



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 555

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

June 2012

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 5th June, 7.30pm at the Marconi Club “The World's First Purpose Built Wireless Factory - 1912”

By Peter Turrall, MBE and John Yates, G1UZZ

To start the evening of commemoration and celebration it is proposed to have a number of “Toasts”. If you particularly like an Ale – please purchase it from the bar and take it into the meeting room but do not drink it all. If you have a Birthday or a Celebration, please tell someone so CARS may share it with you.

Peter Turrall, Chairman of the Marconi Veterans Association, will provide an illustrated talk about the history of Marconi and how the World's First Purpose Designed and Built Wireless Factory came to be built in Chelmsford. Peter occupied Marconi's Office for some 11 years. After the Break John Yates will share his experiences at New Street with many of those present who also worked there - at its peak it employed some 10,000 persons.

If **YOU** worked for Marconi or have any photographs of New Street, please contact the Chairman or any Committee Member so that they may be copied to project to the interest of all those attending.

The new book written by Tim Wander, G6GUX "**Marconi's New Street Works, 1912 - 2012**" will be featured and will be on sale at a special price for CARS Members.

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

Dates for your Diary

Sunday June 3 rd	W&S Open Day - See ERG+CARS Training and Murray's Olympics Talk
Tues 12, 19 & 26 June	CARS - Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local.
Wed 13 th June	CARS - Committee Meeting, Danbury Village Hall, 7.30pm. All welcome.
Saturday 23 rd June	CARS Operating from Sandford Mill using GB100MWT to commemorate the opening of New Street and the International Radiotelegraphic Conference visit 100 years ago.
Wed 27 th June	TV – Sudbury Retune and Power increase
Tuesday, 3 rd July	CARS Meeting – “Quality Table Top Sale” by Colin Page G0TRM
Saturday, 7 th July	CARS Operating GX4WAB from Oaklands Museum to inform the World that the Olympic Torch has passed through Chelmsford.

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 June Colin G0TRM

Thanks to those who did it for May.

Last Month's Meeting:- "The Future of the RSGB"

By Dr Bob Whelan, G3PJT

Dr Bob Whelan G3PJT has been an RSGB member for over 50 years, and as Chairman, had strong views on the RSGB's future and the challenges it faces in the 21st century.

After being welcomed to the club evening by CARS President Carl Thomson G3PEM, Bob ran through a presentation outlining the RSGB's history and services. The RSGB started out in 1913 as the London Wireless Club so next year is its centenary. Today RSGB has ~20,000 members which generate 57% of the RSGB's revenue from Membership Subscriptions, with 22% from sales of books, 11% of advertising and 6% from examination fees. RSGB is 'limited by guarantee', has 16 staff, and the support of hundreds of volunteers.

Bob then outlined some of the recent achievements, such as the opening of the NRC (National Radio Centre) at Bletchley Park. Other achievements include the creation of press packs for Clubs, the introduction of the payment system for QSL non-members, and the inclusion of FAQs, reports and additional information on the RSGB website. Activities and aims include maintaining a good relationship with Ofcom, getting Amateur Radio into the media, reviewing Islands On The Air (IOTA), the introduction of new examination software, plus updates to the RSGB website. In closing, Bob outlined some of the ways that we could all help, including taking an active part in consultation processes, volunteering to help, and helping to recruit new members to the society. The floor was then opened to questions, a few of which are summarised below.

Questions to the RSGB

Discounts for unemployed or disabled?

There are no discounts for unemployed or disabled amateurs. This is something for the RSGB to look into.

Should RSGB membership be compulsory to new Radio amateurs?

No. Bob outlined that there are non-discriminatory obligations placed on the RSGB which even prevented preferential discounts on fees – and certainly not compulsory membership to amateurs passing exams. An assertion was made that in Germany, new amateurs have to join DARC clubs, the German equivalent of the RSGB. It appears that the RSGB will not be pushing for any form of compulsion.

Emergency Communications and RSGB

Amateur radio can play an important part in communications in cases of disasters and emergencies. This roll falls to RAYNET (not RSGB HQ) which plays a part and provides support to the emergency services.

GB4FUN

Why is one of RSGB's promotional tools, the GB4FUN trailer lying idle in Milton Keynes, rather than being out on the road raising the awareness of the hobby? When there's the money, it seems. It costs between £30,000 and £40,000 a year to run. The whole package of activity around a GB4FUN visit and its follow up is to be reviewed. Hopefully this will get back on track in 2013. If RSGB can't fund the GB4FUN, perhaps smaller 'promotional packages' in each Region could be considered?

RSGB as a Charity?

The RSGB is not a charity, but the RCF is the RSGB's charity. There was some discussion as to whether the RSGB should become a charity, but it is not as easy as it seems. It is something that the RSGB has reviewed and remains "on the list". Lottery funding has been looked into, but this is only appropriate for project funding, and not running costs.

RSGB, Ofcom and Abuse

Most hams have experienced abuse of the Amateur Bands. Although we're supposed to be self-policing, how much pressure can RSGB put on Ofcom to police the amateur radio bands? Bob's own experiences of Ofcom's complaint handling had been positive. We have the Amateur Radio Observation Service, but as Amateur Radio is not a protected service, Ofcom are reluctant to take action relating to abuse within our spectrum compared to higher priority safety-of-life issues.

Cheap Unregulated Amateur Radio Equipment

The cheap and easy availability of amateur radio hardware was noted. Aeronautical radio equipment can't be sold without sight of a license, but that's not the case for ham radio. Even if UK stores could be encouraged to toughen up, the non-UK eBay purchases would be harder to police.

What does the 21st century ham look like?

It seems that "grey hair, long white beard" is the consensus. Recruitment typically takes place within families, and those with free time and disposable income. CARS trainees are typically middle aged or more as well.

Bob believes that the Internet will be a big part of the future, possibly with courses and exams moving online. RF noise will be an increasing issue. Should RADCOM move to e-publishing and become an online magazine (with decent online archive and search facilities)? – Archive yes, but may prefer the printed item!

Peter Sipple, M0PSX

CARS Operating from Sandford Mill – 23rd June 2012.

On Saturday, 23rd June CARS will be at Sandford Mill for a Public Open Day 10am to 5pm where they will have a CW station run by Gwyn Williams, G4FKH from Dr Bowles first floor outer office. This station will use an antenna installed by Tony, G4YTG.

Peter Bridgeman, G3SUY will run AM using his Marconi 1154 TX and an 1155RX from the Marconi Hut. This will use the now famous 80m Doublet supported over the water course of the River Chelmer.

A special GB100MWT QSL Card designed by John Yates, G1UZD will be available to all who request one either by the RSGB Bureau or on receipt of a SAE Direct.

The venue is free to park and enter - The event is open to the public and former Marconi and RAF personnel are especially welcome. Light refreshments will be available.

At 11.30am and 2.30pm there will be an "Open Forum" chaired by John Yates, G1UZD to encourage ex-Marconi personnel to share their stories about this great Company.

Peter Watkins will be available to explain to visitors the new Radio Rooms installed opposite the Marconi Hut.

CARS requests Members attend to operate the famous 1154/1155 Wireless – it is guaranteed that there will be considerable interest in this event.

John G8DET

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

2/3-June RSGB NFD–CW – 24 hrs

13-June RSGB Club–CW – 20:00 to 21:30hrs

16/17-June JARL all Asia DX–CW – 48 hrs

4-June RSGB Club–Data – 20:00 to 21:30hrs

16/17-June 50MHz Trophy – 24 hrs

21-June RSGB Club–SSB – 20:00 to 21:30 hrs

For further information please email Steve G4ZUL

contests2012@g0mwt.org.uk

Steve, G4ZUL

CARS Propagation Forecast for this Month

Asia: Dhahran	around 20.00 on 18.1 MHz for 84 per cent of days, with poor signals.
Oceania: Sydney	around 20:00 on 7.0 MHz for 62 per cent of days, with poor signals.
Africa: Johannesburg	around 20:00 on 10.1 MHz for 88 per cent of days, with poor signals.
S. America: Rio de Janeiro	around 22:00 on 10.1 MHz for 82 per cent of days, with poor signals.
N. America: Saskatoon	around 06:00 on 14.0 MHz for 73 per cent of days, with poor signals.

Gwyn, G4FKH

CQ Hall Of Fame – Louis Varney, G5RV

CQ Magazine announced its 2012 Hall of Fame inductees on May 18, 2012, welcoming 16 new members into the CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honours those individuals, whether licensed hams or not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, as well as those amateurs who have made significant contributions either to Amateur Radio, to their professional careers or to some other aspect of life on our planet. The CQ Contest and DX Halls of Fame honour those amateurs who not only excel in personal performance in these major areas of Amateur Radio but who also "give back" to Amateur Radio in outstanding ways.

***Louis Varney, G5RV (SK)** -- Varney was the inventor of the [G5RV antenna](#), one of the most popular and widely used "all around" multi-band antennas in the world. He passed away in 2000.*

Trevor M5AKA

New Addition to the SDR Range

A nice new toy just been announced at Dayton...<http://www.flex-radio.com/FLEX-6000.pdf>

- and its coming to W&S

Murray, G6JYB

President Jottings – June

Last month's meeting was a talk by Dr Bob Whelan, G3PJT, Chairman of the RSGB Board who gave an insight as to the current situation within in the RSGB. Our thanks to Bob for travelling from Cambridge and giving us this enlightening talk.

It is my opinion that ALL UK Radio Amateurs should make an effort to join and support the RSGB as they are the only recognised body that can negotiate with the governments and international authorities on our behalf.

The Society thanks also must go to the teams that assembled and operated the various special event stations on behalf of CARS.

Next, another plug for the **Constructors Competition** that takes place at the August meeting. Also, the closing date for nominations for CARS "**Amateur of the Year**" is at the close of the August meeting, so please put your thinking caps on and hand me your nomination by then in writing.

Carl G3PEM, President

CARS Operating from Stock Windmill

Saturday, 12th and Sunday 13th May – Stock Windmill – Windmills on the Air – GB5SM

Due to poor weather during the previous week it was deemed too risky to use Mark, M0IEO's lovely caravan so a waterproof tent was used instead. A SSB station used Mark's FT107 and the CARS Special Call-Sign, GB5SM connected to the Club Comet 250B vertical aerial pulled in 17 Windmills, including 2 in Holland and one in Eire. On Saturday those on-site included Patrick M0XAP, Mark M0IOE, Norman M0FZW, Luke M6LNT, David G3SVI, Myra M0MYR, James 2E1GUA and John G8DET to name a few.

Stock is one of the few working windmills open to the public. Over 100 persons took advantage and attended on Sunday, making it the busiest the Mill had been for years. The 2m station was operated mainly by Norman M0FZW from the back of Mark's Range Rover and worked over 50 contacts. Also in attendance were Adrian M0ABY and his wife Mavis from Wheathampstead, Peter M0PSX and wife Sarah M6PSL, Tom M6BCK, Andy G1GKN and his wife Ann and Peter G7FFI to name a few. Thanks to all the CARS Members who visited and helped with the station.

Patrick M0XAP and Mark M0IEO

W&S Open Day – Sunday 3rd June 2012.

W&S Open Day is one of those days you cannot afford to miss if you are thinking of purchasing something **RADIO!** This is because this emporium always has something to tempt you to purchase - and a raffle too.

ERG and CARS have a Table there, see www.essexrepeatergroup.org.uk

Murray, G6JYB is giving a talk about "**The Olympics and Amateur Radio**".

Murray, G6JYB

Olympic Torch – Follow it as a Radio Amateur

CARS has been requested to operate to tell the World that the **Olympic Torch** has reached Chelmsford on Saturday, 7th July when on Day 50 the Torch starts at the University at 6.57am and passes Marconi's Factory in New Street (which is why it is being smartened up) to arrive at Oaklands Museum at 7.25am. It then carries on its way to Harlow and ends up at Cambridge.

CARS have been allocated the Call-Sign **GX4WAB** for "**Worked All Britain**" for the day.

Torch Route on APRS. The 2012 Olympic Torch Relay route is being tracked on the Amateur Radio APRS system. To see it go to <http://aprs.fi/> and enter **Torch2012** in the **Track Callsign** field. The <http://aprs.fi/> site shows the position of Amateur Radio stations that are transmitting a beacon using APRS on 2m or 70cm

If you enter **Torch2012** into the **Track Callsign** field and then click on **Search** it will show you the current position of the 2012 Torch. If you zoom out you will see APRS stations over a wider area.

Some Radio Amateurs have APRS transmitters fitted in their homes, cars or even bicycles.

Trevor M5AKA

D-Star in Chelmsford

The MB6CE D-Star simplex node/gateway/hot-spot is now on air on 144.875. More info can be found on QRZ

<http://www.qrz.com/db/MB6CE>

Joel G0URK

Freeview TV

How are you getting on with the Crystal Palace shut-down of analogue TV?

On top of Danbury Hill I have retuned a number of old TVs to Meridian and watched what is happening in Dover and Brighton instead of 'who killed who' in London.

One Set-Top Box (Thomson DTI 500) has been retuned on Freeview a dozen times. Sometimes it finds BBC1 & 2 and forgets ITV1 & 2 or the other way around.

I asked Murray, G6JYB for any suggestions and this is what he said.

Have a look through your manual for your Set Top Box to do a "Factory Reset".

If you haven't got it to hand most manuals are here

http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/retailers/tv_equipment/re-tune_guides_and_manuals

But make sure it is a full factory reset

In addition to early boxes not having an 8k mode tuner chip, other old ones are not compatible due to insufficient memory. This only gets shown up when there is a large number of channels per multiplex - so if yours is in this list then dump it!

http://www.digitaluk.co.uk/Split_NIT_24_Nov_11.pdf

Unfortunately my Thomson DTI 500 is on this list so it is a question of "suck-it or dump-it".

Don't forget – Wednesday 27th June - Sudbury Retune and Power increase.

Murray G6JYB and John G8DET

For Sale

- J-Beam 2 metre, 10 element X-Y Cross Yagi antenna, complete with 2 X 20 metre matched feed lengths of UR 67 Coax and PL259 connectors. £30 o.n.o. Ideal for satellite operations.
- Hy-Gain 18 AVT/WB, 10-80 metre multi-band vertical antenna, complete with 26 metre length feed of UR67 coax cable and PL259 connector. £35 o.n.o.

Ian Butson, G4HKC, QTHR. ian@tipsdial.orangehome.co.uk Tel: 01206-860724 (Colchester)

For Sale

- One Baofeng UV-3R @ £25. One Baofeng UV-5R with all accessories @ £40
- One UV-3R Programming Lead and CD @ £5. One UV-3R fist mic/LS @ £5. One UV-3R car charger @ £5

All brand new and unused. A result of over-buying.

John Rollason G3WCO g3wco@idnet.com

For Sale

- Yaesu FT-290R, 2 metre Portable Transceiver. Modified to cover 144 to 148.MHz, complete with Charger, Manual and Circuit diagram. £120.00
- AKD VHF/UHF Absorption Wavemeter Model WA1 £30.00

Brian Scroggs G0BDS b.scroggs@blueyonder.co.uk Mobile 07900 026505.

And Finally:- John G8DET edited this edition. Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH; Murray G6JYB; Mark M0IEO, Patrick M0XAP, Brian G0BDS; John G3WCO; Ian G4HKC; Peter M0PSX; Joel G0URK and Carl G3PEM.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Friday 15th June 2012.