



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 536

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

November 2010

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 2nd November, 7.30pm at the Marconi Club.

"WSPR Mode and 500kHz, 136kHz and 9kHz VLF" By Roger Laphorn, G3XBM

Roger will travel from Cambridge to share his experience of building and operating very simple QRP equipment for 500kHz, 136kHz and the astonishingly long wavelengths of 9kHz VLF.

Roger will show that getting operational on these bands does not have to be difficult or complex, yet results can be remarkably good. He is one of just three UK operators that have been issued with a special NoV for 8.97-9.1kHz experimental operation.

His talk will cover how he got going on these bands (equipment and antennas used) as well as an update on interesting work going on in Germany with very long distance amateur communication using weak signal modes on 8.97kHz (the 33km band).

CARS invite everyone to attend and hear Roger's presentation who is a leader in his field. Indeed, on Thursday, October 21, Roger achieved a distance of 1733 km on 500 kHz using WSPR.

CARS will have its now famous Raffle with at least 10 prizes - only £1 per Ticket.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 28 th October	CARS 'fast track' Advance Course starts for the November 22 nd Advanced exam
Tues, Nov 9, 16, 23 & 30 th	CARS CW Net starts at 8pm on Tues 9 th ; SSB Nets starts at 8.30pm (Local)
Wed, 10 th November	CARS Committee Meeting – Danbury Village Hall – 7.30pm. All welcome.
Saturday 4 th December	CARS Christmas Lunch at Glades Restaurant, Princes Road, Chelmsford – 12noon for 12.30pm Booking forms to be returned by 18 th November.
Tuesday 7 th December	CARS Meeting – "The Joy of Contesting" by Mark Haynes, M0DXR.
Saturday 18 th December	CARS & ERG at W&S pre-Xmas Sale

To be/remain 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) GB3ER: (4th) 1.947/50: (5th) 28.375. All MHz +/- QRM. **Net Controller for November is David, M0BQC. Thanks to Patrick, M0XAP for doing it in October.**

Last Months Meeting:- "CARS Annual General Meeting"

John G8DET opened the meeting by projecting onto the screen the Agenda as prepared by Colin, G0TRM and then invited Carl, G3PEM to arrange the presentation of Certificates.

Certificates were then awarded by President, Harry to the winners of the Constructor's Competition:-

Third Prize to Colin, G0TRM for his Dame Nellie Melba Microphone

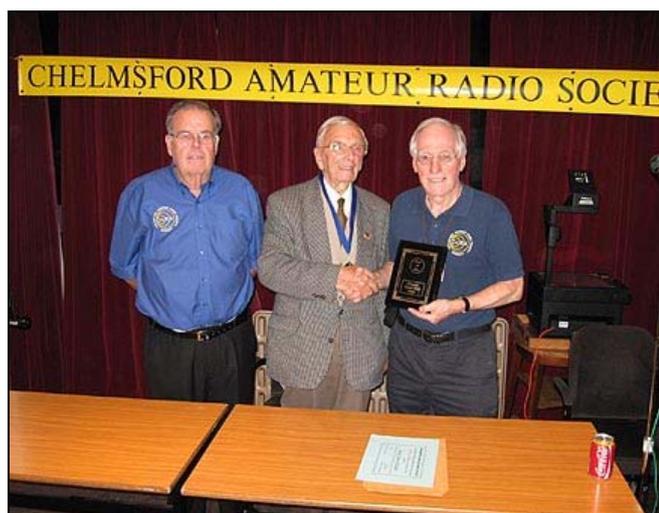
Second Prize to Patrick, M0XAP for his 25 Watt, 807 driven AM Transmitter

First Prize and the Anthony Martin, M1FDE Shield being awarded to Peter Bridgeman, G3SUY for his expert conversion of a Pye Cambridge to HF to work a 200ft Kite Aerial.

Special First Time Winners Award to Andy G1GKN for his PIC based Inductance/Capacitance Bridge

Amateur of the Year Award

Carl then announced that the Amateur of the Year for 2010 was Colin G0TRM - much to Colin's surprise.



Harry presenting Colin with the Trophy, Carl looking on.

Annual General Meeting - 2010

Opening the AGM, Chairman John G8DET said that each year he worries "How can we equal that" – this year must have been the busiest since the Society was formed in 1936.

Apologies

These were received from John Yates, G1UZD, Trevor, M5AKA and Geoff, G7KLV. John read the Minutes/Report from the 2009/2010 AGM which the audience agreed was a fair account.

Proposed by Mark, M0IEO.

Seconded by Martyn, G1EFL.

Chairman's Report.

This also incorporated the Secretary's Report as we do not have a Secretary as such. John quoted what CARS had been doing during the past year – see the

ever growing and colourful CARS Web Site
– Past Meetings for pictures and reports.

Membership/Treasurer's Report

Brian, G3CVI said that we had 85 paid-up Members which was very good and thanked everyone for their support. Gwyn has a list of equipment which CARS owns - see Gwyn, G4FKH.

Financially we were pretty healthy with a surplus of Income over Expenses, helped by winning the RSGB Club-of-the Year award. Brian proposed that the subs should remain the same at £12 per year.

Proposed by Martyn, G1EFL.

Seconded by Gwyn, G4FKH.

Training Report

CARS Training Manager, Clive, G1EUC said that he would sit as he was not long out of hospital having had a series of operations on his knee.

This year had been another good year. The first Foundation Course had 11 Passes - they all went forward to the Intermediate Course and all passed that - surely a rare achievement and no doubt all down to a good team. Three out of the five who sat the fast track Advanced Course passed.

The Training Group miss Anthony, M1FDE who passed away a year ago and Carl, G3PEM (who only attends occasionally now). Clive requested anybody who had a few hours to spare to consider joining the Training Group – not necessary training but assisting; making the teas etc. He noted Murray's Slides do a wonderful job and are used around the UK and as far away as Australia. Martyn is the current Foundation leader and Mark is now onboard and has become invaluable. Support staff include Bob M0DTA, Jim 2E1GUA and Brian G3CWI for radio practicals, with David, M0BQC as the top Invigilator. Stuart, David & Myra also assist.

Clive, G1EUC was thanked for organising the many Courses CARS run.

President's Report.

Harry thanked all the people who worked so hard to make this year so successful. Colin should be congratulated for being awarded Amateur of the Year. He thanked John, G8DET for being Chairman, editing the Newsletter and the website.

Harry then passed the Meeting back to John who disbanded the Committee and asked Harry, as President to officiate.

Harry asked where anyone would like to be Chairman – no one volunteered so Harry said who Proposes John, G8DET?

Proposed Gwyn, G4FKH

Seconded by Martyn, G1EFL

The Meeting Voted John back into the role of Chairman. The 'new' Chairman said that most of the

old Committee were prepared to stand again be voted in en bloc.

Proposed by George Civil, G0LKY
Seconded by Denis Lewis, M0FHA
- Voted in for another year.

Old Committee Retirements

Steve Cocks, G4ZUL – Steve had stepped down from the Committee and as Contest Manager (although he still provides Contest information for the Newsletter) due to work, family and his new commitment of the CW Club which he was involved starting. John gave thanks for his efforts in running Contests during the past number of years. John had brought the Plaque for NFD – where back in 1965 we were leading 3.5MHz Station as G4VF/P.

Jeremy Barley, M0DUT joined CARS to gain his Amateur Radio Licence to contact either America or Europe when sailing his boat across the Atlantic. He sailed it down to Portugal a few years ago for the weekend and while there, blew up the engine. He now lives near Dunmow which is 25 miles from Chelmsford and another five to Danbury. As he is fairly distant he feels it will be better to let someone else take his place. John thanked him for his invaluable advice over the past year.

New Committee Additions

The Chairman proposed Peter Bridgeman, G3SUY as a Committee Member. Colin, G0TRM Seconded. The meeting was asked to vote Peter to be a Member of the Committee - Voted in.

The New President

Harry then took the floor and said that he had been CARS President for many years but from a health point of view felt that he should pass the reins to someone younger as he was [still a sprightly] 93.

I Propose Carl, G3PEM to be your President. He has been a Committee Member & Trainer for many years

Vice-President G3EDM Seconded this. The meeting voted and concurred. Harry then presented Carl with the Badge of Office to a great applause.



Stanley Wood Fellowship Award

Carl then presented Harry with the Stanley Wood Fellowship Award. Carl said that when Stan Wood died his widow made a donation to the Society to present someone with the Stan Wood Fellowship Award and that Harry should be the first to receive it. This was greeted with widespread applause.

For the award, a nice LCD Clock had been selected and engraved.

"The Stanley Wood Fellowship Award presented to Harry Heap, G5HF for outstanding Service to Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society."



The Stanley Wood Fellowship Award

Carl then presented Ethel with a bouquet of flowers for her continuous support to CARS and Harry:-



Ethel with her Bouquet, with Carl and Harry

CARS Officers for 2010 to 2011

Post	Name	Call
Life Fellow	Harry Heap	G5HF
President	Carl Thomson	G3PEM
Vice President	Charles Shelton	G0GJS
Vice President	Geoff Mills	G3EDM
Chairman	John Bowen	G8DET
Vice Chairman	Martyn Medcalf	G1EFL
Treasurer & Membership	Brian Thwaites	G3CVI
Programme Secretary	John Yates	G1UZD
Minute Secretary	TBA	-
Assistant Secretary	Colin Page	G0TRM
Antenna Manager	Tony Gilbey	G4YTG
Training Organizer	Clive Ward	G1EUC
RTL Instructor	Murray Niman	G6JYB
RTL Instructor	Martyn Medcalf	G1EFL
QSL Manager	Patrick Xavier	M0XAP
Publicity Manager	Mark Sanderson	M0IEO
Publicity (Seconded)	Trevor	M5AKA
Member	James Beatwell	2E1GUA
Member	Peter Bridgeman	G3SUY
Member	David Davis	G3SVI
Member	Myra Davis	M0MYR

Any Other Business

John said that Patrick, M0XAP had proposed that at the last AGM that one week the CARS Net should be 70cm and with that in mind should we purchase a UHF MFJ 269. This was done but no-one had borrowed it to use on 70cm!

A suggestion was made that one meeting next year should be about Batteries. Another suggestion was that someone should come and give us a talk about IOTA.

AGM was closed at 8.50pm. After the Refreshment Break and Raffle, John, G8DET presented the Airship America Event.

After the Presentation, Dick Brocks, G3WHR, who is a CARS Past President congratulated Harry on now also being a Past President. Dick now works for Motorola in Devon. A very good evening.

John G8DET

President's Jottings - Number One

From time to time I hope the Newsletter Editor will grant me some space to give my views on CARS.

I wish to express the thanks on behalf of ALL of the CARS Membership to Harry, G5HF for all of the outstanding work he has done for our Society, Harry you will be a very hard act to follow. Secondly I wish to thank all the Membership of the top Radio Society in the Country for inviting me to be your President; I feel it is a tremendous honour and hope that I can perform in the office to the satisfaction of you all.

Now that the AGM is over I hope that you will support the Committee in all of the events that they are organising this coming year, they perform a marvellous task in running the Society and sometimes their efforts go unsung. Whilst on the subject of the Committee there have been several calls for a Newsletter Editor, without success. You may not realise that for a couple of years our Chairman John has been producing the monthly newsletter with the help of other Committee Members but I am certain that to ease his workload there must be a volunteer in the Society that could take this task on. Please speak to any Committee member if you are willing to carry out this important task.

Once again many thanks for inviting me to become President, I am truly honoured.

Carl, G3PEM, President

GB100MWT Airship America Event

On Sunday, 17th October Andy, G0IBN and Gwyn, G4FKH opened up the CARS IC756 Pro III and worked the world on CW from the Marconi Hut, Sandford Mill. Computer logging was used as well as the occasional use of www.grz.com to verify QTHs.

At 1.30pm Brian, G3CVI took over with Vice President, Geoff, G3EDM using SSB to be followed by President, Carl, G3PEM, James, 2E1GUA and Malcolm - with Colin and John G8DET in attendance.

<http://www.q0mwt.org.uk/events/airship-america/airship-america.htm>

John G8DET

Airship America Centenary K2TQN Video

John Dilks K2TQN, NJARC member, QST Vintage Radio Columnist and recent AWA Houck Award winner gave a superb 50 min (recorded) presentation on October 8, 2010, to a meeting of the New Jersey Antique Radio Club (NJARC) held in the Bowen Hall on the campus of Princeton University in Princeton NJ. Watch the K2TQN Airship America video at <http://www.ustream.tv/recorded/10080192>

Read the UK IET magazine Airship America story at <http://kn.theiet.org/magazine/issues/1015/airship-wireless.cfm>

Southgate News also had - Airship America Rescue - 100th Anniversary Special Event Operations http://www.southgatearc.org/news/october2010/airship_america_rescue.htm

The K2TQN.COM website carries pictures and diagrams of Airship America and an article on the Marconi Wireless Telegraph radio operator Jack

Irwin that appeared in the QST Vintage Radio column. They can be seen at:

<http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arri/2010-08/Jack%20Irwin%20-%20Marconi%20Wireless%20Man.html>

and

<http://www.eht.com/oldradio/arri/2010-09/Jack-Irwin-First%20Airgoing%20Wireless%20Man.html>

Google "Airship America" and follow the results.

Trevor, M5AKA

November Radio Sport (Contests)

All in UTC

6/7 Nov – 144MHz Marconi – CW – 24 Hours

11 Nov – 80 metre Club Sprint – SSB – 19:00 to 20:30

13 Nov – Club Calls – Topband – 20:00 to 23:00

13/14 Nov – Japan International DX – SSB – 30hrs

20/21 Nov – 2nd 1.8 MHz contest – CW – 19:00 to 01:00

24 Nov – 80 metre Club Sprint – CW – 19:00 to 20:30

27/28 Nov – CQWDX – CW – 48hrs

For further information please email Steve G4ZUL
contests2010@g0mwt.org.uk

Steve, G4ZUL

Radio Path Predictions – November.

Gwyn, G4FKH was requested at the November Meeting to provide an "Only to CARS" Propagation Prediction. Thank you Gwyn.

Asia: Dhahran - around 12:00 on 28MHz for 95 per cent of days, with fair signals.

Oceania: Fr Polynesia - around 10:00 on 10.1MHz for 81 per cent of days, with poor signals.

Africa: Johannesburg - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 82 per cent of days, with poor signals.

South America: Buenos Aires - around 08:00 on 10.1MHz for 86 per cent of days, with poor signals.

N. America: Halifax - around 08:00 on 7.0MHz for 75 per cent of days, with poor signals.

Comments are welcome. Please E-Mail Gwyn at:
[g4fkh "AT" btinternet.com](mailto:g4fkh@btinternet.com)

Gwyn, G4FKH

Cheap Windows Software

Just to remind those CARS Members who attend a College as a Student or belong to the U3A – the discount for cheap Windows 7, and Office 2010 Pro+ courtesy of www.software4students.co.uk ends at the end of October.

John G8DET

CQ100 – Further Comment

Does it work – yes. Is it of any use – that depends: if you have access to a transceiver and an antenna then probably not. On the other hand if you live in a flat or are confined to bed then probably yes.

Amateur radio most certainly it is not, although it does a passably good job at simulating it. The only downside is that it demands an annual subscription of US\$32/per year, although there is a free trial period. Whether you can justify the cost is up to you.

I installed the software soon after it became available and continue to subscribe, but I do so because it is another aspect of amateur radio like 136kHz, 500kHz and 5MHz, etc. that I take a general interest in.

A more recent feature is QsoTV. This allows a video image to be associated with a "transmission" which is automatically sent/received if the facility is invoked: you could liken it to SSTV or SKYPE with a still picture. Those using the facility generally append reference to it in their personal details on the simulated transceiver on screen.

Further details at www.qsonet.com.

John Greenwood G3KRZ

Jamboree on the Air - Gilwell Park October 16th / 17th

Jamboree on the Air is an annual event in which Scouts, Cubs and Guides use Amateur Radio to contact other packs, both within the UK and around the world. This year Martyn, G1EFL, had arranged Mark, M0IEO and himself to operate from Gilwell Park near Chingford in north east London. The site overlooks the Lee Valley water reservoir, and is set in 100 acres of beautiful woodland, much of which is set aside for camping and outdoor pursuits.

After picking Martyn up from his home in Chelmsford, we arrived at Gilwell Park at about 3:45pm on the Friday afternoon. Having had a cuppa, it was time to start looking to set up the station itself.

The first antenna to be installed was the HF antenna, a Comet CH250B vertical mounted on a 40' glass fibre pole as this would get the tip of the antenna above the adjacent tree line for a better take off. This was connected to a Kenwood TS480SAT transceiver with an MFJ tuner just to make sure that the VSWR was as low as we could get it. Having set the HF system up, a quick QSO with a Dutch station confirmed that all was well and that the HF station was working as well as we hoped it would. By this time it was getting dark and so we retired to the caravan for a well-deserved meal of chicken casserole which was prepared by my wife, Belinda.

Saturday dawned bright and clear, after a good hearty breakfast of bacon and eggs, it was time to finish the setting up of the station with a 2m rig and

antenna, this comprised of an FT7800 rig with a Watson co-linear antenna mounted on a Buddy pole mast at 16' high. That done we set to working the bands, Martyn on HF and me on 2m. The HF bands were in fairly poor shape and working anything was hard work. On 2m I was having more success, with contacts to numerous other JOTS stations in Hainault, Ilford, Banstead and Stevenage to name just a few. I received greetings messages from Cubs at all stations worked and had numerous other contacts with local Amateur Radio stations which were not connected to the JOTA event.

Sunday was again a dry bright day, and following our cooked breakfast, we returned to our station and this time Martyn worked the 2m station whilst I worked the HF station. Martyn was doing great guns on 2m working most of the stations we had worked the day before and receiving more greetings messages from the Cubs at these locations. The HF bands were a little kinder to us on the Sunday; I had contacts with other JOTA stations on 80m ranging from Grantham Scouts, North Wales Cubs right up to Glasgow Scouts who were working from the banks of Loch Lomond near Luss. Most of the Cubs that had been staying at Gilwell Park on the Saturday had packed up and gone home by mid morning, so we didn't have any young visitors for the Sunday but greetings messages were coming in thick and fast from the stations we worked both on HF and on VHF. By lunchtime Martyn and I decided it would be a good idea to begin dismantling the stations and packing away ready for the drive home. It is always at this point in a special event station that you realise just how much kit you have bought with you that needs to be packed away.

To that end, I was pleased to David, G3SVI and Myra, M0MYR who came to see how the station was going, having been Scouts and Guides when younger, they were both familiar with Gilwell Park and were keen to see the changes which had taken place over the years. With their help we were packed away by 3pm and ready to get on the road. I dropped Martyn back home by about 4pm, and arrived home myself by about 4:45pm having had a very good weekend, all that remains now is to clean the caravan and prepare it for the winter so that it is ready for next season.

Mark, M0IEO.

CARS Christmas Lunch – 4th December

As the result of comments received during the year your Committee have carried out a trawl of eating establishments and chosen the Glades Restaurant, Princes Road, Chelmsford CM2 9AJ for the Lunch this year. Martyn, G1EFL and Val (Organiser), John, G8DET and Pauline visited the Glades recently and were impressed with the relaxed layout for our meal

on Saturday, 4th December. Other CARS Members have used it during the year with good reports.

A Booking Form is being despatched with this Newsletter – please fill it in and return it to Martyn at the address quoted.

As the timescale is rather compressed it would be appreciated if bookings could be done by 18th November. A nice Ticket will be issued by return, reminding you what you ordered – please remember to bring this to the Lunch. There is scope for changes but the Glades need the info to prepare the meal. Bye the bye – A “Grilled Delice of Salmon” is a prepared slice – not half a Salmon!

The restaurant is basically to ourselves and looks very “up market”. See CARS Web Site.

There is plenty of car parking to the left of the Miami Hotel. Access is from the Army & Navy roundabout towards London, after the Mobil Petrol Station and entrance to Tesco – just after a light controlled crossing. If you are coming from any other road – go into the Tesco entrance towards St John's Hospital, go right through and out onto Princes Road and then into the Miami Hotel entrance just after the pedestrian crossing, as described above.

Please support us - £17.50 is a good rate for a three course Christmas Lunch in a nice restaurant.

John G8DET

RSGB Survey

Elaine, G4LFM editor of RadCom has asked CARS to remind Members for maximum publicity regarding the Amateur Radio Survey which is open to all amateurs. She's says the RSGB are really keen to get more non-RSGB members to take part.

<http://www.rsgb.org/survey/>

RSGB Board Election

Region-12 Manager Phil Brookes G4NZQ has stepped down and is now running for a seat on the Board. He asks for RSGB members support in the election. (See current Radcom). The new Region-12 manager is Neil Whiteside G4HUN from Cambridge

And Finally:-

John G8DET edited this edition. Material by; Trevor, M5AKA; Steve, G4ZUL; Gwyn, G4FKH; Murray, G6JYB; Mark, M0IEO, John Greenwood, G3KRZ & Carl, G3PEM;

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 Sat, 27th November.