

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS

September 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 10 September – Shak Nowtz by Frank G3ZMF

Mon 8th October - Artificial Intelligence by Steve G7SYO

Mon 12th November CATS Quiz presented by Rob 2E0AYT



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

August meeting Report

Our August meeting was that annual CATS favourite event, the BBQ and social evening hosted, as always, by Prue G4RWW. Going decidedly against the prevailing weather trend, we were blessed with a dry, clear evening and by 19.30, the first of what was to be a considerable crowd started to drift in. Chief Grillmeister this year was Ian M3IGP who stoked up the charcoals and soon had the cooking under way.



Chef de grille, Ian M3IGP hard at work.

Prue had organised the supply of delicious sausages, burgers and chicken plus the necessary salads buns and condiments while visitors generally brought the beer and wine. One addition had us desperately reaching for fire-quenching liquids though. Gerry G8NNT brought along some small chillies that he had grown at home but their small size certainly concealed a massive kick of fiery flavour. What on earth did you feed them on, Gerry?



Some of the guests with the chilli king in a rather appropriate shirt.

Some twenty guests attended in all including some friends from the Surrey Radio Contact Club who we were very pleased to see. Some XYLs also braved the inevitable relentless radio talk including Barbara (G4WYJ), Sheila (M1CCF) and Blanca (G8TB).



Our host Prue G4RWW and guests

The evening progressed, darkness fell and the conversations flowed. Ian did a sterling job keeping a supply of hot food coming and some lucky people even got "seconds"!



G8AAI and G6MFM discuss a point. G8NNT, M3JXN and G8JAC chat in the background. (Picture by M1CCF)

Our sincere thanks go to Prue for laying on and hosting a very enjoyable evening. We look forward to next year!

Prue is still looking for some help with work on her tower. She has decided that the tower itself will stay but is looking to replace the existing HF beam with something a little smaller. If you can be of any assistance, please get in contact with Prue direct. Details are in the CATS membership list issued to all members.

CATS Activity News

September brings us **Shak Nowtz** presented by our good friend and CATS founder member “Mad” Frank G3ZMF. Frank will be presenting in his own inimitable style a program of helpful hints and quirks to help around the shack.

Postponed from earlier in the year, Steve G7SYO will be presenting his lecture on Artificial Intelligence at our **October** meeting. AI is an integral part of all of our lives these days – even if we don’t realise it sometimes. This promises to be an interesting and informative presentation.

November is a busy month for CATS, with the autumn **Kempton Park rally** and the annual **CATS Bazaar** to fit in as well as our regular monthly meeting which – as is traditional in November – will be the CATS Quiz, hosted this year by Rob 2E0AYT.

As usual we extend an invitation to local clubs to join us for a social evening at St Swithuns’ hall and pit your wits against CATS finest in the quiz.

Membership news

There is no CATS membership news to report this month; our current membership stands at 37.

Help wanted for the Brownies

Two members have volunteered to assist with this project that aims to give Warlingham Brownies a chance to learn about amateur radio and to earn their Communications badge. One thing we plan to do is to get the girls to operate on the radio – probably local contacts on 2 metres. If you could help with this – from the comfort of your own home, please let the secretary know. More details and a firm date in next months *CATS Whispers*.

JOTA 50th anniversary

A note from Stuart G6CJR reminds us that the annual scout Jamboree On The Air will imminently be upon us, being held over the 3rd full weekend of October and this year is a special, marking the 50th anniversary of JOTA. Stuart is deeply involved with the event and would appreciate help from any members who could spare a little time. Contact details are on the front page of this newsletter.

The world scout jamboree station is currently operating from Hylands Park using the callsign GB100J to celebrate the centenary of the scouting movement. Keep an ear out for it and give the youngsters a call if you can.

MILITARY RADIO WEEKEND

It’s fairly well known that certain CATS members have a bit of a penchant for military radio, collecting, restoring and operating “green” sets from WWII to the present day. For the past few years there has been an annual informal gathering of like-minded local enthusiasts who are also members of organisations such as the Vintage and Military Amateur Radio Society (VMARS) and the Vintage Operating Group (VOG). Over the weekend of 8/9 September, a military radio weekend is being held in a large paddock kindly made available by one such enthusiast at Hookwood, on the A217 just north of Gatwick airport.

Activities will include displays of military radio and vehicles, a technical clinic to test and diagnose sets and for the “experts” to advise on restorations, and operating on the amateur bands using vintage equipment from WWII 19 sets to modern Gulf war era kit.

The site has plenty of space for ambitious field antennas and masts, and boasts a low electrical noise level that can be a novel surprise to us suburbanites. CATS members are cordially invited to drop in and sample something of this aspect of amateur radio

A highlight of the weekend is a BBQ and huge bonfire on the Saturday evening and you can camp or bring a caravan should you want to.

More details from:

Mike Buckley M1CCF M1CCF@talktalk.net
or the secretary G8JAC.

GB3WS

Our repeater correspondent G0SDB reports:

GB3WS (West Sussex) is back on air after a replacement CTCSS board was fitted. Access is by CTCSS only, not tone burst. Info from Dave Dawson G7UZN who is the local RMC liaison. I have heard it on air this morning but not yet used it.

The CTCSS tone required is 88.5Hz

The repeater output is 145.750MHz and the input is 145.150MHz, the standard split for the 2m band.

Coverage is good in northwestern Sussex and southwest Surrey between the north and South Downs. The repeater website is at

<http://www.gb3ws.co.uk/>

Edward Andrade, W0DAN, SK

Not a very well-known name on this side of the Atlantic perhaps, but W0DAN was a principal designer for the Collins Radio company and responsible for classic 1950s receivers such as the 51J, 51S-1, KWM-2 and the military R-390, R-390A and R-392.

Born in Chicago, he died in Florida on 24th August.

Low Power Contesting Weekend – Debrief

By G0KZT

This report will be in two halves. The first half will be a break down of our two entries in last month's competition and the second half will be a more general comment on the whole question of CATS contesting.

144 MHz

Total points (km) 10048
 Total Contacts 61
 Total Multipliers 61 (37 postcodes, 6 countries, 4 of which outside UK, 18 locator squares)
 Total Claimed Score **612928**

Best DX: HB9AOF in JN36LM, 738 Km

Time (GMT)	QSOs	Mults	Points
14:00 - 14:59	18	25	2418
15:00 - 15:59	12	12	2077
16:00 - 16:59	5	3	385 (CATS . TransPONDER Net Time)
17:00 - 17:59	8	7	1492 (BBQ and Feeding Time)
18:00 - 18:59	7	5	1058
19:00 - 19:59	11	9	2618

432 MHz

Total points (km) 3123
 Total Contacts 23
 Total Multipliers 29 (18 postcodes, 3 countries, 1 of which was outside UK, 8 locator squares)
 Total Claimed Score **90567**

Best DX: GW4EVX/P in IO83JD, 297 Km

Time (GMT)	QSOs	Mults	Points
08:00 - 08:59	11	18	1221
09:00 - 09:59	5	6	807
10:00 - 10:59	5	3	747
11:00 - 11:59	2	2	348

I had a quick sneak at some of the scores already submitted and published on the VHFCC website.

On 2-metres the top entries for each of the sections were reporting only having worked 99, 81 and 59 stations respectively. Our 61 seem favourable in comparison.

On 70cms, all the top stations were reporting poor activity. The top entries for each of the sections were reporting only has worked 38, 28 and 22 stations respectively. Our 23 contacts don't look bad at all.

So how does our score compare with the last two years?

144	Points	QSO	Multipliers	Total Score
2005	9050 (6492*)	64 (46*)	55 (47*)	497750 (305124*)
2006	5372	37	47	252484
2007	10048	61	61	612928

432	Points	QSO	Multipliers	Total Score
2005	3060	34	31	94860
2006	3686	33	32	117952
2007	3123	23	29	90567

* denotes adjudicated score

We will just have to wait and see how our overall entry does in each of the two contests. Once these are published, I will inform you all via the newsletter.

Andy Briers G0KZT
Contest Secretary

A Bit More On Contests

Result Delays

During a 4-metre net this week (15 August) I was asked how our Low Power Contest entry had fared. Not an easy answer as the VHF CC website was only showing those entries that had been filed directly using the HTML contest program. Our entry had been sent in what seems the conventional manner, by email. Today however, September's RadCom has arrived in the post. What do I find published but the 144 MHz Low Power contest results for 2006! It seems that it took a whole 12 months for the results to be officially published in the RSGB journal.

I guess this means that we will have to wait a until after the 2008 contest to see what improvements, if any, we made in 2007 based on our 2005 result. I can't understand why it takes so long to get the results out. I expect a vast majority of logs are now sent electronically and the deadline for entries is now 10 days (previously 16) from the date of the contest. Anyway, we came 11th out of 13 stations in our section.

The Beam Debate

Hot after the most enjoyable contest weekend of August, a small debate began on the advantages and disadvantages of having a narrow beam width, especially on 2-metres. The 2 x stack of 17 element Yagis made by Tonna gave us a very narrow beam width, probably no more than 10°. The thoughts of one side of the debate was that the beam width was too narrow, preventing us from hearing off-beam local stations and those slightly further a field. The other side of the debate was that while the beam was narrow, the increased gain achieved from stacking the two beams was concentrated in the same direction and giving maximum range possible. The "Armstrong" method of turning the beam did allow for swift changes of the beam direction however (although this does mean that either the operator leaps in and out of the chair or they have a willing volunteer to move it for them). A possible compromise is to use an omni antenna to listen for stations and then search for the signal using the beam. It is hoped to construct an electrical fast changeover system to enable this for trial in future contests.

More Contesting?

I spoke with one member who has difficulty in getting to monthly meetings but really enjoys the joint participation of the contests we do. "Why don't we do more and what about HF?" he said. A good question really.... I don't think we have the resources to do VHF NFD as we would have to consider entering at least 3 bands to be competitive. We would also have to possibly revert back to using Crossways Farm as SRCC by agreement, have first use of the Woldingham site for NFD. For 2008, why don't we consider entering in addition the Low Power series SSB Field Day? It takes place on the first weekend in September.... The weather should still be good and there's a chance to do something different.

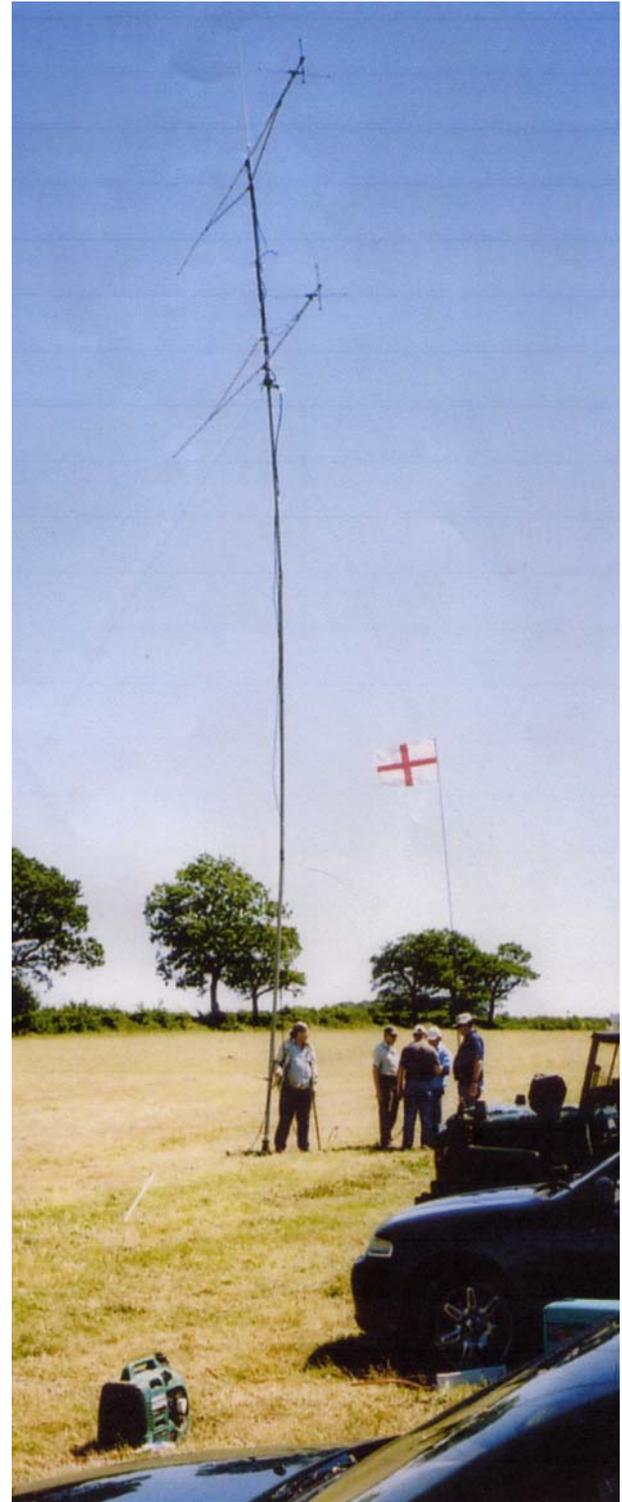
Mast Replacement

What was apparent was the slightly banana shape that the poles we were using adopted and the ever-so uncontrolled rigging method we use. I understand that plans are afoot to replace some of the sections we use with a more rigid affair. We could also consider using the gin -pole method of using a second pole at right angles to act as a lever/fulcrum. Anyone who has seen John Stockley G8MNY and his rigging will have seen how incredibly safe his mast erections are!

Why not air your views on the club nets? It's one reason they're there!

Andy G0KZT

The 2m banana!



G0KXZT's comments about the "Banana" effect on our contest mast are neatly illustrated in this picture taken by Derek G6MFM.

Mast rotation was improved this year thanks to a bottom bearing installed by Len G0GNQ.

Paul M3JXN Visits CVRC

The XYL (Zoë) and myself had decided that for our honeymoon we would go to Hawaii, and as you have to go via a west coast U.S. city, we would visit Los Angeles on the way and spend a day there before flying on again.

“Great idea, we can see the sights and reduce the jetlag effect by breaking up the trip” she thought. “Great idea, we can have a beer with W6MW and some of the Crescenta Valley Radio Club” I thought.

As it transpired, through Mark W6MW’s generosity, we managed both as he had kindly offered to take us on a personal tour with a lunch date to meet any other CVRC members available. We flew in to LAX and transferred to our hotel in Santa Monica for a comfortable nights sleep. The following morning we were collected by Mark and the sightseeing began. Within minutes I was handed a microphone and told to put a call out on the CVRC repeater 146.025MHz (strictly speaking not licence-legal for me but who’ll hear?), not much action unfortunately but I did get to speak to Leah KE6MMU.

So many well-known places to see, so little time, but Mark took us to Hollywood, Bel-Air, Beverly Hills, Sunset Boulevard, the Hollywood walk of fame and Rodeo Drive to mention a few. We had a brief visit to the W6MW QTH, and whilst I was in awe at his shack set-up and sheer volume of interesting items that go to make up the other end of our TransPONDer net, the XYL shared equal interest in Mark’s career paraphernalia. For those who don’t know, Mark is an award-winning film editor and the opportunity to hold a genuine EMMY was something Zoë was not going to miss.



Zoë and Mark W6MW with one of Mark’s EMMY awards.

We drove past Conrads restaurant in La Cañada which is not far from Mark’s house and stopped for a photo opportunity, Conrads being the venue for CVRC’s monthly breakfast meeting, which concludes with the TransPONDer net with CATS.



So onwards for lunch; this was arranged to be in Fuddruckers the famous burger restaurant in Burbank as tried and tested by G8JAC and G0KZT on their visit to Glendale. We met up with Leah KE6MMU and Larry AD6IZ and chose which delectable meat feast we wanted in a bun. It was great to finally meet up with the voices that I had spoken to on our regular monthly net. We were made welcome and the conversation flowed, thankfully for Zoë not all about radio. Leah is currently the President of Crescenta Valley Radio Club and Larry a Trustee along with Mark, so I was really out with some of the CVRC elite! My thanks go out to them both for sharing lunch with us and I look forward to the next net.



Leah KE6MMU, Zoë, Paul M3JXN and Larry AD6IZ in Fuddruckers.

After lunch we continued our tour and explored some of the rich people’s houses in Bel-Air and Beverly Hills. With Mark’s vast knowledge through his work we were given an informed look at Hollywood’s ‘who’s who’ and ‘who’s where’ that would be the envy of most organised tours. We ended the day with a drive back towards Santa Monica, via Malibu beach cruising along the Pacific Coast Highway (where Baywatch was filmed).

An entire days driving and sight-seeing courtesy of Mark W6MW and I really can't thank him enough for his time, effort and petrol (sorry, I mean gas!). Zoë and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and it was a great start to a great honeymoon.



From L.A. we flew to Oahu; visited Pearl Harbor, then onto Maui returning to England via San Francisco where we visited the notorious Alcatraz Prison on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco Bay.

I would thoroughly recommend all these places for a visit and will more than happily ragchew with you if interested. It certainly does pay to join the TransPONDer net!

Paul M3JXN

TransPONDer Net – **Saturday 1st September**

September's net was fraught from the beginning and up to about a week prior to the date was in some doubt. However, it was believed that Terry G4CDY's link MB7IPL was going to be available. I had set my mobile telephone to remind me at 1700hrs for the net. By the time I got into the shack, it was already 1710hrs and I fired up EchoLink to check for KE6ZRP's link (he was deputising for Mark West W6MW who was still in Atlanta) and to test the CDY link. Terry's link was absent from the list!!! The next option was to connect to Mark Kanzler's link, but because of a conflict of devices on my computer audio card, I could not be heard. All I could do was type lines of text to ZRP. We eventually got a radio link using G0WYG's link in Bromley (433.9265 MHz 103.5hz CTCSS), but not without me having to deal with CTCSS access tones (again, without the correct tone, I could not be heard as I was not opening the squelch at the Bromley end).

After all that, I was heard in Glendale. I kept an ear on 144.2875 MHz and put out several calls for members but no one came forward. On the

Glendale side was Mark KE6ZRP, the club President Leah KE6MMU, Ed KD6TAV, Dale KD6PYQ and a new member, Ara Kourchian KI6KGY. Ara remarked that he had never spoken to an Amateur station outside the US. Mark W6MW was briefly heard from Atlanta but he had an urgent appointment.

The news from Glendale is that they are suffering from a heat wave. Temperatures are in excess of 100° F and Ed reported that it was 103° F in his truck and ZRP's workshop had been 106° F. In comparison it was a much cooler (but comfortable) 66° F!

Things were not all running smoothly in Glendale. The 2-metre repeater that had been linked to ZRP's station was apparently causing interference to a neighbouring repeater that uses the same frequency. ZRP believed that the stations that called in complaining about the interference were not using the correct CTCSS tone. Something for the repeater keepers to look into I guess!

We knew in advance that some of our regular callers from CATS would be away. Nevertheless, I'm sure we can do better. OK, Cresenta Valley has the advantage that most of them have just eaten breakfast at their meeting in Conrads restaurant. Should we consider having a monthly afternoon tea meeting to get us all ready in time? I jest, but please, if you can, try and make a note to say hi to our friends across the pond.

Thanks go to KE6 Zippy Red Pyjamas for putting the link together and for his patience while I tried to be heard from this end!!!

Andy G0KZT

Why don't YOU write for CW?

The editor is always keen to receive contributions for publication in *CATS Whispers*.

Reports, technical articles, news or humour are all welcome as long as it will be of interest to our members. Contributions can be by mail, email or just write it down and give it to the editor at a meeting.

If no-body writes anything then what will there be to read?

Enid Biddulph

Those CATS members who knew the late Dick Biddulph will be saddened to learn that Dick's wife Enid has also died following an operation for an intestinal blockage.

Information from Jim G4WYJ.

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.gsl.net/q3oou/

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

20th September – Social evening at the Jolly Farmers,
Staplefield.

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.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

17 September – The evolution of British Army Radio
from WW11 to Clansman by Andy G8JAC

**Note: SRCC Meetings are currently being held at
Trinity School, Shirley Park. Check with SRCC if
visiting.**

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

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

20 September - 'Software Defined Radio' by Stan Runcenko G0KBL

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

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.

31 August – Summer Camp feedback
14 September - On Air and Construction evening

28 September - Slide Show on Visit to Canada with Jim M0CON

For Sale & Wants

Space is available to any CATS member (or others subject to approval) to place an advertisement in *CATS Whispers*.

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!

FOR SALE

2 professional snooker cues with cases. Made by Thurstons, one by the cue-master of the 1950s "HH", one by his apprentice, later himself the cue-master of the 1960s. One-piece, 48½ in long, 17oz. One has had its tip end professionally brass feruled.

Both were valued in 1990 as being £250 - £350 each. Asking £100 each or £160 the pair (cash). Can be brought to a club meeting for viewing. Frank G3ZMF

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

7/8 September – 36th Leicester amateur radio show at Donington Park, Castle Donington DE74 2RP Leicestershire.

14th October Rusty Radios Rally
Cottered Village Hall, Nr Stevenage, Herts.

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

Note: date now confirmed.

CATS are again running the bring-and-buy stall at this event.

<http://www.radiofairs.co.uk/>

18th November CATS 2007 Bazaar.

We are now booking tables for this well-known and friendly annual event.

Why not take a table and clear out your surplus or unwanted items and generate some cash (to buy more junk with of course!)

Bazaar organizer is Andy G8JAC, contact details on the front page.

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
A Jackson G8JAC on behalf of the
Coulson Amateur Transmitting Society.

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JUST TWO MONTHS UNTIL.....

**The 2007 CATS RADIO &
ELECTRONICS BAZAAR**

Sunday 18th

November

Doors open at 10.00am

At the

1st Coulsdon Scout Group HQ

Entrance via the car park in

Lion Green Road

Coulsdon

Entrance still just £1 !!!

**CATS Bring-and-Buy stall – bring your rig and
we will sell it for you.**

Sycom

Local Club stalls