



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB

President: Carl Thomson, G3PEM

Treasurer: Brian Thwaites G3CVI

Club Call Sign: G0MWT

Chairman: John Bowen G8DET

Vice Chairman Martyn Medcalf G1EFL



LOTTERY FUNDED

Newsletter No 571

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

October 2013

This Month's Meeting

TUESDAY, 1st OCTOBER. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, with 10pm finish.
OAKLAND'S MUSEUM, MOULSHAM STREET, CHELMSFORD, CM2 9AQ

Annual General Meeting – by CARS Members

This is probably the most important meeting of the year as it is your chance to elect the Committee who will oversee your Club for the next twelve months. We will have a review of the last 12 months in the form of a PowerPoint presentation. The posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman have to be filled this year. Current Proposals are:-

- Chairman: John Yates, G1ZUD – Proposer: Geoff Mills, G3EDM, Seconder: Brian Thwaites, G3CVI
- Vice Chairman: Mark Sanderson M0IEO – Proposer: John G8DET, Seconder: Tony Gilbey, G4YTG
- Members of the existing Committee are prepared to stand, but new volunteers are always welcome

This will be the first time we have used the new Museum Venue but we are back to the First Tuesday in the Month, which is what we have had for the past 50 years or so.

Carl Thomson, G3PEM and James Beatwell, 2E1GUA will staff CARS now famous Raffle. Please support it. An additional 'Grand Raffle Draw' will take place before the AGM and will be won by someone who has supported the Raffle during the year. The Raffle will have a Multimeter as just one of its 10 prizes. See you there !?

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 29 th September	CARS - Science and Discovery Day at Sandford Mill with the General Public. Opening hours 10am to 5pm. CARS will be operating CW (Morse) and AM.
Tues 8, 15, 22 and 29 th Oct	CARS - Evening Radio Nets @7.30pm (Local). See below and Web site.
Wed 9 th October	CARS – Committee Meeting @ 7.30pm in Danbury Village Hall – Note NEW DATE
Thursday, 17 th October	ERG AGM in Danbury Village Hall @ 7.30 for 8pm start. Everyone who uses GB3DA/ER/DB/ZP should attend and financially support ERG. Food & Raffle !
Thursday, 24 th October	CARS – Start of Advanced Training Course – Danbury Village Hall, 7pm.
Tuesday, 5 th November	CARS – Meeting – "Video Editing on the PC" by John G1Uzd.
Saturday, 7 th December	CARS – Christmas Lunch in the refurbished Lodge Country Inn near Battlesbridge.
Saturday, 14 th December	W&S – Christmas Open Day Sale

To be 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 Newsletters, etc.

Thanks to Geoff, G7KLV for sending the postal Newsletters – could it go by email to reduce our postal costs? Please inform Brian, G3CVI by email at g3cvi@g0mwt.org.uk of any changes to your callsign, postal or E-Mail address, etc. Only by **YOU** sending Brian your E-Mail address, can we ensure **WE** get it right!

Club Nets: Tuesdays **7.30pm** (1st) GB3DA, (2nd) GB3ER, (3rd) 1.947, (4th) 3.756MHz and (5th) 28.375 +/-QRM.
NOTE – GB3DA is working fine now it is using CTCSS (110.9Hz Tone) Access only – well done ERG.

Net Controller is Colin, G0TRM

Many thanks to Carl, G3PEM for September

Last Month's Meeting: "The World of Broadcast Radio" by Pete Sipple, M0PSX

Pete put together a very well prepared presentation giving a detailed behind-the-scenes look at today's Broadcast Radio industry. There was a very good attendance even though it was a very wet evening.



Presenter Peter looking at the slide of his CV - and the large audience who attended to enjoy the presentation

Pete has spent most of his life working in commercial radio - after being bitten by the radio bug in the 1980s he joined the Southend on Sea Hospital radio station, before volunteering with Essex Radio. This led to a full-time position and work for Essex FM, Breeze AM, Spectrum Radio, Ten17, Oasis FM and Vibe FM.

Nowadays, Pete lectures in broadcast radio for South Essex College, and presents an award-winning technology radio show. It was as a result of recording a radio interview with CARS Chairman John G8DET, and talking to the CARS team, that Pete signed up to the CARS Foundation Course in 2010, and is now helping to get new Radio Amateurs on-the-air as a trainer with both CARS and TARG.

Pete started his presentation with a look at the radio industry as it is today, then showing photos and videos that explained how studio equipment has made the transition from open-reel, cartridge and vinyl, to today's computer-based Playout systems. Pete then discussed some of the various technologies used in broadcast radio, including RDS (Radio Data Systems), as well as outside broadcasts and audience research.

Pete then touched on the controversial subject of the future of Radio. As many of you know, there are plans afoot to switch off traditional AM and FM broadcasts and move to Digital Radio – it is envisaged that radio listening will be done online, via TV and using DAB (Digital Audio Broadcasting). DAB in the UK has been fraught with problems, including poor signal coverage, issues with audio quality, (even BBC Radio 3 is said to be Compressed) with many channels simply Mono, the cost of radios, lack of true Portable and Car Radios and the incorporation of the newer DAB+ format. Pete also discussed the DRM system (Digital Radio Mondiale) which offers FM-quality transmission on HF, although it seems UK adoption would be some way off.

It is clear that there are some interesting times ahead for the future of broadcast radio in the UK.

To wrap up, Pete played a few clips demonstrating moments when things go wrong behind the microphone, including a Radio 4 presenter getting a fit of the giggles; the effect of a presenter hearing his own voice in his headphones delayed by one second. Before closing, Pete imparted a few industry secrets... but we've promised not to tell!

Pete's put some photos and video clips from his talk here: <http://www.essexham.co.uk/broadcast-radio>

Comments were voiced "Very good presentation - nice we have young Radio persons to give such a good presentation" - praise indeed.

CARS President, Carl G3PEM and James, 2E1GUA staffed the CARS now famous Raffle with 10 good prizes.

Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL and his Wife, Val were in attendance with a Merchandise table and were seen doing brisk trade.

The Bar also did well and CARS thanked the lady caretaker who looked after us and the hall. "Hope to see you all again sometime" was the final word from her.

Next CARS Meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday, 1st October in Oaklands Museum at 7.30pm.

Words by John, G8DET and Peter, M0PSX

Chairman's Jottings

After being Chairman for some 21 years I have to pass the baton on to someone else. I have thoroughly enjoyed being Chairman. I am sure I will miss being in the middle of the hub but health dictates I have to cut back on my current activities. Here is a list of who does what as at September 2013:-

President:- Carl Thomson, G3PEM.

Vice Presidents:- Geoff Mills, G3EDM and Tony Gilbey, G4YTG.

Executive Officers

Chairman, John Bowen, G8DET

Vice-Chairman and RadCom Enquiry published telephone number:- Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL

Treasurer:- Brian Thwaites, G3CVI, (also Meetings Venue Bookings and Membership Secretary)

Secretary:- Colin Page, G0TRM (also Essex Chronicle & Weekly News Liaison)

Running CARS – The Committee

Committee Minute Secretary:- Peter Bridgeman, G3SUY

Committee Mtgs Assistant (agenda distribution and refreshments) – Colin Page, G0TRM

Programme Secretary:- Mark Sanderson, M0IEO (Also RSGB Region 12 Representative)

Website: Main pages: John, G8DET.

Training Web: Murray Niman, G6JYB.

CARS IT Solver/admin: Murray Niman, G6JYB.

Newsletter: Editor:- John, G8DET

Newsletter Pre Production and PDF: Murray G6JYB.

Newsletter by E-Mail Manager – John G8DET.

Print/Post – now down to 25 copies - John G8DET

Postal distribution: Geoff G7KLV

Radio Sport: (Contests) Manager:- Vacant

Contest info for newsletter: Steve Cocks, G4ZUL

Certificates for CARS Events – Colin, G0TRM

Training: Co-ordinator:- Clive Ward, G1EUC

Foundation+Intermediate Leader – Chris G0IPU.

Advanced Course Leader – Murray, G6JYB.

Trainers: David M0HBV Peter M0PSX; Peter M0PSD.

Training Chief Invigilator – David Bradley, M0BQC.

Foundation HF Station – Brian, G3CVI.

Training ELMER – Clive Ward, G1EUC.

Training Support and Refreshments - David Davis,

G3SVI & Myra Davis, M0MYR.

Morse: CW Courses – Andy Kersey – G0IBN

Morse Coordinator – Gwyn Williams, G4FKH

QSLs: Manager:- Patrick Xavier, M0XAP at

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society,

CRAIGIELEA, Danbury, Chelmsford CM3 4DX.

Electronic QSL (eQSL) Manager - Peter M0PSX.

PR: Welcome team - David G3SVI Myra M0MYR

Club RSGB Rep:- Mark Sanderson, M0IEO.

Additional PR:- Trevor, M5AKA (Co-opted Member)

Sites: Sandford Mill Liaison: Geoff, G7KLV

Marconi Hut Wireless: Brian, G3CVI.

Mobile Comms Caravan Owner – Mark, M0IEO

BAE Liaison – Andy Tyler, G1GKN (Co-opted)

Danbury Hall bookings – Clive G1EUC

Meetings: Gavel – John G8DET

Digital Projector 1 – John G8DET

Digital Projector 2 – Murray G6JYB.

Radio Microphone Keeper – John G8DET

Small PA Amplifier Keeper – John G8DET

Reserve PA Amplifier Keeper – Colin, G0TRM

Attendee's registration – Brian Thwaites, G3CVI.

Raffle Managers - Carl G3PEM and James 2E1GUA

Unofficial Member's Rep at Committee Meetings –

Clive King, M0GHH.

Kit: CARS Rig(s) repairs – Andy Tyler, G1GKN

Rigs and PSUs and ATUs Storage – John G8DET

Club SDRs – Murray Niman, G6JYB

MFJ Aerial Testers – John G8DET.

Antennas: Comet Aerial Storage – John G8DET

Tri Band Aerial and Poles – Carl Thomson, G3PEM.

Aerial Expert - Tony Gilbey, G4YTG

Various: Two Computers – John G8DET

Historic Books of CARS – John G8DET

Propagation Expert – Gwyn Williams, G4FKH

ERG Representative:- Murray Niman, G6JYB

Tent Storage – John G8DET

Christmas Lunch: Martyn, G1EFL and Val, his Wife.

Merchandise Manager:- Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL

Awards: 2009 Award Trophies – John G8DET

RSGB Silver Award to G4VF/P for 1965 3.5MHz

Contest – John G8DET

Trophy Award Organiser – Carl Thomson, G3PEM

Licenses: G(X)0MWT Club License – Chris, G0IPU.

GB5SM SES License for Stock Mill – Patrick M0XAP

GB100MWT SES License – John G8DET

Nets: Controller Arranger – Colin, G0TRM.

Controllers during 2012 and 2013 – Colin, G0TRM;

Geoff, G3EDM; John, G8DET and Patrick, M0XAP.

If I have missed anyone/anything out – please tell me.

You can see from the above that a lot of Members are involved in running CARS – thank you all.

Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL has said that due to health reasons he wishes to stand down as Vice Chairman but is happy to continue in 2014 as CARS Liaison Officer dealing with RadCom queries etc. Martyn has been a very active member of CARS and collected quite a number of Amateur Radio Call-Signs – no doubt to the consternation of Ofcom. Thank you Martyn for all the time you have given freely to CARS – it is really appreciated. Martyn and Val will be organising the CARS Christmas Lunch this year.

President's Jottings

The talk last month by Peter was very interesting; the progress in studio technology since my offshore radio days is amazing. Thanks Peter for the talk.

It is very important that all members attend the AGM on the 1st of October. Our Chairman John, G8DET is retiring and therefore we need to give him a big vote of thanks for guiding CARS over the past 21 years. Once John has stood down then ALL members will have to vote in a new chairman. Martyn Medcalf, G1EFL is also retiring and a new Vice Chairman will therefore have to be elected. Again we owe Martyn a debt of gratitude for all the hours he has put into CARS – thank you Martyn. So please make every effort to attend.

Carl, G3PEM

CARS New Venue – Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford

As CARS President said in his August Jottings (you did read this, didn't you) that a number of CARS Members had said that they liked the new room at Great Baddow Parish Hall but the Friday night was very difficult.

Carl and Frances were out walking and happened to pass the Oakland's Museum when Carl had a brain wave – ask them if they will let us use a room. A number of the Committee met on Thursday, 22nd August and found that the room was equipped with 60 lightly padded chairs, a Digital Projector and a Hard-of-Hearing Loop, which worked with a little adjustment.

After a few formalities like agreeing a fee and a few ground rules – the deal was signed to start on

TUESDAY, 1st October at 7.30pm with the CARS AGM.

Times: Doors open at 7pm, the Meeting has to end by 10pm, and the Car Park cleared to enable the Gates to be locked at 10.15pm.

Tea: Oakland's will provide an urn of hot water with nice white cups, but CARS has to provide Tea – Coffee - Chocolate - Sugar to make drinks on a DIY Basis. Carl, G3PEM has already obtained all of these. Oakland's will collect up the cups on Wednesday and put them all through their dishwasher.

Parking: There are 3 Disabled Spaces and 17 car spaces by the Tennis Courts and many more off the entrance road as you drive towards the Museum – plenty of good lighting at night. Go VERY SLOWLY over the Sleeping Policemen. Any Visitors who are Lecturing can park in front of the Museum or if you have items to unload. It is NOT suggested that parking here is a normal place for Members.

Science and Discovery Day at Sandford Mill – Sunday 29th September

CARS have been invited to put on a "Live Radio" event so that the many members of the public can be reminded that there is an alternative to mobile phones and Facebook!

Sandford Mill is OPEN to the Public from 10am to 5pm. It is FREE to Park and FREE to attend the many events laid on that day. The Barn will be open to the public and filled with things for busy fingers and minds to contemplate, from 5 to 95 years. All the Family will find something to amuse themselves.

Light refreshments will be available from the Tea Room and if nice weather (which it nearly always is) then sit outside and enjoy the tranquil surrounding while you drink your Tea.

Morse Demonstration Sub Group

This will be coordinated by Colin, G0TRM and will be on the Mezzanine Floor together with his static display of Morse Keys. If you would like to assist with helping the children use to 100 year old Morse equipment please contact Colin on E-Mail thepages@ukgateway.net

CW (Morse) Operating Sub Group

Gwyn, G4FKH will coordinate the Morse presentation from Dr Bowles's outer office on the first floor.

If you would like to either operate or simply get involved, please contact Gwyn on email g4fkh@sky.com

The Marconi Hut Sub Group

Chairman John G8DET attended a Danbury Society Meeting where Peter Turrall, MBE gave a presentation on Marconi. During this he projected a slide of a Marconi 1154 TX and commented that out of the 80,000 made very few have survived. Knowing that Peter Bridgeman, G3SUY has a working Marconi 1154/1155 combination it has arranged to have that "WWII Wireless, On the Air" in the Marconi Hut for Science and Discovery Day.

Brian, G3CVI will coordinate this – CARS need Operators and Loggers. If you would like to operate, log or simply host or assist in any way, please contact Brian, E-Mail bhthwaites@tiscali.co.uk

For schedules – look at 3.615MHz +/- QRM on AM. If 80m dies for any reason look on 5.317MHz AM. If required, please request a QSL Carl via the Bureau – we do NOT QSL 100% any longer.

The Science and Discovery Day is traditionally a very busy day – please book it in your Diary.

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

5 Oct – 1.2GHz to 2.3GHz Trophy – 14:00 to 22:00 hrs

6 Oct – RSGB 21/28MHz – 07:00 to 19:00 hrs

9 Oct – 80 Metre Club Sprint – CW – 19:00 to 20:00 hrs

20 Oct – Second 50MHz – 09:00 to 13:00hrs

26/27 Oct – CQWWDX – SSB – 48 hrs

5/6 Oct – 432MHz to 248GHz IARU – 24 hrs

5/6 Oct - Oceana DX – SSB – 24 hrs

12/13 Oct – Oceana DX – CW – 24 hrs

24 Oct–80 Metre Club Sprint–SSB–1900-2000 hrs

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

Asia *Dhahran* - around 14:00 on 28MHz for 96 percent of days, with fair signals

Oceania *W. Samoa* - around 12:00 on 18.1MHz for 81 percent of days, with poor signals

Africa *Johannesburg* - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for around 89 percent of days, with fair signals

S. America *Caracas* - around 22:00 on 10.1MHz for 68 percent of days, with poor signals

N. America *Washington* - around 06:00 on 7.01MHz for 72 percent of days, with poor signals

Gwyn, G4FKH

Noise Floor Study – 2nd time mentioned

It was announced on 25th August 2013, that the RSGB's legacy committee had agreed a submission for funds to advance the above study. The new funds will allow an extension to the original campaign, which is to be titled "Noise Floor Study", and will include university involvement. To read the RSGB announcement look at URL <http://rsqb.org/main/technical/propagation/noise-floor-study/>

This carries a link to my Web site for further information on my Campaign.

To further the Campaign part of this initiative requires more input devices scattered around the UK. The suggested receiver is the Sentinel SDR Rx. and an active aerial, both sold by Cross Country Wireless. Ideally there should be at least one receiver in a quiet/Rural location, so that comparisons can be made with more noisy locations, and as a basis for final analysis. The Sentinel is £169 and the Active Aerial also costs around £169.00 + P+P. The controlling software runs on Windows XP or Windows 2000, so older PCs/Laptops can be utilized. See http://www.crosscountrywireless.net/noise_measurement_program.htm

Gwyn Williams – G4FKH

Editor's Note – CARS will purchase a SDR Receiver while Tony, G4YTG will make a suitable Aerial.

Andy Tyler, G1GKN has said he would like to be CARS Noise Listener – thanks Andy.

RSGB Band Plan changes

The RSGB band plans were updated on August 1st. At HF, the main change is to provide some guidance on typical UK usage within the 5MHz band and will be kept under review. At VHF/UHF, a number of changes arising from recent IARU Region 1 meetings have been incorporated. These are mainly concerned with the realignment of Echolink and D-Star gateways in the 50MHz and 144MHz bands (such as MB7IDA and MB6CE. Users of WSPR at 144.4905MHz are now requested to re-tune to 144.492MHz to reduce interference to propagation beacons. Full details are on the RSGB website at <http://rsqb.org/main/operating/band-plans/>

CARS Training Courses

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

The 28th Foundation Training Course started on Thursday, 5th of September 2013 at the Danbury Village Hall near Chelmsford. The Course runs for six consecutive Thursday evenings between 7 and 9pm. The exam date is 10th October 2013, and this will be the first time that CARS will use the new 26-question exam paper (was 25) and newly introduced Optical Marking Sheet.

Clive is also accepting names for the October Advance Course and the January-2014 Foundation course.

Contact the **Training Organiser Clive G1EUC** on Tel: 01245-224577. Mob: 07860-418835

Email: training2013@g0mwt.org.uk See also our Training page: - <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/>

Morse Training – The Bell & Bistro, 128 Main Road, Danbury, CM3 4DT.

Morse classes will commence on Wednesday, September 4th, at The Bell public house Danbury, starting at 7pm. Thereafter it will be on a Thursday evening during that month.

Details can be found on the Chelmsford ARS web page or contact Andrew, G0IBN, at g0ibn@kersey1.freeseve.co.uk or telephone 01621 868347.

Due to popular demand there are now two classes: Andrew, G0IBN, tutors the complete beginner up to the RSGB 5 wpm test and on the correct use of the straight and twin- paddle key. Colin, M1OCN, helps those that wish to improve their CW speed; to boost confidence on the use of the Morse Key and to carry out CW QSOs with confidence on the bands. If you have an interest in CW come and join us on the first evening and see if we can help you in any way.

Don't forget – The first Wednesday of each month, the other weeks will be on a Thursday.

Andy Kersey, G0IBN

Essex Repeater Group AGM

The Essex Repeater Group Annual General Meeting will be on Thursday 17th October at the usual Danbury Village Hall venue - 7:30 for 8pm. This will be an excellent opportunity to hear the latest status and plans.

As per recent years, the event will also feature a Members' raffle, FREE Refreshments, and items for sale. It is of course an excellent opportunity for renewing subscriptions and donations.

More details will appear on the ERG website <http://www.essexrepeatergroup.org.uk/>

Murray, G6JYB

Thames Amateur Radio Group (TARG)

At 19.30hrs Friday 4th October, we have "Heil Microphones", by Pete Waters G3OJV from W&S.

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

Meetings are at: Jubilee Hall, Waterside Farm Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9RA. There is large free car park. The hall is immediately behind and hidden by the main Sports Centre.

Norman Crampton, M0FZW T: 07899 803714; E: m0fzw@btinternet.com

CARS Famous Raffle – Please support the Raffle as it pays part of the venue hire charges.

Grand Raffle Draw. Carl, G3PEM has been logging the names of all Members who have supported the Raffle during the year. Their names will go into the Raffle Basket and the winning ticket for the **Grand Raffle** will receive a RSGB Book on Aerials.

Meeting Raffle Draw. As this is the AGM the Raffle prizes will be a bit special – First Prize is an Electronic Multi-meter and Case.

And Finally:- John, G8DET edited this edition; Distributed most by email; Geoff G7KLV posted the remainder. Material by Trevor M5AKA; Steve G4ZUL; Gwyn G4FKH; Carl G3PEM; Murray G6JYB; Mark, M0IEO, Clive, G1EUC, Peter Sipple, M0PSX, Andy, G0IBN, John Yates, G1UZD and Colin, G0TRM.

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