



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 507

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

May 2008

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 6th May. 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.

The Beacon Project

By Leslie Butterfields, G0CIB.

The talk is about the International five band Beacon Project by the NCDXF. It covers a little bit of the history, how the schedule operates, how to work out which Beacon should be operating and at what time, frequency etc.

Are the band conditions bad, or is just nobody on?

The talk covers equipment on the market which does the same job, plus a little bit on the software available now and where to get more information on Beacons. This is followed by a practical live demo using simple equipment (Century 22 CW transceiver & dipole) which hopefully should work on the night as no recordings are used!!! - Then any questions.

Leslie is RSGB Board Director with Portfolio:- Technical Committee & Propagation Studies Committee (PSC), so this should be rather interesting...

There will be our usual high quality Raffle.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 26 th April	International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill. Open to the Public, 10am to 5pm.
Sat/Sun, 10/11 th May	Windmills on the Air from Stock Windmill using GB5SM
Wed 14 th May	CARS Committee Meeting - Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm - All welcome
Tuesday 3rd June	CARS Meeting – The Annual Table Top Sale – Colin G0TRM
Sat & Sun 7/8th June	HF NFD (CW) at Sandford Mill. All CARS Members welcome.
Thursday, 12 th June	New Foundation Course starts in Danbury Village Hall – Names to Clive, G1EUC
Thursday, 12 th June	New Morse Class starts in Danbury Village Hall - Names to Clive, G1EUC
Saturday 15 th June	East Suffolk Wireless Revival - Suffolk Show Ground. http://www.btinternet.com/~thomassg/eswr.htm

Thanks to Geoff, G7KLV for arranging the Postal Members Newsletter – could it go by E-Mail?
Please inform Geoff, G7KLV by E-Mail of any changes to your call-sign, postal or E-Mail address, etc.
E-Mail him on g7klv@g0mwt.org.uk Thanks.

Subs Reminder

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 May is David, M0BQC. Thanks to Harry, G5HF for doing it in April.

Last Months Meeting:- Amateur Microwaves – Where are we Headed by Sam Jewell, G4DDK

Sam was licensed in 1970 and hails from Martlesham where he used to work for BT Research. He has a wealth of experience on most microwave bands including Moonbounce (EME). His tremendous breadth of activities includes low-noise preamp designs, to the microwaves column in Radcom. The talk started with a little history, then some current updates before finishing on some thought provoking crystal-ball gazing slides.

Sam first recalled some early history as East Anglia had been home to radar development at Bawdsey in the 1930s. Wartime work led to a development of high frequency valves and the post war era lead to a great deal of surplus. This background resulted in the first recorded UK amateur contact on 10GHz between G3LZ and G3BAK in Jan-1950.

Early amateur work tended to use waveguide and klystrons in the 60s/70s. Then came rather more friendly and portable 10GHz Doppler modules in the 70s which often were adapted for a standard HF or VHF IF. (This was popularized by the PW-EXE 10GHz project). As the 1980s started long range narrowband CW/SSB equipment was developed leading to far longer ranges, whilst the advent of commercial systems and satellite TV lead to great advances in semiconductors and compact lower noise figure front ends. Success by amateurs at higher frequencies has also driven by improvements in frequency stability and low phase noise to aid CW signals and filtering

It is worth realising that modern narrowband microwave distances can be considerable. The modest powers can be mitigated by the substantial antenna gains and anomalous but very helpful propagation. UK operator records vary from 2617km on 23cms to 1347km on 10GHz. In the audience was John Wood G4EAT (who gave CARS a microwave talk in May-2007), who had just achieved a new UK Record of 408km on 24GHz - from Danbury!
- and that doesn't include moonbounce paths

Nowadays state of the art kits or modules from DB6NT (Kuhne Electronics) put almost all the microwave bands (and there are plenty of them) within reach for prices less than an HF transceiver. A recent 10GHz Starter article that used one in Radcom won the RSGB Ostermeyer Trophy for most meritorious construction project published in RadCom at the recent RSGB AGM on April-19

In the UK, QSO activity tails off at 76GHz. Looking forward though the 134GHz amateur band could prove to be a stepping stone to a raft of developments underway in the Terahertz range. (>275GHz)

At these frequencies atmospheric attenuation becomes more challenging but some interesting windows do exist. These frequencies are also where a wider variety of molecules resonate making it possible to sense the environment (and humans).

This nowadays attracts considerable R&D by homeland security interests who can image metal objects underneath clothing. In space it is these frequencies which may ultimately help save the planet, and a variety of sensors are being designed for flight to directly map CO2 and other chemicals in the atmosphere.

The talk concluded with an interesting question session from the audience on the above and we thank Sam for highlighting the developments

Murray, G6JYB

Peter Barnard M0PGB – Silent Key

CARS has lost another Member, tragically Peter was taken ill and died suddenly on returning from a holiday in New Zealand. He was 54.

I first met Peter when we both worked for Marconi Marine, he was a Radio Officer and when he decided to swallow the anchor in the 1970's and come ashore he was required to attend MIMCo's training school in Chelmsford. At that time courses were run to equip the Ex RO's with the new skills that would be required for working ashore. I was one of the training instructors and that's when we first met.

A few years ago I again met Peter when he decided to become a Radio Amateur and he attended the Danbury Classes where again I was one of the Instructors. I found him to be a real gentleman, and the Society will be a poorer place without his company.
We offer our sincere condolences to his family."

Report by Carl G3PEM.

Peter Geier M1CKA - Silent Key

It is with great regret that I am writing this article regarding my friendship with Peter Geier M1CKA, who passed away suddenly on 28th March 2008 aged 77.

I first formed a friendship with Peter back in 1980 when we both worked for Marconi Avionics at Basildon. In those days neither Peter nor I were Radio Amateurs, (although we were both aware of Tony Hancock's involvement many years earlier). It wasn't until Peter retired in 1993 that we both started an interest in CB Radio but, of course, we soon got bored.

By now I had moved on to EEV in Chelmsford, where I came across Bob Richardson, G3XMB, he was a Novice Instructor, and kindly offered to come to my house once a week to do the course with us, so all that winter Peter and I, under the watchful eye of Bob, slaved away to pass the Novice Exam and gain our 2E1 call signs of which we were both very proud. .

From there we both went on to obtain our 'B' (now full) Licences. Peter was also a wizard at making/repairing clocks – many running today are a tribute to his skill.

Peter's funeral was on Wednesday 16th April, at Great Burstead Church and attended by approximately 25 family and friends, after which internment was carried out in the Cemetery.

God bless you Peter, Rest in Peace.

David James, M1DCJ

Mills On The Air – Stock Windmill

Mill Lane, Stock near Ingatestone, Essex
CM4 9RY. WAB: TQ69.

CARS Members are requested to arrive during the periods 10.00 am Saturday.10th to 6.00pm Sunday 11th May. Note, CARS have to be off-site by 6pm on Sunday.

Importantly the mill is open to the public on the Sunday from 2.00 to 5.00 pm, is an excellently preserved example of its type being run by dedicated volunteers under the auspices of Essex County Council who also own the land.

PLEASE! NO SMOKING OR TRANSCEIVERS OF ANY SORT INSIDE THE MILL. Entry is free but donations gratefully accepted. Access is by a series of ladders to the top floor; I found it easiest to haul myself up thereon by the ropes provided!

We will have a caravan on the right hand side of the field as you go in. Assemble at 10.00 am on the Saturday and hopefully we'll be operational by lunchtime. The caravan among other things is courtesy of Mark Sanderson M0IEO so thanks in advance, Mark!

CARS is looking for Operators & Loggers and general Helpers. Contact Patrick by E-Mail [m0xap at g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:m0xap@g0mwt.org.uk)

The Mill is marked on the Ordnance Survey map though not on most roadmaps.

To get there:

1) From the Marconi Club in Beehive Lane, B1009 turn left out of the club as it were and head south. Keep going until the junction with the B1007 and turn left going towards the A12, Stock and Billericay.

2) Head south over the A12 via the B1007 to Stock village. Pass the HOOP Free House on your left. Approach the junction at the centre with care; the visibility is poor and there's a Zebra crossing. Find the COCK INN on your right; immediately turn left down MILL ROAD passing the '4 VINTNERS' on your right, then the BEAR pub on your left. Heading east down Mill Road for a shade more than half a mile find MILL LANE on your left; the mill heaves into view on your right. Access for emergency vehicles is limited so you may have to park in the road.

Patrick, M0XAP

International Marconi Day (IMD)

This is on Saturday, 26th April 2008 and is the first open day of the year for the Sandford Mill Radio Museum.

This year CARS is operating a 100 Watt HF station from the Marconi Hut using mainly SSB and a HF station running the Legal Limit power from upstairs where Morse will also be used. Call-sign GX0MWT will be used.

Additionally, weather permitting, it is hoped to provide a VHF/UHF demonstration station near The Barn from a caravan kindly provided by Mark Sanderson, M0IEO and assisted by Jim Salmon, 2E0RMI. Unfortunately VHF/UHF QSOs do not count towards an IMD Award.

Operating times are 9am to 5pm with the public free to enter from 10am to 5pm.

Car parking is also free.

As well as the radio stations CARS will also be running a demonstration of automatic mechanical Morse transmission and reception using historic equipment from early in the last century. This demonstration run by **Geoff, G7KLV** and **Colin, G0TRM** is always very popular with the general public, especially younger visitors.

Can you help at this event? We need CARS Members to operate, log and explain to visitors what's going on. If **you** can help out in anyway, please contact Brian, G3CVI. Tel: 01245 471919 E-mail: info2008@g0mwt.org.uk

Sandford Mill Page:
<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/sandfordmill/>

For a map showing Sanford Mill see:
<http://tinyurl.com/24xbuc>

John, G8DET & Trevor, M5AKA.

National Field Day (NFD)

This takes place each year on the first weekend in June which this year means the Saturday 7th & Sunday the 8th June. CARS are operating a station from Sandford Mill under the leadership of Contest Manager Steve, G4ZUL.

CARS needs your assistance with the station – even if you cannot operate Morse at Contest speed you can assist with the erection of tents and fuelling the generator etc.

Sandford Mill will be open from 9am on Saturday and the Contest starts at 1500 hours UTC.

Please contact Steve by E-Mail if you can assist. The general members of the public are not allowed in for this event but XLYs are always welcome.

E-Mail Steve at g4zul@g0mwt.org.uk

Steve, G4ZUL.

Free 0845 etc Telephone Calls

It has been reported that £pounds have been saved from using this tip, so it is repeated.

For those with “Inclusive landline call bundles” (phone free anytime) finding a geographic number (eg 01 or 02 number) instead of a published 0844 or 0845 or 0870 or 0871 number can reduce the costs significantly: -

<http://www.saynoto0870.com/>

Enter the 0845 etc number (eg Tesco Finance 08457 10 40 10) and note the direct geographic number (eg, 0141 308 8082) which you then dial. It has been also reported the transmission is often better (no 2nd stage forwarding?).

John, G8DET

May Contests from Steve, G4ZUL

RSGB Club Championship (80 metres)

Dates for May as follows:

SSB 05 May. 20:00 – 21:30 Local
DATA 14 May. 20:00 – 21:30 Local
CW 22 May. 20:00 – 21:30 Local

Further information & rules from

www.rsqbhfcc.org

VHF Contests

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

17/18 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

CQ WW WPX / CW

24/25 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

For any further information please email Steve G4ZUL

contests2008@g0mwt.org.uk

Finding out your QTH Locator

Again, no apologies for putting this item in again – tremendous reports from the few persons who have used it. Put it in your Favourites on your PC.

John, G8DHZ of LEFARS points out this very useful (BRILLIANT) web site: -

<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>

It not only displays the Google Maps full screen, but also gives Lat, Long and the IARU QTH Locator details when you left click the mouse arrow on the map. Note, there is up to a 100m offset inherent in Google Maps/Earth.

Map only, satellite image only or a combination of both can be selected. You can also enter a QTH Locator to see the location of a station you have just worked. Prints out as well!

Trevor, M5AKA.

CARS Committee

CARS Committee would appreciate some support. Could YOU please consider using YOUR talents to the benefit of CARS and its hundred or so Members.

CARS have a number of vacancies and would appreciate more help running the Society. We could do with filling the following vacancies: - Vice Chair, Minute Secretary, Programme Secretary, Publicity Manager, News Letter Editor, Assistant Secretary and Social Organiser, to quote a few!

Please see any Committee Member at the next Meeting.

John G8DET. Chairman.

And - Help Wanted – CARS Raffle Table

Please apply on-site at Club meetings.

CARS Mugs Go World Wide!

Martyn, G1EFL, CARS Merchandising Manager has designed and had made a nice blue CARS Mug. These will be on sale at the CARS Meetings for £5 (with a donation to Club Funds). See CARS Web Site for photo.

Martyn reports: -

Mugs have now been exported to the USA and to the Island of Guernsey.

I was talking via Echo Link to Paul, KB1MTW from Massachusetts, USA recently & I mentioned that CARS had a new line in souvenirs. I told him about the mugs, which he was so interested in,

that he purchased one, and he is now going to take it to his Radio Club to show them.

Paul said they may be interested in doing something similar.

Koos from Guernsey GU0GUX has purchased 3 mugs which I am taking with me when I visit Guernsey next month. Paul and Koos have both visited CARS Web Site and have commented how interesting they found it.

Martyn. CARS Merchandise Manager.

PS, resulting from this entry, there will be a new CARS Web Page called "Mugs around the World". It will show pictures of where CARS Mugs are being used to promote Amateur Radio. Please send your Mug-Shot to The Editor in a JPG Format of not more than 1.5MegByte. Don't forget to put you name & Call-Sign in the E-Mail.

CARS Training

A new Intermediate Course is now underway. There were a record number of people wanting to do the course and unfortunately there wasn't room for all of them. It's an encouraging sign that so many Foundation holders wish to upgrade to the next stage.

CARS also run a Morse Code Training Course led by Andrew Kersey, G0IBN at Danbury Village Hall on the same night as the Intermediate. The current course was also oversubscribed, showing the popularity of the mode.

Including the Tutors, about 24 Amateurs now attend Danbury Village Hall every Thursday evening. This means lots of tea and coffee has to be made for the interval and all those mugs have to be washed and dried after. Help in the kitchen is always appreciated so if you think you can lend a hand, get in touch with Clive G1EUC. Our thanks to Richard Beck, M3YLB from Southend for providing his support to this duty.

On 12th June the next Foundation course will be starting. You can help us by spreading the word about Amateur Radio and the course. A poster can be downloaded from: -

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/poster3.pdf>

The Foundation Course requires the candidates to carry out on-air contacts at both HF and VHF and we'll like to express our thanks to the members who give up their Thursday evenings

during Foundation Courses to provide the other end of the link.

For more information about our courses contact:

Clive G1EUC

Tel: 01245-224577

Email: training2008@g0mwt.org.uk

Web: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training>

For Sale by CARS - Icom IC775DSP 200W

Complete with ATU, Ext Speaker and microphone, power supply, AM, RTTY, CW, SSB, FM. Splendid set almost new and cost £2500 when new. Offers over £1,000.

Apply, Harry, G5HF - 01245 354118

[harry at meadowside.demon.co.uk](mailto:harry@meadowside.demon.co.uk)

For Free (Cheaper than For Sale!)

CARS has been contacted by Bob Adlington, M0BOB who lives in Harold Wood, Romford (Close to Tesco at Gallows Corner on the A12). He would like to find a home for a Hustler Vertical antenna (thinks it is the 5-BTV and is in the garden) and a dual band vertical covering 2m and 70cm from off the side of the house. They are FREE to anyone who will remove them.

E-Mail [adlington.robert at gmail.com](mailto:adlington.robert@gmail.com)

My mobile phone number is 07947 196324.

For Free (Cheaper than For Sale!)

12 metre high, extending to 24 metre Tower. The new Owner has to take down (assistance given) and remove off-site. Used to be owned by the Late Roy Martyr, G3PMX & Ela, G6HKM when they were at Great Waltham, so it has a good providence.

Apply James Beatwell, 2E1GUA.

Telephone, please 01245 356394

Walk for Life

James is repeating his noble effort of walking from Maldon to Chelmsford for charity on Saturday, 18th May for Farleigh Hospice and will be present at the May Meeting for Sponsorship.

We wish him a drier walk than last year!

James 2E1GUA / M3GUA

Next CARS Meeting – Tuesday 3rd June.

Yes, the year has come around again, quicker than last year and it is time to think of another excellent CARS Table Top Sale.

Are you looking for a hard to find component or is it an antenna tuner you're after? Perhaps you have too much gear already and need some room in the shack?

The Table Top sale on June 3rd meeting may solve both problems. Don't forget tables are free to CARS Members.

Start saving your pennies from items in this Newsletter – clean-up your quality item you wish to sell and prepare for June's Meeting.

Call Colin, G0TRM on 01245 223835

Or E-Mail - [g0trm at g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:g0trm@g0mwt.org.uk)

Morse Classes

Andrew Kersey, G0IBN is starting the next Morse Class in Danbury Village Hall on Thursday, 12th June. Names to Clive, G1EUC, details above.

Andrew is also running GB2CW transmissions on a Wednesday evening at 2000 (and possibly a Sunday evening) at 5wpm then 7-8 wpm, trying to build them up to hand over to Gwyn, G4FKH!! Frequencies are 3555 - 3560, where ever there is an empty space.

Even if you do not transmit – why not listen?

Andrew, G0IBN

108th Anniversaries

The Marconi International Marine Communication Company Ltd was formed on 25 April 1900

On the following day 26-April 1900 the famous Marconi Patent 7777 for tuned coupled circuits was granted

And Finally...

John, G8DET edited this edition. Material by Murray, G6JYB; Carl, G3PEM, David James, M1DCJ, Trevor, M5AKA; Geoff, G7KLV, Martyn, G1EFL, Steve G4ZUL, Andrew, G0IBN, & Colin, G0TRM.

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, 22nd May.