

M2Z

M2Z

CATSWHISKER JULY 2006

PRESIDENT
GEOFF WATTS
G0EVW

VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT HODGES
G0RYL



G3SDS

G8SDS

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY—LIGHTHOUSES ON THE AIR
19TH & 20TH AUGUST 2006



SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN
GRAHAM WEBB 2E1GOQ



Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

Editors Chatter

Well hi everybody,

I know, late as usual, but I do have other things to do as well as a family to look after. Sometimes juggling the lot is a bit hair raising to say the least.

It is for many reasons that I have decided not to stand next year for Secretary or Editor of the Catswhisker Magazine. I have threatened many times to do this, but never did because I believed in the Club and it's Members and would not let them down when the going got rough for Robert and myself.

My health, along with my abilities to compose the magazine to the high standard you all like to receive and have not (which has been said many times). I feel that I am no longer able to do it anymore, and have not been for a while now.

I am finding coping with Home, SDRS and the many other things that only females would understand, harder day by day.

If there is anyone out there who would like to take over the Magazine, please get in touch with me as soon as possible, as the Magazine can go into new hands as and when. Of course, I shall miss it all, but I unfortunately have to put what abilities and strengths I have left in to family, house, outside matters and all that goes with that.

I would like to say a big thank you to all for the support you have shown me in the past, the articles that some of you have sent in and to all the outside Clubs that have supported me through the years I have been publishing the Magazine.

Whoever, takes over the Magazine, I wish them the best of luck and hope that you will support them as much/or more than you have me. I am not leaving the Secretary post until the AGM, this gives the Club enough time to sort out a replacement. I am definitely will not be doing either job in the year 2007/2008.

In fairness to the Club and the Committee, I feel I must walk away because of health and the many other reasons that are now involved. I will still, hopefully be attending Club nights and Events, as I think it is a good Club and it has loyal, friendly Members. So I would like to see the Club go from strength to strength again, and only you can do that if you all show a solid front no matter what happens in the future.

Carol 2E1RBH

THE RADIO HISTORY OF YEOVIL

1913—An experimental wireless transmitting and receiving station in Yeovil. Call Sign GWX.
Wireless station GWX closed down in 1914.

1927—The first radio shop in Yeovil.

1929—The first short wave listeners in Yeovil.

1946—Yeovil Amateur Radio Club founded.

1947—Yeovil Amateur Radio Club goes on air with its own Amateur Radio Station, Call Sign G3CMH, and has subsequently made thousands of radio contacts from Yeovil all over the world.

1954—Radio history is made in Yeovil when Yeovil Amateur Radio Club makes what is almost without doubt the world's first long distance radio contact to be made by a transistor transmitter.

1967—Brief details of Yeovil Amateur Radio Club's 1954 long distance transistor transmitter radio contact are given in the book "World at their Fingertips", an amateur radio history book first published in 1967.

1995—Yeovil Amateur Radio Club puts on a special amateur radio station in Yeovil as part of the town's events to mark the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

2006—On 17th October, Yeovil Amateur Radio Club will have been meeting weekly for 60 years.

WHAT IS THE RADIO HISTORY OF WEYMOUTH

Over to any Member who would like to answer this question

YARC 60TH ANNIVERSARY OPERATIONS DAY AT EGGARDON HILL ON SUNDAY JUNE 4TH 2006 GX3CMH

The Yeovil Amateur Radio Club held it's HF, 6m, 4m, 2m & 70cm from 09.00hrs on Eggardon Hill, 6 miles South off the Maiden Newton Road. We welcomed Members of Blackmore Vale Amateur Radio Society and South Dorset Radio Society on the day.

The Venue

The site is run by Peter G1GAN of Somerton Radio and is situated on some of the highest grounds in the area, just a short distance away is some breathtaking views across the Dorset hills to the coast.

Stations

Stations in operation on the day where:

1. HF Station with PSK31 & SSTV available
2. 6m, 2m FM SSB
3. 4m, 70cm FM

All license holders would be able to use any of the stations and this included Foundation and Intermediates as well.

Refreshments

Free tea and coffee were provided all day long, as well as other drinks. The weather was hot but not too over powering, so liquid refreshment was welcomed by all. There was also a BBQ at Lunch time, with Burgers and Sausages available as and when desired. I must say I did not see the going of them as everyone seemed hungry and thoroughly enjoyed the feast. Thanks go to Peter G1GAN for all his hard work. Burnt sausages went to the dogs, but there was only two that I know off. Hi! Hi!

Visitors

Quite an out of the way venue, but absolutely beautiful, you could see for miles around in all directions. Nicky & Tony of Blackmore Vale and Robert, Carol and Norman of South Dorset Radio Society joined the Yeovil Club for the 60th Anniversary Operations Day and it was good company and excellent working conditions as and when.

South Dorset Radio Society sends it's thanks for a thoroughly enjoyable day, and looks forward to seeing everybody again down the line.

BOB WOOLBRIDGE (G7LNJ) who is a Member of South Dorset Radio Society (as at going to press) and also a Member of Yeovil Amateur Radio Club. He was presented with the first prize at the Walford Electronics, Somerset Supper Evening of the 22nd Yeovil QRP 2006 Convention that was held in Sherborne. See Page 9 of P.W. for the full write up.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR AWARD FROM ALL AT SDRS

Just a quick note...



Never up to date, unless you up date me.



FROM THE NET MANAGER AND CHAIRMAN
GRAHAM WEBB 2E1EOQ

SDRS WEEKLY NETS UPDATE

On going to press the Chairman wishes all those who join in the Monday Night Net a big thank you for their time and he would also like to see more of the Members on a Monday Night.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING UP WITH EVERYONE
ON THE
HOT POTATO NIGHT
TUESDAY, 11TH AUGUST 2006
AT THE USUAL VENUE

PLEASE LET THE SECRETARY KNOW IF YOU CAN ATTEND
THERE SHOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ALL

COME ALONG AND HAVE A GOOD NIGHT
AMONG LIKE MINDED PEOPLE
A LAUGH AND QUIZ

Just a quick note...



MEMBERS WHO HAVE RE-JOINED SDRS 2006/7

| | | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|--------|
| G3EAT | BILL | HONARY | DOLLY |
| K8APD | DOUG | G7JIM | JIM |
| MOMZX | ALAN | G3OWE | DEREK |
| G3OEW | DAVID | M0VAW | ARTHUR |
| G0RYL | ROBERT | 2E1RBH | CAROL |
| M0VET | MIKE | G4UXG | GEOFF |
| M5MKW | MARK | 2E1GOQ | GRAHAM |
| 2E0RAH | RUTH | G0ASP | NORMAN |
| G0EVW | GEOFF | 2E0WON | JAMIE |
| 2E1LEC | CHARLIE | M3PSC | SUSAN |
| 2E1NRQ | JANET | 2E1JRO | JOHN |
| G3RZG | MIKE | G3OPD | SID |
| 2E0THW | SUSAN | M0TRW | TONY |
| M0BQO | JOHN | G3KKJ | ALEX |
| SWL | GIRGIO | 2E1TNE | TONY |
| G4JVQ | FRED comp | | |

THIS IS THE LATEST LIST OF CALL SIGNS AND NAMES OF MEMBERS WHO
HAVE REJOINED SDRS FOR 2006/2007

WE THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HOPE TO MEET UP WITH
YOU ALL DOWN THE LINE OR AT CLUB MEETINGS/SOCIAL NIGHTS.

I APOLOGISE IF I HAVE MISSED ANYONE . PLEASE LET ME KNOW

**NOTHE FORT
MUSEUM OF
COASTAL
DEFENCE,**

**WWI, WWII DISPLAYS
AND A LOT MORE
BARRACK ROAD
WEYMOUTH
DORSET**

**THE NOTHE
FORT MUSEUM**



NOTHE FORT ARTILLERY
RE-ENACTMENT GROUP LOOK
FORWARD TO SEEING YOU
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

SOUTH DORSET RADIO
SOCIETY SUPPORT THE NOTHE
FORT WITH
MUSEUMS ON THE AIR
LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP
WEEKENDS

CANTEEN FACILITIES AVAILABLE

**MUSEUMS ON THE AIR
17TH & 18TH JUNE 2006**



MUSEUMS ON THE AIR 2006

TO SAVE SPACE IN THE CATSWHISKER MAGAZINE AND MAKE MORE USE OF THE SITE "ZOOMSHARE", THE SITE SET UP BY GEOFF WATTS G0EVW USED TO IT'S FULL POTENTIAL. PLEASE VIEW MUSEUMS ON THE AIR PICTURES THERE. IF ANY OTHER MEMBERS HAVE ANY PICTURES THAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO SHOW. PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH GEOFF, WHO I AM SURE WILL ONLY BE TO GLAD TO DISPLAY. Thanks Carol 2E1RBH

www.sdrs.zoomshare.com

FRARS

Flight Refuelling Amateur Radio Society

FRARS HAMFEST 2006

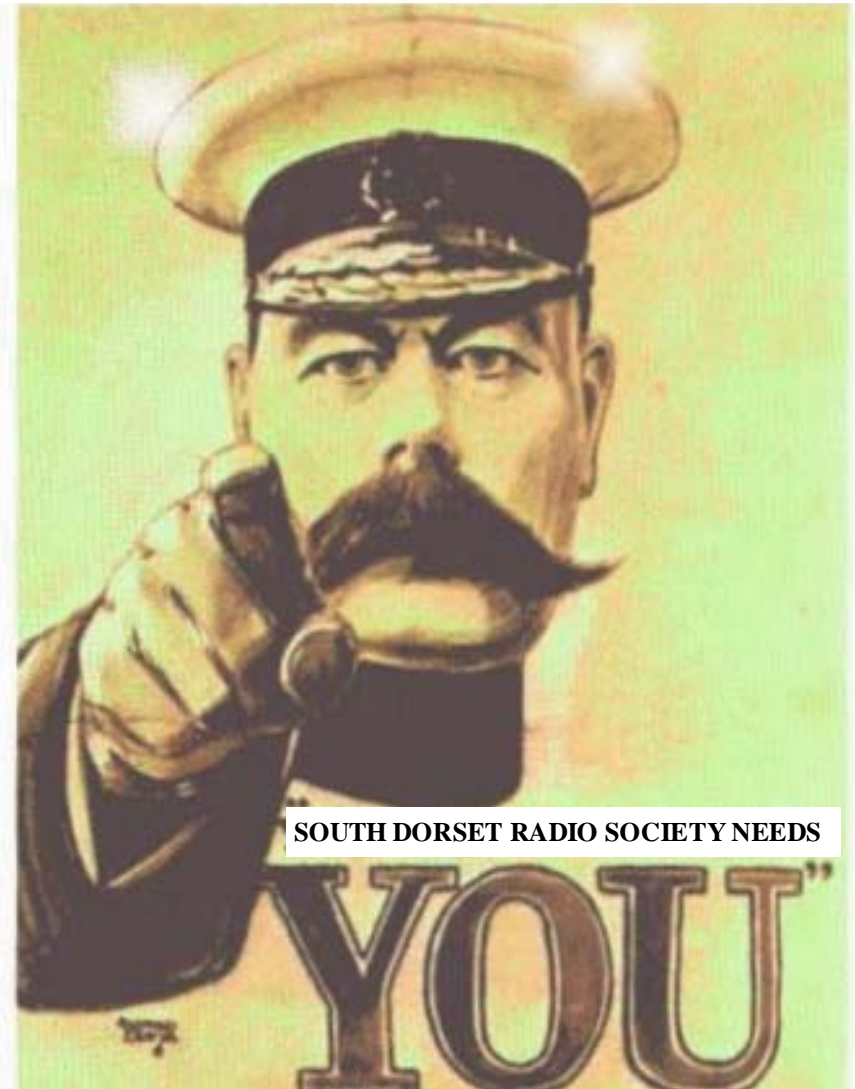
SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2006

SDRS will not be having a stall there this year

Jim Barton (G3JIM)

will be having stall there, so go along and say hello if you are there.

**SOUTH DORSET RADIO CLUB
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW**



SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY NEEDS

**LIGHTSHIPS/LIGHTHOUSES ON THE AIR WILL BE HELD
AT THE NOTHE FORT MUSEUM- GX3SDS CALL SIGN
ON SAT/SUN THE 19TH/20TH AUGUST 2006
OPERATORS/PUT UP GANG/TAKE DOWN GANG/SUPPORT**

**ANY ARTICLES OF INTEREST
PLEASE LET THE EDITOR OF THE "CATSWHISKER"
KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
FOR ENTRY INTO THE AUGUST EDITION**

**MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN
OTHER CLUBS IN THE AREA**

**FORTHING COMING EVENTS
AT YEOVIL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

If anyone is interested in any of these Meetings get in touch with 2E1RBH to see about sharing transport.

9th July (Sun) - Castle Cary Cavalcade of Motoring

13th July—The RSGB Book—Steve White G3ZVW

20th July—TBA

27th July—Committee Meeting & Station on the Air

3rd August—Pic-A-Star Experience—G3RID

10th August—Crystal Diode Detection—G3MYM



Would it please be noted that Yeovil Amateur Radio Club will be attending a different Venue for a period (of hopefully) 12 weeks. Renovations to the Red Cross centre will begin after Christmas. Village Hall at Chilthorne Domer. Directions and a map are available on our Website and in our Yarc News.

AXE VALE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (G8CCA)

Club Meetings 1st Tuesday of the Month at “the Old Inn” Kilmington, 1 ‘til 2pm.

Club Nets: Sundays HF 12.30Hrs 80m 3.685Mhz (approx) on LSB

Thursdays VHF 2M 145.450Mhz (approx) FM

**NO INFORMATION RECEIVED ON GOING TO PRESS
PLEASE LOOK AT THEIR WEB SITES**



CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Established 1936

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

Dates for your Dairy

3rd/12th & 20th July—RSGB Club Championship Contests

8th & 9th July—IARU HF World Competition (SSB/CW)

12th July—CARS Committee Meet

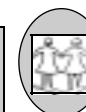
Danbury Village Hall—7.30

29th/30th RSGB IOTA SSB/CW Contest

30th July—Colchester Rally



**BYLARA LADIES PAGE
NEWS AND UPDATES**



**Bylara Web Site is up and running: www.bylara.net
Information up-date from your Chairman: Carol 2E1RBH**

BYLARA NETS

BYLARA (MOBYL) Nets Schedule

Monday 80m 1945 listen from 1930 onwards. Net control Kay G0KTC usually on 3.708 * QRM but can be between 3.680 and 3.710

WEDNESDAY 40m 11.30 Local Time—now on 7.103 ~ QRM

FRIDAY 40m 11.30 Local Time—now on 7.103 * QRM

Net Control both days Irene GM0FTX

With help from Anne M1AIM

If conditions will use the Club Call M0BYL

Or appropriate Regional variation.

YLDX (Triple 2) 14.222 MHz Mondays 07.00BST

Brazilian YL Net 14.248 MHz Wednesday 19.30 UTC

CLARA YL Net 14.120 MHz Tuesdays 17.00z

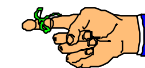
European YLDX Net 14.242 MHz Thursday 18.00 BST

Italian YL Net 7.070 * MHz Mondays 14.00 GMT

Summer—13.00 GMT Winter

Finnish YL Net Sundays 80 metres Phone: 3.688 or 3.710

CW: 3.533 or 3.522. No time given.



ACTIVITY DAYS :

6th of every month. Call CQ YL on the hour on frequencies ending 88.

Bylara magazine due out this month, so watch out for it

**ANYMORE CLUBS WANT TO HAVE THEIR DETAILS INCLUDED
JUST CONTACT THE SECRETARY. DETAILS ON THE BACK.**

BOURNEMOUTH RADIO SOCIETY

All Meetings held at Kinson Community Centre on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each Month. Start at 8.00 pm—Meet in Bar 7.30 pm & transfer to Rm5 at 8.00pm

For further information look at Website: www.brswebsite.freeserve.co.uk

7th July—19.00hrs—”Summer Buffet” at The Courtyard, Lychett Minster

4th August—Talk by Bob Burrows G6DUN—Shortwave Shop

11th September—RNLI College—Poole

26th September—18.00hrs-18.30hrs—BBC South TV & Radio Studios

3rd October—18.00hrs-18.30hrs—BBC South TV & Radio Studios

6th October—Construction by Members

20th October—Annual General Meeting

SDRS LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2006/2007

THE YEAR 2006

AUGUST 2006

**SUMMER RECESS—
EVERYBODY HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY**

12TH SEPTEMBER 2006

GRAHAM 2E1GOQ RADIO NIGHT OPERATION
With questions and answers

10TH OCTOBER 2006

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

14TH NOVEMBER 2006

EARLY DIRECT CONVERSION RECEIVERS
By Rob Micklewright G3MYM

12TH DECEMBER 2006

SDRS CHRISTMAS PARTY
WILL BE “AMERICAN STYLE”
Bring your own food/or food for everyone
To share

JANUARY 2007

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

FEBRUARY 2007

USING ANTENNA ANALYSER INSTRUMENTS
By Peter Clifford M0PTR

SDRS LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2006/2007

MARCH 2007

SDRS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

APRIL 2007

SPEAKER TO BE ARRANGED

MAY 2007

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

JUNE 2007

**MY FAVOURITE PC DIGIMODE
& LOGGING PROGRAMME**
By Peter Clifford M0PTR
RSGB DRM 114—Dorset

JULY 2007

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

**IT HAS BEEN DECIDED BY THE COMMITTEE THAT WE
ONLY HAVE A SPEAKER EVERY OTHER MONTH.**

This is to give the Members the chance for a more interactive
association SDRS Members for a chat & cup of coffee etc

**THIS IS NOW GOING TO BE A REGULAR
FEATURE IN THE MAGAZINE AND WILL BE
UPDATED EVERY MONTH DAYS AND DATES WILL BE
PUBLISHED AS SOON AS THEY ARE KNOWN**

****There will be occasions when we will have to change
the advertised programme, this we will do as soon as
possibly known.****

EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY MARCH, MAY, JUNE & JULY ETC

9th July 2006—Cornish RAC 43rd Mobile Rally & Kernow Microscopical Society

Contact Ken on 01209 821 073

Email: ken@jtarrry.freemove.co.uk

16th July 2006—McMichael Rally & Boot sale

Contact Min GOJMS on 01189 723 50 4www.radarc.org

29th July 2006—Rugby ATS Annual Radio Rally

Contact T.M.Humphries GOOLS on 01455 552 519

Email: thumph3426@aol.com

30th July 2006—Colchester RA Amateur Radio & Computer Rally

Contact James MOZZO on 01255 242 748

Email: cra2006@m0zzo.com

30th July 2006—Horncastle Radio & Electronics Rally

Contact Tony G3ZPU on 01507 527 835

Email: g3zpu@hotmail.com

30th July 2006—Northampton RC Radio, Computer & Electronics Rally

Contact Andy MODME on 01604 234 333

6th August 2006—Lorn Rally

Contact GM8MLH—gm0erv@dsl.com

or www.gm0lra@freeuk.com

11th August 2006—Cockenzie & Port Seton ARC Junk Night

Contact Bob GM4UYZ on 01875 811 723 or

Email: bob.gm4uyz@btinternet.com

EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY MARCH, MAY, JUNE & JULY ETC

13th August 2006—Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest

Contact Mike MOMJS on 01202 883 479

Email: hamfest@frars.org.uk

13th August 2006—King's Lynn ARC 17th Great Eastern Radio Rally

Contact Andy G1KLP on 07818 001 311

Email: andyjackson@2e1klp.freemove.co.uk

27th August 2006—Lincoln SWC Hamfest *New Date*****

Contact Roger on 01522 693 848 or

Email: lincolnhamfest@mail.com

3rd September 2006—Telford Rally *Cancelled*****

Contact Mike G3JKX on 01952 299 677 or

Email: mjstreetg3jlx@aol.com

8th/9th September 2006—Leicester Amateur Radio Show

Contact Geoff G4AFJ on 01455 823 344 or

Email: geoffg4afj@aol.com

1st October 2006—Morecambe Bay Amateur Radio Rally

Contact Chris M5XYZ on 01524 845 006 or

Email: m5xyz@ukradioham.co.uk

1st October 2006—Radio Sale

Contact Rod on 01270 623 353 or

Email: coldwar@hackgreen.co.uk

1st October 2006—Telford & Dars Telford Hamfest

Contact Mike G3JKX on 01952 299 677

6th-8th October 2006—Gatwick Worth Hotel, Sussex

Contact 0870 904 7373 or

Email: hfc@rsgb.org.uk

A WOBBULATOR For F.M. I.F. Alignment

Visual Display of I.F. Amplifier and Discriminator Characteristics

I came across this article on a Wobulator and it seemed quite appropriate. John(M0BQO) won the Construction Prize on his home made Wobulator.

Some people had never heard of the instrument (that includes me), so thought I would do the write up, hopefully for the interest of all.

Receivers for the BBC's FM service have always presented difficulties of alignment for the amateur. The usual methods employ an AM signal generator and a sensitive voltmeter. In such a method, the generator is connected between the chassis and the input of the receiver's IF amplifier, and the meter between the chassis and the grid of limiter valve. The cores of the IF transformers are adjusted for maximum readings on the meter. The meter is then moved to the discriminator stage and the alignment completed. Whilst this procedure is satisfactory for approximate alignment, it is not always good enough, as IF amplifiers in FM receivers need to have a certain bandwidth if the signal from the transmitter is to retain its high fidelity. The discriminator especially needs to be aligned accurately so that its characteristic is linear if distortion is not to be heard in the output of the receiver.

Of course, the characteristic of an IF amplifier may be plotted on graph paper by using an accurately calibrated signal generator in conjunction with a meter. Un-modulated signals are fed into the IF amplifier at various frequencies, and the output voltages are noted for each. A curve may then be drawn showing output voltage against frequency; a similar procedure may be adopted with the discriminator. However, should the curves have the wrong shape, then when steps have been taken to correct them, another set of curves must be drawn. This alignment procedure is obviously not one to be recommended for the amateur.

What is needed is a visual display of the various characteristics without the necessity of drawing graphs. The instrument for this display is the oscilloscope—as in the graphs which may be drawn, the x-axis to represent the output voltages. In use, a frequency-modulated signal is applied to the I.F. amplifier and the output of the amplifier is fed to the Y-plates of the oscilloscope to deflect the spot vertically. Horizontal deflection of the spot is obtained in the usual way by using the internal time base of the oscilloscope. If the frequency modulation of the input signal is synchronised with the time base of the oscilloscope,

then a trace will be formed on the face of the tube which represents the amplifier characteristic.

The Principle of Operation

In this instrument, a signal is generated at a frequency of 10.7Mc/s—the optimum F.M. I.F.—and this signal is frequency-modulated by a signal derived from the time base of the oscilloscope. Early methods of obtaining frequency-modulation employed variation of the inductance of oscillator producing the 10.7Mc/s signal, or the use of a reactance valve circuit, which acted as a voltage-dependent capacitor across the tuned circuit of the oscillator. However, the circuit used in this unit employs a silicon-junction diode as a voltage-dependent capacitor. When such a diode is biased in its reverse direction, a “depletion” layer is formed which acts as a dielectric of a capacitor formed by the two halves of the diode. The width of this layer, and thus the capacity of the junction, may be varied by altering the reverse bias across the diode. This is the principle of operation of the unit described.

It might be thought that the use of the 50c/s mains voltage as a modulating source would make for a simple instrument source for a simple instrument, but using such a high sweep frequency would give a misleading set of curves—the tuned circuits would not have time to respond to the rapidly changing frequency of the input signal.

A signal derived from the X-detecting plates of the oscilloscope is fed to V1A which is arranged in a cathode-follower circuit. The silicon-junction diode is connected from the cathode load of this valve to the tuned circuit of the oscillator, which is set to give a centre (un-modulated) frequency of 10.7c/c. The voltage across the cathode resistor (R4) also provides the reverse bias necessary for the diode. The decoupling condensers C2 and C3 are given large values to ensure that the time base waveform suffers Negligible distortion in passing through V1A.

Although the second half of V1 is not used in the circuit, it is given feed from the H.T. so that a current passes through it all the time that the unit is switched on; this avoids “cathode poisoning” or loss of emission in V1B. The 10.7Mc/s oscillator is provided by V2A and the circuit values are so arranged that the frequency of operation is 10.7Mc/s when there is no input to V1A. This centre frequency is set by altering the setting of a dust core in the former of coil L1.

To be continued.....

SOUTH DORSET WIRELESS INDUSTRY - AN UPDATE

A few years ago, members may recall, I wrote a piece in Catswhisker about the three small-time firms who made radios in the early 1920s (February 2003). They were Marshall of Portland, Smith of Weymouth, and V. H. Bennett of Weymouth.

A Smiths two-valve radio appeared on the internet during 2005. Unfortunately I didn't get to know about it until too late, by which time it had been sold at the National Vintage Communications Fair in October 2005.

The trader had sold it, along with a lot of other old sets, possibly to an Italian dealer and it is this lead that I'm trying to follow up, more in hope than in anticipation.

Now, it looks as if this set, whose origin the trader hadn't heard of ('Never heard of Smiths - probably a small company somewhere') is in many ways similar to the three-valve set with a sloping front that we are familiar with, except for the tuning controls. Enlarging the picture shows a scroll on the fascia just like other Smiths panels, the name 'Smith' has to appear somewhere so why not in the scroll. The shape of the cabinet is the same (not forgetting that ready-made cabinets were available then - but a local cabinet-maker worked for Smiths and Marshall).

The reason for the excitement is the fact that it was a two-valve set. On the panel of the Smith sets we know the GPO registration number 2093 appears. This was granted to manufacturers by the Post Office when their sets intended for sale had passed certain tests, such as radiation control. A number that started with '2' indicated a 2-valve set but makers were allowed to keep their number for subsequent developments in their range.

So, was this mystery set really made by Smiths of Weymouth? Does it indeed have two valves? If 'yes' then it could be the missing link - the prototype or one of the first production run to carry the GPO number. We can't be sure until it has been traced and photographed, and questions answered.

Unfortunately interest in ancient wirelesses and support through magazines and clubs doesn't appear to be as strong in Italy as it is in UK, so I fear news of my quest may not reach a sympathetic ear - but one lives in hope.

I'll try to keep you up-to-date with it.

J. Rose M0BQQ



Just a quick note...



ARTICLES FOR SALE IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT R A PARROTT G3HAL ON 01460 64268 AFTER 19.30HRS.

EDDYSTONE EC10 RECEIVER

Push buttons replaced by miniature toggle switches
Transistor changed with minor circuit changes
Handbook and notes of changes included
Home-brew power supply fitted and battery case included

YAESU TR220G 2 METRE FM "HANDY" TRANSCEIVER

12 Crystal-controlled channels with crystals for 16 channels
Output 1 watt
Microphone, battery charger and Handbook
Requires eight AA batteries—not included but lead for external PSU included

PHILIPS REEL TO REEL TAPE RECORDER EL3541/15K

Dates from about 1960 and ought to go to a Museum or similar
Good working order but microphone needs a new Crystal insert
Philips Stereo pre-amplifier EL3774 with some information included
Several reels of tape

ALBRECHT AE50 2 METRE FM TRANSCEIVER

25 Watt intended for installation in a car. (Loses memory info if derived of power for more than two days).
10 memory channels, selectable channel steps, etc
Hand book and microphone
Tarren (who??) 12.5 volt 5 amp Power Supply

FREQUENCY METER BC221AH

Ex U.S. Military heterodyne frequency meter (1943 vintage, I.e. valves) complete with original calibration chart and Technical Manual
Has had some modifications which have been removed, so not in pristine condition but in good working order

POWER SUPPLY UNIT 15 VOLTS 15 AMPS

Voltage variable over a small range and currently set for 13.5 volts
Remote voltage sensing arrangement
Designed for rack use, so has no covers. Probably 1970 vintage so electrolytic will need to be checked
No documentation

HEATHKIT HW7 HF TRANSCEIVER

1 watt output on 7, 14 and 21 MHz CW
Modified with balanced mixer which is OK on 7MHz but not very sensitive on the other two bands, RIT and an AF band pass filter
This comes with T section ATU using a roller-coaster inductor
Handbook with details of modifications

OFCOM Amateur Radio BR68 Statement – First Impressions

Today's announcement by OFCOM represents the most radical shake-up of BR68 since it was first introduced and is sure to generate considerable discussion.

A major surprise is that it is a statement rather than a full consultation as is usually the case. I believe it is a mistake not to hold a consultation on such an important document.

The statement is on the Ofcom website at

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/lifetimelicence/>

The PDF is at

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/lifetimelicence/licenceformat.pdf>

Club Callsigns

There is no mention of the special club regional designators used in club call signs. These are currently optional and their absence presumably means they've been dropped.

Some clubs invested considerable sums of money and volunteer effort in using their club call sign with the Club Regional Designator (eg X for England) for Internet domain addresses, publicity material, QSL cards, clothing etc. OFCOM's proposal will mean all that work will have to be scrapped and redone.

Changes like this should not be imposed suddenly. Those clubs that wish to continue using Club Regional Designators should be allowed to do so for at least 6 months after the 1st October to ensure an orderly change-over.

Foundation

Foundation will have access to the 10 Metre band. I was surprised that they didn't get some microwave access as well. Ofcom in an earlier consultation on 2.4/5 GHz indicated that high power (up to 125 watts eirp) licence exempt operation was being considered for the 2.4 and 5 GHz bands. If an untrained licence exempt user can run up to 125 watts eirp on these frequencies then surely a trained licenced Foundation holder should be allowed at least the same?

The requirement for CE approval on the equipment used by Foundation holders has been dropped. Note the wording change to "commercial equipment". This is a welcome change, as it should permit the use of cheap ex-PMR equipment which is not CE approved for 70, 144 and 430 MHz.

Amateur Satellite Service

While Foundation will have access to all bands between 136 kHz and 440 MHz and all modes including Meteor Scatter, SSTV, DATV, FAX, RTTY, PSK-31 Packet etc they are, for some inexplicable reason, denied access to the Amateur Satellite Service. They can legally transmit on frequencies used by Amateur Satellites but are banned from carrying out QSO's via those satellites!!

The UK is the only country to deny its Entry Level licence holders use of the Amateur Satellite Service. Allowing Foundation access to satellites would permit Self-Training in areas such as Doppler shift and orbital mechanics. The regulator agreed in 2003 that Foundation holders would be allowed to have QSO's with Astronauts in space. Astronauts operate under the regulations governing the Amateur Satellite Service. Since this matter is not mentioned elsewhere in the document this privilege appears to have been **removed** by the new BR68.

Identification

The old BR68 said you only need to identify "at the beginning and at the end of each period of communication". Now period of communication is taken to mean a QSO so all you currently have to ID is at the start and end of each QSO and at 15 minute intervals if the QSO lasts longer than that. The new BR68 says you have to identify in each transmission.

Now a transmission is the pushing of the PTT (yes CW especially full break-in CW does complicate the issue!!). With the current BR68 if you were having a QSO with somebody and they asked you a question you can reply "Yes" with no call sign, under the new BR68 you would have to say "M0xxx Yes". You will now be able to identify in the mode that you are transmitting in. This is a sensible change as previously in the case of data transmissions it was necessary to send a separate 20 wpm CW ID.

Identification – Net Operation

The new BR68 says identification shall be "at least once every 15 minutes during net operations". This is a significant change from the existing BR68. Current Amateur practice is that participants in traditional round-robin nets identify when it is their turn for an over. For a net with 8 participants each taking 3 minutes an over it can be 24 minutes before each participant gets a chance to ID. OFCOM appear to be saying that you must identify every 15 minutes regardless of whether it is "your over" or not.

Identification – Full Duplex Operation

Clause 13(b) appears to be badly worded. It doesn't cater for full duplex operation. If two Amateurs were having a cross band full duplex QSO they could transmit for hours without giving a callsign. It should have the phrase "and every 15 minutes during the transmission" added.

Messages

The old BR68 said

"3(3) The Licensee shall:

(a) have no pecuniary interest (direct or indirect) in any operations conducted under this Licence; and

(b) except as provided by sub-clauses 1(2) and (3) and except in the case of activities on behalf of a non-profit organisation established for the furtherance of amateur radio, not use the Station for business, advertisement or propaganda purposes including (without limiting the generality of the foregoing) the sending of news or messages of, or on behalf of, or for the benefit or information of, any social, political, religious or commercial organisation."

The new one removes the "pecuniary interest" clause also the text relating to transmission of "propaganda" and news or messages on behalf of a religious organisation. There is no mention in the new BR68 of any specific ban on political discussions or the transmission of music.

Remote Operation

Up until now it has been necessary to apply for a separate NoV if you wished to control your station remotely. Ofcom propose making remote operation a part of BR68, this eliminates the need for separate NoV's. It is however, unclear as to why Ofcom have imposed a 100 Metre limit on remote control using amateur frequencies.

Log

The mandatory requirement to keep a log has been removed. This has never been an ITU requirement and there has never been a valid regulatory reason for Ofcom to insist on mandatory log keeping. In practice I'm sure Amateurs will continue to keep logs because it's of benefit to themselves.

/A, /P and /M Suffixes

The use of /A, /P and /M has been made clearer but I have never understood why Ofcom make them mandatory. There is no ITU requirement to use them and it is unclear what regulatory benefit Ofcom gets from their use. From the regulators viewpoint all they need to know is the stations approximate location. It is already a requirement to give your location to within at least 5 km if you are not at your home address, that and your call sign are all that should be required.

QinetiQ are currently developing an Automatic Nationwide Direction Finding system for Ofcom. This system will enable the regulator to pinpoint any radio transmission to within a few metres. They will certainly be able to tell if a signal is mobile.

There would be nothing stopping Amateurs continuing to use /A, /P and /M suffixes if they wished and I'm sure most would, it just doesn't have to be mandated in BR68.

Operation By Licensee in CEPT Countries

Clause 16 only covers operation in CEPT countries for Full licence holders. CEPT have recently introduced additional licence classes that are the equivalent of our Intermediate and Foundation. As yet the UK is not a signatory to these but hopefully this will change in the near future.

CEPT Novice (Intermediate) level licence

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/jun2005/cept_novice_licence.htm

CEPT Entry (Foundation) level licence

http://www.southgatearc.org/news/june2006/cept_entry_level_licence.htm

Modes

Ofcom has missed an opportunity to make BR68 "Technology Neutral". Why does schedule 1 specify Morse, Radio Telephony, RTTY, Facsimile etc? It should be up to Amateurs as to which modes they use and where through the voluntary band plan system. The only concern of the Regulator should be that the emission is contained within the limits of the Amateur Band and does not cause any interference to a primary user.

Internet Gateways

OFCOM appear to wish to maintain the existing cumbersome NoV system for

Attended Internet Gateway systems. This severely inhibits the ability of Amateurs to experiment and develop ad-hoc systems to meet short-term requirements. There is no valid regulatory reason why Amateurs shouldn't be allowed to connect their rigs to the Internet as part of the standard licence.

Repeater Operation

The ban on setting up attended cross-band repeaters as and when required remains. It is unclear why. In the United States the FCC has no problems with allowing Amateurs to operate both in-band and cross-band repeaters as and when they require.

It would be a good idea to add a clause along the lines of FCC 97.205 into BR-68. (Paragraph (C) covers co-ordination issues). Such a clause should be applicable to both repeater and Internet Gateway operation.

FCC 97.205 Tiny URL: <http://tinyurl.com/pchzy>

Full URL: <http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/get-cfr.cgi?TITLE=47&PART=97&SECTION=205&TYPE=TEXT>

An example of cross band repeater operation for personal use would be where an Amateur has a standard dual-band mobile rig, 50 watts on 2 metres and 35 watts 70 cm, installed in their car. They switch it to "repeater mode" so that any signal that appears on the 70 cm frequency is re-transmitted on the 2 Metre frequency and visa-versa. The Amateur can then walk away from the car carrying a 70 cm handheld and use the handheld to converse with somebody on 2 metres using the rig in the car as a cross band relay.

This is standard practice in the United States but Amateurs who do it in this country are in breach of their licence. This personal cross band repeater facility could be incorporated into BR68 by amending Clause 7(3) and (4) to remove the 100 Metre range limit and increasing the power limit to 500 mw (all current handhelds have this low power setting).

Greater Clarity

On reading through the new unified BR68 I was struck by how much clearer it was that the three old BR68's that it replaces. OFCOM are to be congratulated on producing such a concise easy to read document.

Responses to the Statement

While there is no formal consultation procedure there is nothing stopping Amateurs letting Ofcom know their views on the new BR68. It is currently in draft format, the final version will be produced later, so the more feedback Ofcom get the better. The email address for comments is:

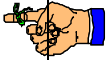
amateurcb@ofcom.org.uk

73 Trevor M5AKA

**SUPPORT YOUR CLUB
SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY**

**SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY
CLUB NIGHT**

**CHICKERELL YOUTH CLUB HALL
MAP AND DIRECTIONS ON REQUEST**



**THE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
WILL BE HELD AT
THE CHAIRMAN'S RESIDENCE**

**ON TUESDAY
29TH AUGUST 2006
19.00HRS START**



**SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY CLUB NIGHT
MEET AT THE CHICKERELL YOUTH CLUB
HALL AT 19.30HRS**

**SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY
12TH SEPTEMBER 2006**

**CHAIRMAN GRAHAM2E1GOQ
BRINGING HIS RADIO FOR AN
OPERATIONS NIGHT
SO PLEASE GIVE YOUR SUPPORT**

CERTAINLY NOT TO BE MISSED



**Registered South Dorset Radio Society
Call Signs**

G3SDS

M2Z

G8SDS

Contest Call Sign for selective contests.

For more information on the use of these calls,
please speak to a member of the committee.

*South Dorset Radio Society meets on the second Tuesday of every month,
at Chickerell Youth Club Hall, Weymouth. (NEW VENUE)
7.30 for 8.00 pm. No meeting during August.*

SDRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Graham Webb (2E1GOQ) Chairman 01305 837356

**John Rose (M0BQO) Treasurer (Contact direct)
45 Ringstead Crescent,
Weymouth
Dorset DT3 6PT 01305 832057**

**Carol Hodges (2E1RBH) Secretary/Editor
01305 820400**

Janet Dean (2E1NRQ) Committee

Jamie Wrightson (2E0WON) Committee

Arthur werrett (M0VAW) Committee

Tony Wormald (M0TRW) Committee

**Immediate Past President
Bill Burden (G3EAT)**

**President Geoff Watts (G0EVW)
Vice President Robert Hodges (G0RYL)**

**Carol Hodges 2E1RBH
Secretary/Editor Catswhisker
Marine Cottage
1a Clements Lane, Chiswell
Portland, Dorset DT5 1AS
Tel: 01305 820400 or Email: carolonfraggel@tiscali.co.uk**

**Web Site (Courtesy of Geoff G0EVW) www.g3sds.org.uk
Zoomshare (Courtesy Geoff G0EVW) www.sdrs.zoomshare.com**

**DEADLINE FOR
CATSWHISKER
NEXT MONTHS
ISSUE**

22ND AUGUST 2006

**FOR YOUR
ISSUE**

Please ensure that I
receive your
contributions before
that date.

All information contained in the 'Catswhisker' including Editorial and Advertisements is printed in good faith.

We cannot be held responsible for any incorrect information.

The opinions voiced in articles are not necessarily those of the Editor or Publisher.