

# SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY

*Promoting and Supporting Amateur Radio since 1961*

## THE CATSWHISKER - APRIL 2009

*Keeping members and  
SDRS events and news*



*friends informed about  
since March 1967*

**The Annual General Meeting of The South Dorset Radio Society will be held on Tuesday the 14<sup>th</sup> of April at the usual venue (see below) at 7:30 for 8PM. The official AGM Notice and Agenda was published in last months Catswhisker.**

### SDRS MEETING VENUE

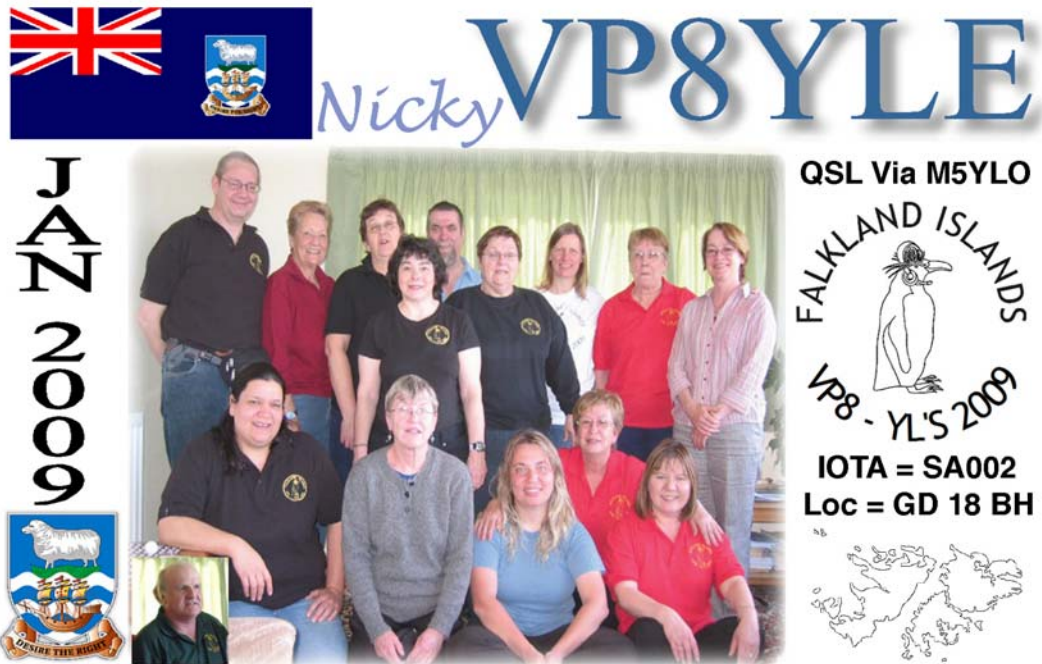
**Directions:** From Weymouth, proceed northwest towards Chickerell along the B3157 (Chickerell Road) from its junction with the B3156, Lanehouse Rocks Road (or the Marquess of Granby junction) for approximately one mile. Passing the Army Camp on your left, at the bottom of a dip, turn right into Glennie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

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Another year is about to pass and the South Dorset Radio Society keeps going despite the fall in membership. I'd like to ask all current members to attend the AGM on the 14th of April where hopefully old members will re-join and new Amateurs join. We have the usual events coming up this year and possibly a new one at the Nothe Fort. The event I like is the Marconi weekend where you can camp out for two nights away from the hubbub of life to play radio and (fingers crossed), enjoy the sunshine, see the countryside and on the odd occasion "Flying Sausages" - a night time event!

Graham, 2E1GOQ

## MARCH SDRS CLUB MEETING – A SUPERB OCCASION



[www.radioclubs.net/aa\\_vp8yl/](http://www.radioclubs.net/aa_vp8yl/)

Those present were treated to a most entertaining and informative illustrated talk by Nicky Marriott M5YLO, of the Blackmore Vale ARC, about her recent DXpedition to the Falklands Islands with 5 other members of BYLARA. (There should have been more, but two were turned back at Santiago airport due to visa errors.)

Nicky showed pictures of the flights out and back, including some awesome views as they flew across the Andes Mountains, and views of places they visited on the Islands. The event was organised by Bob VP8LP who also kept the team under a strict routine working 24 hours at 3hrs on and 2hrs off for most of the time, and operating at two locations.

At the Home Base Station a Yaesu FT1000 MP Mk 5 was used with an SPE Expert Linear running 600 Watts to a 3 element SteppIR at 40 feet and a Vertical SteppIR on 40 to 6 metres.

At the Field Hut a Kenwood TS-50 was used with an AEL Solid state amp running 400 Watts to a 3 element SteppIR at 40 feet and a Hustler 4-BTV vertical.

Nicky was pleased that of the 25,218 contacts made by the team, she accounted for 2,700. They worked 152 countries with at least 222 YLs in the logs. There was almost universal praise for their effort, but just one rather unpleasant contact making his views known about women operating radios in the 'Malvinas'

Thanks to Nicky for a first-class talk.

John, M0BQO

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

(Events where the SDRS are taking part are in red text)

19 April - Andover Radio Club boot sale.

25 April - International Marconi Day. GB0MBS with the SDRS at Bradford Peverell.

26 April - Yeovil QRP Convention at Sherborne.

6/7 June - WW2 Extravaganza at the Nothe Fort. (GX3SDS)

20/21 June - Museums on the Air weekend at the Nothe Fort. (GX3SDS)

21 June - Newbury Radio club boot sale and rally.

28 June - West of England Rally at Frome (the old Longleat event).

9 August - Flight Refuelling's Hamfest at Wimborne.

15/16 August - Lighthouses/Lightships on the Air at the Nothe Fort. (GX3SDS)

## MORSE TESTS AVAILABLE – GET YOU FULL ‘CLASS A’ NOW!

If you have not yet obtained your Morse code proficiency certificate and want to continue to enjoy the full benefits of access to the HF bands it might be a good time to take advantage of the testing facilities now being offered at some of the major Amateur Radio events, such as the one below: don't wait until it is too late!

Geoff, G0EVW

Morse testing available at NARSA rally.

Following on from the introduction of Morse Code Certificates of Competency, Morse testing will be available at the forthcoming NARSA rally in Blackpool on Sunday 5 April. For further info check out the RSGB website [www.rsgb.org.uk/morse](http://www.rsgb.org.uk/morse). If you are interested in taking a test at the rally please contact Kath Wilson, M1CNY, at the rally. She will be on the RSGB bookstand or UKFM Group (Western) repeater group stands. Alternatively contact Kath on 01270 761 608 or by e-mail to [m1cny@rsgb.org.uk](mailto:m1cny@rsgb.org.uk).

**PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE AGM – YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!**

## SILENT KEY

Ashley, G6XSK of Littlemoor, passed away on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January this year.

## **SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY 2008/9**

**G3SDS G8SDS M2Z**

### **CONTACTS**

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President: Geoff Watts, G0EVW  
Vice President: Robert Hodges, G0RYL

SDRS Web Site: [www.g3sds.org.uk](http://www.g3sds.org.uk) Pictures here: [www.sdrs.zoomshare.com](http://www.sdrs.zoomshare.com)

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

### **WORDS OF WISDOM**

*"Science may have found a cure for most evils; but it has found no remedy for the worst of them all - the apathy of human beings."* Helen Keller

### **THE CATSWHISKER**

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

*cat's whisker n.*  
*a fine adjustable wire in a crystal radio receiver.*  
*the cat's whiskers (or pyjamas) slang an excellent person or thing.*

### **NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION**

Until a new editor/producer can be found, the SDRS Newsletter is being produced and edited by our President, Geoff Watts, G0EVW. Please send any material for inclusion in Catswhisker to Geoff using e-mail [g0evw@g3sds.org.uk](mailto:g0evw@g3sds.org.uk). Or by post to: 46 Links Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0PE. You can also phone or send a text message to Geoff on 07502198447. Please note that news material needs to arrive *at least* 10 - 14 days before each meeting.

SDRS 2008/9