

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

# CATS WHISPERS

April 2007



Affiliated to the RSGB

SYCOM – Official CATS Sponsor

Visit [www.sycomcomp.co.uk](http://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:**

## 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 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

### Forthcoming Meetings

Mon 14<sup>th</sup> May – DF antenna & receiver project by Terry G4CDY

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> June – CATS Annual DF Hunt – Banstead Woods

Mon 9<sup>th</sup> July – The rise of Artificial Intelligence by Steve G7SYO



CATS is Twinned with the

**Crescenta Valley Radio Club**

Glendale California USA [www.qsl.net/cvrc](http://www.qsl.net/cvrc)

## March meeting Report

Most members will be aware that CATS owns some items of equipment – radio items and kit that is used on field days such as the CATS tent and antenna gear. Last year we were fortunate enough to receive a very generous gift of equipment from Ernest Pilfold G0JGO who was going QRT and wanted his equipment to be used by people who would appreciate it.

Although some of the kit had been seen at the AGM last December, our March meeting was an opportunity to get all our property together so that members could see what we have and also to get all the items properly recorded, marked up as CATS property and loaned out to members under the rules agreed at the 2006 AGM.

Some items have already been tested for correct operation and performance while others still await an interested member to experiment with them or just enjoy using them.

Sixteen members attended the evening and a considerable proportion of the equipment available was signed out on loan. The rules specify a three-month loan period which can be extended at the discretion of the committee. A full list of the society's assets is available to members. Ask the secretary.

Another purpose of the evening was to let members see our recent acquisition – the CATS Gazebo – and to have a first attempt at erecting it under favourable conditions of warmth, good light and freedom from wind. The Gazebo is a substantial quick-erecting type that is known in the USA as an “Eezee-up” that had impressed the members who made the trip to the ARRL Field Day event in Los Angeles last year.



Roof panel fitted and the upper frame being expanded.



With the legs extended, the windproof side panels are attached.

It is hoped that the Gazebo will find use at field days, contest weekends where it will house and protect a station, and it will provide an eye-catching point to promote CATS and amateur radio. Could be useful at the August BBQ as well!



Completed. The roll-up front can make it completely weatherproof and secure.

## CATS Activity News

We have had to revise our program for the immediate future because for some unexplained reason, the penny didn't drop with the committee that our normal meeting date in April fell on Easter Monday this year. Because of our booking arrangement for the hall it wasn't a simple matter of just pushing it back a week so the decision was taken to cancel the meeting. The DF receiver and antenna project by Terry G4CDY is therefore moved back to the **May** meeting (Monday 14<sup>th</sup>).

In **June** we will put into practice what we learned and built under the guidance of G4CDY and participate in the annual CATS DF hunt.

The location for this will be Banstead Woods with the initial rendezvous and setup in the car park in Lower Park Road. The map reference for this is TQ273582.

Whatever else happens, this event always seems to involve beer somewhere along the line so not to be missed!

The re-arrangement of meetings means that the presentation on Artificial Intelligence - where machines make reasoned decisions based on certainties that have previously been established will be in **July**. It's being presented by Steve G7SYO who studied the subject for his degree, so it looks like we will have an interesting and informative evening.

We will be making a return visit to the British Vintage Wireless Museum in Dulwich on an evening in July. Watch out for details.

## **Kempton Park Rally**

CATS are, as usual, running the well-known Bring and Buy stall at the spring Radiofairs rally at Kempton Park on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April**. This twice-yearly event is now a regular fixture in the amateur radio calendar and earns us good publicity and some useful income.

The following volunteers are confirmed as attending: G0GNQ, 2E0AYT, G7SYO, M3IGP, G3ZMF, G8AAI, G8JAC, M3JXN.

Any more volunteers to help out on the stand? Contact the secretary please to arrange entry badges etc.

## **Membership news**

All members should have received an up-to-date membership list last month. Please regard the contents as "in confidence". Please check your own information for accuracy and advise the secretary if any amendments are necessary.

Having successfully threatened a couple of members who left renewal to the last minute with excommunication, we ended up losing two members from last year giving us a membership for 2007 of 37.

## **Guides on the air**

It is regretted that the report and pictures from the CATS support to the Croydon Guides "Thinking Day on the Air" referred-to in last month's *CATS Whispers* has not been made available to the editor for publication.

## **TransPONDer net news**

Oh well, that's what you get for trying to be clever and consequently missing the glaringly obvious! Last month I reported that the USA was adopting Daylight Saving Time three weeks earlier than previous years as part of a plan to save energy, and that consequently, Los Angeles would be 7 hours behind us instead of the usual 8. The glaringly obvious bit was that Britain would move to BST on the 25<sup>th</sup> March so by the time of the next transponder net, we would be back to normal! Your editor has administered appropriate self-flagellation.

Anyway, the next TransPONDer contact is scheduled for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April at (fingers crossed) 17.15 BST. Care to join us?

## **More of Mad Frank's Silly Bitz**

What do you call 0.5 Watts? A Wa.

Frank's Definitionz

- GDO Grid Dip Oscillator or in the wrong hands: *Odd Grip Dissolator*.
- VFO Variable Frequency Oscillator or..... *Very Frequently Out-of-band*
- SSB Single Side Band or.....  
Scientific Set Back (according to AM fans)
- SSB (without a BFO) *Silly Scrambled Yak*

Less frequently used "Q" codes -

- QEB Engage brain before operating PTT
- QCB Coffee Break
- QTB Tea Break
- QLB Leg Break (theatre or cricket)
- QBT Bed Time
- QCP Collecting Pension (used on Thursdays)
- QBZ Hum on signal (or CTCSS drive too high)
- QWJ Workshop Job
- QDJ Dustbin Job
- QCT Cat Trouble (cat sleeping on log book)
- QDT Dog Trouble (he wants walkies)

- VOX Voice Operated Switch
- MOX Manually operated Switch
- POX Parrot Squawk Operating Vox
- XOX XYL operating VOX (moaning again)

Keep amateur radio fun!

**Frank G3ZMF**

# A Phool and his money.....

When you need to buy a present for the man who has everything. How much would you pay for a fuse?  
I know this is the April issue but this is not a joke! Or is it.....?

## HIFI-TUNING SILVER/GOLD FUSES



PRICE SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE: JANUARY 24, 2007

### LIGHT A FUSE!

Do your high end components use 5¢ fuses?  
Can there be any doubt that this is a "choke point" in the performance of these components?  
**GET READY FOR THE BIG BANG!**

*NOW YOU CAN PURCHASE TRUE AUDIOPHILE GRADE FUSES:*

- hand made and tested in Germany
- gold over silver end caps
- pure silver wiring
- ceramic casing, rather than glass, for better resonance characteristics.

*BEWARE OF OVERPRICED COMMERCIAL FUSES WITH NOTHING MORE THAN GOLD-PLATED END CAPS AND NICE PACKAGING!*

*ALL COMMON FUSE VALUES ARE AVAILABLE IN FAST AND SLOW BLOW TYPES. SEE ACTUAL VALUES BELOW. \**

Description	Retail
"Large" 6.3 x 32mm (1.25")	\$34.95
"Small" 5 x 20mm (.75")	\$29.95

\$2.75 **standard** shipping for all orders (any quantity) in the United States.  
**Next Day Air** Charges (Any quantity): \$18.95 **Second Day Air** Charges (Any quantity): \$12.95.  
Please add an addit'l \$15 for **Saturday** Delivery. **Internat'l freight** per order (any quantity): Airmail: \$10, DHL / UPS: \$25.

#### \*AVAILABLE FUSE VALUES:

SMALL SIZE: 5x20MM (.75 INCH): RETAIL \$29.95

##### Fast blow ("F" Type):

125mA, 200mA, 250mA, 315mA, 400mA,  
500mA, 630mA, 800mA, 1A, 1.25A, 1.6A, 1.8A, 2A,  
2.5A, 3A, 3.15A, 4A, 5A, 6.3A, 8A, 10A, 12.5A

##### Slow blow ("T" Type):

50mA, 80mA, 100mA, 125mA, 160mA, 200mA, 250mA, 315mA,  
400mA, 500mA, 630mA, 800mA, 1A, 1.25A, 1.6A, 1.8A, 2A,  
2.5A, 3A, 3.15A, 4A, 5A, 6.3A, 8A, 10A, 12.5A, 16A, 20A

LARGE SIZE: 6.3x32MM (1.25 INCH): RETAIL \$34.95

##### Fast blow ("F" Type):

250mA, 315mA, 400mA, 500mA, 630mA, 800mA,  
1A, 1.25A, 1.6A, 2A, 2.5A, 3A, 3.15A, 4A, 5A, 6A,  
6.3A, 7A, 8A, 10A, 12.5A, 13A, 15A, 16A, 20A

##### Slow blow ("T" Type):

250mA, 315mA, 400mA, 500mA, 630mA, 800mA,  
1A, 1.25A, 1.6A, 2A, 2.5A, 3A, 3.15A, 4A, 5A, 6A,  
6.3A, 7A, 8A, 10A, 12.5A, 13A, 15A, 16A, 20A

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## 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

### **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.qsl.net/g3oou/](http://www.qsl.net/g3oou/)

13<sup>th</sup> April – Building your own equipment by  
Bob G300U

### **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.

### **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](mailto:wb@g3jkv.co.uk)

21<sup>st</sup> April – 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reunion  
Denbies Vineyard, Dorking.

### **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)

5<sup>th</sup> April – Digital Noise reduction by Graham  
Somerville of BHL.

### **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/>

13<sup>th</sup> April – PSK & RTTY by Phil G4UDU  
20<sup>th</sup> April – Radio night & table top sale

### **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](http://www.qsl.net/rats)  
Email [rats@qsl.net](mailto:rats@qsl.net)  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at RNIB Redhill College,  
Philanthropic Road, Redhill for 7-30pm

17<sup>th</sup> April - 'Digital Radio Mondiale' an Audio  
Demonstration by Daniel M0ERA.

### **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](http://www.g3src.org.uk)  
Meetings: 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at T.S. Terra  
Nova, 34 The Waldrons, South Croydon  
7.45pm for 8pm

14<sup>th</sup> May – Construction evening.

## **SUTTON & CHEAM RS**

John Puttock G0BWV 020 8644 9945

Club Nets –

Monday 20.00hrs 145.500 MHz

Saturday 11.00hrs 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

19<sup>th</sup> April – The work of the RSGB EMC committee by Colin Richards G3YCR

## **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 & DISRICT ARS**

Website – [www.gx3wim.org.uk](http://www.gx3wim.org.uk)

Club Net –

Mondays 2045hrs 145.500 MHz

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

13<sup>th</sup> April – Surplus equipment sale

27<sup>th</sup> April – on-air & construction evening

## **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!**

Well,  
What do you have to  
Buy or Sell?

Advertise it here!  
It's cheaper than eBay

## **Local Rally & Event Calendar**

### **Dates for your diary:**

**15<sup>th</sup> April** West London Radio & Electronics show at Kempton Park.

**Note: CATS involvement in this event.**

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2007** 24<sup>th</sup> Dunstable Downs Boot Fair & Rally, Stockwood Park, Luton.

**15<sup>th</sup> July 2007** McMichael Rally  
Reading RFC, Sonning Lane RG4 6ST

**12<sup>th</sup> August** – Flight Refuelling ARS Rally  
Merley, Wimborne, Dorset

**14<sup>th</sup> October** Rusty Radios Rally  
Cottered Village Hall, Nr Stevenage, Herts.

**4<sup>th</sup> November** West London Radio & Electronics show at Kempton Park.

**18<sup>th</sup> November** CATS 2007 Bazaar.  
**This date is already in your diary – isn't it?**

### **A little further afield.....**

**18-20 May 2007**

**56<sup>th</sup> 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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