



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 580

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

July 2014

This Month's Meeting

TUESDAY, 1st July. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, with 10pm finish.
OAKLANDS MUSEUM, MOULSHAM STREET, CHELMSFORD, CM2 9AQ
Launching and Tracking Radio Equipped. Balloons.
Chris Stubbs, M6EDF

On Tuesday, 1 July, Chris Stubbs M6EDF will be giving a presentation on the launching and tracking of 434 MHz equipped balloons. Weather permitting it is hoped to be able to do a balloon launch from the Oaklands museum grounds.

Some balloon flights aim to achieve very high altitudes, others aim to stay aloft for as long as possible. Leo Bodnar, M0XER recently achieved a record breaking flight from Silverstone to Japan using a party balloon with a tiny solar powered payload.

The talk will explain how you can participate in this increasing popular activity.

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

Dates for your Diary

Tues 13 th , 20 th , 27 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
Monday 21 st July	CARS Skills Night, Danbury Village Hall 1930h
Sunday, 3rd August	Operating HF from Sandford Mill to commemorate the UK entering WWI. 2pm to 5pm Operating VHF/UHF from Oaklands Museum to commemorate the UK entering WWI. 1pm to 4pm
Tuesday 5 th August	Constructors Competition

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 **20:00h** (2nd) GB3DA, (3rd) GB3ER, (4th) 1.947MHz, (5th) 3.750MHz
Sundays @ 21.00 Backnang net on 3.750MHz

Net Controller for July is Carl, G3PEM.

Thanks to Geoff, G3EDM for June.

Operating from Finland

I shall be on my annual visit to Finland where I shall be operating a station and would be delighted to work any CARS members. As previous years I will be on air for a sked at 18:30 UTC, weekdays only, on 14.325MHz ±QRM. Start date will be Monday 14th July until Wednesday 13th August. Family commitments, QRM, and propagation may sometimes prevent me being heard. I look forward to working you.
John G1UZD

In place of Last Month's Meeting - Tuesday, 3rd June 2014.

Joint Table Top Sale with TARG – Friday 6th June.

Combined TARG & CARS Meeting - Chairman, Tom, 2E0TNC opening the meeting. Due to the lack of uptake of tables for the Table Top Sale TARG had made a few changes to the evening. Instead of being just a Table Top Sale, TARG had a Show and Tell session for the first part of the evening.



Chairman, Tom, 2E0TNC.



The full Meeting Room with both TARG and CARS Members together with a number of Visitors.



Andy Tyler, G1GKN (*left*) started the Show and Tell session by explaining he had bought a nest of Aluminium Briefcase boxes and the smallest was just able to house 3 off 17Amp/Hour Sealed Batteries for driving his new FT897D rig. He then showed what he thought would make a good TARG Club Project - a Computer controlling Aerial Analyser for DC to 60MHz.

This was purchased as a Kit from America for £41 and came with all the Surface Mounted components already in position from India!

He demonstrated the unit measuring a 75 Ohm Dummy Load.



John G1UZD (*left*) then took the floor and showed a MFJ Shorting Switch Link which he places in the Aerial Lead to switch in and out a Filter to block stray signals getting into Band II FM Radios.

Both speakers were warmly applauded for their contribution to the evening.

After the talks were over the room was turned over to those who had asked for tables, Andy G1GKN, David G3SVI, Carl G3PEM and Colin to sell their wares.

John G8DET produced a box of Die Cast Boxes for FREE! Those Boxes not taken were hoovered up by Graham and taken to another Club.

All CARS members were made welcome at TARG with numerous cups of tea and splendid cup-cakes made by Belinda and Ann Tyler.

Later the TARG new club Kenwood TS480 SAT radio was demonstrated connected to a 24ft Vertical and a "L Match". A very successful evening with a good social component.

Thank you TARG for inviting CARS - we all enjoyed it.

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



Andy doing brisk trade.

CARS Skills Night – 16 June 2014 Report

The sixth Chelmsford Amateur Radio Skills Night took place on Monday the 16th of June 2014, at the Village Hall in Danbury – and boy, was it a busy one!



Some of the attendees for Skills June 2014

With nearly **50 people** in attendance, this was a record-breaker for the Skills team – thanks so much to everyone who turned out – Hopefully a good night was had by all.

High Altitude Balloons:

By popular demand, Chris M6EDF returned to demonstrate high altitude balloon payloads, and explain all about launches and tracking, together with use of airborne cameras. Chris will be giving a talk to CARS on the 1st of July, so make sure the date's in your diary if you want to find out more about HAB.



Rob M0KCP, Chris M6EDF, Oliver M0WAG and Kristian 2E0SSX at the HAB table

Data Modes:



Charlie M0PZT put on the first of the live stations; this one demonstrating the PSK31 data mode. Lots of interest was shown in Charlie's demo, and the

intricacies of how to get set up with data for the first time. Poor Charlie managed to lose his voice half-way through, but was able soldier on, and even managed to rack up a few live PSK31 QSOs. Find out more on [Charlie's Blog](#)

Working Satellites:

Steve M0SHQ returned with advice on how to track and work amateur radio satellites – Steve's a very handy person to know when it comes to the antennas and software needed for satellite tracking, and Steve was joined on his table for much of the evening by Trevor M5AKA, one of the AMSAT UK team. Steve also helped out with advice on tracking a larger, manned satellite...



Steve M0SHQ with Richard M0CLZ

Working the ISS:

Pete M0PSX tried to capture live data from the International Space Station at April's Skills Night. No joy, so he tried again tonight using the live 2m station. Slightly more success, in that signals were briefly received during the evening's two passes – looks like the antenna location (and the missing groundplane) might have prevented a clear signal decode. Nonetheless, the practical demo showed tracking, how to send and receive packets to the ISS, and some of the software tools needed to work the ISS packet station. Thanks to those who stayed on a bit to try for the second pass. More info here [Working the ISS](#)



Pete M0PSX, not quite hearing the ISS

Live CW station:

Rob M0KCP, Steve G4ZUL and Colin M1OCN were back, operating another of the live stations – this one on 40m CW using a Buddipole. Thanks to the Essex CW Club.



Rob M0KCP and Steve G4ZUL working CW

Construction Workshop:

Many thanks to Peter M0PSD, David M0HBV and Chris G0IPU for sterling work in the Construction Corner – soldering, repairs, construction advice... plus good conversation!



Construction, soldering and repairs workshop

HF, ATUs and antenna advice:

Thanks to the two-team effort on this one. In one corner, CARS president Carl G3PEM using antenna-modelling software and a whiteboard to answer people's questions. In the other corner, Peter G0DZB covering ATUs and matching, with an odd assortment of bits and bobs on display.



Peter G0DZB and Carl G3PEM

Summary

A record-breaking turnout and a record-breaking number of activities. Feedback received so far, is that there wasn't enough time to see everything – so a few repeat performances are in order. Special thanks to Myra, Ann and David for the top quality refreshments – some lovely fairy cakes,

washed down with lashings of tea and coffee. Thanks also to the rest of the CARS Training Team, and to everyone who brought something along or helped make the night a success.

(Extracted from the [Essex Ham website](#) – editor)

GB1JSS June Summer Solstice

Saturday the 21st of June 2014 was the year's longest day. To celebrate the **June Summer Solstice**, lots of amateurs from Essex and beyond made the trip to sunny Galleywood Common for a day of radio. Here's a report on the busy day operating **GB1JSS**, the special event callsign:

The longest day obviously means the greatest amount of daylight, and the event's organiser Charlie, M0PZT was onsite not long after 5am getting the first of the stations up-and-running. By 8am, Charlie had been joined by Mark, M6RKC, Steve, M0SHQ and Pete, M0PSX helping to get the site's HF, 2m, data and satellite stations up-and-running.



Summer Solstice Early Risers

Band conditions weren't at their best throughout the day, as confirmed through local contacts with other special event stations in Essex and Kent, but some great contacts were made nonetheless. The day wasn't about simply making loud noises on HF or racking up contacts though – it was the chance to for local amateurs to get together, try out new purchases and having a go operating different modes. For those new to the hobby, it was also the chance to work a special events callsign and get some valuable on-air experience and share ideas.

The event was hosted by the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society, and it was great that so many attendees of CARS' latest innovation, the Skills Nights, turned up. "Working portable" is in the top 5 most requested topics for Skills Nights, and this event was a great chance to put skills to the test. All-in-all, a great turnout and a fun day of radio.

Pete, M0PSX

(extracted from the [Essex Ham website](#) – editor)

All Saints Church fete, Springfield, Chelmsford



Jim, 2E0RMI; James, 2E1GUA; Pete, M0PSX and Martyn, G1EFL helping to promote the amateur radio hobby at All Saints Church fete in Springfield, Chelmsford on Saturday 21st June.

National Field Day

An annual 24 hour, CW only contest, on the first full weekend of June, was a success again this year.

Amateurs across Europe and Russia operated in tents and caravans, using generators rather than an AC mains supply, with limitations on the size and use of aerials.

The thunder storms cleared over West Mersea on the Saturday morning leaving us to enjoy a hot and sunny weekend on the Costa del Tollesbury. We had a super site, 2 large fields on a slope, with woods to the rear, to the front a nice view over to Mersea, full of birdsong, including 3 cuckoos in the morning, during the night the bark of muntjac deer.

The tent, after 10 years of non-use, was still in good order and gave us ample space to operate the club's ICOM 756 PRO3, whilst Master Chef candidate Oliver, M0WAG, cooked sausages, burgers and made the tea, with the help of Colin, M1OCN.



G3GLL Terence, Steve, G4ZUL Andy, G0IBN operating Dave, G4AJY

Yes, we had our problems, as you always do on field day: letting the generator run out of petrol: RF getting into the PC: fibre mast bending with the weight of the 260ft, 160m half wave dipole - on the other end was a cherry-picker. CARS Club member John Roe, G4IMS, ex Danbury CW class member, was a welcome visitor. Not only because visitors were very welcome but he saved the day because we were running out of petrol! 23:00 in the evening John was searching the county for a petrol station which was open, he eventually found one in Kelvedon! Many thanks for that John.

All the team operated under the banner of Essex CW Amateur Radio Club with the callsign G1FCW.

Our team consisted of CARS members, Andy,,G0IBN; Steve, G4ZUL; Dave, G4AJY; Terence, G3GLL; Colin, M1OCN; Oliver, M0WAG. Jonathan, G0DVJ, and Eugene, G4FTP, from the Colchester Club also operated, Peter, G0DZB, from the Colchester Club, also gave us a visit.

Statistics:

Logging system: N1MM

Antenna: 260ft dipole strung up between a cherry-picker and telescopic pole.

Points:

2014 QSOs 649 points 2497

2013 QSOs 628 points 2179

GB100MWT – Empress of Ireland

On Thursday, 29 May, the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) operated Special Event Station GB100MWT from Sandford Mill. The station commemorated the 100th anniversary of the sinking of the RMS Empress of Ireland and the prompt action of Marconi Wireless Operator Ron Ferguson (later G4VF) saved of hundreds of lives.

The Collision

The RMS Empress of Ireland had left Quebec bound for Liverpool at 4:30pm on the 28 May 1914. At 01:20 am on 29 May the Pilot disembarked onto the Tug Eureka, one mile from Father Point. Shortly after a look-out reported another ship coming up the river it turned out to be the coal freighter SS Storstad which being a cargo vessel did not carry wireless.

A thick fog enveloped both ships and the Storstad rammed the Empress of Ireland in the mid-ships and below the waterline causing it to sink into the cold (4 degrees C) waters. The No 1 Wireless Operator, 20 year-old Ron Ferguson used the Marconi wireless equipment to summon assistance and two vessels arrived within 45

minutes to pick up survivors. Of the 1,477 on board the Empress of Ireland 465 were saved.

Ron Ferguson went on to eventually become Managing Director of Marconi Marine. He received his amateur radio callsign 4VF in 1939 which became G4VF after WWII. Ron was the President of the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) from 1952 to 1977 and passed away on 28 July 1985 aged 91.

Commemorative Station



GB100MWT with James Beatwell 2E1GUA logging and Charlie Davy M0PZT operating

CARS members ran separate CW and SSB stations during the day. Operators on the CW station included Andrew Kersey G0IBN and John Roe G4IMS and they had many contacts across Europe, the Americas and Antarctica.

The GB100MWT callsign generated very heavy pile-ups for the 40m SSB station located in the historic 2MT Writtle Hut inside Sandford Mill. Among those operating was Adrian, M0ABY. He and Mavis Soane travelled a considerable distance from Wheathamstead in Hertfordshire to take part in the event,



The event attracted the interest of BBC Essex who invited CARS Vice-President John Bowen G8DET (left) to visit their studios to give an 11 minute live interview.

After GB100MWT closed down for the day CARS members were kept busy that evening running an Intermediate exam which was held at Danbury Village Hall. Five people passed the exam and we look forward to hearing their new 2E0 callsigns on the air.

Photos courtesy of Kristian Baker 2E0SSX

You can listen to the BBC Essex interview at <http://tinyurl.com/GB100MWT-BBC>

Presidential Jottings

.Having been on holiday last month to GM land I missed the date for last month's newsletter so I hope I am in time for this month's!

I would like to thank all those society members who organise and participate in the skills night at Danbury. This goes from strength to strength; I hope that they will make a difference to those new to the hobby.

Also several members have been organising various special event stations that have raised the profile of CARS in the region, a big well done and thanks to you all. To the rest of our membership please support these events as they are part of your society programme, and you may pick up some tips that you can apply to own station.

The joint meeting with TARG went well, about 15 members made their way to Canvey Island and enjoyed the hospitality of the club. The cream cakes looked really yummy; I did not partake as I have enough problems with my weight!

Our next meeting at OAKLANDS in July should be a real treat with a talk on amateur radio balloons. I hope you will support this meeting. I, together with Jim, will be on the raffle stand, see you there.

Carl, G3PEM

FOR SALE

Icom 2820, £400 boxed with D-Star module fitted. Located in Chelmsford, help and advice on using it also on offer.

Joel G0URK [<mailto:joelandlouise@sky.com>]

FREE

5 Element 70Mhz, 14 Element 70cm Yagi Aerials. Professionally built, each with 8ft long booms.

Collect from Danbury.

John G8DET [g8det.essex-at-gmail.com]

A Net Controller is needed for August 2014.

Volunteers please.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter –

Monday 14th July.

NB Note early deadline!