



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 552(2nd Issue)

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

March 2012

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 6th March, 7.30pm at the Marconi Club

“Testing Aerials”

By Andrew Tyler, G1GKN

Every antenna has at some time in its life been measured to ensure that it complies to its requirement specification. For a mass produced antennas this may only happen when the antenna is first developed, for other antennas 1-in-10 or even 1-in-1000 may be measured just to ensure that the manufacturing process is good.

For safety critical antennas like Air Traffic Control Radar antennas every antenna will be measured and set up to ensure optimum performance.

This month's CARS talk will look at how antenna measurements are made by the professionals with their array of high-tech tools and equipment. Andy, G1GKN has been professionally measuring antennas for the last 25 years and over that time has measured many thousands of antennas from mobile phones to large radar antennas.

Come along to a very interesting and informative Meeting - we hope Winter has finally left Chelmsford for this year.

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

Tues 13, 20 & 27 March	CARS - Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local.
Thursday 8 th March	CARS - Start of Intermediate Course in Danbury Village Hall
Wed 14 th March	CARS - Committee Meeting, Danbury Village Hall, 7.30pm. All welcome.
Tuesday 3 rd April	CARS - Meeting – RMS Titanic Evening by CARS Members
Saturday 14 th April	CARS - Operating from Oaklands Museum for the RMS Titanic Centenary Event
Sunday 15 th April	CARS - Operating from BAE Systems, Great Baddow using GB100MWT
Saturday 21 st April	CARS - Operating from Sandford Mill for International Marconi Day (IMD)
Sat 12 th & Sun 13 th May	CARS - Operating GB5SM from Stock Windmill – Mills On The Air weekend.

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 March – Mark, M0IEO

Thanks to Geoff, G3EDM for February.

Last Month's Meeting was scheduled to be:- "Amateur Radio Self Build Kits" by Mark Sanderson, M0IEO.

Mark had promoted the February Meeting with the words "*How many of you realise that we are only six meetings away from the CARS Constructors Competition for 2012, time does fly and it seems the older I get, the faster it seems to go! With that in mind, this month we are going to have a look at some of the commercial kits that are available for Radio Amateurs to build.*"

I know many of you will be scratch builders when it comes to radio, preferring to specify and source your own designs for radio kit, but for those who are just starting out in building radios or who feel that more practice is needed with the soldering iron, we will be having a look at the likes of Softrock and some of the other kits you can buy quite cheaply and construct yourself.

Don't forget, you only have six months left in which to construct something and enter the CARS Constructors Competition, so why not make Carl G3PEM's day and have a go, you never know, you may just win!"

This should have been an interesting presentation but in the event Jack Frost intervened and produced between 4" and 8" of snow such that the Committee cancelled the Meeting.

Instead Vice President Geoff Mills, G3EDM ran a VHF Net using the Danbury Repeater, GB3DA with 14 Amateurs taking part. Thanks Geoff – a very good Net. General temperatures noted were between minus 5 and minus 6 degrees C – not the temperature to do battle with icy roads and the MASC Car Park.

This the second time in 3 years we have had to cancel a CARS Meeting due to cold weather – who says we are having Global Warming? We also had to cancel the Committee Meeting.

John G8DET.

Letter from Geoff Lovegrove, G7KLV.

I am writing to tell you that I have received from Tony Pennack (Funeral Directors) a list of people who contributed to the Salvation Army in memory of Phyl. Over £700 was raised and sent to the Army, either locally or nationally. I wish to thank you all for your contribution.

I think perhaps that I should explain that Phyl was not a Salvationist. However she could not resist the appeal of the jolly old gentlemen in their smart uniforms rattling their collecting boxes! After some discussion with the girls we agreed that this was a cause she would wish to support. I'm sure she would agree!

You may like to know that Phyl's ashes have been divided and some buried in our local cemetery in Vicarage Lane, Great Baddow and the rest buried in a Church graveyard in Fochabers near where we used to stay when we visited Catherine in Scotland.

On behalf of Rose, Alison and Catherine I wish to thank you for your donations to a cause which Phyl would certainly approved.

Yours sincerely, Geoff G7KLV.

Dear Granddad by John Bailey

Whilst I was studying for a Degree in Electrical Engineering at Manchester University in 1946, I suddenly remembered that it was my Grandfather's birthday and as usual, I had forgotten to send him a card. So on the way to the University I called in at a small Post Office to send him a telegram.

I was rather surprised to be handed a small wooden board on which was stuck a list of numbers and against them messages such a 'Happy Birthday', Will arrive at.', etc. The instructions were to select a message and add its numerical equivalent into the telegram form with appropriate starting and endings. So my telegram **Dear Granddad, 35, 44, John** would be translated to **Dear Granddad "Happy Birthday, Much Love" John**, on delivery.

Many years passed and I was covering IT and the problems of passing messages in the computer world. I happened to mention this incident whereupon one of my students said that he knew about the *limited set of messages* and would give me a complete list, which I was delighted to receive, (which I have *somewhere* in my shack).

The story behind this *limited set of messages* was that during the war, space in the telephone system was at a premium for military use. However it was essential for some space to be allocated for civilian use and by limiting the set of messages and encoding them into 360 discrete numeric messages, space could be saved and civilians could send these limited messages. I heard later that some people arranged a secondary personal code so that the recipient could understand a further hidden meaning to the standard set of messages.

Recently I was reading about Bletchley Park and their decoding skills during WWII. Towards the end of the War, it was necessary to have a number of code breakers who understood Japanese. The teachers of Japanese said that it was impossible to train students within the time span of 6 months set by Major John Tiltman who was a brilliant code breaker and the course tutor. He set up a school above a shop in Bletchley and did achieve his objective. The way he did it was to limit the words students needed to understand which were only concerned with military matters, not social graces.

Both examples are interesting in that they used a very limited range of messages and hence made communication or code breaking possible under limited message passing facilities.

John Bailey, ex G6RQV Does anyone know of the *limited set of messages*? If so please communicate with the Editor. See <http://www.signalharbor.com/73.html> - Colin, G0TRM.

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

05 March – RSGB Club – Data – 20:00 to 21:30 GMT
3/4 March – ARRL DX SSB – 48 Hrs
10/11 March – RSGB Commonwealth CW – 24 Hrs
24/25 March – CQWW WPX SSB – 48 Hrs
3/4 March – 144/432MHz – 14:00 to 14:00 - 24 Hrs
14 March – RSGB Club – CW – 20:00 to 21:00 GMT
22 March – RSGB Club – SSB – 20:00 to 21:00 GMT

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

Steve, G4ZUL

CARS Propagation Forecast for this Month.

Asia: Dhahran	around 16:00 on 24.9 MHz for 96 per cent of days, with fair signals.
Oceania: Sydney	around 18:00 on 10.1 MHz for 79 per cent of days, with poor signals.
Africa: Johannesburg	around 20:00 on 10.1 MHz for 97 per cent of days, with fair signals.
S. America: Rio de Janeiro	around 22:00 on 10.1 MHz for 79 per cent of days, with poor signals.
N. America: Saskatoon	around 22:00 on 14.0 MHz for 77 per cent of days, with poor signals.

Reports are reaching CARS that some Bands are going great guns at the moment.

Gwyn, G4FKH

National Radio Centre opens its doors

The National Radio Centre at Bletchley Park opened its doors for the first time on Saturday 25 February. It is initially operating for three days a week, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, while the displays and exhibits are put through their paces ahead of a formal opening expected to take place in late Spring.

CARS Members Pete Sipple M0PSX and Sarah Sipple M6PSK have visited the Centre. Pictures and report at <http://www.essexham.co.uk/nrc>

Murray, G6JYB

President Jottings – March.

This past month's weather resulted in the cancellation of our February's meeting, the Committee's decision to call of the meeting was absolutely correct as, from a painful experience years ago, the car park at our meeting venue can be pretty treacherous when a snowfall has compacted with vehicle traffic. I hope that the meeting on the subject of kits can be rescheduled for later in the year, it is always good to have a meeting in hand in case of a speaker's non-attendance.

If you took part in our 80 Metre Activities in January the closing date for your log is the March Meeting, please hand a hard copy or email it to me, as I write this I have received four logs.
Looking forward to see you all at the March meeting.

Carl, G3PEM. President|

Worked All Britain – See <http://www.worked-all-britain.co.uk>

The Worked All Britain Awards Group is promoting an award based upon following the Olympic Torch around UK. The Olympic torch will tour the UK over a period of seventy days taking in a total of seventy two special events in different parts of the UK, starting at Lands' End on Saturday May 19th and finishing on July 27th at the Olympic Park. The WAB call signs will move around UK following the torch, G4WAB & G7WAB being activated as special event stations using the prefix GX-GT-GN-GH-GS-GP-GC, assigned to the appropriate county.

The Award will comprise of three levels: Bronze – Silver – Gold. All that is required is a copy of your log showing the days/times that you worked either of the two calls. Only the two WAB call signs will count for the Award which is open to all Radio Amateurs and SWL's.

Requirements: BRONZE, 10 Contacts; SILVER; 20 Contacts and GOLD; 30 Contacts, all at different locations.

The cost will be £3 and certificates will be sent in PDF format unless requested otherwise.

Please do not send any claims until after July 28th 2012 when the run is finished and claim the one award at the level you have reached. Claims have to be with the Award Manager before August 31st 2012.

QSL Cards are NOT required. Payment for claims can be made by PayPal, (details on website), or by post, cheque payable to "WAB Awards Group".

Postal claims please to: Awards Manager; Darran Chappell, G0BWB; 49, Midway; South Crosland; Huddersfield; HD4 7DA. Email claims please to: g0bwb@worked-all-britain.org.uk

Martyn, G1EFL.

CARA PSK31 Video, SDR, a large Shack and Marconi's Birthday

The Cheltenham Amateur Radio Association (CARA) has produced a video on PSK31 keyboard-to-keyboard communication. You can watch it at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeeoyztegWo>
Also SDR and more on <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RpCXeOqgxZM&feature=related>
Download Digipan PSK31 from: <http://www.digipan.net/>

Thanks to the **Crystal Palace Radio & Electronic Club** newsletter for March 2012, Page 3.
Look at QRZ.COM and enter "W9EVT" and stand back to look at the largest Amateur Radio shack seen!

Marconi Special Event Station - VO1AA - April, 25, 2012
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/february2012/special_event_station_vo1aa.htm

Trevor M5AKA

And Finally:-

John G8DET edited this edition. Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH; Murray G6JYB; John, ex G6RQV; Martyn, G1EFL; Peter M0PSX; Andy, G1GKN; Mark, M0IEO and Carl G3PEM.

Closing date for the next Newsletter – Friday 23rd March 2012.