

M2Z

M2Z

CATS WHISKER MAY 2006

NEW BARN
FIELD CENTRE

STORY AND
PICTURES



G3SDS

G8SDS

GB0MBS



GB0MBS

SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY



**CHAIRMAN
GRAHAM WEBB 2E1GOQ**



Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

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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 3

Editors Chatter



Well here is a great big hi to everyone out there, and especially to those who came along to operate on Marconi Day at New Barn Field Centre, and of course the many visitors we had. There was Ian (M1000) from Exmouth, Geoff Patterson (G4XUG), Mike Williams (M0VET), who are both from West Sussex and Norman Mason (G0ASP) from Bridport. Nicky (M5YLO) & her husband Tony G0GFL from Blackmore Vale Amateur Radio Club. We also had a visit from Harold (M3OPW) from Piddlehinton, and Gerry (G7JEZ) from Bournemouth. So on behalf of the South Dorset Radio Club, we thank them for coming along and making the day a special one. I know we all enjoyed it, and I think so far we had 481 contacts, and still waiting for the number of CW contacts. So may be we will hit the magic 500.

Of course, we would also like to say a big thank you to our Chairman, Graham Webb (2E1GOQ), Vice President Robert Hodges (G0RYL), Committee Member Jamie Wrightson (2E0WON) and Ian (M1000) for all the hard work they put in setting up the station/s, and also they stayed at New Barn Field Centre from the Friday till the Sunday lunchtime. They did a wonderful job. So THANK YOU from all at SDRS.

One sore note however, Bob Palmer (M3DPQ) of Bedford was just setting out on his journey to join/help run the Portland Bill Station, when his front axle broke, he tried every way possible to be with us, but unfortunately it was not to be. As you can imagine, he was not a very happy BUNNY. Our thoughts go out to him, and we will see him again at Museums on the Air.

As you can see from the picture above, yes, I was operating, did about three stints and thoroughly enjoyed them all. Roll on the next Event. Look up www.sdrs.zoomshare.com And you will find many photographs of the Event taken by Members and friends alike. If you do not have this facility I will be putting more about the Event in the next Catswhisker

So keep an eye out for that one. And apologies for the lateness of this one. 2E1RBH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2006 INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

NEWS FROM SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY POSTED ON THE WEBSITE ON 15/04/06

NEW COMMITTEE FOR 2006/2007

PAST PRESIDENTS: Mark Savage G6SV
Doctor Russell-Stevens G3DUQ

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Bill Burden G3EAT

PRESIDENT: Geoff Watts G0EVW—g0evw@g3sds.org.uk

VICE PRESIDENT: Robert Hodges G0RYL—
g0ryl@g3sds.org.uk

CHAIRMAN: Graham Webb 2E1GOQ -2elg0q@g3sds.org.uk

SECRETARY: Carol Hodges 2E1RBH
2e1rbh@g3sds or carolonfraggle@tiscali.co.uk

Address: Marine Cottage, 1a Clements Lane, Chiswell,
Portland, Dorset
DT5 1AS.

Telephone: 01305 820400 or 07768247856

TREASURER: John Rose M0BQO m0bqo@g3sds.org.uk

COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2006/2007

Janet Dean—2E1NRQ

Arthur Werrett—M0VAW

Tony Wormald—M0TRW

Jamie Wrightson-2E0WON

QRP RALLY AT DIGBY HALL SHERBORNE



Every year Yeovil hold the QRP Convention at Digby Hall, Sherborne. There are 3 Lectures given by Radio Amateurs in the Lecture Hall and are very well attended.

There are various Stalls, both Radio Clubs like Blackmore Vale run by Tony (G0GFL) & Nicky (M5YLO) Marriott. Fill a carrier bag for £1.00, and I think they do very well.

There is also an Auction of items brought in by other Amateurs. I think most of the

items are sold, but if they are not, then the Yeovil Chairman manages to find someone to take it away, believe me, I know.

It is a light hearted affair where you meet up with many Amateurs from far and wide, some we had not seen for months or maybe a year or more.

They lay on a good Refreshment Café with home-made cakes, buns, jacket potatoes and of course main meals of varying degrees.

I was very lucky on a couple purchases, I picked up a Second-hand Kenwood TH-F7E 144/430Mhz FM Dual Bander. It does not look as it has been used very much, so feel very lucky to have spotted it. Now all I have to do is learn to use it properly Hi Hi.

I also picked up a three seemingly rare Books. **One**—1958 Radio Amateurs Handbook by the Headquarters Staff of the American Radio Rally League, West Hartford, Conn., USA. **Two**-Foundations of Wireless by M. G. Scroggie B.Sc.,M.I. E.E. **Three**-The Elementary Principles of Wireless Telegraphy by R. D. Nangay in Parts One and Two.

It was a lovely day out meeting many friends, the weather was glorious as well.

So, many thanks to Yeovil Amateur Radio Club for putting on the Event and all the hard work that the Club put in to hold it.



BILL GATES V GENERAL MOTORS With Thanks to Frank (SWL) Horndean & District Amateur Radio Club

I recently received from New Zealand the following:

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX) Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with Auto industry and stated “If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving 25 dollars cars that got 1000 miles a gallon.”

In response to Bill’s comments, General Motors issued a press release stating:- If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics.

1. For no reason whatsoever your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time you repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally, your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows before you could continue. For some reason, you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a manoeuvre such as a left turn would cause your car to shut down and refuse to start. In which case you would have to re-install the engine.
5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive-but would run only 5% of the roads.
6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single “This car has performed an illegal operation and will shut down immediately” warning system.
7. The air bag system would ask ‘Are you sure?’ before deploying.
8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.
9. Every time a new car was introduced, car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.
10. You would have to press ‘Start’ button to turn the engine off.

BEDFORDSHIRE CLANGER

PASTRY

4 oz. plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
2 oz. beef suet
water to mix

FILLING

5 oz. meat cut into small pieces
(stewing beef or bacon is best)
small amount diced potato
small amount chopped onion
seasoning to taste
stock/gravy/water
approx. 2 dessert spoonfuls jam
(plum or apricot are good: choose a firm variety)

Make pastry and shape into oblong.
Reserve small portion of pastry and
make a bridge along. Spread meat,
potato and onion on larger portion;
season to taste and moisten with a little
gravy or stock. Spread jam on remaining
third. Roll up with care; seal edges with
water. Lightly flour the clanger; wrap in
buttered or greaseproof paper and
a pudding cloth and secure.
Place in boiling water and simmer for
approx. 2 hours. Serves 1-2.

(Amounts can vary according to
availability of ingredients - and appetite!)



The Bedfordshire Clanger was a suet crust dumpling made by the women for their menfolk to take to the fields where they were working. It consisted of two courses, meat one end, jam the other - main course and dessert all in one! It was very filling and sustaining for men engaged in outdoor work as well as being easy to cook when facilities were limited. If it was made on Monday, the remains of the Sunday joint were used.

The meat course is delicious with buttered mashed potato and green vegetables, and the jam roly poly with cream or custard.

Any pastry left over was made into very small balls the size of a walnut and dropped into the simmering water. When cooked (in about half an hour), they were scooped out, put on a plate and covered with milk and sugar. These were called Swimmers and were often given to children as a treat.



Thanks to Bob of Bedford M3DPQ for this item

YOUR RECORD OF NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN, SECRETARY & TREASURER

NOMINATION for the post of **CHAIRMAN**



NOMINATED by **GRAHAM WEBB.....2E1GOQ**
(Name) (Call Sign)

PROPOSED by **JIM BARTON.....G7JIM**
(Name) (Call Sign)

SECONDED by **GEOFF WATTS.....G0EVW**
(Name) (Call Sign)

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NOMINATION for the post of **SECRETARY**



NOMINATED by **CAROL HODGES.....2E1RBH**
(Name) (Call Sign)

PROPOSED by **JIM BARTON.....G7JIM**
(Name) (Call Sign)

SECONDED by **JAMMIE WRIGHTSON.....2E0WON**
(Name) (Call Sign)

ooo000ooo

NOMINATION for the post of **TREASURER**



NOMINATED by **JOHN ROSE.....M0BQQ**
(Name) (Call Sign)

PROPOSED by **JIM BARTON.....G7JIM**
(Name) (Call Sign)

SECONDED by **ARTHUR WERRETT.....M0AVW**
(Name) (Call Sign)

YOUR RECORD OF NOMINATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOMINATION for the post of **COMMITTEE MEMBER**



NOMINATED: JANET DEAN.....2E1NRQ
(Name) (Call Sign)

PROPOSED by **GRAHAM WEBB.....2E1GOQ**
(Name) (Call Sign)

SECONDED by **JIM BARTON.....G7JIM**
(Name) (Call Sign)

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NOMINATION for the post of **COMMITTEE MEMBER**

NOMINATED: JAMIE WRIGHTSON.....2E0WON
(Name) (Call Sign)



PROPOSED by **ROBERT HODGESG0RYL**
(Name) (Call Sign)

SECONDED by **JIM BARTON.....G7JIM**
(Name) (Call Sign)

ooo000ooo

NOMINATION for the post of **COMMITTEE MEMBER**

NOMINATED: ARTHUR WERRETT.....M0AVW
(Name) (Call Sign)

PROPOSED by **CAROL HODGES.....2E1RBH**
(Name) (Call Sign)



SECONDED by **GRAHAM WEBB.....2E1GOQ**
(Name) (Call Sign)

NOMINATION FOR CO-OPTED MEMBER OF COMMITTEE

NOMINATED: TONY WORMALD.....M0TRW
(Name) (Call Sign)

PROPOSED by **GEOFF WATTS.....G0EVW**
(Name) (Call Sign)

SECONDED by **GRAHAM WEBB.....2E1GOQ**
(Name) (Call Sign)

Just a quick note...



Never up to date, unless you up date me.



**FROM THE NET MANAGER AND CHAIRMAN
GRAHAM WEBB 2E1EOQ**

SDRS WEEKLY NETS UPDATE

On going to press there has been no comments from the Chairman

JUST ONE OF THE PICTURES OF THE VISITORS AND OPERATORS AT THE NEW BARN MARCONI EVENT 2006



CHELMSFORD AMATEUR SOCIETY

Web address: www.g0mwt.org.uk

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Societies Magazine is out now on the above Web Site for anyone interested. Good read.

THERE ARE MORE PICTURES OF THE MARCONI 2006 EVENT

Please look at www.sdrs.zoomshare.com



**SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY PUMP UP MAST IN USE AT THE
NEW BARN FIELD CENTRE BRADFORD PEVERAL, DORCHESTER.
OUR THANKS TO MARK WOOTTEN
FOR TOWING IT OUT TO THE EVENT FOR US TO USE**

SDRS LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2006/2007

THE YEAR 2006

9TH MAY 2006

SPECIAL TALK FOR WIVES AS WELL

By Richard Brett-Knowles (G3AAT)

From **HORNDEAN RADIO CLUB**

13TH JUNE 2006

THE FIRST SPECIAL EVENT STATION

By Rob Micklewright G3MYM

11TH JULY 2006

BBQ or HOT POTATOE NIGHT?

AUGUST 2006

SUMMER RECESS—

EVERYBODY HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY

12TH SEPTEMBER 2006

SPEAKER TO BE ARRANGED

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”

SDRS LIST OF EVENTS FOR 2006/2007

JANUARY 2007

COFFEE AND CHAT EVENING

FEBRUARY 2007

SPEAKER TO BE ARRANGED

MARCH 2007

SDRS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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**

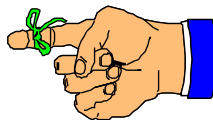
****There will be occasions when we will have to change
the advertised programme, this we will do as soon as
possibly known.****

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. TEL.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: carolonfraggie@tiscali.co.uk



**NOTHE FORT
MUSEUM OF
COASTAL
DEFENCE,
WWI, WWII
DISPLAYS AND A LOT
MORE
BARRACK ROAD
WEYMOUTH**

**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

ADVERTISERS AND SUPPORTERS PAGE

TUBESONIX



Dear Club Members

I am writing to your Members to introduce Tubesonix my new Internet shop offering great range of superb valve/tube based Audio & RF products.

It is an exciting time for me and I am very pleased to be able to offer the wonderful range of thermionic valves/tubes from manufacturers such as Golden Dragon, Ei and Svetlana. These brands enable me to offer some of the finest valves that are in current production and hope that I will be able offer your Club Members all the advantages of buying from Tubesonix.com

The Golden Dragon brand in particular offer some of the best mainstream RF valves I have used and the 572b's, 811's and 6146b's are all extremely good valves. I have sold these to all corners of the globe with great reports and hundreds of satisfied customers.

I also have a brilliant supply chain and can source most valves even those no longer produced, of course we cannot perform miracles but you can be assured that our search for products that you need will be a pleasure to execute on your behalf.

I aim to include a good range of high voltage capacitors ideally suited to home construction of valve based projects in the very near future as well valve hardware and HT/LT transformers.

It is my aim that we are a customer service orientated company and aim to offer not only the finest vacuum tubes at the best price/quality ratio but also to be able to offer the best customer service that there is. I aim to do this by very quick despatch and delivery to our customers as well as great back up and technical assistance.

All my products come with a no quibble money back guarantee and you can be assured of our best service at all times.

Most products are available from stock and I am very happy to sell a small single valve or offer bulk discounts on quantity orders. Many of my competitors insist on minimum order valves, I do not. Only in this manner are we able to serve the home constructor and hobbyist alike.

I have personally been very interested in vacuum tube technology for a number of years and needless to say, the ability to combine my hobby of amateur radio & home audio makes me delighted to be able to combine the two in a business that I am extremely passionate about.

I would be very grateful if you could pass our information to other club members and also if you could place a link to our site should you have a web-site for the club.

I am also very pleased to be able to offer the club members an introductory discount of 10% on all orders placed with us before the end of May 2006.

I hope we can be able to offer your club members some great deals on their requirements in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Pickett M5LRO (Proprietor Tubesonix.com) www.tubesonix.com

**MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES IN
OTHER CLUBS IN THE AREA**

FORTHING COMING EVENTS
AT YEOVIL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB IN

If anyone is interested in any of these Meetings get in touch with 2E1RBH to see about sharing transport.

4TH MAY—THE ORIGIN OF RADIO FORMULA—G3MYM

11TH MAY-RSGB UPDATE G0XAY &
THE AR88 RECEIVER G7LJN

18TH MAY-YARC 60TH ANNIVERSARY OPERATIONS DAY
BRIEFING

25TH MAY-COMMITTEE MEETING &
STATION ON THE AIR

1ST JUNE-PHOTO QUIZ M0WOB

4TH JUNE-(SUN) YARC 60TH ANNIVERSARY OPERATIONS
DAY AT EGGARDON HILL by kind permission of
GIGAN Somerton Radio.

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



BLACKMORE VALE AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

2ND MAY	PROJECT	6TH JUNE	PROJECT
9TH MAY	T B A	13TH JUNE	VHF
16TH MAY	VHF	20TH JUNE	HF
23RD MAY	HF	27TH JUNE	T B A
30TH MAY	T B A		



**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 MOBYL

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 8.00pm-Meet in Bar 7.30pm& transfer to Rm5 at 8.00pm

For further information look at Website: www.brswebsite.freemove.co.uk

THURSDAY-11TH MAY-7.30PM-COMMITTEE MEETING
COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY-ROOM 7



TO BE ANNOUNCED-BBC SOUTH— An evening visit is being planned for some time in July—at the earliest

MONDAY-11TH SEPTEMBER-RNLI POOLE-Starting with a meal at the RNLI's restaurant. Followed by a tour of the facilities: concentrating on the communications aspect of their work. Full details next month.

TO BE ANNOUNCED-SUNPAC TALK ON “PACKET RADIO”- with live demonstration.

**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

9TH MAY 2006

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

**SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY
9TH MAY 2006**

**RICHARD BRETT-KNOWLES
FROM HORNDEAN CLUB**

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



Just a quick note...

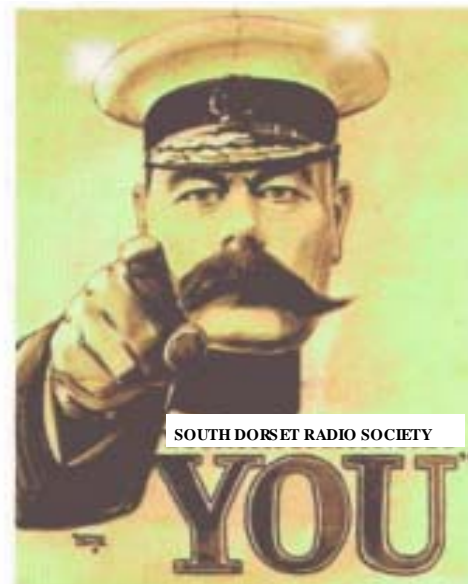


MEMBERS WHO HAVE RE-JOINED SDRS 2006/7

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

SDRS NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT NOW

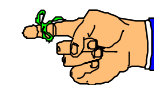
SOUTH DORSET RADIO SOCIETY



RE-JOIN



US



NOW please

**SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW TO
THE TREASURER JOHN ROSE M0BQO**

MONTHLY WEIRD AND WACKY INVENTIONS

These shoes and head gear were simple to store away and could be buckled on whenever there was an emergency. Benjamin Oppenheimer hoped his 1879 invention would result in sure-fire sales.

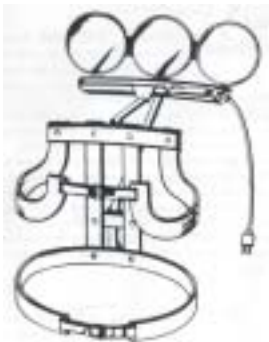


FIRE ESCAPE

With buildings getting taller and taller in the second half of the last century, Mr. Oppenheimer felt this was the only logical kind of fire escape. While the fire raged below, an individual would calmly put on the hat-parachute device and the padded shoes. Once the user had jumped from a window or off the roof, the parachute would carry him safely past the flames, and the shoes would ensure a gentle landing. Unfortunately, the inventor said nothing about

Difficulty of buckling straps as a fire rushed closer, or the possibility that the wind might carry the jumper toward the burning building, or the distinct chance that the chin buckle could choke the user in flight.

Once the users buckled this odd-looking device on, the inventor insisted that they would have a new view of things.



BACK MIRROR

An ordinary mirror will let a person see the front, top, and sides of the head but would never show the back. In order to provide a full view, Edward O'Brien invented the back mirror in 1952. The wearer slipped it on like a jacket and plugged in the mirror light for extra illumination. By facing a large mirror, the user could see a reflection of the hair on the back of the head in the three round mirrors.

Almost 50 years earlier, in 1905, Emmie Alice Thayer and Emily Waitee Thayer patented a wearable mirror that

Attempted to solve the same problem. In those days, many people faced a wall mirror and used a hand mirror to see the top and back of the head and body. This meant that only one hand was free to comb the hair or straighten a hat. When the mirror was worn like a pair of glasses, both hands were freed and the user had a clear view of "the topmost feather on her hat, her collar or even her skirt."

MONTHLY WEIRD AND WACKY INVENTIONS



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**

THERE IS A PRIZE IF YOU CAN GUESS WHAT THIS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

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

7th May 2006-Magnum Rally 2006

Contact Helen MMOHLN on 07776 385 247

7th May 2006-ARS Summer Radio, Electronic & Computer Rally

Contact C. Norman G8BHE on 0121 422 9787, 07808 078 003
Email: nigutteridge@aol.com

7th May 2006-Thorpe Camp Museum RG Radio Car Boot Sale & Rally

Contact Anthony on 07718 686 264
Or Email: tcm@hotmail.co.uk
Special Event Callsign—GB4TCM

7th May 2006-West London Radio & Electronics Show

Contact Paul MOCJX on 01737 279 108
Email: info@radiofairs.co.uk

21st May 2006-Mid-Ulster ARC Annual Rally

Contact Vic MIOAEY on 028 3833 1909
Email: radiovic@tiscali.co.uk

21st May 2006-Radio Sale

Contact TS on 01270 623 353
Email: Rod on coldwar@hackgreen.co.uk

1st May 2006—22nd Dartmoor Radio Rally -

Contact Rob on 01752 773711

4th June 2006-Spalding & DARS Annual Rally

Contact C. Ambrose MODJA on 07989 636 520
www.sdars.org.uk

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

4th June 2006-West Manchester RC 10th Red Rose QRP

Contact Les G4HZJ on 01942 870 634
Email: g4hzj@htlworld.com

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

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.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

George Dobbs G3RJV takes a look at two new paddles from a manufacturer who prides himself in producing quality wares.

'And the Brass will crash,
And the trumpets bray,
And they'll cut a dash...'
(W S Gilbert)

G & S were certainly not referring to sending Morse code, but in amateur radio culture 'brass pounding' has become the slang term for CW operating.

Then came the 'cruder metals' and Morse keys seemed to lose the golden sheen of brass in favour of the coldness of steel or the brashness of chromium plate. Recently companies have appeared on the amateur radio scene offering brass Morse keys. I have one. These are 'straight' telegraph keys (up and downers), and very fine they are in use and appearance.

These days many radio amateurs, including me, prefer to use an electronic keyed with a sideways action Paddle Key. Alas, most of these paddles are chromium plated.....so we wound the chromium.

There are many choices, the main two being Bencher Paddle and the Vibroplex Paddle, the latter not to be confused with the Vibroplex Bug Key which is a mechanical semi-automatic key. I may be wrong, but to me the Bencher Paddle looks as if it could spring apart at any moment and scatter to the four corners of the shack.

I like Morse keys and have a small collection of old keys appear on the market. So when I heard that a new Morse key maker had appeared on the scene, naturally I wanted to see, and, if possible, sample his wares.

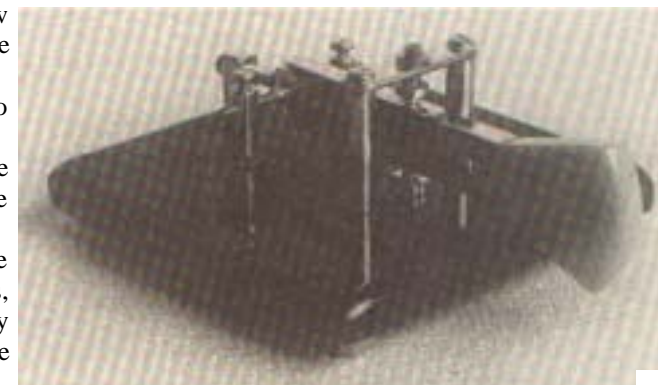
Gordon Crowhurst G4ZPY first made Morse keys for his own amusement and use. A product of that fine tradition of British precision engineering. G4ZPY spent many hours trying to produce keys which satisfied his engineering standards and looked pleasing to the eye. Other radio amateurs saw his keys and began to ask him to make them for sale. Soon he began to produce a small number of handmade keys for local amateurs. The response was so good that he decided to offer them for general sale, so the G4ZPY produces a range of two paddle keys for electronic keyers and a straight key.

I managed to divert a couple of the paddle keys, which were on their way to buyers, and had a chance to try them out on the air for a few days. What follows are my

impressions of the two paddle keys.

The two keys used were the Signal Paddle and the Twin Paddle.

The first impression is the appearance of the paddles, they are finished in highly polished brass and are things of beauty.



They would improve the aesthetics of any operating table. I can do nothing less than give G4ZPY full marks for the workmanship and finish. Each key is handmade and shows the touch of the craftsman.

The Single Paddle is of simple sturdy construction and drove my electronic keyer well. The springing arrangement is unusual but easily adjusted. My keying action is very heavy—I thump the paddle—but I was able to adjust the spring to suit that action and the contact gaps to my taste. The base is heavy enough even for my heavy handed ministrations and held position firmly on the table throughout its use.

Most amateurs who use an electronic keyer seem to buy a twin paddle key, but probably only need a single paddle. The twin paddle (or squeeze keyer) is only really required for iambic keying. This is a method of keying which gives the option of the two paddles making the dot or dash or when squeezed at the same time producing alternative dots and dashes until the paddles are released. This facility coupled with dot and dash memories in the electronics results in far fewer manipulations to send the characters. Iambic Keyers are a bit difficult to drive at first, but when mastered they make sending Morse much easier. But—when I watched many operators using a twin paddle on their electronic keyer, they do not use it like a single paddle.

The Twin Paddle is designed to drive an iambic keyer and does so very well. In the North West of England we are proud of our old steam engines which once powered the local mills, and many of them have been lovingly preserved and stand magnificent in gleaming brass. In some ways the structure of the Twin Paddle Keyer reminded me of some parts of these engines. The Twin Paddle is a real thing of beauty. The 'split ring' type of construction makes the front of it look rather like a Bencher Paddle, but the spring arrangement is firmly built into brass rings. The mechanics appear much firmer than the Bencher.

Once it was set to my taste, the Twin Paddle performed very well. I like the width of the paddle blades—the feel was just about right. I used this paddle with my keyer for about a week on the air and was very sorry to see it go. It had already been ordered for another amateur and was personalised with his callsign.

Overall I was most impressed by the G4ZPY Paddle Keys. They handle well in use and look very nice indeed. My only personal quibble is that I would like a double blade on the single paddle perhaps mounted either side of the bar. This is only my own taste, I converted my Vibroplex single paddle to give me that wider feel, but most single paddles do come with one blade and the G4ZPY blades are wider than most.

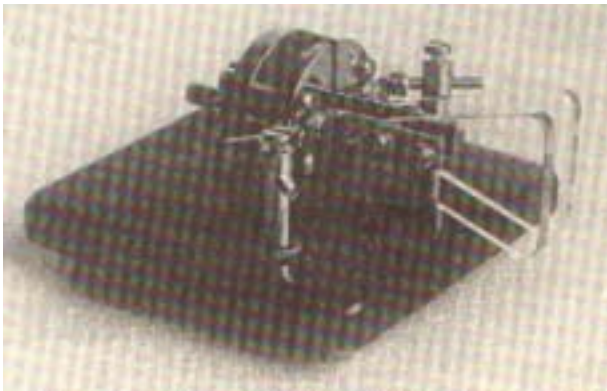
The current range sold by G4ZPY is:

Single Paddle: Standard Paddle: Standard at £40.00 and the **Deluxe** at £42.00

Twin Paddle: Standards at £45.00, **Deluxe** at £47.00

Keys can be personalised with a callsign in gilt lettering at £2.00 extra and the postage on any key, in the UK, is £2.50.

G4ZPY now makes a straight key (I have seen it but not tried it) for £25.00.



I actually have one of these and will bring it in to a Members Club Night 2E1RBH

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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MONTH ISSUE**

23rd May 2007

**FOR YOUR
ISSUE**

Please ensure that I receive your contributions before that date.

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