



## Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter



### September Meeting

#### **CARS Tabletop SALE. 1st September 2015 7.30-10pm Oaklands Museum**

Looking for bargain? Do you have something to sell?

Now is your opportunity! Book a table at CARS September Table top Sale.

It's time to start sorting those unused radio bits and pieces that are gathering dust in your shack.

Perhaps you have too many rigs already and want to make more room.

What better chance to make a clean start: get rid of all the things you have not used for years. What about that stuff in the loft?

If you have something to sell, contact Colin G0TRM. 01245 223835 or email [colinpage@ukgateway.net](mailto:colinpage@ukgateway.net).

Tables are £3 to non-Members. Paid-up Members free.(Donations welcome)

### Dates for your Diary

**Nets** Tuesdays **2000h** (8<sup>th</sup>) GB3DA, (15<sup>th</sup>) GB3ER, (22<sup>nd</sup>) 3.756MHz, (29<sup>th</sup>) 1.947MHz

Also there is the Essex Ham net every Monday @ 2000h on GB3DA

Tues 8 <sup>th</sup> ; 15 <sup>th</sup> ; 22 <sup>nd</sup> ; 29 <sup>th</sup>	CARS - Evening Radio Nets @ 8:00 pm (Local). See Website for details.
Every Monday	Essex Ham 2m Net @ 2000h GB3DA
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	CARS Meeting -
Thursday 3rd September	CARS Foundation Course & CW classes start, 7pm Danbury Village Hall
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> September	CARS Skills Night, 7pm Danbury Village Hall
Sunday 27th September	CARS at Science Discovery Day, Sandford Mill
Tuesday 6th October	CARS AGM at Oaklands Museum

**Net Controller for September is TBA**

**Thanks to Carl G3PEM for August**

### CARS Training Courses

CARS Training Courses are held at Danbury Village Hall near Chelmsford on Thursday evenings between 7 and 9pm. Our 32<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Training Course starts on Thursday September 3<sup>rd</sup> and runs for six consecutive Thursday evenings between 7 and 9pm. The exam date is Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015, and will be based on the latest Ofcom licence conditions and updated exam handout (based on the 2015 RSGB band plan). Morse classes will also be available in parallel organised by Andrew Kersey G0IBN.

We are also accepting candidates for our October Advance Course which runs from Thursday 29-Oct-2015 to 3-Dec-2015 and is 'fast-track revision' for the exam on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

Note that we can also accommodate distance-learning advance candidates and those just needing exams – only for other licence levels on the December session.

Course dates, slide and registration information is on our website at <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training> or contact our Training Manager Clive G1EUC - E: [training2015@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:training2015@g0mwt.org.uk), on T:01245-224577, M:07860-418835

**Web Address: [www.g0mwt.org.uk](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk)**



## August Meeting Tue 4th August,-



The August meeting was the annual time to show what you had been made this year - be it a Linear, QRP Transceiver, an Aerial or some Radio Software. CARS accept all sorts of entries (and have done so in the past) from still photographs to video clips. The only real Rule being that it must be electrically SAFE.

Forty people attended to see a wide variety of entries which included software and hardware creations.

Link to detailed website report [here](#)

### Results as follows

**1st:** The very capable (and free!) [PZTLog](#) by Charlie M0PZT (*photo left*) won First prize which was £15 and Charlie's name will be added to the Society M1FDE Shield which will be presented at the October AGM.

**2nd:** Bruce M0XBS and his Valve Audio Amp came second

**3rd:** Peter G3SUY won third for his Mobile Whip (including nice loading coils)

**New:** Steve G4HSK and his 10m-144MHz Transverter ) won the First-timers prize

## G-QRP Convention 2015.

This will be held this year again at Rishworth School, Rishworth, West Yorkshire (to the west of Huddersfield). As usual, there will be trade and club stands, private "junk & jewels" stands, a "bring & buy" facility, and food/drink (the famous "pie & peas" should be available), with space and tables for resting, eating and meeting with friends. Also, throughout the day there will be a series of talks on various subjects dear to the heart of radio amateurs, always informative and often amusing. These talks are what helps make this event stand out as better than a normal rally.

The date is Saturday, 24th October - please note it is Saturday, unusually for rallies! The date is determined by when the school half-term falls. 10am start for visitors. Plenty of parking, both at the school and on the main road outside. Please note - access to the main room is up a flight of stairs (no lift), so a bit of a problem for wheel-chair users, although there are usually many willing helpers (mainly from the Halifax club) to assist anyone needing help.

Pat (G6TAF) and I usually arrive on Friday morning, going to a very nice pub near the school for a convivial lunch with all the organisers and other helpers (including a number of wives), followed by an afternoon of "setting-up". Most of the group then stay overnight (and Saturday night) at a nearby Premier Inn, where there is also a radio-based activity (usually building a useful piece of equipment) on the Friday night. If you wish to attend and stay for one or two nights, please contact Graham, G3MFJ, via [g3mfj@ggrp.com](mailto:g3mfj@ggrp.com), who organises hotel accommodation. At present, the entire hotel is block-booked for G-QRP, so there should be rooms available, but early booking is advised, as surplus rooms (if any) are "returned" to the hotel eventually. The cost is the normal amount for Premier Inns - no discount! The local area is great to visit at this time of year, so you could make a long weekend of it, with your dearly-beloved!

The best way to get to Rishworth if driving from down here is on the M62 towards Manchester, turning off at Junction 22 onto the A672, heading towards Ripponden (roughly north-east) - Rishworth is a few miles along from the junction. At all costs avoid leaving the M62 earlier - you will end up going through Halifax or Huddersfield, neither of which will be very enjoyable experiences!

I have been going to the Convention for over 20 years, from when it was held in Rochdale in the church at which George, G3RJV, presided as vicar. I have found this to be the best and most enjoyable "rally" in the whole year, especially if you can stay overnight, and I completely recommend it. If you do come, please buy something from my stall!

**Dave, G3PEN**

# Downsizing Odyssey

I have just downsized for 8 months from a large 1950s house with lots of internal storage and two garages packed with radio and engineering equipment as well as all the bits you need to keep a ¼ acre garden going with all the associated aerials to a more modern house, small garden and a quarter the storage.

Done 3,000 miles between the two houses in my car, a 18ton furniture van and 4 very nice movers plus 6 Rent-a-Van trips + £300 on E-Bay + £300 from the metal scrap man + numerous trips to the charity shops and museums + “Give-Aways at CARS Meetings”.

Gave away aerials, poles and lots of spare stuff but binned a lot of old stuff – including PCB cards of Diode Transistor Logic (DTL) and old valve units but kept the 4CX250s I found. Duxford Radio Museum and Sandford Mill took some bits.

I even found a coil of polythene covered aluminium ¼” tubing I used to make cubical quad aerials when I lived in Cheltenham in the 1950/60s which has gone to Peter, M0PSD.

Left behind garden mowers, trimmers and tree shredder and garden tools.

Photo is of the surplus stuff I cannot easily find a home for at the new QTH.

The cover from the gazebo was removed with the threat of high winds.

The 8element J Beam 2M aerial was bought in 1970 and used for some 12 years + with my weekly QSOs with the late Robin Harvey, G4BBR, Cheltenham to Chelmsford (over Cleeve Hill, which was thought impossible to start with).

Unfortunately the new QTH is surrounded by houses with high TV aerials – just the sort to have Plasma TVs, HiFi and electronic things to respond well to Amateur RXs and TXs!

My advice – start Downsizing at the CARS September Table Top Sale!

**John G8DET.**



## **August 2015 Skills Night**

August's Danbury Skills Night attracted almost 50 amateurs and enthusiasts, and the evening included a live data station, two very different HF antennas, Slim Jims and construction, radio programming, satellites, callsign badges, the quiz, plus a demonstration of Essex Ham's new online Foundation training course.

I'd personally like to thank everyone who gives freely of their time to come along and help out and make the evenings a success. Essex Ham's summary of the event can be found at [www.sxham.uk/s815](http://www.sxham.uk/s815).

The event continues to attract visitors from outside our area, including London, Kent, Suffolk & Hertfordshire, which shows how popular the Danbury Skills Nights have become. Thanks for your support.

**Pete M0PSX**

Link to the CARS website coverage of this event [here](#).

## MORSE CLASSES

If you have always wanted to learn morse code come and join our friendly classes. Never done it before? Do not worry, in 8 weeks we can cover all the characters required.

Classes will start in the meeting room at Danbury Village Hall, starting at 7pm, on Thursday, September 3rd.

We cater for all aspects of CW, from the beginner to the CW operator who just wants to improve his CW skills. Sept 3/10/17/24/Oct 1/8/15/22nd - £24

If you feel work commitments will not allow you to attend every evening then the charge is £4 a night.

Home work will be arranged to you can keep up.

**Andy G0IBN**

[g0ibn@kersey1.freeseerve.co.uk](mailto:g0ibn@kersey1.freeseerve.co.uk)



# Sandford Mill August Sundays

## **Sunday August 9 - Water**

Our first event was on a warm and sunny August-9 and aimed at anyone interested in Station Building, HF radio, HRD logging program, QRZ & eQSL or any topic relating to Amateur Radio. The club GX0MWT station was set up in its favourite spot in the 2MT Marconi Hut using the club FT847. The hut acted as an exhibit area within the main Sandford Mill pump house, where other activities had a water theme.



*Charlie operating with some antiques in the background and also some vintage radios!*

## **Sunday August 16 - Local Crafts**

Sunday the 16th was a somewhat overcast day but the weather stayed dry and we saw quite a reasonable turnout for a generally relaxed occasion. The Local Crafts theme included rope making and a working blacksmith in the forge. Radio was again on show in the Marconi Hut, with the hands-on morse keys on demo upstairs. The occasion also saw one of CARS newest acquisitions

in use - a Yaesu FT7900 VHF/UHF dual bander

## **Sunday August 23 - Sound**

For the 'sound theme' on Aug-23 there was an increased emphasis on demonstrations which included:-



Our RFSpace SDR-IQ running a large projected display of sound/frequency

- The Morse Mouse game
  - VHF/UHF FM radio
  - A slide-loop of Radio through the Centuries
- Hands-on morse keys on the upper mezzanine floor
- The initial demo on the SDR were AM broadcasts as these were more familiar to the public (inc BBC Radio 5-live F1 Grand Prix commentary). HDSR Software was in use giving a particularly colourful and detailed display. As the afternoon progressed, HF conditions improved, making for an impressive waterfall of CW stations on 40m.

**Our next event is September 27<sup>th</sup> "Science Day" 10:00pm to 5:00pm (Time TBC). If you would like to come and operate the radio(s) please get in touch with me on [chris.chapman2013@sky.com](mailto:chris.chapman2013@sky.com) Or call me on 07809 107951, your help would be gratefully received.**

Link to website reports [here](#).

## Offered free to a good home

Modified Yaesu FRG7 (Extra SO239 sockets, switches and I think an internal FM board) bought as a restoration project.

I replaced the broken fuse holder and on/off switch but it's been sitting unloved since.

Collection from Basildon by arrangement.

[Alan.gOrth@gmail.com](mailto:Alan.gOrth@gmail.com)

# Constructors Competition



Carl G3PEM introducing the evening

Colin G0TRM Colin moved away from his Morse keys and constructed “A washing line adjustable end fed wire aerial”, including pegs.

Steve G4HSK entered a Two metre Transverter produce from a kit in a homebrew metal cabinet.

Peter G3SUY a Mobile Whip with separate coils for 160m, 80, and 40 metres was his entry for this year.

## Presidential Jottings

With our AGM in October I will start this jotting with a plea for more members to give a little of their time in helping CARS, either on the committee or helping with other important tasks in running the society; for instance I wish to pass on the task of the monthly raffle to someone else - any takers?

As this is the last jottings I will be writing, a big thank you goes to all those who have supported me and CARS during my Five year term as President.

My personal thanks to ALL of the training team for keeping CARS in the forefront of the RSGB training programmes. I also express my personal thanks to Chris G0IPU for stepping in as acting Chairman this year.

I will now take a back seat and try and complete my project for next year’s constructors competition and try and work some of the DX expeditions’ coming up over the winter months.

**Carl, G3PEM**

**New editor required for November**

This year there were seven club members who entered projects on the night; once again they made the evening.

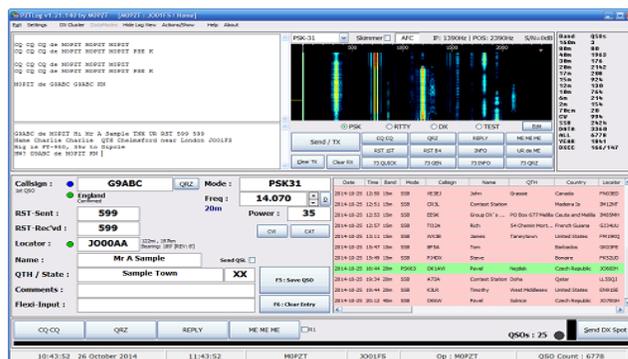
Tony G4YTG entered a” Skeleton Discone Aerial” constructed with welding rods.

Charlie M0PZT entered his “Logging Program M0PZT” which he wrote and refined over the last three years.

Bruce M0XBS A first entry was a “Valve Amplifier for his Guitar”, constructed some years ago.

Bruce M0XBS also entered a “Mcall kit 80 metre QRP transceiver”; this has been used on club nets.

## Charlie’s PZT Log



## So – What Does It Do?

It serves as a general-purpose logger for rag-chews as well as helping keep track of contest QSOs on HF/VHF. Over the past few months, additional features such as: PSK/RTTY Datamodes, QRZ.com XML lookup, Google-Maps KML output (eg: display QSOs in Google Earth), ADIF export, eQSL upload, DX Spot database with archive facility, CQ Voice Keyer, Contest “dupe-checking” and more have been added. The software can also run over a network. [Click the link and check it out!](#)