



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society

Established 1936

Affiliated to the RSGB Club Call Sign-G0MWT
President-Carl Thomson, G3PEM Chairman-John Yates, G1UZD
Treasurer-Brian Thwaites G3CVI Acting Vice Chairman-Geoff Mills, G3EDM



Newsletter No 577

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

April 2014

This Month's Meeting

**TUESDAY, 1st April. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, with 10pm finish.
OAKLANDS MUSEUM, MOULSHAM STREET, CHELMSFORD, CM2 9AQ**

Marine Radio

Presented by Carl Thomson, G3PEM

A short talk on the radio equipment fitted to merchant vessels.

Illustrated by photographs of the 1950/1960's equipment displayed at the Sanford Mill museum.

Carl Thomson, G3PEM and James Beatwell, 2E1GUA will run the Raffle.

Dates for your Diary

Tues 8 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th .	CARS - Evening Radio Nets @7.30pm (Local). See Website for details.
Every Sunday	CARS - Backnang (Germany) Net at 2100 (UTC) on 3.750MHz +/-QRM. Peter DK7SP chairs it - please join in as he's feeling lonely!
Every Monday	Essex Ham 2m Net @ 2000h GB3DA
Sunday 6 th April	Cambridge Repeater Group Rally 10am Foxton Village Hall, Hardman Road, Foxton, Cambridge, Cambs, CB22 6RN £2 entry
Mon 21 st April	CARS Skills Workshop, Danbury Village Hall
Saturday 26 th April	IMD at Sandford Mill
Tuesday 6 th May	Meeting - "The Empress of Ireland." By John Bowen, G8DET

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.

Please inform Brian, G3CVI by email at g3cvi@g0mwt.org.uk of any changes to your callsign, postal or email address, etc. Only by **YOU** sending Brian your email address, can we ensure **WE** get it right!

Nets Tuesdays **19.30h** (2nd) GB3DA, (3rd) GB3ER, (4th) 1.947MHz, (5th) 3.750MHz
Sundays @ 21.00 Backnang net on 3.750MHz
Also there is the Essex Ham net every Monday @ 2000h on GB3DA

Net Controller for April is Colin, G0TRM. Thanks to Carl, G3PEM for March

A Net controller is needed for August!

Aerial Wire but Antenna Pole?

So Signor Marconi called it L'antenna in 1895 – it being a 2.5 metre vertical pole with aerial wire attached to the top running down to the transmitter. A tent pole was known as L'antenna centrale and the pole with wire simply L'antenna. My proposed multi-band nested Marconi antenna will be connected to my transceiver's ANT socket. Salute!

Ant Froom, M0ORF

P.S. My boat has a Marconi rig - oh, Bermudan if you must!

ALL factual content presented is "as received" from the contributors of the articles; the editor accepts no responsibility for its accuracy, errors or omissions.

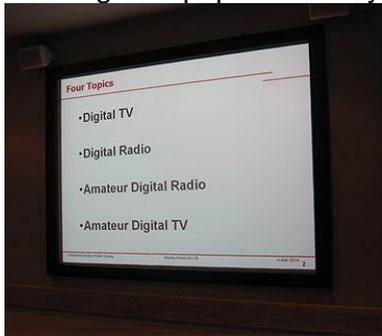
Last Month's Meeting - Tuesday, 4th February 2014.

Digital TV, Radio & Amateurs. What is next?

Presented by Murray Niman, G6JYB

In his latest update (don't forget Murray produced his first presentation on Digital TV and Radio in 2002!) on new developments Murray G6JYB explained the new technologies and the next digital technologies that are arriving in our lounges and shacks.

Murray was pleased to see such a large audience. There were the standard 60 chairs plus 24 additional with standing at the back - showing how popular Murray's presentations are.



The preparation for the next Digital Switchovers is quietly underway (for both Freeview and DAB) as frequency space is needed for more changes such as 5G-Mobile.

Topics Murray presented Photo by John G8DET

Murray stated that you should only purchase a TV with Freeview HD or it will not work after 2018 without a tuner box of some kind.



Murray then went on to enlighten the audience about what "they" have decided or not - depending on the detail -

regarding FM and DAB radio. Fortunately for FM Hi-Fi lovers, the Government have delayed the projected "Switch-off of FM radio" until after 2015. In parallel, leading Radio Amateurs are also adopting new technologies for Digital Voice, Data and TV, some of which have real potential to be 'killer-apps' and show the hobby in a modern light (such as digital colour TV in 2m/70cms). Remember, you heard it first at CARS that 'no-Freeview-HD tuner = no future'.



At 8.45 there was a refreshment and social break.



CARS Chairman, John holding the Raffle basket for Murray to draw the winning ticket.

During question time someone asked what Ofcom were proposing to do about the 35 million cars on the road - most without DAB receivers.

Murray said that all new cars were provided with a DAB set and they had got a lot better - shouts from the audience "I have just purchased a £30,000 Audi A6 car and it does not have one!"

Murray said that he drives often from Bristol to Chelmsford and the DAB coverage is now better than the FM coverage.

Thank you Murray for delivering yet another tremendous presentation.

The End of Windows XP

As mentioned at the recent CARS meeting, Windows XP is about to be 'end-of-support', having been around for 12 years.

Normally Microsoft updates are released on the second Tuesday of each month. Tuesday April-8 will be the last one for XP. After April 8, 2014, technical assistance for Windows-XP will no longer be available, including automatic updates that help protect your PC. Microsoft will also stop providing Microsoft Security Essentials for download on Windows XP on this date, although MSE updates to existing users will continue for a while. Worse still it is likely that security vulnerabilities will still be found in XP and deliberately advertised (which will inevitably help malware creators) in order to encourage you to upgrade to a more modern system. So the advice to XP users is make sure you update now and on April-8 before it is too late. Furthermore, consider your backup plan, as once we pass this date, Microsoft will start withdrawing

previous updates and binaries which will prevent a machine being fully rebuilt after a major incident. Google have already dropped support for IE8 on XP, so it may be a good idea for XP users to switch their default browser to Firefox or Chrome after this date.

PS Many companies have also dropped support for MS-Vista as well.

Murray G6JYB

CARS Skills Night Update

The third CARS Skills Nights took place on Monday the 17th of March 2014, with almost 40 people meeting up to try something new, get help with any technical questions, and have a chat.



As with previous Skills Nights, there was quite a mix of activities: Soldering and construction has previously been a requested item, so members of the CARS training team David M0HBV and Chris G0IPU manned a demonstration stations allowing people to have a go at soldering for the first time, as well as get an introduction to surface-mount construction.

Carl G3PEM was on hand to offer antenna advice on how to set up antennas for the home environment, something that's very important for new entrants to the hobby, and the Echolink station operated by Jim 2E0RMI was a popular attraction once again. CARS member Bruce M0XBS, took the concept of a Skills Workshop literally, by bringing along tools to repair a damaged radial on the club's 2m training vertical, and Clive G1EUC's short quiz sparked some debate, and a few laughs too. Members of the Essex CW Club were in attendance, with the sound of Morse drifting quietly across the hall for much of the night adding to the atmosphere. Many attendees took the opportunity to bring along various items of show-and-tell, including Peter G0DZB's Elecraft KX3, several VHF and HF antennas (with 4 Slim Jim antennas in use) as well as microphones, books and CW kit.

Thanks to everyone who helped out with the evening's activities, especially to David G3SVI, Myra M0MYR and Ann (Mrs 2E0RMI) for the excellent catering. Great to see so many people get together to chat and share, in the best spirit of the amateur radio hobby.

The CARS Skills Workshops are monthly events designed to help amateurs of all licence levels to meet up, share knowledge, help each other and try something new. Events are free, and open to all. The next event takes place at 7pm on Monday the 21st of April 2014, at the Village Hall in Danbury.

If you're planning to attend a future event and have any suggestions for upcoming topics, please contact the event's organiser **Pete, M0PSX** via the Skills website at www.hamskills.co.uk

A collection of pictures from the March 2014 event can be found at <http://www.essexham.co.uk/news/cars-skills-workshop-march-2014-summary.html>

International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill

Sandford Mill, Chelmsford's former waterworks, is primarily a museum collections store and science education resource, however, it is open to the public for special events during the year.



Sandford Mill has featured in TV programmes such as Great British Railway Journeys and The Wave Messengers. The building houses an extensive radio collection, with some equipment dating back to the 1890's. There is a series of five ship's radio room displays representing different decades including some very rare Marconi equipment from ships contemporary with the Titanic.

The first public open day of 2014 will be held on Saturday, 26 April from 10am to 5pm to celebrate the birthday of **Guglielmo Marconi** who was born 25 April, 1874.

The Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) will be operating demonstration stations using the call sign GX0MWT. The HF SSB demonstration station will be located in the historic Marconi 2MT Writtle hut which is now housed inside the museum while the CW team will operate another station from the first floor office.

Colin Page, G0TRM and his team will be demonstrating the impressive Mechanical Morse and Morse Key display with the opportunity for youngsters to try their hand at sending Morse. The Morse punched paper tape sending and decoding process always proves to be a big hit with potential junior CW operators.

Sandford Mill is run with the help of the Friends of Chelmsford Museums and other ex-industry volunteers. It relies on the support of several voluntary bodies including Chelmsford amateur radio society, the Radio officers association, the Marconi veterans association and the Susan trust. Susan is the last wooden Chelmer Barge and is undergoing restoration (financed by funds devotedly raised by the Susan trust), before returning to her moorings at Sandford Mill.

The Museum is located in Sandford Mill Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 6NY, admittance and parking are free.

Web <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/sandfordmill/>

Presidential Jottings

Our last meeting had an excellent talk by Murray on the future of digital broadcast and was extremely well attended. The changes that are proposed to broadcast standards within the next 6 years means that I certainly will not be changing any electronic equipment in the near future. Thanks for a great talk Murray.

The skills evening last month was again a success and was well attended. These evenings enable the newly licenced amateurs to ask their individual questions in a relaxed environment. Thanks to all those who arranged the evening.

This nice weather we are having at the moment has allowed me to carry out some repairs to my aerial system after the wet winter. The HF bands have been fairly lively with some great DX out there to be worked.

Carl, G3PEM

For Sale

SGC 230 Auto Smartuner

150watt auto antenna tuner
Complete with "Homebrew" remote control box/cable, power supply and instruction manual
£150.00

Yaesu YO-901 Monitor scope

Complete with instruction manual £75.00

Video Switch – VS-28A

8 camera inputs 2 Monitor outputs
Instruction manual £25.00

Manson Power Supply

0-15v 25a @ 13.8v £40.00

MuTek SLNA 144s Pre-Amp

2 metre preamp £20.00

If you are interested in any of the items please reply by Email or call on numbers below.

Geoff Stokes - G0BYH

Tel Home: [+44 \(0\)1787 472 509](tel:+4401787472509)

Tel Mob: [+44 \(0\)7817 020 970](tel:+4407817020970)

Silent key Sale

- * Kenwood TS2000 HF Radio
- * Icom ICR 7000 receiver
- * Icom IC2820 dual band mobile transceiver (not known if the D-Star board is fitted)
- * Yaesu FT101ZD
- * Yaesu Muzen FRG-7
- * Yaesu FT2000 HF and 50 MHz transceiver
- * Yaesu FP-2000 power supply
- * Yaesu FT897
- * MFJ-974 HB BLT tuner
- * LDG IT100 auto tuner
- * LDG 4-1 Balun
- * C-Met twin cross swr power meter
- * TAU antenna rotator control unit
- * Trio 9R-59DS short wave receiver
- * Amperor APP300C DC power supply
- * Icom IC-7000
- * KR400 RC controller
- * Diamond Triplexer MX-2000
- * MFJ antenna switch 1700C
- * Watson 3 magnet magmount
- * MFJ 1798 vertical

In addition to this list there are a large number of other ham items, including a Tennamast with a rotator, V2000 vertical and what appears to be a UHF beam, various connectors, coax leads etc., which the family will dispose of if not taken. They would prefer to see that the items are made use of if at all possible.

If any members wish to purchase any of these items, or to arrange to visit the home to see if they wish to take any of the other items, please contact the family directly:

Mr Chris Bryant

020 8366 6211

07504 967 726

chris@palanquin.plus.com

And Finally:-

Remember, any articles you feel may be of interest to members are welcome as are details of items for sale or wanted. Send to cars.editor1@gmail.com.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Wednesday 23rd April.