

October 2003

# CATSWHISKER



G3SDS



G8SDS

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

Good to be back again, even if it's only talking to you from this page. Last reminder time is here. I am sure you have it written in your diaries by now and engraved in stone in the shack wall. Our next meeting after the October one, is on the **Second Tuesday of November** and all the meetings after that. It is for an experimental year to see if it will help those that can't make the first Tuesday of the month. By the way, **no one** contacted us to say it wasn't convenient for them on the second Tuesday. So we don't want to hear anyone saying **'its no good on the second Tuesday** as I have other commitments!' So looks like we will have a bumper turn out this coming meeting. Come early to get a seat!

From all of the SDRS,  
Thank You to Bob. That's right, our Bob from Bedford has done it again! Besides giving up a huge chunk of his family holiday in Weymouth this year to help out with lighthouse weekend and attended the meeting prior to the event, he has now donated a laptop computer for use at special events and contests. Words fail me (that's a first!) Thanks Bob and all his family from all the radio society. Your letters to the Catswhisker are always welcome and will be printed, so don't just think about it, Do it!

Those of you that would like to get involved with some contest work or learn a bit about it should contact Richard M5RIC who has been very busy of late and doing very well, but needs help as it's a team effort to stage these events. Some of the contests that he intends entering for the radio society are:

Sun 5 October - 21/28 SSB  
Sat/Sun 8/9 November - WAE RTTY  
Sat/Sun 13/14 December - ARRL 10M

Also, some of these events have been staged from my QTH and the last one caused some problems to the telephones around this area! Too many to sort ourselves, so if you know of an area where we can take the clubs trailer mast for a weekend sometimes, please let a member of the committee know. This would be a huge help.

Our next meeting on Tuesday 7th October is again going to be a very interesting one and a one-off talk. Entitled, Submarine Communications by Paul Hawkins G4KHU. Paul is having to travel quite a long distance to present this to us, so please lend your support, I know you will find it quite fascinating. OK, till the next time friends, keep the information flowing in.

Neville M5NEV



# International Lightship & Lighthouse Weekend



August 16th & 17th Full Report

## 4<sup>th</sup> Glass

Feet up again with a glass of wine. It's the usual picture after the International Lighthouse / Lightship Weekend. Another successful event and well worth the effort. This event I had decided to make the shack more visitor friendly, so a few ground rules were dreamt up.

- 1 No ones back will be presented to visitors when entering the door.
- 2 There must be something for the visitors to

look at / do whilst visiting.

- 3 There should be leaflets / information for them to take away.
- 4 Reduce the noise generated within the room.

After some discussion at Neville's shack, the idea of a presentation running on a PC informing of what is going on. A PowerPoint presentation was made with pictures and sounds of the stations, explanation of the event and other information on how to become a radio amateur.

Friday, Richard (M5RIC), Bob (M3DPQ) and myself gained access to the Nothe Fort to erect the aerials. 3.5 & 7 MHz nested dipole, 14,21,28 MHz trapped dipole and an 11 element beam for 144 MHz on a rotator.

Saturday and everyone arrived at the fort (including Rob Micklewright G3MYM from Yeovil) for a days operating. The HF (High Frequency) bands were not in very good shape so I did some searching for other lighthouses/lightships; Richard started RTTY (Radio Teletype). Not much operating was done as a continuous stream of onlookers visited the shack. They watched the presentation, asked questions, listened to the operators (using a second set of headphones) and took leaflets away. The 144MHz station developed a problem which was sorted out and some limited operating ensued. Talking to one amateur on 144MHz after telling him my name and QTH (where I lived) ask if I did archery. I subsequently found out that he was an old archery friend and quite a long contact ensued. The Morse key, perhaps something to develop at future events, generated a lot of interest?

Sunday all arrived for hopefully better band conditions. Clive (G3XIG) from Dorchester helped out along with Alex (G3KKJ). Richard on RTTY, Jon (G2FHF) USB and Alex/Clive on CW (Continuous Wave). Still the steady stream of visitors entered the shack asking questions, watching the presentation, etc. The contacts were coming thick and fast. The DSP on the 870 was working overtime to reduce the QRM (interference from other stations) and several small pile-ups developed. At about 16:00 hrs (local) the shack was dismantled and 16:30 hrs the main station closed.



So the results:

FREQUENCY (MHz)	No. COUNTRIES WORKED
7	10
14	27
21	40
28	5
144	3

Summary:

357 contacts,  
46 different countries,  
14 lighthouses/Lightships.

Many thanks to (in alphabetical order):  
Alex (G3KKJ) CW and PR.  
Bob (M3DPQ) giving up his holiday and putting the station up.  
Clive (G3XIG) operating, logging and packing up.

Graham (2E1GOQ) operating, logging and packing up.

Jon (G2FHF) supplying equipment, operating and packing up.

Neville (M5NEV) for assistance with the PowerPoint presentation and PR.

Richard (M5RIC) supplying equipment, putting up, taking down and operating.

Rob Micklewright (G3MYM) PR and CW. The Nothe Fort for supplying the venue.

QinetiQ for the loan of the projector and screens.

Not forgetting all those who visited during the wonderful weekend. Thanks.

Fayre Shootynge

Mark M5MKW (GB0PBL Station / QSL Manager)



*Left:* Rob Micklewright shows a handful of interested visitors part of the station.

*Right:* One of our younger visitors on holiday from Redhill Surry, enjoys experimenting with the Morse key.



*Bottom left:* Richard M5RIC working on one of the HF stations. The sound proofing boards doubled up as part of the display.

## PIC?

A very enlightening evening was spent with Paul (G0ODP) from Poole Radio Society. Paul is a keen constructor of QRP transceiver's. The subject of his talk is about those "Black Boxes" Programmable Intelligent Controllers (PIC's). Paul has constructed several project using these PIC. What is first required is the programming interface. This is etched on to a PCB (Printed Circuit Board) which can be done at Neville' and the appropriate components bought/scrounged. The PIC socket is a zero insertion force socket (they have a lever to hold the chip in place). His first main project using a PIC was a frequency counter. By his own admission he expressed that he thought it would not work. But he built it out of spare parts from rallies, downloaded the programme off the net and programmed the PIC. Worked first time! Next was a Morse keyer and other projects are in the pipeline. Several ideas for projects are available on the Internet.

The circuits are quite simple as the external components are very few in number. As black box technology is forever moving on these are available on the web, some are even free!!!!

So give it a go like Paul and the Constructor's Cup could be yours!

Many thanks to Paul for standing in at very short notice to produce a very interesting talk. It took myself back to my college days programming the Z80 and the MCS51 family. As Paul's message said "He who knows PIC's"

If you think you could talk about a subject. Contact one of the committee members



Paul (G0ODP) during his fascinating talk and demonstration.

## Government Health Warning **Amateur Radio Can Be Harmful To Your Health!**

As the present editor of 'Catswhisker' it is my sad duty to inform all members of the South Dorset Radio Society that due to family and health reasons I am being forced to give up the post of editor from April 2004.

At the next AGM I will be tendering my resignation as editor.

This I will miss terribly, but have been told to cut back on anything that is in any way stressful. Getting your 'Catswhisker' out on time and looking something like a newsletter can at times be quite a task. Therefore I have had to make the decision to either stop what I am doing here in Wyke Regis with the training facilities or stop producing the 'Catswhisker'.

I will then of course be able to put a little more effort into making the premises here a lot more user friendly and hope to accommodate more training sessions and construction evenings next year.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me by sending articles etc. for inclusion. Without your help the 'Catswhisker' could never be produced in the first place.

With 6 months notice of my intentions I hope that we can find a replacement for the editors position.

Best wishes to you all and regrets Neville M5NEV

**Please Note:** This is the only mention I will give until I resign at the AGM

### NOTHE FORT ARTILLERY VOLUNTEERS

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*Paul Merry*

**Chairperson/Recruitment:**  
*Monica Donohoe:*  
01305 816222

**Secretary/Treasurer:**  
*Carol Hodges:* 01305 820400

**Guns/Cannon/Drill Advisor:**  
*Robert Hodges:*  
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**Silent Key Sale**  
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All enquiries to Kris G1BJN

Phillips & Commodore monitors	Qty 3	£20
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Amiga 1200		" "
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Brother HL1040 laser printer		£50
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Yaesu MD1 Base Station Microphone		£40
Various 70cms atv rx/tx pcbs assembled		£offers
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Yupiteru MVT7100 scanner		£149
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Tas Books accounting software unused		£50
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Echostar SR50		£30
ACT a/v special effects generator		£40
Worthing 23cms tx boxed with antenna change over relay		£100
Yaesu YC 500E Frequency Counter		£30
Optoelectronics 100MHz - 2.4GHz handie frequency counter		£40
Cropredy atv test card generator		£25
SSB Electronics DCW15B Preamp and Sequencer (cost £200)		£120
Dove atv rx, boxed		£30
Yaesu FT4700R Dual Band Mobile (panel lights not working, but very easy fix)		£175
TFT video monitor intended for professional cctv installation engineer, new unused		£150

Other minor items available.

**ALL enquiries to Kris G1BJN 077 888 26530 or 01626 854113**

**Please Note:** Some of the above items may have been sold prior to this publication.

## The RSGB Today

On the evening of 14 November Barry Scarisbrick, who is the RSGB Regional Manager for the South West region, will be coming to give a talk on "The RSGB today" to which all local clubs are invited.

There have been more changes in amateur radio over the last two years than in the previous decade, so this will be an opportunity, not only to hear about them from someone directly involved but also to put your questions about where we are going next. Depending on numbers attending it will be held either at the Flight Refuelling clubhouse in Wimborne or at Pelhams Community Centre in Kinson.

I should be grateful if you would give the meeting publicity in your club and try to let me have an estimate, by the end of next month, of how many members are likely to turn up.

As Deputy Regional manager for Dorset I am hoping to arrange a programme of visits to all the clubs in Dorset to talk about the new Foundation and Intermediate licences and how they can be used to introduce newcomers into the hobby. Please let me know of any dates free in your events calendar if you would like such a visit.

73 de Phil G0KKL

**If you intent to attend, please let any committee member know A.S.A.P.**

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## DIGITAL CAMERA PRACTICAL TIPS

When doing a repair or construction, do you usually end up with more bits than you started with? Do you have to dismantle it all again to fit the leftovers in their rightful places? We know all about it, don't we?

Well, help is at hand if you are one of the increasing users of digital cameras.

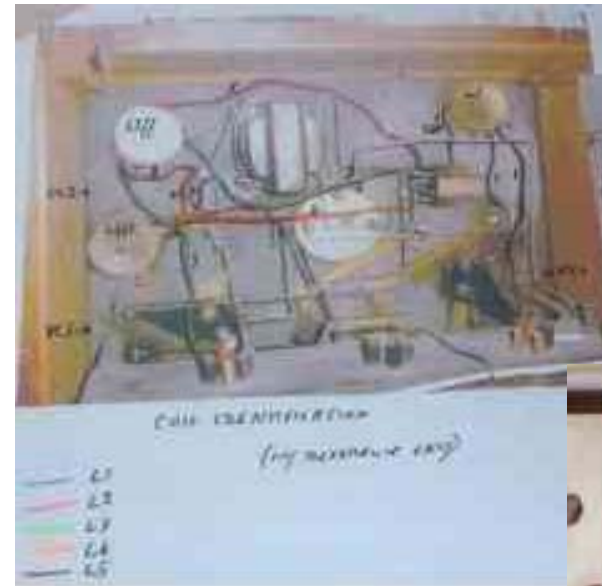
They are fine, for recording events and items in a collection, etc. But I often use mine for much more functional applications - making an image of something I'm working on before it is changed, or to help work out a problem.

The wiring in this *(insert picture here)* ancient radio was complicated to work out, with three double-wound coils and a lot of soldered connections to a busbar. To help me draw a circuit diagram I pictured the inside of the set and printed the image. As I worked out the wire connections using an Avometer (including reading resistances) I was able to over-colour the wire lines on the print with highlighters and eventually managed to unravel the mystery.

When I wanted to change an Octal valve holder *(Insert pic here)* I made a written note of components attached to its pins, but backed this up with digital images seen from at least two directions.

There would be many other applications of the same technique - working on an engine, or even the cards inside a computer. I'm sure you can think of others - if you haven't done so already! Authors have resorted to this technique for years, but with a digital camera and a computer it has become an immediate aide memoire for anybody.

J. Rose. M0BQO



Right:  
The underside of an  
ECH35 valve.



Pictures  
DIGITAL CAMERA  
PRACTICAL TIPS

Left: The back of an  
old radio

Your letters are always welcome and should reach the editor before the cut-off date printed on the back page of every 'Catswhisker'

Thanks once again to Mike of M B Freight  
for assisting with the printing of the 'Catswhisker'



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# FORTHCOMING EVENTS

## Our next meeting!

Still the first Tuesday of the month.

**October the 7th.** Chickerell Church Hall 7:30 for 8pm.



**Submarine Communications by  
Paul Hawkins G4KHU**

**Refreshments available during the evening.  
Open to anyone interested in the subject.**

**Please feel free to drop in and pay us a visit.**

## October 19

The **Blackwood & District Amateur Radio Society** are holding their rally at the Newport Centre, Newport, one mile from Junction 25A of the M4 Junction 26 when travelling West to East. Doors open at 1045 (1030 for disabled visitors), admission is £1.50. There will be a free car park, Bring & Buy, Talk-in, trade stands, specialist interest groups, bar, catering, disabled facilities and a raffle. For more details contact **D. Lewis GW6GW, 23 Gelligroes Road, Pontllanfraith, Blackwood, Gwent NP12 2JU.**

**27 October 2003 London Radio & Electronics Rally Paul, M0CJX  
01737 279108 Mail: m0cjsx@lineone.net**

## November 2

The **South Yorkshire Repeater Group** presents its 13th Great Northern Hamfest at the Metrodome Leisure Complex, Queen Road, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. Doors open at 1000. Features include all the usual trade stands, component and specialist interest groups with a large Bring & Buy. Admission is £2.50. More information from Hamfest manager **Ernie Bailey G4LUE** on **(01226) 716339** or mobile **(07787) 546515.**

\* \* \*


If you're travelling a long distance to a rally, it could be worth contacting the organiser, by telephone or E-mail, to check all is well before setting off. We cannot be held responsible for any information on Rallies, as this is supplied by the organisers and is published in good faith as a service to readers. If you have any queries about a particular event, please contact the organisers direct.

\* \* \*

## More Diary Dates

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2003, Weymouth College**  
7:00pm (tea at 6:30) Cranford Avenue, Fleet Building, Room F129.

## JET Project: Nuclear Fusion

Presented by Chris Warrick, UKAEA  
Organised by Andrew Criswick: [arcriswick@iee.org](mailto:arcriswick@iee.org) or 01305 212926  
*This lecture is sponsored by *

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2003, Salisbury College**  
6:30pm Main Lecture Theatre, Salisbury College.

## Intellectual Property Rights and the Engineer

Presented by John Cheek, Caterpillar Legal Services  
Organised by Alan Park [alpark@dstl.gov.uk](mailto:alpark@dstl.gov.uk) 01794 301535

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2003, Weymouth College**  
7:00pm (tea at 6:30) Cranford Avenue, Fleet Building, Room F129.

## Seeing Underwater

***An acoustic alternative to active or passive sonar***  
Presented by Rob O'Leary, QinetiQ (Winfrith)  
Organised by John Willis 01305 832176

All lectures are open to members of the public. Admission is free.  
No booking necessary. For further details,  
directions and future lectures browse  
[http://local.iee.org/dorset\\_swilts/seniors/welcome.html](http://local.iee.org/dorset_swilts/seniors/welcome.html)

## Thought for the day!

Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.

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## HELP WANTED

Two hands are better than one!  
Please can you lend one or two of yours?

Dear SDRS members,

I have just bought a new G5RV and need some help putting it up on the mast. This one is much stronger (I hope) hi hi. So if one or two club members could come and give a hand or two it would be greatly appreciated by myself and my xyl.

73 Nev de Jim G7JIM

Jim can be contacted on 01300 348790

The South Dorset Radio Societies **2mt net** is on Monday evenings 8pm onwards.  
**Frequency 145.350MHz.**

Also there is now a **6mt net** on **Thursdays from 8pm on 51.53MHz..**

**Committee meetings of the SDRS** are held two weeks before each SDRS meeting.

Next committee meeting Tuesday 21st October

### :: GB3SD :: GB7SD :: Repeater Group AGM ::

The **South Dorset Repeater Group** is holding it's **Annual General Meeting** at 7.30pm on Tuesday the 14th of October at the Chickerell Church Hall. (The same venue as SDRS meetings)

All supporters and users of the Voice Repeater GB3SD and/or the Packet Radio Node GB7SD (WEY2) will be very welcome. A newsletter is being sent out to SDRG members in advance of the meeting.

**For further information** see [www.gb3sd.radiouk.com](http://www.gb3sd.radiouk.com) or contact the SDRG Secretary, Dave M1OBR on 01305 835094

## 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 first 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 07789372684

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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**Vice President** Geoff Watts G0EVW

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Neville Bridle M5NEV & Carol Hodges 2E1RBH

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DEADLINE FOR  
NEXT MONTH

**Thursday 16th  
October**

Please ensure that I  
receive your  
contributions before  
that date.

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We cannot be held responsible for any incorrect information.

The opinions voiced in articles are not necessarily those of the Editor or Publisher.