



# DOVER RADIO CLUB

Affiliated to the Radio Society of Great Britain

**G3YMD** - [www.darc.org.uk](http://www.darc.org.uk)

# The Net

August 2012

**The Latest news and Information from DARC**

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## Information

Information about club activities, meeting times, contacts, training, local nets and repeaters can be found on the club website [www.darc.org.uk](http://www.darc.org.uk)



Follow DARC on Twitter - **DoverRadioClub**

Contribution and news items for inclusion in The Net should be sent to the  
NET Editor: Matt MICMN – Email [thenet@darc.org.uk](mailto:thenet@darc.org.uk)

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## Club Meetings

The Club meets at Old Park Community Centre, Whitfield from 6:45pm every Wednesday (Please check club Yahoo group / Website for regular updates) if you are new to the club go to [www.yahoogroups.com](http://www.yahoogroups.com) and search for G3YMD, and join the group to keep up to date with club information.

**For Club members we also offer text message (SMS) updates; please register with Matt M1CMN or Peter M0PKH to be added**

A variety of talks, demonstrations and special events are held at the club.

Morse practice takes place weekly from 7pm – 7:30pm.  
Contact Ian G3ROO for information [ian.g3roo@Btinternet.com](mailto:ian.g3roo@Btinternet.com)

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## Club Contacts

Chairman: Pete M0PKH [Chairman@darcs.org.uk](mailto:Chairman@darcs.org.uk)

Secretary: Catherine M1CVF [secretary@darcs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@darcs.org.uk)

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Courses / Training Michael M0OZH – [courses@darcs.org.uk](mailto:courses@darcs.org.uk)

The Dover Club is registered as an examination centre.

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## **The Dover Radio Rally takes place on 20th January 2013**

Doors open at 10am – 1pm admission £2.00

Auction starts at 12:30pm

Bring and Buy Sale available.

**Please get involved and support the Radio Rally.** Help is needed on the day to set up/pack away tables, take admissions on the door, man the club's Bring and Buy stall as well as with catering. All help is gratefully received.

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### **A few words from the Chairman**

It's that time yet again; to share a few thoughts, ideas and reflect on recent events. At last we have our new multimedia installation in the main room. I am sure this investment will serve present and future members for years to come. Our last job is to feed one of the HF antennas to the front to allow demonstrations to easily take place.

We have recently had two fox hunts and the Flynn's proved that you do not need sophisticated gear to take part when they won with their top band Sudden RX and ferrite rod antenna. Well done Louise and team.

On the social scene we have just had the club Bar-b-q with a good turn out; comments on the forum would suggest it went well. We also have the Christmas Dinner booked for Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at the White Cliffe Hotel, St Margaret's.

We will also put outside special events under the microscope as we clearly need to change the recipe and re-align to what the membership wants. I will be in contact soon to get your thoughts; so please don't ignore the opportunity to have your say. Remember we can all criticise what we have, what I am looking for is suggestions on how to change the recipe so you may support it.

We will soon be putting together the winter program of events so again if there is something you want be sure to let us know sooner.

We have also just re-introduced the construction contest, so dust off your soldering iron and hammer and join in the fun.

73's Pete MOPKH

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## Local White Cliffs Net

The Dover Radio Club "White Cliffs Net" is on air daily at 10:10 Hrs local time on 1. 845.00 (+/-) Please feel free to join in.  
Net Controller is Tony M0VYW.

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## Local VHF/UHF Repeaters

VHF voice repeaters covering the catchment area of the Dover club are **GB3KS** at Dover (145.625MHz) and **GB3FK** at Folkestone (145.750MHz)

There is no UHF repeater in the immediate locality but **GB3EK** at Cliftonville TX (Output) 430.8875 MHz, RX (Input) 438.4875 MHz [Offset 7.6 MHz] CTCSS 103.5 Hz (look at [www.gb3ek.co.uk](http://www.gb3ek.co.uk) for more information)

**GB3SK** at Canterbury (433.150MHz) provide good coverage with the exception of the low lying areas of Shepway.

**GB3FK is operated by the Folkestone Repeater Group.**

Further information can be obtained by logging onto [www.gb3fk.com](http://www.gb3fk.com).

The other repeaters mentioned above are run by the Kent Repeater Group and full details of all their repeaters can be found on their web site at [www.krg.org.uk](http://www.krg.org.uk)

### Voice Repeater Access and Usage

All the voice repeaters in Kent can be accessed by CTCSS tones of 103.5 Hz followed by at least 3 seconds of audio this can be achieved by giving your own call sign twice to ensure the repeater is opened properly.

**ALWAYS** wait for the over signal, usually a 'K' or a 'G' between over's before transmitting. The 'G' indicates access by CTCSS.

## DSTAR Digital Repeater

**GB7FK** - This DSTAR digital DSTAR repeater is located in Capel le Ferne. Port B 439.7375 MHz Port C 145.7875 MHz.

For more information visit [www.gb3fk.com](http://www.gb3fk.com)

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## Tom Lodge 1936 – 2012

Tom Lodge, one of Radio Caroline's original DJ's in 1964, died at his home in California on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 after a long illness for which he had refused conventional treatment.



*Tom Lodge reading a request in the Mi Amigo studio on Radio Caroline South in 1966.*

Tom was born in Forest Green, Surrey, in 1936 and he may have been destined to work in radio as his grandfather was Sir Oliver Lodge whose achievements in the early development of wireless telegraphy included transmitting the first radio message on 14 August 1894 in Oxford.

Tom's family moved to Maryland USA at the start of World War Two but returned after the war so that Tom could be educated at Bedales School in Hampshire, where he excelled in anything to do with music. At age 18 he went to Canada where he worked as a cowboy, a used-car salesman, then as an ice fisherman on the Great Slave Lake where he escaped death when he was rescued by some trappers from an ice floe which had drifted out into the middle of the lake. He married Jeanine in 1957 in Paris then moved to Yellowknife, Canada, where he worked in a goldmine. He then got his first job in radio, as an announcer on CBC station CFYK in Yellowknife on 1340 AM. He had no prior experience, but had been an avid listener to the great American deejays in the 1950s. In 1959, his son Tom Jnr was born. In 1960 he became

manager of a new CBC Northern Service station in Fort Smith (NWT), CBXH on 860 AM.

Wanting to see more of the world than Yellowknife, Tom successfully applied to be a CBC freelance news correspondent in London and sailed to England with his wife and son. Living in Ealing, now with two more sons (Brodie & Lionel), Tom went story-chasing for the CBC. One day in March 1964, he struck up a conversation with a young Irishman in a pub in London's King's Road. That young Irishman was Ronan O'Rahilly who was about to launch the UK's first offshore radio station, Radio Caroline. On learning of Tom's work with the CBC, Ronan offered Tom a job as a DJ aboard the radio ship MV Caroline, three and a half miles off the Felixstowe coast.

A month after Radio Caroline started broadcasting off Essex at Easter 1964, rival station Radio Atlanta aboard the MV Mi Amigo anchored close by. In July 1964 the two stations merged, and the MV Caroline upped anchor and sailed west around the coast with DJs, including Tom Lodge, broadcasting as she steamed. The MV Caroline anchored off the Isle of Man and began broadcasting as Radio Caroline (North) with DJs Tom Lodge and Jerry 'Soopa' Leighton sharing the peak time programmes. Tom Lodge spinning the 45s on Caroline North with his theme tune "Rinky Dink" became part of my education as I was lucky enough to have Caroline on 199 playing on the school coach for two hours each school day! A survey in September 1964 gave Caroline North a listenership of 17 million. But the success of the North ship was not being mirrored on the South ship, especially after the arrival of rival Radio London in December 1964. To try and boost the ratings of Caroline South, Tom Lodge transferred to the MV Mi Amigo in September 1965. He was aboard the ship when it ran aground at Holland Haven between Frinton and Clacton in January 1966. In March 1966, Tom as Senior DJ famously interviewed the Beatles for a "Sound of the Stars" Disc & Music Echo flexi disc – an interview now available on the Jumbo Records CD "Don't Touch that Dial (Vol 2). Tom's changes to Caroline South's programming succeeded in reviving their ratings but the arrival of new Director Philip Solomon and the inclusion of his Major Minor label records into Caroline's playlist meant by 1967, only a residue of Tom Lodge's programming ideals remained. Salaries were also halved and Tom complained to Ronan that the changes had "killed the spirit" of Caroline – he could not tolerate the changes and left the station.

Tom Lodge's story of his time with Radio Caroline in the sixties and the music of that time are told in his book: *"The Ship That Rocked the World"* published in 2010 by Bartleby Press (ISBN 978-0-910155-82-3). Some recordings of Tom on Caroline South are also at website: <http://www.shipthatrocked.com/therecordingbooth.html>. This quote from Ray Davies: "Radio Caroline was more adventurous than most stations around in its day. It championed bands like the Kinks, who owe much of their early success to Radio Caroline and Tom Lodge."

After leaving Caroline, Tom worked briefly on BBC Radio One before returning to Canada to present on Top 40 station CHLO in St Thomas Ontario (then on 680 kHz). He studied and embraced Zen Buddhism in 1976 and as 'Umi Satsang' spent many years guiding students at the Stillpoint Zen Community near Santa Cruz, California. Tom returned to now land-based Radio Caroline in the mid nineties and stayed with the station until 2007 when he retired to let his son Tom Jr take over. (*Compiled by Alan Pennington – British DX Club [www.bdx.org.uk](http://www.bdx.org.uk)*)

Radio Caroline manager and friend Peter Moore remembers Tom with these words: "My enthusiasm for Radio Caroline was high in the sixties and so it was exciting for me. Many years later, to be on first name terms with the iconic broadcasters Johnnie Walker, Tony Blackburn, Mike Ahern and many others and the charismatic Ronan O'Rahilly of course, who had previously just been voices on the radio. But, without naming names, not all of them were the heroes I had imagined. Tom Lodge on the other hand was just as imagined only more so.

We met on a stormy beach in Clacton, Essex where Tom looked longingly at the distant Ross Revenge. The weather was not suitable for taking a small boat out, but Tom insisted that he wanted to do his show and I watched him depart, perched high on the steering console of a rubber boat, trying to avoid the waves and spray. At other local broadcasts we carried out, among the arguments and disputes that invariably arose, Tom was the calm voice of compromise and reason. I never once heard him shout or say a harsh word and he was universally admired, although some found his regular snacks of grated garlic grilled on toast, hard to cope with.

In later years we kept in touch with long transatlantic phone conversations. I was always uneasy initially to hear his voice, but only because you could not have a "casual" conversation with Tom, he needed and deserved your full undivided concentration. When he became ill, I sent him Johnnie Walker's autobiography in the hope that, like Walker, he would submit to conventional radio therapy and other radical treatment but he refused. "It makes you feel dreadful" he told me, adding "and then you die anyway". He had great faith in some alternative therapies, but they did not provide a cure. But he said in a very clear way "I want quality of life, not to extend quantity of life". I am proud to have known and worked with Tom and will miss a fine man and good friend".

Peter Moore - 26th March 2012

([http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk/#tom\\_lodge.html](http://www.radiocaroline.co.uk/#tom_lodge.html))



*Early Radio Caroline publicity shot of Tom*

This article is from the May 2012 edition of "Communication" - monthly journal of the

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### **New ICOM Radios**

Two new ICOM rigs featured at this weekend's Tokyo Ham Fair. The IC-7100 multi-mode should prove popular with 70 MHz users as it gives 50 watts on the band



Showcasing at the Tokyo Ham Fair 2012, IC-7100 HF/VHF/UHF Amateur Radio Transceiver

[http://www.icomuk.co.uk/News\\_Article/3508/17675/](http://www.icomuk.co.uk/News_Article/3508/17675/)

New to the Tokyo Ham Fair 2012, the ID-51A/E Dual band D-STAR Handheld

[http://www.icomuk.co.uk/News\\_Article/3508/17674/](http://www.icomuk.co.uk/News_Article/3508/17674/)

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### **DARC Construction contest**

You are invited to enter something into the Dover construction contest Judging will take place on October 24th by Keith Bird (RSGB)

#### **Rules:**

No previous winning entries to be entered

Doesn't matter when you built it; it could be 30 years ago or something more recent

You must have completed most of the work

#### **Further information:**

An entry form will be issued in the next few days

Your design could be Amateur radio related or maybe just an electronic project; it could be a kit from Maplin or elsewhere.

Have a go do not hold back the fact that you have done it yourself is an achievement

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## **DARC Christmas Social**

The Dover Club Christmas Social will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December at The White Cliffs Hotel in St Margaret's at Cliffe.

### **The Menu is on the Yahoogroup**

You may spot on the menu that the price is £24.95 for the 3 course meal. However, I have negotiated a rate of £21 and the committee has taken the decision that the club is in a position to subsidise it further making it £15 for members and £21 for non-members.

Let's have a great turn out and night. We will take your money as soon as you wish to hand it over and perhaps you would like to pay in instalments.

You will note also it says 2011 if the menu changes I will send out prior to asking for choices.

Pete  
MOPKH

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## **The Poor Novice coping with our Jargon!**

### **Ian, G3ROO**

The HF bands can be a bit daunting for the Novice! Us more experienced amateurs blandly toss apparently meaningless jargon about which leaves the Novice with a bewildered look on his face!

An example 'I was on 20 metres last night and worked Mike, VK6HD on 14.123'..... what the hell does that mean to the un-initiated?!

When us oldies got our licence it was a case of spending a lot of time as a SWL and listening to other amateurs. There was a lot of piffle but we slowly managed to work out what was fact and what was fiction. The modern amateur can go from knowing nothing of the hobby and a week later in possession of a licence which enables to speak to other amateurs around the world..... and they know nothing of procedure and the amateur bands.

I'm starting a series hoping to clarify some important points!

So let's start with wavelength and frequency...

The problem started at the dawn of wireless when they realised that radio waves peaked in space certain distances apart. So this was the method of measuring the wave. Early amateurs used this measurement to signify the amateur band in use.

So we ended up with the original six short wave bands. 160m, 80m, 40m, 20m, 15m, and 10m.

It was very difficult to be precise using this method so eventually science started to use the frequency instead of the wavelength. The frequency is the number of vibrations per second. With modern equipment this can be measured with very high accuracy. The unit for this was originally called the 'cycle', kilocycle (thousands of cycles per second), and megacycle (millions of cycles per second) This was later changed to Hertz to honour him. Many of the older amateurs still use cycles, not out of disrespect for Hertz but out of habit!

But how do we convert from one to the other. Fortunately nature has made it easy providing we do not need extreme accuracy. All we have to do is to divide either the wavelength or the frequency in megacycles (millions of cycles per second) As an example

$300 \text{ divided by } 160\text{m} = 1.875 \text{ MHz}$

Or  $300 \text{ divided by } 3.5\text{MHz} = 85.7\text{m}$

Well that was rounded down to 80m

So we now have the amateur bands

160m = 1.810 to 2 MHz

80m = 3.5 to 3.8 MHz

40m = 7 to 7.2 MHz

30m = 10.1 to 10.15 MHz

20m = 14 to 14.35 MHz

17m = 18.068 to 18.168 MHz

15m = 21 to 21.450 MHz

12m = 24.890 to 24.990 MHz

10m = 28 to 29.7MHz

So, at this point, let's look at what we can expect from the various bands.

**160m** ... Good daytime groundwave up to about 30 miles. No skywave as the D layer absorbs the signal. After dark the D layer rapidly disappears and the skywave will permit easy contacts up to about 1000 miles. Worldwide contacts can be made under special condition but they require very elaborate aerial systems and signals are usually very weak. However I have has a couple of sideband QSO's with New Zealand.

**80m** ... A very good band for inter G working.... Signals during the day not so badly affected by the D layer and contact up to 500m are possible. After dark similar to 160m but stronger real Dx signals

**40m** ... A good band for inter G but invariably more noisy and crowded. For G skeds 80 is better but if Scotland wanted 40 has the edge.

**30m** ... CW and Data modes only. A really interesting band..... open most of the time and good for Dx. Aerials are becoming more manageable than 160, 80 and 40 so ideal for the CW or Data amateur NO CONTESTS

**20m** ... Loved by some, hated by others. Not a very polite band! Crowded but good all-round band for Dx..... Europe is good too but spoilt but the bad manners especially of so called Dx stations who think they own the band!

**17m** ... The Gentlemans band. Excellent for Dx and surprising as can be open when 20 is closed, especially for South America! NO CONTESTS

**15m** ... Similar to 17 but not open so frequently

**12m** .... Even less frequently! NO CONTEST

**10m** ... When this band opens be prepared for some real fun! I've worked Australia with a CB handheld on its internal aerial and sitting in my shack! By tapping the morse key you can often hear the echo as your signal goes round the world.... The greatest number of times that I have recorded was 7 times with a Tx output of only 5 watts!

I will say one thing about 'closed' bands. They may sound closed but frequently are not. It is the case that everyone is listening and no one is calling! I always put out three or four CQ's and often get a QSO. Having finished that QSO often there are several others in progress.... Your QSO has indicated that the band is open!

We have a gentleman's agreement that the bands are sub divided into sections for the various modes of transmission we use..... CW, Data, SSB, SSTV etc are not mixed up. This is only a gentleman's agreement and if you are experimenting it is OK to

use different modes out of the bandplan but to be fair do so sparingly and check carefully that you are unlikely to cause interference to others.

The bandplans can be found on the RSGB website and in the RSGB 'Yearbook' It is worth mentioning at this point that the licence is issued to us not for chatting to Bill down the road but for 'experimentation and self-training'. It would be quite within the law for OFCOM to cancel a licence if they deemed that this was not the case! Fortunately they have never done so but they have cancelled licences for 'inappropriate use'.... So take care!

I hope that has helped!

73 Ian G3ROO

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## Courses

If you are interested in Foundation, Intermediate or Advanced courses then please contact Michael MOOZH for more information and to register your interest:  
[courses@darco.org.uk](mailto:courses@darco.org.uk)

**The next Foundation Course Starts in September 2012**

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## DARC Club Shack




The Club are lucky to have a well equipped shack with 2 operating places. HF is available on all bands, as well as DSTAR VHF / UHF. Operating here is Chris M0GGO and Paul M0YMJ.

Please make use of this great facility on natter and operating nights

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## **Fox Hunts**

	<p>This year's 2m fox hunt was great fun. Matt M1CMN and Neil 2E0VDC were the winners.</p> <p>The Top Band Fox Hunt was won by Michael M0OZH, Louise and team. Michael was using a Sudden receiver, which was built during our last construction session.</p> <p>Thanks to all those that took part, it really is good fun.</p>
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## **Capel-le-Ferne Weather Station Online**

A live weather station is available on the Capel Cliffs if you are interested in having a peak! -Soon it will have lighting detection as well! The system uses Cumulus software which is excellent. It is written by an amateur and is free and constantly updated. The weather instruments talk to an eco-friendly PC, and updates on the web at regular intervals. You can also look at weekly and monthly charts for weather data.

[www.capelcliffweather.co.uk](http://www.capelcliffweather.co.uk)

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## Global Tuners

If you are new to the Hobby and want to have a tune around the bands then this website will be useful to you. [www.globaltuners.com](http://www.globaltuners.com)

It is home of remote controlled receivers worldwide.

You can “take control” of the radio and tune to the frequencies you like and can hear the live audio back on your PC. Some radios are geared up for VHF/UHF others for HF. It is also useful for HF operators to see where there signals are getting to!

It's free of charge too! Just go to the website and sign up.

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**Club Diary** – Please visit the club website for the most up to date information.

### PLEASE NOTE

On the odd occasion the committee may be forced to change the programme at short notice due to circumstances beyond their control. Please check for updates on the club website regularly.