



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 503

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

January 2008

Happy New Year to all our Readers

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 8th January. 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.

Software Defined Radios by Peter Waters, G3OJV

Peter will project the "future way radios are going" as Murray, G6JYB once lectured CARS in September 2005. W&S sell a wide range of Software Defined Radios, for both receiving and for transmitting so hopefully will be bringing some of the state of the art units along to show us.

This should be a very interesting evening having attended a number of presentations by Peter we are certain he will put the subject over in a way everyone will be able to follow. A good evening is promised. Bring your cheque book, there may even be a "bargain". There will be our usual high quality Raffle.

We are pleased to show opposite the RSGB President for 2006 to 2007 operating GX0MWT from Sandford Mill.

Angus Annan, MM1CCR took the microphone and called "CQ, CQ" after presenting Shields & Trophies for the Wireless for the Blind Fund on Sunday 9th December.

Brian, G3CVI is seen here logging.



Dates for your Diary

January 2008	Morse Classes in Danbury Village Hall – Carl, G3PEM.
Wed 16 th January	CARS Committee Meeting - Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm - All welcome
Sunday 3 rd February	Canvey Rally – Paddocks Community Centre – Canvey Island – Doors open 10.30am.
Tuesday 5 th February	CARS Meeting – Micro-DXpeditioning – Roger Weston, G3SXW
Tuesday 4 th March	CARS Social Meeting – Hylands House – Ceri Lowen & Richard Osoft

Thanks to Geoff, G7KLV for arranging the Postal Members Newsletter – could it go by E-Mail? Inform Membership Secretary, Brian, G3CVI of any changes to your call-sign, postal or E-Mail address, etc. Brian would also be delighted to receive your Subscription for 2007 to 2008 period. It is now £12. Send a SAE and a cheque made out to C.A.R.S. to Mr B Thwaites, G3CVI, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Great Baddow. CHELMSFORD. CM2 7BU – Thanks.

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375: (3rd) 28.375/1,947 (4th) 1.947: (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.
Net Controller for January is : - Colin, G0TRM.

Last Months Meeting:- Photographic Social Evening.

Chairman John, G8DET welcomed Members & visitors and introduced Kevan, 2E0WVG, Chairman of the Colchester Radio Group.

The evening started with John showing a collection of pictures starting with Harry, G5HF's 90th radio birthday party in June. This was followed by Martyn, G1EFL's pictures of his Wife, Val & Koos, GU0GUX at the radio den in an old German Bunker which had been modernised by the farmer who owned the field in Guernsey. Koos was the amateur who appeared in the Echolink Demonstration after the October AGM. Next a photo of Eric with 2 Marconi veterans appeared and was followed by the QSL Card for G3JTW and photo featuring Malcolm Granville, G8AFS who now lives in Northern Ireland.

G8DET appeared sitting in front of his 2 monitor computer. The Muckleburgh Collection was next seen with pictures of the entrance door marked G0NWT & GB2NC. The collection on show included the large home constructed station of the late G6HL, 1154 & 1155, Gibson Girl emergency transmitter, R216, R107, 52 Set, 19 Set, 62 Set and one of three computer monitors which displayed the weather, messages from the Titanic and Morse.

Ron, M3CAM's station cat using his Morse Key was shown followed by Colin, G0TRM's pictures of 2 men up the radio mast by the Water Tower in Danbury. Carl, G3PEM's picture of the Russian Sputnik taken at the Brussels's Fair in 1958 preceded John's pictures of the PO Tower in London & Wootton Under Edge, Gloucestershire.

A series of "how not to saw down a tall fir tree" brought gasps of horror from the audience.

Murray had ready his computer to show a presentation from Cornwall by Eric, G8ADX which featured Goonhilly, Poldhu and early Marconi photos and what is there now.

Trevor had a CD with a lovely series of photos taken by Ian Cox, G6ECK of Selex which brought howls of delight from those in the audience who remembered buildings and rooms where they had worked in the past including German machine gun bullet marks from WWII. This series included shots of all the buildings at the rear of New Street which will be demolished during 2008 to make way from a redevelopment.

Kevan then took the floor using Murray's computer and PowerPoint and showed a lovely series of pictures of the main aims of the

Colchester Club & there many Field Day events where they erect 5 high masts for various VHF & HF Competitions.

A nice new white large tent caught the eye of the CARS Committee which would be ideal for NFD. It was sign written with Colchester's details and made a good publicity statement. This was a delightful presentation shown in a relaxed but riveting manner. Thank you so much Kevan.

The Meeting listened to the crashing onto the Moon in May 1965 of the Russian Satellite Lunik 5 – recorded by Jodrell Bank & found by Ken, G7RFT in his attic.

Geoff, G7KLV next presented a series of pictures showing the CARS outing to the RAF Signal's Museum at Henlow. A HR24 was seen but in a poorer state than that one at Sandford Mill. There were very good examples of most RAF equipment which had been in use over the past 70 years or so.

Jim Salmon took the floor and talked us through a number of pictures from his CD. It started with a lovely picture of Radio Caroline and a "Light Blue Touch Paper and Run" notice. Then followed some pictures from Angel Radio & Jim working portable from his car with a tall aerial. The final picture was a lovely aerial shot of Radio Nordsee International.

The many Raffle Tickets were drawn by Kevan after the refreshment break and the profits went to the Air Ambulance Fund.

A series of still photographs of CARS NFD preceded Steve's amateur movie film of the event and this concluded a varied evening of photographic interest.

Thanks to Kevan from Colchester & all who provided the photographs.

John, G8DET.

The British Wireless for the Blind Fund. Presentation of Trophies at Sandford Mill by Geoff G7KLV.

The entries on the CARS website concerning the Club involvement with Sandford Mill - had obviously aroused the interest of Ms Fiona Fountain, the events organiser for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. She was seeking a venue with interesting radio connections for the presentation of trophies for their annual competition entitled "Transmission".

She eventually made contact with Geoff Bowles who agreed to host the occasion.

Geoff welcomed a group of about forty visitors on Sunday 9th. December and briefly explained the purpose of Sandford Mill and the significance of some of the artefacts, with particular reference to the Writtle Hut.

The Chairman of the Fund, Mr. Peter McDonagh, explained how the competition "Transmission" works. It is a sponsored competition for amateurs to raise money for the Fund. There are two categories: one for clubs and one for individuals. Each of these is further divided: one for the maximum number of contacts made and one for the maximum amount of money raised, so there are four trophies in all.

The trophies were presented by Angus Annan, MM1CCR, President of our own RSGB. Since the inception of "Transmission" the RSGB has always worked very closely with the Fund in devising and establishing the rules and Angus expressed his pleasure at being asked to present the trophies.

The first trophies to be presented were for individuals. Unfortunately the winner raising the most money was unable to be present. The winner with the most contacts was young Simon Treacher, 2E0CVN. Simon is, incidentally, a member of the Cray Valley Radio Club and was accompanied by his Father, the well known columnist and writer Bob Treacher. The two club trophies were awarded to the Bittern DX Club from the Norwich area who beat last years winners, the Cray Valley Club, to second place. To complete the formal business of the afternoon, John DET presented a donation by CARS to this very worthwhile fund.

With the official business all done and visitors beginning to feel a trifle chilly it was time for tea! Annette Fawcett of the Friends of Chelmsford Museums had organised refreshments, with seasonal mince pies and other delicacies, assisted by Kathleen Selby and Phyl Lovegrove.

Angus was introduced to Club members and did a spot of operating with the Club rig which Brian G3CVI had set up for the occasion. Altogether a very happy occasion for all who attended including the twenty five visitors and supporters of the Blind Fund.

Geoff, G7KLV.

Low price Short Wave Radios Back in Superdrug

The UK High Street store Superdrug are again selling low priced Short Wave radios. The radios are priced at £3:99. The Superdrug website claims them to be "Half Price" with a "Was Price" of £7:99. However, for the last two Christmas seasons Superdrug were selling the radios for £2:99 so this year actually sees a 33% price hike ! Even so for £3:99 you get a 10 band Short Wave radio with digital readout and that's still far, far cheaper than you could build one for.

Hans Summers G0UPL, who gave a talk to CARS, has an excellent website on modifications to these radios to add a BFO, fine tuning etc.

The Superdrug website isn't exactly forthcoming on the specification of the radios but the ones in the shop look identical to those of previous years which had the following frequency coverage:

FM 86.6 - 108.7
MW 523 - 1657 kHz
SW1 5.81 to 6.56
SW2 6.74 to 7.58 (incl whole of 40m)
SW3 9.29 - 10.35 (incl whole of 30m)
SW4 11.85 to 13.03
SW5 12.93 to 14.20 (incl lower part of 20m)
SW6 15.21 to 16.63
SW7 16.63 to 18.14
SW8 20.94 to 22.54

Superdrug Short Wave Radio
<http://www.superdrug.com/invt/406317>

Aitkenson 10 Band SW Radio DM-906
http://www.aitkenson.com.hk/eng/product_detail.php?pdid=59

Hans Summers G0UPL Superdrug Radio webpage
<http://www.hanssummers.com/radio/superdrug/>

2005 - Superdrug £3 radio
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/november2005/superdrug_radio.htm

2005 - The versatile Superdrug £2.99 10-band Short Wave Radio Receiver
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/december2005/versatile_receiver.htm

2006 - £2.99 HF Radio available in Superdrug stores
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/november2006/superdrug_hf_radios.htm

Trevor, M5AKA.

FreeSat TV & Radio

The real FreeSat service will be launching next spring and will no doubt undermine Sky in offering Freeview style services via satellite

The new website is now online

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

Unlike the Sky arrangement, it will give all ITV and CH4 channels, as well as HDTV for free without needing a special card.

New satellite receiver boxes will be available that support the new non-sky EPG etc

The FAQs are at: -

<http://www.freesat.co.uk/help.php>

Murray, G6JYB.

Ireland bans Incandescent Light Bulbs.

Sales of ALL incandescent bulbs will be banned from Jan 2009.

<http://www.eetimes.eu/204702457>

A long link to the Irish Independent newspaper:-

<http://www.independent.ie/national-news/gormley-lights-the-way-with-ban-on-bulbs-1240074.html>

Progress in LED based lighting is reviewed here by the BBC

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/7131358.stm>

I am sure in the short term the Irish will just use ordinary energy saving lamps, but the LED guys are going to be catching up as millions are being poured in

LEDS can either emit a direct spectral line colour or do what the fluorescent people do and effectively use a UV light to excite a phosphor (which is how the cool white LEDs work). Direct colours are spectrally very narrow and thus look different to a broad spectral source like a tungsten filament which is easier on the eye.

The other thing is that OLEDs (Organic-LEDS) will start appearing in larger panels for both lighting and to compete with LCD TV. When used as lighting panels - they won't be intense point sources as LEDs are at present.

The fluorescent tube guys took a while to sort out their warm white from their daylight colours didn't they? The amount of R&D going into LEDs should sort it pretty quickly at the rate they are going now.

Hopefully LEDS will generate less RFI than other sources as well.

All TV Transmitter towers in the UK have VERY bright red LED arrays on them now for air safety

Murray, G6JYB

RSGB Proposes to Outsource QSL Bureau

From: "Marc", G0TOC at LEFARS – QSL Manager."

I spent a short while speaking with Peter Kirby at Lambda House about the future of the QSL Bureau yesterday afternoon.

He informed me that it is the RSGB's intention to outsource the QSL Bureau. Interested parties will be asked to tender for the contract.

This is only the central collection & distribution element of the QSL Bureau – the many Sub Managers will continue as usual.

Thanks Marc for that update.

Silent Key Sale - The late G1LUO.

SWR / Power Meter HF Welz SP220.
Unused with instructions. £25-00

Morse Tutor, Datong Model D70.
GWO, no handbook. £15-00

Morse Decoder with LCD Display
Velleman Kit, as new. Original Price app. £60
Bargain at £25-00.

Selection of books at bargain prices.
Contact Geoff G7KLV at 01245 473822.
Available at next Club night.

For Sale

For sale; LDG AT-1000 1Kw Auto Tuner,
VGC & GWO, c/w Manual. In original box.
£250.

Please e-mail g4djic@yahoo.co.uk
For further details

73 Dick, G4DJC.

January contests from Steve G4ZUL

ARRL RTTY Roundup

05/06 January (operate no more than 24HRS)

Exchange: RST + serial number.

Categories: single op, multi op
high power, low power.

Further information from www.arrl.org/contests

RSGB Affiliated Societies Contest's 80 metres

13 January, CW Start 14:00 – Finish 18:00 UTC

Exchange: RST + serial number

19 January, SSB Start: 14:00 – Finish 18:00 UTC

Exchange: RS + serial number.

Full rules from www.rsgbhfcc.org

CQ WW 160 Metre / CW

26/27 January, 48HRS.

Exchange: RST + prefix or country abbreviation.

Categories: single op, multi op.

High power, low power, QRP.

Scoring: own country 2 points, other countries same. Continent 5 points; other continents 10 points. Maritime mobile 5 points.

Multiplier: sum of states/provinces/DXCC countries worked. Final score: QSO points x the sum of all multipliers.

Further information from

www.cq-amateur-radio.com

For any further information please email Steve G4ZUL

contests2008@g0mwt.org.uk

BT Abolishes the Weekend for 0845 & 0870 Users!

From August 2007, BT has removed the cheap Weekend rate for Dial-Up Internet users like the Editor.

Prior to August 2007, Dial-Up Internet users on 0845 numbers were charged for a day rate Monday to Friday but the whole Weekends was cheap – not any more!

The current BT charges for 0845 numbers: -
Evening and Night 6pm to 6am – 0.5p per minute.
Day rate – 7 days per week – 2p per minute.

Likewise anyone dialling a 0870 number will now be charged 6p per minute during the day (6am to 6pm) & 1.5p per minute during the Evening & Night – 7 days per week.

Both 0845 & 0870 numbers now attract a minimum charge of 6p.

They have also removed the opportunity for BT Telephone users to make a Cheap Rate call

before 8am during the week – the current cheap metering period is now 6pm to 6am, Monday to Friday. BT Telephone users still have the Weekend at the Cheap Rate (but not New Year's Day).

John G8DET

Have you Paid your Subs?

This is a friendly notice to remind you that the CARS Subscriptions are now overdue for 2007 to 2008. If you have NOT paid this may be the last CARS Newsletter you will receive.

It is easy to pay – see the front page for the Treasurer's details.

For those of you who have paid – Thank You and a Happy New Year.

CARS at the Canvey Rally

Sunday 3rd February 2008 – Doors 10:30

We urgently need all your unwanted electrical, electronic, wireless, radio, Hi-Fi, Lo-Fi, and surplus amateur gear for sale on our 2 Tables at Canvey. Anything you think might sell or for that matter, might not, we will be glad to take it off your hands, but PLEASE, NO large TVs or monitors or furniture!. We can arrange collection nearer the time or of course if you prefer, you could deliver to Geoff, G7KLV in Grt Baddow (473822) or Colin, G0TRM in Danbury (223835). If it does not work Geoff will try his hardest to make it do so, if there is time.

This Rally and the Table Top sale are our main sources of CARS Income so your help is much needed. Canvey is one of the best local events and all CARS Members are always made most welcome. The organization is always good, as is the food and the drink. See you there.

Colin, G0TRM

And Finally...

John, G8DET edited this edition.
Material by Colin, G0TRM; Murray, G6JYB;
Trevor, M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Geoff, G7KLV
and Marc, G0TOC.

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 Friday, 18th January.