



## Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

### March Meeting

Tue 3-Mar-2026, 7:30pm  
Danbury Village Hall

### Skills & Science Night

By CARs Members

CARS is pleased to host a very special Skills Night on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. In association with the RSGB, the club is proud to be selected to take part in British Science Week (BSW), a ten day celebration of science, technology, engineering and maths that takes place in March-2026.

We have been provided with five Morse Code Tutor kits by the RSGB, supplied by Kanga Products specifically for our Skills Night. The kits are a 'one-off special edition' version of the Kanga Morse Code Tutor, which for BSW is supplied with a red pcb complete with the RSGB logo.

The evening will also feature

- **Quiz** - another enjoyable set of teasers to entertain and educate
- **Sales** - Members are welcome to bring Surplus/SK items along for 'recycling' to charity

All welcome - free raffle and refreshments.



RSGB & Science Week: <https://rsgb.org/main/about-us/youth/british-science-week/>

**CAR PARKING – take care to register your car in Danbury**

**Training - Contact John M0JOC re Intermediate / Full Courses**

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## Club Diary

|                |                                                            |                      |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Tue 3-Mar-2026 | CARS Meeting – Skills & Science 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/](http://www.g0mwt.org.uk/main/events/categories/net/) :-

- **2<sup>nd</sup> 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

- **3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

- **4<sup>th</sup> 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.

- **5<sup>th</sup> 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 spread the word to potential candidates. John can be contacted via [training2026@g0mwt.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:morse2026@g0mwt.org.uk)

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

## February Meeting: QRP by Keith G3WGE

For February, Keith G3WGE gave us a great talk about his journey and experiences with QRP, nicely illustrated by both slides and some real hardware. The evening saw a great turn out for this

Once upon a time, Keith passed his City & Guilds in December 1966 and self-taught himself CW to become G3WGE in March 1967. Some homebrew and Heathkit hardware followed until in 2012 he started operating semi-portable from a caravan. In more recent times he renewed his interest in CW via EssexCW and FOC.

QRP operating at ~5-10W is quite a different thing to 100W+ rigs, but it is only ~2 S-points down. Being far more portable and on batteries lets you operate from the top of hills to get great take off and benefit from the much lower rural noise floor for receiving weak signals.

QRP in the UK goes back years and puts the emphasis on skill and efficiency. The GQRP Club was founded by Rev George Dobbs in 1974, has a popular magazine called 'Sprat' and is at [www.gqrp.com](http://www.gqrp.com)

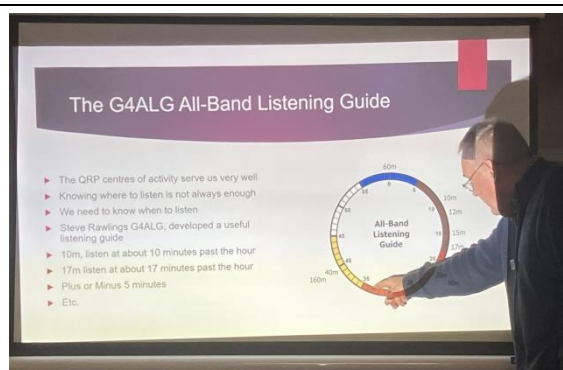
Whilst there have been commercial rigs such as the FT817, recent times has seen the emergence of some great compact offerings (sometimes in kit form) from folk such as [QRP-Labs](http://QRP-Labs) as well as recently from china.

After seeing an earlier QMX model, he decided to acquire a pre-built QMX+ all-band multimode transceiver, as well as a compact lightweight ATU. Keith also covered qrp operating frequencies, RBN and other aids

Afterwards folk could see the hardware and the raffle was drawn. A great talk - thank you Keith



Some of the audience



G4ALG has a guide to QRP timings



QMX+, Tuner and Desktop speaker

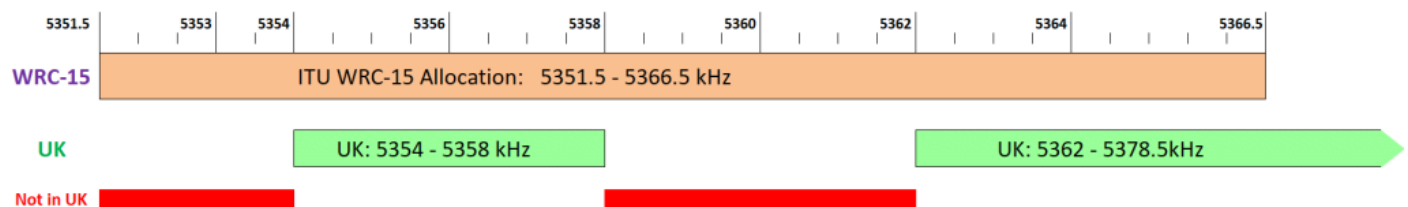


Hands-on – to the outside antenna

## 5MHz – Ofcom is Watching & Warning

In recent months there have been numerous warnings sent to errant amateurs by Ofcom who are closely monitoring the band on behalf of the Primary User. This is largely due to radio amateurs using FT8 outside of the UK 60m allocations.

### 5 MHz - Mind the Gaps !!



Please ensure the configuration of your FT8 software limits your transmissions to frequencies and bandwidth that are fully within the UK allocation. Ofcom are monitoring usage and will write to you if they observe your call sign operating outside of this band.

For example, when using WSJT-X for digital modes at 5357kHz, it is imperative that the transmitted signal is never above 5358kHz.

Earlier in the year RSGB updated the 5MHz band plan wording with stronger advice on this; and more recently has also reminded radio amateurs that the frequencies at 5MHz are only available on a secondary basis to holders of a UK Full amateur radio licence. Foundation and Intermediate licence holders are not allowed to operate on 5MHz.

More information about operating on this band on the RSGB website at [www.rsgb.org/5mhz](http://www.rsgb.org/5mhz)

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## April Constructors Competition – Cash Prizes

Our annual competition - complete with Cash Prizes! Electronics, metalwork or even software are all valid entries. The only entry rule is that it must be safe.

The Prizes are:-

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - £30
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - £20
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - £10
- Newcomers - £20

You will need to present your entry to the audience, who will vote during the break. Dont be shy!  
- bring your effort along - both hardware and software are eligible.

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