

M2Z

M2Z

Editors Chatter

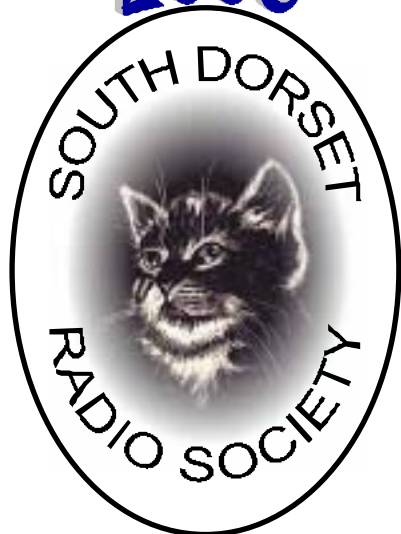
CATS WHISKER JUNE 2006

PRESIDENT
GEOFF WATTS
G0EVW

VICE PRESIDENT
ROBERT HODGES
G0RYL

G3SDS

G8SDS



SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY MUSEUMS ON THE AIR



SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY

CHAIRMAN
GRAHAM WEBB 2E1GOQ

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday/Sunday—3rd/4th June 2006

RSGB National Field Day

CW1.8—28MHz 1500-1500 UTC (24 hours)

Sunday— 11th June 2006

Practical Wireless 2m QRP Contest

0900—1600 UTC

RSGB 144 MHz Backpackers' Contest

0900—1300 UTC

Sunday 18th June 2006

Newbury DARS Car Boot Sale

Ackland Memorial Hall, Cold Ash,

Nr. Newbury

See Website— www.nadars.org.uk

Saturday 1st/Sunday— 2nd July 2006

RSGB VHF Field Day

1400—1400 UTC (24 hour)

50MHz—1.3 GHz

Sunday—13th August 2006

Hi Everyone

Well it has been one of those months again, we all get them. So as the saying goes "pick yourself up, dust yourself down, and start all over again".

We are fast approaching **The Museums on the Air** on the **17th/18th (Sat/Sun)**, and as yet have heard no definite answers as to what is happening etc. Tony (MOTRW), has asked the question, but that is the only one besides Robert G0RYL.

Robert G0RYL has volunteered to be the **Station Manager** so now that all is left is to get a **TEAM** together to set it up on the Friday, starting on the Saturday at 1000 hrs through to 1700 hrs & Sunday 1000 hrs to 1600 hrs (to allow for packing the gear away, as the Fort closes at 1700 hrs, and we have to be gone).

So you know the next question I am going to ask is, is there any **VOLUNTEERS** out there to make it the usual great weekend it usually is. If you are willing to give up some of your time to be off assistance, please get in touch with Robert G0RYL or phone 01305 820400, or you can Email: carolonfraggle@tiscalli.co.uk

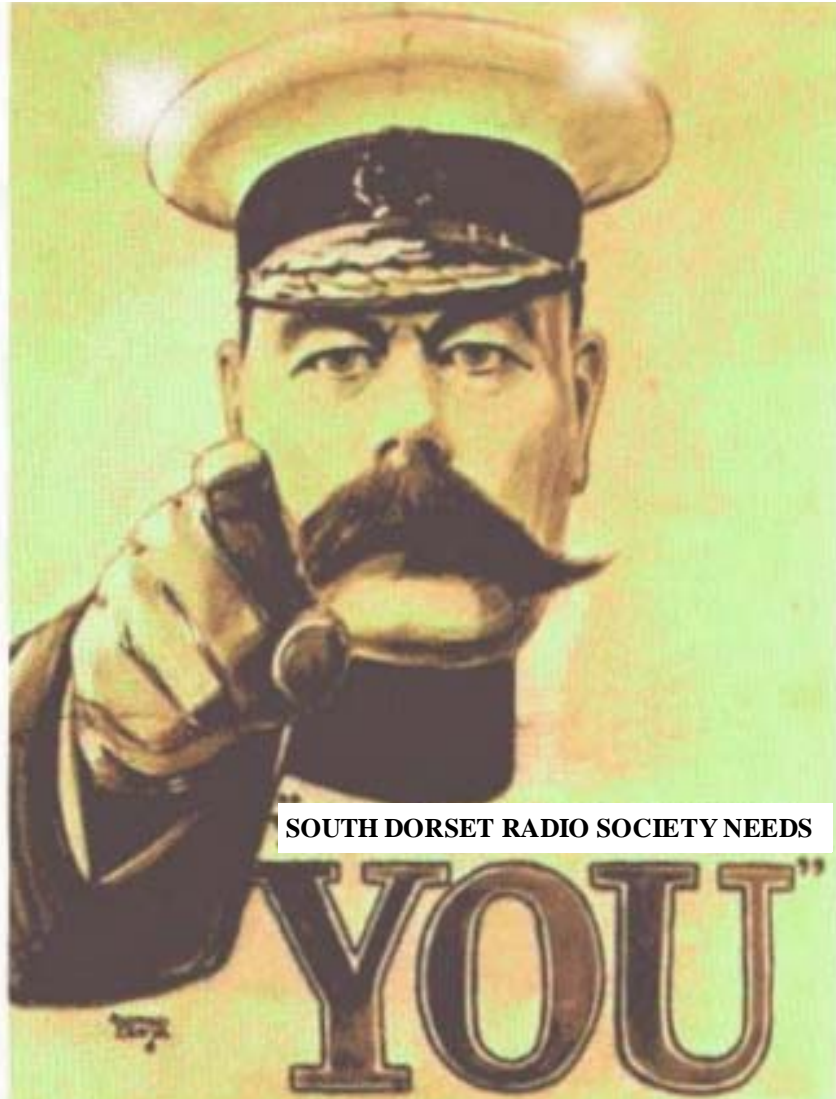
The other matter I would like to bring to everybody's attention, would be this years time to re-join your Club. If you have not done so, please get in touch with John Rose(M0BQO) to rectify this situation.

Hope you are all keeping well and in good spirits, if you know different please get in touch and we will see if we can help.

73 & 88 de Carol 2E1RBH



SOUTH DORSET RADIO CLUB NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW



SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY NEEDS

YOU

SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW TO
THE TREASURER JOHN ROSE M0BQO
(THOSE WHO DO NOT RE-JOIN BY NEXT MONTH (JULY)
WILL NOT RECEIVE THE "CATSWHISKER" FOR AUGUST)

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

AMATEUR RADIO BEFORE 1940

By Ian Poole G3YWX

(taken from Amateur Radio April 1989 with thanks)

The originals of radio date back to a series of experiments by a German physicist named Henrich Hertz in 1887 and 1888. Continuing the theoretical work of James Clerk Maxwell, Hertz demonstrated that electromagnetic waves actually existed. In fact, he managed to transmit a signal over a short distance by generating a spark in one circuit. Unfortunately, Hertz died in 1894 at the age of thirty seven. His death was a great loss to science and many people have since wondered what would have happened had he lived longer.

The genius of Marconi

After reading an article about Hertz written by Professor Reghi, the idea of 'wireless' communication caught the imagination of a young Italian named Guglielmo Marconi. Marconi first set about repeating Hertz's experiments and, at first, achieved similar distances of only a few yards. Then he added a coherer; an early device for detecting a radio spark. By trial and error he was soon able to achieve distances of over a mile and a half.

Despite his achievements, Marconi could not sell his ideas in his native Italy and so in 1896 he came to England. Here he met men like Campbell Swinton and Sir William Preece who shared his interest in wireless.

Popularising wireless

Initially the idea of wireless appeared to be little more than a conjuring trick to most people. Marconi played on this fact by regularly giving demonstrations to the public. Before long he succeeded in transmitting over a distance of nearly nine miles. Then, in 1898 he established communication across the English Channel.

In December 1901, after many set backs, Marconi managed to send the letter 'S' in Morse code from Poldhu in Cornwall to St. John's in Newfoundland. This triumph brought the new science of wireless to the attention of newspapers all over the world.

First Licenses

With the achievements and advances being made in wireless, more and more people were becoming interested in it. At this time there were no restrictions on its use. However, the British Government quickly realised that the use of wireless would have to be regulated, so in 1904 the Wireless Telegraphy Act was passed. This Bill required that each station should be licensed. Even so, the Government stated that it wanted only to regulate without placing any undue restrictions on amateur experiments.

By June 1906 as many as sixty-eight people had licenses. Some were famous such as Dr. J. A. Fleming of University College London, a former colleague of Marconi and the inventor of the diode valve.

The first licensees were not issued with call signs. It was soon decided, however, that some means of identification was necessary. So in 1910 the first call signs were introduced. These consisted solely of three letters and gave no indication of the country of origin. All new stations were given a call sign when the license was issued, and existing stations were sent a letter informing them of their call sign, politely telling them how use it.

Onset of war

With interest in experimental wireless rising rapidly, the onset of World War One brought everything to an abrupt halt. By early 1914 a total of 1,963 licenses had been issued. Then on 1st August 1914, a telegram was sent to most stations instructing the owner to remove his aerial and dismantle the apparatus. As time progressed it was announced that all equipment had to be surrendered to the Post Office for the duration of the War. This was adhered to very strictly, as one poor soul discovered to his cost, when he was prosecuted for merely possessing a small transmitter.

There was no amateur activity during the war, but many enthusiasts found that their skills were eagerly sought for the war effort.

The war was also a time when great technological advances were made. Transmitters became more sophisticated and better receivers were needed. The major requirements were for better selectivity and greater sensitivity. In order to solve these problems, countless hours were spent developing new ideas.

On the side of the allies, men like Lucien Levy and Captain H J Round made great developments, which enabled Edwin Armstrong to develop the first superhet receiver. This tremendous breakthrough enabled far greater selectivity and gain to be achieved. This was because valves were prone to oscillate at radio frequencies if the gain was increased beyond comparatively small valves. By converting the incoming signal to a fixed lower frequency, both gain stability could be improved.

Back on the air

The end of the war, the authorities were slow to allow experimental amateur activity to start again. It was not until the middle of 1920, after a great deal of lobbying by wireless societies, that licences were reissued.

This time the licence conditions were different. Applicants had to satisfy the authorities on a greater number of requirements. Not only had they to outline a series of experimental tests they wished to conduct, but they also had to prove they were capable of using wireless transmitting equipment, and that they could send and receive Morse at 12wpm.

Call signs were reissued with a different format which consisted of a number, usually '2', followed by two letters. Some of these call signs became famous, particularly the one held by the British Broadcasting Company—2LO.

Despite the restrictions imposed, many people took out these new licences and interest began to grow at an increasing rate.

Challenge of the Atlantic

America had been much less affected by the war than Europe. It had far more radio amateurs, many of whom were interested in making DX contacts. Some notable successes had been achieved as the distances covered gradually increased the number of contacts being made across the American continent.

Very soon people became interested in the possibility of a transatlantic contact. This was not as straightforward as it first appeared, since there was a number of difficulties. For example, American stations were allowed to use up to 1kW of power, whereas British stations were limited to a meagre 10W.

Also as British stations were only just getting back on the air, their progress was hindered by their receivers which were less sophisticated than those in the USA.

Feeling that lack of experience and poor equipment were the causes of Great Britain's

Difficulties, the American Radio Relay League sent over an experienced operator named Paul Godley. He came to Great Britain with an Armstrong superhet to perform a series of tests. Initially, he set up his station in London, but found the level of electronic noise was too high. Accordingly, he moved to Ardrossan, a small town in Scotland. It was here, during 12th December 1921, that he heard 1BCG in Connecticut.

The next hurdle was to achieve a two way contact. This was more difficult in view of the power available to British stations, and the level of interference from the enormous number of amateurs in the USA.

Nevertheless, a British station, SWS, was copied by eight Americans in December 1922. Yet, surprisingly, this did not produce a two-way contact. This honour went to the French station 8AB, operated by Leon Deloy, in 1923. The first transatlantic contact from the UK was made between Jack Partridge 2KF in Merton and 1MO in Connecticut.

Once the challenge of the Atlantic had been conquered, this opened the way for contacts over even greater distances. As equipment gradually improved, so did the distances that could be achieved.

Then in 1924 the first contact between Great Britain and New Zealand was made.

Prefixes

As contacts between different countries and continents become common place, it became obvious that it was necessary to advise an easy way of identifying a station's country of origin. At this time it was possible for a station in one country to contact a station abroad, using exactly the same call sign.

The problem was not as easy to solve as it might have been today, since there were no international bodies. As a result, various countries suggested and implemented different solutions. Accordingly, confusion reigned because there were at least two systems in operation.

The ARRL wanted to use a system where the 'de' or 'from' sent between the call signs was replaced by a letter indicating the country each station transmitted from. For example, one might have heard 2AA GU 1AA, the 'G' indicating 2AA was in Great Britain, and the 'U' indicating that 1AA was in the USA.

An alternative system, similar to the one used today, was devised and adopted in Europe. A call sign had a prefix of one or two letters, indicating the station's country of origin. In fact, many of the original prefixes have remained: G for Great Britain, F for France, EA for Spain, etc. Other prefixes have changed, such as KB for Germany, OU for Denmark and SA for Sweden.

License Conditions

The licences that were issued around this time bore little resemblance to those we know today. Originally there were no internationally agreed amateur bands. Sometimes people had to obtain permission to operate on a certain 'wavelength', but occasionally they used it without prior consent.

As occupancy of the short wave bands rose and the pressure on space started to become a problem, it was necessary to set aside certain bands purely for amateur use. This happened in 1927 when an international conference agreed on a set of bands to be used by radio amateurs and experimenters.

Experimenters in Great Britain found that their licences gave them access to most of the bands, but they were full of restrictions that were not placed on foreign amateurs.

Being experiments and not amateurs as such, they were not allowed to call CQ.

Instead, they had to put out a 'test' call. Originally they could not operate within 25kHz of any band edge, and aerials could be no more than 100ft in length. The most amusing restriction was that 80m could not be used to weekdays between May and September before 1935!

The issuing of licences was somewhat haphazard by today's standards. Having satisfied the tests, the next step was to convince the Post Office that it was necessary to possess a transmitting licence to carry out a series of experiments. At the first attempt it was normal for an artificial aerial licence to be issued. This allowed transmitters to be built and tested, but only into a dummy load. These artificial aerial licences had a call sign consisting of the number 2 followed by three letters.

To obtain a full licence it was usual for least two attempts to be made. Once a full licence was issued, a call sign consisted of the prefix 'G' followed by a number then two letters. Initially, the number was 2, but later some with a 5 were issued and then with the figures 3, 4, 6 and 8.

Another war

Amateur radio continued to develop until the start of World War Two. On 31st August 1939 it was announced that amateur activity was to cease and equipment was to cease and equipment was to be impounded.

By 1939 amateur radio had progressed from spark transmission covering only a few feet, to AM and CW contacts world wide. During those early years radio amateurs contributed a wealth of experience to lay the foundations of the technology we know today.

My thanks to Ian Poole G3YWX & Amateur Radio—April 1989

VISIT THE NATIONAL WIRELESS MUSEUM

By Ian Poole G3YWX

Taken from Amateur radio April 1987

Holiday time comes round very quickly, and it will not be long before many of us will be off again to all parts of the globe. One very popular place in Britain is the Isle of Wight. The reason for its popularity is clear; in spite of its size there is plenty to see and do without having to travel very far. Places such as Alum Bay and the Needles, Cowes and Black Gang Chine are just a few of the well known attractions.

There are some interesting places on the Isle of Wight for the radio amateur to visit. Firstly, there is the Marconi Monument at Alum Bay. This was set up to commemorate the tests which Marconi performed around the turn of the century to investigate the propagation of radio waves. Then there is a more interesting attraction; the National Wireless Museum.

This is conveniently located at Arreton Manor near Newport, which is easily found as it lies just off the A3056 and is well signposted. The manor is well maintained and lies in some very pleasant grounds. It is of great interest in itself, with parts of the building dating back to the 14th century and earlier.

Apart from the manor there are several displays, including kitchen bygones, toys from the past, fabric, lace and fashion, a folk museum, antique armaments and English homes through the ages. So whilst the rest of the family is happily looking around these displays, you can visit the Wireless Museum with a clear conscience.

THE MUSEUM

The museum is located in one of the outbuildings, but quite near to the main house. The room holding the museum is packed with old and interesting wireless equipment of all shapes and sizes and of all descriptions. The atmosphere is one of years gone by, when valves reigned supreme and wireesses gave off the gentle odour of dust on hot glass; the days of the BBC Home Service.

The array of different types of equipment is impressive. It ranges from early crystal sets to valve wireesses, and from domestic radios to amateur and service communications equipment.

There are numerous broadcast receivers of all descriptions. These date back to some of the very early crystal sets. On one of these I saw a note explaining that the set had to be used with headphones unless it was very near the transmitter, when a loud-speaker could be used. Some of the spares to go with these sets were also on display, including some 'new' or at least unused crystals, and some cat's whiskers.

Moving forward in time, there are some early brighter' emitter valves sets and a selection of horn loudspeakers, as well as some early moving coil types. Then there are a number of pre-war valve superhets. These are all later than about 1933, which was about the time the superhets. These are all later than about 1933, which was about the time the superhet became popular in Europe. This was brought about because of the increasing number of strong broadcast stations which were transmitting. It was also at about this time that radios started to take on the form of an accepted piece of everyday household furniture. The examples on show are smaller than the earlier multivalve TRF sets, and they have fewer controls and clear illuminated dials, designed so that anyone could use them.

**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

In addition to the broadcast equipment there is some ex-service equipment. This includes an example of the famous R1155 receiver and T1154 transmitter. These would bring back memories not only to people who used them during World War II, but also to the countless thousands of people who must have owned and modified them since. Amateur radio is also widely covered.

There are examples of pre-war experimental transmitters, receivers, Morse keys and other components. Complementing the equipment is a display of some old QSL Cards, some of which date back to the early 1920s, when callsign prefixes were not used. Then, to show what some of the equipment looked like when it was in use, there are some old photographs of some early amateur stations. Again, some of these date back to the beginning of the 1920s, when call sign prefixes were not used. Then, to show what some of the equipment looked like when it was in use, there are some old photographs of some early amateur stations. Again, some of these date back to the beginning of the 1920s.

In spite of all the centre piece of the museum must be the 1930 all mechanical 'Television' which was made by John Logie Baird, the inventor of the first working television system. This television is one of only a few remaining which were built to receive the first television broadcasts in the world from the BBC at Alexandra Palace in London. It is in excellent condition as it has been renovated, but it does serve to show the shortcomings of the Baird system with its large disc and small thirty line screen.

CONCLUSION

The National Wireless Museum is well worth a visit if you are on the Isle of Wight. However, for those who are not it is worth noting that the museum is now part of the Communications and Electronics Museum Trust. This was established in 1984 so that the work of the National Wireless Museum and other collections can be expanded and improved.

I would like to thank **Ian Poole G3YWX** and **Amateur Radio** of April 1987 for this very interesting and informative article.

HAVE YOU EVER DREAMT OF TRAVELLING TO SOMEWHERE FAR FAR AWAY FROM THE U.K?

Jan Verduyn and Chris Parnell have just returned from travelling to Tierra del Fuego, The most southerly part of Argentina. From there they Boarded the historic tall ship "Europa" for the journey onto Antarctica.

Hear about their "trip of a lifetime": about penguin and seals; glaciers and Sailing the Drake Passage and how they used their Amateur radio station to make contact with over 700 fellow amateurs in more than 60 Countries.

Their talk illustrated with photographs and video clips is well worth watching and if Members of South Dorset Radio Society would like the Secretary to arrange a visit from Jan & Chris, we will see if we can arrange a presentation.

Thanks to Trowbridge & District Amateur Radio Club
For passing this information on to us.

Just a quick note...



Never up to date, unless you up date me.



**FROM THE NET MANAGER AND CHAIRMAN
GRAHAM WEBB 2E1EQ**

SDRS WEEKLY NETS UPDATE

To The Members

I'd like to start this letter by saying thanks to all those who were at the AGM and at last months meeting. To all those who have rejoined the club for the 2006/2007 year, I hope more people will do the same.

To all those who were not at the AGM, I stated that we would try and have Speakers do talks every other month. This will allow Members to talk about what ever they wish or show any item or items they wish to bring along. In July of course we hold the Clubs BBQ/Hot Potato Night (Yummy), I propose to bring along my Yeasu FT920 so Members can use the Clubs Call Sign **GX3SDS**.

I would like to thank Richard Brent-Knowles on his marvelous talk last month. The subject matter was **The British North Greenland Expedition 1952-54**. Pictures of this talk can be seen at this site,; (www.sdrs.zoomshare.com). My thanks to Sue (M3PSC) for her efforts. Although this was not the planed talk, it was none the least a very interesting one. (The advertised one would have lasted 3 hours).

Although it was not a large turn out of members, I hope to see more off you at later Club Nights, whether there is a Speaker or just a general get together night.

It has been generally felt, that the Club has involved itself in doing too many Special Events over the last few years. The club is going to cut down on the number of NoV's it uses. The two main events being **Marconi** and **Museums on the Air** at the Nothe Fort in Weymouth. Any other Event/Events held by the Club will now use the **Clubs Call Sign GX3SDS**, that is as long as an Advanced Licensed operator is in attendance .

Please do not forget to rejoin the Club, as it is there for you to enjoy, as much as we enjoy seeing you all there. Also, if you have something to say on the amateur radio smatters, please let the Editor of the Clubs Magazine "Catswhisker" know. The Magazine holds all kinds of useful information from our own Club Members and also from our World Wide readers too. Please do have a look at the above web site, not only does it have the last talk on it, but it also has many other ones to, with some pictures of me trying to cook ???.

Yours truly,
Graham (2E1GOQ) Chairman.

HERE ARE A COUPLE MORE PICTURES OF THE MARCONI 2006 EVENT

Please look at www.sdrs.zoomshare.com
For more pictures of the Event



ABOVE: Jonathan (G1TGM) & Tony (G0GFL)
LEFT: Mike Carter (G0NEV) & Harold (M3OPW)

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THE MARCONI EVENT AT NEW BARN FIELD CENTRE 2006

Hello Carol,

Now back from the land of culinary frogs and snails so h/w CW report for Marconi Day:

Marconi Day - C.W. Operations. After an 'exciting' evening on Friday erecting masts and antenna all appeared ready for the kick-off. (I sloped off to get some comfortable shut-eye and hot food and re-appeared with great hopes for a busy CW day on Saturday - not too early).

But, not a great deal to report on CW this time, partly due to only being able to attend for a short period on Saturday and partly down to experimental use of a homebrew loop antenna tied to a fence post with about 3 Watts output. However, it was an enjoyable day and after struggling with inadequate power supplies (i.e. 12 volt battery), Rob came to the rescue with petrol generated power and a suitable PSU - thanks Rob.

Contacts were made as follows:

0925/35 7mhz 3 Watts PA6IMD Bob at Gouda 579/599
1000/06 10Mhz " SN190ZS Kaz Gottenberg 539/579
1058/1105 7Mhz " DJ5CU Wil Krefeld 439/579
1315/1322 " 8 Watts DK2NV Herman Soltau 449/579
1410/1423 " " PA3FTJ Heilke Oldemarkt 539/569
1440/1452 " " DL5LBA Volli Brunsbuettel 579/599



Hope to do better at Museums on the Air.

Best wishes, . Arthur.werret M0VAW

MARCONI EXHIBIT OPENS AT OXFORD

The Marconi Exhibition will be opened by the Chancellor of Oxford University in the presence of Princess Elettra, Marconi's daughter in the Museum of the History of science at Oxford University on 24th April 2006. The exhibition covers the history of radio from Marconi's early demonstrations in the 1890s to the beginning of regular public broadcasting in the 1920s.

According to Chris Stevens, G3MGS, virtually all the original equipment used by Marconi has been preserved and will be on public display for the first time. (It took five trucks to move the archive to its new home at Oxford from Marconi's old Headquarters at Chelmsford).

The Trustees of the Wireless Preservation Society were responsible for saving the Marconi archive from being broken up and then finding a suitable home for it following the collapse of Marconi in 2001.

The Wireless Preservation Society have also funded a three year research assistant to catalogue the huge amount of equipment, papers and other ephemera including copies of all the original telegraphic messages passing between the ships involved in the Titanic disaster.

The exhibition concentrates on these dramatic and memorable events in the early story:

- A) Marconi's celebrated early demonstrations, including cross-Channel signals
- B) the achievement of a Trans-Atlantic signal in December 1901
- C) the Titanic disaster and the use of radio to rescue the survivors
- D) the development of radio in World War One
- E) the birth of broadcasting, up to the foundation of the BBC.

These are illustrated by original instruments and documents of outstanding interest. The exhibition uses a number of unique objects and documents relating to the early history of radio, some of which are on public display for the first time.

The Exhibition is free to enter and continues until October 2006. This is something never happened while the collection was in Chelmsford and should be very interesting to see.

For more information, here is a link to the Museum of History of Science website.

<http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk/>

SDRS thanks Trevor M5AKA and Murray G6JYB, his team for this information and allowing us to forward to any other interested party.

Are any of SDRS Members or anyone reading this interested in arranging a trip to see the Marconi Exhibition. Please let the Secretary know and we will try and arrange a Coach Trip before the close in October.

MUSEUMS ON THE AIR 17TH & 18TH JUNE 2006



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THIS EVENT

STATION MANAGER IS ROBERT GORYL

THE EVENT WILL BE HELD ON THE

17TH & 18TH JUNE 2006

FROM 10.00HRS—16.30HRS ON THE SATURDAY

FROM 10.00HRS—15.00HRS ON THE SUNDAY

AT THE

**NOTHE FORT
BARRACK ROAD
THE NOTHE
WEYMOUTH**

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE PUTTING UP OF THE STATION,
PROBABLY FRIDAY AFTERNOON) AS WELL AS THE PACKING AWAY
ON THE SUNDAY.**

**AFTERNOON. AS EVERYTHING HAS TO BE PACKED AWAY AND THE
CLUB LEAVING THE FORT BY 4.30PM**

**PLEASE GET IN TOUCH WITH GORYL ON 01305 820400 OR EMAIL
Carolnfraggle@tiscali.co.uk**

IF YOU CAN HELP CONTACT ME. NO HELP—NO EVENT

THE MYSTERY OF THE MISSING G7's

Have you ever wondered why you never hear G7 or G9 call signs on the air? Well, Andy Emmerson G8PTH, explains the mystery.

This is the tale of a quest to discover the gaps in our call sign series: it started with a chance hearing and gradually took on the fascination of an archaeological 'dig'...

In 'What's In a Call Sign' (March '83 HRT), I set out the number and letter series used for British amateur call signs, so I won't repeat that information here. Suffice to say that numbers 1, 7, 9 and 0 were not used in the past for amateur calls, or at least not generally. The exceptions will be explained later in this article. Of course, radio amateurs do not have a monopoly of call signs and of all the radio calls in use, only the so called international call signs need conform to a pattern. Calls used locally by taxi firms and armed forces (to quote just two examples) can take any convenient form. But for international recognition, the calls take specified forms, as explained in an old GPO Handbook for Wireless Operators.

"The calls consist of: (a) three letters, or three letters followed by a single figure (other than 0 or 1), in the case of fixed stations; four letters in the case of ship stations; (d) five letters in the case of aircraft stations; (e) four letters followed by a single figure (other than 0 or 1) in the case of mobile stations; (f) one or two letters and a single figure (other than 0 or 1) followed by a group of not more than three letters in the case of private experimental stations, amateur stations and private radio communications stations.

The nationality of a station is indicated by the first letter or letters of the call sign".

Presumably the figures 1 and 0 were capable of confusion with the letters I and O. With the solitary exceptions of GB1RS soon after the last war and GB1ARU in 1981, the British licensing authorities avoided their use until recently. This just leaves us with the G7 and G9 series.

G9 = Private Experimental

The G9 calls are not very mysterious in fact; they come in the 'private experimental station' category mentioned above. More commonly known as Test and Development calls, they are assigned to organisations who design or repair equipment and need to test this on the air. I have not traced any pre-war G9 calls; one of the oldest was G9AED, the pilot Band III transmitter used by independent television from 1955 onwards.

Nowadays G9 calls are issued only where speech is involved, not for video Or data transmission. The series has recently passed G9BZE, so they are not issued very fast! A number of amateur radio dealers hold G9 calls, so they are .

occasionally heard on our bands. In fact it was hearing one of these dealers using a G9 call that caught my attention originally

G7?

The call signs beginning G7 were more difficult to track down, because the Radio Regulatory Department told me there are no G7's in force at the moment. Furthermore they had no record of any previous use (though the series is due for re-use shortly). The earliest recorded use was during the last war, as noted by Mike Ockenden in his article 'Bitte QRX Krieg' (Short Wave Magazine, June 1981). Eight British stations, G7FA-G7FH, contacted German and Swiss stations in 1945, while the war was still on in 1945. This was unusual to say the least we were still at war with Germany and amateur transmitting was officially banned.

It is also understood that calls in the G7A plus one letter series were issued just before the end of war by the Radio Security Service (RSS) to voluntary 'interceptor' operators. These amateurs were allowed to work 7MHz from home, presumably to make contact with stations operating as pirates inside Europe. This would enable the RSS to get bearings on these clandestine operators. Considerable doubt still surrounds these wartime activities and if nobody comes forward soon, the questions may remain unanswered forever.

After this, G7 calls were allocated to maritime colleges for training stations. These colleges have replica ships' wireless - operating into dummy loads—and used to have call signs such as G7TM in Southampton. I'd be pleased to hear of other examples, especially if still in use. Apart from this, a non-directional beacon was heard transmitting a G7-plus-two call in MCW just above the top of the long-wave broadcast band in the Chelmsford area a couple of years ago, so the series may have been used for general test and development purposes too.

Ballon Mobile

The most recent use of the G7 series was for rather more exotic purposes and did involve amateurs, though not for amateur communication. Two events figure in our story and both concerned expeditions, though not of the DX kind. The first, in 1958, was described as 'the Kon Tiki of the Air'. Code named 'Small World', the intention was to fly a hot-air balloon across the south Atlantic from Tenerife to somewhere in South America.

A request was made to the RSGB for short-wave (14MHz) communication between the balloon and volunteer operators in 'the old country'. However, since there were no amateurs on board the balloon, this looked problematic until the GPO Radio Branch generously allowed nominated amateurs to receive messages 'of a scientific and personal nature'. Accordingly, the balloon was assigned the call G7AA and the nominated base stations were G7AB (G6UT), G7AC (G3AAE), G7AD (G2FUX) and G7AE (G8KS). Although the balloon did fly, no radio contact was ever made; a thermal brought the balloon down and the transmitter was jetisoned in to the sea. The balloon was cast off and the gondola eventually drifted across the Atlantic to Barbados!

The call G7AE was issued again ten years later, in connection with the British Trans-arctic Expedition. The explorers operated outside amateur bands from a drifting ice floe and a number of amateurs in the UK were licensed to communicate with the relay station; these were G2BVN, G2FLB, G8FC

G8KW and G8PB. Full details can be found in the June 1968 issue of Radio Communication.

And The others?

So far, the story has concerned only regular 'G' type stations. One or two more unusual calls have been used in connection with special event stations on the Kennedy Memorial Site at Runnymede. This is now American soil, and the call signs used reflected this. WG1-JFK was organised in 1976 by G8AUU to commemorate the US bicentennial and in 1984 GK1JFK was arranged by G3KMA for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Other 'unusual' calls heard on the bands are, generally not amateurs; there are, for instance, the army and sea cadet nets. Operation from home QTH is allowed on occasion and QSL cards are issued; amateurs should not attempt to join these nets without authorisation, however. Additionally, in the late '40s and 50s boy scout stations operated with G3R or S plus two letter calls, and suffixed hyphen 1, 2 or 3 to indicate the patrol.

In describing these 'unusual' call signs I am sure I have only scratched the surface and if any readers can add information I shall be pleased to hear from them.

Reference

1. RSGB Bulletin, December 1958.

**This article was written by Andy Emmerson G8PTH
in Ham Radio in October 1985**



SDRS LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2006/2007

THE YEAR 2006

11TH JULY 2006

BBQ or HOT POTATO NIGHT?

AUGUST 2006

SUMMER RECESS—

EVERYBODY HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY

12TH SEPTEMBER 2006

GRAHAM 2E1GOQ RADIO NIGHT OPERATION

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”**

JANUARY 2007

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

FEBRUARY 2007

SPEAKER TO BE ARRANGED

MARCH 2007

SDRS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SDRS LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2006/2007

APRIL 2007

SPEAKER TO BE ARRANGED

MAY 2007

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

JUNE 2007

SPEAKER TO BE ARRANGED

JULY 2007

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

AUGUST 2007

EVERYBODY HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY

**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.****

Just a quick note...



ACCIDENTAL PACKET

Hi all. A lot of you know me in the Weymouth area as Charlie 2E1LEC. The name is Charles really but I let you get away with it! Well, lets start with 'accidental packet'.

I am usually up early in the mornings, around 5.30am. I was looking at Packet Radio on our local Node WEY2 one morning using the Winpack Packet program. I went to let our dogs out of the back door, looked up and saw the International Space Station going over: a wonderful sight catching the morning sunrise. As I am always looking skyward for satellites it was no great surprise as I have seen it many times before passing overhead. Ah, Packet I thought. I heard on the grapevine about the ISS using the Mode. I went back to the radio shack and switched to 145.800MHz, the downlink for the ISS, and there were messages coming up on the screen from all over the world. This is good I thought, I will check to see when its due over again, which I did using a tracking program. Sure enough, there it was again: Packet messages coming up on screen. Now to me, this was discovering something new to mankind, although it had been going on for ages.

Discovering that you can use another popular Packet program called UI-View to make contact through the ISS into Europe I decided to give it a go and with the help from Mark M5MKW, it was worked out what to put into the Unproto address (ARISS, RS0ISS-3), set the radio to uplink on 145.990MHz and downlink on 145.800MHz and it worked - not every time, better for me when the elevation is low as I am only using a co-linear antenna. I've worked Packet into many European countries now via the ISS, try it sometime, I am sure you will get a buzz from it.

Good DX and 73 de Charles 2E1LEC - 2e1lec@g3sds.org.uk

EDITORS NOTE: Thank you Charles 2E1LEC for your contributions, it is nice to have Members send bits and pieces in. 73 & 88 Carol 2E1RBH

Just a quick note...



THE EARLY BIRD CATCHES THE WORM

(How to work around the world on low power using a simple antenna)

Now, have you ever heard the expression 'The Early Bird Catches The Worm'?

Well as explained earlier, I get up early, not that I always want to, but that's beside the point. Switch on 80 metres and make contact into the USA at 5.30am in the morning, that's a good start; then turn to 40 metres and have QSO's with New Zealand, Australia, and a few more Stateside. All this is with just 50 watts of SSB to a full size G5RV antenna.

Low and behold, Harold M3OPW got up early the other morning and I patched him through to 'ZL (New Zealand) on his 10 watts and full size G5RV; he made the trip 5/5. Now I don't want to steal Harold's thunder but I have heard a station on a beach down in the west-country work 'VK (Australia) on 5 watts; anyway, well done Harold, at least you got out of bed in time! Mind you, I did not hear much from him after the contact, he probably fainted from shock!

A lot of people have asked when and how I manage to work all this DX - well now you know, give it a try yourself. However, don't get up tomorrow morning expecting to do the same. You may be in for a bit of a shock as some mornings the DX is just not there and you will be lucky to work anywhere of great significance. It's all about being in the right place at the right time, but early morning works for me. If you ever hear me on give me a call, perhaps to talk about your experiences in the hobby. If you're a newcomer, don't be shy, call in, and have a chat. I would not say that I am the most experienced in the hobby as I have only just started and still have a lot to learn but I think we can all learn from one another.

Good DX and 73 de Charles 2E1LEC - 2e1lec@g3sds.org.uk

ADVERTISERS AND SUPPORTERS PAGE

 <p>Derek Milward Insulator Collector</p> <p>Phone: 01454 616757 Email: milwarddd@aol.com</p>	<p>COLLECTS INSULATORS AND HAS A COLLECTION OVER 3,000</p> <p>IF YOU HAVE ANY OR KNOW OF ANY ONE WHO DOES NOT WANT THEM</p> <p>PLEASE CONTACT DEREK ON 01454 616757</p>
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HELLO,
I AM A SMALL BATTERY SUPPLY COMPANY BASED IN GILLINGHAM, DORSET.
I HAVE A SUPPLY OF SHORT DATE PP9 BATTERIES TESTED AND WORKING.
THESE ARE AVAILABLE AT 50p EACH DISCOUNT FOR LARGER ORDERS. IF ANY OF YOUR MEMBERS ARE INTERESTED PLEASE TELEPHONE 01747 821539
MANY THANKS,
BOB DAVIES, OWNER

ANYONE WISHING TO ADVERTISE
IN THE CATSWHISKER WOULD BE VERY WELCOME
SPACE AND PRICES ON ENQUIRY
CONTACT CAROL 2E1RBH ON 01305 820400 OR
EMAIL: carolonfraggle@tiscali.co.uk

ADVERTISERS AND SUPPORTERS PAGE

GROOM REQUIRED FOR MINITURE HORSE STUD FARM

Good knowledge and confident handling of horses advantageous. Previous experience preferred but not essential as training would be given. Excellent accommodation provided. Own transport helpful due to rural location, shops only 1 mile away.
For more information please contact Mrs. Adorian on 07802 592136

TUBESONIX

Authorised Independent Distributor of

GOLDEN DRAGON

EI ELITES SERIES

I am writing to you and your Members to introduce Tubesonix, my new Internet shop offering a great range of superb valve/tube based Audio and RF Products. The Golden Dragon brand in particular, offer some of the best mainstream RF valves I have used and the 572b's, 811's and 614b's are all extremely good valves. I have sold these to all corners of the globe with great reports and hundreds of satisfied customers.

This is just a small taster of the letter I received from Chris Pickett (M5LRO) the Proprietor of Tubesonix.com

If you wish to learn more about this new service please go to:

www.tubesonix.com



Today's News
CALL SIGN
M0MYL

JOIN BYLARA
BRITISH YOUNG LADIES
AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
TALK TO THE WORLD
JOIN TODAY
CONTACT THE
SECRETARY: JACKIE
01903 263179
OR EMAIL:
jack.head1@ntlworld.com
MEN ARE ALSOWELCOME

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.

8th June—Drilling PC Boards—G7SFY

15th June—Foxhunt

22nd June—Model Aero Engines—G1PZK

29th June—Informal Practice Evening

6th July—First Aid—Talk by Ruth Preston

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



CHELMSFORD AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

Established 1936

Web Address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

Dates for your Dairy

3/4th June—W & S Open Day, Hockley—Doors open 10am

Wed 14th June—CARS Committee Meeting—Danbury Village Hall at 7.30pm

5th, 14th & 22nd June—RSGB Club Championship Contest

17/18th June—VHF Contest

17./18th June—JAL All Asian DX/CW Contest



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.freemove.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

**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
27TH JUNE 2006
19.00HRS START**



CAH

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

**SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY
11TH JULY 2006
CLUB NIGHT IN
MEMBERS GET TOGETHER NIGHT**

**SO PLEASE GIVE YOUR FULL
SUPPORT
CERTAINLY NOT TO BE MISSED**



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

Received Sunday 21st May 2006



Latest News

Due to co channel interference, MB7IOP will be changing frequency shortly. The internet gateway will be moving from 144.8375MHz to 145.2125MHz. The node will stay using eQSO and the access tone will remain 71.9Hz.

M5MKW-L is still active on 145.3375MHz (CTCSS 71.9Hz) running EcholRLP. Remember to place a # before Echolink node numbers. For IRLP number just dial them. 73 will disconnect the current node on ether systems.

73 de Phil (sysop MB7IOP) and Mark (sysop M5MKK-L)

THE BRITISH NORTH GREENLAND EXPEDITION 1952-54

Illustrated talk by Richard Brett-Knowles, who is available to present it to schools, universities, or other organisations (Scouts/Guides, ex-service clubs etc)

The BNGE was a major expedition in the Scott tradition, field from July 1952 to July 1954, though not all of the 30 members stayed for both years. Unfortunately one did not return.

Its purpose was three-fold: scientific exploration, training of the service members in an Arctic environment, and "Showing the Flag". The Navy and Army sent people, the Royal Air Force undertook the transport of both people and stores to the Arctic, and Denmark lent an army surveyor captain, who was the one fatal casualty.

There were many areas of scientific study, most of them "-ologies", such as glaciology, meteorology, geology, physiology and more, besides surveying, both gravimetric and seismological. Radio wave propagation was also investigated, in conjunction with the Admiralty and Cambridge University. Travel was either on foot, by dog sledge or in a "WEASEL" vehicle.

Richard Brett-Knowles is an Oxford Graduate and former Royal Naval Officer, participated in the expedition as the assistant to the Seismologist, which involved work with explosives and seismic recording gear, and navigation over the featureless icecap in his "WEASEL". In the second year Richard undertook responsibility for communications as well. In addition to his specialist work he had to become a jack of all trades, as did the other Servicemen on the Expedition, doing cooking, vehicle maintenance, back packing, first aid and countless other chores. On his return he was awarded the Polar Medal by the Queen.

The hour's talk is not so much about Greenland or the findings of the Expedition, but of life on the icecap, on the trail and back at base during the totally dark winter months. Colour slides are shown for illustration. (The sponsor is requested to provide a projector.) Some of the equipment actually used is exhibited as well as more modern developments which would have made the task easier. If appropriate for the audience, the radio equipment is actually operated.



If any Club would like to contact details, they are as follows—

Glenleigh House
11 Glenleigh Park
Havant. PO9 2PH
Telephone number—02392 475077

Have a look at the Website—<http://www.luna.co.uk/~jbryant/pages/bnge.htm>

Other sources of information can be obtained from-

British North Greenland expedition polar expedition Arctic expedition North Pole weasel
Arctic exploration Royal Air Force crevasse Greenland Icecap public lecture

It is really worth while and extremely interesting.

I would like to say a big thank you to Richard for all his hard work and interesting and fascinating talk. I wish it could have been longer, to give you the justice it really deserved.

It was a pleasure to have you visit SDRS. Robert and myself enjoyed your company at our home over night. It was a pleasure and we look forward to meeting you again, as we say "down the line". Take care, and once again many thanks.

On behalf of South Dorset Radio Society and the Members who attended—
73/88 de Carol 2E1RBH

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

11th June 2006—37th Elvaston Castle National Radio Rally

Contact Les G4CWD on 1332 559 965

Email: secretary@elvastonrally.co.uk

18th June 2006—East Suffolk Wireless Revival (Ipswich Rally)

Contact John G3XDY on 01473 717 830

Or Steve M1ACB on 07720 412 648

18th June 2006—Newbury DARS Car Boot Sale

Contact Kevin G6FOP

Email: g5xv@ntlworld.com

25th June 2006— Bangor & DARS Summer Radio Rally

Contact Michael on 028 4277 2383

23rd-25th June 2006—West of England Radio Rally

Contact Shaun G8VPG on 01225 873 098

Email: rallymanager@westrally.org.uk

2nd July 2006—Norfolk ARC Barford Radio Rally

Contact David G7URP on 01953 457 322 or 01953 458 844

Email: radio@dcpmicro.com

2nd July 2006—York Radio Rally

Contact A. Palfrey G8IMZ on 01904 413 342 or 07841 120 738

Email: apalg8@aol.com

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

Contact Ken on 01209 821 073

Email: ken@jtarry.freemove.co.uk

16th July 2006—McMichael Rally & Boot sale

Contact Min G0JMS on 01189 723 50 4www.radarc.org

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

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

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

Ofcom Licence Fees, CARS Reply

As highlighted in the last newsletter another consultation has been in progress regarding amateur radio, maritime and CB – this time on licence fees. This is the CARS response. Its is now expected that another one will follow on major revisions to BR68.

See Ofcom Site:-

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

Question: *Do you agree that the simplification and removal of fees for amateur radio and ship radio licences issued via the internet will be beneficial to users of these classes and do you support the objectives for licence simplification?*

Answers:-

Many respondents including CARS welcome the prospect of a secure and reliable online licensing system. However we are unhappy on a number of aspects as follows

Licence Fees and Value

Results from the main Amateur Licensing Consultation showed that the majority of respondents were in favour of licence-fees as it underlined the value/status of an Amateur Licence. Many respondents commented on the perceived value of a licence (which nowadays takes up to three exams) and funding support for Interference enforcement and international representation. Whilst accepting that a free system reduces internal Ofcom IT/Transaction costs, this fact seems to have been ignored in this new document and the RIA.

Incentives & Discrimination

CARS objects to the introduction of new £20 Charges for Postal applications by U-21s and Over-75s. Many of the latter in particular are unlikely to be Internet users – Given the previous discount that applies to these groups, this also constitutes NEW regulation and will be seen as regressive.

Accessibility

It seems clear that Ofcom blithely assumes that 100% of users not only have Internet access, but are also fully conversant with and can fathom the depths of the Ofcom website. Our regular experience from Club Members and Trainees show that the website is still cumbersome to navigate and has material in the Amateur section which is long overdue for updating and consolidation.

For such a large number of potential users (Amateur and Maritime), Ofcom should give consideration to a dedicated simpler mini-site with a unique top-level url such as 'ofcom-licensing.com' rather than having to click down to several levels.

Amateur Radio Exams & Training

CARS Tutors have put hundreds of candidates through the exam system. Arrangements for handling issue of new licences from the RCF-administered exam system continue to be unclear. As this is currently wholly paper based it would be a major disincentive and seen to be unfair if arrangements are not put in place for an Internet option, and one which includes appropriate Verification of exam passes.

NoVs

CARS potentially welcomes free NoVs but remains concerned regarding co-ordination processes as this is highly dependent on under-resourced volunteer RSGB effort to avoid frequency chaos.

Security and Acceptance

It remains most unclear how secure PDF certificates will be from forgery and how acceptable they will be by foreign administrations.

Citizens Band

Some of our members also hold CB licences that are adjacent to the Amateur 10m band. This consultation seems rather out-of-order in that it pre-empts an un-issued consultation on CB deregulation, nor does it reference the impact of managing the inevitable conflict between CB and new CADS* users – the latter being the topic of a number of pro-active Ofcom activities

*CADS – Community Audio Distribution Systems

See: http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/cads_scheme/

Many thanks to CAR for keeping us all up to date with Ofcom Licence Fees.

Watch this space next month. 2E1RBH

PATENTS “WEIRD & WHACKY INVENTIONS”

The book from which all the Weird and Wacky Inventions—a vacuum cleaner attached to the feet, a dimple maker, a steam carriage in the shape of a man, to name just a few of those I have put into the magazine in the last few month's. Yet as oddly varied as these and all of the other inventions are, they have something in common; the inventor of each one had it patented. What is a patent anyway?

Quite simply, a patent is a grant issued that gives an inventor the exclusive right to the use of his or her discovery. In effect, the inventor alone decides who can and cannot make, use, or sell his or her invention.

But why patent some of the strange inventions? Who would possibly want them? The answer is that you can never tell what might or might not intrigue people, what might turn out to be valuable at some later date. Recently, a man took a small, smooth rock, put it into a cardboard box, and called it a Pet Rock. It had to be one of the all-time silly ideas, and yet, in less than a year he sold over 500,000 of them. Then there is the story of Joseph Henry, who decided not to take out a patent on his discovery.

Joseph Henry was a teacher of science when he made his remarkable discovery in 1831. After much research, he found a way to transmit electric current through great lengths of wire and, in effect, invented the first practical telegraph. But Henry never took out a patent on his dignity of science to confine benefits which might be derived from it to the exclusive right of any individual.”

Six years later, Samuel F. B. Morse took Henry's findings (and those of others working in the field), improved on them, built his own telegraph—and patented it! Watching Morse's fortune and fame grow, Henry's only comment on his obvious mistake was: “I was perhaps too fastidious.”

In a society that holds the shrewd and successful individual in such high esteem, most people would consider Joseph Henry an idealistic fool. And in truth, Henry was probably overreacting to the legal jargon of the patent law and to the possibility that some bit of new knowledge could be withheld from the world.

A patent does give an inventor sole control over the invention. At the same time, though, it puts the invention on display to the public.

Anyone who so wishes can study the patents housed in the Patent Office. What is more, a patent includes no rule on how an inventor must sell or use the rights to an invention. If Joseph Henry had obtained a patent, he could have let anyone use his discovery free of charge.

Today, the preparation and execution of a patent application is an extremely complex operation. To ensure that it is carried out properly, almost everyone connected with the patents recommends that a patent agent with a knowledge of the requirements and procedures for getting a patent be hired to do the paperwork. And there can be a lot of paperwork. In 1969, Gene Amdahl and his fifteen co-inventors were granted a patent that consisted of 495 sheets of drawings and 469 sheets of specifications.

An application for a patent is complex, in part to lessen the number of silly claims, but largely to ensure that what is patented is really new. A detailed description of how to make and use the invention must be given; if it is an improvement on an

All of these steps getting a patent may sound complicated. Yet, many people must find the time and expense worthwhile in some way. Thomas Edison found the whole process so rewarding that he obtained 1,093 patents, a record number. Despite the legal and financial requirements and complications, many patents are issued to individuals not connected with corporations or research institutions.

From silly to sublime, from the practical to the frivolous, the range of things invented is incredible and amazing. All that is required is a spark of imagination, a little fiddling and thinking, and, who knows, you may just invent something as important as Walter Hunt's little safety pin.

Many thanks for the Weird and Wacky Inventions Book by Jim Murphy and published by A Hippo Book Scholastic Publications Limited of London.

MONTHLY WEIRD AND WACKY INVENTIONS

**A BOTTLE OF WINE FOR THE FIRST RIGHT ANSWER I RECEIVE AND THE FIRST RIGHT ANSWER I RECEIVED WAS:
THE WINNING MEMBER IS: Ruth Haines M0RAH**

FRANCES ALLEN'S 1972 PATENT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE GOOD LOOKING, BUT IT WAS MEANT TO IMPROVE THE WAY A PERSON LOOKED AND FELT.

- 1. An electric hot-water bottle**
- 2. A wearable device to reduce high blood pressure**
- 3. A portable bathtub**



This is the last one as there has only been one response since I started doing them

PORTABLE BATHTUB

After a long, dusty journey, Frances Allen hoped her portable bath tub would relax and restore the spirits of any traveller. All the user had to do was attach the hoses to a water source and a drain and step in. The person could close the bag with a zipper on the inside and begin to scrub away. Once the bath was over, the plastic bag was drained, and rolled up for another day's travelling.

As odd as this may seem, many people have invented portable bath tubs over the years. One reason for this was that the quality of hotels and their bathing facilities varied a great deal from area to area. In 1904, Adolf Herz patented the portable bath shown above. The major difference was that the water was placed in the bottom of Herz's model before the user stepped into it



**PLEASE REMEMBER
MUSEUMS ON THE AIR
AT THE
NOTHE FORT MUSEUM
ON THE**

17TH & 18TH JUNE 2006

VOLUNTEERS DESPARATELY NEED

**SETTING UP—TAKING DOWN—OPERATING—
GENERAL PUBLIC INFO**

YOUR CLUB-NO VOLUNTEERS-NO EVENT

MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 14

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.*

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DEADLINE FOR CATSWHISKER NEXT MONTHS ISSUE

20th June 2006

FOR YOUR ISSUE

Please ensure that I
receive your
contributions before
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