

# Editors Chatter

February 2004

# CATSWHISKER



G3SDS



G8SDS

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

It feels like it's a case of the Christmas blues at the moment. Loads of things to do and events in the pipeline, but just a little early in the year! Or is it?

When you read this Catswhisker you will see that things don't stop in the SDRS. Second Tuesday February is going to be a most interesting evening at the monthly meeting, a talk about the history of the Nothe Fort. A place we have grown to love as being a wonderful venue for a radio station and a great PR venue as well.

Those that helped with the field day contest will be pleased to know that the station came 11th. Well done to all those who helped.

Richard M5RIC is off on a DXpedition to Malawi. We will be following him and the rest of the team with reports before and after the event. See centre page for the first report and pictures of the team.

Have you solved any nagging problems with any of your radio equipment of late? Invented something to make life that much easier in the radio shack? Or built something from a kit and had that

thrill when the piece of equipment has sprung into life? Well on March the 9th we will be judging the entries for the constructors cup again. Please bring along something you have made, it doesn't have to be this last year, something that you have made or mended, solved the problem of fault finding. It will all be of interest to others and that's what it's all about.



Don't forget that you are welcome to bring along a friend to any meeting and especially the next one. We have had loads of enquiries, so thought we should set the records straight. Its free to come along and you don't get much these days that are free!

Thanks once more to our sponsors / advertisers. Without their help the Catswhisker would be only half of what it is today.

Please keep the news coming in, its your input that makes it all worthwhile.

Until next time, 73  
every one.

**Neville M5NEV  
&  
Carol 2E1RBH**

Question: If you were to spell out numbers, how far would you have to go until you would find the letter "A"?

Answer: *One thousand.*

## Next Meeting 10th February Illustrated talk about the Nothe Fort's History



You are all welcome to come to St Mary's Church Hall, Higher End, Chickerell at 7:30pm for 8pm start.

Mr. John Bithell from the fort will be talking about the history of the fort and giving us the background to things we never knew.

A break for tea or coffee and a bite to eat. Bumper Raffle

Good company, feel free to bring along some friends, I am sure they will enjoy the evening and the interesting things they will learn about the fort.

For more information, contact the secretary  
Carol Hodges on 820400 or 07899815984



## March Meeting Night

**The St. John's Ambulance Brigade** will be giving us advice and instruction on what to do in the case of an accident in or around the radio shack.

### **We also have the judging of the Constructors Cup**

Please bring along anything you are working on at the moment or have built in recent years. It can be from a kit or one of your own inventions/experiments.

We don't expect them to be anything like the following inventions of course.

Tired of having to wear a cell phone on your belt wherever you go? In the future, you may not have to. Two British researchers have developed a prototype "phone tooth" that can be embedded in a molar and receive cell-phone calls. The signals are translated into vibrations that travel from the tooth to your skull to your inner ear—where only you can hear them. Great for giving instructions to spies and NFL quarterbacks. Not so great for the rest of us, because while our teeth may talk to us, we can't talk back to them!



Democracy is about giving everybody a voice, but that's not so easy if there's only one microphone. Enter the Sputmik, a colourful gadget designed to let any-



body who wants, to take the floor at a public meeting or lecture. Developed as a collaboration between Design Continuum, based in Boston, and M.I.T., the Sputmik (it's a pun on Sputnik) is a basketball-size, completely wireless microphone that's well padded and easy to handle so crowds can pass it overhead like a beach ball at a rock concert or even toss it from person to person.

Both of the above items are real  
and hold a patent.

Just in case you are thinking of trying it yourself!

## LADIES PAGE 2004

Well hello all the Lady Operators and the SWL's out there. I hope you all had a good New Year and that things have now settled down abit for you all. I know I am glad things are back to semi normality. There is an awful lot going on in the Club Event Calendar this Year, and plenty of chance for you all to put your skills into practice. They are all listed in this edition. It is also a good chance for us ladies to get together for a bit of a chinwag (you know, how we are going to change the world etc), and a good chance to meet old and new friends not seen for a while.

Well we have had the First Meeting of the Club, which was Ray net on the Air, I personally had never heard of them, so was really interested in their talk and all the range of things that they do for other Clubs and Societies and for Charity as well. The turn out was good with 15 members coming along to listen. There are some photo's in this Month's Catswhisker with the Call Signs and Names of the gentlemen who talked to us. Next Month there will be a better write up on the Event, but we hope we can get the information in for this month, but you know how things are at times, never goes the way you want them too.

Next Month, February 10th, there is a talk by Mr. John Bithell, of the Nothe Fort, it will, I can guarantee be very interesting. Myself and Robert used to take part in the Nothe Royal Artillery Volunteer Group every other Sunday at the Nothe Fort, but as it was once a fortnight all year round, it took up a lot of our time, so have put it to one side for now, but we still love the Nothe Fort and its history, and I think you will as well. Mr. Bithell is also bringing his wife Pat, so we will of course give them the typical SDRS welcome.

Do please come along and lend your support, as we use the Nothe facilities for Museums on the Air, Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend and this year it is also hoped to use it for D-Day 60 years commemoration.

Well that's all for this Month, Ladies, hope to catch up with you all soon. Maybe even on the air!

73 Carol 2E1RBH

## ECHO-LINK available locally again.....

The link is located at the QTH of M5MKW, Wyke Regis, IO80SO.

Echolink allows an operator to use a transceiver to access other stations located around the world via the **M5MKW-L** (Link Number 160310). The link is on **434.525Mhz** and is **simplex**, so **no** repeater shift, CTCSS (Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System) or 1750Hz tone is required.

### Operation:

No tones are needed if you are waiting for a station to transmit through the link. But if you wish to connect to other stations a DTMF (Dual Tone Multi Frequency) tone pad using the keys on the handset or a mobile phone to make the DTMF tones will have to be used.

To check that the M5MKW-L is active, press and hold the PTT (Push To Talk) whilst also pressing the \* key. Confirmation will be heard in a rather nice American voice that says " Echolink M5MVK link".

### Connection To Another Station/Link/Repeater:

With the DTMF tones available, you can now connect to a single operator, a repeater or another link.

To do this you have to enter a 4 to 6 digit number. This will be converted in to the correct DTMF tones. Whilst keeping the PTT pressed, type the required number on the keys then release the PTT.

For a full list connect to the Internet and visit: <http://home.insightbb.com/~n9ty/> This will give you a list of all repeaters (ending in - R), links (-L), conferences (\* \*) and individual stations (just their callsigns) with their appropriate node numbers. Choose the station of interest like, GB3IE- R Plymouth repeater Node 27871. Now transmit and press on your DTMF keypad 27871, release the PTT and wait.

The link will reply and tell you "Connecting to GB3IE repeater" followed by "M5MKW connected" if you connect. (If not it will tell you that "GB3IE Busy")

When you connect wait and listen. If no transmission is heard, call using your own callsign and say that you are working through the M5MKW Internet link.

When you have finished using the link, **don't forget to disconnect**. To do this, press the # key whilst pressing the PTT button.

You will then here "Echolink Disconnected".

The link will be made available when I am in the shack and can monitor as required by the NOV (Notice of Variation). If there is no traffic I will connect it to one of the conference rooms. Feel free to disconnect from there (or join in the fun) and dial up a different node.

### Just a few "rules of use"

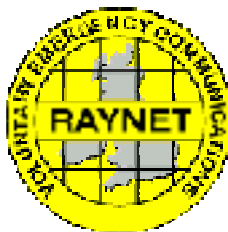
- 1) Listen first. Make sure no one is using the link.
- 2) Ensure the PTT is pressed to use the DTMF tones.
- 3) When connected, Listen.
- 4) **IMPORTANT**: Leave a longer pause between overs for the system to reset. 3 to 5 seconds.
- 5) Please **DISCONNECT**.
- 6) Have lots of fun.

Fayre Shootynge

Mark M5MKW.

# Raynet in Dorset

## Now A Club, Not a Regiment!



Bob (G6DUN) County Controller

Bob here showing the contents of his 'grab-bag' the bag he always takes with him following a call-out.



Keith (G4GCA)  
Deputy County Controller  
for Dorset Raynet

Keith here explaining the area that they have responsibility for.

The change in the Raynet presentation and all that goes with it is the most remarkable transformation I have seen.

18 months ago we were shown the Raynet organisation and I am sorry to say, it put me off, instead of doing anything to encourage me to join this worthy group.

But at our last meeting, all has changed and it might as well be a different organisation to the one I had in mind.

Now a friendly, happy club and helpful group of radio amateurs, all willing to help the community and other amateurs.

Social events and light-hearted training evenings.

Nothing compulsory, if you can help once or loads of times a year, you are all treated alike.

This is I feel the real 4th emergency service and the more that people know about it's work the better.

For more information why not drop into the Raynet Dorset web site?

<http://dorsetraynet.org.uk/>

Or wait for next months Catswhisker when there will be more about 'Raynet'.

The tabard image has gone, excitement and fun is back.

### SILENT KEY - James (Don) Burt - G8BFZ

Don, who was a member of the SDRS from 1966 to 1974 died on the 24th December 2003 aged 72.

He took his RAE with me in 1966 while we were working together at 'Combens' on Portland where we were both employed as television engineers.

He had not been active for some time.

Geoff Watts G0EWW

## Congratulations to three of our members who passed their RAE exam in December

Please note their new call signs.

\* \* \*

Mervin Bown 2E0SEA now **M0ESU**

Dave McEwen M3MCE now **M0MCE**

Phil Bridges M3PKB now **M0PKB**

\* \* \*

Other members new call signs

Alan Watts **M3WSZ**

Jamie Wrightson **M3WON**

Next committee meeting is Tuesday 24th February 2004

If you have anything you would like them to discuss, please contact any member of the committee before that date.

## LIFE BEFORE SDRS - WAS SDRC!

From Southern Echo June 21<sup>st</sup> 1924 – extracts from a long report.

### **SOUTH DORSET RADIO CLUB DINNER**

**CAPTAIN P.P.ECKERSLEY WELCOMED**

Capt. P.P.Eckersley, M.I.E.E., Chief Engineer of the British Broadcasting Company, was one of the principal guests at the first annual dinner of the South Dorset Radio Club, held on Monday evening at the Trocadero Restaurant. The popular chief was accompanied by his wife, others present including the Mayor and Mayoress (Councillor and Mrs F.W.H. Peaty), Capt. R.M.Dawes ... (A social hierarchy was observed - Mayor first, then Military Officers, then gentlemen, lastly men.)

The menu was: soup: cream of chicken, fish: salmon and cucumber, entrée: lamb cutlets, green peas, new potatoes, poultry: roast chicken, bread sauce, potato croquets, savoury: asparagus, sweets: peach Melba, coffee.

Capt. C.F.Linnitt proposed the toast of "Our Guests" and made special reference to the previous visit to Weymouth of Capt. Eckersley, when he gave an address at the Weymouth Secondary School. Capt. Eckersley, he said, was not to them a mere name on the broadcasting system, or from a book. They all knew him. He came there as a friend, and that made the evening doubly enjoyable. As wireless enthusiasts they were all familiar with his voice, and it was a pleasure that evening to welcome him in person. He congratulated him on the signal honour which had been paid to him by the Institute of Electrical Engineers, in conferring upon him full membership honours. He would also like to include in his remarks Mrs Eckersley. He felt that the successes which came to and the honours paid to a man were rightly to be shared by that man's wife. For everyone knew how much was due to the wife's efforts, and in Mrs Eckersley they were sure Capt Eckersley had a partner worthy to share such honours.

Capt. Eckersley, responding to the toast, said he had come to South Dorset for a holiday, to bask in the sun when it "sunned" and he did not anticipate having to make a speech, but hoped a little chat would be acceptable at so informal a dinner.

A development of his talk took him back to childhood days, when he had tried to build or make things. It might have been a railway to run round the nursery floor, or with a fretwork set to do something useful for mother, and what a joy when it worked.

Such it seemed was the attitude he could adopt towards his own particular sphere in the B.B.C. Thousands had taken cigar boxes and bits of wire and made simple wireless receivers. That was how it appealed to him. Thousands had the hobby of wireless reception, and he played his part in trying to make those toys work. He had found in South Dorset an old-world atmosphere in spite of the growing popularity of wireless. He would say that they had a profound respect for antiquity in this district, but it was a joy to see so many aerials throughout the countryside. The object of the B.B.C was to give the very best possible. They were trying to make it possible for every village and hamlet in the British Isles to get wireless reception on the simplest instruments, and with the proposed new high-power station, and the 1,600 metre wavelength on which it was not anticipated there would be any jamming, he hoped a great stride would be made towards achieving this end. The Mayor proposed the toast "The South Dorset Radio Club". During the proceedings Miss B. Francis rendered pianoforte solos, and Mr B. Brewin contributed songs.

J.Rose M0BQO



**Miss Nora Scott broadcasting in May 1922 from the Marconi Company's experimental station at Writtle, Essex, using the 2MT (Two - Emma -Toc) transmitter.**

Writtle, a village just outside Chelmsford, was the location of the first regular public broadcast programme. The Company, began a restricted service in February 1922.

The circuit used was almost identical with that of a standard Marconi telephone set of the time. The transmitter fed a four-wire aerial 250 ft long and 100 ft high, and originally radiated on a wavelength of 700m. Initial broadcasts consisted of a weekly half-hour programme, scheduled for Tuesday evenings between 8pm and 8.30pm. The ex-army hut was given the call sign 2MT - Two Emma Toc and from here Captain P.P. Eckersley would entertain all who could tune in.

The station closed on 17 January 1923 with full honours and was acknowledged as providing a reference point for early radio amateurs and creating an enthusiasm, which developed into the world of broadcast entertainment.

# UK MALAWI DX-PEDITION 2004

www.malawi.digital-crocus.com

The 2004 UK Malawi DXpedition will take place between 18 April and 1 May 2004. The full 7Q7 callsign will be announced shortly before the DXpedition starts.

Activity will be on all bands 10 - 80m, on SSB, CW, RTTY and PSK31, and possibly 10m FM operation on request.

Kenwood (UK) has kindly agreed to sponsor the DXpedition and will be providing Kenwood transceivers (full details next month).

The operators are Mark, G4AXX; Dick, GU4CHY; Steve, G4JVG; and Rich, M5RIC.

They will be operating from Red Zebra Lodge on the shores of Lake Malawi, just North of Chipoka.

They will have two high-power stations active for as close to 24 hours a day as possible, with two beam antennas.

For the low bands, they will have a 2-element phased vertical array for 40m, and a vertical for 80m.



The above information is by kind permission of the web master of the Dxpediton group.

## The DXpedition team



Steve Telenius-Lowe, G4JVG  
Editor of RadCom



Mark Marsden, G4AXX  
is a member of the RSGB, CDXC, IEE,  
and is a Consultant with Plextek Ltd,  
Electronics Design & Consultancy.



Dick Allisette, GU4CHY  
Is former member  
1388 of the FOC.



Rich M5RIC a member of the SDRS  
Has operated from five DXCC countries.  
He works full time for the LSC Group.

More information on this wonderful Dxpediton next month.

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# Forthcoming Events to look out for during 2004

## The Harwell Radio and Computing Rally

This is to remind you that the **Harwell Radio and Computing Rally** will take place on **Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2004** from 10.30am-3.30pm, at Didcot Leisure Centre, Didcot, Oxfordshire (come off A34 at Milton Interchange midway between Oxford and Newbury). Talk-in on S22. Bring and Buy, Junk Stalls, Trade Stands, Craft Stalls, Special Interest Groups, Homemade Refreshments, Bar, Full Disabled Facilities, Good Free Parking. Admission £1.50 (children under 12 free). Further info from Ann tel: 01235 816379 or email: ann.stevens@btinternet.com or visit our website on www.hamradio.harwell.com We look forward to welcoming you to Didcot!

## **HARS RADIO AND COMPUTING RALLY 8<sup>th</sup> FEB 2004 RALLY TRADERS BOOKING FORM**

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Email Address .....

Number of 6' Tables required ( ) @ £15.00 each           £

Electrical supply YES/NO                                   @ £2                                   £

Total Cost                                   £

All cheques to be made payable to **Harwell ARS** and sent with this form to: Harwell ARS Rally, c/o Ann Stevens, 67 New Road, East Hagbourne, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 9JX

Please indicate below the **main products** you trade in and if you have any **special requirements** for the location of your tables. We will do our best to meet these needs, but we cannot guarantee to do so.

I/We have read and agree to abide by the  
Booking Conditions for Traders.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this booking form, with your remittance. Thank you for your support.  
Printed in the SDRS 'Catswhisker' February newsletter.

## 10th February 2004 **South Dorset Radio Society Meeting**

Talk and introduction to the history of the Weymouth No the Fort by Mr. John Bi thell. All are welcome. Something not to be missed.

## 15 FEBRUARY 2004

RADIO SPORT Communication & Computer Show - Stevenage Leisure Centre. RadioSport 01923 893 929. [www.radiosport.co.uk]

## 29 FEBRUARY 2004

CAMBRIDGE & DARC Rally - [www.cdarc.org.uk]

## 29 FEBRUARY 2004

SWANSEA ARS Amateur Radio & Computer Show - Roger, GW4HSH, 01792 404 422.

## 6 MARCH 2004

CRYSTAL PALACE R & EC Spring Radio Fair - Bob, 01737 552 170. [www.members.aol.com/rfcburns]

## 7 MARCH 2004

BLACKMORE VALE ARS Valve Day - Tony, 01258 860 741.

## 7 MARCH 2004

Vintage Valve Technology Fair - Trevor, 01274 824 816 or vvt@supanet.com [www.myciunka.supanet.com/VVTF2003]



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**Size - Distance - Location  
Has never been a problem.**

9th March **South Dorset Radio Society's meeting.**

Judging for the Constructors Cup. Also The St. John's Ambulance Brigade will be giving us advice and instructions on what to do in the case of an accident in or around the radio shack. One not to be missed!

14 MARCH 2004

WYTHALL RC Radio & Computer Rally - \*\*\* New Venue \*\*\* - 0121 474 2077, or enquiries@wrcrally.co.uk [www.wrcrally.co.uk]

16 MAY 2004

MIDLAND ARS Drayton Manor Radio & Computer Rally - Norman, G8BHE, 0121 422 9787 or 07808 078 003.

6 JUNE 2004

SPALDING & DARS Annual Rally - John, G4NBR, 07946 302 815.

6 JUNE 2004

8TH RED ROSE QRP FESTIVAL.

Location Formby Hall, Alder Street (off High Street), Atherton, Manchester. Les. G4HZJ (3443) 01942 870634 g4hzj@ntlworld.com

20 JUNE 2004

NEWBURY & DARS Car Boot Sale - [www.nadars.org.k]

25 - 27 JUNE 2004

HAM RADIO 2004 - [www.messe-friedrichshafen.de]

27 JUNE 2004

SEVERNSIDE TV GROUP West of England Radio Rally - Shaun, G8VPG, 01225 873 003 (OH), 01225 873 098, shaunosullivan@breathemail.net

27 JUNE 2004

SWINDON & DARC Car Boot Sale - Mike, M5CBS, 01793 826 465.

18 JULY 2004

McMICHAEL Amateur Radio Rally & Car Boot Sale - Dave, G4XDU, 01628 625 720 or g4xdu@amsat.org

8 AUGUST 2004

FLIGHT REFUELLING ARS Hamfest - Mike, G0MJS, 01202 883 479, hamfest@frars.org.uk [www.frars.org.uk]

17 / 18 SEPTEMBER

LEICESTER Amateur Radio Show - Geoff, G4AFJ, 01455 823 344, fax 01455 828 273 or g4afj@argonet.co.uk

19 SEPTEMBER 2004

LINCOLN SWC Hamfest - [www.hamfest2004.secretbunker.org.uk]

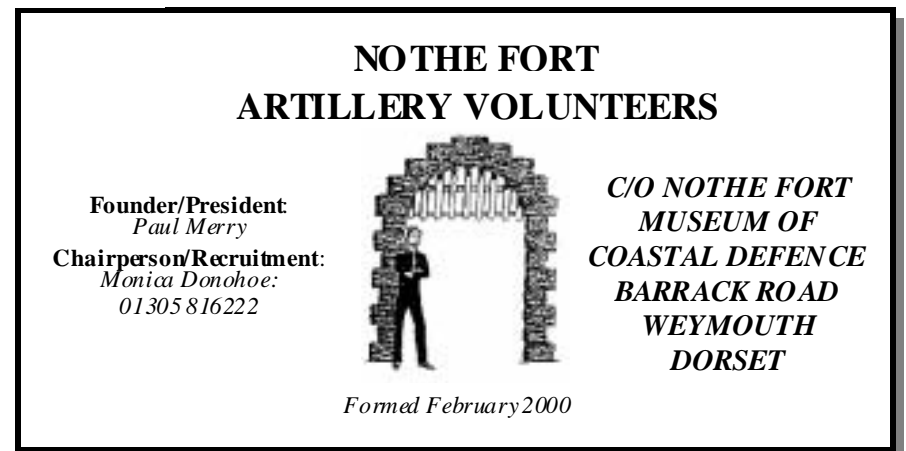


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*Formed February 2000*

## Intermediate Radio course

If you or anyone you know would like to attend the next intermediate course at Wyke Regis. Please contact either Mark M5MKW or Neville M5NEV as soon as possible please. We are compiling a list of names and will announce the starting date as soon as we have the right numbers. If you have already told us of your interest, please remind us as we don't have any details. Email or phone, details on back page.

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Contact Mark M5MKW on 07789 372684  
or e-mail [m5mkw@g3sds.org.uk](mailto:m5mkw@g3sds.org.uk)

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Selling or just searching for a special item, 'Catswhisker' works.

Just contact the editor or drop us a line. We do the rest.

It's free to advertise if it's radio orientated.

## Registered South Dorset Radio Society Call Signs

G3SDS

G8SDS

### M2Z

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 Church Hall, Weymouth.  
7.30 for 8.00pm. No meeting during August.*

### SDRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mark Wotton M5MKW Chairman  
John Rose M0BQO Treasurer 832057  
Carol Hodges 2E1RBH Secretary 820400 or  
07899815984 Mobile  
Richard Brokenshaw M5RIC Committee  
Janet Dean 2E1NRQ Committee  
Jon Illsley G2FHF Committee  
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**Web Site** ( Courtesy of Geoff G0EVW ) [www.sdrs.tk](http://www.sdrs.tk)

DEADLINE FOR  
NEXT MONTH

**20th February  
2004**

Please ensure that I  
receive your  
contributions before  
that date.

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