



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



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Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

May 2014

This Month's Meeting

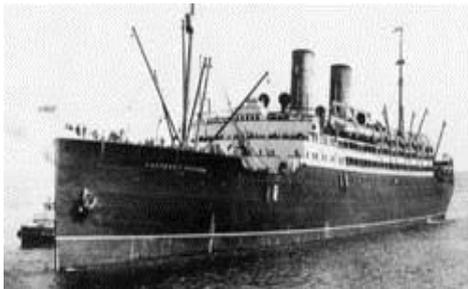
TUESDAY, 6th May. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start, with 10pm finish.

OAKLANDS MUSEUM, MOULSHAM STREET, CHELMSFORD, CM2 9AQ

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

Presented by John Bowen, G8DET

John will start 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. CARS missed commemorating this event.



The RMS Empress of Ireland (pictured) 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. 465 persons were saved but unfortunately 1,012 were lost.

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.

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.
Every Monday	Essex Ham 2m Net @ 2000h GB3DA
Monday 19 th May	CARS - Skills Night, Danbury Village Hall (www.hamskills.co.uk)
Sunday 25 th May	W&S Open Day, Hockley. ERG & CARS Training in attendance
Thursday 29 th May	HF operation from Sandford Mill (NO Public access)
Tuesday 3rd June	Advance Notice – NO meeting

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 May is JOHN G8DET. Thanks to Colin, G0TRM for April.

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.

Marine Radio

Although the CARS meeting fell on April Fool's Day a good number of CARS Members and visitors turned up to hear Carl present his evening of Maritime Radio.

It was nice to meet in daylight as the clocks have now changed to BST.

The evening started with CARS Chairman, John Yates, G1UZZ talking about what the club Members had worked as the 10 Metre and to some extent the 12 Metre Bands had been quite open during the previous month.

Carl started off his talk by giving some of the history of the first ships and land Installations fitted with wireless.

This laid the foundation for the May presentation by John Bowen, G8DET on the rescue of persons from the Empress of Ireland in May 1914.

Carl told numerous very interesting stories of events which happened during his career with Marconi.



Photos by John G8DET using Carl's camera

The Meeting was passed to Carl who said that he had a lovely surprise to receive through the post a Glass Certificate from "Radiodays" in Holland. Carl was Chief Engineer years ago on Radio Caroline and this commemorated that event.



Carl holding his Certificate.



Carl showing a photograph of a transmitter.

Illustrated by photographs of the 1950/1960's equipment displayed at the Sandford Mill Museum, Carl went through many of the well-known Transmitters and Receivers used at both sea and shore stations.

Carl also circulated a number of historic Marconi documents for members to peruse.

During Question Time someone tried to persuade Carl to talk about his experiences on Radio Caroline but he was not to be drawn.

Another superb CARS Evening in our new venue. Tea/coffee was well served by David and Myra Davies - well done and thank you.

CARS had its now famous Raffle with lots of great prizes.

Treasurer Brian, G3CVI was in attendance to receive Membership fees for 2013/2014 of £15. John G8DET brought along 7 boxes of Fan Fold paper which were well received and taken away. Andrew Kersey, G0IBN brought along some Silent Key items which again were well received.

Thanks to David from the Museum services who looked after us all in a very professional manner.

Extracted from the CARS website – editor.

Sandford Mill

Sandford Mill is a name often mentioned at CARS meetings and I thought members, especially the newer ones and some of the older ones as well, might be interested in learning a little bit about Sandford Mill.

Sandford Mill is the industrial collection store and science education centre for Chelmsford Museums. It is located two miles east of the city centre next to the River Chelmer and is only open to the public on International Marconi Day (24th April), Science Discovery Day (28th September) and four afternoons in August when it becomes a museum. Admission is free but there is a donations box. Requests for private viewings are always considered sympathetically.

As its name implies Sandford Mill was originally the site of a water powered corn grinding mill. In 1923 it became the site of the Borough waterworks, the corn mill having fallen into disuse. In the 1970s, the Essex Water Company took over operation from the Borough but due to the proximity of other waterworks nearby, operations at Sandford Mill ceased.

The Sandford Mill site was then sold back to the Borough which then had a huge site on its hands with some very large buildings. One of these was known as the Engine House. It contained diesel engines, alternators and pumps and before reverting back to the Borough was stripped of all machinery except the control panel. It eventually formed the home of the newly formed industrial store.

Chelmsford, in its heyday, was a hive of manufacturing activity and it is hardly surprising that there were many calls to preserve the town's industrial heritage in a befitting setting. Eventually, in 1990 an industrial curator was appointed, Dr. Geoff Bowles.

Industrial artefacts had previously been stored haphazardly in a number of rather unsuitable locations. The idea was to relocate them all in the Engine House at Sandford Mill. It was very obvious that there would be a lot of work involved, more than one man could possibly hope to tackle, so an appeal went out for volunteers. The appeal did not go unanswered and although volunteers come and go there remains a hard core of around ten elderly gentlemen who meet regularly on a Monday morning, always ready to do the bidding of their curator! I have been a volunteer for over twenty one years and have loved every minute of it, well nearly!

Nowadays municipal museums have to pay their way and Sandford Mill offers hands-on science

sessions to primary schools from March to September, and also, schools science kits are available for hire. The volunteers cover a wide range of expertise and are often heavily involved in these activities in addition to their work on the artefacts.

The majority of artefacts at Sandford Mill relate to Marconi and range from a crystal set to a 30kW ISB transmitter (now on display at Oaklands Park) with a large proportion relating to marine radio. There is also a huge collection of photos, books and written material. We have been very fortunate in that we have been bequeathed two collections, one fairly modern and the other going right back to the very start of radio and in this respect, perhaps, wireless is the more appropriate word.

The first bequest was from Fiona, the widow of Donald Imber G0VIS. This collection forms the basis of our 1960s ship's radio room and consists of the last generation of valved equipment and includes HF transmitters and receivers, DF equipment, auto alarm equipment, depth sounders and VHF ship to shore telephone equipment.

The second bequest resulted from the generosity of the late Bill Waters G3OYB of Penzance and consisted mostly of very early equipment including spark transmitters and valve equipment. The artefacts from this bequest are arranged in a series of four displays 1900, 1920, 1930 and 1940. In between these and nearby there are hands-on demonstrations of the principles of direction finding and amplitude modulation and detection. CARS and FCM member Peter Watkins masterminded the displays and I did the demonstrations. We have also received much help and advice from Jimmy Leadbitter, an ex MIMCO manager, from Joe Ryan and from other ex-radio officers who visit us from time to time.

I hope these few words might persuade CARS members to take a fresh look at Sandford Mill when they visit for club events.

Summary of an article by Geoff Lovegrove, G7KLV



The full, more detailed, article is available if you wish to email me and request a copy – editor

CARS Requires Your Help! Positions Vacant!

1) QSL Manager

CARS has an urgent need for a QSL Manager to handle all out-going and in-coming QSL cards for the club. As most of you perhaps QSL yourselves then you know what is involved. Our immediate past QSL manager Patrick, M0XAP is moving to Wales so has relinquished the position. CARS offers Patrick our grateful thanks for having done a sterling job for a number of years. At the moment Patrick is unwell in Basildon Hospital so we all wish him a speedy recovery to full health.

The job of QSL Manager is a satisfying one in which you get to see all those stations' QSL cards who have contacted us by way of our various call signs such as our club call GX0MWT and special event call sign GB100MWT. Both these call signs will be in use this year starting with GX0MWT for International Marconi Day on 26th April and GB100MWT for the Centenary of the sinking of the Empress of Ireland on 29th May both from Sandford Mill Museum. (N.B. Operators/loggers are required for both!) Accuracy is required to check that the station's call sign is in our logbook on the date/time claimed before acknowledging their card with the appropriate club QSL card. All expenses directly incurred will be covered by the club. So, please, give your society a helping hand and help to maintain CARS as one of the leading clubs in the UK. This post optionally commands a position on the committee so you can involve yourself in decisions on behalf of the society if you wish.

2) Club Secretary

Perhaps a more specialised task, the club secretary is responsible for all (non-radio) communications with members and the outside world and is an executive officer of the society and a committee member. We do have an assistant secretary who takes minutes of our committee meetings but we need someone to handle mostly emails and occasional letters and verbal contact. The committee will of course give full back-up and assistance to the secretary so you won't be left on your own. The present committee numbers 15 all of whom have designated tasks such as chairman, treasurer/membership secretary, trainers for our courses, programme secretary, web-master and raffle organiser. So, again, please can you lend some valuable assistance to your club by offering to be our secretary? You can attend our committee meetings (which is open to all members to do at any time) to get a feel of what goes on before deciding.

For both these positions or for further information please contact the chairman (directly or email chairman@g0mwt.org.uk) or any committee member.

Table Top Sale Friday 6th June 2014 on Canvey Island

Please note that CARS will NOT be holding our usual monthly meeting on Tuesday 3rd June 2014 at Oaklands Museum, Chelmsford. Instead CARS is holding a combined table top sale with Thames Amateur Radio Group (TARG) on the following Friday 6th June at Jubilee Hall, Waterside Farm Sports Centre, Somnes Avenue, Canvey Island SS8 9RA.

TARG needs to know in advance how many CARS members require a table(s) at £5 each so that they can plan ahead. So sort out all those items (not large heavy items please) that you no longer use and sell them to those who can make use of them. If you only have a few items or even only one then two or more members can jointly hire one table. Those with lots to sell can hire more than one table. Remember this is a radio and related items sale e.g. components, computers and electronic goods - not for any old cast-offs!

At our May monthly meeting at Oaklands Museum (talk on the sinking of the Empress of Ireland) I shall be asking members who want a table to let me have their name and how many tables they want so that I can inform TARG. Please can you plan now and let me know at the May meeting what your requirements are. Many thanks.

John G1UZD Chairman

Help With Posters Needed

Can you help in putting up posters to promote CARS and our amateur radio training courses?

No one person can know of all the places in the area that posters can be displayed so we need all of you to help get the message out. You can print out a CARS poster and put it up in your local community centre, church, library, supermarket, workplace or even pub. Members of one enterprising amateur radio club, who meet in a pub, arranged for posters to be put up in rival pubs in the neighbourhood.

There are three versions of the CARS posters available to download, print out the one that best suits your ink budget.

High ink yellow/red

<http://tinyurl.com/ColourPosterCARS>

Medium ink red

<http://tinyurl.com/RedPosterCARS>

Low ink black and white

<http://tinyurl.com/MonochromePosterCARS>

Do you use Facebook or Twitter? If so why not post a link to the colour CARS poster.

The Foundation training leaflet and registration form can be found at

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/A5-leaflet.pdf>

ERG News

Essex Repeater Group will be at the 24th Annual W&S Open Day - Sunday 25-May-2014. Do come along to support the repeaters, pay your subs and hear the latest. We will also have ERG guide leaflets as well as advice on local training courses etc. Murray G6JYB will also be one of the speakers for the W&S talks programme.

ERG has introduced PayPal for online subs and donations (we believe the first club in Essex to do so). PayPal also accepts most well-known bank cards if you don't have a PayPal account. New members should ensure that they separately send full details of their address/contact information using the membership form.

Murray, G6JYB

CARS Easter Skills Night Report

Bank Holiday Monday, the 21st of April 2014 saw the fourth CARS Skills Night take place in Danbury.

Despite being a Bank Holiday weekend, 35 people gathered together for a mix of demonstrations and show-and-tell sessions, with highlights including: a demonstration of Radio Orienteering equipment from Roy G4JAC ahead of a Danbury direction-finding event at the weekend. Also demonstrations were given by the Essex RAYNET team, and there was



the opportunity to get hands-on with antenna-modelling software brought along by Carl G3PEM, and some impressive and imposing antennas including an impressive mag-loop brought along by Peter G0DZB, HF antennas

courtesy of James 2E1GUA, and a hand-mode SOTA beam from Jim 2E0RMI.

Representatives of CARS, the Essex CW Club, Essex RAYNET, the Essex Repeater Group and Essex Ham were on-hand to give help and advice as needed, and the evening was a great opportunity to announce upcoming club events, including the May club night talk and International Marconi Day at Sandford Mill. For a bit of fun, the evening's short quiz had a seasonal theme, with a number of Easter eggs being dished out to lucky hams – although some of the evening's cracking Easter jokes (or should that be yokes) left a little to be desired. Thanks to Clive G1EUC, Murray G6JYB and Charlie M0PZT for supplying the questions.



Thanks also to the training team, and in particular David G3SVI and Myra M0MYR, for all of the hard work in pulling these events together.

The evenings have proven to be a great way of getting people together – regardless of club membership and licence level – they're also free. The next CARS Skills Night is planned for Monday the 19th of May, and you can find out more and register for email updates at www.hamskills.co.uk

For more on the evening, and for a collection of photos, go to

<http://www.essexham.co.uk/news/cars-skills-april-2014-summary.html>

Pete, M0PSX

Ofcom Consultation: 146-147 MHz for Amateur Radio use

Ofcom has published a consultation on the release of around 6 MHz of very high frequency (VHF) spectrum in the 143 to 169 MHz band, which has been returned for civil use.

The consultation says:

1.7 As demand for both operational and potential

future services in the short to medium term is likely to be low we are also proposing to permit temporary access to 1 MHz of this spectrum (146 to 147 MHz) for Amateur Radio use, until such a time as it is needed by Business Radio or other services. Should additional spectrum be needed to meet operational requirements, we will remove the temporary allocation. Amateur Radio use of this frequency will be on a non-protection/ non-interference basis and will be subject to some geographical restrictions to ensure that there is no interference to neighbouring countries. We propose that the authorisation will be implemented by an individual Notice of Variation (NoV) to the Amateur Radio licence.

The consultation summarises responses to an earlier Call for Input on the release of spectrum in England, Wales and Northern Ireland between 143 and 156 MHz spectrum. Today's document also encompasses spectrum that has been returned for civil use between 168 MHz and 169 MHz. Since the Call for Input was published, this spectrum is now available on a UK-wide basis.

The consultation explains Ofcom's proposed approach to allocating the released spectrum, including a proposal that spectrum be made available on a first-come-first-served basis through Ofcom's current Business Radio licence products.

Responses to the proposals are invited by 26 May 26, 2014, make your response at <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/vhf-143-169mhz/howtorespond/>

Consultation document http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/binaries/consultations/vhf-143-169mhz/summary/VHF_consultation.pdf

Consultation: Responses to the Call for Input and Consultation on next steps of the release of spectrum within the frequency ranges 143 MHz to 169 MHz <http://stakeholders.ofcom.org.uk/consultations/vhf-143-169mhz/>

Trevor M5AKA

Presidential Jottings

The last skills night at Danbury was well attended so thanks to all those that took part, the evening does help the newly licence amateurs that attend.

I have not been able to operate much this month as, with the good weather, certain outside repair jobs on the house needed my attention. Looking at the cluster however showed a good number of DX station on the bands.

By the time you read this our participation in IMD will be imminent and I hope that our stations will have a large number of QSO's.

With Patrick, M0XAP, moving to Wales shortly, CARS will need a QSL manager, are there any volunteers' for the job? It does not take much time!

That's all for this month, our next meeting is presented by our past Chairman, John, who will talk about the sinking of the SS Empress of Ireland, and a greater loss of life than the SS Titanic.

Carl, G3PEM

IMD 26th April, Sandford Mill

CARS are operating as usual from the Outer Office on the First Floor – this station is under the control of Andrew Kersey, G0IBN and will be CW (Morse) only.

Brian, G3CVI and others will be in the Marconi Hut using the long 80Metre Doublet strung out over the Mill Pond and using SSB only.

We need operators, loggers and simply CARS Members to Host – to tell the members of the public what we are doing.

We will be using the Club Call-Sign of GX0MWT. Sandford Mill will be open from just after 9am and close after 5pm. Members of the public will be welcomed from 10am.

Colin, G0TRM will have his now famous Mechanical Morse display in action.

Friends of The Museum will have a number of new exhibits to show off.

Light refreshments are available.

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.



A Net Controller is needed for August 2014. Volunteers please.

Closing date for items in the next Newsletter – Friday 23rd May.