

June Meeting Report

The June meeting was an opportunity for members to have access to professional grade test equipment in order to get the performance of their rigs checked, especially frequency accuracy, receiver sensitivity and transmitter power output. Other measurements were possible such as deviation, selectivity and noise factor. It seems however, that the majority of members are confident about the performance of their kit, as only a small amount of equipment was brought along for test. Still, we did get some worth-while testing done with a frequency re-adjustment done to ensure that one 2-metre rig is now back on frequency and the owner of at least one HF rig is confident about what his transmitter is doing. G6CJR also now knows what the effect of changing the power level on his handheld is!



At work testing a members' kit. The test gear is a Marconi 2955A and a Rohde & Schwartz CMT55 multi-function RF analysers

AVO valve testers now command very high prices on e-Bay so we were grateful to Martin G4FKK for bringing along his Mk.3 characteristic meter which would effortlessly have produced comprehensive data on all sorts of valves if only someone had brought any along to test. The few EF50s and a magic eye that were dealt with hardly justified the effort of bringing it along and setting it up.



G4FKK's AVO Mk.3 valve characteristic meter



Successful test on an EM81 "magic eye" indicator



G6MFM, G0GNQ (obscured) and M3IGP get to grips with adjustments on a 2m rig while G8JAC and G6CJR observe.

CATS Activity News

The date of the CATS visit to the navy communications and RADAR museum at **HMS Collingwood** near **Fareham**, Hants is set for Monday 24th July. The visit will entail a fairly early start and will include a lunch and drinks in the wardroom.

The current list of members who are going on the visit is: G8JAC, G4CDY, G6MFM, M1CCF, G7SYO, M3IGP, G6CJR, and G3WZK, but if anyone else is interested in going, please contact the secretary without delay.

As HMS Collingwood is an active Naval establishment, names have to be pre-registered; you can't just turn up on the day. The use of cameras is allowed but only within the confines of the museum building.

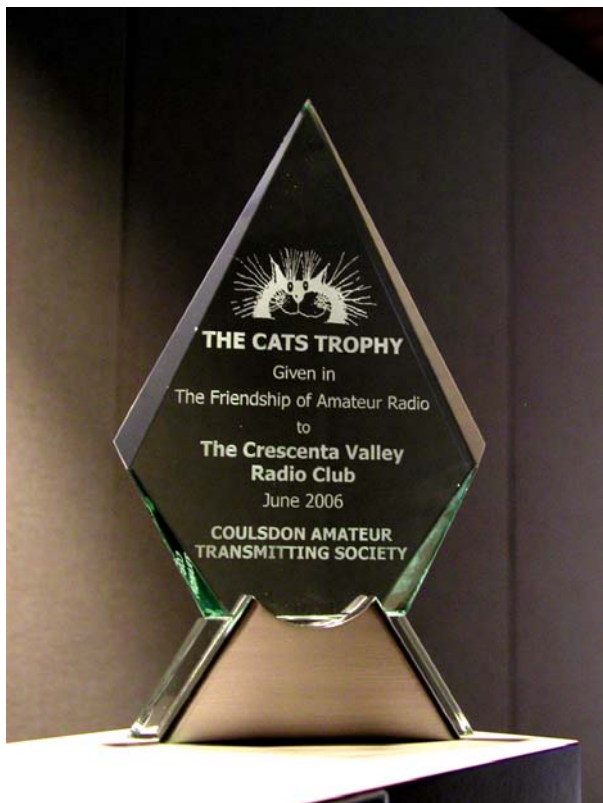
This looks like being a popular and interesting visit.

The CATS CVRC visit

Well, we made it and returned!
Andy G0KZT, Andy G8JAC and Prue G4RWW travelled to Glendale, California to be guests of our sister club, the Crescenta Valley Radio Club and to participate in the annual ARRL Field Day competition. A full report will appear in the next issue of *CATS Whispers* but here is a taster and preliminary report on how we fared:

Fantastic! We had a really great time, and the friendship and hospitality that we received from CVRC members was overwhelming. They were obviously as pleased to have us as their guests as we were to be there.

As a mark of the friendship between our two clubs and as a token of our appreciation, G0KZT and G8JAC designed and commissioned a "CATS Trophy" for presentation to CVRC both to record our visit and hopefully as something that they can use as an award for a club competition in the future. Andy G8JAC presented it on behalf of CATS to the CVRC President, Dale Boyd KD6PYQ at a meeting of the club that was specially convened to tie in with our visit.



The "CATS Trophy" presented to Crescenta Valley Radio Club to mark the visit by CATS members.

After participating in the ARRL Field Day competition from a beautiful site 6500 feet up in the Angeles National Forest using the call sign W6MW, we had some free days to see the sights of southern California and to further get to know our hosts. Read the full story next month!

What's coming up

This month brings our annual DF hunt. For details of the venue, start point and technical aspects, see the item elsewhere in this issue of *CATS Whispers*.

Over the 14th and 15th of July, Our friend and CVRC member **Mark West W6MW** will be in town after doing a tour of Ireland. We will be having an evening meal on the **Friday 14th** at the **White Lion on Warlingham Green**. Mark would very much like to meet any CATS members who can make it up there for a drink and a rag-chew. If anyone would like to join in with the meal, let the secretary G8JAC know ASAP.

For **next month**, Prue G4RWW has kindly offered to host the annual CATS Bar-B-Q again. This now traditional August event sees us relaxing in Prue's garden with BBQ, beer and people from not only CATS but also some of our friends in SRCC. Len G0GNQ will again be our "Grillmeister" and it will help immensely with logistics if he has some idea of the numbers he will be ~~creating~~ cooking for.

For **September**, we are planning an evening called "Members' Mini-talks – or a "Show and Tell" evening. We are looking for two or three members to present a short (say, 20 minutes maximum) talk on any subject they like, preferably to do with amateur radio – my antenna system, my favourite rig, an interesting piece of radio kit that I find useful. This can only happen of course, if members **VOLUNTEER** to do a presentation. Let the secretary know what it is **YOU** are going to present to **YOUR CLUB**.

We also hope to have a presentation on the CATS visit to the Crescenta Valley club and the ARRL Field Day competition.

For Sale & Wants

This space is available for any CATS members to advertise surplus kit or to search for those hard to find items that they need. *CATS Whispers* has a surprisingly wide readership and unlike ebay, it's free! Just drop a line to the editor.

WANTED:

One or more crystals on 1.74860 MHz.

Andy G8JAC

Contact info on front page.

Membership news

We are pleased to report that we have another new CATS member – Dennis Williams G3RNQ who also holds the call F5VAO. Dennis lists CW as his radio specialism and counts calligraphy amongst his other interests. Welcome to CATS Dennis, we hope that you have a long and happy membership.

We can also announce that Ken Rosier G3DJK has re-joined CATS. Welcome back Ken. This brings our current membership up to 40.

Licensing: Breaking News

On 4th July, and conveniently just in time for publication in this issue of *CATS Whispers*, Ofcom published a further statement on the implementation of a lifetime amateur licence and also the format of the new licence.

The statement is available at:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/lifetimellicence/>

and the new licence format can be found at:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/consult/condocs/aradio/lifetimellicence/licenceformat.pdf>

A brief look through the new licence document reveals some interesting changes. On the matter of keeping the new licence in force, renewal must be within a rolling 5-year period of the last renewal or a notification to Ofcom of a change to the licence circumstances. If done over the Internet, it's free. If by conventional letter by post, there will be a charge. The exact wording is:

(g) In order to avoid the Licence being revoked, by no later than five years after the date of issue of this Licence, the Licensee must either notify Ofcom of a change of the Licensee's details in Section 1 of the Licence or confirm to Ofcom that the details set out in Section 1 of the Licence are still valid. Unless the Licensee makes a further notification or confirmation to Ofcom once every five years from the last date of notification or confirmation, then the Licence will be revoked.

The current three versions of BR68 covering the three licence levels will be combined into one document.

When operating from an alternate (as opposed to a temporary) location, the licensee will have to add the suffix /A to the call sign. This is a return to the old practice that was abandoned some years ago. An alternate location is the address of a location which you have advised Ofcom *in*

writing that you intend to operate from, as opposed to a temporary location where you would use the suffix /P. Again, the official wording is:

“Alternative Address” means a fixed postal address in the United Kingdom other than the Main Station Address;

The new licence clarifies the current confusion about exactly what equipment a Foundation licence holder is allowed to operate. Where the current BR68F talks about “equipment conforming to EC specifications” which no-one can define, the new licence states:

7(2) Where this Licence is a Foundation Licence, the Licensee shall only use commercially available transmitting equipment which satisfies IR 2028. Foundation Licence holders may also construct equipment using commercially available kits which satisfy IR 2028.

IR [Interface Requirement] 2028 is a UK specification derived from the EU Radio and Telecommunications Terminal Equipment (RTTE) Directive and defines the specification of parameters such as frequency coverage etc. In effect, it means equipment or kits built specifically for the amateur service and therefore excludes such things as modified PMR sets, ex-military equipment, anything that can transmit outside of the defined amateur bands and home built equipment that is not from an approved kit. The reasoning is that at Foundation level, a licence holder will not have the technical skills needed to ensure compliance with requirements such as radiated bandwidth and harmonic suppression for example. The document explaining IR2028 is at:

http://www.ofcom.org.uk/radiocomms/ifi/tech/interface_req/ir_2028.pdf

Some of the reasoning behind the granting of the 10m band to Foundation licencees (effective on the same date as the new licence structure commences) now becomes clear. As virtually all commercial amateur HF rigs available on the market include the 28 – 29.7MHz band, having this band available in a rig operated by an M3 would cause incompatibility with IR2028 unless the M3 had authority to use the band. Adding 10m to the schedule of Foundation licences avoids the problem.

A surprise in the new licence is changes to the requirement for log keeping. The relevant clause says:

12(1) For the purposes of any interference investigation, to determine compliance with the terms, conditions and limitations of this Licence, or for any other matter concerning the enforcement of any relevant legislation, the Licensee shall at the request of an authorised person of Ofcom, keep a permanent record (a "log") of such matters concerning the operation of the Radio Equipment, over such period, and in such form, as the authorised person may require.

As there is no other reference to log keeping in the new licence, this appears remove the requirement to keep a log of all transmissions, a log now only being required after a request to do so by Ofcom. If operating from a vessel, then the ship's master may still require the keeping of a log.

The new licence arrangements are proposed to commence on 1st October 2006.

Whether the changes are good or bad for amateur radio will doubtless be discussed at length. Your editor is un-amused to find that his existing licence expires just two weeks before the new system comes into effect!

The 2m DF Hunt - 10 July

This year's DF hunt is being kindly run by Terry G4CDY and promises to be just a little more challenging than last year. Terry has provided comprehensive information- see below.

Yes, there will be a prize for the winner!

1. In order to make things a bit more interesting we will use two transmitters both on the same frequency of 145.2875MHZ +/-2kHz. The transmitter will be low power, approximately 10mW EIRP.
2. The transmitter will be located on Farthing Downs or Coulsdon Common to the South West of the B2030 i.e. on the Fox Pub site of the main road.
Ordnance Survey Landranger 187 covers the area. They will all be accessible on foot and climbing fences etc will not be required!
3. The transmitters will be FM modulated (actually FSK with a deviation of +/- 1KHz) with the two

call signs G4FUR 1 and G4FUR 2 in morse at about 10 words per minute. In addition to the FM call signs, the TX number will be sent as carrier breaks, i.e. inverse CW after the FM ident, to make it easy for the people using tone S meters to identify the two stations. The ident will be sent at the beginning of the minute and after approximately 30 seconds.

4. The transmitting sequence will be a 5 minute cycle, with TX 1 on at time zero and off after one minute, the TX two on at minute 2 and off after one minute, Therefore the sequence will be TX 1, one minute silence, TX 2 , two minutes silence then TX 1 and repeat of the sequence. I will try and start the cycle at 8:00pm so even if you cannot read the morse (shame on you!), with the help of an accurate watch you can tell which TX is on. For example TX 1 will be on at 8.00, 8.05, 8.10, 8.15 etc and TX 2 at 8.02, 8.07, 8.12, 8.17 etc.
5. In order to synchronise your watches I will have the reference clock (Giles Mean Time) at the start.
6. The start will be between 8 and 8:30pm from the Car Park behind the Fox Public House on Coulsdon Common. Your exact start time will be noted and your time arriving back will be recorded and the winner will be the person or group to have visited both transmitters in the shortest time.
7. The transmitters will be turned off at 10:00 pm so that I get a chance to have a beer in the Fox!

If anybody wants to borrow my antenna with compass and a radio, contact me, and you can pick them up at the start.

73 de Terry G4CDY
0208 660 7555
07764681843
terry@g4cdy.co.uk

Other Club News & Contact Information

BROMLEY & DISTRICT ARS

Website – www.bdars.org.uk
Email bdars-news@talk21.com
3rd Tuesday at Victory Social Club,
Kechill Gardens, Hayes, Kent
7-30pm for 8pm

18th July – Talk on restored military radio
vehicles (or quiz if not available)

The Crystal Palace Radio and Electronics Club

Meets on 1st 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/

4th August – An evening of receivers

CRAWLEY ARC

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.

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: 1st Thursday at The Guide
Hall, Denne Road, Horsham.
Latest news – www.harc.org.uk

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/>

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
Email rats@gsl.net
3rd Tuesday at RNIB Redhill College,
Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 7-30pm

SRCC

Ray Howells G4FFY 020 8644 7599
Club Nets –
Sunday 0930hrs 29.111 MHz
Friday 2030hrs 144.325 MHz
Thursday 1900hrs 145.500 MHz
Website – www.g3src.org.uk
Meetings: 1st & 3rd Mondays at T.S.
Terra Nova, 34 The Waldrons, South
Croydon 7.45pm for 8pm

7th August - **[GB3OK](http://www.gb3ok.com)** with **Tony G1HIG**

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

John Puttock G0BWV 020 8644 1614

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

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

20th July - Multimeters
by Martin M1MRB

THAMES VALLEY A.R.T.S.

Trevor Farris M0CDB 013 7245 767

Club Net Only – G3TVS

Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

7.070 – 7.085 MHz

WIMBLEDON & DARS

Website – www.gx3wim.org.uk

Club Net –

Mondays 2045hrs 145.500 MHz

2nd & last Friday of each month at Martin Way Methodist Church, Buckleigh Avenue, Merton Park SW20. 7.30pm for 8pm.

14th July – Croydon Airport lecture
28 July – 6 August – Summer Camp

Special Event Stations

29 July – GB150RA at the Royal Artillery museum, Woolwich Arsenal. For details contact Mike M1CCF.

Foundation Course

A Foundation course is being planned for the autumn at the Scout HQ at Banstead, run in association with Sutton & Cheam Radio Society. Contact Stuart G6CJR for details.

4m net

The CATS Wednesday 4 metre net has been suffering a distinct lack of participants for the past few weeks. There has been some very interesting propagation on the band with Croatia surprisingly popping up last month during a lift. 4m is a quiet band due to not many European countries having access to it and is an ideal rag-chewing band for local use; so the old moral is very relevant: Use it or ultimately, Lose it.

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

15th July – Martin Lynch's Summer Boot Fair & BBQ. 09.00 at the Emporium, Guildford Street, Chertsey.

16 July - 24th McMichael Rally, Reading RFC, Sonning, Berks.
Info: Min Standen, 01189 723 504
g0jms@radarc.org

24th July – CATS visit to the Navy Communications & RADAR museum at HMS Collingwood.

13th August - Flight Refuelling ARS rally, Wimbourne, Dorset.

8/9 September – Leicester Amateur Radio Show, Donnington Park.

15th October – Rusty Radios rally, Cottered village hall, Nr Stevenage, Herts.

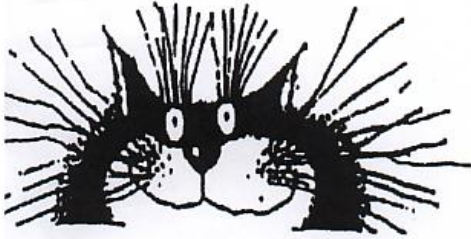
12th November - West London Electronics Show, Kempton Park (Radiofairs).

19th November – CATS Bazaar. Our well-known and regarded autumn amateur radio event.
This year bigger and better than ever!

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
A Jackson G8JAC on behalf of the
Coulston Amateur Transmitting Society.
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ONLY FOUR MONTHS TO THE CATS BAZAAR!

COULDSON
MATEUR
ATRANSMITTING
TSOCIETY
S



RADIO And
ELECTRONICS
BAZAAR

At the 1st Coulsdon Scout Group HQ
ACCESS VIA
PUBLIC CAR PARK
IN LION GREEN ROAD
COULSDON

FLEA MARKET AND
TRADERS STALLS
SALE OF NEW AND
SECOND-HAND
EQUIPMENT

SUNDAY
19th
NOVEMBER
2006

10.00 AM
TO
2.00 PM
Admission £1



Bring and buy -
Bring your gear and we will sell

To book a table or for more information
Please e-mail cats@qsl.net

Enquiries for tables or information to cats@qsl.net or Andy G8JAC g8jac@btinternet.com