



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

February Meeting
Tue 3-Feb-2026, 7:30pm
Danbury Village Hall

QRP
By Keith G3WGE

For February, Keith G3WGE will be giving a talk about his experiences with QRP.

Keith will talk about his personal journey, about the equipment, and the operating practices necessary to successfully operate QRP.

He will demonstrate that QRP may indeed be a challenge, but it is also a fun and rewarding activity.

He will also show that it is an awful lot cheaper than high power QRO operation!

The talk will include slides, video, demo and the [QMX+ mini-transceiver](#) by QRP-Labs, Sprat magazines etc.

All welcome - free raffle and refreshments. Donations to charity



Surplus/Sales - Members are welcome to bring Surplus/SK items along for 'recycling'

All welcome - free raffle and refreshments.

CAR PARKING – take care to register your car in Danbury

Training - Contact John M0JOC re Intermediate / Full Courses

In this Issue:-

Club Diary	2
Club Nets	2
Training & Morse Classes	2
January Meeting: Skills & Quiz.....	3

RSGB 2026 Band Plans	4
Training & Skills in 2026.....	4

Club Diary

Tue 3-Feb-2026	CARS Meeting – QRP talk by Keith G3WGE	Danbury Village Hall
Tue 3-Mar-2026	CARS Meeting – Practical Skills Night	Danbury Village Hall
Tue 7-Apr-2026	CARS Meeting – Constructors Competition – inc Cash Prizes!	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 either training/revision or exams, please contact **John O'Connell M0JOC** our training coordinator and Exam Secretary. Places for our February 2026 Intermediate course are now available.

Please spread the word to potential candidates. John can be contacted via training2026@g0mwt.org.uk or 07868-004380. Bookings are now open for the autumn.

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 online by MS-Teams

- "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 morse2026@g0mwt.org.uk

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

January Meeting: Skills & Quiz

The January meeting was a practical skills evening, which was quite well attended despite the weather. There was a good variety on offer to those present as well the opportunity to socialise or get practical with a soldering iron.

- **Kits:** FM Radio, Morse Tutor, IR-Barrier Alarm, Signal lamp/torch
- **Soldering:** Practice, PL259 Coax Connector assembly

For example Danbury currently has a dual band VHF/UHF Antenna that can help on-air demos (whilst we plan to have a newer HF antenna setup in due course)

The **Quiz** had an enjoyable set of teasers to entertain and educate. John M0JOC had created the questions, and on the night Murray G6JYB presented the quiz and Andy G0IBN ran the raffle draw.

Sales – Murray also brought one of the last lots from the G0TRM SK sale. Members are welcome to bring Surplus/SK items along for meetings.

For future meetings (such as the March-2026 skills event) feel free to bring and show your own handiwork. Also, please do indicate if other skills such as coax connector assembly or other topics are of interest.



Some of the kits



Soldering Irons and Tools



Quiz time



Raffle Prizes – inc Free Beer!

RSGB 2026 Band Plans

These are now also available at www.rsgb.org/bandplans in a wide variety of formats, including more detailed change notes.

This year's changes address a handful of key topics, including:

- Updates to the **5MHz** band plan to emphasise correct operating, which comes in the light of out-of-band FT8 usage and Ofcom monitoring concerns.
- Updates at **50MHz** have been made to accommodate new repeater inputs which use a wider 1MHz split, easing the implementation of their duplex filters.
- In the **430MHz** UHF band, provision for low power ad-hoc repeaters and some editorial updates have also been made.

As Band Plans change over time, please ensure you only refer or link to the current ones on the RSGB website and remove any older ones you have saved locally.

Training & Skills in 2026

The CARS Training & Skills programme is all set for 2026:-

Training for Licensing/Exams

CARS has announced an Intermediate and Full Fastrack Training Course at Danbury Village Hall on Thursday February 5th, 12th and 19th from 7pm to 9pm.

The course is aimed at candidates who wish to undertake revision and final exam preparation, face-to-face with our very experienced trainers. Sessions include typical exam questions and in-depth explanations of the answers. We can also assist on specific areas of the syllabus where greater understanding of a syllabus topic may be needed, as well as tips and advice on best exam practice.

Please see the CARS website for details of how to book a place and the contact details for the Training Coordinator John O'Connell M0JOC <http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/training> and at training2026@g0mwt.org.uk

Morse Classes – a new online beginners course (via MS-Teams) starts on Wednesday 7th January – contact Andy Kersey G0IBN at morse2026@g0mwt.org.uk

Classes are on every Wednesday until 8th July

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