



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

Radar Anniversary 1940-2020

August – On Air!

GB80CH On the Air

By GBARC & CARs Members

August sees another very special event, following on from the success in June with GB100MZX celebrating the Dame Nellie Melba centenary.

This time it is for the 80th anniversary of the crucial role that radar played in the Battle of Britain.

CARS Members are invited to support GB80CH which has been granted to BAE Systems in Great Baddow

Such events do not happen every month, so please do come forward and make the most of another historic opportunity for some on air-radio!



See Page-3 for further detail and on how to participate

XTRAnets: Meanwhile remember that GB3ER will be continuing to host XTRAnets on the first Tuesday, whilst the club meetings at Oaklands are postponed. **Next is Tue Aug-4 via GB3ER**

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Club Diary

Tue 4-Aug-2020	CARS XTRAnet on 70cm instead of club meeting	On Air ! GB3ER
Tue 11-Aug-2020	CARS net running as GB80CH on GB3DA	On Air!
Wed 12-Aug-2020	80 th Radar Anniversary (Ventnor Radar Station et al)	GB80CH On Air!

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/ :-

- **1st Tuesday in the month – XTRAnet**
This occurs whilst meetings are suspended - UHF on GB3ER starting at 8pm (local)
- **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

If you are interested in the new RSGB online exam 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

Note: RSGB have just improved their exam booking system for online Foundation and Intermediate exam candidates. The RSGB Syllabus has also just been up-issued to clarify a few points and remove the need for Intermediate practicals

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

Morse classes at Danbury are suspended – but do contact Andy G0IBN who has on-air practice sessions

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

GB80CH Radar Anniversary

Following on from GB100MZX in June, August sees local special event GB80CH (Chain Home) on air organised by the BAE Systems Great Baddow Amateur Radio Club with assistance from CARS members. It is one of three Stations on air with a radar connection:-

GB80CH (Chain Home) will be operated from Chelmsford in Essex, which has the most complete surviving radar tower from the Battle of Britain. Originally located at Canewdon near the Essex coast, the 360ft tall Chain Home mast was moved to what was Marconi Research Centre in the 1950s (now BAE Systems) in Great Baddow, where it has recently been given listed status. In recent times, it has supported amateur experiments on 160m and 472kHz.

The BAE Systems **Great Baddow Amateur Radio Club (GBARC)**, with amateur colleagues in local clubs, will be mainly operating across the HF+6m bands.

GB80BRS (Bawdsey Radar Station) in Suffolk, which was where radar was developed in the late 1930s and was the location of the world's first operational radar station. This will be the latest SES following several previous commemorations including in 2015 when the 80th anniversary of the first demonstration of working radar was made in the UK. Operation will be on 10m to 80m bands, SSB, CW and FT8.

GB0VCH (Ventnor Chain Home) on the Isle of Wight will be on air run by the local radio club. The 12th August 1940 bomber raid on the Ventnor site effectively marked the real opening of the Battle of Britain.



CARS Members are invited to operate and support GB80CH. Similar to GB100MZX, the NoV enables operation to be pre-authorized from your home qth under this special callsign. All modes / bands welcome. Some August CARS Nets will feature the call too which will be on air from Aug-11, through the month. Contact Paul Tittensor G4PVM, g4pvm@yahoo.com - or Murray G6JYB. QSL is electronic – no cards.

More info online:

- **QRZ:** www.qrz.com/db/GB80CH , www.qrz.com/db/GB80BRS
- **Twitter:** www.twitter.com/MX5BAE
- **Web:** www.mx5bae.org.uk
- **Ventnor:** www.ventnorradar.co.uk/CH.htm

CW - Winners!

Essex CW Amateur Radio Club have won the CWops 2020 "Advancing the Art of CW Award".

At an award ceremony on Tuesday 28 July, Riki Kline (K7NJ) CWops Award Chairman presented the award to Essex CW Chairman **Dean Saxton G4WQI** and **Andy Kersey G0IBN**.

The award was held via a Zoom webinar with Riki at home in Cedar City, Utah and other attendees from CWops and Essex CW, at home in Essex and around the world.

The nomination, from Bob Bagwell (G4HZV), reads:

"The Essex CW Club provided a focus for CW interest, then started organising their "CW Bootcamps". The bootcamp is a day of intensive CW teaching. FOC recently provided money to enable them to purchase better teaching equipment.

Thanks to Essex CW's lead, there are now CW bootcamps held all over the UK and they are making a real difference to CW interest and activity. Essex CW lend out their teaching equipment to other local clubs when required and help by suggesting teaching programmes."



Dean G4WQI with the CWops Award

Well done to Dean, Andy et al!

GB100MZX - Nellie Melba

Look out for the next edition of RadCom!

Meanwhile a recording of Dame Nellie as heard live on GB3DA on the centenary is now online courtesy of Colin G0TRM at <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/events/gb100mzx-nellie-melba/gb100mzx-nellie-melba.htm>

QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo

Los Angeles, CA: QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, announced that the first QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo taking place on **August 8-9, 2020** has now confirmed a packed line-up of over 70 great speakers for the event. There will be speaker tracks on a variety of topics to ensure plenty of great content for everyone. For more information about the speakers and to register, go to www.qsotodayhamexpo.com.



For those new to the hobby, there will two tracks focused entirely on providing hands-on, simple practical advice for getting started in amateur radio.

For example, Steve Johnson, WD8DAS, will be showing basic soldering techniques for repair of equipment and new construction projects. Marcel Steiber, AI6MS, will provide an overview on common battery types and will discuss the pros/cons of each chemistry, common uses/misuses, and everyday application tips.

For the experienced operator, there will be speakers on topics ranging from new techniques, equipment upgrading, 3D printing, and more. For example, Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, talk is entitled “Is 3 dB Worth a Divorce?” and covers everything you need to know about antennas. Jim Veatch WA2EUJ discusses how to build a home brew QRP radio. John Portune, W6NBC, in “The Slot Antenna -- Undiscovered Country for Most Hams”, presents how an ordinary satellite TV dish, can be “slotted” to make an effective 2 meter or UHF outside antenna.

Youth: The Expo also features a fantastic youth track. For example, Audrey McElroy, KM4BUN, is speaking on “Getting Girls Involved in STEM, Specifically Amateur Radio!” while Jack McElroy, KM4ZIA, is talking on “Highly Flying Kids With HAB”.

“One big challenge with a ham convention, whether in-person or virtual, is that the speaking content can easily become complicated and overwhelming. For our inaugural virtual Expo, we’ve made sure that there are great speakers for both beginners and experienced hams. We’ve asked all of our speakers to be laser focused on their topics while providing hands-on, practical advice. In addition, after each speaker finishes their talk, there will be a virtual live Q&A so participants can get immediate answers to their questions” said Eric, 4Z1UG.

RSGB Convention & AMSAT-UK Colloquium

Instead of the physical Convention in Milton Keynes, the RSGB is instead holding an online Convention on **Saturday 10 October**. Whether you’re a new licensee or have been enjoying amateur radio for many years there will be a range of topics from expert speakers that you can enjoy free throughout the day.

AMSAT-UK who would normally have their colloquium on the same weekend have also gone virtual. Their own event starts online at 11am on **Sunday 11 October** with a series of 30minute presentations which are free to attend -

More info at:

- RSGB Convention: <https://rsgb.org/convention/>
- AMSAT-UK: <https://amsat-uk.org/>



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