



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 497

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

July 2007

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 3rd July. 7.30pm at the MASC.

Livery Companies and their History by Robin Butcher

CARS Programme Secretary, Martyn, G1EFL likes to have one "social" meeting each year in the CARS calendar and this month is it.

Robin will tell us about the History of the Livery Companies formed in London to oversee the work of the City. They were formed before the Health & Safety Executive & Trade Unions and were essential to control the vast amount of trade which passed through London in the years past.

As it is a "non-Radio Meeting" it is an opportunity to invite your partner or friend to join us for an interesting evening. Once you have signed-in you can purchase a drink from the Bar and meet old & make new friends.

See you there

There will be our usual good Raffle.

Dates for Your Diary

Net Controller June	Colin, G0TRM
Wed 11 th July	CARS Committee Meeting - Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm - All welcome
All Sunday afternoons in August	Sandford Mill Open Sunday Afternoons. 2 to 5PM. CARS will be transmitting. Please join us as an Operator, Logger, Host or with your Partner & Family. Special Event Call-Sign GB5HF will be used.

Constructors Competition, 7th August at MASC.

Now is the time to get out the Soldering Iron, Hammer, Chisel, Garden Shears, Video Camera, Digital Camera etc and complete that project for the Constructors Competition.

If you remember someone (years ago) won a prize for a special House Brick. There are no restrictions other than it should have something to do with Amateur Radio or Electronics. It pays real money as Prizes. Get cracking!!!!!!

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) 28.375/1,947 (4th) 1.947: (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.

Last Month's Meeting: - The Tabletop Sale by Colin G0TRM.

At this years Tabletop Sale approaching 100 Members and visitors enjoyed viewing, and in some cases buying a whole range of new and not so new electronic and other radio related items. As usual we had visitors from far a field, some traveling a good distance to attend. A few faces present on the night were also seen at the Hockley Emporium some days beforehand. As usual the event was widely advertised both in the local press and on local radio. Readers of RadCom, PW and SWM and other radio magazines had all the necessary information clearly displayed. Many leaflets were produced for display in local libraries, bookshops and public notice boards.

Many thanks to the high number of Club members who came along to sell or to buy or maybe to chat, contributing to a great atmosphere. Thanks too, to those who donated for sale, some very fine items to be sold for Club funds.

Thanks to Geoff KLV for his part in raising a good sum by selling in quantity, many items given freely by Members and non-members. My thanks to Fred FXM, for donating a number of elderly valved radios, initially for the Canvey Rally. Those unsold then, have resided in my garage till now, but have now been sold and will get lots of TLC from their new owner.

Our thanks to Denis FHA and Ron CAM who ran such a good Raffle with lots of interesting prizes. They were very ably assisted by Martyn EFL who did some pre meeting selling to the punters queuing to get in.

Once again, the evening, both socially and financially was deemed a success

Finally, my thanks to all who played any part in helping to make it a very worthwhile event,

Thank you Colin for organizing it.

National Field Day 2007

Well we did it ... after a layoff of over a decade CARS has entered both the RSGB and the IARU Region 1 Field Day Contests which were held on the 2/3 June 2007 from Sandford Mill.

Thanks are due to CARS Aerial Expert, Tony, G4YTG for erecting the aerial(s) and for CARS Members David, M0BQC, Jeremy, M0DUT,

Clive, M3HTD, Colin, G0TRM, Harry, G5HF & Ethel & John G8DET and not forgetting our QSL Manager, Patrick, M0XAP for assisting getting the tents etc erected in good time.

I would like to give my thanks to the operators of G0MWT/P who without their expertise on the key this event would not have been possible: - Terrance G3GLL, Carl G3PEM, Gwyn G4FKH, Andrew G0IBN &, Mark M0DXR

The WX could not have been better, the site accommodation was superb with separate operating and NAAFI tents loaned to us for the weekend by Carl and Gwyn. The generator was fantastic and ran continuously for about 30 hours, a big thank you to John G8DET for the loan of this. I would also like to acknowledge Andrew for the use of his IC756PRO2 which is an awesome contest rig.

The conditions on HF were not great however we did manage to work some nice DX with VP8NO giving us a call from the Falkland Islands,

We worked a total of 670 QSO's with a final claimed score of 2455 points. So here's looking forward to next years NFD contest with a better antenna system and a higher score !

Steve G4ZUL

CARS also acknowledges the effort Steve put in to run the event.

CARS also thanks Geoff, G7KLV as Liaison Officer & Dr Geoff Bowles for arranging the use of Sandford Mill and unlocking-locking the gate.

Silent Key Report.

CARS Committee have just learnt that Alois Ochojski, DL3PD passed away in February in Germany.

He sent a photograph of himself in a Radio Museum to Brian, G3CVI when he paid his subscription at Christmas. He was very good at explaining to children the "magic" of Radio.

Alois was a CARS Member for some 20 years following the Twinning of Chelmsford with Backnang. A weekly net was held between Amateurs in Backnang & Chelmsford, Alois was nearly always present.

A Sympathy Card was signed by CARS Members at the June Meeting & sent to Inge, his Widow.

An Obituary by Peter, DK6SP.

Our good friend Alois DL3PD died aged 84 years. We lost an expert in communications and electronics. Already as a young man during World War II he was busy with radio communications and radar technique equipment. In 1946 he became a Ham. I do not know if it was legal to be on the air in those days, but I am sure he was. Later he got his call DL3PD which is well known among the Ham VHF-UHF community. He published one of the first transistorized and battery powered 2m AM-radios.

I made his acquaintance in 1971 during my first visit of the local club meeting. He was very friendly and helpful and convinced due to his wide and established experience. Alois was always busy with Ham projects. He was a real home brewer. Nevertheless he found time to be President of our local radio club for several years. But his good wife Inge kept an eye on him that he did not spend his whole leisure time with his hobby which was also his profession.

He worked for AEG Telefunken in South Africa for several years. When he was back he became a team leader in the radio department where long haul radio equipment was developed. During his retirement he was active for the technical Museum in Backnang. There he managed to resurrect old long haul radios Fredda and Michael and demonstrated them in operation during open days. Fredda equipment was used to transmit TV-pictures of the Coronation procedure of Queen Elizabeth to Germany. Alois was one of the pioneers who established that radio link. His expertise especially about valves and operating them in VHF-equipment was appreciated and known also in the Deutsche Technikmuseum in Berlin.

Alois regularly runs the Chelmsford - Backnang net on 20 and on 40 m with Roy G3PMX, Harry G5HF and Geoff G3EDM for years. He had long chats with Roy about television transmitters, especial in Poland.

Peter DK7SP

Thank you very much for writing this in such good English – we will all miss Alois.

Health

CARS is sorry to learn that a number of Members and Family have not been well recently and send to them our Best Wishes & hope for a swift return to good health.

Jim Smith, Committee Member, 2E0JPS.
Ela Martyr, G6HKM.
Bob Cheverall, M0DTA
Wife of Peter Uhrich, DK6SP
Peter Chadwick, G3RZP.

After an inter-change of E-Mails when I said to Peter that a number of Committee Members could not remember him – he sent this reply.

“Well, it's 38 years since I left Chelmsford, so I suppose it's not too surprising that many of them don't know me! In those days, you couldn't get up Moulsham Street having a half pint in every pub - from memory, there were 32 or 33 of them! Oh, we tried, as apprentices!

We used to use the Marconi Tower up at Little Baddow for VHF Contests, too. I expect that's full of cellphone stuff now. (Ed Note, no, it is gone!) The first HF NFD I did with Chelmsford was out at the Beddell's End, Marconi site. The '10 watts' on 40, 20 and 10 was from an G5RV, Elizabethan with a pair of 807's, running a good 150 watts input!

That station was operated by the experts - G4VF and the old timers. The 160/40/15 station was a single 807 and the receiver was an Atlanta from G4VF. Overnight, there was G3SXX and myself. Barry looked after the VERY big Diesel generator, unfortunately, it developed a leak in the tank, and Barry was pretty well covered in diesel.

I remember the tea he made with drops of diesel floating in it! We walked all the way back to my digs, which were in Lady Lane by the Army and Navy because there weren't any buses, and by the time we were all packed up, nobody had any room to give me a lift!

By the 1970's Don, G3OZF (now G3BJ), used to fetch me and a rig from Dartford for NFD, and I'd stay with him - much more civilised!

By the way, it shows how a Radio Amateur's mind works when I tell you that having been told I was seriously ill, my first thoughts were 'Will I live long enough to finish the 5 Band DXCC and work Navassa Island to get to DXCC Honour Roll number 1 position?'. But maybe having such an aim makes sure you want to get well!!!

Best wishes to you all. My biggest regrets are having let down the IARU by missing the Geneva meeting at the ITU last week, but I'm told that Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, from the ARRL came over, and has done a good job on fighting the Amateur's corner regarding PLT. Once I'm recovered, I would be willing to come down and talk to the Club about the importance of the IARU and International representation and standards if someone could put me up overnight.

vy 73

Peter G3RZP"

Thank you Peter & we wish all Members "Good Health".

Did you See?

Looking through the April 2007 RadCom I spotted in the "Old Timers' Roll of Honour" for being a continuous Member of the RSGB, the following CARS Members: -

51 years	John Greenwood	G3KRZ
56 years	Ken Dews	G3PMW
59 years	Geoff Mills	G3EDM
60 years	Brian Thwaites	G3CVI

As Brian said: -Part 2.

Yippee!!! 60 years in the RSGB and now it is all free... Yippee again....

My receivers came and went according to the available cash but the first was an R1155 of bomber fame followed by an HRO with an abominable TVI problem until I placed wire gauze over every opening in the case. The local oscillator ran at about 4w!!! I then "found" a BC348 which I kept till I came to Chelmsford in 1948 and enjoyed the untiring help and encouragement from Louis Varney G5RV. I had great fun acting as halyard boy as we plotted the performance of one of the versions of the famous aerial.

I purchased his Hallicrafters Super Skyrider receiver and used it till the SSB era started. My transmitter with the single 807 was scrapped and the valve used in a modified version of Louis's Elizabethan in which I mounted a pair of 6146s and had a very nice AM rig modulated by a "Benbow" modulator which gave 50w of audio needed to mod a 100w final. I knew it gave that power because one day I was checking it with a 60w mains lamp as the load when I coughed while the mike gain was a bit high....result a brilliant flash and a little tinkling sound from inside the lamp. I will not record my XYL's comment.

Right now I am on my 6th. SSB rig thanks to the kindness of a well known emporium where I have "shopped" for a very long time. I have tried many of the digital modes except packet and mourned the passing of Amtor and Pactor which seem to have disappeared almost completely, PSK does very well however. My main worry concerning these black box rigs is that one day a little diode on a board deep inside the box will go "pop" and render the whole thing a heap of junk till the problem is rectified (no pun intended)

DX hound?...Yes moderately so but local rag-chewing is fun and often introduces new blood to the way of life (I refuse to use the word hobby) called Amateur Radio. Any hints?....

To the new Licensees I would urge the following: Listen for a minute or so on the spot you have chosen to occupy then ask if the frequency is in use and then, with no reply, call CQ for about half a minute and then sit and listen.

DO NOT RETUNE the rig otherwise the other chaps will be chasing you up and down the band but use RIT to clarify one who is not as readable as you could wish for. If you are trying to elbow your way into a "pile-up" listen about "5 up" or where he states he is listening and use the two VFOs or the quick memories to be found on modern rigs to flip to and fro and again do not retune till leaving the spot altogether.

Tailgating is another way of making contact but it needs care. Just before another station passes it back to his correspondent you could announce your last two call letters. It requires split second timing and must not be so used that it is a nuisance to others. Very much depends on being on the right band at the right time so perusal of Gwyn, G4FKH's propagation forecast is of great value and so is one of the "sunclack" type maps to select areas where people are likely to be in their shacks. Don't forget the terminator can give wonderful DX contacts during its passage.

Well that is enough, I could go on but I hope the nostalgia has not bored you. Notice I did not really mention aerials (yet) so 73 and 88 de Brian G3CVI

Thank you Brian for Part 2.

Morse Classes are Starting

Starting in September in the Hawkins Room, Danbury Village Hall. A nominal charge will be made – see Carl, G3PEM at a CARS Meeting & put your name forward.

The Tale of a Marconi HR24 Receiver by Geoff G7KLV

The Sandford Mill collection of Marconi equipment continues to grow steadily. All sorts of equipment comes to light as garages are tidied and lofts are cleared, often as a result of Club appeals for Colin's Table Top Sale. "What am I going to do with all that junk" asks her-indoors! Funny how they always take it for granted that us husbands are going first!

We have been very lucky to acquire the collection of the late Donald Imber, via the Radio Officers Association. Marconi Veterans Jim Leadbitter and Peter Turrall are both regular donors. We have a very comprehensive collection of early TV cameras and a superb collection of maritime equipment displayed in the Ship's Radio Room. However, I think it would be fair to say that our *piece de resistance*, apart from the Writtle Hut, is surely the 30KW SSB Self Tuning Transmitter! With the most amazing luck we have recently acquired the perfect complement in the shape of a double diversity HF receiver of similar vintage!

Readers of 'Radio Bygones' will know that one of its regular contributors is Michael O'Beirne G8MOB. I got to know him as a result of a request for information about a post-war Marconi CRD 150 receiver, to which I had replied. He has since visited Sandford Mill on two occasions, both resulting in magazine articles.

On February 10th. this year Michael sent me an email saying that there was an HR24 receiver in Ireland going spare! It was one of those 'find a good home or it's the dump' cases! There was a copy of an email from a friend of his, Brendan Minish EI6IZ. Brendan had recently inherited some radio equipment from a friend, Don Gibbons EI5IA who had recently passed away.

The largest item was a Marconi HR24 receiver. This is a mid 1950's double diversity HF valve receiver measuring approximately 7ft. high, 2ft. wide by 2ft. deep and weighing not far short of a quarter of a ton! He was looking for a good home for it as he didn't have storage space, could Michael help! My initial reaction was that it would be impossible to get it over here but how wrong I was!

I eventually got in touch with Brendan and he was most helpful and offered transportation in Ireland, from Westport in County Mayo to Dublin and then it was up to us! I discussed it with Geoff Bowles

and he was interested in acquisition and he left it to David Goodridge, another Museum Friend, and me to arrange transport. We didn't have much initial success!

Enter Charles G0GJS! Charles' Son in Law, Brian Oldham who has relatives in the Republic was over there celebrating a family occasion. I had a phone call one Monday and if I could arrange to get the HR24 to a place called Horse & Jockey by the following Wednesday free transport to Sandford Mill would be available! Believe it or not H & J is a place in County Tipperary! A wonderful offer but the time scale was absolutely impossible at such short notice.

Then Brendan suggested that if we could cover the expenses of his ferry crossing and diesel from Holyhead to Sandford Mill he would deliver it personally and while he was over here and combine it with a visit to the Kelvedon Secret Bunker and the rally at Elvaston Castle! Geoff Bowles agreed to do the necessary and it was delivered to the Mill on Friday June 8th 2007.

I had arranged a reception committee of Club Members and it was unloaded and re-assembled in no time at all! Considering the Receiver is about fifty years old it is in remarkably good condition externally, although a little dusty and grubby inside.

Brendan had said he would like to meet some Club members, so after unloading and a look round Sandford Mill we took him and his travelling companion Michael Hayes EI2EO out for an evening meal at the Chelmer Tavern, and spent a delightful evening with them!

I have to admit that I was not only very keen to acquire the HR24 receiver for Sandford Mill, because it represents the last of the really big Marconi valve receivers, but also because I was intimately involved with its development in my mid twenties in the late forties! I had the good fortune and pleasure to work for a number of years as a Technical Assistant to the late Dr. George Grisdale. G5GZ. In those days Engineers had Degrees, TA's had ONC's or HNC's or similar! He was one of the team responsible for the design of the CR series of receivers, the 100, 150 and 200 and derivatives, at Baddow during WW2. George was one of the most delightful people to work for and the few years I spent with him were amongst the most interesting and rewarding periods of my working life. I think it will be obvious why I was so keen to acquire the HR24!

My Monday Morning Museum task is to get it up and running. One of the two power units is now

powered up and working with the second one on the bench.- stand back! The target for a working receiver is August when it will be on show to visitors for the first time!

Thank you Geoff – look forward to hearing it working.

See the CARS Web Site for the pictures under “Past Events & Sandford Mill”.

July Contests from Steve G4ZUL

RSGB Club Championship (80 metres)

Dates for July as follows:

CW 02 July. 20:00 – 21:30 Local

SSB 11 July. 20:00 – 21:30 Local

DATA 19 July. 20:00 – 21:30 Local

Further information & rules from

www.rsgbhfcc.org

VHF National Field Day

7/8 July. 14:00 – 14:00 UTC, 24HRS

Bands: 50, 70, 144, 432Mhz, 1.3Ghz.

Exchange: RS(T) + serial number + locator.

Sections: open, restricted, low power,

Full rules from www.vhfcc.org

IARU HF World Championship (ssb/cw)

14/15 July, 12:00 – 12:00 UTC, 24HRS

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

Exchange: RS(T) + ITU Zone (27)

Categories: single operator, multi operator,
IARU member society HQ station

Scoring: a). within own ITU zone 1 point.

b). within own ITU zone but different
continent 1 point.

c). within own continent but different
ITU zone 3 points.

d). different continent & ITU zone 5

points.

Multipliers: total ITU zones plus HQ stations
worked

On each band.

Please try to work RSGB HQ station GB7HQ on
as many band mode slots as possible.

Further information & rules from

www.arri.org/contests

RSGB IOTA Contest (ssb/cw)

28/29 July, 12:00 – 12:00 UTC, 24HRS

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

Categories: a). any station operating from an
island as listed

in the IOTA directory. (mainland
UK is EU-005)

b). world (any station not listed as an
island).

Sections: single operator, single op – assisted,
multi operator.

high power, low power, QRP.

Exchange: RS(T) + serial number + IOTA
reference.

For full information on scoring & rules please see:

www.rsgbhfcc.org

For any further information on contests or NFD,
please email Steve G4ZUL

contests2007@g0mwt.org.uk

Future Meetings – December 2007

Second reminder.

Programme Secretary, Martyn, G1EFL has
suggested that the December Meeting is a picture
show – YOUR pictures.

The idea is for John G8DET to collate the digital
pictures from your CD & put them together on a
CD/DVD to be shown at the December Meeting
using CARS new projector. If you only have film
pictures they can be scanned but not too many,
please!

Pictures from Sandford Mill or what about in your
shack or aerial farm?

Amateur Of The Year Award

Nominations are required at the July or August
Meetings. Please put a name & a Call-sign of the
person you wish to Nominate on a piece of paper
(envelope, fag packet) and hand to Carl, G3PEM
at the meetings. Don't forget to quote your Call-
Sign!

For Sale

Moonraker BM33 70cms co linear, 6 months old.
As new, mint condition. original packing, £20.

Dick G4DJC. tel: 01245 256416.

John, G8DET with assistance by Geoff, G7KLV,
edited this Newsletter. Material supplied by Colin,
G0TRM; Geoff, G7KLV; Brian G3CVI;
Peter, DK6SP; Peter, G3RZP and Steve G4ZUL.

Do you like the slightly larger font?

Comments please.

Would you like to edit an issue of the newsletter ?
If so let us know.

Items for the next newsletter should be sent to the
editor@g0mwt.org.uk by 20 July 2007.