



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

March Meeting

Tue 6-Mar-2018, 7.30-10pm
Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street

Military Radios for Amateur Radio By Andy Tyler G1GKN

The March meeting features Andy Tyler G1GKN who will talk about using ex-military radios for amateur radio – particularly the Clansman series which are widely available.

Radio Amateurs have always been very good at recycling electronics and it seems we still are !!

Andy's talk will look at the history of radio communications in the British Army since WW2 and the radios that were brought by amateurs from such places as Lisle Street in the 1950's and 60's.

He will also look at the latest MOD release, the Clansman Combat Radio System, its suitability for amateur radio and what is available now on Ebay. He will also look at a few radios which probably never saw service with the British Army, but are useful in their own right. So if you want to go green, go military.....

We will also have a refreshments break and our famous raffle - so do pop along!



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Club Diary

Tue 6-Mar-2018	Meeting: Military Radios for Amateur Radio, Andy G1GKN	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Mon 19-Mar-2018	Skills Night (and Mon Apr-16 th)	Danbury 7pm
Tue 3-Apr-2018	Meeting: Free-DV - Digital Voice for HF, Matthew Phillips G6WPJ	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Sat 21-Apr-2018	International Marconi Day – CARS Operating GX0MWT	Sandford Mill

Club Nets

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

- 2nd 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
- 3rd 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.
- 4th 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.
- 5th 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

Our training pages have the 2018 sessions listed for Foundation, Intermediate and Advance.

Our training manager Peter M0PSD is keen to hear from candidates for the 2018 courses, as well as any needing practicals or other help.

Our Morse Classes are continuing on Thursday evenings - Andy G0IBN is coordinating these as usual

Course	Dates	Comment
Intermediate-17	Thu Mar-22 nd – Jun-7 th	Places Limited – contact Peter !
Advance-21	Thu July 12 th (plus Jul-5)	Exam (optional mocks & Foundation/intermediate exams)

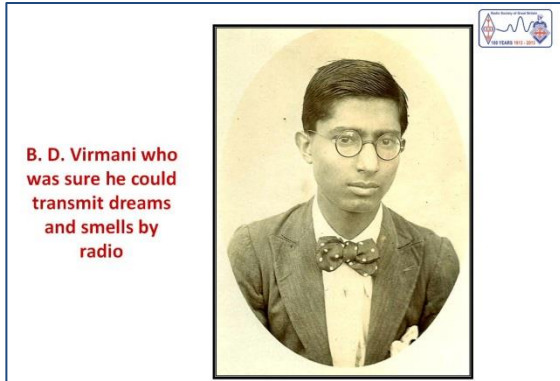
Contact: Peter Davies M0PSD, training2018@g0mwt.org.uk Web: www.g0mwt.org.uk/training

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

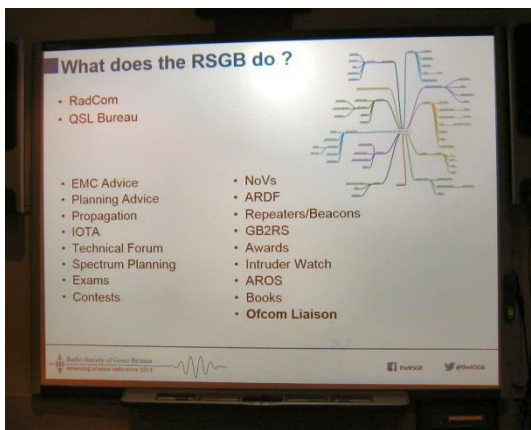
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February Meeting: RSGB Past, Present & Future

The meeting featured two talks – with the first one by Keith Haynes G3WRO Region 12 manager. We had a good attendance for an extremely interesting talk that started with the early days of RSGB and then moved on to the present what the modern RSGB undertakes – which is rather more than just RadCom and QSL bureau. For example the NRC at Bletchley is seeing up to 3000 visitors/month



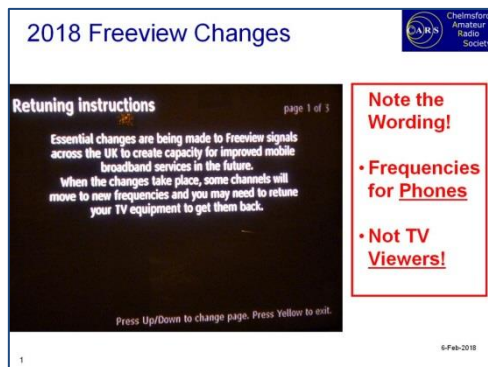
Early history: 1924 - Virmani writes from India to Gerald Marcuse G2NM
Feb 1941: ARRL send food parcels to relieve rationing hardship



Tony G4YTG presented Keith with the CARS Speaker Mug before the raffle which raised £62.

After the refreshment break John G8DET then gave us a topical and enlightening talk on the changes happening on our Freeview channels as Ofcom makes way for a more mobile phone usage.

Murray G6JYB had kindly provided the slides and in his absence, John with his wit and humour made it very light hearted and enjoyable:- (a copy of the slides are the CARS website)



Essex Skills Night: February 2018

A cold and miserable evening did not prevent the second Skills Night of the year on the 19th February from being another popular event with ~45+ in attendance in both the hall and rear Hawkins room for practicals.



Mark M0IEO from Thames ARG was showing how a Radio and an AMU could modulate a light bulb. Several demos had dongles or DV access points (inc from Chris 2E0CUU, Keith G3WGE and Andy G7TKK) giving a variety of SDR, Fusion and D-Star, whilst Jim 2E0RMI ran a demo of EchoLink and SDR



ThamesARG (inc red light bulb!) and Essex CW

Also present were Jim & Glynis with their badges, and Murray giving the Quiz. An excellent cake and cuppa service by Myra and Ann in the Kitchen helped matters along too – our grateful thanks.

NEXT EVENTS: Monday 19th March, 16th April

Canvey Rally - Sunday 4th Feb 2018

Firstly I wish to thank everyone who donated their unwanted bits to be sold at Canvey Rally, for Club Funds. What started as not having very much - turned into a pleasing mass. We had nine volunteers, but unfortunately due to illness were down to six but that was fine.

Our tables were just inside the doors in the main hall. Even before opening, items were being eyed up by other traders. Once the doors were opened to the punters a brisk sale ensued and this was more or less constant until approximately 1pm. At that point the table next to us had packed up and gone home after selling out; and our own success had left us with virtually nothing left to sell. With a good day's work, we also left before the rush to pack up.

I would like to say a big thank you our donor and volunteers, as we managed to raise £728.

Overall this was £648 net after £80 was passed to Carl G3PEM for the sale of SK equipment, which will be given to the widow.



Peter M0PSD

Trevor Baylis - In memoriam

As the newsletter was being put together the BBC reported that Trevor Baylis from Twickenham, London, died on Monday, March 5, 2018 of natural causes after a long illness.

His wind-up radio made communications available to people across Africa without access to electricity.

Trevor Baylis was an Honorary member of the RSGB and in 2007 he attended the Society's AGM in Edinburgh where the CARS Training team at the time was being awarded the Kenwood Trophy.

Pictured L-to-R: Murray G6JYB, Sylvia Manco 2E1CYL (RSGB), Clive Ward G1EUC (SK), and Anthony Martin M1FDE (SK)

More Radio Cubs!

On Monday 26th Feb, having braved the snow and windy conditions, Bob G4MDB, Jim 2E0RMI and Pauline SWL (Membership Sec) as a replacement for Peter M0PSD who was sporting an extremely heavy cold, went along to the Woodham Ferrers Scout Hut to help another pack of cubs with their communicator badge.

The cubs took time to learn the Phonetic Alphabet while the radios etc were set up, Unfortunately as the weather conditions were not very good only half of the pack turned up. Steve G8UDD was waiting to receive the call from Bob using GB3DA repeater, and contact was made.

Afterwards each cub had a chance to have a go using the morse training keyer. Either spelling out there name or just sending an SOS. Fun was had by all.



Carl Thomson: My Career in Amateur Radio

This is a short tale on how I became interested in our great hobby, way back in 1955/56. I had been very intrigued by the signals in Morse code that could be found at one end of the long wave band and the voices at top end of the medium wave band. The Morse signals were very slow and repeated at very regular intervals, so by drawing out the dashes and dots on paper a three letter sequence was written down, these turned out to be the call signs of direction finding beacons off the Essex coast. The signals on the medium wave band were below Radio Luxembourg and the AFN broadcast station and although they seemed a bit jumbled were fascinating and until I joined sea cadets these signals were a mystery. Joining sea cadets brought me in touch with one of the officers who was G3LFB (Bing) who enlightened me to the amateur radio signals that I had heard at the bottom of the MW bands. At home it turned out that our next door neighbour was Bing's sister; it's a small world.



We now move on a couple of years and I had attended the University of Southampton School of Navigation at Warsash, having pre sea training before becoming an apprentice and learning to navigate in the merchant navy, as my eyesight had deteriorated during the nine month course I could not pursue that career. Looking around for another profession my interest in radio resurfaced, so I attended a radio college and whilst in this college a couple of friends, one of whom became G3PJF, talked me into taking the Amateur radio examination, together with the Morse test.

I was allocated the call sign G3PEM on 16th August 1961, and I then contacted Bing, G3LFB, and he became my ELMER who guided me on the construction of my first top band transmitter, CW only and 10 watts input to the PA valve. I had worked on AM phone /A from Bing's QTH, G3LYW and G3MXJ being my first QSO's in August 1961, but my first home QSO came in November 1961 from my home QTH with my homebuilt CW transmitter and R109 receiver. This transmitter was a simple VFO/Buffer amplifier/ Power Amplifier a TT11 valve, once built I took it around to Bing's to be checked before the switch on. He checked that it looked ok, tied a bit of string to the on switch and stepped outside of his shack for the switch on! Before he pulled the string I legged it to the other end of his garden!!

I operated CW top band for about 18 months whilst I constructed an AM/CW rig for use on top band, this used a 5B4M valve as the Power Amplifier and a pair of EL84's for modulation. The modulation transformer was an aircraft radar valve heater supply transformer wired in reverse, aircraft AC being between 400 to 1000 cycles per second. This rig was used together with a BC348 receiver for many years. It was during this time that I became interested in awards and it added to my operating skill set in listening for stations that would be eligible for the awards I wanted to chase. Then followed a 40 metre CW transmitter with an 807 valve as the Power Amplifier, the output to the aerial was about twenty watts.

With the conversion of building societies to banks, some shares came my way which allowed me to purchase a Yaesu FT 1000 MP which is the rig I use to the present day. I have used a variety of mainly wire aerials, from a 132 feet wire for top band, various inverted "V" dipoles for 20/15 /10 metres, a W3EDP type for 80/30/40 metres. I have also tried a MOXEN for 10 metres constructing it from four bamboos, a lump of wood, and with spreaders made from the side of a plastic milk bottle. Another interest is QRP operation constructing simple transmitters and receivers, using one of these sets a contact that gave me most pleasure being a 750 mile QSO with a Polish station, I was using about 200mW from a one transistor transmitter which was powered from a PP3 battery.

My involvement with CARS

In about 1962/1963 my job transferred to Chelmsford and I became aware of CARS. I received copies of the newsletter but did not become a member until 1972 when Frances, I and the children moved to Chelmsford. After several years as a member I was talked into becoming secretary for a couple of years, committee meetings were held in a pub at Hatfield Peverel. In 1982 I became chairman, but in 1983 had to give the post up due to ill health. Whilst I was recovering someone lent me a Kenwood transceiver - sunspots were good and in one 12 hour day I followed the sun and worked all continents, on 10 and 15 metre's, another award under my belt!

After a spell of time missing attendance at CARS, due to work, I became active again in about 1989/1990 and began serving on the committee and helping out with various posts. In the mid 1990's I carried out a survey of members and produced a handbook detailing member's interest, with a view of it being used as an ELMER guide. It was intended to be a publication where members could receive help and advice on various topics.



The demise of City and Guilds as the examination body caused the RSGB together the authorities to revamp the amateur radio syllabus, together with training and examinations structure for radio amateurs. CARS decided to build on the success of the excellent training that Chris G0IPU was achieving with his courses and set up a CARS training team using Danbury Village Hall, I had the privilege of joining that team.

On the retirement of Harry G5HF from the President's role it was an honour to be selected as the next President. I carried out that role for a number of years before my interest in the hobby began to wane and I decided to resign and become a backbencher.

Carl Thomson G3PEM

Foundation Training Success

January and February saw the 37th CARS Foundation Course which was fully subscribed and ran with a mock exam on Feb 15th and the real thing on Feb 22nd. Happy candidates from the course 37, along with trainers Jim 2E0RMI and Bob G4MDB are pictured below. Amongst others, our membership secretary Pauline (Peters XYL) is now M6XPK – congratulations to all!



Happy candidates and trainers at the end of Foundation Course 37

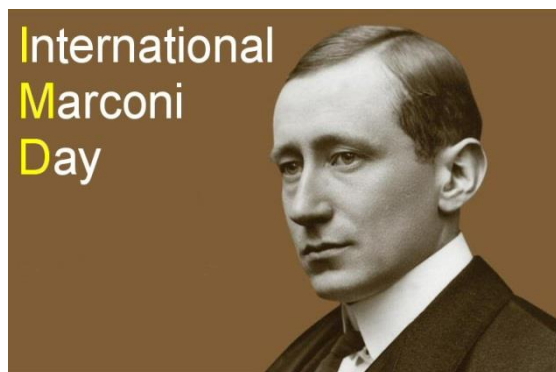
Wanted! – Weller 45W Iron

Has anyone got a spare Weller 24v 45W temperature controlled soldering iron, or a spare heating element?

Good price paid

Thanks

Andrew G4KCE

**Coming Soon - IMD**

Sat 21-Apr-2018, Sandford Mill

International Marconi Day commemorates Marconi's Birthday on 25th April 1874, and is held on the nearest Saturday.

CARS is registered as one of the ~40 Award Stations and will be operating on CW and SSB as GX0MWT

Help Still Wanted !!...

- **Newsletter Editor**
- **Newsletter Items**
- **Help/items for Canvey Rally**



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