



# 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 511a

Web Address: [www.g0mwt.org.uk](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk)

October 2008

**This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October. 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.**

## CARS Annual General Meeting

October is the traditional date of the Annual General Meeting. It is the time when the Committee is elected and Members say what they would like to hear/see happen during the next year. CARS would like to hear from any Member who feels that they could contribute something to the Club's success. Perhaps a M3 or a new M6 or a M0 would like to join to add "new blood". Please consider this request and contact either the Chairman or any existing Committee Member.

We give a warm welcome to David Davis, G3SVI & Myra, M0MYR who have been seconded onto the Committee as our new "Publicity Duo". Also John Yates, G1UZD who has been seconded as our new Programme Manager. All three need to be formally voted onto the Committee. Also Vote Martyn, G1EFL in as Vice-Chairman.

**October is the start of the CARS Membership year – PLEASE BRING YOUR CHEQUE BOOKS!**

CARS will also have its now famous Raffle where typically 12 Prizes are given away.

After this Murray, G6JYB will show a brilliant film (only 8 or so minutes) of a Contest Group from Denmark. CARS President will then show a couple of film clips from outer space (continuing our "Space" theme). Good to see, please come & enjoy.

### Anthony Martin M1FDE – Silent Key

Anthony passed away in Farleigh Hospice on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> September. Anthony was a Member of the Training Group and ran an Echolink Station from his home. He attended the Constructor's Competition in August and described a Remote Echolink Control and won 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize. He will be greatly missed. CARS send condolences to his Wife Cathy & Family. Funeral is at 2.30pm, Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October at St Mary's Church, Great Baddow.

### Dates for your Diary

Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Sandford Mill - CARS Operating Science & Discovery Day at 10am to 5pm
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> September	Kempton Park Rally
Wed 15 <sup>th</sup> October	CARS Committee Meeting in Danbury Village Hall – Members are welcome at 7.30pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Essex Repeater Group AGM Danbury Village Hall 7:30pm - All welcome
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	CARS Meeting. Titanic by Terry White.
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	CARS VHF Net on 145.375MHz at 8.30pm, Local
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December	CARS Christmas Lunch at The Bell, Rettendon at 12.30pm.

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](mailto:g7klv@g0mwt.org.uk) Thanks. Only by you sending Geoff your E-Mail address, can we ensure **WE** get it correct!

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375: (3rd) 28.375/1,947 (4th) 1.947: (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.  
**Net Controller for September is Harry, G5HF. Thanks to Denis, M0FHA for doing it in September.**

## **Last Months Meeting:- Radio from Brownsea Island by Peter Best, G8BLS**

Peter drove from his home town of Ipswich to see us and drew a large audience for his presentation. He is probably the most enthusiastic speaker we have ever had and knew his subject matter well using a first person refreshing style. He started by telling us of his first interests in Radio when his Father (a Mechanical Engineer) helped him construct a crystal set for his 9th birthday. Many of the audience had been hooked by the same kind of event, including changing the coil to get more interesting signals than the Home service or the Light Program also using the bedspring as an aerial. (Today's youngsters do not have these kinds of discoveries to make).

Peter then told us that some of his training courses with the Post Office were at Bletchley Park (before we were all allowed to know what went on there during the War). He used his radio "hands on" knowledge to produce transmitters when making receivers as part of the course (been there done that!).

Peter told us that Baden Powell started an experimental boy's camp to try out his ideas on Scouting and recruited 20 boys from the Boys Brigade and sons of friends. As he wanted to get away from the media chose Brownsea Island in Poole Harbour - which at the time belonged to a friend of his. Apart from a remote venue he needed various things like a flagpole, two rowing boats, a quantity of logs and some steel tipped harpoons. As harpoons were in short supply in Poole they had to have them made (to be used to throw at the logs pretending to be seals). One hundred years on the event to be celebrated invited the media, and two or three hundred media attended with people with tee shirts called media handlers. A Satellite uplink truck was there for the whole time they were there and two more from Jul-31 to the Aug-31 so half the world was watching it all on TV.

On the island there were to be three 3-day camps for young people and the special "Sunrise Ceremony" on Aug 1st. with 100 Scouting dignitaries invited from all over the World to celebrate the exact 100 years to the start of Scouting in 1907 at 0800hrs, local time.

Peter then went into the logistics and his involvement in the event telling us that all the vehicles, tents, masts, generators were all transported to the site by a BP ferry which could not land and waited for the right tide state to be

able to unload with ramps. Peter showed pictures of the various site structures masts with an aircraft warning light, (because of lots of low flying helicopters), solar panels, aerials and a wind generator on a mast alongside a bank of taller trees. He said, "I told them it would not work but they did not listen – and it didn't".

Peter brought with him the aircraft warning lamp and an exercise bike with a small motor used as a generator and showed pictures of the Chief Scout riding it. Peter demonstrated the unit and offered the audience the chance to have a go. It charged the 12-volt battery running the warning light at 10 amps, see the photograph on the CARS Website.

Peter showed a video of the many entertainments provided by the Scouts from 160 countries and finished with the video of the space contact with the Scouts at the other event at Highlands.

A very enjoyable evening with many pictures and bits of video to illustrate the narrative.

Thanks Peter, you kept us entertained and educated.

**Tony G4YTG.**

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## **Anthony Martin, M1FDE - Silent Key**

Anthony passed away in the early hours of Saturday morning, 20 September 2008 at the age of 41. He was an active member of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) and Essex Repeater Group (ERG) and had served as a committee member for both organisations.

He attended Bath University sponsored by the Marconi Company. He worked at Marconi's during the University holidays and on completing his degree Anthony joined the company full time in Chelmsford.

He remained with Marconi and its successor companies throughout his career, where his RF and digital expertise was highly valued. He was one of the pioneers of the Personal Role Radio (PRR) that revolutionised infantry communications that was previously dependant on shouting and hand-signals. Formally entering service with the British Army in early 2002 the PRR's have since been adopted by defence services around the world. The radios can be seen in use during TV reports by UK and Allied forces operating in Afghanistan and Iraq.

He had always been interested in radio and electronics, but it wasn't until 2001 that he took the radio Amateurs Exam and gained his Amateur Radio licence M1FDE. He was especially interested in Digital Communications and gave several presentations at the annual UK Amateur Packet Radio Conferences.

A keen electronics constructor Anthony regularly entered the CARS construction competitions and had considerable success. His last entry this August won second prize.

He always gave of his time and knowledge generously. Whenever someone needed help Anthony would go out of his way to assist.

As one of the CARS volunteer course Tutors he gave up his Thursday evenings to teach Amateur Radio Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced classes.

Anthony gave a great of support to the CARS Website immediately assisting when there was a major problem with the original site. He obtained and maintained the g0mwt.org.uk domain for the Society.

He ran the 50 MHz Echolink node MB7ICM and without his considerable support the 144 MHz node MB7IDA would not have come to fruition.

I remember well one occasion when the MB7IDA Echolink node developed a fault. Anthony was working in Christchurch, Dorset at the time and via email and phone he made a number of suggestions to get the system working. Unfortunately none of these proved successful so a meeting was arranged at Fleet services M3 Junction 4 for the Friday evening. We were both heading in opposite directions, Anthony to Essex and myself to Dorset. At the service station I gave Anthony the complete MB7IDA node which he loaded into his car boot and headed off. He rapidly diagnosed the problem and MB7IDA was soon back on the air.

In additional to Amateur Radio Anthony devoted much time to his local church St Mary's.

Always a cheerful person, he bore his long illness with patience and a Christian spirit and our condolences go to his wife Cathy and their two children Scott and Chris.

Anthony was a likeable, easygoing character who will be remembered with affection and missed very much by his associates and many friends.

Personal Role Radio - British Army Website  
<http://www.army.mod.uk/equipment/personal/1454.aspx>

UK Amateur Packet Radio Conference reports  
DigiCom 73  
<http://www.maxpak.org.uk/digicomms/Digicom73.pdf>

DigiCom 74  
<http://www.maxpak.org.uk/digicomms/Digicom74.PDF>

M1FDE - CARS Constructor Competitions  
2000 3rd prize for automatic tester for audio leads  
- not on the Web

[2001 2nd prize for 12 volt PSU](#)

[2002 entry for Electronic Thermostat](#)

[2003 1st prize for CTCSS Tone generator](#)

[2004 3rd prize for Digital Display Board](#)

[2005 1st prize for Packet TNC](#)

[2006 1st prize for Triplexer](#)

2007 in Christchurch so unable to enter

[2008 2nd prize for Remote Station Shutdown Unit](#)

## **Trevor M5AKA & Clive, G1EUC**

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### **SELEX Communications Announcement**

It is with great regret that we announce the death of our colleague Anthony Martin after a long illness. Anthony devoted 23 years to the business, latterly in the field of Soldier Systems, working both at Basildon and at Christchurch.

Previously, Anthony's contribution at Basildon was concentrated in the field of RF engineering, where he built up close relationships with many colleagues and made a significant contribution to our success. He was one of the pioneers of the Personal Role Radio.

He will be remembered for his intelligence in all fields of engineering. He bore his illness with great fortitude and we pass on our condolences to his wife Cathy and his two children.

### **Mike Bradshaw**

**Vice President Military Specialist Communications  
SELEX Communications**

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I was very sadden to hear about Anthony, while I have not seen him since I left Marconi about 10 years ago I have exchanged sporadic emails with him on technical matters over the last few years.

Could you please pass on my condolences to his Widow Cathy & Sons Scott & Chris.

**Charles Brain, G4GUO. (Worthing).**

## **Sandford Mill – Science & Discovery Day**

This is on Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September when the Public (and their children) are invited to the Museum from 10am to 5pm for a Borough Council sponsored day of Science exploration.

CARS will have HF & VHF stations in operation similar to that used for IMD in April this year.

Put this date in your diary and see/contact Brian G3CVI for a slot to Operate, Log or Host.

As usual, entrance & parking is FREE.

### **Feedback**

The CARS Web Site has a page to promote the CARS Mugs – in the form of “Mugs Around the World”. This was an idea produced by CARS Commercial Manager, Martyn, G1EFL.

Paul Moss, KB1MTW purchased a mug and so his picture appears. It transpires he is the Director of the Whitman Amateur Radio Club, Inc of Massachusetts, USA.

See the latest report of this friendship created through Echolink with an American Radio Amateur, look at: -

<http://www.wa1npo.org>

And click on “March Field Fair”.

Look towards the second half for someone you may know!

### **Martyn, G1EFL**

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### **Echolink**

I've been using Echolink through MB7IDA on 144.8375 for a while now, and enjoy the opportunity to have conversations with Radio Amateurs all over the World. I appreciate that this aspect of the hobby is not true complete RF, but I have no problem with utilising the Internet alongside amateur radio to enhance the hobby. Also I am as much interested in the communication side of the hobby as the transmission side, so it is good to be able to speak to people with a common hobby as a starting point.

I have a computer in the shack, & recently decided to download the Echolink system to be able to work direct from the PC. This has been relatively straightforward, and includes a validation process to confirm I am an actual licensed Radio Amateur. It took me a few evenings to fully understand the system, and

conversations with other Echolink users helped with this. I also had to re-configure the wireless router to allow 'port forwarding' to the PC, but this process was easier than it sounds. Downloading Echolink is free and the only cost involved for me was the purchase of a reasonable computer microphone at less than £10.00.

When I'm in the shack I tend to have the PC/Echolink system turned on, and the programme screen shows me all the Echolink stations currently on, including repeaters, links, and individual users. I can put calls through to any of these as with the RF link, and also additional detail can be programmed in to give name, location etc. There is also a text box enabling me to type a message whilst the QSO is ongoing - useful if I am connected with more than one station.

So far conversations have included joining in on the weekly Porthmadog (Nth Wales) net, and random calls received from Florida, Australia and Canada. In fact, whilst writing this I stopped to receive a call from 8P6HE, from Barbados.

My conclusion is that this is an enjoyable add-on to our hobby, and if any more detail is needed I'm happy to discuss further with you.

### **Jim Salmon 2E0RMI**

Thanks Jim

– now that is too good to not follow-up.

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### **Data over Mains Units Wipe Out HF**

Devices that use the electrical mains wiring to transfer data or provide Internet connections can cause interference to radios over a wide area.

Such devices are sold with the BT Vision product and are also available in PC World. They can cause S9 strength interference right across the HF spectrum, in some cases even several hundred feet away from the house they are installed in.

The video on this problem produced by the UKQRM group can be seen at: -

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MAzUtN29h1A>

There are a number of other videos on YouTube showing highlighting the problems caused by these units. A list of links can be found at: -  
[http://www.southgatearc.org/news/august2008/data\\_over\\_mains.htm](http://www.southgatearc.org/news/august2008/data_over_mains.htm)

UKQRM website: -

<http://www.mikeandsniffy.co.uk/UKQRM/>

UKQRM Yahoo Group: -

<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/UKQRM/>

## Trevor M5AKA

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### October Contests from Steve, G4ZUL

#### 1.3GHz & 2.3GHz Trophy

04 October.

Start: 14:00, Finishes: 22:00 UTC

Sections: SF, O. (Special rules S6)

Full rules from [www.vhfcc.org](http://www.vhfcc.org)

#### Oceania DX Contests

SSB: 04/05 October,

Start 08:00, Finish 08:00 UTC. 24Hrs

CW: 11/12 October,

Start 08:00, Finish 08:00 UTC. 24Hrs

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

Exchange: RS(T) + Serial number.

Full details from [www.wia.org.au](http://www.wia.org.au)

#### RSGB 21/28MHZ CW/SSB

05 October, Start 07:00, Finish 19:00 UTC

Exchange: RS(T) + Serial number + District code.

Sections: Open, Restricted, QRP.

Further information & rules from [www.rsgbhfcc.org](http://www.rsgbhfcc.org)

#### CQ WW DX - SSB

25/26 October, 48Hrs

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

Exchange: RS + 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 refer to February issue of CQ

magazine or <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com>

For any further information please email Steve

G4ZUL [contests2008@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:contests2008@g0mwt.org.uk)

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### Opposite of For Sale – Required!

I am a new Member of CARS. I have reinstated my old call which is G0OSI and need an HF Transceiver, a Post Office Morse Key and an ATU for a start. I used to have all years ago but sold it (what a fool). Hope to see you at the Sandford Mill on the 28<sup>th</sup> September.

E-Mail me at: - [wirelesskenny@googlemail.com](mailto:wirelesskenny@googlemail.com)

**Kenneth Pallant, G0OSI**

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## CARS Training

The CARS Advanced Course is now running but if anyone would just like to take the Examination only on 4<sup>th</sup> December, please contact the CARS Training Manager, Clive, G1EUC.

For more information about our courses contact:  
Clive G1EUC

Tel: 01245-224577

Mob: 07860-418835

Email: [training2008@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:training2008@g0mwt.org.uk)

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

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## E-Mail Received

Having just completed a Foundation Licence Course where three cadets and a young female member of Staff were all successful, I would like to thank those at CARS responsible for the production of the excellent PowerPoint slides.

As I only run a Course, on demand, every two years or so, a well thought out structure upon which to build my lessons was a great help both at the planning and the presentation stages.

Many thanks once again,

### Tony Wardle - G4XZA.

Comms Instructor 2425(Nottingham Airport) Squadron,  
Air Training Corps - MOTAS

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### Bletchley Park - Save Britain's "Code of Honour".

Bletchley Park has been given £57,000 that will tide it over for a few months.

There is a Prime Ministers Petition to request that something be done about Churchill's "Golden Goose which never Cackled" – Click on:-

<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/BletchleyPark/>  
Don't forget to add your qualifications & Callsign.

Another good read is the following Link: -

<http://www.eetimes.eu/208403043>

Google "Bletchley Park" and happy reading.

### Trevor M5AKA & John G8DET.

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### 90th Year of UK to Australia Radio Link

At 1100hrs (AEST) on Monday 22nd September 2008, Sydney Radio Amateurs and Members of the local community gathered at the Fisk Memorial outside the former house of Sir Ernest Fisk, at Wahroonga in Sydney, to commemorate

the 90th anniversary of the first directed wireless messages from the UK to Australia.

Full story and picture at: -

<http://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2008/20080923-1/index.php>

**Trevor, M5AKA.**

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### **Congratulations to M0DXR and M3WPX**

CARS member Mark Haynes M0DXR wed Gemma Taylor M3WPX on Saturday 20th September. CARS wish them both every happiness in the future.

Their honeymoon will be in the Maldiv Islands in the Indian Ocean and the couple are naturally taking an HF rig and antenna with them and hope to make the most of the opportunity to operate from this DX entity.

Mark works for SELEX Communications (formerly Marconi New Street) and a sked has been set up with Basildon SELEX Social Club radio station at 16:45 LOCAL time on Wednesday 1st October on 14.305 MHz.

If you've never heard or worked the Maldives before why not listen in and if you hear them call in at an appropriate point. He will be listening out for CARS members.

Mark got his Novice licence 2E0APH at the age of 12. In 1997 aged 14 he was runner-up for Young Amateur of the Year and 2 years later in 1999 he won the Young Amateur of the Year Award.

He is an active contester and has taken part in many DXpeditions.

In 1997 Mark 2E0APH received a presentation in Danbury at the site of the GB3DA and GB3ER repeaters from the Essex Repeater Group Chair Mike G4ZPE for his success in being runner up in the YAOTY award 1997.

1997 Essex Repeater Group Newsletter  
<http://www.essexrepeatergroup.org.uk/files/xmas1997.pdf>

Mark, M0DXR operated G0MWT/P at CARS NFD at Sandford Mill.

**Trevor, M5AKA**

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### **Amateur Radio Call-Signs**

I propose running an article in a later issue of the CARS Newsletter about Call-Signs and invite YOU to tell me how & when YOU got yours. Was it simply allocated or did you ask for it.

To start you off here is a question: -

“What is NOT a valid UK call sign?

- a) MM6MMM/M
- b) M6MMM/MM
- c) 2M1MMM/P
- d) M0MMM/A”

Answers at the AGM, please.

**John G8DET**

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### **NEWSFLASH: D-Star comes to Danbury.**

**GB7ZP** is a new ERG system to encourage D-Star Digital Voice activity in central Essex, approved by Ofcom on 12-Sept-2008. It is based at a domestic site in Danbury (to the east of Chelmsford). Courtesy of W&S and Icom it will be coming into service very shortly.

<http://www.essexrepeatergroup.org.uk/gb7zp.htm>

**Input:** 430.4875 MHz, **Output:** 439.4875 MHz

Note: Initial operation will be local RF only, with internet Gateway facility to be added in Phase-2

Hear all about it at the ERG AGM at Danbury Village Hall on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> October @ 7.30pm.

At the time of writing, this system is under construction and not yet in Service.

**Murray, G6JYB.**

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### **And Finally...**

John, G8DET edited this edition.  
Material by; Murray, G6JYB, Tony, G4YTG; Martyn, G1EFL; Trevor, M5AKA; Clive, G1EUC; Mike Bradshall, VP SELEX; Steve G4ZUL, Jim, 2E1RMI & Charles Brain, G4GUO.  
A number of articles have been held over to November's Newsletter.

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](mailto:editor@g0mwt.org.uk) by Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> October.