



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB
President: Carl Thomson, G3PEM
Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Club Call Sign: G0MWT
Chairman: John Bowen G8DET
Vice Chairman Martyn Medcalf G1EFL



Newsletter No 557

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

August 2012

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

“Constructors Competition”

By Carl Thomson, G3PEM.

It's soldering iron time again, so hopefully by now your competition entry is under going final testing and proving and is set to reach even higher technical and mechanical standards than have previously been reached.

ON The Other Hand!.....as is the case with lots of would-be entrants, it may just be an idea formulating in your head and as such is waiting to come to fruition. If so, time is running out so get started now. Even if it isn't finished or perhaps it does not work as it should, please bring it along. You might still win one of the FOUR prizes on offer. Club members voting for their favoured entry will decide the winners.

CARS will have the famous Raffle run by Peter Graves, G0KSJ. Please purchase a ticket or two – it helps pay for the room and you may even win a prize.

As many members will know our Chairman John G8DET is in Harlow Hospital recovering from an operation on his right leg to replace the main artery, he is currently progressing well, but expects to remain in hospital for several more days. We send John and his wife Pauline our Very Best Wishes and wish him a very speedy return to full health.

Dates for your Diary

7 th August	Constructors Competition by Carl Thomson G3PEM
Tuesday evenings: Aug 14 th , 21 st , 24 th , 28 th	CARS - Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local. 2m, 70cm, 1.975, 28.375MHz respectively. PLEASE PARTICIPATE!! Controllers Required Contact G0TRM
Wed 15 th August	CARS Committee Meeting. All Members welcome to attend
Tuesday, 4 th September	CARS Meeting– Practical Antennas – by CARS Members
Sunday Afternoons in August	CARS Operating GB100MWT from Sandford Mill on Sundays 2pm to 5pm on the 5 th 12 th and 19 th . Note NOT the 26 th August. All members of the public invited FREE.
Sunday 30 th September	Science Open Day at Sandford Mill. CARS to operate SSB and CW. 10AM to 5PM

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.

May we remind you that if you have NOT paid your Subscription for this year you may be deemed to NOT be a Member of CARS and NOT entitled to a Newsletter etc.

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 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) GB3DA: (3rd) GB3ER: (4th) 1.947/50: (5th) 28.375. All MHz +/- QRM.

Net Controller for August is Geoff Mills, G3EDM

Thanks to Patrick M0XAP, who did it for July.

Last Month's Meeting:- Radio and Electronics Table Top Sale.

This years Table Top Sale went well and some excellent purchases went ahead at bargain prices. As usual we had many visitors from the general public, as well as members of other Clubs, unfortunately none of them chose to book a table so all the tables were occupied by Club members.

All of the tables were well stocked with all manner of electronic goodies and it seemed that in some cases both sellers and buyers went home happy. During the evening Chairman John G8DET took up the microphone and thanked everyone for coming, he also thanked Colin G0TRM for organising the event.

At this point the raffle was then drawn and a few more happy faces were seen. The excellent raffle with ten prizes was as usual well organised by Peter Graves, G0KSJ.

Thank you to all those who played a part in proceedings and to those who donated a proportion of their takings to Club funds, which as always, helps to offset the hire of the Hall.

Colin Page G0TRM

Olympic Torch –GX4WAB – Oaklands Park 7th July in Chelmsford.



Pete Sipple M0PSX operating on 2M at Oaklands July 7th

The following is based on an email report, John G8DET sent to the WAB organisers:-

The Torch went by less than ten metres from our operating position at about 7.30AM. Our first contact was at 0615 Local on 7.160MHz and using this frequency or near (7.163MHz) we worked about 145 stations – the going was rough with the Band up and down 30 dBs in just a few minutes. We even got Geoff Mills G3EDM involved for advice and he works Australia every day – he could do no better than we could. We also were fighting a central heating boiler with a faulty Switched Mode PSU nearby we could not interfere with.

Our CW Station made 86 Contacts but was faced with difficult conditions as well. Our HF Station worked over fifty stations. Our 2m Station worked about 15 stations on Simplex as instructed. Many stations call signs were familiar to our main Operator, John Yates, G1UZD who had worked 47 Torch Stations. Many stations thanked us for putting on GX4WAB.

Overall our problem was we were putting out a much stronger signal than the signals we could receive. We did offer periods for weak stations but we could hear few – those that we did hear really appreciated the effort to listen for them.

All in all, a good day – thank you for inviting CARS to get involved.

Thanks to all those who took part and supported CARS at Oaklands Museum.

Thanks to Tony Gilbey, G4YTG for making the “W3DZZ Aerial” and putting it up together with the 2 Metre Aerial.

John Bowen, G8DET Chairman of CARS.



The Olympic Torch at Oaklands on July 7th (Photo by Murray G6JYB)

CARS at the CAMRA Festival at Admirals Park. 14th July

Despite the appalling weather conditions CARS successfully set up two stations at the festival, one operating on 2 metres and the other on HF. Chris G0IPU sourced a first class 70-foot Hilomast which supported the VHF antenna while HF was run via a multi-band vertical at ground level. Around 25 stations were worked on VHF and around 12 Europeans and UK stations on HF.

David (G3SVI) and Myra (M0MYR) put up a very impressive display with signs and illustrations showing the many aspects of amateur radio to visitors. Unfortunately the inclement weather reduced the number of visitors to the festival and consequently the number of visitors from the public to the CARS display was rather muted. However one visitor with a lapsed amateur radio licence was sufficiently encouraged to consider rejoining the licensed fraternity.

The rain was at its worst while we were erecting the aerials and Chris G0IPU demonstrated the utmost good natured stamina while getting soaked to the skin putting up the mast. In places the mud over the site was almost 2 inches deep and everyone got very muddy. This was not an easy environment with the rain dripping into the marquee off the frames, however the local brews and hotdogs helped to offset the misery! Thanks are owed to all CARS participants of the day with perhaps a very special thank you to Chris for his efforts with that aerial mast.

**Report by
Peter Bridgeman G3SUY**



Music at the CAMRA Festival. Picture by James 2E1GUA

CARS on Phoenix FM

CARS member Pete Sipple M0PSX was interviewed on Brentwood-based community radio station Phoenix FM on the 12th of July. As part of the Scott Ross drive time show, Pete answered questions about the process for obtaining a licence, QSL cards, data modes and the cost of taking up the hobby. Pete also promoted the excellent training courses run by CARS. The full interview is available in the form of a You Tube video at www.essexham.co.uk/news/essex-ham-interviewed-on-phoenix-fm.html



It's clear from the interview that the show's presenter has some knowledge of amateur radio, this because Scott has been a short wave listener for years, currently using a Grundig Satellite 800 Millennium receiver. We understand, that as a result of the interview the show's presenter, Scott Ross, has been in contact with the CARS team, to secure himself a place on the next Foundation course!

CARS Outing to Bletchley Park

A number of members have suggested that the CARS Committee should organise a member's visit to BP. As an alternative it is suggested at the last Committee meeting that we take advantage of the Lodge Coach Company and go on one of their scheduled visits. The next date is listed as November 3rd 2012. When Carl PEM rang them before the meeting that date is fully booked, however the Company took Carl's name and said if enough people apply they would put on another coach. It is suggested then, that interested members should ring them to see if a second coach is a possibility. The number is 01245 231262.

Colin G0TRM

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

04 August – European HF Championship - SSB/CW – 12 Hours

05 August – RSGB RoPoCo – CW – 07:00 to 08:30 GMT

04 August – 144MHz Low Power – 14:00 to 20:00 GMT

05 August – 432MHz Low Power – 08:00 to 12:00 GMT

08 August – RSGB Club Sprint – CW – 20:00 to 21:30 Local

23 August – RSGB Club Sprint – SSB – 20:00 to 21:30 Local

Steve, G4ZUL

For further information please email G4ZUL contests2012@g0mwt.org.uk

CARS Propagation Forecast for August 2012, prepared by Gwyn Williams - G4FKH

Asia	<i>Bangkok</i> - around 20:00 on 7.0MHz for 81 percent of days, with poor signals.
Oceania	<i>Fr. Polynesia</i> - around 06:00 on 10.1MHz for 63 percent of days, with poor signals.
Africa	<i>Johannesburg</i> - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 92 percent of days, with fair signals.
S. America	<i>Rio de Janeiro</i> - around 22:00 on 10.1MHz for 85 percent of days, with poor signals.
N. America	<i>Saskatoon</i> - around 22:00 on 14.0MHz for 78 percent of days, with poor signals.

Gwyn, G4FKH

President Jottings

Our thanks to Colin for arranging our table top sale night, there were some interesting items on sale but I must confess that I did not purchase any items!

I trust that you will all support the constructor's competition at our next meeting, the more the merrier and there is a cash prize on offer.

Whilst on the subject of support, CARS is operating at the Sandford Mill Museum on some Sundays in August and would like some operating support, particular from those that are newly licensed. The operating will give you a chance to hone your skills and help the society.

Finally we wish our Chairman John a speedy recovery, as he has been in the wars over the last couple of weeks.

Carl G3PEM, President

Datamodes – Ham Radio Deluxe (Reprinted from last N/L)

An Introduction to Datamodes Video is aimed at newcomers and provides an overview of the datamodes used in Amateur Radio. It was produced by Michael G0POT for the Newbury And District Amateur Radio Society (NADARS) Demonstration tent at the 2012 Newbury Rally.

Watch the video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvUv9imGXmw>

Ham Radio Deluxe: <http://www.hrdsoftwarellc.com/downloads/>

Trevor M5AKA

RSGB Strategy and Governance proposals

The RSGB has started the next phase of its reform process **and needs your views**. The Society is running a 'Litmus Test' – a consultation on future top level strategy and governance. The results of this will form the basis of an EGM motion in November to change the future structure. RadCom and the RSGB website has full details,. Please do read and play your part – as apathy is the worst enemy

Digital Radio Switchover

Plans to extend local digital radio coverage moved a step closer as Government, the BBC and commercial operators signed a joint agreement, establishing the framework for up to £21 million of new investment in radio infrastructure. Local Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB) coverage has to be increased before any decision on radio switchover can be made. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) establishes an agreement in principle to fund the build-out of local DAB to FM equivalences over the next 5 years, with a clear commitment to consider further funding if necessary. The MoU also paves the way for the launch of at least five new local multiplexes, including in Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire, which will provide new local digital radio services to approximately 1.25million listeners. **In addition, the MoU confirms the Government's commitment to a decision on radio switchover in 2013 – two years faster than previously announced.**

For Sale (1):- Aerial Mast

A telescoping mast, comprising 5 sections of galvanized steel tubing, from about 2" to 1" diameters, each about 10 feet long, so about 47 feet high overall, complete with guy ropes, very heavy! (maybe ex-military?). A similar one was on sale this year at the Rainham Rally for about £180, so this one is cheap at £65. Buyer inspects and collects, please.

DAVE G3PEN, Braintree. Tel: 01376 326487 email: - davepennyg3pen@yahoo.co.uk

For Sale (2):- Books

I have a fairly large number of books for sale - mostly technical and relating to radio/electronics, but with some non-radio. They are mainly pre-war, and some are pre-1900. If anyone is interested in seeing a list, please e-mail me at davepennyg3pen@yahoo.co.uk, and I will forward a list of titles, authors etc. I haven't priced any as yet - offers and/or advice would be welcome. Some are first editions, and a few are quite rare. eBay comes next! DAVE G3PEN, Braintree. Tel: 01376 326487 email: - davepennyg3pen@yahoo.co.uk

Note. I have seen Dave Penny's list and it covers all manner of topics such as; Aircraft recognition Architecture, Chemistry, Geometry, History, Wireless Telegraphy, Seamanship. Surveying, and books by well known names: F. J. Camm, Kinley, Tooley, Scroggie, Scott-Taggart and not forgetting, Charles Dickens, and many more. Colin TRM.

For Sale (3):- Audio – FREE!

Reel to reel tape recorder Grundig TK14. It is complete with handbook, circuit diagram, external microphone and 6 spare 6-inch (approx.) reels of tape.

Free to a good home: contact Elved Owen on Ch.421474

GB7ZP - DStar in Danbury

Essex Repeater Group's newest development GB7ZP on 70cm, has had its internet gateway initialised courtesy of RSGB-ETCC expert Darren Storer G7LWT (despite him being busy on Olympic duty) and is undergoing early evaluation assessments. If you have a D-Star radio then give it a try and you should see your callsign appear at:

<http://www.dstarusers.org/viewrepeater.php?system=GB7ZP>

And Finally:- Colin G0TRM edited this edition; Murray G6JYB, finalised it, made it a PDF and distributed most by email; Geoff KLV posted the remainder.

Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH; Carl G3PEM;

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Friday 21st Sept 2012.
