

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS

December 2006



Affiliated to the RSGB

SYCOM – Official CATS Sponsor

Visit www.sycomcomp.co.uk

CATS Committee

Chairman: Rob Cole 2E0AYT
Secretary: Andy Jackson G8JAC
Treasurer: Derek Hands G1PGS
Members: Steve Conway G7SYO
 Stuart Barber G6CJR
 Dave Young G8VXB
 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

1st Saturday of Month - 1715hrs Crescenta Valley / CATS Net on Echolink
Normally via MB7IPL node on 145.2875 MHz.
Sunday mornings - 1100hrs. Call on S20 (V40) then to 145.2875MHz.
Sunday evenings - 1700hrs. 3.700 MHz +/- QRM
Wednesday evenings - 21.00hrs. Call on 70.425 MHz

CATS Website

Email

Forthcoming Meetings

Mon 11th December – Annual General Meeting
Mon 8th January 2007 – An introduction to Yoga by Steve G3WZK
Mon 12th February - The work of the RSGB EMC committee by G3YCR



CATS is Twinned with the
Crescenta Valley Radio Club
Glendale California USA www.qsl.net/cvrc

October Meeting Report

Our traditional CATS Quiz returned for our October meeting, with a change this year in that our usual "Quiz Inquizitors" Andy G8JAC and his XYL, were given a break from quiz running, and duties were performed by Steve G7SYO. Members will be aware that Steve is a bit of a computer technowhiz and he brought some very modern innovations to the evening, presenting questions in a multiple choice format rather in the style of TV's "Who Wants to be a Millionaire". Some very clever presentation using picture-in-picture techniques and electronic scoring, all projected on a big video display.

Twenty two people including XYLs and guests turned out, and we were very pleased to welcome our friends from Wimbledon & District Amateur Radio Society.



Studied expressions as contestants ponder the questions.

Ten rounds of ten questions were set with each team having a joker to play in a round that took their fancy, which doubled their score in that round. The ten rounds were Geography, TV & film, science & nature, space, history, music, pot luck, sport, food & drink and finally, games & puzzles.

Team names showed imagination from some and pragmatism from others!

The teams:
CADS
Dry Joints 2
Duets
Jackson Harmonics
Egg Heads
Wimbledon

The winners were the team from Wimbledon with a score of 88 points.



The winning Wimbledon team receive their valuable prize.

Someone has to come last of course but on this occasion with good reason. Mike M1CCF and his XYL made up a team with just two members and so, richly deserved a prize.



Mike M1CCF and XYL Sheila (Duets) receive the booby prize for their fine short-handed effort.

The final scores:

CADS	82 points
Dry Joints	85 points
Duets	69 points
Jacksons	80 points
Egg Heads	72 points
Wimbledon	88 points

As well as a fun evening, the event was a very worthwhile social event that seemed to be enjoyed by all.

Our thanks go to Steve for a very well researched quiz that plainly had taken a lot of work to put together.

CATS Activity News

CATS Bazaar

This year's CATS Bazaar was voted an outstanding success with 18 traders, clubs and individuals taking tables and attracted 135 visitors through the doors.

As usual, the dedicated few put in time and effort to prepare the hall, ensure that everything went smoothly and clear up afterwards. Our thanks are due to the team of G0GNQ, M3IGP, G7SYO, G4FVL, 2E0AYT, M3JXN, G8JAC, G7SYO, G6CJR, G0SDB and M1CCF.

Special thanks go to Jim G4WYJ, XYL Barbara and Prue G4RWW for their sterling work in the galley keeping everyone supplied with tea, coffee hot sausage rolls and cake.

Apologies If I've missed anyone out but you know who you were!



We were blessed with fine weather for the day, which helped to encourage people out. Feedback from traders and visitors repeatedly mentioned that our bazaar is not just a club rally, it's a valued social occasion where old friends meet up to find a bargain and catch up on local news and events.

People now travel considerable distances for our bazaar – one visitor came all the way from Newport (the Welsh one!) and one trader told me that it had been well worth his while coming down from Stoke on Trent.

For the first time, this year we ran a CATS Bring and Buy stall, which proved very popular with around £500 – worth of items sold on commission.

The return to our traditional bazaar date of the third Sunday in November was obviously popular with both traders and visitors and next year's bazaar date is already in the diary - Sunday 18th November 2007. Put it in yours!

Kempton Park

The CATS Bring and Buy stall at the twice-yearly rally at Kempton Park is now a well – established Feature of the event. November's autumn rally appeared to be even better attended this year and the stall did brisk business and sold a considerable amount of kit.



Some of the goodies on offer on the CATS stand at Kempton Park.

As well as benefitting the society financially, the rally was a great opportunity for us to publicise our own bazaar the following Sunday with Stuart G6CJR ensuring that everyone at Kempton had a copy of our advertising flyer.

Nine CATS members turned out to help on the stand and thanks are due to them for their efforts at raising funds for CATS. The rally goes from strength to strength and next year's provisional Kempton rally dates have already been announced – April 15th and November 4th 2007.

Also seen at Kempton was CATS member Mike M1CCF who has recently been appointed area rally rep for the Royal Signals Amateur Radio Society (RSARS). Mike ran a very busy stand just across the gangway from CATS.



M1CCF taking cover behind the RSARS stand.

CATS Visit to Brooklands

Our latest venture for a CATS Visit was to the Museum of Motorsport and Aviation at the former racing track near Weybridge in Surrey. The museum has been established at Brooklands for some years but the area around it has recently seen much development, notably Mercedes-Benz World which is located next to the museum.

CATS members Andy G8JAC, Paul M3JXN, Mike G6YOG and his YL, and Gerry G8NNT plus YL and M-i-L arrived at mid-day to find the area carpeted with recent hailstones. Unfortunately, there were not enough in the party to qualify for the group discount, however we paid our entrance money and started to explore the site, undaunted by the huge puddles and near-flood caused by the recent violent storm.



CATS at Brooklands. (G8JAC missing due to taking the photo).

We explored the museum under our own guidance although if a question came up, a knowledgeable museum volunteer was usually near at hand.

My own particular interest was to see the progress made in the restoration of R for Robert, the Wellington bomber famously recovered in 1985 from the depths of Loch Ness after a forced ditching after suffering engine failure during a training flight on New Year's eve 1940. The aircraft was actually discovered by accident by an American company exploring the Loch for evidence of the legendary monster. No monster of course, but a much more interesting piece of British aviation history was discovered.

R for Robert has been restored to display condition so that the construction of the airframe can easily be seen and is a fascinating glimpse of 1940s aluminium geodetic frame construction. It is one of only two Wellingtons left in existence. Also undergoing restoration in the hangar is a Hawker Hurricane – the mainstay of the Battle of Britain

although over-shadowed by its more glamorous cousin the Spitfire.



Wellington N2980 R for Robert on display at Brooklands.

The Star Attraction at Brooklands is the first production Concorde G-BBDG, affectionately known as "Delta Golf".

A half hour "Concorde Experience" is available in which visitors get a description of the Concorde project, and audio/visual presentation, a seat in the aircraft cabin while a Concorde pilot takes you through a simulated take-off, breaking through the sound barrier to Mach II and landing. Unfortunately they forgot the champagne and caviar on our trip! The rear of the aircraft has a display area showing how the airframe is constructed. Two things impressed me, surprise at how small and even cramped the interior is and how dated the flight deck looks now with all analogue instrumentation and ranks of manual switches to control aircraft functions.

An interesting "flight" though, and an insight into the development and history of what was and still is, one of the worlds' most beautiful aircraft.



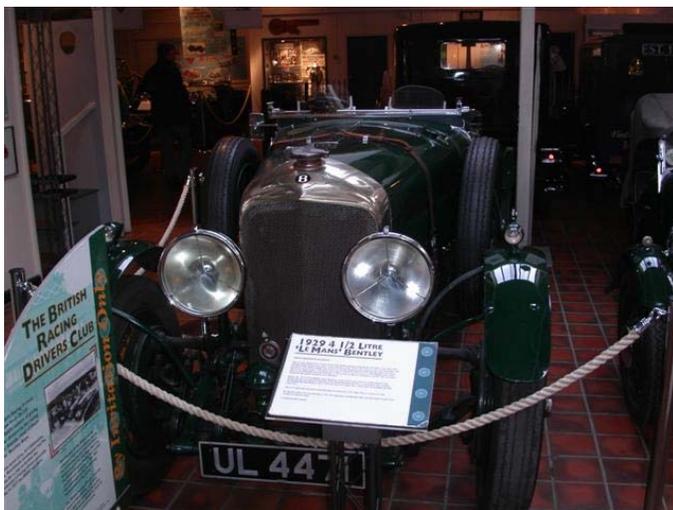
Not a normal picture of Concorde – view from the rear baggage door.



Storm clouds over the Brooklands Concorde.

The Brooklands Concorde never flew in commercial service, having spent its life as a development and testing aircraft used to evaluate design changes and gain type approvals. Our trip was now sadly the nearest that anyone is likely to get to a real flight in a Concorde.

Brooklands isn't all aircraft of course and there is a major exhibition of the history and development of motor racing embracing both cars, motorcycles and curiously, pedal cycle racing. Many exhibits and rooms in and around the main building are displayed in 1920s style to illustrate the early days of motorsport with exhibits right up to the most modern Formula 1 cars. There is a plan for the London Bus Preservation Trust to move to the Brooklands complex in a couple of year's time which will benefit those with an interest in buses.



The mighty 4½ litre Bentley Tourer on display (Picture by G8NNT)

In all, we spend an interesting four hours or so roaming through the exhibits, the only down side being that there weren't more CATS members to enjoy the event.

What's coming up

The **December** meeting is one of the most important events in any society's calendar – the **Annual General Meeting**. It's the occasion when those members who have a grumble, an idea or a point to make have the opportunity to put their case and influence the way the society operates and what it does.

The November CATS Whispers carried the formal calling notice for the AGM and all members will have received an agenda and a nomination form for committee posts.

A particular item on the agenda for the AGM is a proposal from the committee to adopt a revised set of rules to govern the society. Although at least two versions of society rules exist, there is a lack of traceability as to what rules were amended when, and it has become apparent to the committee that some further revisions are needed to establish rules for areas that were not covered. For example, the society now owns many items of equipment that have been bought by the society and that have been acquired by gift. Rules and procedures are needed to govern how these items are to be looked after and used by members (loans to members etc).

As society rules can (and should) only be changed by the approval of the members, the revised rules will be voted on at the AGM.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible at the AGM. As a blatant bribe, hot mince pies and wine will be served (as well as tea and coffee!).

2007 starts early for CATS with our first meeting of the New Year on **Monday 8th January**, and we start the year with a distinctly non-radio theme. CATS member Steve G3WZK is a fully qualified and licensed teacher of Yoga and has kindly agreed to present an introduction to the subject for us. Steve tells me that he will present the subject in two parts starting with a DVD and slides to introduce things, then, after the tea break, a very gentle practical session. Steve assures me that the exercises for beginners are simple and safe and well within the capabilities of all our members. He can provide a small number of proper Yoga mats but suggests that members might like to bring a blanket or a towel big enough to lie on. Steve also suggests wearing loose clothing and preferably avoiding a heavy meal immediately beforehand.

CATS are venturing into a new and interesting subject here and we look forward to it,

In February we return to matters technical with a talk on the work of the RSGB EMC Committee by Colin G3YCR.

CATS New Year Dinner

The CATS dinner to celebrate the New Year and the fact that we managed to survive Christmas, will be held at the *White Hart* at Godstone Green on **Friday 12th January**.

Tables have been booked and we hope that our meal will be as successful as last year.

We do however need firm commitment from those who wish to go so please contact the secretary ASAP to ensure your place at the table.

The White Hart offers both a fixed price menu and traditional a la carte and we have previously enjoyed good food and service there.

CATS Weekend?

CATS has, in many years, undertaken a Winter Weekend away to somewhere of interest, often radio-related, and of course, including member's YLs and XYLs to make it a family and social event. Stuart G6CJR is enthusiastic about organising another trip for this winter.

One suggestion of a trip to France, possibly involving a visit to one or two of the WWII related museums around Calais and Boulogne and the other great attractions of cheap shopping and a good meal has been received, but otherwise, the flow of ideas from members has been a little slow. To get this a trip organised Stuart needs to know who in principle is interested in going on a weekend away and of course, your suggestions as to where. Contact him direct or via any committee member.

TransPONDer net news

The Christmas transponder net sort of happened! Networking problems wreaked havoc with this month's Transponder Net, reminding us that we are all captives of the digital world. Terry G4CDY's MB7IPL Link was plagued with packet collisions due to a crash on the network and new cabling.

Terry had rewired the network and was running his daughter to the train station when we began the net. It turns out that the computer was unhappy with higher connect speeds and began to choke. Immediately, we had choppy audio and the repeater on the US end would not de-key after transmissions originating in the UK. Terry got stuck in traffic and was unable to get back in time to fix things. Nevertheless, with a bit of timely link resetting G8JAC was able to pass a Christmas greetings message to the CVRC members on behalf of CATS and to receive a greeting from CVRC President Dale KD6PYQ. On **Saturday 6th January** at 17.15z we will hold the TransPONDer New Year Net. How about joining us?

ARRL Field Day results

Those readers who followed the adventures of the three CATS members who travelled to the USA to participate in the annual ARRL Field Day may be interested in the results. They can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/results/2006/fd.pdf>

Mark W6MW reports that CVRC achieved better results and a higher standing in the contest this year and we would like to think that in some small way we helped that along!

The new Lifetime Licence

The new licensing system for UK amateurs finally became operational on 1st December. Details can be found on the Ofcom site at:

<http://www.ofcom.org.uk/licensing/olc/>

or alternatively go to :

https://services.ofcom.org.uk/esales_enu/start.swe?SWECmd=Login&SWECEM=S&SWEHo=services.ofcom.org.uk

The system works by each licensee logging onto the site and registering, after which a username and password is received through the post (!) within 5-10 working days. From then on, the licensee can log in at any time to update or renew their licence details. A licence document can also be downloaded and printed.

According to RSGB Regional Manager Alison Johnston G8ROG: *"It has now been clarified that the new Terms and Conditions will only apply to those licensees in possession of the new document but it is planned to send out over 60,000 paper copies over the coming few months. Until this document is received licensees should still operate under the terms of their existing BR68. Licensees wishing to operate under the new Terms and Conditions and who have not received the new document should register on the Ofcom website."*

The situation of those CATS members who do not have access to the internet has been discussed by the CATS Committee. It is felt that a sensible solution is for those members to contact the secretary and authorise him to log on to the Ofcom site on their behalf and register. When the username and password is received, the information can be passed to the secretary who will carry out the necessary actions on the member's behalf. Logging in and updating a licensee's records can of course be done from any computer with access to the internet, from anywhere in the world.

Membership news

We have reached that time of the year when it is necessary to remind all members that their annual subscriptions become due on 1st January of the new year. The current rules state that subscription for the following year is normally payable at, or at the date of, the Annual General Meeting. A period of two month's grace is allowed for the subscription to be paid but any membership that is not renewed by the 1st of March is considered to have lapsed.

A lapsed membership can of course always be renewed but the rules provide for the levy of an additional reinstatement fee on renewal.

For those members who cannot make it to the AGM (and we earnestly hope to see as many of you as possible), a tear-off membership renewal slip is provided below or just print this page whichever is convenient. Please return it to the Hon Treasurer with the appropriate remittance. Cheques made out to Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society please.



Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society Membership Renewal 2007

To:
Derek Hands G1PGS
Hon Treasurer
45 Croft Avenue
West Wickham
Kent
BR4 0GH

I apply to renew my membership of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society for the year 2007.

Member's name:

Callsign

I wish to claim the reduced subscription rate

(please tick if appropriate)

I enclose my subscription of £

Signature:

Please make cheques payable to: Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society.

Editorial



And so, we reach the end of another year, our society's 31st. It's usual to have a look back at what we did, what we achieved and, OK, what went wrong as well.

Our outstanding event of the year, at least for three members, was the trip to California as guests of the Crescenta Valley Radio Club in order to participate in the ARRL Field Day competition. Our relationship with CVRC was really cemented by this visit and the members who went will always remember the warm hospitality and friendship that we were shown. The memories of the event certainly helped my job as editor of *CATS Whispers* with great narrative contributions from Andy G0KZT and Prue G4RWW to fill out the newsletter!

Our monthly meetings continued throughout the year and members were presented with what we hope were interesting and stimulating subjects. In January we started off the year with some changes to the committee that included a new secretary with G8JAC taking on the job as an addition to the job of newsletter editor that he had ~~been lumbered with~~ taken on the year before. Also new to the committee for 2006 was Stuart. G6CJR.

The January meeting was a presentation on digital picture editing by Paul Berkely M0CJX. In February, Dave G8VXB presented a session on DF antenna building including practical building for the DF hunt later in the year. March brought our attempt at a junk sale however this turned out not to be one of our best events. Perhaps CATS members concentrate their junk buying and selling at the annual CATS Bazaar?

In April we were delighted to have Ken Myers, a genuine Bletchley Park engineer during the war to talk to us about his work on the Colossus machines. For May we had planned a presentation by the team that organized and managed the GB200T project to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar; however the gremlins struck just before the due date and we were let down by the presenters. The gap was filled by Andy G8JAC who presented his lecture on the evolution of British Army combat radio.

For the June meeting, we laid on a Test and Measurement evening with the idea that members could use professional grade test equipment that they would not otherwise have access to, to check out their rigs and equipment.

This is apparently a popular and regular event with some local clubs, but failed to generate very much enthusiasm amongst CATS members.

A DF hunt is traditionally held in July and this year's was a technically innovative one devised by Terry

G4CDY. Technical gremlins hit this event too but by carefully arranging for it to be held near a decent pub, all was not lost.

Prue, G4RWW invited members into her garden for the summer BBQ in August and for September, members were treated to a commentary and slide show of the visit to California rather than the member's show-and-tell evening that failed to produce any members who wanted to show and tell us anything.

In October, Terry G4CDY gave a fascinating talk and demonstration of the techniques of computer-aided printed circuit board design and production, followed by the CATS Quiz in November that is reported above.

CATS external activities and visits included two Kempton Park rallies where we ran the Bring and Buy stall ensuring that this is now a twice-yearly fixture in our calendar that contributes much to our funds.

Visits were made to the naval communications museum at HMS Collingwood and the Brooklands museum, and a successful New Year dinner was held at the Botley Hill Farmhouse.

Our monthly TransPONDer net with CVRC was kept up and regular CATS nets on 2m and 4m continued through the year with varied attendances but did constitute a means for members to keep in touch and up to date with society news. After all, what better way is there for a radio society?

Our other big event of the year is of course the annual CATS Bazaar. This year was very successful and is reported in detail above.

Our membership was retained and increased in 2006, and we now have a total of 39 including two life members. Of the 37 regular members, two joined us during the year (M0NDJ and G3RNQ) and all are licensed amateurs.

Under the leadership of Andy G0KZT who was co-opted as Contests secretary, we entered two field contests during the year. Our weekend event camping out in March sub-zero temperatures will be long remembered by those who took part!

We were very fortunate during the year to benefit from the very kind gift of equipment from Dennis Piffold G0JGO who had decided to go QRT but who wanted his equipment to be used and enjoyed by local amateurs. This equipment is being made available to all CATS members. And Finally, we remember that G3WZK got married! It wasn't a bad year, was it!

On behalf of the CATS committee we wish all members and their families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.

73, Andy G8JAC
Editor

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

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.qsl.net/g3oou/

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 144.775 MHz
Meetings are held at the Friends Meeting
House, Butterhill, South Street Dorking at
1930hrs.
Email: wb@g3jkv.co.uk

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, Commonsides
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.qsl.net/rats
Email rats@qsl.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

8th January – CAD PCB design by Terry G4CDY
NOTE: Any CATS members who missed Terry's
presentation when he did it for CATS have the
opportunity to see it as a guest at SRCC.

SUTTON & CHEAM RS

John Puttock G0BWV 020 8644 9945

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

14th December – Junk Sale

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.

12th January - A talk on the De Havilland Comet
by Jim Bell M0CON

For Sale & Wants

This space is available to any CATS
member (or others subject to approval) to
place an advertisement. If you're looking for
that elusive part or need to make some
room in the shack, just pass the details to
the Secretary. **It's free!**

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

4th February 2007 South Essex ARS Mobile
Radio Rally, Canvey Island.

www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk

3 & 4 March 2007 M0VOG Radio Club Rally
Firepower, The Royal Artillery Museum, Royal
Arsenal, Woolwich, SE London. Vintage radio
display. Demo and radio junk sale (no computers).
Open 10:30 both days. Details: 0208-654-2582.
EMail: M1CCF@talktalk.net Web:
<http://tinyurl.com/y2jaze>

15th April West London Radio & Electronics
show at Kempton Park.

17th March Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics
club Annual Spring Sale, St Johns Church Hall,
Sylvan Road, London, SE19. 10.00 – 13.00.
Contact: Bob Burns G30OU G30OU@AOL.COM

May 2007 (date to be confirmed)
24th Dunstable Downs Boot Fair & Rally

15th July 2007 McMichael Rally
Reading RFC, Sonning Lane RG4 6ST

4th November West London Radio &
Electronics show at Kempton Park.

A little further afield.....

18-20 May 2007
56th Dayton Hamvention
Hara Arena, 1001 Shiloh Springs Road,
Trotwood, Ohio USA

22-24 June 2007
International Exhibition for Radio
Amateurs, Friedrichshafen, Germany.

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
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