



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 512

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

November 2008

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 4th November. 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.

RMS Titanic by Terry White.

The “unsinkable” RMS Titanic struck an Iceberg on its Maiden voyage on the night of the 14th April 1912 (nearly 100 years ago) and sank a few hours later, early in the morning of 15th April. There were 2,223 persons on board, of which only 706 survived the icy Atlantic waters.

Terry will tell the story in detail and include the wonderful part Marconi's Wireless played in the rescue. He even plans to bring a scale model of the Titanic's radio room with him.

As this is well documented and is of interest to many, maybe Wives, Partners and Visitors may like to join us for this interesting presentation.

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

October is the start of the CARS Membership year – Subscription is the same as last year £12.00.

Dates for your Diary

Tue, 11 th November	CARS VHF Net on 145.375MHz at 8.30pm, Local
Wed, 12 th November	CARS Committee Meeting in Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm – All Members welcome
Mon, 24 th November	Dengie Quiz – Henry Samuel Hall, Mayland. Directions on Dengie Website – www.dhars.org.uk . CARS would like to enter a Team – contact CARS Committee.
Tue, 2 nd December	CARS Meeting. Amateur Satellites on a Shoestring by Andy Tyler, G1GKN.
Sat, 6 th December	CARS Christmas Lunch at The Bell, Rettendon at 12.00 for 12.30pm Lunch.

CARS Christmas Lunch on Saturday, 6th December 2008. 12 for 12.30pm Lunch.

After extensive research we are having our Christmas Lunch again at The Bell, Rettendon Common. This is on the “Old A130” – Note: You cannot get to it from the New A130 except from the A12 or the Rettendon Turnpike exits.

Like a lot of other foods from your supermarket, the price is slightly up on last year but the room is to ourselves – no children – food of your choice in good company – what more could you wish?

See the separate Booking Form. Look forward to your support.

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. 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 November is David, M0BQC. Thanks to Harry, G5HF for doing it in October.

Last Months Meeting:- Annual General Meeting by CARS

The Chairman welcomed our many Members and Visitors and the programme for the evening was explained.

The Meeting started by remembering Silent Key, Anthony Martin, M1FDE who passed away on the 20th September by showing photographs from the CARS Web Site of Anthony at CARS Meetings and of his Funeral on 2nd October at St Mary's Church, Great Baddow.

Carl took the floor and announced the Awards which were presented by President, Harry, G5HF.

Firstly the Constructors Awards:-

- 1st – Ron Keefe, G4SIS.
- 2nd – Silent Key, Anthony Martin, M1FDE.
- 3rd – Richard Beck, M3YLB.

First time Winner – John Yates, G1UZD.

The "Amateur of the Year Award" went to Colin, G0TRM for his support to CARS at the GB96MWT Event, "Providing Sound" at each Meeting and doing sterling service as Assistant Secretary.

The AGM was declared Open.

Chairman's and Programme Secretaries Report.

John said "I sometimes wake up in the middle of the night & think "what a good year we have had at CARS - thanks to the dedication of a number of Members and Committee Members. How can we better that?"

Our Monthly Meetings Programme for the past four years has been the work of Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL – I will read out these as Martyn is still suffering from jet lag from America.

November 2007 was a presentation by Elaine Richards who was then employed by Practical Wireless and now RadCom.

December was a Social Photographic evening shared with Colchester.

January was Software Defined Radios – one of Murray's pet subjects.

February was Micro DXpeditions with Roger Weston, G3SXW where he and a few mates whizz off to foreign places for a few days & operate Amateur Radio.

March was a Social Meeting where two people came from Hylands House to tell us about its history.

April was the GigaHertz Bands by Sam Jewell, G4DDK, ex-BT Martlesham, from Ipswich

May - Leslie Butterfield, and RSGB Board member, described the International Beacon Project around the World.

June – Colin organised the Table Top Sale and lots of people attended and sold/bought quality pieces of equipment.

July was Solar Observing by newly Licensed Amateur Peter Meadows, 2E0ZBU. A large turnout was delighted with his presentation aided by his Son Richard, 2E0SBU.

John said it gave him great pleasure to see local talent presenting a CARS Lecture. Everyone who presents a CARS Lecture does go on to great things. Some have become a President of the RSGB, some the Head of their firm and more recently Microwave Manager at the RSGB.

August was the Constructors Competition where there were such a large number of entries with an interesting and varied selection.

September was scheduled to be The Enigma but unfortunately Eric Dean, M0DHM had to withdraw as his Wife was seriously ill. Peter Best, G8BLS stepped in & presented Radio & Brownsea Island.

The Meeting showed their appreciation for the interesting meetings Martyn has arranged with a good applause.

CARS has been very busy – the busiest on record I would suggest with activities this year and a selection of photographs were projected from the CARS Website:-

Sandford Mill: RSGB President's Visit.

Sandford Mill has occupied a fair bit of our time in the past year starting with the visit by Angus Annan, MM1CCR, the then President of the RSGB to present the Awards for the British Wireless for the Blind Fund in December 2007.

As those of CARS Members who attended (and it was a good attendance) it was pretty cold there but hot tea helped. Angus was encouraged to call CQ using the Club Rig & worked a couple of stations – one said "please repeat your details"

Angus did and added "I am the President of the RSGB". To which the Amateur replied "Have got to go now – goodbye". He was not going to worry whether it was genuine or a wind-up. We have sent him a QSL Card to confirm it was genuine!

International Marconi Day.

IMD was in April with CARS providing a HF Station & this year for the first time, Mark Sanderson, M0IEO provided his lovely caravan and VHF/UHF equipment along with Jim, 2E0RMI and Bob, G4MDB. A lot of people visited both Stations. The weather was wonderful. Peter Best, G8BLS brought a number of Scouts and also looked at the Museum pieces on display by the Marconi Hut.

Event: Stock Windmill

Patrick was the next to stimulate some fun in May with Mark and his caravan at Stock Windmill over the weekend. Again, lovely weather and plenty of CARS Members visited.

Event: GB96MWT

Final Days Of Marconi at New Street.

June 6th provided a headache for Colin as G8DET was on holiday and Selex sprang onto CARS that they were holding a "Closing Event" which was scheduled originally for January, then Feb, and had been put back eventually to July. However with superb cooperation from Rod Wilkinson of Ofcom and hard work by Trevor, M5AKA, the Special Event Station, GB96MWT was issued in a couple of days. This enabled John G1UZD, Patrick M0XAP and Ken M3XBK to set up and operate a 100W HF transmitter site. 400 plus Marconi Veterans enjoyed good weather and a great social event at New Street which shut up shop shortly afterwards.

Sandford Mill: National Field Day

NFD in June was organised by Steve, G4ZUL, CARS Contest, or as it is now called, Radio Sport Manager. Operators were Gwyn G4FKH, Andy G0IBN, Terrence G3GLL, Carl G3PEM, Rick G3YEC and Steve G4ZUL. – Thanks to them all.

Event: Military Show - Langford

July provided the opportunity organized by Oliver Prin, 2E0WAA from Maldon to operate from the Museum of Power, Langford, near Maldon. Tony, G4YTG did a sterling job with his Bow & Arrow & nearly speared Brian in the process. David & Myra attended and did a great job with the Public.

Sandford Mill Open Afternoons in August.

In July, Selex sold three Transmitters to Tim Steele which he kindly donated to Sandford Mill.

First Afternoon was HF – 2nd was VHF with James, 2E0GUA, 3rd was HF again and 4th finished a busy month with James again.

Event: August Lightship at Tollesbury

Andrew, G0IBN kindly arranged for CARS to operate for the Weekend from the Lightship VESSEL-15 at Tollesbury. This was for "Lighthouses on the Air" and a number were contacted around the Country. Steve, Martyn, Rick, Jeremy operated and yours truly visited for a Photo Call on the Saturday.

CARS President Harry, Ethel and two CARS members visited the Light Vessel for a personal trip during September – Thanks Andrew.

The Treasurer's Report.

Brian said that we were in a better position than last year and that he proposed keeping the Subscription at £12 – same as last year. In answer to a Question from the floor – Brian said we were very fortunate in CARS that nobody had submitted an expense for presenting a Lecture. Vote to Accept the Accounts: -

Proposed by Carl, G3PEM

Seconded by Geoff, G3EDM

Accepted unanimously.

Training Report by Clive, G1EUC.

He said that CARS had undertaken two Foundation, one Intermediate and one Advanced Course and thanked everyone for their assistance. Carl was thanked for his efforts for the Advanced Course and a tribute was paid to Anthony for his generous contribution to CARS Courses and slide sets. Clive then specified the Courses in 2009.

Presidents Report

Harry thanked the present Committee Members and the Chairman for all their hard work, which had helped to make the past year such a success.

The Committee was stood down and the President took the Floor.

The Existing Committee was projected onto the screen. It was first proposed that the Existing Committee was re-elected En Bloc.

Proposed by Harry, G5HF

Seconded by Carl, G3PEM.

Carried unanimously.

John, G8DET was then re-elected Chairman.

Proposed by Geoff, G3EDM

Seconded by Carl, G3PEM

Carried unanimously.

John Yates, G1UZD was proposed to be a Committee Member.

Proposer – Colin, G0TRM.

Secunder – Tony, G4YTG.

All in Favour? YES.

John has supported the many CARS outside activities and has accepted the role of Programme Secretary. Thank you John.

To give John a help G8DET had distributed some slips of paper for Members to list what they would like CARS to do during 2009. No need to state your name or callsign. Simply ideas are what we want – Thank You.

I now need to Vote onto the Committee the Publicity Duo: - David Davis, G3SVI and his wife Myra, M0MYR. David and his wife operate an Emergency Postmaster's Role for Post Offices where the Postmaster is ill etc. They are on such a call at present, which is why they are not here tonight.

Proposer – Clive Ward, G1EUC.
Secunder – Patrick, M0XAP.
All in Favour – Carried

Martyn G1EFL is already on the Committee but it would be nice to formally vote him as Vice-Chairman.

Proposer – Brian, G3CVI
Secunder – Patrick, M0XAP.
All in Favour – Carried.

Thank you Martyn, you are Vice Chairman.

Jeremy, M0DUT – already a CARS Committee Member has agreed to be our Minute Secretary.

CARS Committee for 2008 to 2009.

President	Harry Heap, G5HF
Vice President	Charles Shelton, G0GJS
Vice President	Geoff Mills, G3PEM
Chairman	John Bowen, G8DET
Vice Chairman	Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL
Treasurer & Membership	Brian, G3CVI
Programme Secretary	John Yates, G1UZD
Minute Secretary	Jeremy Barley, G0DUT
Assistant Secretary	Colin Page, G0TRM
Antenna Manager	Tony Gilbey, G4YTG
Training Organizer	Clive Ward, G1EUC
RTL Instructor	Murray Niman, G6JYB
RTL Instructor	Martin Medcalf, G1EFL
Radio Sport Manager	Steve Cocks, G4ZUL
QSL Manager	Patrick Xavier, M0XAP
Publicity Managers	David Davis, G3SVI Myra Davis, M0MYR
Member	Jim Smith, 2E0JPS

Any other Business.

Close the AGM at 8.52pm.

The Meeting then had a 20 minute refreshment break during which time, Harry, G5HF showed a series of beautiful photographs taken from the ISS as it passed over the Earth.

This was followed by Murray projecting a superb 15 minute film of a Danish Amateur Radio Station OZ5E which had been rebuilt after damage. This was to the accompaniment of music, a chanting choir and Morse.

A very good evening.

John G8DET Chairman.

Anthony Martin, M1FDE - Silent Key

I have been very fortunate to get to know Anthony and work with him on several projects in recent years. We benefited from Anthony's tremendous capability to think out new designs and analyse and resolve problems whilst remaining totally calm and relaxed.

In 2001, he worked with me on the original PRR Project Team; he was responsible for design of the RF PCB. We all worked under considerable pressure as project was very high profile, the design of PRR and the first production batches had to be completed in less than 4 months for troops deploying to The Gulf. With the other members of the team, Anthony worked late into the evening to complete his part of the design, without his efforts; the project would not have been the same outstanding success that it was. I recall one of many RF problems that he resolved, when we discovered a number of nasty high frequency oscillations on the PCB (at 20GHz), somehow these had to be removed. Everyone was scratching their head, but Anthony did some measurements and calculated that if he changed just a few components and laid a track to nowhere, exactly 2.51mm long (above an earth plane), it would solve the problem! We produced a prototype and as predicted the oscillations disappeared. Remarkable, in view of the fact this "show stopper" hit us just 7 weeks before the final equipment delivery was made.

Anthony's skills were not just hardware related, in a later project we had a problem with an HF modem, which just didn't want to work at HF! The modem had been designed by Italian contractors some years previously, no one involved in the original design was left working for the company. Following receipt of sample kit, Anthony quickly deduced the problem was not with the hardware, but the software, and requested the source code. Within hours of getting hold of the code, he had

meticulously analysed it, found 3 or 4 areas where "things did not look at all right", and systematically looked at each of the faults. A few days later we had a fully working modem which could be retested in our system.

The last time I worked with Anthony was in February this year when we had to make improvements to the original PRR design, although he was ill, he provided some of his invaluable expertise to redesign a screen for PRR on his original HF PCB. This again was needed quickly and with cheerful resolve, he delivered the required improvements to the EMC performance.

Anthony was a dignified and quiet man with a tremendous intellect, he delighted in understanding the details of the complex designs that he worked on. He was a calming influence in the project team and will be missed by all at SELEX, especially those who have had the pleasure of working with him.

Tim Steele, SELEX Communications.

Tim passed his Intermediate Examination in 2002 after attending a course run by Christopher Chapman, G0IPU. He worked with Anthony on a number of projects.

Trevor M5AKA & Clive, G1EUC

Sandford Mill – Science & Discovery Day

This was on Sunday, 28th September when the Public (and their children) were invited to the Museum for a Borough Council sponsored day of Science exploration.

CARS had a HF Station in The Hut and the VHF stations in Mark's Caravan parked near The Barn.

A beautiful day ensured the Museum was well attended with CARS Members, ex-Marconi personal and visitors.

Flex 5000A (Update).

You may remember my piece in the May 2008 Newsletter, I'm pleased to report that the situation has changed for the better. I thought that Club Members would benefit from my experiences. In conversation with the guys from Flex, I realised that my PC was not up to the job. This meant spending out on a PC with the recommended spec. (This spec info is not published anywhere). I bought a (desktop) Dell XPS-420 E8500 Core-2 Duo Processor 3.16GHz, 6MB cache at 1333MHz, 500Gb Hard-drive, 4GB Dual Channel DDR2 800MHz Memory, running Vista. The important

bits are the Processor, Memory and the Cache. As the recommended operating system is XP, I was advised to get a larger Cache, so instead of the recommended 2GB I purchased 6GB. Along with the PC the Flex unit itself weighs about 8Kg, the 30A PSU weighs about the same!

My disappointment can be imagined when after installing the new PC I did not really see any significant improvements. I finally reasoned that there were problems inside the Flex box and so I reported this to Waters & Stanton and they agreed to take the unit in. After two and a half weeks their Chief Engineer reported that he couldn't find anything wrong but wanted to re-calibrate the PowerSDR (software) readout and because he did not have the equipment was sending it to Germany (European HQ for Flex) for this to be done. I was astonished when Germany reported five problems which they attended too and sent the unit back to me. Following exhausting tests including monitoring the output waveform, all is now as it should be. I have a good clean CW signal at 100W on all bands and the receiver side is wonderful. (Since, I have had similar problems and again it went through the same handling procedure). It has been back for 3 weeks (at the time of writing) and all seems as it should be, so far.

Flex strongly suggests the use of at least a Dual Core Processor with the Memory etc. that I purchased, but at the same time say that "Laptop's are not up to the job". The reasons why Laptop's are not up to it are: Processor speed is compromised due to speed constraints and battery limitations and that the Firewire (the connector from the PC to the Flex box is via Firewire) speed suffers because of the same reasons.

Perhaps sometime next year it will be possible to bring the set-up to one of our meetings and demonstrate the unit / cover more thoroughly the problems I've had to face in order to get things working as they should.

Gwyn Williams – G4FKH

Thanks Gwyn for that offer – you are on!

Additionally, have a look at this link from Dudley, WA5QPZ who is discussing how to Set-Up a Flex 5000 in "You Tube". This is for "Digital Modes".

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OpxsgUEy3QE&feature=related>

Create your own Web-Site

www.jimsalmon.co.uk

I recently thought it would be interesting to see if I could set up my own Web Site to give details of my radio hobby. A colleague uses www.moonfruit.com for his Angel Radio website which has had more than 200,000 visitors and includes audio and video links. Looking at the moonfruit.com website, I was interested that they allow a free website build, albeit with a limited 20MB of space and with adverts alongside. The Flash Player system used makes it relatively easy to build your own site. Instructions are straightforward and there are numerous templates available, or you can design your own page layout. I had a basic site up and running after a couple of evenings.

Obviously the 20MB of space can be soon used up, especially with audio and video, although applying basic compression gives far less space usage. Having grasped the moonfruit concept, I decided to increase the web space to 250MB and register the domain name www.jimsalmon.co.uk

Currently the website has pages on Amateur Radio, Chelmsford Calling, how my interest in radio started, & other bits and pieces. So far I've used less than 40% of my permitted space, so obviously there is room for far more when time permits.

If you are interested in setting up your own website but may consider yourself a novice, then I can recommend moonfruit.com. The only problem I have encountered so far is the need to have the Adobe Flash Player installed on the computer to view the site correctly, but this is present or easy to install on normal pc systems.

If you experience any problems which you think I may be able to help with, feel free to e-mail me. jim.salmon@blueyonder.co.uk

My ISP is Virgin Media through the cable system. Registering the website name was through moonfruit.com - all done with the web package. This was given for free with the 250MB package which cost £49.00, so overall cost was less than £50.00.

Jim Salmon 2E0RMI

CARS Member comments: - Jim's site is quite reasonable though and seems to work well in both IE6 and Firefox-3 but note it does use Flash Play.

At Last a New Sunspot !!

The website <http://spaceweather.com> reports that for the first time in months, a significant sunspot is emerging on the sun. It is a fast-growing active region with two dark cores, each larger than Earth. The magnetic polarity of the sunspot identifies it as a member of new Sunspot Cycle 24.

Because the year 2008 has brought so many blank suns, some observers have wondered if we are ever going to climb out of the ongoing deep solar minimum. This new sunspot is an encouraging sign that the 11-year solar cycle is indeed progressing, albeit slowly.

Visit <http://spaceweather.com/> for sunspot photos and updates. Note this is NOT a "www".

Trevor, M5AKA

CARS Training

The CARS Advanced Course is now running but if anyone would just like to take the Examination only on 4th 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
Web: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training>

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).

<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

GB7ZP is now **IN SERVICE** – Well Done.

Murray, G6JYB.

PS: A CARS Talk will be organised in 2009 to tell you all about this new mode and Service.

Amateur Radio SSTV Pictures from Space Station

The ARISS-SSTV gallery has now started to show pictures received from around the world of the test images being sent by the International Space Station (ISS).

They can be seen at

http://www.amsat.com/ARISS_SSTV/

The ISS SSTV pictures are transmitted on 145.800 MHz FM. They should be receivable, when the ISS is in range, on an Amateur Radio 2 metre handheld or a scanner radio connected to an external quarter wave ground-plane or discone antenna. If your radio has different filter settings for 12.5 kHz and 25 kHz FM then select the 25 kHz filter for best results.

Free Slow Scan TV PC Soundcard Software MMSSTV:

<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/>

Free IZ8BLY Vox Recorder that enables you to record the ISS SSTV audio on 145.800 MHz while you're away at work

<http://xoomer.alice.it/aporcino/VoxRecorder/>

AMSAT Online Satellite Predictions (enter ISS):

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/>

Google Earth Satellite Tracking:

<http://www.n2yo.com/>

Satscape Satellite Tracker:

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

SatSignal

<http://www.satsignal.eu/>

Ham Radio Deluxe

<http://www.ham-radio-deluxe.com/>

ISS Fan Club:

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

AMSAT Bulletin Board AMSAT-BB

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/maillist/>

AMSAT-UK

<http://www.uk.amsat.uk/>

ARISS:

<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>

Join AMSAT-UK online at

<https://secure.amsat.org.uk/subscription/>

November Contests from Steve, G4ZUL.

144MHz Marconi / CW

01/02 November,

Start:14:00 Finish:14:00 UTC. 24hrs

Sections: SF, O, 6S, 6O.

Full rules from www.vhfcc.org

Japan International DX / SSB

08/09 November, 30hrs

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

Exchange: RS + CQ Zone

Full details from www.jidx.org

RSGB 1.8MHz / CW

15/16 November.

Start: 21:00. Finish: 01:00 UTC. 4hrs

Exchange: RST + Serial number + District code.

further information & rules from www.rsgbhfcc.org

CQ WW DX / CW

29/30 November, 48hrs

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

Exchange: RST + 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 from:-

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

For any further info please email Steve G4ZUL

contests2008@g0mwt.org.uk

HELP WANTED !!

Anglo European School, Ingatestone

The amateur radio club at the school was founded 3-4 years ago and has 10 members, but is now in need of help as a former licensed parent has left. They currently meet once a week at the school in Ingatestone (Wed 3:30 - 4:45pm) though this could be flexible. They would very much like to run their foundation course again as well. The club fits well with the schools international ethos and it would be a great shame to lose it. Interested? Please contact Murray G6JYB who has more info.

And Finally...

John, G8DET edited this edition. Material by; Murray, G6JYB; Trevor, M5AKA; Clive, G1EUC; Tim Steele, SELEX; Steve G4ZUL; Jim, 2E1RMI and Gwyn, G4FKH.

Like to edit an issue of the Newsletter? If so, do let us know. Items for the next Newsletter should be sent to the editor@g0mwt.org.uk by Thursday, 19th November.