



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter 700

July Meeting

Tue 2-Jul-2024, 7:30pm
Danbury Village Hall

Vintage & Military Radio

By Iain Moffat G0OZS

Our summer season continues with the July meeting.

We welcome Iain Moffatt G0OZS from Ipswich who will be visiting us and presenting on Vintage/Military radios.

If you were at this year's Canvey Rally you would have seen him on the VMARS stand with a "B2" WWII SOE radio. Amongst other things he has quite an interest in Clansman radios too.

For some background:-

- Iain: www.g0ozs.co.uk
- VMARS: www.vmars.org.uk

Iain is also the RSGB District Rep for Suffolk and has had an innovative career in telecomms at BT, so plenty of opportunity to ask about other topics too.

As usual we will have refreshments and a raffle as well.

All welcome to attend.



CARS Summer Social Meal at the Se7en Elephants Indian on Tue 6th August

Pay your £10 Deposit Now

See p2 for our New Intermediate Fast-track Course – Sign up for the Autumn!

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Club Diary

Tue 2-Jul-2024	CARS Meeting – Vintage/Military Radio talk – Iain G0OZS	Danbury Village Hall
Tue 6-Aug-2024	CARS Social – Indian Meal (£10 deposit in advance)	Se7en Elephants, Baddow Road
Tue 3-Sep-2024	CARS Meeting – Essex Table Top Sale	Danbury Village Hall

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

If you are interested in these or other opportunities in 2024, please contact **John O'Connell M0JOC** our training coordinator and Exam Secretary. Please also spread the word to potential candidates!

Autumn Fast-track Intermediate Course: This is set for Thursday Oct-10, 17 & 24th - [Sign up Now!](#)

John can be contacted via training2024@g0mwt.org.uk or 07868-004380

More info and other updates are at: www.g0mwt.org.uk/training - and the updated RSGB Course Finder

Online Morse Classes: Thursday evenings at 7pm. Coordinated by Andy G0IBN who has on-air practice sessions and via Skype too... <https://join.skype.com/clsfKXXKmINvf>

- "Beginners" class will be starting on Thursday 4th April,
- Other courses available are an "Improvers" class, 10 to 15wpm:
- "Morse Development Group" 15wpm+ : "Advanced" class for the techniques of "Head copying"

- contact Andy via morse2024@g0mwt.org.uk - or feel free to enquire about the Essex CW Boot Camp

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

June Meeting: IMD & Quiz Social

The June meeting had a mix of socialising, radio, IMD update by Paul G4PVM and a quiz by John M0JOC

Overall it made for a varied and enjoyable evening with some of the quiz question prompting some comments and memories


Before things became too formal the CARS VHF station was connected up to our refreshed Diamond X30 antenna at Danbury. As the tea and biscuits started to settle down, Paul then presented slides on this years IMD efforts.

HF Conditions had been poor due to a solar flare, but we still managed to work quite a number of European stations – assisted by the CARS HF bandpass filters that enabled dual HF rigs.



Equipment

- Stations:**
Three were in use, two on HF and one on VHF/UHF
- HF:** Flex Radio 6600 SDR & Icom IC756 with a Hexbeam for 10-20m, dipoles for 30/40m & 80m.
- VHF:** FT7900 and a Diamond X30 for 2m.



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IMD 2024

- 165 QSOs on 4 bands
- CW 75
- SSB 90
- One VHF QSO
- Best DX
- JA x2
- KM1CC

Summary

Band	CW		Digital		Phone		All	
	QSOs	%	QSOs	%	QSOs	%	QSOs	%
160								
80								
40	17	10.3			84	50.9	101	61.2
20	14	8.5			3	1.8	17	10.3
15	5	3.0			1	0.6	6	3.6
10								
17	39	23.6			2	1.2	41	24.8
All	75	45.5			90	54.5	165	100.0

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From Paul's IMD Presentation – full slide set on the website

So our 2024 Marconi Day Summary was:

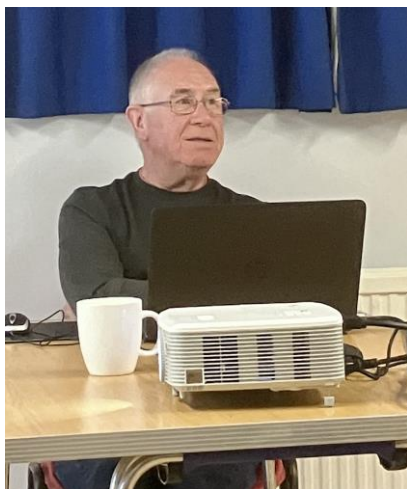
- 165 QSOs on 4 HF Bands - 75 CW and 90 SSB (Plus VHF)
- Best DX were 2 x JA and KM1CC (Cape Cod). Numerous UK, German and Italian stations
- Worked IMD Stations: EI3IMD (Tramore), GB0MGY (Harlow), IY0CG (Villa Griffone), IY5PIS (Coltano) and KM1CC

A good time was had by all but alas not enough stations for the Award – so do help us do that next year.

Paul also had the summary of our GB9MWT Special Event Station call, which had run from April 19th to 20th May marking the 150th Birthday anniversary of Marconi (1874 – 2024). Overall this clocked up 350 QSOs including lots of Italian '150' stations.

After a short break we then switched to the quiz. John had used a mixture of history and a few training questions to create a very entertaining mix...

The quiz....



Quiz Master – John M0JOC



Some of the expert audience



Question 7

What is the **ICNIRP** and its guidelines with regards to Amateur Radio?

- A. Inter Continental aNd International Radio Protection – Amateur Radio
- B. International Committee for Non Interference of Radio Power – QRP Transmissions
- C. Intermediate Callsigns Nominal Interference Radiation Pattern – Log Periodic Antennas
- D. International Commission for Non-Ionising Radiation Protection – Radio Frequency Electromagnetic Fields (EMF)

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Question 8

Famous Amateur Radio Call Signs

- A. GM3ITN
- B. GB1MIR
- C. G6YL
- D. UA1LO
- E. G0KRH

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Hopefully you know Q7 – as the ICNIRP Guidelines are the basis of your licence EMF assessments

As for Q8, the answers are:-

- a) GM3ITN Les Hamilton - He first alerted UK of Argentine invasion of the Falklands 1982
- b) GB1MIR Helen Sharman - First British woman into space
- c) G6YL Barbara Dunn - The first UK female Radio Amateur licensed, on April 14, 1927
- d) UA1LO Yuri Gagarin - First man in space
- e) G0KRH Chris Tarrant - TV quiz show host & TV personality

August: CARS Summer Social Meal

Following last years very enjoyable Chinese, this year's summer social meal will be at the 'Se7en Elephants' Indian Restaurant at 10A Baddow Road CM2 0DG.

So we are 'meeting' for a meal in Chelmsford (no Danbury meeting this month) - do join us!

- **Deposit:** To help us plan/book, a £10 deposit is required in advance. [Pay Deposit online](#) by PayPal/card
- More Info: [Se7en Elephants](#) website



September: Essex Table Top Sale

Get ready for a great recycling opportunity!

Our annual table top sale event returns on Tuesday 3rd September at Danbury.

We will also have a number of club and SK items for sale.

Got things to sell ? – please reserve early for a table!



Silent Key: Martyn Medcalf G1EFL / M3VAM

CARS were sad to learn that former CARS Secretary Martyn Medcalf G1EFL / M3VAM passed away after a long illness in June 2024, aged 68.

Martyn was also promoter of CARS Clothing and the Chelmsford Award; and worked wonders using a Miracle Whip antenna and FT817.

Funeral Service: The service was at The West Suffolk Crematorium, St Edmund's Chapel, IP28 6RR on Tuesday 25th June at 1:00pm.

Donations may be made payable to The Alzheimers Society and sent care of Southgate of Newmarket Funeral Directors, 25 Duchess Drive, Newmarket, CB8 8AG.

- Notice: [Essex Chronicle](#)
- CARS: [Martyn G1EFL SK Page](#)



Bio: John M0JOC

Born 1955 in Burnley, Lancashire with a twin sister Maureen.

In 1968 I joined the Sea Cadets - TS Lookout in Burnley. I played bugle in the band and we went to Vitry, Paris (Burnley's twin town) for a week where I practiced my French on unsuspecting locals, little did I know that the bug for travel was where this all started.

In 1972 I went to Fleetwood Nautical College, near Blackpool for three years to become a Merchant Navy Radio Officer. I also passed my Board of Trade exams to maintain the ships navigational radar systems. I joined Houlder Brothers, part of the Furness Withy group and spent six years travelling the world, I absolutely loved it. I got married to Janet in 1978 and she came with me on a round trip down to the Canary Islands, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina for four months. In 1980 I left the Merchant Navy and worked in the aerospace industry in Burnley, the factory floor was not for me, I hated it.

Three years later I joined Philips Business Systems in Manchester as a Field Service Engineer on word processors and printers in the northwest. I was promoted within two years to Product Specialist, data communications and we moved to Halstead, Essex as my new job was based in Colchester. I stayed with Philips for 15 years becoming their Senior Consultant in voice, data and PMR integration. I spent a lot of time in the Netherlands and Paris working on bespoke network design solutions for France Telecom, Lloyds Bank International and Band 3 PMR in the UK.

In 1996 I joined Global One, a global managed network services company as a consultant to the presales group. I was only with them 2 years as a lower back operation was needed and I had to spend 3 months recuperating. After that I joined a small start up Systems Integrator for global Wide Area Networking, it didn't work out as driving to Reading almost every day became too much.

In 1999 I joined Equant which became Orange Business Services, part of the France Telecom Group as a presales Solutions Consultant. I was quickly promoted to Senior Consultant and worked with major international finance industry companies as lead consultant to design multimillion dollar global managed voice and data network solutions for them. My final role with OBS was as European Business Development manager for Integration Services. I stayed with them for 19 fun-filled years with international travel, taking early retirement in 2018 aged 62.

In late 2018 I visited Bletchley Park and the NRC – cut a long story short, they gave me a morse key (which I hadn't touched since 1980!) and I sent 12wpm. I was hooked! Four weeks later I sat my Foundation exam at CARS. Six months later and I had my Full Licence and as they say, the rest is history

And also...

In my spare time I'm Tour Manager/Stage Manager for a 12 piece international jazz, funk and soul band - Incognito, who celebrated their 45th anniversary at The Royal Festival Hall in London this week. My wife and I love seeing live music and shortly we're off on our annual pilgrimage to Glastonbury!



Paul G4PVM: Rathlin Island IOTA Dxpedition

I like to do some radio while on my summer holidays. In recent years we have managed to combine a visit to my father-in-law in Scotland with a week on a Scottish island. This is my 2023 story...

Choosing an island means that I am popular with people who chase islands for the Island on the Air (IOTA) programme. Having visited several Scottish island in recent years I was running out of easily accessible islands, so in 2023 I decided to change the plan slightly and visit Northern Island.

Last June we got the afternoon ferry from Stranraer and spent a couple of nights in Belfast before heading to Ballycastle on the north coast. Rathlin is only 7 miles off shore so, after a short ferry ride, we were there.

The island is an inverted-L-shape, and is four miles from east to west, and 2½ miles from north to south. The population is approximately 150. Our AirBNB was in the main "town", very close to the ferry terminal. Before booking I had taken the precaution of asking if it was OK to install an antenna on the property. I expected to have to do lots of explaining and reassurance but I was amazed when the response was, "My Uncle Robert is a radio amateur. He is always messing around with wires and things. No problem putting up an antenna".

The next day I put up my DX Commander antenna in the back garden. The antenna is a fan vertical on a 10m fibreglass pole, with 6 quarter wavelength wires for the 10, 12, 17, 20, 30 and 40m bands fed in parallel with a radial wire ground screen. The 40m element also works on 15m. It takes about 30 minutes to install the antenna and it is a very quick and easy way to be QRV on multiple bands.



I was soon busy on the bands. Although not rare, Northern Ireland is not common so I had a steady stream of callers. For the IOTA programme, Rathlin is designated EU-122 as one of Northern Ireland Coastal Islands. There are no resident amateurs but there are occasional expeditions there for the IOTA contest in July. The island group has been credited for around 50% of the applicants to the IOTA programme.

In five days operation I made 1089 QSOs with 820 unique callsigns. The majority were on 20 and 17m, but I covered all bands from 60 to 6m. Although there are not elements for 60 or 6m on the DX Commander the rig's ATU was able to match the antenna. DX conditions are not great in mid-summer; 87% of my QSOS were with Europe, but I was very pleased to make 51 QSOs with Japan, and 8 with Indonesia. The IOTA programme is very popular in those two countries which have lots of island groups of their own.

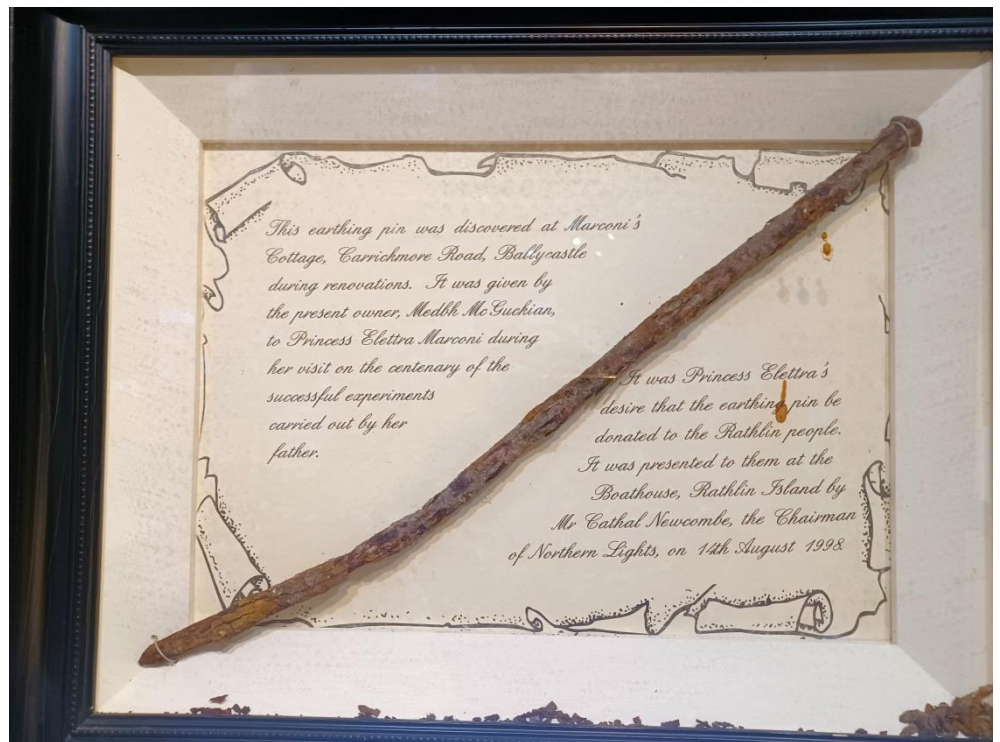
Having been involved with the IOTA programme for a while I publicised my trip not just with the western news sites like DXWorld ([G14PVM – Rathlin Island, EU-122 | DX-World](#)), but also with Shiu's JN6RXM blog ([Jn6rzm.cocolog-nifty.com/iota/2023/06/index.html](#)). This led to a steady stream of skeds from Japanese stations chasing a new island group.

There are other things to do on Rathlin other than radio. There are a number of coastal walks taking in the three lighthouses, a museum, and lots of wildlife including an RSPB seabird centre, Northern Ireland's largest puffin colony, hares, seals and orchids.

Rathlin also has a Marconi connection...

The world's first commercial wireless telegraphy link was established by a team led by George Kemp, Marconi's assistant, between Rathlin East Lighthouse on Rathlin and Kenmara House in Ballycastle on the 6th July 1898. The event is commemorated by a plaque in the museum.

The museum also has an "earthing pin", found in Marconi's cottage in Ballycastle, and which was presented to the people of Rathlin by Princess Elettra on her visit to Rathlin to commemorate the centenary of the wireless link.



Bushvalley Amateur Radio Club (MN0GKL) often activate the three lighthouses on Rathlin Island for International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend using the callsigns GB2EL from the East Lighthouse, GB2WL from the West Lighthouse and GB1RP from the Rue Point



Wooden Plaque unveiled by Princess Elettra Marconi



GEC-Marconi Commemorative Plaque

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