

Chairman's Chat



Fantastic turn out at our mid month meeting, and I think it's far to say that the videos were enjoyed by all owing to them having just the right amount of tech knowledge with a bit of kitch to make them fun and worth watching This Tuesday sees the silent key sale for Dave great time to get a reasonable bargain and remember a dear old friend. And of course before that there is the Morse course something Dave would have loved. So hope to see you all there and hope to hear you on the radio soon.

Silent Key Sale Tuesday 2nd February 2010

At the next meeting of the C & D ARS, a silent key sale will take place, when radio equipment previously owned by the late Dave Reynolds, will be disposed of in a "sealed bid" auction. Proceeds will go to his widow. For those who did not know Dave, Steve Trott GW8ZOE has written a short tribute. I personally met Dave when he invited me to his home to bring me up to speed on the Foundation Course as I had missed the first 3 weeks. He gave me the whole afternoon and I felt as though I had known him for years. Sadly, he died the next day. *Wil Oliver MW6KGB.*

David Charles Reynolds 2E0DCR

1st March 1940 - 13th October 2009



At the age of 16 Dave Reynolds joined the Royal Marines, travelling the world. He was attached to the Special Boat Service. In 1965 he left the Marines and moved back to Cirencester where he joined the Gloucestershire Constabulary, becoming a Traffic Policeman.

After his time with the police, he joined Westbury Homes, initially working as a customer Manager, Estate manager and personal assistant to the Company Chairman. David was kept busy with his job with the Westbury Chairman until, unfortunately, a serious accident which involved both David and Thelma ended his

working career.

David and Thelma were married in 1978 and moved to Beachley in 1998.

As always David immersed himself fully in his hobbies, gaining expert knowledge in a very short time. Two years ago David became involved with the SARA organisation, where he became their Communications officer.

Dave was an inspirational radio amateur; always keen to share his knowledge and experiences, particularly with the construction of antennas. He provided training for many newcomers to the hobby, with his awesome enthusiasm.

His favourite saying was 'SUPER-FINE for anything that was really good. He was of course a 'SUPER-FINE' friend

Steve Trott - GW8ZOE

EDITORIAL

I started sailing at the age of ten when I regularly took the helm of a working Thames sailing barge. She was owned by the London Rochester Trading Company based on the River Medway in 1945. Later in my career, I qualified to skipper RN / RNSA yachts. It was the era of National Service. and I took many naval personnel on cruises for sea training; mainly from Chatham and Portsmouth naval bases. On completion of one such cruise, returning to Chatham from the Continent on a cold winter night, we ran aground in the wide estuary of the East Swale. The channel, however, was very narrow. I was horrified. In those days we had no GPS, and no VHF, in fact we had no electricity - even our navigation lights were oil lamps. I was a proud navigator of certain re noun and I was petrified as my reputation was now in jeopardy. Further more, I had used this channel on numerous occasions and had even navigated it in thick fog without incident. As the tide was falling rapidly in that wide unlit estuary, we were unable to extricate ourselves and gradually heeled over to such an angle that the starboard-side berths could not be used. I opted to "sleep" in the cockpit, allowing my crew of five to shelter below, away from the heavy frost. I couldn't sleep. In the frosty moonlight, I studied the channel and planned my strategy to regain the channel once the tide had risen sufficiently to re-float us. It was apparent that our inward track was approximately 20 degrees in error. I couldn't figure it

Just a slight digression from radio

out - my dead-reckoning and estimated position seemed ok and I had every confidence in my helmsmen. After dawn we were afloat again, making way and plotting our position using sea-marks which had been invisible in the dark. We had no further mishaps but it was obvious that the steering compass was totally unreliable. As we neared the Naval Base, one of the Senior Rates approached the steering compass with a screw-driver. "What are you doing?" I yelled. He explained that he had been trained to go around his ship, periodically tightening all nuts, bolts and screws as vibration from machinery caused them to loosen. He had spotted screws on the compass and without realising that these were the compensating magnets, he had driven them fully home!. I burst out laughing; my reputation had been saved and the mystery solved.



The moral of the story?

- When people "screw up" it isn't always deliberate or malicious.
- When things go wrong, don't overlook the obvious.

PURE POETRY!

*There was an OM from Cosham
who lowered his baluns to wash'em.
His wife said "Oh Jack,
if you don't put 'em back
I'll stamp on your baluns
and squash'em!!!"*

BE WARNED !



Morse Training



For those wishing to learn or improve their morse, training will begin at the next open meeting on **Tuesday 2nd February** at 1900 hrs **sharp**. Those wishing to participate should bring a pencil and paper. Bob Lawrence (GW4LDA) has kindly taken on the training as he has a great deal of experience in this field. Morse is becoming increasingly popular and the RSGB has recently introduced a Morse Certificate of Competency.

Membership Fees



The **Chepstow & District Amateur Radio Society** requires all its members to be fully paid-up members of the **Chepstow Athletic Club**. This is needed because of the free use of Athletic Club premises for our meetings. In order to improve ARS funds, an attendance fee is also payable at our meetings.

Current contributions are as follows -

C & D ARS (Payable on the first Tuesday in May)

Annual Membership £5
Attendance Fee £1

Athletic Club (Payable on the first Tuesday in May)

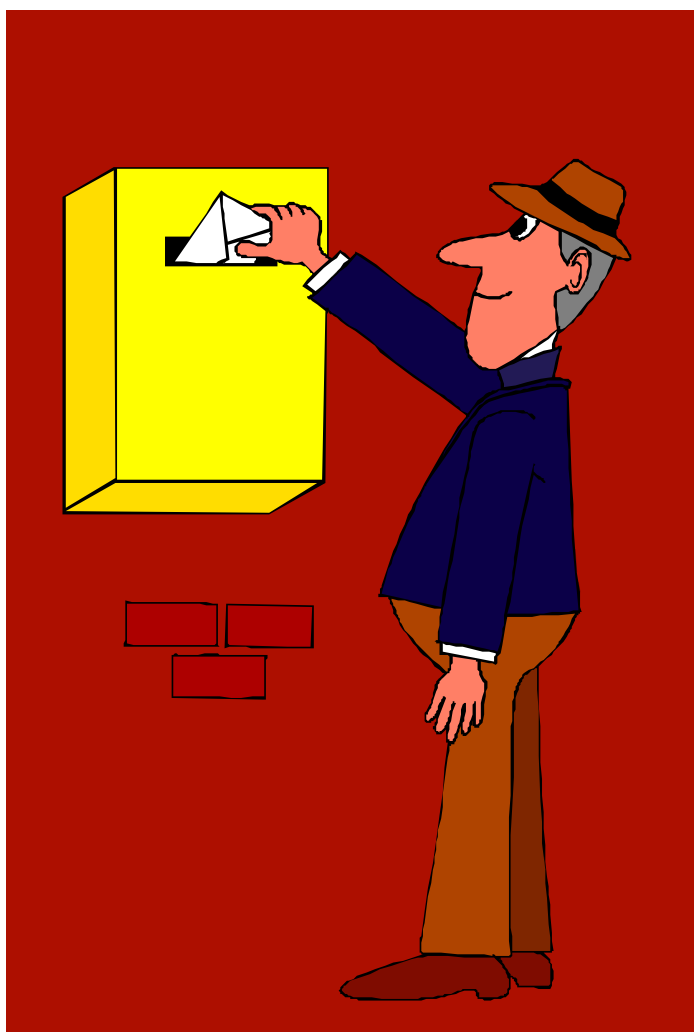
Adult Membership £10
Senior Citizen £5
Country Member £5 (resides more than 20 miles away from club)



The Athletic Club has indicated that new or lapsed members will not be required to pay their AC subscription for the remainder of this “club year” and should therefore make their first payment in May. Subject to approval by the C&DARS committee, it has been suggested that we follow suit. You will be kept informed.

Provisional Programme for 2010

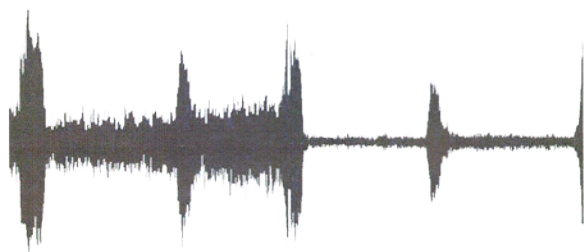
- **02 February** **Silent Key Sale**
- **02 March** **“LINEAR AMPLIFIERS”**.....**Ross Clare**
- **06 April** **“HF PROPAGATION”**.....**Mike Biddiscombe (GW3YKZ)**
- **04 May** **“INTERCONTINENTAL DX ON VHF AND UP”**..**Chris Bartram /Will Parsit**
- **01 June** **“RAYNET”**.....**Mike Biddiscombe (GW3YKZ)**
- **06 July** **“MOBILE PHONE NETWORKS”**.....**Andy Sutton (Orange)**
- **03 August** **“HM COASTGUARD’S USE OF RADIO ”**.....**Terry Baldwin**
- **07 September** **“THE BUREAU”****?? ?**
- **05 October** **“NOISE CANCELLING PRODUCTS”**.....**Graham of BHI Ltd**
- **02 November** **“PACKET RADIO”**.....**RSGB ???**
- **07 December** **“MOON BOUNCE”**.....**RSGB ???**



Noise-cancellation Speaker

Wil Oliver (MW6KGB) has just taken delivery of a new 10 Watt RMS amplified DSP noise cancellation speaker. The original order arrived on Thursday 28th January 2010 by recorded mail. It was duly unwrapped

and connected to a power supply and to the external mini external speaker socket of a Kenwood Trio TS 430S transceiver but NOTHING HAPPENED! No led lit up and no sound was heard. After a quick phone call to BHI Ltd, the speaker was returned to them. At the same time, a replacement speaker was dispatched. This arrived the very next day and proved to be quite impressive.



Wil is using the Trio connected to a simple wire half-wave di-pole antenna, rigged diagonally from one corner of the back of his house to a tree in the opposite corner of his back garden. The QTH is far from ideal, being near the bottom of Pwllmeyric Hill. The antenna is only 4 metres above the ground and the twin feeder is HORIZONTAL, led temporarily through an open window thence, via a balun and coax, to the transceiver sited at the front of the house. Not very efficient - yet the set-up never fails to impress. Since Christmas, Wil has worked stations in France, Germany, Spain, Ireland, Hungary, Switzerland, Italy, Norway, Austria, Belgium, Netherlands, Russia, Poland, Canada, and USA. The only problem has been the annoying background noise, making it very difficult to work the weaker stations. The addition of the noise-cancelling speaker has made a vast improvement; lifting the weaker signals out of the noise and improving the audio comfort of the rest.

This particular speaker has seven levels of noise cancellation. The maximum level removes all the background noise but makes the audio sound rather robotic. At other settings, tuning SSB seems a little more critical than it would without the noise cancellation.

In conclusion, Wil would recommend this speaker to any-one experiencing the pain of background noise.