



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 579

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

June 2014

This Month's Meeting

TUESDAY, 3rd June. No Meeting this month.

Joint Table Top Sale with TARG on Friday 6th June instead.

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
Friday, 6th June	Table Top Sale with TARG Jubilee Hall, Waterside Farm Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9RA.
Saturday 7 th June	National Field Day (<i>see details below for more information</i>)
Monday 16 th June	Skills Night, 7pm at Danbury Village Hall
Tuesday 1 st July	Launching & tracking radio equipped Balloons. Chris Stubbs M6EDF

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) 3.756MHz
Sundays @ 21.00 Backnang net on 3.750MHz
Also there is the Essex Ham net every Monday @ 2000h on GB3DA

Net Controller for June is Geoff, G3EDM . Thanks to John, G8DET for May.

A Net controller is needed for July & August.

NATIONAL FIELD DAY Saturday 7th June, 2014

Six CARS members, Andy, G0IBN; Steve, G4ZUL; Dave, G4AJY; Terence, G3GLL; Oliver M0WAG; and Colin, M1OCN are participating in the National Field Day this year.

Members are welcome to join them on-site, especially if they would like to operate!

Date: 7th - 8th June 2014. (The first full weekend in June). Time: 15:00 Saturday – 15:00 Sunday UTC

QTH: Tollesbury, Grid- 94081107, Post Code.CM9 8TP.
Access-Off Back Road, Tollesbury, opposite Old Hall Lane.

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Last Month's Meeting - Tuesday, 6th May 2014.

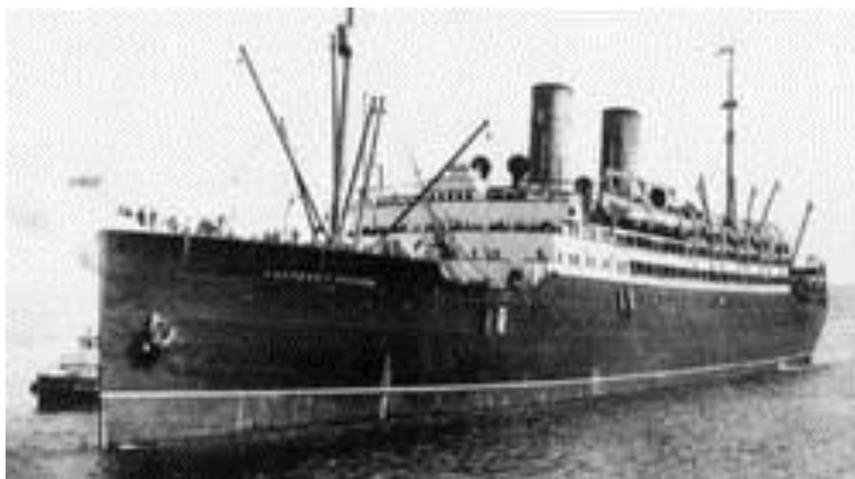
The sinking of the Empress of Ireland, Canada on 29th May 1914 and the saving of 400 lives.

Presented by John Bowen, G8DET

CARS tries to record each of the major events which happened 100 years ago and involved Marconi. Unfortunately many of these events involved the rescuing of persons from drowning but also involved the death of many as well. Without the Marconi Wireless the death toll would either be much greater or total.

On Thursday, 29th May from 9am to 5pm CARS will be transmitting from Sandford Mill to remind the World of the Empress of Ireland Event which happened exactly 100 years ago to this day - using the Callsign GB100MWT. Members of CARS, Marconi Veterans and Radio Officers Association are welcome but unfortunately members of the general public are not invited for this event. CARS will be using GB100MWT for the rest of this year.

John started the evening by telling a short story of the SS Voltunno which caught fire mid Atlantic in October 1913. Marconi Wireless alerted 10 ships but storm conditions meant rescue was not possible until the next day when 500 of the 650 persons on board were saved. An Oil Tanker solved the problem of poor sea conditions by pouring tons of oil on the raging seas and calming it - so enabling the lifeboats to be used. CARS missed commemorating this event.



The RMS Empress of Ireland set sail from Quebec on 28th May 1914 with 1054 passengers and a crew of 420 and headed down the St Lawrence River. In the early hours of the 29th May she was rammed and sank in 14 minutes.

John told the intriguing story in preparation for CARS Operating from Sandford Mill on Thursday, 29th May 2014, exactly 100 years after this event.

RMS Empress of Ireland

Captain Kendell was responsible for alerting Scotland Yard that Dr Crippen and Ethel were on the SS-Montrose - arranging for Chief Inspector Dew to get to Father Point ahead of them - dressed as Pilots and arrested Dr Crippen before he set foot on Canadian soil.

It was Captain Kendell's first command of the Empress of Ireland on that fateful day when she was rammed by the collier, the SS-Storstad in thick fog.

The hero of the day was Mr Ronald Ferguson, who later became CARS President, G4VF for 25 years and was Director of Marconi International Marine Company (MIMCo) in Chelmsford. 465 persons were saved but unfortunately 1,012 lives were lost.

After G8DET's presentation, Tony G4YTG had a nice A5 Souvenir Booklet for sale for the staggering amount of 50p.

CARS had its famous Raffle and Members had the opportunity to have a cup of tea/coffee and a social chat during the break period.

CARS Skills Night

For information, a video of our successful Skills Night on Monday is now online –

<http://www.essexham.co.uk/skills05video>

The fifth CARS Skills Night took place on Monday the 19th of May at the village hall in Danbury.



The event was very well attended, and as with previous evenings, was a real mix of activities:

The Essex CW Club set up a live HF station for the evening – This was operated by Steve G4ZUL and Rob M0KCP using an FT-950 and a Buddipole. 24 contacts were made on 20m and 30m, including stations in Russia, the Czech Republic and Poland.



Several people have expressed an interest in working satellites and so Steve M0SHQ kindly brought along software and antennas to demonstrate what's involved. Thanks also to Amsat-UK for the magazines.



Chris, G0IPU and Peter, M0PSD from the CARS training team set up a small (and busy) construction practical in the room adjacent to the main hall – the aim was to help those new to the hobby to make up patch leads and show the correct way to solder RF connectors. Many

visitors took the opportunity to get help, advice and repairs from Peter and Chris throughout the evening.

Nick M0NIB brought along his storm tracking and lightning strike detection kit to demonstrate what's involved in preventing those jolts that we all fear. Nick is hoping to roll out a system to alert Essex of potentially dangerous storms.

Peter G0DZB brought along his Elecraft K3 - this time accompanied and controlled by a Raspberry Pi. With this combination, around half of the 40m band could be displayed on a single screen. Portable operator Charlie M0PZT brought along his new backpack portable kit for show-and-tell.

Thanks to Clive G1EUC for comparing the multiple choice quiz, and to Murray, G6JYB for the challenging questions that caused the usual discussion and controversy.

Members of the CARS committee, Essex CW Club, Essex Repeater Group and Essex Ham were available to help with questions –

Thanks also to Myra and David for the hard work with refreshments, Ann for the cakes, Sarah for logistics and to everyone else who helped to make the night a success.

For photos and a video of the May Skills Evening, go to www.essexham.co.uk/skills-may14

If you have any suggestions for upcoming Skills Nights, or are interested in demonstrating something that may be of interest, please contact Pete M0PSX via the Essex Ham website.

The next Skills Night is on Monday the 16th of June from 7pm at Danbury Village Hall. If you're a Twitter user, you can now follow the training and skills team using @TrainWithCARS

Pete M0PSX

CARS Training Update

Those interested in taking the Advanced exam, note that there will be an exam-only session on Tuesday the 1st of July 2014.

A revision class starts on the 30th of October 2014 with the exam taking place on Monday the 8th of December 2014.

If you know anyone interested in joining our ranks, the next Foundation course starts on the 4th of September. This will be CARS' 30th Foundation course.

For details or to enrol in a course, contact Clive Ward, G1EUC on 01245 224577 or via training2014@g0mwt.org.uk.

Want to know what goes on at a CARS training event, or what's involved in today's Foundation practicals? Thanks to Pete M0PSX from our training team for putting together a selection of videos, which you'll find at www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/video

International Marconi Day 2014

To support the 27th International Marconi Day, CARS was active at Sandford Mill Museum on Saturday the 26th of April 2014. The club joined amateur radio stations from around the world to celebrate this important date, and was operating with the club callsign GX0MWT from inside the famous 2MT hut at the historic Sandford Mill. The station was active on 40 metres for much of the day, running around 80 watts from the 80m doublet, and getting good results around the UK and Europe. Also active was the CW station on the first floor of Sandford Mill, as well as Colin G0TRM's famous Morse ticker tape demo, to get the youngsters interested in CW.

A good number of CARS members turned up to support the day, including a couple from the current CARS Intermediate course (who don't get extra points for coming along!)



The shack team was also joined for the day by Louise M3WSQ, who was able to make her first HF QSOs and work her first pile-up with the help of CARS.

For more, and pictures of the event, visit www.essexham.co.uk/imd2014

New TX Factor Released

TX Factor is UK's first TV show dedicated entirely to amateur radio. In Episode 3 Bob McCreadie G0FGX and Mike Marsh G1IAR assist Roger Stafford G4ROJ with his amazing kite aerials. Mike reports from the Exeter Radio and Electronics Rally.

Nick Bennett 2E0FGQ visits Ben Nock G4BXD at the Military Wireless Museum in Kidderminster to experience Ben's collection of war sets and spy sets.

This is followed by a visit to Martin Lynch & Sons to look at a new quad-band mobile radio from Wouxun.

Watch TX Factor Episode 3 at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvpXWMJJejQ>

Trevor M5AKA

Chelmsford STEM Balloon Launch



On Tuesday, May 20, Chris Stubbs M6EDF launched one of his 434 MHz trackers CHEAPO-11, on a 100g Pawan balloon, for pupils at The Sandon School in Chelmsford.

The launch was run as a STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics) event for the school. In addition to the main STEM objective the launch was also used as a charity fundraiser. You could buy £1 tickets to "Guess the location" of the burst with money raised going in aid of The Brathay Trust, Cancer Research and Havens Hospice.



The payload that Chris constructed transmitted 50 bps FSK RTTY on a nominal frequency of 434.300 MHz. Although only running about 10 mW into an omni-directional antenna such low power can still give a radio range of up to 700 km depending on altitude. The data transmitted on balloon flights such as this comprises the GPS location of the balloon along with other sensor readings such as pressure, temperature and altitude. The signals are received by a network of listeners who upload the data to the UK High Altitude Society (UKHAS) central server enabling anyone to see the current location of the balloon on the web.

The flight was a great success; the signal from CHEAPO-11 could be received across much of the British Isles and into Germany. Radio amateurs

across the UK and even Europe tracked the signal from the balloon during its 2 hour flight. The transmitted frequency was found to vary between 434.292 and 434.298 MHz due to the extreme cold temperatures that the balloon encountered on its journey.



CHEAPO-11 reached an altitude of 27,000 metres before the balloon bursting, the payload then descended by parachute and was recovered from a freshly ploughed field near Wisbech.

Chris took the amateur radio Foundation training course run by the Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society (CARS) in January 2013. He is keen on both electronic construction and software development and combines the two interests in High Altitude Ballooning (HAB). Chris has built many tracker payloads for his balloon launches which usually take place from Danbury Common near Chelmsford.

Details of his high-altitude ballooning hardware and experiments are online at <http://chris-stubbs.co.uk/>

The role of these 434 MHz balloon launches in teaching Mathematics and Science was recently recognised by the Department for Education (DfE) see

<http://amsat-uk.org/2014/05/11/434-mhz-balloons-have-a-role-in-stem-education/>

Trevor M5AKA

RMS Empress of Ireland



Canada Post has announced 2 stamps to be issued on 29th May to commemorate the sinking of the RMS Empress of

Ireland. Image of the First Day Cover is above. .

John G1UZD

Free admission to Bletchley Park

RSGB members are entitled to free admission to Bletchley park if they download a voucher from the secure part of the RSGB website.

Voucher here...<http://rsgb.org/main/myrsgb-2/bletchley-park-free-admission-voucher/>

The video (link below) gives you an interim update and more as to the new huts/buildings open <http://www.bletchleypark.org.uk/content/about/restoration/vid.rhtm>

Murray G6JYB

HF interference 160 & 80m

I noticed a very strong and apparently local source on "broadband" interference about 4 weeks ago. It was giving me +20dB signals on both 160 & 80m and covered most of the bands (plus MW) with a buzzing/pulsating noise. Checking that none of my switch mode psu had gone faulty I contacted Ofcom. I had a very fast response with a phone call within 1 hour of my online report and a visit arranged for 2 days later.

The outcome of the investigation was the source was definitely originating in one of my neighbours homes. I was asked if I wanted to approach them myself or allow Ofcom to follow the matter up. I chose the former as I have a good relationship with the family concerned. Working with them we found the problem to be, not a faulty switch mode psu as suspected, but an active VGA to HDMI converter. (They had bought a new TV with only HDMI inputs and couldn't connect their security camera system as this had only VGA output.) This unit was provided by the company who fitted their security system!

Switching this off cured the issue and they will only connect the unit if they need to check a recording.

We are awaiting an alternative solution from their security system provider.

However, a good solution and thanks to Ofcom who are often given a bad press.

Alan, G0RTH

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.

**Net Controller needed for July & August
Volunteers please.**

**Closing date for items in the next Newsletter –
Monday 23rd June.**