -

<http://www.geocities.com/andrewm2kk/nationalfinal06/>

and the results are on: -

<http://www.topbanddf.org.uk/06finalres.htm>

There are even some photos on: -

<http://www.topbanddf.org.uk/pics/2006final/index.htm>

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Tel 01245 256416.

Dick Baker, G4DJC. QTHR.

Lithium Ion Batteries

Dr Yet-Ming Chiang of MIT USA has pioneered improvements to Lithium-Ion batteries. Has anyone used one in a Portable Radio, Laptop or Portable Power Tool?

It is scheduled to take 500 recharges over 3 years and provide far more power for its weight than Nickel Metal Hydride.

It is suggested that one only buy these batteries from a reputable supplier as "copies" can easily over-heat and explode! The chemicals used are basically unstable! Heat seems to be the worst enemy - both when charging or discharging.

Please tell John, G8DET, your experience with this new technology.

Contributions are always appreciated for the Newsletter. Cut-off date for the December N/L is Friday, 17th November.

Edited by John, G8DET with the aid of Colin, G0TRM, Trevor, M5AKA & Murray, G6JYB.

**To Follow: -
CARS Christmas Dinner Booking Form.**