



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

March Meeting

Tue 3-Mar-2020, 7:30-10:00pm
Oaklands Museum, Moulsham Street

Measure It!

By Dave Ellis G4AJY & Bob G4MDB

The March meeting has a double instalment on measurements - classical and modern.

Meters: Firstly Dave Ellis G4AJY will kick off with the moving coil meter. These may seem to be out of date in the modern ham radio scene, but it can still do things that a digital multimeter can't - and you can pick them up for as little as a pound at a rally.

This talk will explain how the meter is made, how it works, what you can do with it, and some special projects for your meter.

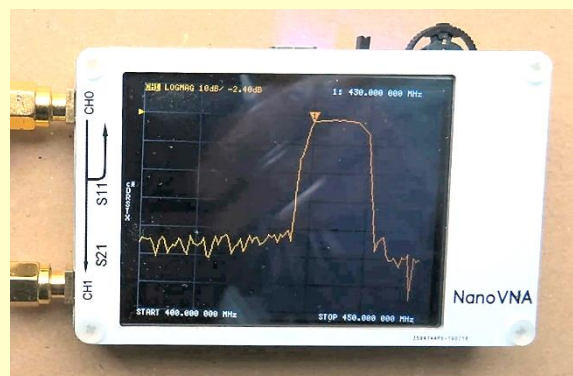
Every ham shack should have one!



VNAs: After the break Bob Tokley G4MDB will then give an insight into another measurement tool - really useful for Antenna Design & Measurements.

He will describe the operation and functions of his two miniature Vector Network Analysers as Bob owns both a miniVNA and a nanoVNA,

So do pop along for another set of entertaining and insightful presentations. All welcome



The famous CARs Raffle also features.

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Club Diary

Tue 3-Mar-2020	Portable Operation and OAS, talks	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Mon 16-Mar-2020	Essex Activity Night - (ne Skills Night)	Danbury Village Hall 7pm
Tue 31-Mar-2020	Top Band Net (as it's a Fifth Tuesday)	On air on 160m
Tue 7-Apr-2020	Club meeting – topic tbc	Chelmsford – Oaklands Museum, 7:30pm
Mon 20-Apr-2020	Essex Activity Night - (ne Skills Night)	Danbury Village Hall 7pm
Sat 25-Apr-2020	International Marconi Day, GX0MWT on air	BAE Systems , Greta Baddow

Club Nets

CARS meets for talks/events on the first Tuesday of the month. The subsequent Tuesdays have club radio nets as follows below and dates listed on our calendar at www.g0mwt.org.uk/main/events/categories/net/ :-

- **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

CARS completed its first new-style 2020 Foundation course - see the training news

Places are open for the next one, course 41F running on April 9th to the 23rd.

If you are interested in these or other opportunities, please contact **John O'Connell M0JOC** our training coordinator and Exam Secretary

John can be contacted via training2020@g0mwt.org.uk or 07868-004380

More info including dates and other updates are at: www.g0mwt.org.uk/training

Note that Morse classes are also underway - the current series runs until April 23rd – see **Andy G0IBN**



Follow @TrainWithCARS



Follow @ChelmsfordARS

February Meeting: OAS and Portable Operating

The February meeting had a good turnout for the return of Dave Cutts M0TAZ who updated us with a double bill consisting of:-

- The new RSGB Operating Advisory Service – for which he is the Region-12 rep
- Operating Portable – though with a few differences!

Dave started with a brief overview of the new OAS which has replaced AROS. Whilst AROS volunteers were kept secret and supported Ofcom, the new approach is a far more public and broader one.

Under the overall OAS national coordinator are OAS regional operating advisers working in liaison with the existing RSGB Regional reps. The OAS role is:

- Advise local amateurs - via club presentations and responding to cases
- Share experience nationally – what has helped elsewhere
- Promote good practice to help you control the situation.
- Potentially assist new amateurs with operating advice (inc one-to-one for RSGB members)



The OAS will not:

- Intervene personally (it makes matters worse)
- Give legal advice (they are not qualified to do so)

In the case of on-air abuse remember to never respond to on-air abuse in any form.

More about OAS is at: <https://rsgb.org/main/operating/operating-advisory-service/>

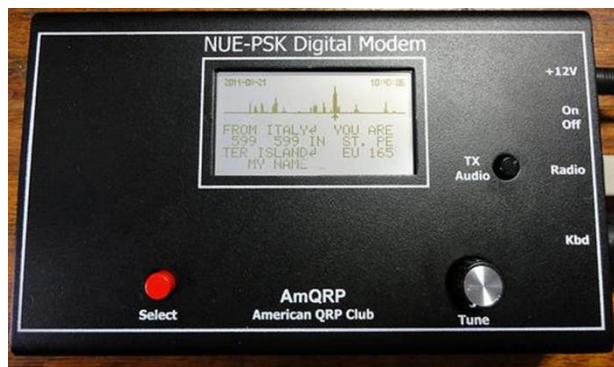
Dave then moved onto one of his own favourite topics – portable operating. His slides covered the various motivations, considerations and benefits from getting out to rf-quiet countryside for some DX from decent heights.



The Portable talk and some of the audience

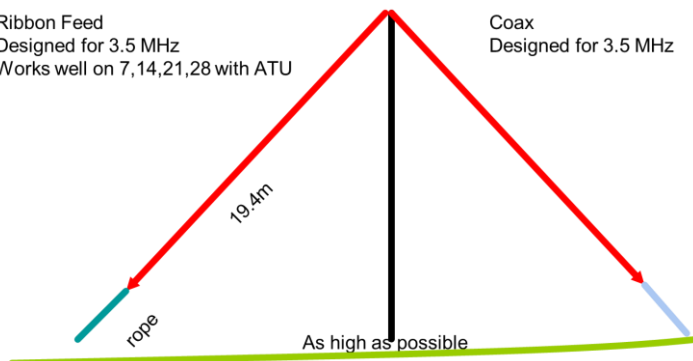
Whilst much portable operating is associated with QRP (and Dave has had a go at that), he has also tried his hand at more power. However the big cautionary note is that needs a generator as it is all too easy to flatten your car battery!

Dave is also a DIY fan when it comes to antennas. Rather than spending £99 on a CWA1000 kit, one of his preferred arrangements is below, which has the added benefit of not needing an ATU



Ribbon Feed
Designed for 3.5 MHz
Works well on 7,14,21,28 with ATU

Coax
Designed for 3.5 MHz



A QRP modem for PSK31 and one of Dave's Antenna schemes for Portable use

Our thanks again to Dave for another great presentation



Tea Break time: John M0JOC with our new Full exam pass Willem who is now M0LOT

...

February Essex Activity Night

Following many successful years of running Essex Skills Night, the latest incarnation from the refreshed CARS team had been rebranded from Skills, to **Activity Nights**.

The usual venue and timing are being retained on the third Monday in the month at Danbury Village Hall. The first Activity Night on Monday 17th February saw a good turn out for a mix of activities and socialising.

EssexCW had both Morse and N1MM+ logging demos. Ian Duxbury M0LZI brought WiresX, Tom 2E0EUM had connectors & patch leads - and we all had plenty of tea coffee and chat!



Attendees on the first Activity Night



Essex CW tables with Bob G4MDB and Les G4JDS – and an AEA Morse Machine

cont'd



Ian M0LZI with a WiresX contact from Ricky WA0UAY in Idaho



Tom with David M1DCJ – and Murray G6JYB, Trevor M5AKA et al having tea & chat

Our next Activity Nights will be on:-

- **Monday March 16th**
- **Monday April 20th**

So put them in the diary!

We are looking for fresh demos, but you can also have a small table if you have some surplus to recycle!

So if you want to get hands on or offer a demo of your own – make it a date and get in touch
– or just pop along for what is always a good social occasion too

Ian Duxbury M0LZI is leading the event coordination, along with John M0JOC and Andy G0IBN

Photos by John M0JOC & Murray G6JYB

Training: Foundation Course-40 Success

Our new style Foundation fast track Course-40F concluded with all six candidates happy after taking an online Foundation exam on Thu 20th Feb – and indeed needing just half the allotted time. This maintained our 100% record on the new syllabus having started with Willem before Xmas (see earlier).

A couple of other notable points:-

- It was our 40th Foundation course - Course-1 led by Chris G0IPU had its exam on 14-Feb-2002
- The course saw the first use of our newly updated CARS Foundation Slides supporting the new RSGB Syllabus. Murray will be releasing these and more in due course

We are already signing up candidates for Course 41F starting on Thu April 9th with exam on 23rd April



All happy at the end of exam night!



Practical's underway on Thu Feb-6: HF under the club call GX0MWT and Morse Appreciation

More Foundation pictures – 2000 to 2020 - <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training/photos/p-foundation.htm>

Attention! - Ofcom EMF Consultation

Ofcom have launched a Consultation on EM Field exposure

“Proposed Measures to Require Compliance with International Guidelines for Limiting Exposure to Electromagnetic Fields”

Ofcom: www.ofcom.org.uk/consultations-and-statements/category-1/limiting-exposure-to-emf

Whilst the initiative has been triggered by unwarranted public concerns over 5G, the proposals would affect every holder of a Wireless Telegraphy Act licence - commercial as well as amateur

As a first step the RSGB has released a briefing paper for all UK amateurs which you can download from the link below and is highly recommended reading:-

https://rsgb.services/public/publications/emc/200228_EMF-Consultation_RSGB-Brief_final.pdf

The briefing paper gives more details as the proposals involve **a change to licence conditions for any station operating with greater than 10W EIRP including compulsory self-assessment and records.**

The RSGB has also formed a team to prepare a response to the consultation. They will offer further guidance to help radio amateurs make their own considered responses to the consultation before the 15th May 2020 deadline.

End of the Road!

The Chelmsford Army & Navy flyover is going – So no more mobile operating from up on the top!



Sat Feb 22nd: A view of the special 100 tonne crane which had already been busy on the central section



No hard hats needed for pedestrians – who can get quite a good view!



Easy to demolish (before it falls down!) – but it will take years to replace

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