

G4FUR



M1FUR

## CATS Whispers – October 2005



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Affiliated to the RSGB

### CATS Committee

Chairman: Rob Cole 2E0AYT  
Secretary: Dave Young G8VXB  
Treasurer: Derek Hands G1PGS  
Members: Steve Conway G7SYO  
Cliff Groves G6FPQ  
Len West G0GNQ  
Ian Peck M3IGP

**CATS Whispers Editor:** Andy Jackson G8JAC  
email address for contributions:

### Regular Society Meetings

These are held on the second Monday in each month at:-  
St. Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley at 2000hrs to 2200hrs.

### Society Nets

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of Month - 1715hrs Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink  
normally via G4CDY link on 145.2875 MHz.  
Sunday mornings - 1100hrs. Call on S20 (V40) then to 145.2875MHz.  
Sunday evenings - 1700hrs. 3.700 MHz +/- QRM  
Wednesday evenings - 2100hrs Call on 70.450 MHz then to clear frequency.

### CATS Website

Email :

### Forthcoming Meetings

Mon 10<sup>th</sup> October – Kinesiology - Dr Sally Prestwich

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> November - CATS Quiz

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> December – Annual General Meeting



Twinned with the Crescenta Valley Radio Club  
Glendale California USA [www.qsl.net/cvrc](http://www.qsl.net/cvrc)

## September Meeting report:

### The Birthday Dinner!

To celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of CATS, our birthday dinner was held at the White Hart in Godstone. There was a healthy attendance by both current and former members and their guests who found good food, good company and good conversation.



A view down the tables of CATS members and guests at the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday dinner

After pre-dinner drinks, we sat down to a very good quality meal and such were the numbers that we occupied three of the restaurant's largest tables. Our thanks go to CATS Secretary G8VXB for organising the event.



More diners at the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday dinner  
More pictures at the end of this newsletter.

## CATS Bazaar

Our annual, and extremely popular bazaar is rapidly approaching. The countdown is running and it's now only THREE weeks away! The date for the 2005 Bazaar is **Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October**. Doors open at 10.00. If you want to have a table to shift some of your accumulated ~~junk~~ valuable electronic artefacts, the man to book with is Dave G8VXB. Otherwise, make sure you support your society by turning up and buying something!

Volunteers will be needed to set up the hall, act as stewards, doormen, make the tea, take down, sweep up and the dozens of other little jobs that need doing to make it a success.

Instead of leaving all it to the usual dedicated few, please offer your help.

## Trip to USA - CATS/Crescenta Valley Field Day 2006

The trip is ON! Andy G0KZT and Andy G8JAC have undertaken to make the trip in 2006. Departure is expected to be several days prior to the event (24/25<sup>th</sup> June) and the trip is expected to be about a week long (although individuals may wish to extend this themselves) with the contesting being centered within that week.

Lightning Point, the CVRC contest site, is located about 1½ hours from Glendale and is within the Los Angeles National Forest. The location is 6200' above sea level so the air is clear, fresh (and a little thinner to what you are used to!). Operation will be on HF and VHF/UHF using QRP from battery/solar power. CVRC enter the 2A section which equates to 2 x HF, VHF/UHF operating as a club station outside of their club area.

CVRC members have already offered their homes for us to stay in and having spoken to Mark West W6MW, meals on-site are going to be provided as part of the hospitality. We have met the minimum of 2 persons required but there are still four places available. Although the deadline for minimum bids was 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005, it will useful to know soonest who else is interested. There will be

plenty of planning and preparation and any late bids (the cutoff date for joining the party will be 1st April 2006) may have to be organized by individuals themselves. This is because the cost of the flights will be cheaper if booked well in advance. A search on flight costs by Andy G8JAC revealed some good deals in the £380 region.

In addition to the contesting, additional trips to Universal Studios, Disneyland, A TV show or an Amateur Radio Outlet could be added to the itinerary.

Interested? Talk to G0KZT or G8JAC.

## **Club Callsigns Correction**

A slight blunder crept into last month's item on the club callsigns: G4FUR is held by Steve G7SYO, and M1FUR is held by Andy G0KZT. Apologies for the error.

## **TransPONDer net news**

The monthly transPONDer net with the Crescenta Valley Radio Club was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October with G4CDY holding the fort on this side of the pond, and Mark W6MW and Larry AD6IZ, at the Crescenta club breakfast. Unfortunately, G8JAC remembered what day it was some 15 minutes late and just missed being able to participate in what was a rather short net this month. The next net will be Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 17.15 BST. A significant date in English history for us, so let's make it go with a bang!

145.2875 MHz unless otherwise notified.

## **Fires in California**

Mark W6MW sent me a picture of the wildfires in the Los Angeles area. Mark writes: We've had quite a week here in Southern California - the closest event to us is the Burbank "Wildwood Canyon Fire" which is just on the other side of the mountains from the Crescenta Valley. Our repeaters are on the ridge line and about 4 miles East so we are all watching with interest.

So far, no homes have been consumed and no buildings are threatened but that could change quickly. The Santa Ana winds blew in on Tuesday, taking the humidity to single digits and the temperature to around 101°F (83°F at night). That is perfect fire weather here and our fire is rather small in comparison to the "Topanga Fire" about 30 miles to the West (650 acres here vs 30,000 acres there).. That is not our tower in the picture... ours would be off of the right side of the picture by a couple of miles.... the tower there is owned by the telephone company and has some Burbank Public Service as well as at least two Amateur Radio repeaters.

For up-to-date information go to:  
<http://www.nbc4.tv/weather/5042750/detail.html>



Forest fire in Wildwood canyon, Burbank, California

## **Kempton Park Rally**

The next of the twice-yearly amateur radio rallies at Kempton Park run by Radiofairs is on **Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November**. CATS have again been invited to run the Bring & Buy stall which we have done with considerable success for the past two or three years. This means yet another appeal for help to members to help run things so please let the secretary or any committee member know if you can spare some time to help on the stall. Even a couple of hours is useful and allows the others time to enjoy the rally.

## **CATS at Croydon Airport**

Most members will be aware that Derek, G6MFM is a very active supporter of the Croydon Airport Society, a group who are dedicated to maintaining the memories and artefacts from what used to be the main airport serving London.

Croydon Aerodrome (as it was originally known) opened in March 1920 at the dawn of commercial flying although most of the buildings that remain today date from an expansion and re-modelling that took place in 1928.

It was from Croydon that Amy Johnson made her famous solo flight to Darwin in 1930 and Croydon was the home of Imperial Airways during the great flying boom of the 1930s. Such was its fame that a film entitled "Airport" was made about it in 1934.

Croydon was an active fighter station during the war as RAF Croydon, an outpost of RAF Kenley, and some of its personnel are commemorated by a memorial erected on the airfield boundary at Purley Way. After the war, some commercial flying resumed but with the decisions to build larger facilities in what was then open countryside at Heathrow and later Gatwick, Croydon was increasingly unable to compete and the airport closed to flying on 30<sup>th</sup> September 1959. However, the terminus of the 119 bus route is still shown as Croydon Airport to this day!



Croydon Airport control tower in 1958.

Now, there is a prize-winning visitor centre that tells the story of Croydon Airport.

So, what's all this to do with CATS?

For some time, CATS has been trying to arrange a special event station at the control tower to publicize both the airport society and ourselves. This is going to happen on **Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October** when G4FUR will be operational from the airport control tower on 20m and 2m between 11.00 and 16.00 GMT. A special QSL card will be issued for contacts. Help to man the station will be very much appreciated and visitors to the station will be warmly welcomed however the needs of security must be served so either call the station on S23 (145.575 MHz) or call the G8VXB mobile on 07880 740385 to be let in.

If you can't make it to the airport, do call in during the day and it's more than likely that G4FUR will appear on the Sunday morning 2m CATS net from the tower.

## **The CATS Quiz is back**

Our November meeting night will be the famous CATS Quiz night, hosted by "your Quiz Inquizitor", Andy G8JAC ably assisted by XYL Jan taking the scores. Teams of four will compete for stunning prizes and not least, the honour of being named Quiz Winners 2005. As is traditional, CATS extend an invitation to our nearby clubs to visit us and take part by entering a team – or even two. If previous years are anything to go by, an entertaining and instructive evening should be had.

So, here's the first question: Back in the early 1960s, who was the original "Quiz Inquizitor"?

Answer on the night.

## **Radio and beer?**

This year's Wallington beer and cider festival, run by the Croydon and Sutton branch of CAMRA is on at the Wallington Hall, Stafford Road between 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October. One or two CATS members will be trying out a few brews during the Friday evening session on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Fancy a pint? Details at:

[www.croydoncamra.org.uk/festival](http://www.croydoncamra.org.uk/festival)

# CATS 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Gallery



The station Manager at G4FKK



Pre-dinner drinks



## Other Club News & Contact Information

### **BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS**

Website – [www.bdars.org.uk](http://www.bdars.org.uk)

Email [bdars-news@talk21.com](mailto:bdars-news@talk21.com)

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at Victory Social Club,  
Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Kent  
7-30pm for 8pm

**.18<sup>th</sup> October** – Construction project  
Richard G8ITB

### **The Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club**

Meets on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of every month at  
7.30pm at All Saints Church Parish  
Rooms, Beulah Hill.

Club Net – Wednesdays 2000hrs  
145.525 MHz

[www.gsl.net/g3oou/](http://www.gsl.net/g3oou/)

**7<sup>th</sup> October** - G3FZL Memorial Lecture -  
My Adventures on Top Band by Martin  
Charman G4FKK

### **CRAWLEY ARC**

[www.carc.org.uk](http://www.carc.org.uk)

Club Nets –

Tuesdays 2000hrs 145.550 MHz

Fridays 1900hrs 1.970 MHz

Every Wednesday at Hut 18 Tilgate  
Forest Recreational Centre, Tilgate  
Forest, Crawley from 7-30pm, and  
Sundays, 10.30 until 13.00.

**26<sup>th</sup> October** - The art of Homebrew  
Mike Grierson G3TSO

### **DORKING & District RS**

Club Nets –

Sunday 0815hrs 3.770 Mhz

2030hrs 144.750 Mhz

Meetings are held at the Friends  
Meeting House, Butterhill, South Street  
Dorking at 1930hrs.

### **HORSHAM ARC**

Club Nets –

Saturdays 2130hrs 144.725MHz

Sundays 1000hrs 3.722 MHz

Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at The Guide  
Hall, Denne Road, Horsham.

Latest news – [www.harc.org.uk](http://www.harc.org.uk)

**3<sup>rd</sup> November** - Brighton electric supply  
John Narborough G4FQR

### **MID SUSSEX ARS**

Club Nets –

Sundays 0800hrs 3.740 MHz

Sundays 1100hrs 145.350 MHz

Wednesdays 2000hrs 145.350 MHz

Daily 1330hrs 21.330 MHz

Every Friday at Cyprus Hall, Cyprus  
Road, Burgess Hill West Sussex for  
7.45pm

Info – <http://www.msars.co.uk/>

**7<sup>th</sup> October** - An introduction to basic life  
support and emergency first aid.

### **MITCHAM & DISTRICT ARS**

(G3HFY) – Last Wednesday of each  
month 1930hrs at ATC HQ,  
Commonside West, Mitcham.  
Details Mike Knott G0WCR  
Tele: 020 8764 4716

### **REIGATE ATS**

Club Net –

Thursdays 2000hrs 145.500 MHz

Sundays 2000hrs 3.740 – 3.760 MHz

Website [www.gsl.net/rats](http://www.gsl.net/rats)

Email [rats@gsl.net](mailto:rats@gsl.net)

3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at RNIB Redhill College,  
Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 7-30pm

## SRCC

Club Nets –

Sunday 0930hrs 29.111 MHz

Friday 2030hrs 144.325 MHz

Thursday 1900hrs 145.500 MHz

Website – [www.g3src.org.uk](http://www.g3src.org.uk)

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at T.S. Terra Nova, 34  
The Waldrons, South Croydon 7.45pm  
for 8pm

**7<sup>th</sup> November** – Converting computer  
PSUs to amateur use by G4FDN

## SUTTON & CHEAM RS

Club Nets –

Monday 2000hrs 145.500 MHz

Tuesday 1030hrs 3.700 MHz

Tuesday 1500hrs 144.300 MHz

Friday 1100hrs 433.500 Mhz

Saturday 1100hrs 3.700 MHz

Saturday 1200hrs 145.500 Mhz

Website – [www.scrs.org.uk](http://www.scrs.org.uk)

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at Sutton United Football  
Club, The Borough Sports Ground,  
Gander Green Lane, Sutton 7-30pm for  
8pm

**20<sup>th</sup> October** – RSGB Q & A evening with  
Paul Berkeley M0CGX

## THAMES VALLEY ARTS

**Club Net Only** –

Saturdays 1400hrs

7.070 – 7.085 MHz

## WIMBLEDON & DARS

Website – [www.wadars.thersgb.net](http://www.wadars.thersgb.net)

Club Net –

Mondays 2045hrs 145.500 MHz

2<sup>nd</sup> & last Friday of each month at St.  
Andrew's Church Hall, Herbert Road,  
Wimbledon SW19. 7.30pm for 8pm.

**25<sup>th</sup> November** – Surplus equipment  
sale.

## Local Rally Calendar

### Put these dates in your diary:

**15/16 October** – Jamboree On The Air  
Stuart G6CJR is looking for assistance to  
run a Scout station to participate in JOTA.  
Please contact him if you can help this  
very worth-while cause.

Telephone: (Home) 01737 356201

e-mail: [advsport@btinternet.com](mailto:advsport@btinternet.com)

**30 October** - CATS Bazaar

**13 November** - Kempton Park  
(Radio Fairs)

## And Finally.....

A suggestion from Mad Frank, G3ZMF:

How about a series for *CATS Whispers*  
where CATS each member does a brief  
profile –

How did you get into amateur radio?

What was your first rig?

Who was your first contact with?

How has amateur radio been useful in your  
working life?

What have you built?

What antennas do you use?

Good Idea, Frank. Who wants to be first?

Contributions to the Editor please!

CATS Whispers is published monthly by  
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Coulson Amateur Transmitting Society.