



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

December Meeting

Tue 3-Dec-2024, 7:30pm

Danbury Village Hall

Xmas Social

By CARs Members

Season's Greetings!

CARS members, other amateurs/clubs and prospective trainees are welcome to join us for our Xmas Social at Danbury.

Nibbles, raffle and socialising

- and perhaps a seasonal quiz too :)

Do come along, so you don't miss out on:-

- Seasonal nibbles - inc mince pies, sausage rolls etc
- Very Special Raffle Prizes

Refreshments are free, whilst its £2/ticket for the prize raffle.

If you haven't renewed your [membership](#) yet, it's a great opportunity to settle up by PayPal beforehand

- bearing in mind its great value at just £5/yr

- and you can make our membership secretary Andy G0IBN very happy :-)



Merry Xmas and Best wishes for 2025!!!

If you missed this year events then here are a few dates for your 2025 diary...

January Meeting – Skills Night 7th January 2025

Summer Social Meal – 5th August 2025

Training – Thursday evenings

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Club Diary

Tue 3-Dec-2024	CARS Meeting - Xmas Social	Danbury Village Hall
Tue 7-Jan-2025	CARS Meeting – Practical Skills Night	Danbury Village Hall
Sun 2-Feb-2025	Canvey Rally	Cornelius Vermuyden School

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 either training/revision or exams, please contact **John O'Connell M0JOC** our training coordinator and Exam Secretary. Please also spread the word to potential candidates!

John can be contacted via training2025@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" classes are available,
- 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 morse2025@g0mwt.org.uk

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

November Meeting: HF Propagation

For November we were privileged to have RadCom Propagation and local expert, Gwyn Williams G4FKH, tell us more about HF Propagation and where we are in the solar sunspot cycle.

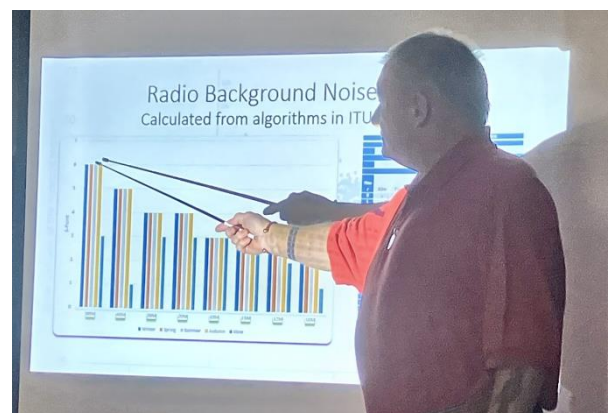
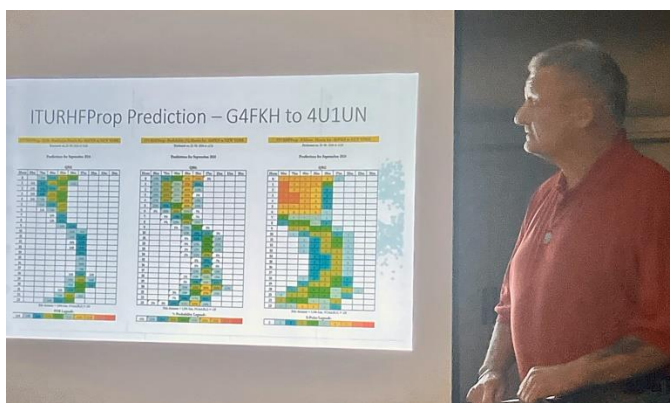
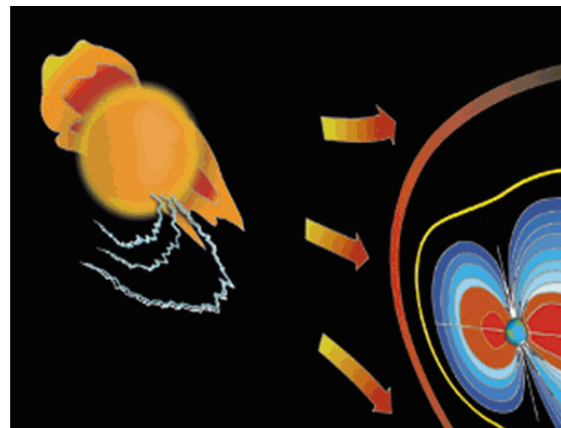
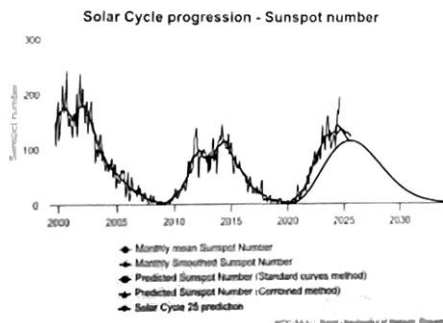
Gwyn started with the latest Solar Cycle report which suggested that we have nominally peaked although it is often the case it can be a 'double-peak' as the north and south magnetic poles of the sun may not be in perfect sync. Also - the so-called 11-year cycle in reality is actually a 22 year one for the sun's magnetic polarity to return to its initial orientation.

The Earth's Ionosphere is key for HF propagation in the ~70-400km range. It is strongly influenced by Solar-UV every day and season; and then modified by ionised particles in the solar wind - which varies with both the solar cycle and short term surges and disruptions from solar flares. The earth's magnetic field largely shields us and feeds much of this to the poles (and thus auroras). On a much longer period, the earth's field also varies (as our magnetic poles slowly drift) and can have local low points such as the South Atlantic Anomaly which can be a hazard for small satellites.

Even when a signal propagates there is another factor affecting reception - the background noise level. There are well established ITU curves for average rural, suburban and urban noise levels. The latter seemingly getting worse due to domestic electronics.

This well attended talk, saw Gwyn cover a lot of ground and was greatly appreciated - our thanks!

Solar Cycle Progression – 2000 to 2025



Gwyn G4FKH explaining Solar effects, HF propagation and background noise levels

Ofcom Licensing Delay

Back in October Ofcom have announced there would be delays to Phases 2 and 3 of the licence changes, which mainly affect callsign policy, and Special event Stations (and the new M8/M9 series for Intermediates) – as a result of IT delays to their new licensing platform

A further online update released in December now indicates the revised timing:

Amateur	Implementing phases 2 and 3 of our planned updates to the amateur radio licensing framework , including changes to new intermediate call signs and rules for Special Event Stations.	Calendar Q3'2025
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From: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/spectrum/radio-equipment/licensing-updates/>

CARS Online Morse Classes

Andy Kersey G0IBN continues to offer CW training online and on air for all levels of ability.

This is on Thursday evenings, around 19:30 - skype classes for the beginner can be arranged.

Morse code has the great advantage over other modes that it can convey a message across the world with little power and at little cost. Morse code messages can get through heavy interference - unlike voice which can become unintelligible.

If you are interested in learning CW please contact Andy, G0IBN, via: morse2025@g0mwt.org.uk

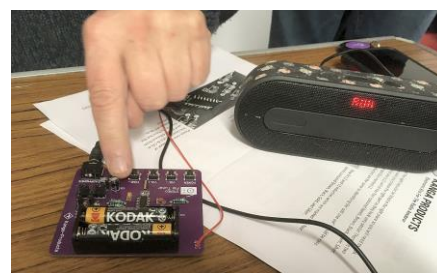
CARS January Skills & Practical Meeting

On Tuesday January 7th at 7:40pm at Danbury Village Hall, CARS will be holding a Skills Night together with an HF CW Station GX0MWT and the famous quiz.

As usual tea, coffee and biscuits will be available together with the free raffle!

For the Skills Night you have the opportunity to build a Stereo FM Radio printed circuit board kit using a soldering iron - all tools, safety equipment and the radio kits are provided free of charge by the club. You should book a place in advance to ensure availability with John O'Connell M0JOC training2025@g0mwt.org.uk as places are limited. The session will be fully supervised and is open to all.

The HF CW station will utilise the new CARS HF end-fed half-wave Vibroplex EF-80-10-JR-KW antenna. Bring along your own Morse key/keyer and have a go!



CARS Exam Technique Courses in 2025

CARS is now taking bookings for 2025 training courses at Danbury which we hold on Thursday evenings. Contact: John M0JOC via training2025@g0mwt.org.uk or M: 07868-004380

Foundation:

A 3wk "Exam Technique and How to Pass" course is on Thu Feb 6, 13 & 20 aimed at Foundation level.

The course is aimed at candidates who wish to undertake revision and final exam preparation, face-to-face with our very experienced trainers at Danbury Village Hall. Sessions include typical exam questions and in-depth explanations of the answers. Course fee is £15 to cover the Danbury Village Hall room hire.

We can also assist on specific areas of the syllabus where greater understanding may be needed, as well tips and advice on best exam practice

Intermediate and Full:

Likewise we also offer a three week course focussing on exam techniques, revision and exam preparation. This course is ideal for candidates who have undertaken self-study and who wish to consolidate their knowledge with face-to-face training. Planned for March (tbc) the fee for this course is also £15.

For Sale: Equipment from Tony G4YTG SK

CARS are seeking good offers for the following that were left by the sad passing of Tony Gilbey G4YTG.

Please contact John M0JOC regarding these:

- Kenwood TS-790E 2m/70cm/25cm Mic and UT10 (23cm) module
- Kenwood TS-850S HF TX/RX and £60+ Kenwood PS-52 500w 13.8v 16A
- Kenwood SP-31 speaker
- Yaesu FL-2100Z HF Linear Amp 400w (20kg!!)
- Icom IC-R7000 VHF UHF receiver covers from 25-1000 and 1025-2000 MHz
- Yaesu FC-901 Manual Antenna Tuner 500W
- Yaesu FT-101ZD HF SSB TX/RX

2025 Canvey Rally

The 38th Canvey Rally is approaching on Sunday 2nd February 2025 at Cornelius Vermuyden School - Dinant Avenue, Canvey Island, SS8 9QS

CARS will have a few tables with all sorts of radio and other equipment for sale to a good home ☺

Don't miss out - See us there!

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Newsletter and Archive: <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/newsletter>