



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 495

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

May 2007

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 1st May. 7.30pm at the MASC.

Microwaves – Demystified by John Wood, G4EAT

All will be revealed when John comes to talk to us at our next meeting. North West Europe is the centre of microwave activity around the world. The East of England and Essex in particular is well positioned to take advantage of this activity. So come and hear how to join in the fun.

John tells us his talk will concentrate on terrestrial DX operation on the microwave bands. Initially he will review what type of equipment can be used, ranging from kits to commercial units, surplus items and homebrew. To understand how best to participate in a DX event, the main propagation modes will be reviewed. Even when it rains distances can be improved! John will cover some operational guidelines and review some of the big UK home and portable operators. We will also receive some guidance on how to get started, the Awards, key web links and the activities of the UK Microwave Group.

There will be our usual good Raffle.

Dates for Your Diary

Net Controller May	David M0BQC
Wed 9 th May	CARS Committee Meeting - Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm - All welcome
Saturday 28 th April	International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill with CARS. All day
Saturday 28 th April	Dry Run for NFD from Sandford Mill
Sunday 27 th May	Waters & Stanton Open Day
Sat/Sun 2/3 June	National Field Day from Sandford Mill Car Park.
Tuesday 5 th June	CARS Meeting. Table Top Sale – G0TRM QTHR.

IMD at Sandford Mill 28th April

National Field Day 2/3rd June

This year CARS is operating in NFD from the grass Car Park by the side of Sandford Mill. Steve, CARS Contest Manager has organised a Dry Run on 28th April (while IMD is in progress) to shake down generator, TX & RX & cooking equipment.

All CARS Members are invited to get involved – we need assistance – even for running the generator & looking after the tents. Contact Steve on g4zul@g0mwt.org.uk

Thanks to Denis, M0FHA & Joy for arranging the Postal Members Newsletter – could it go by E-Mail?

Please keep our Membership Secretary, informed of any changes to your callsign or E-Mail addresses, etc. 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) 28.325/1,947 (4th) 1.947: (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.

Last Month's Meeting: - Mark Francis, G0GBY, Sales Director of Waters & Stanton.

Having been introduced by Chairman John, G8DET, Mark commented that his last visit to CARS was some 15 years ago and he remembered driving past a prison. The audience reminded him "that meeting was at Arbour Lane which has now been sold for a housing estate & Marconi is really no longer in existence".

He said that as he was setting up the tables, someone had wondered whether W & S had any stock left back at Hockley, "Yes, about one million pounds worth" was his answer. "W & S have to hold this amount of stock as they have to buy in quantity to get a good price".

"I really appreciate the opportunity to come to talk to people like yourselves – that is where the real world is" - "I sit behind my desk & really do not get the opportunity to talk to ordinary Radio Amateurs during my normal working day. At Rallies I am too busy selling to stop to talk. You can stop me & ask questions as I go along or we can have some at the end"

This set the scene for a very intimate presentation.

He said he liked to stand behind tables (pilled with amateur radio items including aerials and boxes of tools (all for a £1)) as he was really a Salesman. Also on the tables were W & S catalogues for £2.95 "Too dear" someone shouted out. "If you cannot afford £2.95 you should not be here" was Mark's quick retort to the amusement of the audience. "£2.95 does not cover the printing costs – however, to make a special occasion of it tonight they are available – all free – just about one for everyone here, also a pile of MFJ catalogues are available". Murmur of approval.

He then told the story of someone at a Rally who bought a cheap box to spray it black, lock it & put it on the side in his house "It will drive my Wife wild". Laughter.

Responding to a series of questions regarding "price fixing between the 3 major Amateur Radio suppliers" and "the Dollar/Pound conversion" Mark said that the thought of Suppliers getting together was simply a joke and that prices charged were at their lowest level for years.

Mark was pleased to see the new influx of M3s. W & S had the stock, but commercial life was hard - last year was the death of Rallies and he quoted those which had now finished. W & S were going to have an Open Day on Sunday, May 27th but without

the marques at the back. They were moving the Sales desks down into the shop to free-up space upstairs and to expose the wealth of knowledge to customers who come into the shop.

E-Bay was a good place to sell pieces of equipment they get left with and seconds.

The book, the Secret of Learning Morse Code was mentioned. "I wrote it" said Mark to the amazement of many present. When I was Manager of the Hornchurch shop, I wrote down all the tips I was given when I was doing my Morse – I am very proud of it as it has helped a lot of people". It is still selling – PW sell 10 copies a month.

Mark then turned to the aerials on the table and went through each product in turn, taking an example one for the FT817, - simply screw it on & you have a good HF rig – works better if you have a counterpoise earth hanging off it.

A Frequency Counter costing £49 was next picked up – he said he decided to rewrite the Instruction Leaflet to include very useful tips & hints – they were copied by the manufacturer. Mark then donated it to the CARS Raffle which was won later by Prof Les Barclay, G3HTF. (Chairman's comment – Thank you Mark – very much appreciated).

Watson is a brand name of Waters & Stanton to show that W & S have been involved with that product range to show that it is to a consistent known high standard. "We pay a little more for a QC Tested item & it pays off".

A Solder Station for under £5 next came to be examined – what wonderful value.

Mark has been in the Hobby 23 years & he has realised that there are many sides to it. Some like to build radios, having built something they test it and then never use it again because they are on their next item. Others never build anything – they are scraping the most out of propagation conditions.

Resulting from a comment from the floor, Mark said that the new High Definition TVs were superb. The prices are tumbling – but don't look at it unless you want to spend money – it is that good.

Mark made the point that now one does not have to pay for your Licence you should join the RSGB as without the RSGB there would be no Radio Hobby – they work hard to protect your frequencies, etc.

Thank you Mark for a very philosophical and interesting presentation.

John G8DET

Museum Open Day 21st April

This years Open Day at the Museum was once again deemed a success with some 500 visitors enjoying the activities and displays. As with all these occasions, much work took place before the day. The antenna team did the usual Tuesday deployments installing the HF Doublet over the water and a Collinear plus some others on the roof, all under the watchful eye of Tony YTG. On Friday Brian CVI successfully set up the HF Transmitter and the Tuner in the Marconi hut and checked out the Doublet's capabilities and all was well.

Chairman, John, G8DET had negotiated with Ofcom for the use of Special Event Call-sign GB5HF in honour of CARS President, Harry Heap, G5HF who is 90 this year. Harry was awarded his Call-sign in 1933 while Louis Varney, G5RV had his in 1929. On the Day, Brian CVI said 'that things started off with a flourish on 80m to Cambridge and Cardiff then skip shortened at about 10AM, so he QSYd to 20m with QSOs to Spain, Italy, Lithuania, Georgia, and a few mid-Europeans on 40m.

Sometime later is was back to 20m with Moscow, Brazil, Dar-el-Salam, N. Carolina, Dakar and some other locals in between. By the close we had made 28 QSOs in poor conditions but the total of visitors was over 500 and we had about 80 through the hut with lots of enquiries re RSGB and CARS. Thanks to all, especially the operators who tried their best during the poorest of conditions before lunch time'.

The 2M station upstairs faired somewhat better in terms of the number of contacts and ran from 10am to 5pm & achieved 89 contacts in total. This station was manned mainly by Jim M3RMI with some help. He stated that most QSO's were simplex on 145.550 & included amateurs already on their way to the open day & some tempted by the offer of chocolate cake! (Provided very efficiently by Jim's wife Ann) [PS. I know I had some. ColinTRM]. Contacts included stations in Finchley, Ipswich, Southend & Tollesbury, showing the aerial to be a good system. We also operated on the Danbury, Ipswich, Orpington & Rochester repeaters, including a motorcycle mobile & a Scout group. 2 contacts were made through echolink, in Ampthill & further afield in New York! The latter was courtesy of Martin who let us carry on with a contact he had made.

An enjoyable day & some statistics to match or improve on at the next demonstration.

My Thanks to Brian G3CVI and Jim M3RMI, for providing the information used in the above. It was Jim's first time at the Mill and as he said, he had a most enjoyable day. Thanks to his good Wife, Ann as well.

Colin G0TRM

Amateur Satellite Beginners Article

The March 2007 issue of the RSGB magazine RadCom features a superb article entitled "Getting Started on Amateur Radio Satellites" by John Heath G7HIA. It is an excellent introduction to the exciting world of Amateur Satellite Communications. The Radio Society of Great Britain and the author have generously agreed to allow AMSAT-UK to put the PDF of the article on the web and it can be seen at <http://www.uk.amsat.org/>

Click on "How Do I Start" on the left hand side of the home page then click on "Getting Started on Amateur Satellites (RSGB article)"

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Trevor M5AKA

Sandford Mill - IMD, Saturday 28th April.

The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society will be operating all day from inside the preserved wooden hut that housed the original 2MT broadcast station.

A second HF station will be operated from the upstairs room.

Also Steve, G4ZUL will be taking the opportunity to "shake down" the equipment for NFD.

If you are interested in taking part in either IMD or NFD events, be it as a Operator, Logger or even in helping to erect the antennas then contact Brian G3CVI on 01245 471919

Pictures of some of the Sandford Mill exhibits can be seen at <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/events/>

A map showing Sandford Mill (Postcode CM2 6NY) can be seen at: <http://tinyurl.com/7mh7b>

Tony G4YTG

National Field Day

Date: 2/3 June 2007

Time Start: 15:00 UTC

Time Finish: 15:00 UTC

Mode: CW only

Bands: 1.8, 3.5, 7, 14, 21, 28 Mhz

Location: Sanford Mill

Section: Multi operator, restricted.

"Everyone is welcome to come along to operate or help in this long established contest, if you like radio then you'll like NFD! It has been more than a decade since CARS has submitted an entry in NFD so with your help and support let us try to make this a successful comeback.

We look forward to seeing you at Sanford Mill and remember to bring anything that you think might be useful with you...

73 Steve G4ZUL

Steve has had lots of support and promises of equipment and ancillaries but there will always be a need for operators, so if you would like to try your hand at any of the numerous activities Steve would be VERY glad to hear from you. (Contact details under the MAY Contest details.)

DON'T FORGET THERE WILL BE DUMMY RUN FOR FIELD DAY DURING IMD ON THE 28th APRIL AT SANDFORD MILL.

Sunspot 930 - The Movie

On 13 December 2006, Japan's Hinode spacecraft observed a massive explosion on the sun as sunspot 930 unleashed a powerful X-class solar flare. Researchers analyzing the data have produced a must-see movie of the flare's magnetic underpinnings.

The movie can be seen at:

http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2007/24apr_hub4sun.htm?list188178

Trevor M5AKA

DON'T forget to see **Martyn M3VAM** at the next Meeting for all your **Club Clothing** requirements AND! AND! Check with him about the **CHELMSFORD AWARD**. A fine certificate could be yours. All you need is 30 separate callsigns.

Windmills on the Air - Havering ARC

12th and 13th May -
Havering ARC will be running 3 windmills this year.

GB2UW - Upminster Windmill

<http://www.qrz.com/gb2uw>

GB0MW - Mountnessing Windmill

<http://www.qrz.com/gb0mw>

GB2ARW - Aythorpe Roding

<http://www.qrz.com/gb2arw>

GB2ARW may operate under G3TPJ/p Oliver call.

73 Dave M0TAZ

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

Trevor M5AKA

May contests from Steve G4ZUL

VHF Contests

05 May: 432Mhz Trophy Contest
Starts: 14:00 - Finishes 22:00 UTC
Sections: SF, O. (special rules S6)

19/20 May: 144Mhz May Contest
Starts: 14:00 - Finishes: 14:00 UTC (24HR)
Sections: SF, SO, M, 6S, 6O. (special rules M1)
Full rules from www.vhfcc.org

RSGB Club Championship (80 metres)

Dates for May as follows:

SSB 07 May. 20:00 – 21:30 Local

DATA 16 May. 20:00 – 21:30 Local

CW 24 May. 20:00 – 21:30 Local

further information & rules from www.rsgbhfcc.org

CQ WW WPX / CW

26/27 May, 48HRS

Exchange: RST + serial number

Categories: Single operator (single band & all band)

Multi operator (single TX, Multi two, Multi TX)

Scoring: 3 points on 28, 21, 14Mhz / 6 points on 7, 3.5, 1.8Mhz if on different continent and if same continent then 1 point & 2 points respectively.

Prefix multipliers: The number of valid prefixes worked. For full details please refer to February issue of CQ magazine or www.cq-amateur-radio.com

www.cq-amateur-radio.com

For any further information please email Steve G4ZUL

contests2007@g0mwt.org.uk

Farleigh Hospice Sponsored Walk

James, 2E1GUA is walking from Maldon to Chelmsford to raise money for Farleigh Hospice and will be at the May Meeting to receive your Sponsorship donations.

John, G8DET with assistance by Colin, G0TRM, edited this Newsletter. Material supplied by Trevor, AKA, Tony, YTG, Brian CVI, Jim RMI and Steve ZUL

Would you like to edit the June issue?

Copy to the Editor by 24th May.