

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS

January 2007



Affiliated to the RSGB

SYCOM – Official CATS Sponsor

Visit www.sycomcomp.co.uk

CATS Committee

Chairman: Steve Conway G7SYO

Secretary: Andy Jackson G8JAC

Treasurer: Derek Hands G1PGS

Members: Rob Cole 2E0AYT

Stuart Barber G6CJR

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

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 8th January 2007 – An introduction to Yoga by Steve G3WZK

Mon 12th February - The work of the RSGB EMC committee by G3YCR

Mon 12th March - Society equipment familiarization evening



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

AGM Report

The December meeting was given over to the Annual General Meeting. 17 members attended. A brief overview of the meeting and salient points is given here, a full set of minutes will be available separately.

The meeting commenced at 21.15 with the Chairman's opening address during which he gave his view of the society's year. The next item should have been the reading and acceptance of the 2005 AGM minutes, however these were not available despite the best efforts of the committee. This was followed by the Secretary's report that went into more detail about the activities over the year, sprinkled with some hard facts and figures.

The Treasurer next made his report and presented the audited accounts for the society. These showed that financially the society is in good health due mainly to our various fund-raising activities throughout the year. The accounts were accepted by the members present and the meeting voted to re-appoint Derek Garrod as auditor for the coming year's accounts.

The formal announcement of the subscription rate for 2007 was made – it remains at £10 with a 50% reduction for those members over 65.

The next item was a proposal to adopt a revised constitution and rules of the society. All members had been circulated with the draft document and the secretary gave a statement of the reasons behind the changes and additions. A brief discussion was held during which an ambiguity was pointed out. With this minor amendment, the new rules received a unanimous acceptance.

The election for the 2007 committee provided few surprises. G8JAC was re-elected as secretary (and newsletter editor) and Derek G1PGS retained the post of Treasurer. All of the existing committee with the exception of G8VXB offered themselves for re-election. The vacancy was filled by Len G0GNQ who was welcomed back onto the committee after a year's absence.

A tea break was then called during which members enjoyed a bit of festive cheer with hot mince pies and wine being served alongside the usual fare. When the meeting re-convened, the result of the committee vote for Chairman was announced with Steve G7SYO taking on the post for the coming year.

After tea, a more general discussion ensued with some suggestions for activities and projects in 2007. After a useful session the meeting closed at 21.25.

Our thanks are due to the members who made the effort to attend the AGM.

CATS Activity News

Monthly meetings

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 the ideas, 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. Wot's EMC? Come and find out.

For our **March** meeting we are planning to bring all the society –owned kit that we possess (or as much as is practicable) together so that members can see what we have, learn about it and, if they wish, borrow items for testing, experiments or whatever. One big item that we haven't got to grips with yet is the new gazebo and we thought that it might be best to try this out for the first time in a warm, wind-free and brightly lit environment!

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**. Dinner is at **19.00**. for 19.30. 25 members and guests are booked in so far and we hope that our meal will be as successful as last year. There is space for more but you need to contact G7SYO or G8JAC NOW if you want a place. 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 – shall we say - 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

We have our first TransPONDer net of 2007 coming up on Saturday 6th January and we're calling it the New Year net. Our usual co-ordinator on the US side, Mark W6MY will be unavailable, being inconveniently on a flight to Ohio at the time; however the "other" Mark, KE6ZRP will be standing in and organising contact through the Glendale repeater. We'd like you to join us.

Membership news

We have reached that time of the year when it is necessary to remind all members that their annual subscriptions became 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 could not make it to the AGM, a membership renewal slip is provided below or just print the page whichever is convenient. Please return it to the Hon Treasurer with the appropriate remittance. Cheques made out to Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society please.

Harry Bellfield G3SBV - SK

We regret to report the passing of another well-known local amateur – Harry Bellfield G3SBV who became a Silent Key shortly before Christmas after a short battle with cancer. An SRCC and CPREC member, he lived near Streatham Common for many years before retiring to Hythe in Kent where he was very active on the local Hastings repeater. He maintained an active interest in amateur radio until very recently, attending the 2006 HF convention at Gatwick. His funeral was held at St Stephens Church, Lympe.

Contesting reports

M1FUR Active in 144 MHz Contest – Tuesday 5th December 2006

After sending out details of the Tuesday night 144 MHz Activity Contest and Club Championship, I set up my station at ground level. I had set my 7-element "ZL Special" up onto a 12' scaffold pole and the only means of rotating it was to turn it by hand. This meant running out into the garden to change the aerial direction and the best place to set the gear up was in the utility room at the back of the house. At just before 8.00pm I was ready to go.

My activity was as follows:-

	QSOs	Mults	Points
20:00 - 20:59	21	5	21
21:00 - 21:59	12	1	12
22:00 - 22:30	7	1	7

The only other club member that I am aware that took part was Terry G4CDY who got off to a later start than me. *We are reliably informed that Paul M3JXN was also active during the competition – Ed.* This contest scored 1 point per contact and the only multiplier was the locator square.

My Total Claimed Score was 280 points made up of 40 contacts and 7 multipliers. My best DX was MOGHZ in IO81VK, 145 Km away.

I was only sorry that I didn't hear anyone else from the club other than Terry. I was encouraged by the email replies I got but on the night take up was poor. This would have been an excellent opportunity to practice your contest operating, get yourself familiar with the contest software and the exchange of information required. More over, an excellent opportunity to do something as a club!

Andy Briers G0KZT

Also contributed by Andy:

Find your Locator Square

Here's a useful little utility to work out the locator square for any location.

<http://www.g8bcg.org.uk/find-your-locator-map.html>

A map of Europe appears on the screen, which you can zoom in on down to an individual house using Google's excellent satellite mapping pictures. When you left click with the mouse, the latitude and longitude appears along with the locator square. Could be useful if you want to check your square or find someone else's who doesn't know theirs, especially during a contest.

Guides on the air

Our plans to assist the Croydon Guides with their annual "Thinking Day on the Air" event next month are well advanced. For us, it involves setting up and operating a temporary station much as we do for field competitions (although for this event we will be inside in the warm!); for the guides it's an introduction to our technical hobby and the chance to pass messages to other guides around the country and the world.

The date is the weekend of 17/18 February and the location is the Radcliffe centre, Radcliffe Road, Harding Close, Croydon. The operating times are 10.00 to 16.00 GMT both days.

The plan is to run three stations, on 80/40m, 20m and 2m and also to run some radio related background activities such as an introduction to Morse, name spelling using the phonetic alphabet, making jewellery from resistors and setting up a telephone link. A special event callsign – GB4SUN has been applied for.

As well as the adventure of talking on the radio, we hope to get as many Brownies and Guides as possible to qualify for their Communications badge.

Our leader for this activity is Len G0GNQ who is being assisted by Ian M3IGP, Dennis M0DNJ, and Stuart G6CJR. They will welcome further assistance and to make the invitation irresistible, the Guides will be providing lunch and endless tea and coffee. If you can spare a couple of hours to help out, get in touch with Len. Contact details are on page 1 of this newsletter.

Other clubs newsletters

One of the statistics in the secretary's report for 2006 is that 80% of CATS members now receive their copy of *CATS Whispers* and other society information by electronic delivery i.e. email. It shows how we have all so quickly adopted the modern methods of information distribution and also proves that age is nothing to do with it and the idea that "older people can't cope with computers" is patently untrue.

A good number of our members also receive the newsletters of our neighbouring clubs by email, distributed by the secretary. These clubs include SRCC, Wimbledon & District, Crystal Palace, Sutton & Cheam, Reigate, Bromley & district, Mid-Sussex, Crescenta Valley and Crawley.

If you would like to receive other club newsletters just drop an email to the secretary.

Canadian special prefixes

At the request of Radio Amateurs of Canada, Industry Canada has authorized all Canadian radio amateurs to use special event prefixes for the months of December 2006 and January 2007, to mark the 100th anniversary of the first AM voice broadcast by Reginald Fessenden on December 24, 1906. Reginald Fessenden, who was born in East Bolton, Quebec, on October 6, 1866, and lived until July 22, 1932, was the holder of more than 500 patents on a wide variety of subjects, and the inventor of radio as we know it today. He is particularly known for: the first voice transmission by radio in 1900, the first transatlantic two-way radio communications in January 1906, and the first radio broadcasts of entertainment and music in December 1906.

On Christmas Eve, 1906, from a transmitting station in Brant Rock, Massachusetts, he sent a short program, which included the song Holy Night played on the violin and a reading from the Bible. A second short program was broadcast on December 31, 1906.

Canadian radio amateurs are authorized to use the following special event prefixes during the period 1 December 2006 to 31 January 2007 inclusive:

CF for VA stations
CG for VE stations
CH for VO stations
CI0 for VY0 stations
CI1 for VY1 stations
CI2 for VY2 stations.

Thanks to Mike M1CCF for the info – Ed,

Mad Frank's Silly Bitz

Reward

A reward of 50 *MicroFarads* is offered for the capture of *Hoppalong Capacity*, A *North Pole* who escaped from a *Dry Cell* by threatening his warders with a *Carbon Rod*.

He was imprisoned by *Copper Sulphate* for the attempted *Induction* of two sixteen-year-old *Coils*, *Millie Watt* and *Moli Curie*. He was last seen crossing the *Wheatstone Bridge* riding his *Centre Punch* and ringing a *deciBel*.

It is suspected that he is now concealed in a *Magnetic Field* and will offer *Mega Resistance* to anyone attempting to stop him going *Ohm*. Any information please to *Micro Henry* (chip detective).

More from G3ZMF next month.

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.

24th January - AGM

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, Commons
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

18th January – High Definition television by the BBC
research team.

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!**

WANTED

FT241 crystals – Channel 45 and Channel 329.
Needed for valve product detector project.
Please have a rummage in your junk box!

Andy G8JAC g8jac@btinternet.com

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

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

www.southessex.ars.btinternet.co.uk

11th February 2007 Harwell ARS radio &
computing rally. Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland
Road, Didcot, from 10.30am-3.30pm. Entry £2.00
(children under 14 free).

Refreshments available all day.

Details from Ann on 01235 816379 or see

Website www.g3pia.org.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.

E-Mail: 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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Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society Membership Renewal 2007

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

I wish to renew my membership of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society for 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.

The annual subscription for 2007 is £10.00. Members over the age of 65 receive a 50% reduction i.e. £5.00.