



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 570

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

September 2013

This Month's Meeting

**FRIDAY, 13th September. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm Start.
Great Baddow Parish Hall, 19 Maldon Road, CM2 7DW.**

"The World of Broadcast Radio" by Pete Sipple, M0PSX"

Peter has spent most of his working life in Broadcast Radio, both in front of the microphone and behind the scenes. We are all used to listening to the silky smooth presentation of the morning breakfast show, but is it all that tranquil in the studio?

Peter started out in broadcasting at the tender age of 15, working with Thameside Radio. He has also worked for Essex Radio, Breeze, Spectrum Radio, Ten17, Vibe FM and several other stations. Peter also teaches a Broadcast Radio training course in Southend, and is the presenter of an award-winning online radio show. It was as a result of recording a radio interview with CARS Chairman John G8DET, and talking to the CARS team, that Peter signed up to the CARS Foundation Course and is now helping to get new Radio Amateurs on-the-air.

G3PEM and James, 2E1GUA will staff CARS now famous Raffle, please support. See you there?

Dates for your Diary

Tues 3, 10, 17 and 24 th Sept	CARS Evening Radio Nets @7.30pm (Local). See below and Web site.
Wednesday 4 th September	CARS – Morse Classes start in The Bell & Bistro, Danbury
Thursday 5 th September	CARS – Training – Start of the 28 th Foundation Course at Danbury Village Hall.
Wed 18 th September	CARS – Committee Meeting @ 7.30pm in Danbury Village Hall – Not in The Bell!.
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 SSB.
Tuesday, 1 st October	CARS – AGM in Oakland's Museum, Moulsham Street, Chelmsford @ 7.30pm

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 CTSS Access only – well done ERG.

Net Controller is Carl, G3PEM

Many thanks to John G8DET and Geoff, G3EDM for August.

Last Month's Meeting:-

“Constructor's Competition by Carl Thomson, G3PEM and CARS Members

The meeting was Chaired by Carl, G3PEM our President and started at 7.30 pm. There were 24 attendees. Note, many CARS Members were operating G100RSGB with TARG at Hanningfield Reservoir.

A discussion about the best day of the week for the meeting proved to be of interest; weekdays were favoured but Friday was considered a bit awkward by some.

The Tuesday evening fixture for Club Nets was discussed, 7.30 pm being too early for some. Last Tuesday's 2m Net was bolstered by 2 BRATS (Bredhurst) members; we totalled six. One of our regular members was unable on this occasion to 'get into' the repeater. Also, an 80m net instead of the 10m net we currently have might allow more regular participation from more distant members. By implication the 10m net would move to the 5th Tuesday. We were reminded that Roy Martyr G3PMX (and now SK) had started the 10m net on a 'use it or lose it' basis. The Bar was open. Raffle tickets were sold, and the tickets drawn.

The Constructors' Competition drew no less than 9 entries from the 24 attendees!

The entries were laid out on tables at the front of the meeting. Each contestant in turn talked around the subject of his entry. They were:-

- 1) A Morse Key fashioned from a window catch – Colin G0TRM
- 2) A Multi Switched Attenuator – Peter
- 3) A Portable multiband HF Mast with ground-plane – Andy G1GKN,
- 4) A 2m/70cm “Ground Plane” for a hand-held – Tony G4YTG
- 5) A Base-loading Coil system for a 10-metre mast – Patrick M0XAP
- 6) A Frequency Counter made from a kit – Melvin M6BSX
- 7) A Top-Band Coil-loaded vertical mounted on a wind-sock pole – Peter G3SUY
- 8) A 'Go-Pack' for Portable operation, presented for a Member now in Canada, using photographs (permitted as per Club rules) – Simon Wilton, G7HCD
- 9) A Robust 4:1 Balun – Carl, G3PEM.

Time was then allowed for inspection of the entries. Votes were cast. The results were as follows:-

- **First Prize:** This receives the Anthony Martin Shield. Anthony was always a contributor to this contest, and participated in most if not all club activities. On this occasion it was again awarded to Andy G1GKN for his genuinely portable multiband HF mast with ground-plane. When packed it resembled a walking stick with a small box on the end. Well done Andy!
- **Second Prize:** to Patrick M0XAP, for the Base-loading coil system;
- **Third Prize:** Colin G0TRM for his window-catch Morse Key.
- **Best Newcomer:** Melvin M6BSX with his neatly assembled Frequency Counter Kit.



Left to right: Andy with his winning Aerial "down", and Colin, G0TRM and Melvin, M6BSX receiving their awards from CARS President G3PEM.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Report by Patrick M0XAP

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. Now that all Councils throughout the Country are feeling the financial pinch this year the suggestion had been made "Can we let any Council Rooms in the evening?"

Carl had already tried the Record Office where they have a nice room but wanted over £300 for the evening.

He went in to the Museum and much to his delight was offered the room we had operated in previously - and on the First Tuesday in the Month – as we had for the previous 50 years or so – Bingo!

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.

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.

Oakland's will provide an urn of hot water, nice white cups but CARS has to provide Tea – Coffee - Chocolate - Sugar to make drinks on a DIY Basis. 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.

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.

Thank you Carl and Frances – you have come up trumps.

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 and is FREE to Park and FREE to go attend the many events laid on that day. The Barn is usually 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.

The 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

The CW (Morse) 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

E-Mail g4fkh@sky.com

The SSB Sub Group

Brian, G3CVI will coordinate the HF SSB presentation from the Marconi Hut. Again, if you would like to operate, log or simply host or assist in any way, please contact Brian, E-Mail bhthwaites@tiscali.co.uk

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

3 September 144MHz UKAC	7 September 144MHz Trophy Contest
10 September 434MHz UKAC	15 September Second 70MHz Contest
7 -8 September – RSGB SSB Field Day	11 September – RSGB 80m Club Sprint
17 September 1.3GHz UKAC	24 September 50MHz UKAC
26 September – RSGB 80m Club Sprint CW	28-29 September – CQWW DX RTTY
28-29 September ARRL EME Contest, 2.3GHz and Up.	

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

Asia	Dhahran - around 16:00 on 21MHz for 88 percent of days, with fair signals.
Oceania	Sydney around 20.00 on 7.1MHz for 58 percent of days, with poor signals.
Africa	Johannesburg - around 20:00 on 10.1MHz for around 96 percent of days, with fair signals.
S. America	Rio de Janeiro - around 22:00 on 10.1MHz for 75 percent of days, with poor signals.
N. America	Washington - around 06:00 on 7.01MHz for 73 percent of days, with poor signals.

Gwyn, G4FKH

Propagation Notes - Solar Cycle 24 – Update

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/news/The-Weakest-Solar-Cycle-in-100-Years-216752671.html>

The above link prompted the Editor to ask Gwyn, G4FKH and Peter, M0ZBU for their comments on the complex subject of Propagation – here are their comments.

Gwyn's Comments: -

For many of us the present solar cycle is a disappointment, i.e. it has not provided the expected "working the world on a piece of string" situation. According to the Australian IPS site it began around January 2009 and peaked in February 2012. We are now on the slippery downward slope, which is predicted to come to an end around December 2019.

Those of you taking note will see that the downward side is longer than the upward side; this is normal for solar cycles. It should be noted that this information is taken from "Smoothed Sunspot Numbers" and not daily or monthly figures. Previously there were several sources of this information but the NOAA sites have not updated their data for some time. When looking for sunspot numbers to plug into propagation predictions programs, care should be taken to get updated figures and not older figures. The older figures will invariably be incorrect.

I started computer logging in February 2010 and have since recorded working 153 different countries, all CW of course. This suggests that not all is lost and there are still some interesting DX to work.

Gwyn Williams – G4FKH

Peter's Comments: -

Unless there is a sudden increase in solar activity over the next few months, then yes this Solar Cycle will be the lowest for about 100 years.

Activity was quite high in May but this was not maintained in June and July and so I'm not expecting any significant increase to occur. Recent activity suggests to me that we may have passed Solar Maximum and are starting the downward trend to Solar Minimum.

The article indicates, if the reduction in the magnetic field of Sunspots is correct, that the next Cycle will be even smaller than this one. This could mean that we will enter another long period of low Solar activity like to Maunder Minimum which lasted 50 years and that I will need to find another astronomy observing project! Professional predicts for this Solar Cycle haven't been that accurate and so I think we will just have to wait and observe.

Peter M0ZBU

Thank you both for your comments - Ed

Noise Floor Study

It was announced on 25th August 2013, that the RSGB's legacy committee has agreed a submission for funds to advance the above study. You will remember a couple of months ago I updated you on my PSC HF Noise Measuring Campaign and my articles in RadCom. 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 U.K. The suggested Rx. is the Sentinel SDR Rx. and an active aerial, both sold by Cross Country Wireless. Ideally there should be at least one Rx. in a quiet/Rural location, so that comparisons can be made with more noisy locations, and as a basis for final analysis. One of the reasons why more Rx's are not in the field right now I guess is, the price; both the Rx. and the aerial cost around £169.00 each plus P+P. The controlling software runs on Windows XP or Windows 2000, so older PCs/Laptops can be utilized. Perhaps groups such as affiliated societies could consider purchasing the units, to install and maintain them as a group project.

As part of the legacy funding, a web site will be established to at least display the Sentinel reported noise levels on 5 different QRG's, each site will report their readings every 10 minutes. The display will be in the form of a U.K. map with the Rx. sites marked at the correct location with the readings. There may be other outputs, which are in the discussion process.

All that is needed is more data gathering Rx's in all sorts of noise environments, to advance Radio Amateur's in the general publics and scientific communities, ethos. Participation will also provide those participants with another fulfilment of the licence, and that is the gaining of knowledge through the study of the radio environment.

Gwyn Williams – G4FKH

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

If YOU would like to be considered for this Project – please contact a Committee Member and tell them you would like to get involved.

President's Jottings

I always approach our constructors evening with some trepidation as the content of the evening is a big unknown, so I would like to thank all of those members who brought a construction project to be judged. Congratulations to all those who entered and especially to Andy G1GKN who won the competition for the third year in a row.

From the Survey responses I received and verbal comments during discussions a very high percentage of the members thought that the Friday night was not a good night to hold a Meeting. The Committee has been actively looking for a hall that could accommodate CARS on a different night, and have finally had success in finding that the Chelmsford Museum in Oakland's Park has a suitable room available on the first Tuesday in the month, starting in October. This is our AGM meeting and I request everyone to attend the AGM to show support to the Committee and that you approve of our new venue, also before the AGM can you please give some consideration to the type of subjects you would like a talk on so the Committee can plan next year's programme. Do not forget our September's Meeting when Peter is giving a talk on Broadcast Radio and please support the Raffle and Bar.

Carl, G3PEM.

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 starts 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.freemove.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

TARG Bank Holiday Foundation Course

CARS understand TARG ran a Foundation Course during the Bank Holiday (Yes it rained as well) and all seven Candidates were successful – Congratulations.

Amateur Radio – Mobile – by Bicycle on Island of Guernsey

Vice Chairman Martyn, G1EFL and his Wife, Val stayed on Guernsey recently and met up with CARS Hon Member, Jacobus Scheffer and referred to as Koos with his Call-Sign GU0GUX.

Martyn reports that Koos goes PORTABLE on his Electric Bicycle.

He has a KX3 Radio from Elecraft - 10 watts. He has a vertical magnetic mounted Aerial by INTRUDER II for 11 bands. A small battery is clamped on the rear of the bicycle.

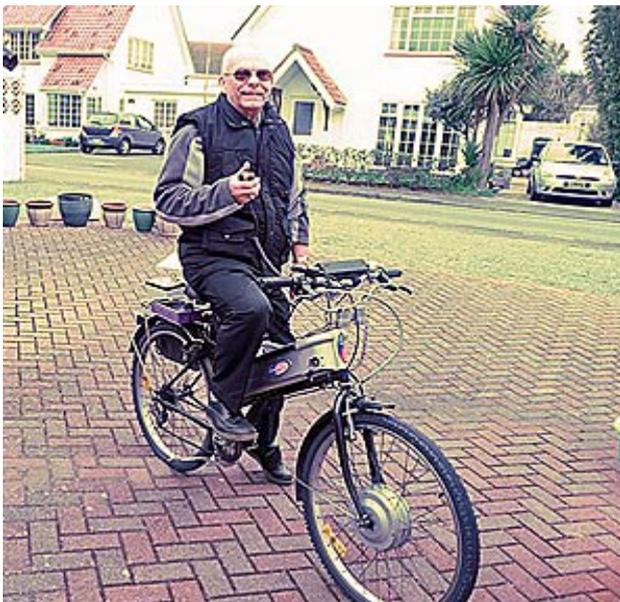
He took the combination out to the West coast of Guernsey, and about 50 yards from the sea. The conditions were not too bad. Koos reports Stations worked :-

- *Cyprus station and he gave me 5/5 (5B4AHJ at 15.14)*
- *Dutch station he gave me a (4/9.PA3GFY 14.08)*
- *While testing the rig I worked an Italian IW2HAJ a few months ago from outside my house at Cobo Bay*

Martyn G1EFL

Editors Note – Have YOU worked anything like this recently?

If so – please tell us and we can report it. Thanks



Koos on his Bicycle and another photo so you can see the battery box and Aerial.
Photos by Martyn, G1EFL.

Thames Amateur Radio Group (TARG)

At 19.30hrs Friday 6th September, we have Mark, M0IEO talking about the RSGB.

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

FOR SALE

- Transceiver TS 520 HF in Good Working Order complete with Mains 230 Volt AC operation - £50.

Denis Lewis, M0FHA, 01245 440788 or joyanddenislewis@yahoo.co.uk

Feedback from PW Editor Rob Mannion

On 30 Jul 2013, at 21:09, John - g0mwt <cars.g0mwt@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello Rob,

Sorry I could not see you on Sunday at W&S.

On behalf of CARS may I thank you for all the sterling work you have put in for the Radio Amateur. We often remember when you came to CARS some years ago – thank you.

From: Rob Mannion

Sent: 01 August 2013 10:49

To: John - g0mwt

Subject: Re: CARS - August Newsletter (4)

I'm sorry I missed you too John – but there were many other people who missed the event too. I was surprised at how few visitors there were compared to the last time I visited (about 15 years ago). However, I enjoyed talking to readers and one kind chap came all the way from Towcester in Northamptonshire to chat to me. I felt honoured!

Best wishes and thank you for your kind words –

I've thoroughly enjoyed serving PW readers – they are a great bunch!

Best wishes

Rob

CARS Amateur of the Year Award

Unfortunately no Member was put forward to be The Amateur of the Year, so the Shield will NOT be awarded this year.

In 2014, PLEASE Nominate a CARS Member whom in the opinion of CARS Members has, in the past year promoted and contributed significantly to CARS and Amateur Radio in general together with a short citation, by the end of the August Meeting to Carl G3PEM.

Those persons **Nominated** will be published in the September Newsletter and Voted for during the September Meeting. The Winner will be announced, the Shield and Certificate given at the AGM in October 2014.

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

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, Peter Meadows, M0ZBU and Colin, G0TRM.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Friday 20th September.

Note early due to change of the CARS October Meeting date of 1st October at Oakland's Museum.