

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY

Promoting and Supporting Amateur Radio since 1961

JUNE 2008 NEWSLETTER

THE CATSWHISKER

*Keeping members and
SDRS events and news*



*friends informed about
since March 1967*

MAY CLUB NIGHT

On a warm sultry evening, the May meeting of SDRS was attended by just eight members - somewhat fewer than anticipated and still short of a quorum. Therefore no AGM was possible within the framework of the constitution. We will attempt to have our postponed AGM on June the 10th.

There was the opportunity, however, for a general technical discussion and Robert GORYL demonstrated a miniature aerial analyser, which gave a comprehensive display of its many parameters on a computer screen.

We are also looking to our membership, and friends, to grasp the nettle and address the gathered listeners on some topic of interest. Please get in touch if you are able to do so, saying what and when (i.e. which month). Any contributions, anyone?

John Rose, M0BQO

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The SDRS Treasurer, John, M0BQO reminds new and renewing members that annual subscriptions have to be paid by August, either in person at a Club meeting, or to his address, 45 Ringstead Crescent, Weymouth DT3 6PT.

Once again, it is £10.50 per adult, £15.00 per couple and £5.00 for full-time student up to age 18.

SDRS CLUB NET

Please don't forget that a Net is held most Monday evenings from 8pm local time on the South Dorset Repeater, GB3DR on 145.7375MHz. The Net has been very poorly supported of late so please make the effort to come on and say hello. All members, friends and visitors are welcome to join in of course.

SILENT KEY

Graham Barlow, M0GAB passed away at his home in Weymouth on the 27th April 2008. He was just 43 years of age. He will be sadly missed by his many Amateur Radio friends.

SDRS MEETING VENUE

The Society meets on the second Tuesday of every month (except August) at the Chickerell Youth Club Hall.

Directions: From Weymouth, proceed northwest towards Chickerell along the B3157 (Chickerell Road) from its junction with the B3156, Lanehouse Rocks Road (or the Marquess of Granby junction) for approximately one mile. Passing the Army Camp on your left, at the bottom of a dip, turn right into Glennie Way. Follow this road until you pass the Willow Bed Hall on your left. At the bottom of the hill, take the next turning left into Lower Way and then left again into Rashley Road. Ahead you will see the entrance to Chickerell Primary School with the Chickerell Youth Club building to the left. Please note that you have to use the entrance at the side of the building accessed from Fairfield.

BEACHCOMBER'S STORY

Part four of the fascinating autobiographical account of his life and work in the world of music and wireless by the late Ray Shaddick, 61 YRS.

My employment with E.R.Orum at Brislington introduced me to different sections of the electrical trade. Electrical contracting was new to me, and through this, I was introduced to many people whom I would meet again later on and in a very different context. My Grandfather had now retired from the Grocery business, and the family had moved to an address in the old village of Brislington, this was very convenient to my new job, and cut travelling time considerably. Another new venture was the start of a gramophone record department with E.R.Orum, which gave added enjoyment to my other passion for music.

It was at this time that a group of us of the same age started to appreciate the music of a different kind as played by the bands of Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw and others. Through my connection with the Music trade, I was able to meet a well known Band leader of the time, Geraldo. A small party of local record dealers in Bristol had tea and discussion with him at the Royal Hotel. Nothing significant came from this meeting except his admission of an intense dislike for another bandleader of the time, Victor Sylvester. Sylvester's records outsold those of Geraldo, probably because of their tuneful simplicity, a point not appreciated by Geraldo who spent large sums on complex arrangements to no avail.

I also attended a recording session by Joe Loss and his band at the Colston Hall in Bristol. Joe was a much nicer person, as was his girl vocalist, Paula Green, and singer Chick Henderson, popular at the time for his version of 'Begin the Beguine'.

This was the late summer of 1939, and our peaceful world was to be changed permanently by the announcement on Sunday, Sept 3rd that we had declared war on Germany. Apart from the hasty construction of Air raid shelters, nothing much happened to change our way of life; the conflict in Europe was still a long way off. The popular belief that it would all be over by Christmas had gained credence; after all, the only casualty of the German air force was a Rabbit on Orkney. This prompted the song 'Run Rabbit Run'. We were yet to appreciate how bad things would get.

Meanwhile, looking for pastures new, I had changed course and joined the local Cinema as a Projectionist. I was soon to find out that the films were only a part of the job. The craft of pasting up posters was a trade in itself. When one has mastered the task of putting up a 48 sheet in a high wind, surely there can't be much more to learn, but no, I soon had to take up the craft of Printing, type setting, upper case and lower case; all to produce the small printed programmes of forthcoming films handed to the patrons at the box office. But eventually, I did get to show the films as well, and very enjoyable it was. Working on the fringe of show business, one learns to be accurate, and precise, and to work to a split second. Errors in the projection room cannot be hidden from view. The audience is only too aware of a careless mistake, and usually protest vocally. This has the effect of accelerating the learning process. During this time, I gained further experience by working in a larger and more modern Cinema (The Ritz) during the afternoons, and subsequently at another Cinema owned by the same Group at the Carlton at Westbury on Trym.

A major distraction had appeared on the scene, I had become aware of a young attractive girl who passed by my bedroom window every morning on her way to work. Discrete enquiries revealed that her name was Irene, and that she worked for one of the Ministries at an underground secret Factory in Wiltshire, code-named Hawthorn. It looked as though we would never meet, as the unsocial working hours at the Cinema never aligned with her working times. However, one Saturday, we were both off duty, and we met in a local repair shop where she was having her bicycle repaired. As she had time to kill, I suggested that we went for a drink in the pub next door. She agreed, and although my choice of beverage was not the best one, and could have put her off, we arranged another meeting.

By now, the German air raids on Bristol were regular nightly events and my next meeting with Irene was on the edge of a bomb crater just yards from her home. No one had been injured on that occasion, but it could be said that we were thrown together. I fell in love with her, and we were married just after the war ended in 1945, by which time, I had moved on again, this time to Chief Projectionist at another Cinema; once again, back in Knowle.

To be continued.

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50 YEARS AGO

I was only when I read RadCom this month (June 2008, Page 89) that I discovered that I have been a member of the Radio Society of Great Britain for 50 years! Just 5 years later, in 1962, I joined the South Dorset Radio Society.

Geoff, G0EVW (Editor)

LOCAL RADIO EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKEND 2008

This event takes place over two weekends this year: 14/15th and 21/22nd of June.

See www.ukradioamateur.co.uk/imw/ for more information.

In recent years the Society has taken part in this event from the Nothe Fort in Weymouth. For the last two years we have used our club callsign GX3SDS.

More details and pictures of past events can be found on the main SDRS web site www.g3sds.org.uk and also www.sdrs.zoomshare.com Details of this years SDRS activity should be announced at the June meeting, or contact Graham, 2E1GOQ or Carol, 2E1RBH. If we do take part it will most likely be over the weekend of 14/15th.

West of England Rally at the 'Cheese & Grain', Frome, Somerset is on June the 29th.

See www.westrally.org.uk for more information.

Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest is on August the 10th. See www.frars.org.uk for more information.

Full details of all UK Radio Rallies 2008 can be found here:

www.hamradio-badarc.co.uk/radio_rallies.htm

CATSWHISKER DISTRIBUTION – IMPORTANT NOTICE

All editions of the Catswhisker that have been published since July 1999 are available to read on our web site at www.g3sds.org.uk and the latest issue can always be read here: www.g3sds.org.uk/access.htm

It was decided some time ago to abandon postal distribution of all membership correspondence and rely instead on e-mail and the Internet. If you have received printed versions of recent newsletters and the letter sent to all members from our President recently that is because you have not provided us with an e-mail address or indicated that you have access to the Internet. Please let us know if you really don't have Internet access and we will try and maintain a postal or personal delivery to you but as this means extra work and expense for the few people who are still willing to help run our Society it should only be as a last resort.

From now on, unless we hear from you to the contrary, we will assume that you are happy to read the Catswhisker on the Internet.

AND FINALLY - THE PLEASURES OF WIRELESS

An excerpt from a contributor to 'Harmsworth Wireless encyclopaedia' dated 1924.

I always had a queer kind of sensation on thinking, "Every time that spark of mine shoots across the gap, there is a buzz in that fellow's headphones" - the "fellow" being distant from me across leagues and leagues of ocean, forest, and plain. "He might be just around the corner", I used to think as his answering buzz sounded in my receiving phones. "No wires strung on silly poles, no cables laboriously laid on the bed of the ocean; just a tap or so upon the telegraphing key and my thought is reacting on the brain of a man a thousand miles away."

Wouldn't you agree that that just about sums up, for the Radio Amateur, the Magic of Radio?

John Rose M0BQO

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY 2008/9

G3SDS G8SDS M2Z

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SDRS Web Site: www.g3sds.org.uk **Pictures here:** www.sdrs.zoomshare.com

SDRG (GB3SD/DR) Web Site: www.gb3sd.radiouk.com

WORDS OF WISDOM

'When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong' Arthur C. Clarke

THE CATSWHISKER

Our Societies Newsletter has been called 'The Catswhisker' since its inception. The word is defined thus in the Oxford Concise Dictionary.

cat's whisker n.

a fine adjustable wire in a crystal radio receiver.

the cat's whiskers (or pyjamas) slang an excellent person or thing.

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

Until a new editor/producer can be found the SDRS Newsletter is being produced and edited by our President, Geoff Watts, G0EVW.

Please send any material for inclusion to him: e-mail g0evw@g3sds.org.uk.

Or by post to: 46 Links Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0PE.

You can also phone or send a text message to Geoff on 07882063782.