



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 562

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

January 2013

Seasons Greetings !!!

This Month's Meeting

- NEW DATE: FRIDAY, 11th January, 7.30pm
- NEW VENUE: Great Baddow Parish Hall, 19 Maldon Road, CM2 7DW

"Harry Heap, G5HF SK - Reminiscences of Harry"

By Tony Gilbey, G4YTG and CARS Members and Friends

Harry Heap, G5HF passed away on 27th August 2012 at a nursing home in Chelmsford, aged 95. He was the very active **President of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society** from October 2000 until October 2010. He was first Licensed as **2BZZ** in 1932 at the age of 16 and was issued the call sign G5HF in 1933.

Harry joined the **RSGB** in 1938. He was especially interested in the then new 56MHz band.

Following the outbreak of World War II he moved to Chelmsford to join Crompton Parkinson, where he worked on devices to neutralise magnetic mines. The evenings he spent as a Voluntary Radio Interceptor. Harry was a great lifelong friend and colleague of **Louis Varney, G5RV**, famous worldwide for his **multi-band aerial**. Both Harry and Louis were part of the very elite group of **Secret Listeners** providing received 'off-air' coded material to 'Box 25', which we now know was **Bletchley Park**. Their names are on the Roll of Honour at the site. Harry regularly attended the reunions of the **Box 25 RSS** group to keep in touch with those still surviving. (Extract of the Obituary from January's RadCom submitted by Trevor, M5AKA.)

Come, listen or share your thoughts of Harry about his full and interesting life.

Friends and Visitors warmly welcome. If YOU have a story - please share it - however tell someone in CARS beforehand - thank you. A memorable evening is guaranteed.

The Famous CARS Raffle will be run by Carl, G 3PEM and James, 2E1GUA.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 10 th January	Foundation Course-27 starts Danbury Village Hall @ 7pm
Tuesday evenings: Jan 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29 th	CARS - Net Nights starting at 8.30pm local. 2m, 70cm, 1.947, 28.375MHz and 80M. PLEASE PARTICIPATE!!
Wed 2 nd & 16 th Jan	CARS Committee Mtgs. 7.30pm, Danbury Village Hall. The 2 nd is the December Committee Meeting rescheduled while the 16 th will arrange the February Meeting..
Sunday 3 rd Feb 2013	28 th Canvey Rally – Doors open 10:30am
Friday, 8 th Feb 2013	CARS Meeting - "Vintage Radio, TV, Test Equipment", Gt Baddow Parish Hall, 7.30pm.

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: (1st) GB3DA, (2nd) GB3ER, (3rd) 1.947/50, (4th) 28.375, (5th) 80M

Net Controllers for Jan: Patrick M0XAP (1st, 2nd), Colin G0TRM (3rd, 4th & 5th). Thanks to Patrick for Dec.

Last Month's Meeting: "Buying and Selling Radio Equipment on eBay" **by Belinda Sanderson, YL of Mark, M0IEO**

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

The Radio Microphone and Audio Hearing Aid Loop system worked quite well once Colin, G0TRM had changed the duff batteries. Hard-of-hearing Members must remember to bring their Loop Hearing Aids for quality reception and switch them to the "T" position.

Belinda Sanderson said that eBay is an online buying and selling website where anyone can sell or buy virtually anything. Now obviously this does have risks, and Belinda told us how to avoid most of them.

It may seem daunting, even frightening to make a purchase from your computer screen without having the ability to see what you are buying, but it is becoming more commonplace these days, even the big stores have an online shopping site on the Internet, and yes, there are bargains to be had on line, but be aware, there are a lot of people out there who are less than honest and will be looking out to make a fast buck.

So where do we find eBay and what format does it take? The answer to the first question is for UK listings, www.eBay.co.uk, and www.eBay.com for international listings. It takes the form of an online Auction where you bid against other eBayers for the items you want to buy, and if you are selling, that is where your shop window will be. Before attempting to buy or sell on eBay, it is worth taking some time to go online and have a look around and see what others are selling. From the eBay home page you will see a menu of categories of items for sale. You can either pick one of the categories, or you can type in the specific item you are interested in and if there are any listings (people who are selling the item you are looking for). The page will take you to all the listings for the item you are looking for. An example of this is say you are looking for a Yaesu FT8900 radio, if you type in **Ham Radio**, you will be given a sub-menu to choose from listing **Transceivers, Antennas, ATU's, Power Supplies** and so on. However if you type in **Transceiver**, you will get a list of all the transceivers for sale on eBay - now refine the search further and type in **Yaesu FT8900** and you should get a list of only the radios you are interested in.

You must look at what others are selling before you buy or sell. If you are buying, know what you are looking for, know what it would cost if you were going to the shops to buy it and always go online to look up the item specification from the manufacturer. Once you are familiar with the item, look on eBay and see what they are selling for, watch an auction or two to see how they go and what the item sells for - this will give you a goal to aim for. Have a price limit in mind that you want to pay and don't go too far over that price, and don't forget that you will have to pay postage on the item. The great thing about eBay is if you don't win the item, there will usually be another one along soon. Obviously there are exceptions to this rule. A **Yaesu FC902 Antenna Tuner** would be a good example of this. I have been looking for a good example for ages! Do not get into a bidding war with someone for an item; invariably the only winner will be the person selling the item.

If you are selling an item, again research is the key to success. How much are other eBay users asking for the item you want to sell and what price are they achieving? Are there a lot of examples of the item you are thinking of selling? If there are a lot of them you will never get top price for the item because someone will be selling cheaper than you - **Research is the key to using eBay successfully.**

When selling, be as honest as you can with your description - if there are scuff marks, dents or any faults with the item, list them, you are far more likely to sell the item if you are honest about it – and avoid poor sellers feedback ratings. Take photos of the item, this can be tricky if its big and bulky, but a photo is worth a thousand words of description. Take photos on a plain neutral background so that the item is not lost in the background, and again if there are faults with the item, try and get them in the photograph. Ensure the photo you use is the right way up; there is nothing more annoying than looking at a posting where the photo is on its side or upside down! Another thing to remember is to add in postage costs and the cost of wrapping, especially if you are looking to post abroad or you are selling something heavy like a linear amplifier. The difference in postage can make a BIG difference. Is the item fragile and will it need to go by courier? **Tip – only sell to the UK.**

Now you have bought or sold the item you will need to pay for it, or take payment for the item you have sold. There are several ways of doing this, but by far the easiest way is to open a **PayPal** account where buyers can pay their money into or (as long as you have funds in your **PayPal** account) you can pay for the things you have bought. By using **PayPal**, there is a record of payments sent and received, which the eBay resolution centre can see. This can be a fallback if there is a dispute over an item bought or sold (more on the resolution centre later). Another way to pay for items is to pay by **Debit Card**. This works the same as cash and most companies who sell on eBay will be happy to accept payment in this way. If you pay by **Credit Card** you will then have the added protection of insurance for the item, but you will need to check the conditions of your credit card issuer. Once paid for, you will get an email to your usual address saying that you have bought and paid for the item and you should get an approximate delivery date. The seller should send a confirmation to you on the day they post the item which you can view in the "**My eBay**" box on the screen under the heading "**Purchases**", then sit back and wait for the postman to come knocking. Do remember that unlike the film, the postman seldom knocks twice, and if you do miss him it will mean a trip to the local sorting office to collect your purchase.

So far we have looked at buying and selling and everything going the way it should, but once in a while things do go wrong, something gets lost in the post or someone says they will buy an item you are selling and then doesn't pay for it, it does happen but thankfully it is seldom. Not to worry, all is not lost. If someone buys an item from you, eBay will always send you a contact email address for him or her, if they do not pay within a reasonable time, send them an Email and ask them to make a payment for the item. If there is still no payment within a reasonable time, say a day or two, then contact the **eBay Resolution Team**. They are there to help you and as long as you have used **PayPal** will have all the details. If all else fails and the person who bought your item just doesn't pay or contact you, you can always offer it to the second highest bidder, but only if there is no hope of the original bidder buying the item. Another good tip that Belinda gave was to always contact buyers/sellers through the **eBay email system**, that way the resolution centre can see all correspondence and can work with all the information, it is there to protect buyers and sellers alike.

There are rules to buying and selling items on eBay, and Belinda told us that you cannot sell things like weapons, body parts, pets, livestock, drugs, stolen items, currency and the like. Basically it is a case of being sensible about what you are buying and selling, and the old adage of "**Buyer Beware**" is a golden rule, it is your responsibility to ensure that what you are bidding on is what you think it is, another thing to remember is that if you bid on an item, you are entering a contract to buy, unless you can prove that the item was not as described or that the description was misleading, you are entering a legally binding contract when you press the buy icon on the page. In the case of things like cars, always go and view the car exactly as you would from a high street car dealer. This is to satisfy yourself that the car is exactly what you are looking for and that it has in fact got the basics, like an engine, MOT, a wheel on each corner and roof! Once you click the **Buy** button, you are committed to buying it.

Thank you to **Belinda** for the eBay talk, it was both informative and interesting. Now Belinda has shown you the basics, why not get on line and have a go, it can be fun and you may just pick up that bargain you have been searching for, and Belinda, good luck for your upcoming foundation license exam, we at CARS are looking forward to working you on air soon.

See <http://sellercentre.eBay.co.uk/introduction-selling?cat=34>

Mark M0IEO

CARS Christmas Lunch

On Saturday, 8th December, 2012 48 CARS Member, Partners and Friends sat down to a Christmas Lunch at the **The Lodge Country Inn**, Hayes Chase, Burnham Road (A132), SS11 7QT near Battlesbridge,. Tel 01245 320060. <http://www.lodge-inn.net/>. Organisation of the Lunch and the issue of Tickets were undertaken by Martyn, G1EFL and Val, his Wife. The weather a few days before was simply dreadful, but on this Saturday it was nice and sunny though the fields around were waterlogged.

Pre-Lunch drinks were had in the bar after which we took our seats in the Conservatory under the hot fan heaters. Raffle tickets were organised by Geoff Lovegrove, G7KLV and his Son-in-Law, Bill Allen. Grace was said by CARS President, Carl Thomson, G3PEM and then Starters were brought in by the lovely young ladies & men. Portions were good. Main course was varied and included Turkey, Chicken, Beef, Salmon and Broccoli and Cheese Bake. Sweet followed with Banoffee Pie and Profiteroles being favourites.

Tea/coffee and Mince pies with Mints completed an excellent meal. Chairman John G8DET introduced CARS Guest which this year was **Louis Poli, N3OL** from the USA. Raffle Prizes were distributed and the party broke up at 3.30pm. An excellent event – Repeat it next year?

John G8DET

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

13 Jan – RSGB AFS - CW – 14:00 to 18:00 UTC

5/6 Jan – ARRL, RTTY – 24 hrs

19 Jan – RSGB-AFS-SSB-14:00 to 18:00 UTC

26/27 Jan – CQWW 160M – CW – 48 hrs

Steve, G4ZUL

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

Asia **Dhahran** - around 14:00 on 28.0MHz for 88 percent of days, with fair signals.
Oceania **W Samoa** around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 86 percent of days, with poor signals.
Africa **Johannesburg** - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for 88 percent of days, with poor signals.
S. America **Rio de Janeiro** - around 08:00 on 10.1MHz for 86 percent of days, with poor signals.
N. America **Saskatoon** - around 18:00 on 14.0MHz for 78 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

I am writing this on the 20 December 2012 and if the MAYAN calendar is wrong you all should be able to read this, as the World did not end.

Our last meeting had a talk about eBay and our thanks to Belinda and Mark for the interesting talk on selling and buying on the eBay web site. It was nice to have the **do's and don'ts** spelt out by Members who had bought and sold on the site.

We also had a very successful Christmas lunch and our thanks to Val and Martyn together with Pauline and John for the entire organisation that took place to make it such a success. For those that missed this lunch the CARS web site has a lot of photos taken by various diners.

Your committee have arranged a full programme of talks for the coming year so please, keep supporting CARS. With best wishes for 2013 and good dx.

Carl, G3PEM

Training Courses

All Courses are held at the Danbury Village Hall near Chelmsford on Thursday evenings between 7 and 9pm. CARS are pleased that both the candidates who took the Advanced Exam in December were successful.

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 on Thursdays 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 3.550-3.560kHz +/-QRM at 2015hrs (local) every Wednesday evening.

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

About Valves from: Brian Styles, G3NSD, Huntingdon - Subject: Ronald Dekker

Sent by email: 16 December 2012 18:29

Does the name "Ronald Dekker" ring a bell with any of you? Casting around for it on the web, I stumbled across some amazingly good writings by him. They seem to be succinct, well-informed and nicely illustrated. If there's a criticism, it's unfair - there are mistakes of spelling and grammar suggesting that English isn't his first language. I just urge you all to have a look. Start, perhaps, with this one:

<http://www.dos4ever.com/EF50/EF50.html> I've never thought the EF50 was exciting but I was wrong!

I'd also commend another of his presentations to you: <http://www.dos4ever.com/SAFE/SAFE.html>

Yours, Brian

This was circulated to CARS Members and the following reply came from Germany:-.

Hello John, I am not sure, but I think that the "Miniwatt" lamps are not actually lamps but "Baretters" to go in series with the heater circuits of AC/DC valve radios. They limit the switch on current surges of the heaters. It is something that sits in the back of my mind, but I have not looked it up. Maybe Google will correct me, and my apologies if I am wrong.

I am in Baden Württemberg, the town of Offenburg, just across the border from Strasbourg in France.

I regularly drive into France for cheaper fuel for the car and some shopping. Strasburg is only a 30 minute (and very cheap) train ride away, and is a very interesting city. I have newly retired (about 2 weeks ago) however I

still work part time at the company doing training seminars for International Engineers between 4 and 6 times a year. Each one lasts a week. I may also be travelling to Japan and China next year to do the same thing at a customer's site.

I may be visiting the UK again in summer, so maybe pop into a meeting if I can make it.

Best wishes to you and everyone for a wonderful Christmas season Best wishes from the wet and soggy lands of Southern Germany

Roy DJ0OW / G3VCH

Gesendet: Dienstag, mariner1@web.de

Thames Amateur Radio Group (TARG)

Please put 19.30hrs Friday, 4th January 2013 in your diary as the first in the New Year.

Full details can be found at: <http://www.thamesarg.org.uk/news/>

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 are 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.

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

Another Update on the "FreeView HD" TV Saga – First mentioned by Murray, December 2002.

Lurking in the latest Ofcom Update is the assumption that 700MHz UHF-TV clearance aka DSO-2 may happen as early as 2018 (a date I heard in another talk recently) - at which point all non-Freeview-HD kit would be in trouble. See http://recombu.com/digital/news/the-future-of-freeview_M11084.html

The planning assumption is that TVs have 6-7year lifecycle! **You heard it here FIRST!**

Murray, G6JYB

A Repeater Keeper's Night Before Christmas

It was the night before Christmas all through the land,
Not an amateur was using the 2 metres band.
Some were blaming the jammer but he wasn't there,
When Ofcom had got him, he just didn't care!

Had all the M3's gone on HF instead?
Or, dusted off the CB that lay under the bed?
Had they gone QRT or "SWARed" up their twigs,
Or, spent all their money on new HF Rigs?

When out of the blue a "K" from GB3HS came on the air,
And a bleep from the D-Star; was there somebody there?
A flicker on the 10GHz from the old ATV,
Was there really a picture or just snow to see?

All of a sudden whilst drinking my beer,
A thought of what might happen became really clear.
With no users, there'd be no repeaters, no beacons, all canned!
Surely they wouldn't auction off our VHF Bands?
Whilst we still have Repeaters, at least for today,

With electricity bills, insurance and site rental to pay.
We run it, and fix it and clear weeds from the grounds.
So please "Use it or lose it" and spare us ten pounds!

**Andy Russell, G0VRM
East Yorkshire Repeater Group
Christmas 2012**

From an idea by Gary Pearce, KN4AQ

Lifted from www.southgatearc.org by permission of Trevor, M5AKA

Suggestion – Give your £12 to the ERG in Essex.

PS – Click on:-
http://www.southgatearc.org/news/december2012/unusual_radio_mast_video.htm

This is similar but on a higher scale to Peter, G3SUY talking via his ATU at Sandford Mill to a G5RV Aerial at a CARS Meeting there.

RSGB Centenary Starts

The Society is celebrating its Centenary with a programme of events throughout the year including the G100RSGB Special Event Station starting on January 1st, an associated RSGB Centenary Award, Construction Competition and other events, including an Anniversary Day commemorative event on Friday 5th July
More details at <http://www.rsgb.org/centenary>

Murray G6JYB

For Sale

I received a call from a chap in Hockley to say he had some test and radio equipment, which he no longer required. Val & I picked it up and brought it back home, where it now sits in our garage. We were wondering whether you would send a message to all CARS members to see whether they are interested in any of the items. I cannot list them all, but here are a few:-

Cable – Oscillator - Vacuum Tube Voltmeter – Avometer - FM/AM Signal Generator – Plugs – Adapters, Etc.
The chap said that if we made any money he would like it to be donated to the Essex Air Ambulance.
Therefore if anyone is interested if they would give us a call on 01245 469008 and make arrangements to visit.

Martyn G1EFL

Two New Bands

Two new Bands (472-479kHz and 5MHz) are available from New Year's Day, to Full Licensees only, if you apply for the NoVs (which are instant self-service ones).

See <http://www.rsgb.org/operating/novapp/apply-for-novs-online.php>

And <http://licensing.ofcom.org.uk/radiocommunication-licences/amateur-radio/full-licence-jan-2013/>

RSGB 2013 Band Plans will be updated for these and other bands accordingly

Season's Greetings – Murray, G6JYB

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; Brian Styles, G3NSD; Roy, DJ0OW / G3VCH; Clive, G1EUC; Andy Russell, G0VRM; Bob King, G3ASE and Martyn, G1EFL.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Friday 25th January 2013.



Harry Heap, G5HF (3rd from the left, back) at Bletchley Park in April 2007.
Thanks to Gill for taking the picture and Bob King, G3ASE for supplying it.