

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY

Promoting and Supporting Amateur Radio since 1961

SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWSLETTER

THE CATSWHISKER

*Keeping members and
SDRS events and news*



*friends informed about
since March 1967*

NEXT SDRS MEETING IS TUESDAY THE 9th SEPTEMBER

Please remember that we don't meet in August! The next meeting is on Tuesday the 9th of September at our usual venue (see below).

FLIGHT REFUELLING ARS HAMFEST 2008

Once again a very enjoyable day was spent with friends old and new in the August sunshine. The event was well attended and there was plenty of equipment and 'interesting' junk for us to spend our money on - congratulations to everyone involved in its organisation!

CATSWHISKER DISTRIBUTION

All editions of the Catswhisker that have been published since July 1999 are available to read on our web site at www.g3sds.org.uk but prior to each monthly meeting the latest issue can now only be read from the link provided in this members monthly e-mail

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

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

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE AND LIGHTSHIP WEEKEND

GX3SDS AT WEYMOUTH NOTHE FORT - AUGUST 16/17th 2008

Report and Log from Arthur, M0VAW.

This year our station used Morse Code/CW only. Once again the Yeovil Lads did us proud and brought a really good selection of vintage radios, which together with Rob & Carol's collection made a very fine display. We had lots of visitors and many very interested children, so all in all a good weekend.

Date	Time	Frequency	Stn Contacted	D/T Report	Remarks
16/08	1015	10.104	F6BLK	579	Bernie Clermont
	1035	10.105	LA1SC/LH	599	Nor 004 LH
	1100	10.107	GB1OL	599	UK61 Heljar Holm
	1103	10.104	9A/S53AU/P	599	EU136 LH
	1111	10.108	SP1ZZ/LH	599	POL 038 LH
	1153	10.117	OE1JJB/LT	599	AUT001 Wien
	1225	10.103	DL0HGW/LH	599	EU57 Kap Kalona
	1230	10.117	DM5JL	559	Joe Nr Dresden
	1255	10.107	DF0LH	559	FED 070 Colin
	1306	10.107	Z3OU	579	Alec Macedonia
	1315	10.109	DK0RU/LH	599	FED209 LH Ingo
	1407	10.119	HB9CCL	579	Rudy Kaggel
	1427	10.118	S51LGT	599	SLO 006 LH
	1450	10.115	DF0AWG	599	FED 046 LH
	1458	10.108	I2FAE	579	Elvio Nr Como
	1510	10.108	DL9QI	579	Walter Hannover
	1540	10.116	DL0MFK/LH	579	FED 274 EU129 Klaus
	1600Z	Station Closed for the Day.			
17/08	0910	10.106	DL0FFF/LH	599	FED 141
	0920	10.117	GM4K GK	599	Norman Stornoway
	0935	10.115	OK1HAS	599	Ludek Jhradec
	0945	10.104	IZ4DYX	579	Georgio Bologna
	1030	7.012	DF0LR/LH	579	FED 142 Karl
	1055	7.015	GB1SCA	599	UK 022 Scarborough
	1145	10.105	HB9CVQ	599	Andy
	1150	10.105	SP5PB/LH	599	POL 003 Peter
	1215	10.118	LA3DX	599	EU55 Bomo Isle Frode
	1224	10.118	SL7DL	599	Angelholm Elwin
	1240	10.116	ON7BIP	599	Karl Nr Tielt QRP
	1243	10.118	S57XX/P	579	SOTA S5/JA025
	1300	7.021	OZ2GBW/LH	579	LH DEN 020
	1312	7.021	IQ6SB	559	LH ITA 154 Dom
	1322	7.011	OP5K/LT	599	BEL LT
	1335	7.014	F3YP	589	Jean Gaillon
	1345	7.019	PI4ZVL/LT	599	NET 007
	1410	7.017	DA0L	579	FED 108 Obenplatz
	1430	7.013	TM5F	579	EUN 05 Light
	1503	7.031	F6FTB/P	579	SOTA Chris QRP
	1525	7.004	HB9LCW	579	

Station Closed at 1530Z 17.08.08

Totals: 38 Contacts in 19 Countries including 21 Lighthouses.



GX3SDS



These pictures are from Graham, 2E1GOQ, who also set up a Receiving Station and gave a demonstration of various digital and Weather Satellite modes that also proved very popular with visitors. There are lots more pictures at www.sdrs.zoomshare.com

BEACHCOMBER'S STORY

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

It is said that when one door closes, another one opens, and this was certainly true in this case. After a relatively short time, I heard from John Kiddle, the representative for ITT with whom I had a long business relationship. He told me that if I was prepared to move from Bristol, there was a vacancy for a Manager of a Radio and Electrical business in Paignton in South Devon. The prospect of living in Devon had not occurred to us before, but the following Sunday, Irene and I went to Paignton to meet the owner of Millward Maxey Ltd. After a short meeting at the shop, he took us both to Lunch, at the end of which we decided to join the Company. The firm had been established for about 50 years, and before that, it had existed in Birmingham as a Cycle Manufacturer. The main trade now was retailing in Radio, Television and domestic appliances, with a large Rental content.

It was decided that Irene would remain in Bristol for the time being in order to look after Peggy, who was not over keen to move away from her friends, and start afresh. She was at that time keeping company with a young local lad, and the situation looked as though it would develop favourably if left alone. So I moved to Paignton to start my new job, and fortuitously found lodgings with a family who ran a Guest House close to the shop. It was late in the Holiday season, and most Hoteliers close for the winter and take their own Holidays. This was exactly what happened. Arnold and Gloria departed for Spain, leaving me alone and in charge of the premises. I had taken a crash course in Guest house management before they left, and between looking after myself, I took telephone calls and bookings for the following Season, taking care not to double book rooms. It really was a case of being thrown in at the deep end with a new job and a new trade both to be mastered simultaneously. Both were successful, and the owners of the Guesthouse returned after 3 weeks to find that the following season was well booked, and the house in good order. They showed their appreciation in a practical way by not charging me for my stay there. In fact, I stayed on for about six months. Every Wednesday (Early closing) I journeyed to Bristol to visit Irene and Peggy. Irene had by now found employment at the BAC in Filton, so she was busy as well, and some weekends she took a train to Newton Abbot where I met her and went house hunting. We eventually found the ideal property just outside Brixham. It was a

fairly new 3 bedroomed house with a magnificent view over Torbay and even as far north as Exmouth, Budleigh and Sidmouth.

Irene resigned her job in Filton, and decided to move down to Devon with me. Irene's Mother moved in with Peggy, whose romance was still flourishing. Living at Brixham was a delight; it was so different from living in a big City. Crime was at a very low level, and never violent. We were able to leave the house unlocked when we went out, if it rained, our neighbour would take in the washing for us, and we would reciprocate. It was a nice friendly arrangement that was accepted as the norm. Sadly, I believe that this has changed, and even in that idyllic spot, one has to take far more precautions.

Peggy and Ken had decided to get married, and they decided to buy our house in Filton, where they still live with their own Family, our 2 Grandsons. We came up to Bristol for the Wedding and then returned to Devon to continue our lives there. Usually, when Children grow up they leave home and go their own way. In this case when Peggy grew up, we left home! An amusing twist, the significance of which was not lost on our friends.

Mr Maxey was looking for a lady to work in the Service department, and offered the job to Irene. So we were back working together again. Irene's experience at Trymvision was very useful to her now. She took charge of spares and ordering and claimed that she covered the weekly wage in the value of faulty components that she managed to get replaced by the makers. I believe that the practice of steaming off labels from more recent CRTs in order to attach them to well out of date CRTs was not strictly correct, but it certainly boosted the profits of Millward Maxey. We made many friends in Torbay, and we had a full social life. I renewed my interest in Amateur Radio and joined the local Society in Torquay, many of whom I regularly talk to from Portland

This happy state of affairs was due to end abruptly when I suffered a Coronary Thrombosis, and was admitted to the Paignton General Hospital. It was many weeks before I was able to resume my duties. Initially Irene was collected early mornings by Mr Maxey, who lived at Kingswear, and brought home again after work. But she then took a refresher course in driving, after which she drove our own car to Paignton and back each day.

Our neighbour, Sylvia looked after me during the day, and exercised our Alsatian dog together with her own Boxer. Things gradually improved and I went back to work. As a bonus, I was able to go to sea and fish off Berry Head. We had a small day boat, about 18 feet in length, powered by a Stuart Turner inboard engine. It provided hours of pleasure at a low cost. It was moored in Brixham harbour near to the Lifeboat. I received much help from the Lifeboat mechanic, Barry Pike who by a coincidence, had worked in Bristol as a Policeman. Irene would walk with the dog to Berry Head and watch me out at sea, sometimes worrying if the boat disappeared from view. But I always came back, mostly laden with fish, which was a daunting sight with up to a hundred eyes gazing from the kitchen sink. There can be no better taste than that of a Mackerel fresh from the sea.

To be continued.

FROM THE CATSWHISKER ARCHIVES

Taken from '40 YEARS OF AMATEUR RADIO' by John Rose, M0BQO

(Published in booklet form in January 2002)

30 YEARS AGO

AUGUST 21st - 26th1978 - THOMAS HARDY FESTIVAL

Special Event Station call sign GB3TH. (Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the death of the Poet and Novelist Thomas Hardy.) Thanks to Mark, G6SV we have excellent all-round facilities in Dorchester Museum, with a generous loan of a second-hand HF Bands Transceiver (Drake TR4) from SMC of Totton.

OCTOBER 1978 - GB3TH got four write-ups in the Echo alone: very good publicity for the Club. The general public were quite impressed, judging by the interest shown over the course of a week. Fortunately we had enough log keepers to be able to give valuable assistance to any questions asked. I only hope you enjoyed it as much as I did. Richard Cridland, G3ZGP - Hon Sec.

See here for the full article: www.g3sds.org.uk/sdrs40.htm

CATSWHISKER EDITOR HAS A NEW PHONE NUMBER

The Editor/Producer of Catswhisker, Geoff, G0EVW has changed his mobile phone number to 07502198447. Please note that Voicemail is not enabled so you won't get an option to leave a message if Geoff is not available but you can of course send a text message if you wish. See bottom of the last page for other contact details.

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.

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY 2008/9 G3SDS G8SDS M2Z

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

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

WORDS OF WISDOM

"It may be that the old astrologers had the truth exactly reversed, when they believed that the stars controlled the destinies of men. The time may come when men control the destinies of stars."

Arthur C. Clarke, *First on the Moon*, 1970

THE CATSWHISKER

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

cat's whisker n.

a fine adjustable wire in a crystal radio receiver.

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

NEWSLETTER PRODUCTION

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

Please send any material for inclusion in Catswhisker to Geoff using 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 07502198447.