



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 539

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

February 2011

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 1st February, 7.30pm at the Marconi Club **“VP8CR – Two Years in the Antarctic”** **By Prof Les Barclay, G3HTF.**

The International Geophysical Year (IGY) in 1957 – 58 was the first of the major world-wide “years”. Although it was meant at first to study the high latitude parts of the earth it developed into a study of the whole world. There were many advances in understanding and the creation of databases of aspects of the world we live in. The Year saw the first launch of an artificial earth satellite (Sputnik) for space studies, which led on to the development of the satellite industry.

A major British contribution to the IGY was for the Royal Society to send a scientific expedition to a previously unexplored part of the Antarctic, and a CARS member, Les Barclay G3HTF, ex-VP8CR, joined the expedition as an Ionospheric Physicist.

At our next meeting on February 1st, Les will give a talk, with his own photographs, of the two years he spent at Halley Bay.

Living in the Antarctic 50 odd years ago was much more comfortable than for the expeditions of the “heroic” era 50 years earlier, but was very different from the way of life there today. The talk will be of general interest, but will include some details of the radio equipment and facilities there. A very interesting evening is promised.

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

Dates for your Diary

Sun, 6 th Feb 10:30am	Canvey Rally – Surplus wanted for the CARS Table – Please bring to the Feb meeting.
Tues, 8, 15 & 22nd Feb	CARS CW Net starts at 8pm on Tues 8 th ; SSB Nets starts at 8.30pm (Local)
Wed, 9 th Feb	CARS Committee Meeting – Danbury Village Hall – 7.30pm. All welcome.
Monday 28 th Feb	Dengie Quiz Night – Can CARS beat Braintree?
Tues, 1 st March	CARS Meeting – Islands On The Air (IOTA) by Martin Atherton, G3ZAY.
Sat, 30 th April	CARS Operating from the Marconi Hut, Sandford Mill – International Marconi Day
Thursday 9 th June	CARS Operating from the Marconi Hut, Sandford Mill – G5RV Anniversary Day
Sundays in August	CARS Operating from the Marconi Hut, Sandford Mill – Public Open Afternoons.

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 February is Geoff, G3EDM. Thanks to Patrick, M0XAP who did it in January.

Last Month's Meeting:- "A Film Show and Ofcom Re-Licence your Licence." By CARS Members

CARS Member, Trevor, M5AKA alerted CARS that an excellent film had been made about Chain Home RADAR and WWII. Chairman John contacted Brian Marshall the writer and presenter of the film and purchased a copy called "The Spies Who Lost the Battle of Britain". As it fitted in so well with CARS operating from the Great Baddow, Chain Home Tower using GB75CH etc it was felt appropriate to show it in case poor weather made it impossible to have the Meeting. As it was, the weather improved and a large audience was present. It was nice to see members from the LEFARS and Braintree Clubs. The film ran for 63 minutes.

On the brink of WWII a top secret invention joined the frontline. Chain Home was the RADAR Network that gave the RAF the vital early warning and enabled it to put its fighters exactly where they needed to be.

The rapid construction of the Chain Home towers had not escaped the attention of the Germans and on 3rd August 1939 the Graf Zeppelin airship crossed the North Sea on a daring spy mission. On-board were the Luftwaffe's top wireless experts searching the airwaves and looking for any evidence of British radar.

From the moment the Zeppelin appeared on the British radar screens the RAF feared their secret was lost. When War was declared just four weeks later they braced themselves for a knock-out blow – but it did not come.

Why the Germans failed to destroy Chain Home before the Battle of Britain has been an enduring mystery. The full story was told by wartime boffin Ned Fennessary's chance meeting with General Wolfgang Martini at Farnborough in 1950.

The film told the story of how the German's found the pulse frequency of 25Hz but dismissed it as "the poor British Mains sparking due to poor construction". Stuka dive bombers that were used against Chain Home were also shot down easily and were withdrawn within days of the Battle of Britain starting

German radar had taken a more advanced approach than British RADAR and used Very High Frequency mainly for control of Searchlights and Anti-Aircraft Guns, leaving the Germans to not consider HF as used by Chain Home.

To purchase a copy of the DVD, see p9 of February RadCom for £9.99, or go to www.boffinstv.co.uk

Relicence your Licence.

When Ofcom issued the last paper Amateur Radio Licence in 2007 it stated that all Amateurs had to Re-Licence their Licence every 5 years, at the latest. This meant 2012 but since this coincided with the Olympics they have now added another year of grace to make it 2013. However a number of CARS Members had requested the Committee to consider providing assistance as they were "not very Internet savvy". Re-Licensing using the Post costs £25.

To provide experience, Mark, M0IEO ran through the procedure and noted a few pit-falls such that he had to contact Ofcom who were able to solve the situation. John G8DET undertook Re-Licensing a number of CARS Members to gain experience before the Meeting and again ran into a few problems.

The main problem encountered concerned Members who had previously Relicensed with Ofcom but had forgotten their "Registered Name" or "Password" or other details. Additionally those with more than one Call-Sign – suggest registering each with a difference E-Mail Address. On occasion the Ofcom computer even suggested that experienced G3s should take the Foundation Course as that was the best way to obtain a Licence!

On the evening after Mark, M0IEO and John, G8DET had set up their computer stations – NO signal could be obtained from their ISP – "3". Walking around the car park proved there really was no signal.

Paper questionnaires were filled in and a number of Re-Licensings were completed later that evening.

The information required BEFORE you contact Ofcom online to Register at : - <https://services.ofcom.org.uk/> (Note, NOT a www). is as follows : -

FIRST NAME - As used on your paper Licence.
MIDDLE NAME - As used on your paper Licence.
SURNAME - As used on your paper Licence.

CONTACT E-MAIL ADDRESS
CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER Including Code and do NOT enter any spaces.

CHOOSE A PASSWORD
Must have a Capital Letter, Lower case letter and a Number and be between 7 and 14 characters long. Suggest starting with the Capital Letter.

YOUR CHALLENGING QUESTION
Such as "My Favourite Holiday Resort" or "My Favourite Band" or "My First School"
YOUR ANSWER

HOUSE NUMBER OR NAME
POST CODE

Lastly – your *LICENCE CALL-SIGN*

Having got to this stage do a Print or Print Screen and put the details in your folder safely. You think you can remember – I know you cannot!

Having successfully registered, Ofcom say they will email you and give you the Registered Name they have allocated to you. In the past it has been your name or your name with a number but at the time of writing it is your "E-Mail Address" in full.

If you change your current email Address, your Ofcom allocated Registered Name will remain the same as originally allocated.

Once you have logged back in using the same Web Address as above, look for "Actions" and the "Validation" link on the right hand side – click it – you are required to check your details are correct – if OK - the expiry date will show 5 years more.

Take a "Print Copy" or a "Print Screen Copy" to prove you have Re-Licensed your Licence.

If you print from the PDF you normally only need the first 3 pages and they will (at time of writing) be dated 2007! Take care though if the rest of the license conditions do get updated on later pages!

Log-out. You are registered for the next 5 years. - *or until the license terms change and you wish to personally benefit from them*
If all else fails, telephone Ofcom on the numbers supplied – they have proved to be very accommodating.

Please tell me how YOU got on.

John G8DET.

Dates for Your Diary

IMD

CARS is pleased to see in February RadCom that IMD is now publicized as Saturday, 30th April. CARS will be at Sandford Mill operating two stations, maybe using GB100MWT. Watch this space.

G5RV

On Thursday, 9th June 2011, Louis Varney, G5RV would have been 100 years old. Unfortunately he died in 2000 in Burgess Hill, Sussex. The day he died his Double Size G5RV Aerial fell down due to a rotted halyard at the furthest point in his garden - spooky or what!

The Mid Sussex Amateur Radio Society was left his Call-Sign, G5RV in his Will and propose using it to commemorate the Anniversary.

CARS are having a Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, 7th June in the Marconi Sports Hall and it will be a "G5RV Night".

We have Members who knew Louis very well - one co-operated with him in the development of his famous Aerial while he lived and worked from Chelmsford.

We will also be showing an Elizabethan Transmitter designed by Louis to be "TVI proof". It would be nice if it could be got working.

Louis was a Founder Member of CARS in 1936.

On Thursday, 9th June CARS will be using (hopefully) GB5RVA (for G5RV Anniversary) from the Marconi Hut at Sandford Mill, Chelmsford.

There is no Professional or Amateur other than Marconi so well known throughout the World and thousands have and are still using his G5RV Aerial.

CARS have invited RadCom to get involved.

Do you use a G5RV Aerial or have you ever had one – CARS would like to know your experience with it.

Do you think you know how it works?
Please E-Mail the Editor.

President Jottings Number 4

Another month has nearly past and time seems to fly by. I enjoyed the film last month - it was very interesting to learn more on the birth of RADAR and our thanks should go to John and the Committee for arranging the meeting.

Many of our most active members took part in our fun activity contest hours during the last month on 80 Metres. From the comments received those that took part enjoyed the fun and would like to repeat the exercise again sometime. I have already received some logs and you all have until the March meeting to submit your log. I will count the points and announce who is awarded the M&S vouchers in April.

As expected the 80 metre band was noisy but by turning the AGC off and adjusting the RF gain I improved my reception at this QTH.

The subject at the next Meeting seems very interesting so I hope that you are all able to attend.

Carl, G3PEM. President

Feedback about the CARS Contest

As many of you know I have a VHF style Licence but Carl tells me 80Metres is HF so I am lost. However I switched on during the CARS Fun Contest period and in the first one on Saturday, 8th at 1732 I heard ON8DM calling "CQ, CQ, CQ repeatedly so I announced "G8DET". He said "a DET called – go

again" so I did. He said "I will give you 5 by 8 but I was hoping to work some real DX!"

I was so taken aback I gave him "5 by 9 Thank you from Chelmsford".

What I SHOULD have said is that he was the lucky station as the previous ON I worked was in 1975!

I later responded to MOKIT calling CQ and found myself in the middle of the RAF Weekly Net – 8 stations for the price of one!

Where were the many Members of CARS – why were not more Members taking part. As Mark indicated at the December Meeting, it was an ideal opportunity to have go in a Fun Contest without the pressure of International Operators.

John G8DET.

February Radio Sport (Contests) All in UTC

6 February – 432MHz AFS – 09:00 to 13:00.
7 February – RSGB Club – SSB – 20:00 to 21:30.
12/13 February – CQ WW WPX – RTTY – 48 hours
16 February – RSGB Club – DATA – 20:00 to 21:30.
19/20 February – ARRL DX CW – 48 hours
24 February – RSGB Club – CW – 20:00 to 21:30.
26/27 February – CQ WW 160m SSB – 48 hours

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

Steve, G4ZUL

Radio Path Predictions – February

These are provided "Only to CARS".
Thank you Gwyn.

Asia: Dhahran - around 14:00 on 24.9MHz for 96 per cent of days, with fair signals.

Oceania: Sydney - around 16:00 on 10.1MHz for 75 per cent of days, with poor signals.

Africa: Johannesburg - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 87 per cent of days, with poor signals.

South America: Caracas - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 69 per cent of days, with poor signals.

North. America: Halifax - around 20:00 on 7.0MHz for 79 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

Late QSL Card

Way back in 1975 I worked KJ6CF (Johnston Atoll, Central Pacific, now KH3) the QSLK route given at

the time proving fruitless. Updating my DXCC entities recently unearthed the fact I hadn't got a card, so hunting on the internet, "qrz.com" came up with N7AXY as a potential lead.

Sending off a card + SAE + \$\$\$'s to Henry I received an E-Mail from him saying yes indeed he might be able to help, having access to the logs & still having some original cards.

BINGO! The card duly arrived & is now going through the DXCC UK field check system for my DXCC confirmed entity#270, after which, on to IOTA, so it shows once again, that you should never give up hope on receiving that elusive exotic DX QSL Card, even after 35yrs.

Dick, G4DJC.

LED Lamps – An Update

Graham, G7JYD E-Mailed the Editor to say that Lidl were selling a 3 Watt LED for £5.99 on Monday, 24th January – was it worth buying a number for his Sister's kitchen or his shack?

http://www.lidl.co.uk/cps/rde/xchg/lidl_uk/hs.xsl/index_17284.htm

The bulb in question is GU10 (mains) and consist of 15 individual LEDs. From my experience it would give out the light equivalent of a 20 Watt Halogen bulb – not yet a replacement for a 50 Watt Halogen – but a good try at a very good price.

Unfortunately "downlighters" are a very inefficient way of illuminating the shack. I use two x 18 Watt Fluorescent tubes while another shack I know of needs 8 x 50 Watt Halogens to light it less well. An environmental house in Danbury needs one kilowatt to light the kitchen!

The burning questions are –
What is the colour like – Is it a bit yellow or too blue?
What is the angle of light projection?

The good points are - they should not need to be replaced for many years. Less heat is generated by the LEDs over the Halogens – good on a hot day.

Amazon now sells a whole range of LED Bulbs. I have just acquired a 6 Watt Edison 45 degree LED bulb which cost about £17. It produces about the same light output as a 35 Watt Halogen and is used as a security light, on during dark hours.

Toshiba make an 8.5 Watt LED which produces the equivalent light output of 60Watts but they cost typically £25 each, less if you buy 10. This is just a little larger than the standard Halogen and may not fit in some fittings. A very bright bulb with some heat.

As said before – *LED bulbs are nearly there but to miss quote a TV programme “When the price is right” this will be the way to go.*

Graham, G7JYD & John G8DET.

AMSAT-UK FUNcube SDR Dongle Video

Receivers get smaller and smaller; this one covers 64-1700MHz and is about the size of a memory stick.

Henk, PA3GUO, has produced a HD video showing the AMSAT-UK FUNcube SDR dongle receiving signals from Amateur Radio satellites.

On the FUNcube Yahoo Group Henk writes:

YouTube video featuring the first results;
- HO68 CW; - HO68 FM; - AO51 FM; - VO52 SSB
- OOREOS 1k2 AX25 (packet radio with MixW)

Results are amazing. The FUNcubeDongle gives results similar to the Kenwood TS2000x.

Watch FUNcube Dongle: Out Of The Box test of this highly innovative SDR
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFZGlgKPPQo>
(HD video: set to 720p and Fullscreen)

You can join the FUNcube Yahoo Group at
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FUNcube/>

FUNcube SDR Dongle
<http://www.funcubedongle.com/>

Order at
http://www.funcubedongle.com/?page_id=286

FUNcube website
<http://www.FUNcube.org.uk/>

AMSAT-UK publishes a colour A4 newsletter, OSCAR News, which is full of Amateur Satellite information.

Join online at
<http://tinyurl.com/JoinAMSAT-UK>

Trevor M5AKA

Another Day at Work?

You need a head for heights to look at this...

What do you reckon to this? Personally, I'd like to see a lot more use made of the safety harness – it can be very windy at those heights, believe me.

www.liveleak.com/e/07b_1284580365

Dave G3PEN

Six Metre News

We would very much like to hear about any 6m activity in your club or mini dxpeditions which we

could publicise to our membership. Send any contributions, please, to clubnews@uksmg.org.

Sunspot News

Solar Cycle 24 is proving disappointing, so far. At this point in the cycle the number of Sun Spots should be steadily rising but the cycle seems “stuck” in its minimum stage. Predictions now seem to be for a far less active cycle than Number 23 that peaked in April 2000.

Regular sun spot updates are available on the desktop page of the UKSMG web site at <http://www.uksmg.org>

G0KSC LFA Antennas

The ground breaking work carried out by Justin on LFA yagis, and other designs, has featured in the UKSMG magazine Six News many times and Justin was awarded the G5KW Memorial Trophy for best article of 2010. A fascinating journey from design via construction to getting two seven element arrays for 50 MHz into the air is detailed by Chris Gare, G3WOS at http://www.gare.co.uk/6m_antenna/. It really is worth a look.

UKSMG on You Tube

There is a three minute HD presentation outlining the activities of UKSMG on You Tube
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcLUp1RgM1Q>

Web site: <http://uksmg.org>

Wanted - Loudspeakers

Wanted; either one 8 inch 3.5 Ohm Loudspeaker one six inch 8 ohm and one 8 inch 8 ohm loudspeakers.

Ken Pallant, G0OSI 01376 334 110

Training – A nice “Thank You”

On 19-January 2011, Coastal Communications wrote: - *Hi Clive, I am not sure if Yan has informed you of our results from the last Advanced examination. Just in case he hasn't - we both passed. Yan now has M0YNK and I now have M0GWE.*

We are both very pleased with the outcome and would like to extend our thanks to you and your Training Team. Thank you once again,

Kevin Graffham M0GWE (2E1HAQ)

Clive, G1EUC, CARS Training Manager replied:

Hi Kevin,

Thanks for letting me know and well done. Yan told me he had passed and I had presumed as we had heard nothing from you that you may not have followed suite. It is not an easy exam and a good

number of those who took the previous one, the RAE would find the Advanced exam quite a challenge.

You may be pleased to know that out of the eight that took the exam seven of you passed. This is not only a credit to Chris, Mark and Murray, the main Tutors, but also Carl G3PEM who designed, implemented and perpetuated the Advanced Course. Even more yourselves for all the hard work and dedication you put into a course that is effectively a third in length to the full one.

I will copy this message to the rest of the team whom all of which, will be as pleased as I am at your success. All the very best.

Clive G1EUC

Canvey Rally – Sunday 6th February 2011

CARS, the RSGB and the ERG all have tables at Canvey. What we now want is something to sell or interest the punters.

CARS will be selling Silent Key equipment and any donated equipment you can spare. Please bring it to the February CARS Meeting to give David and Myra Davis time to check it over/sort. If it is a bit too big, or you live near to Canvey, please contact them on 01702 522002 or email g3svi "AT" yahoo.com or any other Committee Member.

Where is it? Canvey Radio & Electronics Rally: Paddocks, Canvey Island, SS8 0AJ.

Doors Open 10.30am. Entrance £2.00. W/Chair access. Free Parking. Refreshments available. Rally Organizer; - Dave Speechley
T: 01268 697978, E: rally@southessex-ars.co.uk

Norman Crampton, M0FZW.

SEARS Hon Sec and CARS Member.

Dengie Quiz – 28th February 2011

Dengie Amateur Radio Society invites CARS to the Henry Samuel Hall, Steeple Road, Mayland. CM3 6EG. Doors open at 7.30pm for 8pm start.
<http://www.dhars.org.uk/>

All welcome, XYLs in particular. Take a “doggy bag” for the food you could not eat!

The evening is always good. See CARS Web Site.
<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/events/dengie-quiz08/quiz-08.htm>

CARS Committee

What happened 100 years ago?

CARS commemorated the Airship America event in October 1910 when the Marconi Company of America provided a Tx and a Rx in the Lifeboat of

the dirigible and so saved their lives. Jack Irwin was sending messages 200 miles and copying 1,000 miles.

Without the Internet those with an interest in wireless in Europe/England would not have known what they did in America in detail and so were “inventing the situation for themselves”.

As reported by the “Flight Magazine, 4th February 1911”: -

During the instructional cruise made by the Army dirigible, "Beta " on Saturday, 28th January 1911, communication was kept up with headquarters at Farnborough by means of Marconi Wireless Telegraphy. The trip lasted for over an hour, and taking a southerly course the airship was steered to within a few miles of Portsmouth before turning and making a wide westerly detour on the return journey to Farnborough.

In February a Marconi Receiver was added to complete two way communications. This being a First in England from a Powered Craft.

Major Sir Alexander Bannerman, Commandant of the Army Balloon Factory, Captain Brooke-Smith and Lt Waterlow would have been involved.

More details of Beta equipment from the Marconigraph, August 1911: ‘*The apparatus used in the Beta military airship weighed roughly 100 lbs and signals had been transmitted, under favourable conditions, a distance of about 50 miles. An ordinary induction coil and accumulator had so far been used in the experiments and one trailing aerial wire and a counter-capacity alternative*’. From Dr G Bowles.

John G8DET

Wanted – Articles from YOU, please.

CARS request YOU to produce some copy of interest for others to read for their education or interest. Have YOU had nothing interesting happen in YOUR life during the past month or longer? We want to hear about it.

E-Mail to the editor or pop it in my door or contact any other Committee Member you know – thanks.

And Finally:-

John G8DET edited this edition. Material by; Trevor, M5AKA; Steve, G4ZUL; Gwyn, G4FKH; Murray, G6JYB; Carl, G3PEM, Dick, G4DJC, Dave, G3PEN, Graham, G7JYD, Kevin, M0GWE; Clive, G1EUC, Ken, G0OSI & Dr Geoff Bowles.

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