



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 560

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

November 2012

This Month's Meeting

- **NEW DATE** of FRIDAY, 9th November, 7.30pm
- **NEW VENUE** of Great Baddow Parish Hall, 19 Maldon Road, CM2 7DW

“A Valve Evening by Louis Poli, N3OL and CARS Members”

Louis will present “Classic Valves, Vintage Equipment, and an Amateur Experimenter’s Valve Station”.

Before the advent of modern solid state devices; and a forerunner of our superb high technology; there was the time of the “Valve”. These amazing electronic devices enabled this curiosity called “Radio” to advance and arguably make our civilization what it is today. Early valves were primitive, but their advancement was breath-taking. A testament to the experimental insights of engineers and technicians - many whom were Radio Amateurs - even though the physics lagged greatly behind.

Relatively advanced radios, and even the beginnings of Radar and Television were only about 20 years away from the first primitive, not even fully understood, devices of the early 1900’s. Even today, Valves have many applications, where solid state devices cannot operate.

In this presentation we will look at Valves, a diverse collection of historical Valves, Vintage Radios, Classic Test Equipment, and finally an Amateur Station based upon Vintage Radio equipment, and antennas.

On display will be a Marconi B2 Spy Set as issued to SOE Agents in WWII, Valves of assorted types and sizes and Valve Amateur Radios. It is proposed to have a Valve QRP Station in contact with a /M nearby.

CARS will have the famous Raffle run by Carl, G3PEM and James, 2E1GUA. Please purchase a ticket or two – it helps pay for the room and you may even win a prize. Please support them.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday evenings: Nov 6 th , 13 th , 20 th & 27 th	CARS - Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local. 2m, 70cm, 1.947, 28.375MHz respectively. PLEASE PARTICIPATE!! Net Controllers Required Contact Colin, G0TRM
Wednesday 14 th Nov	CARS Committee Meeting. All Members welcome to attend
Wed 5 th December	Full Licence Exam - Danbury Village Hall
Friday 7 th December	CARS Meeting in Great Baddow Parish Hall – “Buying/Selling Amateur Equipment on eBay” and “Re-license your Licence”
Saturday 8 th December	CARS Christmas Lunch at the Lodge Country Inn, Rettendon – 12 for 12.30pm food.
January Meeting	CARS January Meeting – Venue TBC - Date also TBC but NOT on Tuesday January 1 st .
Sunday 3 rd Feb 2013	28 th Canvey Rally – Doors open 10:30am

To be/remain a Member of CARS, send a Cheque for **£15** – 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 November is Geoff G3EDM Thanks to Mark, M0IEO and Colin G0TRM for October.

Last Month's Meeting:- "Annual General Meeting by CARS Members"

Chairman John, G8DET opened the Meeting by welcoming Members and Visitors.

In opening the meeting **President Carl G3PEM** said:

*"The past year has been of highs and lows. We lost our **Past President Harry Heap, G5HF** this last month. I had the honour of being nominated to succeed him a couple of years ago. As I wrote in my jottings I personally shall miss his advice and humour, particular the humour when erecting aerials at Sandford Mill. Our Chairman John will give you a report on the past years activities during the AGM but I would like to thank the various members for the help they have given Cars over the past year. As they say in no particular order; Peter for his running of the raffle, he is retiring now so many thanks Peter. Colin is also stepping back from organising the audio system. His contribution has helped us all to hear our speakers clearly. Thanks go to the Training Team at Danbury in their efforts to bring others into our hobby. To the **Officers and Committee of CARS** in the running of the Society to the benefit of us all. Our Chairman John has a special vote of thanks, for putting in countless hours for the benefit of CARS. Finally to you, our members, who come along every month to support CARS and make every meeting a very sociable occasion."*

Carl then presented the Constructors Competition Certificates, starting with **Special Prize (First Time Winners) to Dave Ellis, G4AJY**; **3rd Prize to John Roe, G4IMS**; **Second Prize was to Carl, G3PEM**, so Chairman John presented that one; and then Carl continued with the **First Prize and Anthony Martin Shield to Andy Tyler, G1GKN** (for the second time in a row – well done).

Carl then said that the proposed **Coach Outing to Bletchley Park** was cancelled due to lack of support.

Carl then asked **Chairman John to Open the AGM**.

After the Apologies were recorded and the record of the last AGM agreed, Chairman John said that this year CARS was stretched to maximum with operating, to commemorate events which happened 100 years ago involving Marconi. With this in mind he projected a series of photographs of each Meeting and each Operating Event which included the **RMS Titanic, IMD, New Street, August Afternoons at Sandford Mill, The Torch at Oaklands Museum and the Science and Discovery Sunday, again at Sandford Mill**.

He noted that the February-2012 Meeting had to be cancelled due to poor weather.

He thanked all those who supported both the Meetings and Operating **GB100MWT**.

Treasurer Brian, G3CVI circulated the Accounts and explained a number of items leading up to "Setting the Subscription for the coming 2012-2013 year. He proposed that after it had been set at **£12 for 5 years** it should now be increased to **£15** and called for a show of hands – carried with just one objection.

During the discussion it was requested that the Training Expenses and related Hire of Danbury Village Hall be better separated from the main Society Accounts – Brian said he would look into this and also why the Christmas Lunch for 2011 had made a loss of £150. *Post Note – this was later identified as the Deposit for the 2012 Christmas Lunch.*

Adoption of the Society Accounts was **Proposed by Gwyn G4FKH and Seconded by Carl G3PEM - Carried**.

The Chairman then read out the names of the Committee and said that they had all agreed that they would stand again next year. He asked for someone to propose that this be voted for "en bloc". Proposed, Seconded and Carried.

Chairman John then wondered if anyone would like to take on the duties of Chairman but after some moaning it was decided that no one wanted the job so he agreed to do it for another year.

Training Manager Clive, G1EUC then talked about the successful year that the Training Group had experienced. He praised Mark, MOIEO who had left the team due to health and work commitments and to all those who turn up week after week to Train more persons in the hobby of Amateur Radio.

He said that CARS courses had trained ~300 in the past 10 years but was concerned that few had joined CARS as a Club and wondered why. This led to an interesting exchange from the floor which lasted for many minutes. There was not just one factor but a complex mix including that many candidates had travelled long distances to take part in CARS superior Training Courses. Needless to say they would then either operate on their own or join a local club. The lack of an equipped Shack was also mentioned – something that TARG had worked on.

Chairman John closed the Meeting at **9.29pm** having thanked everyone for their support.

After the Break, **Luke** drew the Raffle and we enjoyed some more pictures of Peter, DK6SP's QTH and Aerials and corrections to the original presentation, **Brian, G3CVI** explained the 80metre Doublet and **James, 2E1GUA** showed his Buddipole.

John G8DET

November and December Meeting Arrangements

As per the front page the next two meetings will now be at Great Baddow Parish Hall 19 Maldon Road, Chelmsford, CM2 7DW as a result of ongoing building work at MASC.

<http://www.greatbaddowparishcouncil.co.uk/page2/page12/page12.html>

Brian, G3CVI's worst fears have been realised regarding the timely completion and disruption for the transfer to the new MASC building. The road access to MASC from Beehive Lane is closed for November and December. Originally CARS were told we could gain access via a torturous route through the dense housing estate built on the playing fields at the rear of MASC, but due to poor weather that access road has not been built. This means MASC is now isolated for November and December.

Your Committee had been quietly examining alternative accommodation and have been pleased to find a room big enough in Baddow for our Meetings, with a Bar, Projector Screen and not far from MASC. .

The only snag is that the Baddow Parish Hall was fully booked except Friday 9th November and Friday, 7th December. We have booked these dates in co-operation with TARG, Canvey Island. The Hall will be open from 6.30pm but we have to be out by 10.30pm sharp.

At the Parish Hall we have to put out our chairs and tables and put them back and leave the hall in a tidy state. There will be a "Bar" before and for the Break but NO coffee/tea – soft drinks from the bar instead. Please support the Bar or it will not be available in the future.

Car Parking is on the opposite side of the road in the large Vineyards Car Park – after 6pm it is free to use – **but watch the height restrictions. If you have a van or an antenna on the roof of your car – park in the Public Area of the other car park on the far side of the Vineyards.** No car ? - the hall is also on a main bus route – No 31, 36 and 40

<http://tinyurl.com/Great-Baddow-Parish-Hall> Shows where the Parish Hall is located.

We trust you will support the new Date and Venue.

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

3/4 Nov – 144MHz Marconi – CW – 24 Hours 10 Nov – Club Calls – Topband – 2000 to 2300 Hrs
10/11 Nov – Japan International DX – SSB – 30 Hrs 14 Nov – 80 Metre Club Sprint–SSB–1900-2000 Hrs
17/18 Nov – 2nd 1.8 MHz – CW – 1900 to 0100 Hrs 24/25 Nov – CQWDX – CW – 48 Hours
29 Nov – 80 Metre Club Sprint–CW–1900 to 2000 Hrs.

Steve, G4ZUL

CARS Propagation Forecast for this Month, prepared by Gwyn Williams - G4FKH

Asia *Dhahran* - around 14:00 on 28.0MHz for 96 percent of days, with fair signals.
Oceania *W Samoa* - around 12:00 on 18.1MHz for 88 percent of days, with poor signals.
Africa *Johannesburg* - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 89 percent of days, with fair signals.
S. America *Buenos Aires* - around 08:00 on 10.1MHz for 90 percent of days, with fair signals.
N. America *Saskatoon* - around 08:00 on 10.1MHz for 80 percent of days, with poor signals.

See also Gwyn's excellent Solar Cycle 24 article in June RadCom, pages 67-69.

Gwyn, G4FKH

President's Jottings

Just a short version this month. We start our new CARS year from our AGM and I trust that you will all support CARS in its new Venue, our Chairman and the Committee in their endeavours this coming year.

James, 2E1GUA and myself will be running the Raffle and all donations will be welcome.

See you all at Great Baddow Parish Hall in November and December.

Carl G3PEM, President

Training Courses

All Courses are held at the Danbury Village Hall near Chelmsford on Thursday evenings between 7 and 9pm. The 2012 Advanced Refresher Course started on Thursday, October 25th for the Advanced exam on Wednesday, 5th December. The next Foundation course starts on January 10th for which places are available. If you would like more information on this or other courses, please contact Clive G1EUC.

Help is required for Foundation Training Courses that are held by CARS twice a year! In particular for the practicals, which include HF and VHF operation, station-build, SWR and remote VHF operators. Ideally, anyone joining the Training Team should be committed for the full duration of the Course!

Contact the Training Organiser Clive G1EUC on Tel: 01245-224577. Mob: 07860-418835
Email: training2012 at g0mwt.org.uk See also our Training page: - <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/>

Morse Classes

Morse classes started again on Thursday, 1st November 2012 @ 1900hrs in Danbury Village Hall.

If you are a beginner you will be made very welcome. We can start you off on this great aspect of our hobby. If you would like to improve, or just need encouragement to get on the air, please join us. Instruction is also given on all aspects of CW - which include good manners on the air; how to have that CW chat; DX manners; Contesting and operating skills on the pump key and twin paddle keying. Andrew, G0IBN, also operates Slow Morse transmissions at 5, 7 and 10 wpm on 3550-3560kHz +/-QRM at 2015hrs (local) every Wednesday evening.

Andy Kersey G0IBN on 01621 868347 or g0ibn@kersey1.freemove.co.uk

CARS Support Staff required...3rd time of asking!

Audio Reinforcement

For many years CARS Members have enjoyed listening to the Speaker at the Monthly Meetings. This has been due to the dedication of Colin Page, G0TRM who brings the Audio Equipment each month, sets it up with assistance and records the Meeting on an Audio Cassette for distribution as required.

He has been advised to reduce his workload and hence has said he wishes to pass the job on to someone new.

Could it be YOU – or could you do it with assistance of your mate(s)? Please contact a Committee Member and talk it over with them. Colin has said he will provide the sound for the November Meeting.

Essex RAYNET Assist at Flood-Watch

The Essex RAYNET have issued this statement regarding the recent high tides:

The Emergency Planning Officer from Maldon District Council requested that Essex Raynet be placed at 'standby' on Sunday evening in view of predicted flood fears. Later on Members were mobilised to the designated R.V.P./Control Point in the White Horse Street Car Park and then deployed to the riverbanks at Heybridge Basin, Fullbridge, and the Hythe in Maldon, in preparation for the 0045hrs high tide and expected tidal surge.

High tide was reached without any significant incident, apart from a small over topping at the Hythe, but nobody got their feet wet.

Stand down was issued at 01:00hrs on the 15 October

The Central Area Controller would like to extend his gratitude to all those members who assisted at this call-out.

Essex RAYNET <http://www.essexraynet.co.uk/>

The fortunate outcome was mainly due to the wind being in the South West which forced the water away from Maldon unlike the Floods in 1953 when the wind was from the North East.

Trevor M5AKA

Freeview TV Continued. - When is a HD TV not an HD TV?

Do you remember Murray's excellent series of talks on Freeview - 5 years ago was the first one! Well the last Analogue TV Station with CEEFAX (invented by Post Office Telephone staff at Martlesham, Suffolk) has just been switched off in Northern Ireland - a major milestone for the Digital Switchover project

On impulse I purchased a new 19" LCD LED TV for the kitchen. The sensitivity was amazing – and set-up easy – picture quality amazing but the sound – dreadful. There was no room in the thin surround for traditional

speakers so a flapping diaphragm is inserted for each channel, at the bottom, facing down and some 6 inches apart – hence no Stereo effect.

Taking advice from the industry – I purchased a pair of computer speakers and mounted them each side of the TV – wonderful. The computer speaker PSU took 3 Watts and got hot – too hot to be on 24/7 – changed it for a Switched Mode PSU (checking no RF Interference) – the PSU now runs cold and together with the TV on Standby takes less than one Watt.

Flushed with success I purchased a Full HD 24" TV for the bedroom. As this had a slightly bigger surround the sound was slightly better. Tuned it in as easily as the first but could not find a HD Programme although it was a 1920 x 1080p set. After hours of retuning etc I looked on the Internet and found my set would NEVER show a HD programme as it was not fitted with a DVB-T2 Tuner. I now know very few small TVs have such a tuner.

A typical advert may run so:-

LG 42CS460 42-inch Widescreen Full HD 1080p LCD TV with Freeview

This will never play a HD Programme from Freeview – it needs the words with "Freeview HD" and may well cost rather more. Also the thought is that a 24" TV will not show much, if any difference between a HD Programme to a normal Freeview Programme – I am now very wise after the event. I am now happy and will live with my new sets - but be warned.... And look for the logo!



John G8DET

New Amateur Radio Society - Thames Amateur Radio Group (TARG)

Following a highly successful first open meeting on the 5th October, TARG is delighted to invite you to our next Meeting on Friday, 2nd Nov 2012. Full details can be found at:

<http://www.thamesarg.org.uk/news/targ-club-night-02-nov-2012.html>

The TARG Shack is taking shape with more equipment and facilities gradually being added. Come and spend an evening with real amateur radio enthusiasts. Why not bring a friend?

Meetings will be held at: Jubilee Hall, Waterside Farm Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Island Essex SS8 9RA - There is large free car park. The hall is immediately behind and hidden by the main Sports Centre. Please put 19.30hrs Friday, 2nd November in your diary.

Please note the next Meeting is Friday, 14th December so as not to clash with CARS changed Meeting date.

Norman Crampton, M0FZW 07899 803714 -- m0fzw@btinternet.com

CARS Christmas Lunch – Saturday 8th December at the Lodge Country Inn, Rettendon

CARS traditionally like to have a social occasion and this year they are having a Christmas Lunch at the Lodge Country Inn – the same venue as last year. Providing we have sufficient Members with their Wives, Partners or Friends we should be in the nice Conservatory on our own.

It is a 3-Course meal for the bargain price of £10 including tea/coffee afterwards.

A Booking Form has been distributed but if you have mislaid yours – click on the CARS Web Site and download a Word copy. Fill in your choice and post it to Martyn, G1EFL with a cheque and an A5 Stamped, Addressed Envelope for the Ticket. It is NOT just for the Committee! Meet from 12 midday for food at 12.30pm prompt.

James, 2E1GUA

Just as we were going to print we heard via Trevor, M5AKA that James had been knocked off his bicycle by a car in the centre of Chelmsford. James was admitted to hospital but discharged with severe bruising. His bicycle was a write-off. He was saved by the protective clothing and boots he always wears. He says the Police are considering charging the driver of the car for "Driving without Due Care and Attention".

We wish him a speedy recovery

And Finally:- John, G8DET edited this edition; Murray G6JYB, finalised it, made it a PDF . Distributed most by email; Geoff KLV posted the remainder. Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH; Carl G3PEM; Norman, M0FZW; Clive, G1EUC and Andy, G0IBN.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Tuesday 20th November 2012.
