



Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society Newsletter

February Meeting
Tue 6-Feb-2024, 7:30pm
Danbury Village Hall

VHF Hands-on & Ofcom Update
By CARS Members

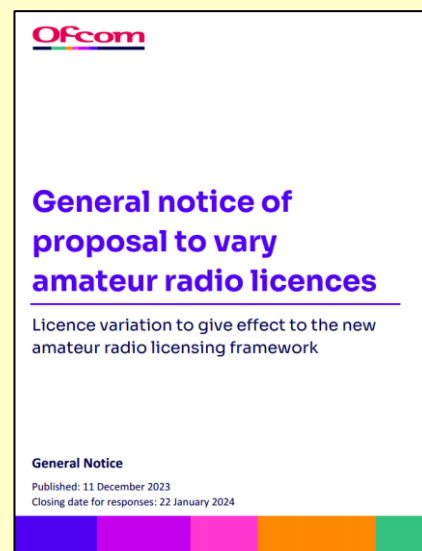
Our next meeting on Tuesday 6th February provides a great opportunity to get hands on using the new club VHF Antenna at Danbury - one of the highest points in Essex. All are welcome to use your own callsign or the club one.

The evening will also provide a great opportunity to socialise, or catch up if you missed us at the Canvey Rally.

It will also be a unique opportunity to hear a live update on the imminent new Ofcom licence and what it may mean for Operating, Bandplan and Training changes.

For this CARS is pleased to have amongst its members, Murray G6JYB, who as RSGB Spectrum Chair has been close to the action on this.

As usual, we will have some bargains, the famous raffle - with tea/coffee, biscuits - and a warm welcome !



REMINDER:- Membership Renewals are now due
Best value in Essex at just £5/pa

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Club Diary

Tue 6-Feb-2024	CARS Meeting – VHF Hands-on & Ofcom Update	Danbury Village Hall
Tue 5-Mar-2024	CARS Meeting – Lightship Talk	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!

We can also accommodate exam-only sessions, or other fast-track courses at Danbury

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/clsfKXKmlNvf>

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

 Follow @TrainWithCARS

January Meeting: CW & Social

CARS held a CW evening for its January 2024 club night at Danbury Village Hall. It was very well attended and everyone was welcome including a new member ex Royal Signals and will be on our Fastrack (revision and exam prep) Foundation course in March 2024.

There was a large exhibition of Morse keys on display - straight keys, twin paddles, bugs etc from John O'Connell M0JOC our Exam Secretary and Training Coordinator which included a Marconi 365A straight key Serial Number 8999 used on a British Merchant Navy ship from 1939.

There was also be an extremely rare "Rugby" key (only 80 were made) from Portishead Radio GKA manufactured by the Post Office Central Workshops at Rugby in 1983. This key was bought by Tony Gilbey G4YTG (the former CARS President who stepped down in 2023) when equipment was auctioned off from GKA in the mid 1990's as the telegraphy service was reduced in size.



There was a Racal 1217 rack mount receiver, also used at GKA from the early 70's until 1983 and covers 980 kHz - 30 MHz with AM, USB/LSB and CW modes. It was Racal's first transistor receiver and they are also now very rare. It weighs 13.6kg! John gave a presentation on the 365A and Rugby key and their history.

On display was a large collection of keys from Colin Page G0TRM including a set from a founding member of CARS - Louis Varney G5RV. Colin donated the G5RV keys to CARS for posterity and future use by its members.

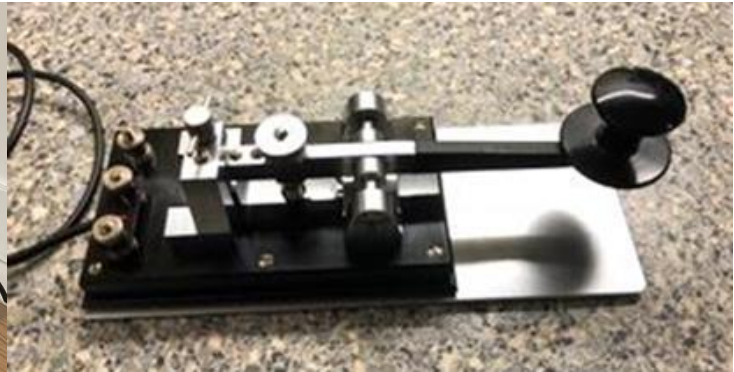
There was a live HF operating station using the club call sign GX0MWT (Marconi Wireless Telegraph) open to all to "have a go" which proved very popular and as usual, we had the famous raffle - with tea/coffee, biscuits and a warm welcome for the New Year !



Marconi 365A Key - and a rare Rugby Key



Racal 1217 Receiver



Paul G4PVM on HF – and the Rugby Morse key



Louis Varney G5RV Morse Key collection – assembled by Colin G0TRM

CARS at Canvey Rally

CARS had a successful time at the 37th Canvey Rally on Sunday 4th February at the new-ish venue of Cornelius Vermuyden School.

Familiar faces were also on the nearby EssexCW and Essex Repeater Group tables

Surplus tools as well as other cherished goodies were on sale for 'recycling'.

Our thanks to the customers and friends who paid us a visit.

The queue just before the opening is below and was quite long – so a popular occasion



Marconi 150th Anniversary

Marconi was born on 25th April 1874, so this year 2024 marks the 150th anniversary. Amongst other Italian commemorative efforts are this special 5 euro coin



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