



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

March Meeting

Tue 5-Mar-2019, 7:30-10:00pm
Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street

Offshore Radio

By Jim Salmon 2E0RMI

For the March meeting, Jim Salmon 2E0RMI will be giving a talk on: 'My Interest in Offshore Radio'.

This will let Jim indulge in one of his passions and cover a wide variety of stations (not just Radio Caroline!)

Jim's talk will include a look at many of the offshore radio ventures from the present day back to the 1950's - and even earlier!



Jim has been a radio listener since the 1970's, with a particular interest in stations based 'offshore', often (incorrectly) referred to as 'pirates'. Jim will be looking at this aspect of radio purely from an enthusiast's viewpoint, with a collection of pictures including some of the lesser known stations.

The famous CARS Raffle and refreshments will feature too! - do pop along.

BUT, and it is a big But... In its wisdom the Museum has decided to impose a fixed fee of 75p per cup of hot water to be ordered in advance of the meeting. Regretfully we will in future have to ask members to pay £1 for tea/coffee etc. This matter is ongoing.

Raffle Volunteer Wanted: Talking of the Raffle; we urgently need a new volunteer to purchase a given number of prizes for the monthly Raffle at the Club meeting. Some £12 to £15 is currently being spent each month on prizes. The amount is not fixed and it is hoped that the current small flow of monthly prize donations will continue as always.

In this issue:-

Club Diary.....	2	February Skills Night.....	5
Club Nets.....	2	Training News	6
Training & Exam Dates	2	Baofeng Microphone Tip.....	7
February Meeting: Data Modes for All Occasions ...	3		

Club Diary

Tue 5-Mar-2019	Offshore Radio – Jim Salmon 2E0RMI	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Mon 18-Mar-2019	Skills Night (and Exam Session EX8)	Danbury Village Hall 7:00pm
Tue 2-Apr-2019	A Canal Journey – Vic Rogers G6BHE	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Mon 15-Apr-2019	Skills Night (and Exam Session EX9)	Danbury Village Hall 7:00pm

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 sessions listed for Foundation, Intermediate and Advance.

The first half of 2019 has both Foundation and Intermediate training – see more info and dates online

Remember that the syllabus changes in Autumn 2019, so sign up early for a course/exam before that!

We also have exam slots in June/July for Advanced - inc those taking the Bath Distance Learning course

Our training manager Peter M0PSD is keen to hear from candidates for the courses, as well as any needing practicals or other help. The 2019 March-June Skills Nights also have slots available

Course	Dates	Comment
Intermediate-18	Thu Mar-21 st – May 2 nd	Intermediate - but with Foundation opportunities as well

Contact: Peter Davies M0PSD, training2019@g0mwt.org.uk Web: www.g0mwt.org.uk/training



Follow @TrainWithCARS

February Meeting: Data Modes for All Occasions

The February meeting proved to be a popular one for a well-presented talk on Data Modes by Dave Cutts M0TAZ.

He first spent time explaining the basis of many of them including their tone structure and use of Forward Error Correction (FEC) – which is why they perform so well at lower power, or in poor propagation conditions. Of course datamodes are not new CW and 'Hell' have been around a long time. (Hell dates back to ~1920)

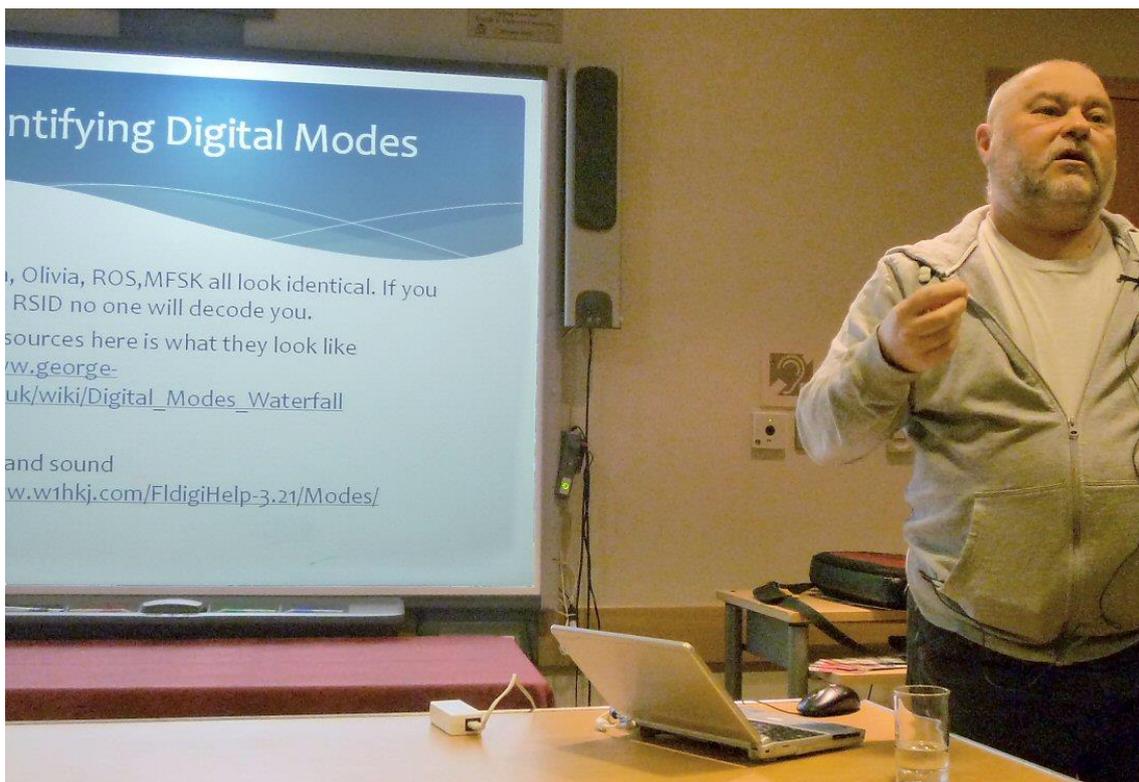
In the past identifying them on air took a skilled ear but the variety of them (especially courtesy of the JT suite)

makes that harder. Fortunately waterfall displays are increasingly common thanks to SDR transceivers.



Advantages / Disadvantages		
Mode	Advantages	Disadvantages
RTTY	Fast, high power, easy to tune.	No FEC, bigger is better. Doesn't cope well under some condx.
PSK	Robust, low power	No FEC. Doesn't cope well under some condx
Olivia	FEC, choice of modes	Slow
JT65	FEC, very robust	Slow, not a chat mode
JT9	FEC, even more robust	Slow, not a chat mode
WSPR	FEC, very robust	Slow, not a chat mode
Slowscan TV	You can send pictures	Slow, bandwidth
MFSK	FEC, robust, fast	Difficult to tune
PSK SIM31	FEC, robust, auto qso	Looks like PSK, special program.

A useful summary of various datamode advantages and drawbacks



Dave had a lot of good advice inc how to identify them and some useful links



Refreshments during the break - See front page Notice regarding this!

Useful Links:-

- What they look like: http://www.george-smart.co.uk/wiki/Digital_Modes_Waterfall
- Dave recommended FLDigi:
 - Software: <http://www.w1hkj.com/>
 - Look and Sound: <http://www.w1hkj.com/FLdigiHelp-3.21/Modes/>

February Skills Night

Monday evening, 7pm February 18th 2019, was Essex Skills Night, run by the CARS Training Team. It also happened to be FA-Cup night for Chelsea vs Man-Utd (0-2). Despite that and a cold evening there were plenty of attendees who could choose from skills / demos to socialising and refreshments (inc nice cake!), along with a mini tabletop sale, raffle and quiz (whilst an Exam Session was also running nearby).



Greeters and Arrivals



Some Key practice with Essex CW - and our raffle winner!

- And see the back page for some other items first seen at Skills Night...

More Info & Photos: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/skills>

Next Event: **Monday 18-Mar-2019**

NB: Skills Nights are a great opportunity if you need a Training Practical or even an Exam session!

Training News

The February exam session on Thursday 21st session saw both our Foundation course and a fast-track batch of Intermediate candidates all doing well:-



All four Happy Foundation Candidates at the end of Course-39



On the same night – Four happy Intermediate candidates as well!

And first seen at February Skills – here are some training aids that Peter made earlier....



Feeders, Ferrites and Connectors!

Baofeng Microphone Tip



On the CARS 2m Net on Tuesday 12th February 2019, the subject of Baofeng UV-5R Walkie Talkie Microphones came up. It was accepted that the mic in the small rig is a little deaf and it needs to be “talked up”. Bob G4MDB suggested “buy a Wouxun Microphone/Speaker – not the Baofeng one”. I spent ½ hour on my Internet Browser and found it was sold in the UK by the big company with a name of a river. It turned up in two days for £10.55 plus £4 odd p&p.

I went on GB3DA and requested a test and G1KOT Mike from Langdon answered and confirmed the new mic was better. The receive audio is about the same or a little weaker – but well okay. The 2-pin plug needs a jolly good press to get it finally in position – initially I thought mine was faulty.

This saves drilling 2mm out of the case of the Baofeng with a high risk of drilling through the internal microphone. I noted there are dozens of similar Microphone/Speakers available and provided they have the “Kenwood 2 Pin Plug” I am sure many would work but Bob’s suggestion does – thank you Bob.

John G8DET

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