



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

December Meeting

Tue 3-Dec-2019, 7:30-10:00pm
Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street

Marconi Talk & Xmas Social!

By John G8DET & CARS Members

Season's Greetings! December will be our Xmas Social. We are assured that careful research and testing is being undertaken on mince pies and stollen so they are ready for the meeting!

A bonus feature is that there will also be a short illustrated talk by John Bowen G8DET using a series of photos his daughter Lorraine recently took at Marconi's original home and surroundings in Bologna, Italy. This is now commemorated for his very early wireless experiments before Marconi came to England.



Apparently the locals still mourn the demise of Marconi plc in the 1999-2006 dot-com boom and bust era (like many of us!)

- All welcome (especially if you have paid subs/renewals beforehand by PayPal)

The famous CARS Raffle also features.

NB: Following the AGM, Subscriptions are now due...

- Please pay online here

Volunteers Still Needed: Talks, Events, Newsletter Editor.

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Club Diary

Tue 3-Dec-2019	'Marconi in Italy' & Xmas Social	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Tue 7-Jan-2020	tbc	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Sun 2-Feb-2020	35 th Canvey Rally	Cornelius Vermuyden School, Dinant Ave, SS8 9QS

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 & Morse Classes

On Thursday Nov 28th our retiring training manager Peter M0PSD ran his last exam session which was a retake under the old syllabus - and we wish the candidates well!

CARS is pleased to announce that John O'Connell M0JOC is stepping into the training role. He can be contacted via training2020@g0mwt.org.uk

- John has some nice background info on his QRZ page at <https://www.qrz.com/db/M0JOC>

Our first exam session of the new era is on Thursday 5th December

We should shortly be releasing a set of 2020 dates for practicals and exam sessions, as we get back up to speed and update material for the new RSGB syllabus that is now in effect

Updates will appear in due course on: www.g0mwt.org.uk/training



Follow @TrainWithCARS

November mtg: LF, MF, WSPR – Andy G1GKN

As expected the talk by Andy Tyler G1GKN lived up to all expectations helped by fine graphics enhancing the story. Two examples of Andy's design and construction techniques were also in evidence, a beautifully made variometer and equally well made high power amplifier.

Andy's wide ranging talk explained some experiments and tests that he has been doing over a past few months covering many frequencies in the MF, LF and VLF, ranges using CW and WSPR modes also known as Weak Signal Propagation Reporter. Talking of WSPR, Andy showed numerous tables indicating active stations and propagation states and signal strengths.



Specific frequencies and low powers are specified for each band and for each mode and these are adhered to. Transmission Modes include WSPR and QRSS CW, sent by computer or a Raspberry Pi.

When using CW very slow speeds are the norm and messages take some time to send, typical time for a dot might be 3 seconds as against 0.1 second at 12 WPM. Therefore only the minimum amount of information is sent. Very stable oscillators are an obvious requirement for satisfactory operation.

Andy went on to tell us about his experiences with LF operation with powers and component size at the other end of the scale. For LF large coils and even larger antennas are generally the norm. The two units Andy displayed were then described in detail. The variometer consisted of two coils, one small one mounted inside another with their axis and right angles and adjustable. Both coils wound with 4mm diameter cable. Overall size perhaps 18" high and 6" in diameter.



At this point Andy spoke of the extremely voltages high that can exist in high-Q circuits sometimes causing serious damage. To prove it he showed the results of such damage to without doubt prove the point as you can see in one of the pictures. Thanks Andy for another interesting talk.

Colin Page G0TRM



Post-AGM1: Committee Updates

Members will know that when Peter M0PSD and Pauline M0XPK stood down from the Committee at the October AGM three posts became vacant; Training Manager, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary.

Thanks to our volunteers, these posts have now been filled. John O'Connell M0JOC has filled the Training Manager post, also now known as Examinations Secretary. John Roe G4IMS has taken on the Treasurers position and Andy Kersey G0IBN is filling the Membership Secretary post. As a result, It will be appreciated that certain changes in procedures may occur and take a little time to fulfil.

Colin Page G0TRM

In summary:-

- Membership Secretary: Andy Kersey G0IBN
- Treasurer: John Roe G4IMS
- Training / Exam Secretary: John O'Connell M0JOC

Post-AGM2: Requests & Subscriptions

IMPORTANT:

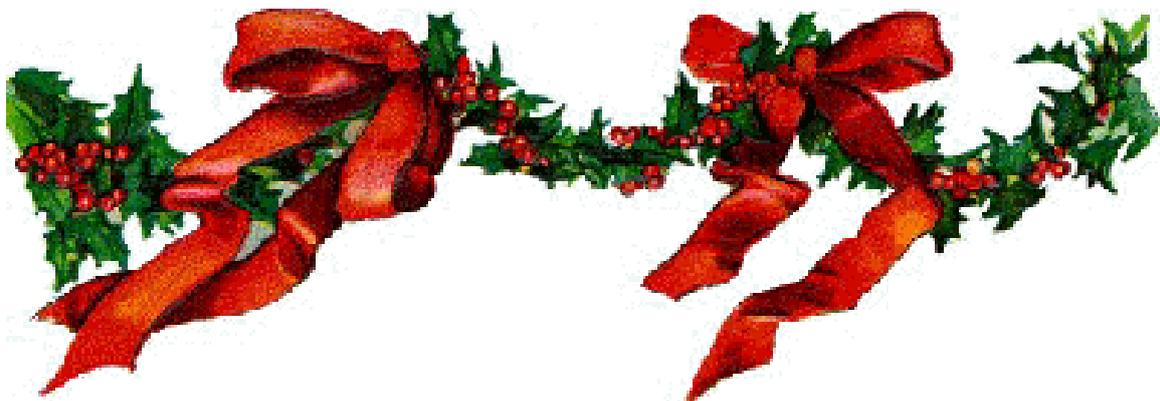
Volunteers still needed for talks, events, training and a newsletter editor!

SUBSCRIPTIONS: Following the AGM, Membership subs have been retained at the same £15 level as last year and are now due!

To ease administration, please use the CARS online PayPal facility (which accepts debit cards online as well, if you don't have a PayPal account)

<http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/society/membership/e-form.htm>

Note that this is preferred to post, cheques or cash



Who said, "Morse Code is Dead....."

You would not say that if you were on the bands on the weekend of 23rd and 24th November 2019. The American Radio Relay League (ARRL) have their annual worldwide Morse contest around this time every year and participants travel the globe to find an unusual place to operate either on their own or as a team of enthusiasts.

I am not a "serious" contester but I do enjoy participating. In the past I have been 1st in England a few times and 2nd in Great Britain in my category, which is to operate on one band, normally 20m, as a single operator, with a low power of 100 watts. The duration of the contest is 48 hours but I normally operate only 12 hours. With 20m normally open in daylight hours I manage to get a good night's sleep!!

There is no way I can compete with the big boys with their kilowatts of power and enormous aerial arrays. I live in a semi-detached house on an estate so I am always aware of keeping my neighbours happy! My aerials consist of a G7FEK which is designed for a small garden - my garden is only 10m long. The G7FEK evolved from a simple end fed aerial for 80m. It is only 46ft long x 24ft high with a 50 ohm coaxial feed. Although it is classed as "multi-band," 80/40/20/15m, I only use it on 40 and 80m. With an SWR of 1:1 on 80m it works very well, for 40m I do use an ATU. With its low angle of radiation it has made a contact with Australia on 80m, quite an achievement for my small QTH. It is not too intrusive to the eye and easy to make. Regarding the 46ft length in my 10ft garden?! It does go over my roof, you can see it on my QRZ.COM page.

On top of my 40ft Tenna Mast I have an MQ-26, a six band hybrid quad antenna for 20, 17, 15, 12, 10 and 6m, the latter using an ATU. This is a good aerial but does lack the directivity of a Yagi. I do have problems when it rains as the SWR tends to rise. The manufacturers recommend drilling holes to allow water to drain away but this has not improved things. I will have to investigate this problem further as it is annoying when I have to reduce power during a contest!!

If an operator is in the "ASSISTED" section and has any doubts about a callsign he can look on the RBN list in his contest logging system which will display all the callsigns and frequencies of those on the bands - isn't that cheating? Not really, it is just modern technology!

As a "NON-ASSISTED" operator I am not allowed to use any support methods like RBN. The disadvantage of this is that you have to be capable of reading every callsign, some at very high speed! During this contest I spotted a country I needed in Africa, I could read his zone ok but in no way could I read his callsign which was coming at me at least 50wpm! The morse was bad and he sent his callsign infrequently - a good DX operator would send his callsign frequently. When he did send his call it was being swamped by stations calling him. The exchange in this contest consists of a callsign, 599(waste of time) and a zone, mine being 14. In the end I had to repeatedly ask him to "QRS call pse!!!" I doubt if he was amused but he eventually got the message and sent his call at about 10wpm !!! Africa is not too far away and I would imagine my repeated request was making his job of making contacts difficult!!

When I commented to a DX operator that he should send his callsign more often his reply was, "It doesn't matter because it can be seen on RBN!! He had obviously never worked in a "NON-ASSISTED" category.

New Zealand, Australia, Lebanon, Puerto Rico, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Tanzania, India, Hong Kong are just a few contacts I made making the whole event worthwhile. If you are trying for awards this is an ideal contest to participate in.

Having operated most of Saturday by midday on Sunday I had had enough! So I made time for a few pints of beer at the local Royal British Legion Club, consequently not a lot was done in the afternoon!! My final score of 584 contacts gave me a score of 113.459, about 80,000 more points than last year so it made the event a great success in my eyes but in context with the rest of the world I doubt I shall win that prize of a Round The World Cruise prize!!

Andy G0IBN

2020 Rallies

Once we get past Xmas a few events crop up soon in the New Year...

Canvey

- Organisers: South Essex Amateur Radio Society
- Date: Sunday 2nd February 2020
- Contact: Tony Street G0JYI
- <http://www.southessex-ars.co.uk/>

Rainham

- Organisers: Bredhurst Receiving and Transmitting Society
- Date: Sunday 23rd February 2020, Time: 10am – 3pm
- Venue: The Victory Academy, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, Kent, ME4 5JB
- Contact the Rally Co-ordinator on: 07825-838877
- www.brats-qth.org

Amateur Licence validation in 2020

Unless you have passed an exam or revalidated recently, in April 2020 licences will be expire as they will be 5 years since they were up-issued in the 2015 Ofcom licence review

Are you (re)registered and have online access to the 'new' Ofcom IT system (introduced in 2016)

Have you revalidated ?

Don't forget your logon id must be a valid current email address

Did you know that if you go two years beyond the revalidation deadline you now risk losing your callsign entirely to someone else who could apply for it

New Year Resolution - Make revalidation an annual habit!

<https://rsgb.org/main/operating/licensing-novs-visitors/uk-licensing/>

<https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radiocommunication-licences/online-licensing-service>

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