

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY

Promoting and Supporting Amateur Radio since 1961

FEBRUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

THE CATSWHISKER

*Keeping members and
SDRS events and news*



*friends informed about
since March 1967*

NEXT SDRS MEETING

The next meeting is on Tuesday February the 12th at 7.30 for 8pm at the usual venue in Chickerell. Carol, 2E1RBH will be giving us a talk all about BYLARA, the British Young Ladies Amateur Radio Association. Please come along and bring a friend!

JANUARY MEETING

At the last meeting, Jamie Wrightson, 2E0WON gave us a very interesting talk about Dorset Search and Rescue. DorSAR, the Voluntary Search & Rescue Team For Dorset was founded in January 2004. Jamie, who is a qualified search technician, explained that the purpose of the group is to provide additional trained personnel & resources to the Police & other statutory agencies in the search & recovery of "Vulnerable" missing persons. Available for callout 24 hours a day - 365 days a year, DorSAR aim to be able to respond within 30 minutes.

SDRS CLUB NET

Please don't forget that a Net is held most Monday evenings from 8pm local time on the new South Dorset Repeater, GB3DR on 145.7375MHz. The Net controller is normally our Chairman, Graham, 2E1GOQ but if you don't hear him please give a call anyway. All members, friends and visitors are welcome to join in of course. For information about the South Dorset Repeaters, GB3SD and GB3DR see www.gb3sd.radiouk.com

SILENT KEY SALE

On behalf of the family of G0EOV, who sadly died on the 7th of January 2008.

Reasonable offers are welcome for a Cushcraft R8 - Multiband HF Vertical Antenna. Covers 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30 and 40 meter bands. Can be seen erected in Poole, buyer to collect please.

For details please contact Vic, G4PPD on 01202738544

SDRS MEETING VENUE

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

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

PICTURES OF SDRS EVENTS

A facility has been set up at www.sdrs.zoomshare.com where members and friends can view pictures of Society events and also post comments.

To date these include: GB0MBS, the International Marconi Day event; the GB6VE special Event Station at the Nothe Fort Weymouth in May 2005; GB0NFM, International Museums Weekend 2005 and 2006; the International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend 2006, also held at the Nothe Fort; Pictures of the Special Event station GB1HPG on the Isle of Portland in March this year and the pictures from IMD this year.

Enjoy the pictures and please feel free to use the Blog if you wish. The pictures can be downloaded by 'right clicking' and choosing the option 'save picture (or image) as'. In most cases higher resolution copies are available from Geoff, G0EVW if anybody wants them. Many thanks to all those who kindly provided the pictures.

RSGB YEARBOOK 2008

Don't forget, our Treasurer John, M0BQO still has the latest 2008 RSGB Yearbook, which is available for members to borrow. It is more comprehensive than the previous one and the enclosed CD contains different material including some new computer programmes and some manufacturers' brochures. Please contact John if you would like to borrow or see it.

BEACHCOMBER'S STORY

A new feature starting next month.

On the 9th November 2000 the following announcement was made in Catswhisker.

'SILENT KEY - RAY SHADDICK, G1YRS

We have been saddened by the news that Ray passed away on the 9th November 2000.

As a boy in the 'twenties Ray experimented with the family radio set and upon leaving school took a job with a local (Bristol) radio shop which further advanced his interest and expertise, as the manager was already a Radio Ham.

During his working life Ray had a succession of jobs all involving radio, television and his other main hobby, music. But his wife Irene was a Portland lass and it was to Portland they retired, where Ray took up CB radio with the handle Beachcomber. I got to know him on the 934 MHz band.

Soon, Ray and Irene obtained their Amateur calls - G1YRS and G7EIS respectively.

Ray used his CB handle as the author of several witty yet serious articles that appeared in Catswhisker over the past few years.

There is lots and lots that could be said about Ray, and I would like to sum it all up by saying that, if anyone was a Gentleman, a Scholar, a Friend and an Ambassador to radio communications, then that was what Ray was to me.

Neville Bridle, 2E1HFY' (now M5NEV)

I first got to know Ray through regular contacts on our local repeater GB3SD before he moved to Portland from Severn Beach. Ray often told tales of his life and his experiences in early radio and later on, via Packet Radio and e-mail, he sent me a number of fascinating texts recounting his life.

Some time after Ray's death I found the texts lurking on an old computer hard drive and re-read them. Although it's unlikely that Ray ever intended them to be published they were so well written and told such an interesting story that I quickly realised that they would make excellent Catswhisker material and got permission from his widow Irene, G7EIS to include them in future editions.

Over the next few months Ray's texts (almost without any editing) will be published as they were written, in 10 parts, here in our Newsletter: I hope you enjoy them as much as me.

Geoff, G0EVW

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY 2007/8

G3SDS G8SDS M2Z

CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN: Graham Webb, 2E1GOQ 2e1g0q@g3sds.org.uk or 01305837356

SECRETARY: Post vacant - please contact the Chairman or Treasurer.

TREASURER: John Rose, M0BQO 45 Ringstead Crescent, Weymouth, Dorset DT3 6PT m0bqo@g3sds.org.uk or telephone 01305832057.

Janet Dean, 2E1NRQ

Arthur Werrett, M0VAW

Tony Wormald, M0TRW

Jamie Wrightson, 2E0WON (Safety Officer)

President: Geoff Watts, G0EVW

Vice President: Robert Hodges, G0RYL

SDRS Web Site: www.g3sds.org.uk

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Imagination is more important than knowledge" - Albert Einstein

THE CATSWHISKER

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

cat's whisker n.

a fine adjustable wire in a crystal radio receiver.

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

Until a new editor/producer can be found the SDRS Newsletter is being produced and edited by our President, Geoff Watts, G0EVW. Please send any material for inclusion to him; e-mail g0evw@g3sds.org.uk or by post to: 46 Links Road, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 0PE. You can also phone or send a text message to Geoff on 07882063782. Members who have not provided an e-mail address to the Society should still receive a copy by post although we would appreciate it if everyone who has access to the Internet receives it electronically, as printing and postage costs are a drain on our meagre resources.