



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB Club Call Sign: G0MWT
President: Harry Heap G5HF Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI Vice Chairman Martyn Medcalf G1EFL



Newsletter No 520

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

July 2009

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 7th July. 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.

“Constructors Competition for the M1FDE Shield” Organised by Carl Thomson, G3PEM

This year a new trophy will be awarded, the M1FDE Shield. This trophy has been created in memory of Anthony Martin, M1FDE who passed away last year at the age of 41. Anthony was a pioneer of the Personal Role Radio (PRR) introduced into the British Army in 2002, for which he was responsible for the RF design. He devoted much of his spare time to Amateur Radio Training. He taught on many Thursday evenings at the Foundation, Intermediate and Advanced courses run by the CARS in Danbury Village Hall. Over the five years he helped more than a hundred new Amateurs get their licence.

Carl will issue judging sheets for the audience to mark the projects entered.

- There are very few Rules, however only CARS Members maybe awarded the M1FDE Trophy.
- Visitors are encouraged to demonstrate their handiwork and maybe awarded the "Special Prize"
- It should be electrically safe.
- It can be anything remotely connected with Radio (a house brick won it 20 years ago!)
- One can enter photographs or drawings if it is like a Power Station in size & difficult to bring.

There will be a computer & projector to display JPG Files on a CD or memory stick. CARS would like a small piece of paper with Name, Callsign and what the entry is, written on it. If you do not wish to talk for say five minutes about it, please prepare a script and a member of CARS will present it for you.

Prizes: M1FDE Shield plus £10 for First, £7 for Second, £5 for Third and £5 for a "Special Award. Please make your entry well known to Carl or Chairman, John as in the past the occasional project has been missed.

CARS now famous Raffle will have its usual table top of Raffle Prizes - only £1 per Ticket

Dates for your Diary

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 14 th July | CARS VHF Net on 145.375MHz at 8.30pm, local. See CARS Web Site. |
| Wednesday 15 th July | CARS Committee Meeting in Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm – All Members welcome |
| Monday, 20 th July | 40th Anniversary of 1969 Apollo 11 - Moon Landing |
| Tuesday 4th August | CARS Meeting – “The work of the IARU”. By Peter Chadwick, G3RZP |
| Sundays in August | CARS Operating from Sandford Mill, 2pm to 5pm. |
| Sat/Sun 15/16 th Aug | CARS Operating/Promoting Amateur Radio from Chelmsford Town High Street. |

To become a Member of CARS, send a Cheque for £12 – Adult Membership (16s and under are FREE) to:- Mr Brian Thwaites, 118 Baddow Hall Crescent, Great Baddow, CHELMSFORD, CM2 7BU.

If you would like a receipt, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope with a 2nd class stamp.

Thanks to Geoff, G7KLV for sending the postal Newsletters – 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 Only by you sending Geoff your E-Mail address, can we ensure **WE** get it right!

Club Nets: Tuesdays 8-30pm: (2nd) 145.375: (3rd) 28.375: (4th) 1.947: (5th) 145.375. All +/- QRM.

Net Controller for July is Colin, G0TRM.

Thanks to Colin, G0TRM & Patrick, M0XAP for June.

Last Months Meeting:- "Quality Table Top Sale" Organised by Colin, G0TRM

Once upon a time CARS used to have a "JUNK SALE" but this was wound up when it was realised that most Chelmsford Radio Amateurs all had a garage full of Junk and their XYL's had forbidden them to import anything more! (What is a Garage for? - Answer:- Storage space when you cannot get anything more in the roof!).

To provide a more useful sale the "Quality Table Top Sale" was started a few years ago and this proves to be more attractive. It is surprising what is sold - (computer CRT Monitors and large CRT TVs are NOT popular!) - most other items do change hands.

A number of CARS Members DID have a good look in their shack and brought along a good range of items to sell. It consisted of good condition Amateur, Audio, Electronic, Electrical, Photographic, Computer and associated equipment. A few tables had Silent Key equipment for sale and Zipy had two tables filled with his "overflow equipment" which he nearly sold out of.

Zipy also kindly donated a very large clock and another item to the Raffle which were soon hoovered up. Thanks Zipy for your generosity.

Unfortunately David Penny, G3PEN telephoned in ill - hope you soon recover, we missed your presence and tables.

CARS were very pleased to see a happy band of Amateurs from LEFARS Club who "thought the selling pattern was not as brisk as last year but it was a good Social event" - thanks for the feedback. In attendance with Marc, G0TOC was John G8DZH, Newsletter Editor, and John G1DJI.

Thanks to Vice Chairman, Martyn, G1EFL for his part in raising a record sum by selling Raffle Tickets (he did it without showing a gun!)

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 organising it.

John G8DET.

CARS Sport Radio (Contest) Group

Steve, G4ZUL organised the NFD CW Contest from the car park in Sandford Mill starting at 10am on Saturday, 6th June.

A number of CARS Members turned up, (first being Peter, G4OAD), Colin, G0TRM, Patrick, M0XAP, Clive, M0GHH and Martyn, G1EFL besides the Contest Members. They assisted with the erection of the gazebo to protect the generator – because severe rain was forecast it was covered over with a tarpaulin well tied down. Indeed an inch of rain fell in the early hours of Sunday morning but everything was watertight.

The Contest started at 1500hrs UTC and ran for 24 hours.

The Contest Members consisted of Steve, G4ZUL; Gwyn, G4FKH, Andrew, G0IBN, Terence, G3GLL and Carl, G3PEM. They were using the Lottery purchased HP DV7 Laptop, Palstar Tuner and the IC756 Pro-III with no problem. The aerial this time was a full dipole on 160 Metres – all 260 foot of it made by Terence, G3GLL and neatly put up by Tony, G4YTG.

Steve reports that they contacted 749 stations, 150 more than last year with Hong Kong being the furthest.

Provisional score:-

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Band:- | 160m | 80m | 40m | 20m | 15m | 10m | Total |
| QSOs | 140 | 141 | 244 | 215 | 9 | 0 | 749 |
| Points: | 976 | 466 | 742 | 650 | 28 | 0 | 2862 |

Sunday afternoon proved nice and sunny so the NAAFI tent came down early followed by the generator gazebo – rest soon after 4pm – site cleared by 4.30pm – Dr Bowles locked up at 5pm.

The Contest Group

July Sport Radio (Contests)

VHF National Field Day

4/5 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

RSGB Club Championship (80 metres)

Dates for July as follows:
CW 06 July. 20:00 – 21:30 Local
SSB 15 July. 20:00 – 21:30 Local
DATA 23 July. 20:00 – 21:30 Local
Further information & rules from www.rsgbhfcc.org

IARU HF World Championship (SSB/CW)

11/12 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.arrl.org/contests

RSGB IOTA Contest (SSB/CW)

25/26 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 please email Steve

G4ZUL - contests2009@g0mwt.org.uk

Steve, G4ZUL Contest Manager

New RSGB President

At the May meeting of the RSGB National Council, the council elected David Wilson, M0OBW to serve as RSGB President for 2010 and 2011.

David currently holds the Emerging Technologies (Repeaters/Data) and RSGB Convention portfolio on the RSGB Board. He is also very active in the Train the Trainers programme. A formal announcement of the appointment will appear in the August 2009 edition of RadCom.

GB4FUN Trailer

The new GB4FUN has a new Web Site:-

<http://www.gb4fun.org.uk/>

Murray, G6JYB

Chelmsford Town Centre Operation

To read a full report and see photos, click on:-

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/events/town-centres-2009/>

Richard, M3YLB and Mark M0IEO obtained permission from Chelmsford Borough Council to Operate from the Town centre to demonstrate and

raise the profile of the Radio Amateur and invite members for the September Foundation Course.

On Saturday, 13th June Mark's caravan was in place in Market Square by 7am and a few minutes later the tea was ready.

Permission had been given by Susan of Chelmsford Council Markets Office to drop a long wire from the top of the multi-storey car park, tuned with a SG230. James, 2E1GUA came and operated, working Germany and the UK while CARS Members talked to those interested. David, G3SVI & Myra, M0MYR provided CARS Publicity boards while Murray, G6JYB and the RSGB provided information regarding Amateur Radio.

A number of persons who approached the caravan were already Radio Amateurs but had allowed their licence to lapse. This supported the theory that this part of Essex has one of the highest concentrations of Radio Amateurs in the UK.

Richard and Mark thank the many CARS Members who contributed to the success of this venture.

They have now scheduled Saturday, 15th and Sunday, 16th August to repeat this event but in the High Street, Chelmsford where even more people will have a chance to experience Amateur Radio.

If you would like to help, please contact Mark at:- belinda.sanderson@tiscali.co.uk

Well done Richard & Mark.

John, G8DET.

Bing- What is Bing?

Enter www.bing.com when connected to the Internet. Next enter "Radio Amateur, Chelmsford" and select "only from the United Kingdom". Press "Enter" or "Return and see what happens!"

On page 15 I found this reference:-

http://www.historyofpa.co.uk/pages/cw_2LO.htm#s_howreel

And later on page 17

http://www.vmars.org.uk/louis_luton_legacy.htm

<http://www.g3meh.com/4wheels.shtml>

On page 20 I found an advert for "England's Last Hope", light hearted memories of National Service in the Royal Corps of Signals, 1956-1958.

Mr L Samuels, 20 Richmond Close, Whitefield, MANCHESTER. M45 7PW Price £9.99 + £1.80 P&P. I quote this for those interested without the Internet.

Hardly Amateur Radio but interesting as to the dates of the Digital Switch-Over completion.

<http://tx.mb21.co.uk/dso/>

See also when it starts, as BBC2 goes off:-

http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/when_do_i_switch

You have just used the new Microsoft "Decision engine" which they hope will rival "Google". Within a few weeks it has overtaken "Yahoo" but has a long way to go to beat "Google".

Personally, I found it very useful and pleasant to use.

John G8DET.

Frank Howe, G3FIJ Silent Key

Frank, G3FIJ, passed away at the age of 81 on Wednesday 27 May. He was cremated at the Colchester Crematorium on 11 June. CARS were represented by Vice President Geoff, G3EDM, Chairman John, G8DET, James 2E1GUA, Andrew, G0IBN who attended with Rick, G3YEC and Dick, G3YAJ. See <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk> for a photo after the Funeral.

Not only was Frank one of the most active amateurs in the area but he was also one of the kindest.

He gave his time and knowledge unselfishly to anyone who had the slightest interest in the hobby. Frank trained hundreds of amateurs to get them through both the written exams and the Morse code exam under the old City & Guilds RAE system.

In 2002 he also devised, organized and conducted the first Foundation Exam in the UK when the new 3 tier system was brought in. Once a new licence was obtained no Amateur was left to flounder and Frank could often be heard mentoring people on air.

I regret not having known Frank in his early years but feel privileged to have known him for the past 6 years. I first met him teaching on the Foundation Course where I became licensed.

James M0ZZO

With additional material by John, G8DET

Recollections by G18AFS

Malcolm Granville, G18AFS, joined the Chelmsford Marconi Apprentice Association (call-sign G3JTW) in 1959. He sent this email regarding Frank G3FIJ to M5AKA:

I first met Frank Howe almost 50 years ago. The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company had agreed to accept about 30 of us as apprentices and entrusted Frank to convert our 'O' levels into City and Guilds

and ONCs to turn us into useful radio engineers for the company.

He inspired us from the start, with a completely practical approach. We were nearly all crystal set builders and broadcast SWLs and the radio lab was a real wonderland, with all the best of test equipment, a CR100 receiver and transmission lines across the ceiling - that actually showed us how SWR worked. The Russians had just launched the early Sputniks and G3FIJ had special antennas, hastily built Yagis of wood and wire, up on the roof of the NEETC & SA. He inspired us with such projects.

An Amateur Radio Licence was not a requirement by our Marconi bosses, (who were paying us just over £3 a week) but Frank introduced all of us to the Amateur world and suggested that, as we were doing the study anyway, we should attempt the RAE, which in 1960 about a dozen of us did. A "B Licence" in those days only let us use 70cm, (2m came later) and there was very little commercial equipment, so the skills of soldering, knowledge of components and how to use test equipment, all learnt from Frank, were all employed in homebrew projects. I still love working with valves.

Some estimates suggest that he was responsible for 7-800 new Amateur licenses in his career, a staggering achievement from a great Radio Amateur.

Malcolm Granville G18AFS

John Stanley Wood, Honorary Member

It is with regret that we have to record the sad passing of Stanley Wood, one of the Club's Honorary Members, who, we understand, has suffered failing health for some years. He was 87 and is survived by his Wife, Margaret. Stanley will be remembered by Members of at least ten years standing. He was one of those people if you had met him you would never forget him and if you had heard one of his talks you would probably remember it as one of the best you had ever heard!

Stanley joined the Marconi Company in 1948 and was employed in the International Division. This was a branch of the company responsible for negotiating agreements with associated companies and agents. He was an expert on valves but contrary to popular belief he was not a Company historian, honorary or otherwise!

During the late eighties and early nineties he was a regular guest speaker when the Club met at the Marconi College in Beehive Lane. He gave us a series of talks on the history of the Marconi Co, of Marconi himself, of the development of wireless, together with a series of talks on the development of radar. Looking back to my first days in the Club in the early nineties it is these talks that I can recall

most vividly. Delving back through the newsletters of the period the earlier write ups on radio talks were done by Brian G0BDS and the radar ones were by Charles, G0GJS, the latter an excellent choice!

I will always remember Stanley's talks. He had the knack of making them not only factually interesting but also highly entertaining and what ever subject he might have started on you could never quite predict with any certainty when or where the talk would end! To give you some idea I refer to Charles' write up of Stanley's December 1995 talk entitled "The Origins of Radio". Charles concludes his write-up and I quote, "At this point Stanley was very much out of time apologizing for not giving due credit to such eminent people such as Tesla..... He reluctantly concluded, promising to do better next time". Sadly that was the last talk he gave to the Club.

Charles, G0GJS's write up on Stanley's February 1993 talk to the club on "Radar & the Battle of Britain" opens with the following, " With his impish sense of humour, particular turn of phrase and an incredible nose for detail....."
Those few words describe John Stanley Wood very well! Stanley was an Ulsterman, a true and charming gentleman and he will be sadly missed by those who knew him!

Stan's Funeral is on Monday, 29th June, 2pm at Christchurch Congregational Church, (top of) New London Road, Chelmsford. During the private crematorium there will be tea and cakes at the Church. No flowers by request – donation to the Alzheimer's Society c/o the Funeral Director.

Geoff, G7KLV

Digital Britain Report released

The Government has released the Digital Britain Report and Impact Assessment which says that 'Medium Wave' will not carry radio services. (Editor's comment – With no UK domestic use of these frequencies will Ofcom care anymore about interference/pirate issues on LW/MW/HF?).

The report envisages that a 'Digital Radio Upgrade' should be achieved by the end of 2015. It says -

"On the determined date all services carried on the national and local DAB multiplexes will cease broadcasting on analogue. At the same time, a new tier of ultra-local radio, consisting of small local commercial stations and community stations, will occupy the vacated FM spectrum. Radio services on MW will either upgrade to DAB or, if they are within the ultra-local tier, to FM".

It also says "ultra-local services which remain on FM after the Digital Radio Upgrade should only do so temporarily".

Page 112 of the Impact Assessment says "MW would no longer carry radio services". The List of Acronyms provided does not appear to include a definition for MW. It is usually taken to mean the Medium Wave band but in this context it may have a wider definition such as including the Long Wave band which isn't specifically mentioned.

There was no mention of Short Wave radio in the report other than a fleeting reference to it regarding Digital Radio Mondiale.

Digital Radio Mondiale, <http://www.drm.org> is the International Digital Radio System developed for Short Wave, Medium Wave and Long Wave broadcasting (and VHF using DRM+) but for radio broadcasting the report favoured FM being replaced by using DAB instead.

The RSGB has released this statement regarding the report:-

The Government's recent Digital Britain report speaks of the importance of resilient communications networks and the need for regular tests of emergency communications systems. Mention is made of a planned major test in late 2009 to manage and recover from a major loss of network capability. The RSGB regrets that Government communications planners seem to have completely overlooked the valuable resource that RAYNET can offer in such emergency situations. Unfortunately RAYNET does not seem to be completely integrated into the nation's emergency communications planning.

Digital Britain: The Final Report
http://www.dcms.gov.uk/what_we_do/broadcasting/6216.aspx

Trevor, M5AKA.

Mystery of the Missing Sunspots, Solved?

The sun is in the pits of a century-class solar minimum, and sunspots have been puzzlingly scarce for more than two years. Now, for the first time, solar physicists might understand why.

At an American Astronomical Society press conference on 17th June in Boulder, Colorado, researchers announced that a jet stream deep inside the sun is migrating slower than usual through the star's interior, giving rise to the current lack of sunspots.

Rachel Howe and Frank Hill of the National Solar Observatory (NSO) in Tucson, Arizona, used a technique called helio-seismology to detect and track the jet stream down to depths of 7,000 km below the surface of the sun. The sun generates new jet streams near its poles every 11 years, they explained to a room full of reporters and fellow scientists. The streams migrate slowly from the poles to the equator and when a jet stream reaches the critical

latitude of 22 degrees, new-cycle sunspots begin to appear.

Howe and Hill found that the stream associated with the next solar cycle has moved sluggishly, taking three years to cover a 10 degree range in latitude compared to only two years for the previous solar cycle.

The jet stream is now, finally, reaching the critical latitude, heralding a return of solar activity in the months and years ahead.

"It is exciting to see", says Hill, "that just as this sluggish stream reaches the usual active latitude of 22 degrees, a year late, we finally begin to see new groups of sunspots emerging."

Source NASA, read the full story at http://science.nasa.gov/headlines/y2009/17jun_jetstream.htm?list1317534

Trevor, M5AKA

Kings Lynn Amateur Rally

The 2009 King's Lynn Amateur Radio Club (KLARC) Rally is being held on 2nd August in the Gaywood Community Centre, off Gayton Road, King's Lynn, PE30 4DZ or PE30 4EE, both of these postcodes will get you to the rally site.

Doors open at 10am, entry fee £1.50. Car parking and refreshments are available on site. More information can be found on our web site:

www.klarc.org.uk

E-Mail me: ray-g3rsv@supanet.com

All are welcome.

Ray Dowsett, G3RSV

CARS Projector

Unfortunately, earlier this year the CARS Optoma EP770 Digital Projector was dropped when its carrying case handle fell apart. On hitting the ground it distorted the framework which was mainly straightened but lo and behold it still worked until a couple of weeks ago. Clive, M0GHH took it into ARC Systems in Navigation Road, Chelmsford (a professional computer maintenance company) who tested the Lamp and found it okay but the PSU was duff. The projector was returned to Optoma who kindly replaced the PSU under guarantee. In the meantime CARS purchased an Optoma EP728i for training as the EP770 was no longer made. A Flight Case has been purchased to carry the "old" projector in. Our thanks to Clive for his involvement.

John G8DET.

How do you test a Remote?

While testing the Club Projector the question was "Why did the Remote not control the Projector?" Was the detector on the Projector damaged in its fall – was the Remote faulty or were the batteries duff?

I then remembered a technique taught me by Bryan Swan of BT & Richard Creak of Danbury.

Switch on a Digital Camera and aim it at the front of the Remote (slightly offset it in case the Remote is very powerful – do not look into the Remote). Press any button on the Remote and one should see a 2 to 3mm blue/mauve blob on the camera viewing screen. Depending on the modulation technique used on the Remote the blob maybe flashing or continuous. Press another button - check the result. Repeat if it is thought there is a "sticky key".

In my case - nothing – the batteries were duff. Replaced the batteries and checked again – all OK. This technique can plot the operation strength and angle of the Remote's beam. When batteries are failing the coloured blob maybe very weak – maybe only be seen in the dark.

Do not take a photo of the Remote beam in case it damages the camera CCD.

During proof reading Andrew, G0IBN and Clive, M0GHH both remarked that placing the remote near a MW radio and pressing a button should produce a sound. This is from a square wave generator inside the remote. It did not work on a Philips Remote I tried but the digital camera method did.

John G8DET

Apollo-11

Do you remember watching the moon landing? A new book I can highly recommend on this is the newly released Apollo-11 Haynes Owners Workshop Manual – I jest not!

Available post-free from Amazon for £12

Murray G6JYB

And Finally.....

John G8DET edited this edition. Material by; Murray G6JYB, Trevor M5AKA, Steve G4ZUL, Ray, G3RSV, Malcolm, G18AFS, Geoff, G7KLV Andrew, G0IBN, Clive, M0GHH & James, M0ZZO.

Items for the next Newsletter, including your experiences with your latest rig or antenna, tips on working DX or your latest project, to be sent to the editor@g0mwt.org.uk by Saturday, 18th July.