



# Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

## October Meeting

Tue 3-Oct-2017, 7.30-10pm

Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street

## AGM, Talks & Sale

CARS Members

The CARS AGM will take place on Tuesday October-3rd 2017 at Oaklands Museum starting at 7.30pm. There will be the annual reports from the Club's officers, the opportunity to hear about our progress over the year and the activities in which CARS took part. Voting will take place for members to choose both new and standing members of the Committee. Nominations for new committee members should be passed to a Committee member as soon as possible.

**Vacancies:** As Chris G0IPU has served his tenure and more, the Chairman's position is vacant. Our very grateful thanks to Chris for all his hard work. If you would like the Chairman's job please contact Chris IPU in the first instance. Other Posts Vacant are; Newsletter Editor, Membership Secretary and PR Manager.

**Presentations:** Certificates for the Construction Competition and the M1FDE Shield will be awarded to the winners during the meeting.

In addition to reports and elections, there will be an opportunity for members to voice their suggestions for future events and overall running of the Society.

Thinking of joining the CARS committee?

- Would you like to help in planning the Club's future activities?
- Are you good at PR or helping organise public events?
- Have you a 'special interest' you would like to introduce to CARS?

And After the Break...

- **Raffle:** the usual much renowned CARS raffle organised by Chris IPU, followed by
- **Updates:** by our RSGB Regional Rep and Jim/Glynis
- **Sale:** an opportunity to acquire some excellent quality surplus.

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## Club Diary

Tue 03-Oct-2017	Meeting: CARS AGM & Awards	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Mon 16-Oct-2017	Skills Night	Danbury 7pm
Thu 19-Oct-2017	Essex Repeater Group AGM (inc Prize Raffle)	Danbury Village Hall 7:30 for 8pm start
Sun 22-Oct-2017	Science Discovery Day - Space & Beyond	Sandford Mill 10am – 4pm
Tue 7-Nov-2017	Meeting: Urban Noise & SDR – William Poel G8CYK	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm

## Club Nets

CARS meets for talks/events on the first Tuesday of the month. The subsequent Tuesdays have club radio nets as follows:-

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in the Month - VHF**  
 The CARS VHF FM Net uses GB3DA from Danbury starting at 8pm (local).  
 GB3DA is 145.125MHz Input and 145.725MHz Output - and CTCSS-only (110.9Hz), 2min timeout  
 If for any reason GB3DA is not available then 145.375 Simplex will be used. Vertical aerials are best for this
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in the Month - UHF**  
 The CARS UHF FM Net uses GB3ER from Danbury and starting at 8pm (local).  
 GB3ER is 434.675MHz Input and 433.075MHz Output - and is CTCSS-only  
 Vertical aerials are best.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the Month - HF**  
 The CARS 80m Net on "3756kHz" Night, SSB and starting at 8pm (local).  
 Horizontal aerials are best. The idea is to enable distant CARS Members to join the Net.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the Month (when there is one!) - MF**  
 This is the CARS Top Band Net on 1947/1950 kHz +/-QRM, LSB and starting at 8pm (local).  
 Horizontal aerials are usually used for this Net. A reminder - limit your power to a max of 30 Watts, please.

## Training & Exam Dates

CARS Foundation Course-36 is close to its concluding with the exam booked for Oct-12 – Our best wishes to the candidates. For exams at any of the three levels the next opportunity is a slot on December 7<sup>th</sup> - timed in particular for those undertaking distance learning for the Advanced exam. Those interested should contact Chris G0IPU asap as four weeks notice is required for advanced exam registration. Courses, Morse classes and exam dates for 2018 are also being planned.

Course	Dates	Comment
Foundation-36	Sep-7 to Oct-12	Register your interest now!
Advance Exam-20	Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Registration for Advance must be 4wks beforehand. The session can also accept Foundation/Intermediate exam-only

**Contact:** Chris Chapman G0IPU, [training2017@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:training2017@g0mwt.org.uk) Web: [www.g0mwt.org.uk/training](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training)



Follow @TrainWithCARS

## September Meeting: Radio Caroline and GB5RC

The September meeting began on a sad note with a minute silence held to remember CARS member David Davis G3SVI who passed away recently. John & Chris reminded us of the active & supportive role played by David over the years, and for many of us David will be remembered for his knowledgeable encouragement to new & existing members with helpful advice at meetings and training sessions, together with provision of refreshments.

- A true radio ham gentleman. See <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/society/g3svi-sk/g3svi.htm>

The subject of the September meeting was 'Radio Caroline', & we were treated to an interesting talk by members of the Martello Tower Group following their recent return visit to the Ross Revenge, the 5th vessel used by Radio Caroline in her 53 year history! Following a successful activation in 2016 of this historic vessel, Keith G6NHU & Richard G7HJK together with other members of their group revisited the Ross from Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Monday 7<sup>th</sup> August. The tender trip journey should have been somewhat easier than when the ship was in the South Falls Head outside the UK territorial limit (the Ross Revenge is now anchored in the River Blackwater) but the weather decided to produce a Force 8 gale so the short journey out proved a reminder of what many have encountered in the past! A video taken on the tender trip showed us just what some radio hams go through for the sake of our hobby!



Various stations were set up on board with three vertical aerials attached to the ship's railings and dipoles running from the bow to the stern. Operating was below deck from the comfort of the mess room and a good number of contacts were made on various bands including 15, 40, & 20 metres. FT8 data signals were also used with good results, although Keith pointed out that in general the bands were noisy and whilst many hams were hearing the GB5RC station's calls, unfortunately it was difficult at times for the group to hear people returning to the station during the many 'pile-ups'. That said, an impressive response was received together with many requests for the special QSL card produced, both from hams and SWL's.

From the informative photos it is apparent that the team on board fed well and thankfully the Force 8 abated. Whilst the River Blackwater is a relatively calm location compared to previous anchorages, some of the team found the vessel's movement unsettling especially when the tide turned. It is evident that an incredible amount of work has been carried out on board by the volunteer restoration crew, and the GB5RC team also showed us further views of the ship taken with their drone, although there was some concern at

the time of filming when the drone's GPS system took on a mind of its own, probably due to the close vicinity of the 40m transmissions!

A lively question & answer session followed, with topics ranging from the amateur radio special event transmissions to more general discussion around the whole topic of offshore broadcasting. Newly licensed Mark Willis recalled his trips out to see the 'pirate' ships from Walton in the 1960's, and more in depth information was supplied by our past President & 1960's Radio Caroline transmitter engineer Carl Thompson on many aspects of the transmitter equipment and conditions on board the Mi Amigo. (The RCA 50 kW Tx is pictured right)



Carl also recalled the time when he was rescued from the Mi Amigo by 'breeches buoy' in January 1966. He pointed out that at the time of the 1960's offshore stations, no-one ever thought this whole subject would still be of such interest 50+ years later.

Our grateful thanks to the Keith G6NHU and the rest of Martello Tower Group for their work in activating the Ross Revenge and for giving us a fascinating talk, enjoyed by all, and adding to the wide variety of interesting topics covered by CARS meetings. - See also: <https://www.qrz.com/db/gb5rc>

Thanks also to the two lovely ladies who provided the teas and cakes to the many members & visitors attending.

Write-up by Jim 2E0RMI



L-R: Colin G0TRM, Keith G6NHU, Keith G3WRO (RSGB Region-12 Mgr) and more of the GB5RC team

## Science Discovery Day & JOTA

**Sandford Mill Sunday Oct-22<sup>nd</sup>, 10am – 4pm**

Fun for all the family!

CARS will be at the October Science Discovery Day which has a space and communications theme:

**“Discover Space and Beyond”**

Chris G0IPU is coordinating activities which will be largely based in The Barn where he will have DF, rockets, snap-circuits, radio controlled moon-buggy cars and 2m VHF.

There is also an opportunity for all, including newer amateurs to try their hand at HF Operating from the main building with the big antenna – but do contact Chris beforehand so that can be arranged.

Visitors can take a journey into space with the visiting planetarium. You can also wear an invisibility cloak and use live Marconi TV Cameras, try light and sound experiments, coding & more!

Learn about how our local hero Marconi influenced today’s communications from radio to mobile phones, satellites and more.

Planetarium spaces are limited. First phase pre-book tickets are now sold out, however you can still get tickets for the planetarium on the day on a first come first served basis.

This public day is on the Sunday – Chris G0IPU will be busy though – Sandford Mill is hosting his Scouts for JOTA on the day before!



## Essex Repeater Group AGM

**The 2017 Essex Repeater Group AGM will be held at Danbury Village Hall, near Chelmsford on Thursday evening Oct-19, 7:30 for 8pm.**

Features included Refreshments, a Prize Raffle and Surplus items for sale. Most subscriptions will also be due - and will be most welcome!

Raffle Prizes include a brand new UV-5RA radio (as per the photo) and other goodies

Are you a repeater or gateway user? - Do come along and hear the latest updates!

ERG is incurring considerable expenditure in upgrades (and in the process has learnt a thing or two on remote station operation, Centos-7 Linux, PI-Star DMR etc).

Your support would be most welcome

PS There are quite a few callsigns and systems that ERG either directly manage or support...

GB3DA, GB3ER, GB3DB, GB7ZP, MB7IDA, GB3CMS, MB6CE



## Equipment Sale – Lower Prices!

Chris Chapman G0IPU is managing the clearance of a range of good condition items which are on a sold-as-seen basis. Full info is on our sales page at: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/society/sales.htm>

Item	Category	Manf	Model	Description	£ Guide
R1	Radio	Alinco	DJ-195	VHF FM single band handheld	£20.00
R2	Radio	Alinco	DJ-G5	VHF/UHF dual band handheld	£30.00
R8	Radio	Telcom	Talkeasy-100	Pair of PMR-446 handhelds	£10.00
R10	Radio	Yaesu	FT-2800M	2m VHF Mobile	£65.00
R10x	Radio	Icom	?	2m/70cm VHF Mobile - Remote Hrah Kit	£70.00
S2	Speaker	BlueParrott	B250	Roadwarrior Bluetooth wireless headset	£10.00
S4	Speaker	MFJ	MFJ-281	External Speaker	£10.00
S5	Speaker	Midland	70-2355T	External Speaker	£10.00
S6	Speaker	Moonraker	PMR-201	External Speaker	£7.00
S7	Speaker	SMC	SP2	External Speaker	£10.00
T4	Tuner	MFJ	MFJ-906	6m tuner	£35.00
T5	Tuner	MFJ	MFJ-941E	Versa tuner	£50.00
T7	Tuner	SGC	SG0237	Tuner - Longwire	£50.00
A1	Antenna	Diamond	MX-2000	2m/6m/70cm triplexer	£30.00
A3	Antenna	MFJ	MFJ-1736	6m J-Pole Antenna	£15.00
A11	Antenna	Diamond	NR770RSFoS	VHF/UHF S0239 connector	£10.00
A13	Antenna	Unbranded (Oscar?)	?	VHF/UHF S0239 connector	£5.00
A15	Antenna	W3FF	BUDDISTICK	HF Portable Antenna	£80.00
A16	Antenna	Watson	W30	2m/70cm Antenna	£10.00
A17	Antenna	Comet	CHA-250 BXII	80m- 10m HF Vertical	£50.00
A18	Antenna	Moonraker	?	2m/70cm Antenna	£10.00
A19	Antenna	Unbranded	?	2m/70cm Antenna	£10.00
A20	Antenna	Diamond	V2000	6M/2m/70cm Antenna	£25.00
A21	Antenna	Moonraker (new in bag)	M20	Mini HF Antenna 40M to 10M	£25.00
A22	Antenna	Mirage (new in bag)		2M 3ele Beam	£25.00
A23	Antenna	Moonraker (new in bag)	6M HB9CV	6M HB9CV	£30.00
A24	Antenna	Moonraker used	6M HB9CV	6M HB9CV	£10.00
F1	Filter	MFJ	MFJ-704	Low pass filter	£30.00
D1	Filter	MFJ	MFJ260C	Dummy Load	£15.00
M1	Meter	AEC	SWR-50	CB SWR meter	£4.00
M2	Meter	Avo	Avo-8	Avo-8 inc case, flat battery	£60.00
X3	Misc	Yaesu	CD-15	Rapid charger adapter for VX5R	£5.00
X6	Misc	Maplin	N70AP	Flight Cases	£10.00
X10	Misc	unknown	N70AP	Flight Cases	£10.00
X11	Misc	unknown	N70AP	Flight Cases	£10.00
X12	Misc	unknown	unknown	Small rotator (1) -	Offers
X13	Misc	unknown	unknown	Small rotator (2) - No Controller	Offers
X19	Misc	unknown	unknown	Lighting Stand -2	£5.00
X20	Misc	unknown	unknown	Lighting Stand -3	£5.00

**September Skills Night**

Skills returned on Monday September 18<sup>th</sup> after a summer break with an experimental autumn period that is more dependent on attendees offering something themselves. Four years on from its start in January 2014 it has effectively evolved from a training extension for newer licensees, to more of a social meeting for existing ones. For the first outing Chris was running the first of a series of training themed demos, whilst regulars including Essex CW.

**Like the CARS Committee - please do come forward with offers of demos and something new!**



**CARS & Essex Ham had training materials and demos on offer**



**Regulars, Essex CW the Badge Team were also present**

Wot no Quiz ? – feedback from the Skills survey had suggested to give some things a rest. However that was one of the features that others missed.

In any case the quiz master was on a vital mission as you can read on the next page...  
(but he is back now! – so watch out in October!)

**Our thanks to Peter M0PSX for coordinating and the photos**

## Where do your Band Plans come from?

September 16 -21 had the IARU Region-1 Conference, which is held once every three years and this time was hosted by DARC at Landshut near Munich. Over 140 papers on the future of amateur radio, EMC/noise-floor, spectrum and band plans were on a packed agenda. The UK bunch below was representing your interests!



Left-to-right: HF Manager Ian Greenshields G4FSU, President Nick Henwood G3RWF, Spectrum Chair (and CARS Member) Murray G6JYB and Microwave Manager Barry Lewis G4SJH

NB: Not in shot – David Lauder G4SNO, EMC.

Photo by Greg Mossop G0DUB who was awarded a Region-1 Medal for his work on Emergency Communications

## Help Wanted !!

- **Chairman**
- **Newsletter Editor**
- **Membership Secretary**
- **Newsletter Items**
- **PR Officer**



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Editor: [editor@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto:editor@g0mwt.org.uk)

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