



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 558

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

September 2012

This Month's Meeting – Tuesday, 4th September, 7.30pm at the Marconi Club "Practical Aerials as used by CARS Members"

This Meeting is a Practical Meeting in as much as CARS Members will show what Aerial(s) they have erected in their home QTH. We are not looking for 200 foot self-supporting masts, but the more usual aerial members have to use due to their city location and limitation imposed by the builder who set out the footprint of the house. About six photos will be shown whilst the Member is describing their installation for around eight minutes so that as many people can contribute.

In order to provide a similar presentation each person is requested to use roughly the same format:-

- Name, Call-Sign, District/location, Height above Sea Level, Area of good/bad take-off
- Aerial Type/Name, Band(s) used, Rig used, Power (Watts) etc.

Please send photos to G8DET before the meeting so that it can be structured, or inform G8DET of your intentions – please bring your photos on a memory stick or your laptop..

Club Members will also vote for who they think should receive the "CARS Amateur of the Year" Award.

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.

It is with regret that I have to report that Harry Heap, G5HF, CARS Past President passed away on Monday evening, 27th August, in the Manor House nursing home in Lady Lane. Harry was 95 years old on 16th July. CARS sends Ethel and his Family our Sympathy.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday evenings: Sept 11 th , 18 th , 25 th	CARS - Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local. 2m, 70cm, 1.947, 28.375MHz respectively. PLEASE PARTICIPATE!! Controllers Required Contact G0TRM
Wed 12 th September	CARS Committee Meeting. All Members welcome to attend
Tues 11 th to 18 th Sept	2MT Calling at Writtle College – see Page 6.
Sunday 30 th September	Science and Discovery Open Day at Sandford Mill. CARS to operate AM, SSB and CW. 10AM to 5PM. See page 4.
Tuesday, 2 nd October	CARS Meeting – Annual General Meeting
Thursday 18 th October	Essex Repeater Group AGM, Danbury Village Hall, 7:30 for 8pm

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 September is Patrick, M0XAP

Thanks to Geoff, G3EDM, who did it for August.

August Newsletter.

Thanks to Colin, G0TRM and Murray, G6JYB for producing the excellent August due to Chairman John, G8DET being in the caring hands of Princess Alexander Hospital, Harlow. I was having a four foot plastic pipe inserted in the right leg to bypass the Stents inserted last December. These became blocked with a large Blood Clot while on holiday in Cromer!

John, G8DET

Last Month's Meeting:- Constructor's Competition by Carl Thomson, G3PEM.

As the Chairman and Vice Chairman were away, it gave me the honour of presiding over the constructor's competition. After explaining the reason for our chairman's absence a get well card was passed around the hall. Andy Kersey, G0IBN explained that he will be operating during Lighthouse Weekend and from the Tollesbury Light Vessel and all are welcome, please let Andy know if you wish to help .



**Andy Tyler with his Remote Aerial Tuner & Switch
Photo by Trevor, M5AKA**



**The Winners with President Carl (right).
Photo by David Bolwell, G3JCM.**

The voting for the Constructor's competition was then explained, it was pleasing to see that we had eight entries for this year's competition which were;

- i) Patrick M0XAP: A restricted space aerial for top band and other HF bands
- ii) John G4IMS: An AM/DSB/CW Top band Transmitter
- iii) Andy G1GKN: A Remote aerial switch for UHF, VHF and HF matching unit.
- iv) Dave G4AJY: A CW Speed Monitor (measures the speed of CW transmission)
- v) Carl G3PEM: A 30/20 Metre 1 watt CW Transmitter
- vi) Colin G0TRM: Clockwork drive for a paper tape Morse generator
- vii) Tony, G4YTG: Aerial Traps
- viii) Martin, G4TOO: Long Wire and Tuneable Antenna for Kite Aerial

Each entrant gave a short talk on their piece of equipment and thereafter the audience had a chance to vote for the chosen winners.

A break was taken and afterwards the winners were announced,

1st Prize: Andy G1GKN for his remote aerial switch.

2nd Prize: Carl, G3PEM for the 1 watt transmitter.

3rd Prize: John, G4IMS for the Top Band transmitter

1st Time Winner's Prize: Dave, G4AJY for his CW Speed Monitor.

So Andy retains the M1FDE Shield as the Constructor Competition Winner.

Carl G3PEM

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

1/2 Sept – SSB Field Day – 24 hrs

1/2 Sept – 144MHz Trophy – 24 hrs

02 Sept – 144MHz Backpackers – 11:00-15:00 UTC

09 Sept – 70MHz Contest – 09:00 to 12:00 UTC

12 Sept–80 Metre Club Sprint,SSB,19:00-20:30 UTC

27 Sept – 80 Metre Club Sprint, CW–19:00-20:30 UTC

29/30 Sept – CQWW – RTTY – 48 hrs

Steve, G4ZUL

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

Asia **Dhahran** - around 18:00 on 18.1MHz for 85 percent of days, with poor signals.

Oceania **Sydney** - around 20:00 on 7.1MHz for 65 percent of days, with poor signals.

Africa **Johannesburg** - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 97 percent of days, with fair signals.

S. America **Rio de Janeiro** - around 22:00 on 10.1MHz for 79 percent of days, with poor signals.

N. America **Saskatoon** - around 06:00 on 10.1MHz for 81 percent of days, with poor signals.

Gwyn, G4FKH

President Jottings

The Constructor's Competition last month was won by Andy Tyler, G1GKN with an excellent Remote Aerial Switch and combined HF Automatic Tuner. There were eight entries which was about average for the evening. So for those who did not enter you have until next August to decide upon an entry and construct it. There are some excellent kits out there covering a range of equipment, so give it a try.

There were two announcements I forgot to give at the meeting;

We have been asked to give a bit of publicity to a top band AM net running every Sunday around about 1.950MHz, you may have to search a little bit. I can't recall the precise time but I believe it to be either 1500 or 1800 hours.

Secondly, over the years CARS has tried to run a coach to Bletchley Park, due to the lack of numbers, as a Society we could never hope to cover the cost of the hire. The High Easter firm of Lodge's Coaches is running a trip to the park on Nov 3rd. I have tried to book but the coach is full, (there's a surprise). The lady took my name and said if they had a cancellation I may be in luck. However the alternative is if they have enough names there is remote possibility of a second coach. If you wish to have a trip to Bletchley Park please ring Lodge's and see if we can get enough names to justify them put on a second coach. 01245 231262 or 231263.

See you all in September when we will have the Vote for the "Amateur of the Year" Award.

Carl G3PEM, President

Morse Code at Lawford Mead Junior School

In July, at the request of the Head Teacher of Lawford Mead Junior School, Tony, G4YTG and Colin, G0TRM gave a talk and demonstration of Morse Code to 100 children. As the school project for the term was the *Sinking of the Titanic*, the talk was mainly on the start and the use of Morse Code.

Tony started by reminding pupils of how people communicated with each other at a distance, before wireless and Mr. Marconi; using fires, smoke, messengers, beacons, flags, lights, rockets etc. A key and a buzzer with a wire aerial sending to a radio receiver some distance away, demonstrated wireless communication.

Each child was given their own copy of the Morse Code, complete with a short message for them to decode. Large copies of the Morse symbols were displayed in turn and the children were encouraged in unison to name the 'dits and dahs' as appropriate.

At the break time after the talk, many of the children who came up to the stage wanted to send their names and SOS in Morse and asked lots of questions about all the equipment that formed the display. The children were all very well behaved, most attentive and interested and a credit to the school.

A few days' later two senior pupils from the school sent a letter of thanks saying, "The Morse Code you showed us was amazing, outstanding and phenomenal". This from 11 year olds!

Tony G4YTG and Colin, G0TRM.

Morse Code on MARS

Seems that NASA has found a new use for Morse Code! Gaps in the wheels of Curiosity Rover are spelling out "JPL" in Morse on the Martian surface. JPL stands for Jet Propulsion Laboratory, which is the home to the project. They are using the Morse markers to identify travelled distance by photos of the tracks, presumably to verify other identifiers of travelled distance.

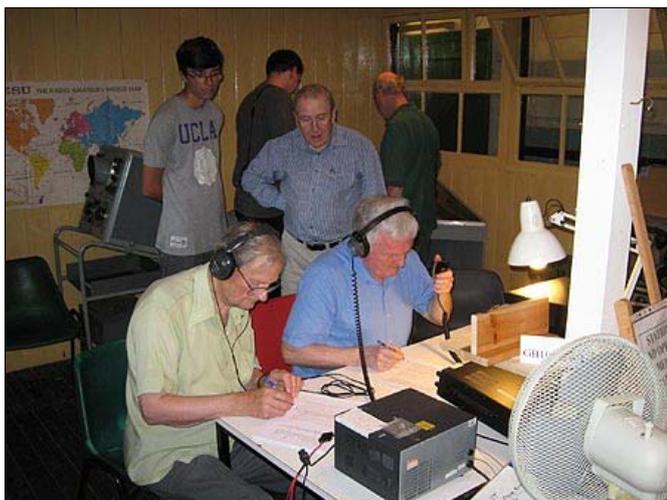
<http://mashable.com/2012/08/24/curiosity-rover-morse-code/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UhN0Sb3Kq_0

Peter, G1FOA

August Afternoons at Sandford Mill

CARS were invited by Dr Bowles to provide "Live Wireless" at the Open Afternoons, 2pm to 5pm. Although the weather was reasonable there was stiff competition from the 2012 Olympics and the V Festival at Hylands Park. However those persons who did turn up enjoyed the events put on for the first three weekends in August.



Brian Thwaites, G3CVI logging with John Yates G1UZD on the microphone and Adrian Soane, M0ABY looking on.



The CW Team in Dr Bowles's outer office with young visitor Jack being shown how to hold the Morse Key. Photo by permission of his Mother.

On air, 7MHz, SSB proved to have good propagation with Germany. DL and DK stations were worked with ease. The CW Team on the Aug 12th had a thin time, put down to their being a big contest on the 14MHz band. However, on the 19th (no contests !) we enjoyed ourselves with huge pile-ups. In all we worked 131 QSO's, 30 countries, including; all around Europe and the USSR. DX of note - 4Z4, K0, US0, N7, WB8, VE3 and JA1.

The last major CARS activity for 2012 at Sandford Mill will be the **Science and Discovery Day**, Sunday, 30th September from 10am to 5pm. Just a reminder – would CARS Members please wear CARS clothing.

Weather permitting Peter Bridgeman, G3SUY plans to have his Lancaster Bomber, **1154 Tx and 1155 Receiver** on 80 Metres for AM contacts. The usual SSB Team will be in the Marconi Hut with the CW Team in Dr Bowles's Outer Office on the First Floor. Colin, G0TRM will have the **Morse Demo** on the Mezzanine Platform.

John G8DET

MFJ Aerial Analysers

John, mentioned Antenna Analysers in an email re lightships recently, and we discussed at the Club some time ago some strange results from one of these units. I have borrowed one and was getting similar meaningless results, so I looked up the MFJ 259 on the web. Sure enough they go out of calibration easily. I got the instructions off the web and adjusted the one I've got.

The calibration depends on small preset pots with pretty critical adjustment. It's easy enough to tell if it's OK or not; putting a 50 ohm and 100 ohm loads on it should give the correct reading for resistance and VSWR of 1:1 and 2:1. Hope I'm not telling you how to suck eggs but it's easy to assume an expensive instrument is telling you the truth whereas in my case it was a mile out.

John Roe G4IMS

Has anyone else had this experience? – CARS MFJs will now be issued with 50 and 100 ohm check resistors.

From Mark Sanderson, M0IEO

Hi John, just a line or two to explain my sudden departure from the CARS Training Team and Essex Repeater Group. It is with regret that I have to announce my resignation from both CARS Training Group and Essex Repeater Group.

This is due to an increase in workload which is not compatible with timings for both aspects of the hobby, along with a decline in my health resulting in a need to optimise what rest time I do get. I do regret having to take this decision, but logically, it was the right thing to do, I wish both CARS Training Team and Essex Repeater Group continued success for the future.

Please note, this does NOT mean that I will be leaving Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society, I just need to make the most of the free time I do get to rest and enjoy life, I will still be there for anyone who needs help.

73 de Mark M0IEO

Editors Note. Since receiving this, Mark has had a short spell in hospital – we wish him well.

Wanted - Valves

Hello, Valves that I particularly need, they are EF86, ECC83, ECL86, EL84, EL37, KT66, EM84. Any quantities of these valves will do it does not matter and I am prepared to refund postage for those I cannot collect, it will not matter either if there is a large box of assorted valves - all will help.

Contact Ken, G0OSI on Braintree 01376 334 110 or 07800 501851

Wanted – Bird ThruLine Modules

Does anyone out there have any inserts for a Bird ThruLine Watt meter that they need a home for? If so, can you give me a call as having bought a meter at the tabletop sale, I now need some inserts for it, (otherwise the wife will use it as a door stop!) I am interested in anything from HF to UHF and any power rating. I am willing to pay an arm, but would rather keep the leg if that is okay.

Contact Mark Sanderson, M0IEO on 01268 698304 or email at marksanderson5@sky.com

Editors Note – CARS also could do with a couple of Modules to replace those damaged while out on loan.

Training Courses in 2012

All Courses are held at the Danbury Village Hall near Chelmsford on Thursday evenings between 7 and 9pm.

A Foundation Course is scheduled to begin on 30th August for six weeks. Exam on 4th October, 2012.

Spaces are also available on the 2012 Advanced Refresher Course.

If you would like more information on either the Foundation or Advanced Course, please contact Clive G1EUC.

Help is required for Foundation Training Courses which are held by CARS twice a year! In particular for the practical's, which include VHF and HF operation, station-build, SWR and remote VHF operation. It should be noted that anyone joining the Training Team, should be committed for the 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 Training

Morse classes will be starting again on Thursday, 30th August 2012 @ 1900hrs.

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....

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 onto someone new.

Could it be YOU – or could you do it with assistance of your mate(s)?

If no one steps forward bring Theatre Binoculars and brush up on your Lip Reading skills!

Please contact a Committee Member and talk it over with them.

The Famous Raffle

For a number of years this wonderful Duty has been performed by Peter Graves, GOKSJ. Again he has been told to “take things easy” and therefore wishes to pass the Duty to someone younger.

Could it be YOU? If not YOU, could you do it with someone else?

It is a major event at each Meeting – giving away Prizes as well as bringing in some needed revenue to assist paying for the room hire.

Again, please contact a Committee Member and talk it over with them.

The Committee.

WD-40

This was created in 1953 by three technicians at the San Diego Rocket Chemical Company and its name comes from the project that was to find a “Water Displacement” compound. They were successful at the 40th attempt – hence WD-40. The Corvair Company bought it in bulk to protect their Atlas Missile parts.

Here are a few of the more unusual uses: -

Removes road Tar and Grime from cars	Cleans and lubricated Guitar Strings
Restores and cleans Chalkboards	Removes Lipstick stains
Loosens stubborn zippers	Keeps Shower doors free of water spots
Removes black scuff marks from the kitchen floor.	Ventilate the area if using indoors.
Protects Silver from tarnishing	

Any more uses? Tell the Editor and we will publish it in the next CARS Newsletter.

Thanks to the Maldon U3A for the above.

2MT - 2Emma Toc Calling www.writtlecalling.co.uk www.facebook.com/writtlecalling87.7FM

Just as we were going to press, Melissa Appleton contacted CARS to invite Members to the Private View at Writtle College on Saturday, 15th, 7pm to 10pm. If you wish to attend please RSVP due to restricted numbers. She has Lottery Funding to erect a wooden structure in a field of the Agriculture College between 11th and 18th September, 2012. Tim Wander's talk is on Tuesday 11th at 6.15pm – Tune-in or appear at the “structure”.

You should be able to listen around Chelmsford on 87.7MHz FM between 6pm and 7.30pm each of these days.

See the Flyer for details. At the time of writing, CARS is NOT actually involved with this project

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; Peter, G1FOA; Dave, G3PEN; Tony, G4YTG & Colin, G0TRM; John, G4IMS; Ken, G0OSI; Clive, G1EUC and Melissa Appleton.

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