



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB Club Call Sign: G0MWT
President: Carl Thomson, G3PEM Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI Vice Chairman Martyn Medcalf G1EFL



Newsletter No 549

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

December 2011

SEASONS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR READERS

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 6th December, 7.30pm at the Marconi Club
" Radio Control Modelling" by Chelmsford Model Flying Association Member, Chris Collins.

Chris is coming to give us a talk on Radio Control Modelling, there have been many changes to how Radio Controlled models are flown over the last few years, ie, digital controllers, auto seeking radio controllers and GHz band radio equipment being just a few of the changes.

He will talk about Radio Controlled Helicopters from the Past to the Present and look forward to what is available to for the Radio Controlled enthusiast in the near Future.

Although his focus will primarily be on rotary wings (helicopters), most of the technology he will talk about is also available for fixed wing model aircraft (planes). He will talk about the dramatic changes this hobby has experienced in recent years.

Chris is hoping to expand your perception of what a radio controlled helicopter and an airplane can do, and surprise you in just how much technology is involved!

As it is December, the tradition of having warm Mince Pies will be available at the Break Time, Short-crust Pastries for those who prefer.

CARS will have its Famous Raffle run by Peter Graves, G0KSJ. Please purchase a Raffle Ticket (or two!) - you may win a prize.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 3 rd December	CARS Christmas Lunch – 12 for 12.30pm. Lodge Inn, nr Battlesbridge. SS11 7QT.
Monday 5 th December	CARS Training Group – Advance Licence Examination at Danbury Village Hall.
Thurs 8 th December	Essex Repeater Group AGM - Danbury Village Hall - 7:30 for 8pm.
Mon 12 th December	Committee Meeting – Danbury Village Hall – 7.30pm. All welcome. Note MONDAY
Sat 17 th December	W&S Christmas Open Day
Tues 13, 20 & 27 th Dec	CARS Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local.
Tues 3 rd January 2012	CARS Meeting – By CARS Members – HF Tuners for M3s and M6s.

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 callsign, postal or eMail address, etc. Email 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) GB3DA: (3rd) GB3ER: (4th) 1.947/50: (5th) 28.375. All MHz +/- QRM. **Net Controller for DEC – Patrick, M0XAP. Thanks to John, G8DET & Patrick, M0XAP for November.**

Last Month's Meeting:- "Islands On The Air" by Martin Atherton, G3ZAY.

John G8DET was away, Martin G1EFL indisposed, so the meeting was chaired by our President, Carl G3PEM. The important RSGB EGM matter was elucidated by RSGB Regional Manager, Mark, M0IEO. He reminded us that the RSGB was facing financial and managerial challenges. In the most recent issue of RADCOM these were drawn to our attention. It has been decided to co-opt people of sufficient calibre to steer the RSGB through these difficult times, and to put each candidate up for election to the steering committee by means of a national RSGB EGM vote. The voting form is in the current RADCOM. All RSGB Members were requested to Vote.

Patrick M0XAP reminded us of the Canvey Rally on Sunday 5th February 2012 at The Paddocks.

A further reminder: - The Christmas Lunch is on Saturday 3rd December, a very reasonable £10.00 per head, at the Lodge Country Inn, Hayes Chase off the A132 Burnham Road. There'll be a raffle!
The Club Raffle this evening was run as ever by Peter G0KSJ.

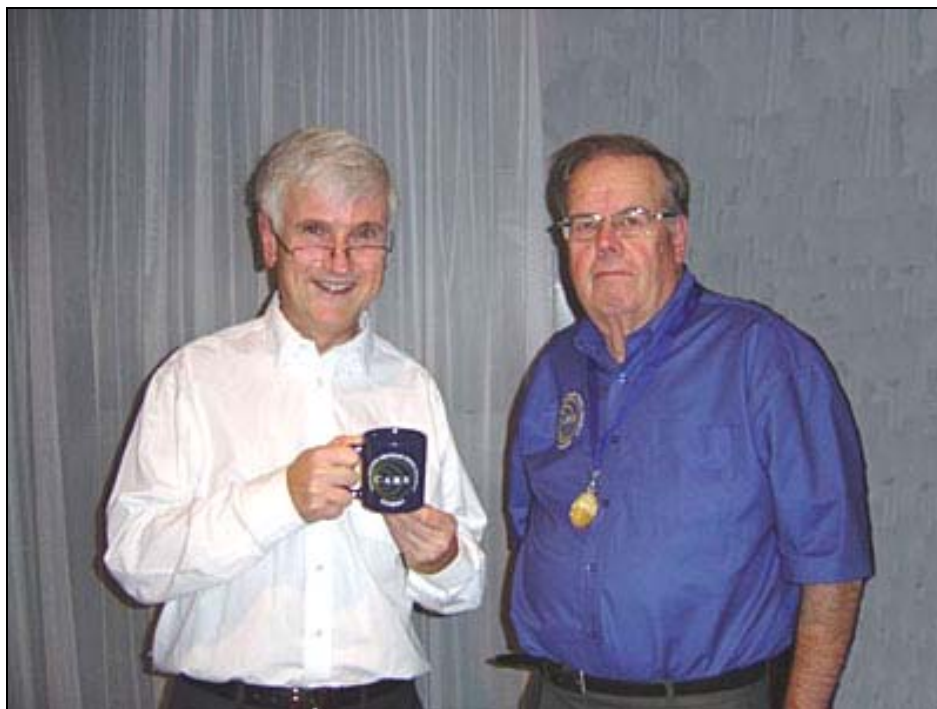
Carl introduced Radcom columnist Martin Atherton, G3ZAY. The main part of the meeting was given over to "Islands on the Air" or IOTA as it's widely known. Islands are grouped under IOTA numbers; one can contact one of the group, or one can go to that island and operate from it and claim the point thus.

Not all islands count! Anglesey and Rhode Island don't qualify! Islands in inland lakes don't count, likewise estuarine islands where the river is <5km wide don't count, and other rules have been added as demand rose. Score one point per group. Entry level is the 100 certificate; the South Shetland Islands helpfully count as Antarctica, please note.

We were then shown Martin's favourite overseas island haunts, including Baffin Island, and how to get there. Elsewhere, Palmyra Island acquired a wrecked aircraft; though some hams were thus injured the team made 4000 QSOs before being 'medivac'd' out. There are about 3000 folk on the IOTA register who have scored, with 5500 who are building their total towards same. After the break, we were shown pictures of Ascension and Falkland Is, and St Helena. Getting there is costly. The BBC is well represented in Ascension with several 50kW transmitters!

Martin is off to Tristan da Cunha and Gough Islands next September, so look out for ZD9ZA and/or ZD9UW.

Carl then thanked Martin for coming from Cambridge to give such an amusing and informative lecture, and a heartfelt round of applause followed.



Martin being presented with a CARS Mug - a cherished item - by Carl. (Photo: G0TRM)

Martin may be able to present a photo from an IOTA Island to add to "CARS Mug Shots" - see Web Site item.

Report by Patrick, M0XAP

CARS Christmas Lunch – Saturday, 3rd December 2011.

CARS is organising its traditional Christmas Lunch for paid-up Members and invited guests at the Lodge Country Inn, near Battelesbridge; meeting from 12 noon for 12.30pm for the meal. Capacity is limited to the first 50 acceptances. As we have a number of CARS Members who live well south of Chelmsford (such as around the Canvey Island region) the Committee felt that a venue towards the middle of the A130 may be advantageous. We are in the Conservatory on our own and it seems very nice. Lodge Country Inn is really in the middle of nowhere! Post Code: SS11 7QT. Tel: 01245 320060.

It is a three Course Meal with Coffee, Mints and Mince Pies served afterwards.

Booking is now closed but if you find that a partner of yours can now join where they thought they would be unable to – please contact Martyn as per the instructions on your Booking Form.

We should have a great Christmas Raffle with lots of prizes.

This Month's Radio Sport (Contests) - All in BST (Local times)

2/4 December – ARRL 160 Metre-CW - 42 hrs

4 December – 144Mhz AFS – SSB-09:00-17:00 hrs

10/11 December, ARRL 10 Metre-SSB/CW–48 hrs

26/29 December, VHF Xmas Cumulative–14:00 – 16:00.

For further information please email Steve G4ZUL contests2011@g0mwt.org.uk

Steve, G4ZUL

CARS Propagation Forecast for this Month.

Asia: Dhahran	around 14:00 on 24.9 MHz for 96 percent of days, with fair signals.
Oceania: Sydney	around 14:00 on 10.1 MHz for 84 percent of days, with poor signals.
Africa: Johannesburg	around 20:00 on 10.1 MHz for 88 percent of days, with poor signals.
S. America: Rio de Janeiro	around 08:00 on 10.1 MHz for 88 percent of days, with poor signals.
N. America: Saskatoon	around 18:00 on 14.0 MHz for 78 percent of days, with poor signals.

Gwyn, G4FKH

PS - Reports are reaching CARS that 10 Metres is doing great at the moment.

Essex Repeater Group 2011 AGM – Now Thursday Dec-8

The Essex Repeater Group Annual General Meeting should have been on Thursday 13th October at the usual Danbury Village Hall venue - 7:30 for 8pm. This was to be the first AGM since the sad passing of ERGs Chairman, Mike Wheaton, G4ZPE – Zipy but unfortunately had to be POSTPONED. It has been re-scheduled to Thursday 8th December (after the Advance Course) – watch the ERG/CARS Web Sites for details. As per recent years, the event will also feature a Members' raffle, FREE Refreshments and items for sale. It is of course an excellent opportunity for renewing subscriptions and offloading your own surplus kit.

Murray, G6JYB

CARS Training – Foundation Course

CARS is now taking names for the first 2012 Foundation Course starting on Thursday 12th January until 16th February. This course will be CARS 25th (yes Silver Jubilee) and also marks 10 years since we began!

More information at: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/>, which also has the dates for new courses in 2012. Please register your interest with **Clive G1EUC**.

President Jottings – December.

I hope that you all enjoyed the last talk on Island On The Air by Martin, I certainly did! As Martin explained a bigger percentage of licensed amateurs, support the IOTA programme in Italy, Russia, and USA than in the UK. I therefore urge all of CARS members that are interested in IOTA to register their interest on the web site www.rsqbiota.org to provide the necessary figures of those chasing islands, for the members that run the IOTA programme to have the evidence to assist in gaining funding from the RSGB.

Recently I required some new QSL cards and I was directed to the UX5UO web site, which for the uninitiated is in the Ukraine. The service was terrific I sent an email the Gennady UX5UO, with the photo I wish to use and the text, 50 minutes later an email was returned with the design for approval; I required one change that took just 15 minutes and was told that they would be dispatched 14 days later. You send a cheque or PayPal the money to M00XO in Barnsley; I received a receipt from him within 4 days. The cards (1000) arrived in 21 days from the start of proceedings; I will have a sample at the next meeting. To me that's service.

Carl, G3PEM. President

Joining the RSGB

I have had a letter from the RSGB asking for our help in getting new RSGB members. They will pay CARS £10 for each new member that we sign up and pay over £10 to the RSGB. If anyone is thinking of joining the RSGB, let me know and I'll send you a form. The form offers three-months **Free trial Membership** if you sign up for direct debit.

John G8DET

Smart DC Networks

Many electrical devices in a home run on low voltage DC. Aside from the kitchen, where you find power hungry devices such as washing machines and cookers, a typical home will have a hundred plus devices which connect to the Mains via a Power Supply - which is needed to step the voltage down, and convert it to DC. Recent improvements in the efficiency, reliability and price of solid-state lighting means that low-voltage DC lighting is a practical competitor, with modern 'bulbs' needing 10% or less of the power for equivalent brightness of an incandescent bulb.

Murray, G6JYB – and

I cut the Mains feed to a 21 LED Down-lighter in my kitchen as the AC to DC convertor took some 18 Watts although the LEDs only took 4 Watts. Each of my 8 PIR Security Lights take 4 Watts all the time – the bulbs take from 1.5 Watts to 7 Watts when ON. I am on Economy 7 so at night all my equipment is on nearly half price electricity.

- Most of my bulbs are Compact Fluorescents but still my standing loading on the house is about 350 Watts.
- My APC Non-Interruptible PSU takes about 40 Watts all the time it is connected to the mains.
- My 37" Plasma TV takes about 275 Watts, whereas a LED would be 50 and 1 Watt on Standby.
- A Thomson FreeView Box takes 14 Watts when on Standby and 16 Watts when ON.
- My Humax Fox FreeSat box takes 50 Watts ON and 1 Watt on Standby.
- My three Liebherr Fridges and Freezers all take 80 Watts when ON and 5 Watts on Standby.

During 2012 CARS will have an evening on Solar Power and all things which take less power. Do you have this problem cracked – Ken, G7RFT did a "drains up" many years ago and reduced his consumption considerably.

John G8DET.

CARS Nets on 2nd to 5th Tuesdays in the Month.

Would **YOU** like to Chair the Net for one Month, please. If not Chairing it – please take part. It is not a big deal and would give you a bit more "air practice". If you cannot do the whole Month I am sure someone else will fill in for you. Come on – the Club needs **YOUR** Input. At present we have:- Geoff, G3EDM for February and August; Patrick for June and December and Colin January and June.

John G8DET. Chairman

And Finally:-

John G8DET edited this edition. Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH, Murray G6JYB, Colin, G0TRM and Carl G3PEM.

Closing date for the next Newsletter – Saturday 23rd December.