

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS

October 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 October - Artificial Intelligence by Steve G7SYO
Mon 12th November CATS Quiz presented by Rob 2E0AYT
Mon 10th December - Annual General Meeting



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

September meeting Report

Our September meeting was presented with the enigmatic title of Shak Nowtz by that well-known CATS grandee, "Mad" Frank G3ZMF.

11 members gathered to hear Frank's distilled knowledge from countless years spent in amateur radio and the electronics industry, and a varied and interesting evening it turned out to be. A good election of parts and equipment was laid out to illustrate various points in the presentation and as it was Frank, there was of course the opportunity to buy an interesting range of goodies which some members eagerly took up!

The presentation started with a review of the history of wiring colour codes, ending with a warning about the confusing and dangerous situation brought about by the most recent changeroad in colours used in 3-phase installations. The warning here is that you can no longer trust what use the blue and black wires are being put to so ALWAYS test safely!



We were then rapidly taken on into the world of power supplies with a quick revision on rectifier systems and voltage regulation with various hints and dodges being thrown in.

From there, we moved on to oscillators of the crystal and variable variety before leaping to the other end of the transmitter chain with Frank's thoughts on ATUs, matching techniques and feeders before getting to grips with various ways of launching the transmitted energy via a variety of antenna ideas. Wire antennas, the Squashed Quad and the vexed question of how to cram a large wire arrangement into a small suburban garden were discussed and illustrated.

The essential subject of Earthing requirements was covered, introducing earth mats and radials.



G3ZMF in full flow to an attentive audience

The question of how to observe and prove what is going on was addressed by describing various pieces of simple test equipment that Frank has found useful, illustrated by the Grid Dip Oscillator and its more modern incarnation, the Gate Dip Oscillator which Frank demonstrated various ways of using. A really neat trick that was demonstrated was to pass a trimming tool through the pickup coil so that the point of resonance could be easily seen.

Next on the program was VHF antennas and tuners and another technique to be demonstrated – using multiple tuned RF meters in parallel at the fundamental frequency and at 2f and 4f to look for harmonics in real time when tuning up a system. Then on to a rapid waltz through the use of transformers and torroids before coming to a breathless end on the subject of frequency selective headphones to give greater clarity to difficult reception conditions.

While we broke for our tea/coffee break, Frank was pleased to chat with members about subjects that had been raised, the various techniques and of course, to take the opportunity to flog the odd item!

Many thanks for the presentation, Frank. It was interesting and we all learned something.

Help for the Brownies

The date for our project to help Warlingham Brownies with their communications badge is **Monday 29th October.**

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. We will be operating a 2 metre station during the session and getting the girls to go on-air and exchange greetings with suitable local amateurs – like you!

We plan to do this around 19.00., and use our usual net frequency of 145.2875 MHz.

If you can help with the contacts or help with the event generally, please contact G8JAC.

CATS Activity News

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.

The **December** meeting is, as is usual, devoted to the business of running your society by means of the **Annual General Meeting**. See below for more information.

Membership news

AGM calling notice

In accordance with society rules, notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society will be held on **Monday 10th December** commencing at 20.15. Elections will be held for the following committee posts to serve for 2008:
Secretary
Treasurer
Five Ordinary members, from which one will be elected to serve as Chairman of the society.

Your attention is directed to society Rules governing the conduct of the AGM, specifically: para 7.2 that states that all committee members shall retire at the AGM but may seek re-election if they so wish

Para 20.1 requires that any member wishing to submit a proposal for discussion at the AGM must do so in writing at least one calendar month before the meeting.

The November issue of *CATS Whispers* will contain a form for the nomination of members to serve on the committee, which should be submitted to the secretary before the commencement of the AGM.

CATS 'n Beer

Regular readers of this newsletter will have at the back of their minds the idea that around this time of the year, the subject of beer gets mentioned. This is because October is the time when our local branch of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) holds their annual beer, cider and perry festival.

The venue is, as usual, the Wallington Halls in Stafford Road, Wallington (opposite Sainsbury's) and the dates for this year are 11 – 13th October. The reason for mentioning it is that while certain CATS members are regulars at the festival, all members are invited to make it a formal CATS outing by attending on Friday 12th. Full details are to be found at:

<http://www.croydoncamra.org.uk/home.aspx?id=63>

With increasing numbers of pubs closing for one reason and another and more and more of the remainder being owned by multinational conglomerates bent on selling tasteless fizz to juveniles, real English ale is sometimes hard to track down so come and discover what real ale is all about. Real cider and perry will also be available.

Kempton Park Rally

The autumn West London Radio & Electronics Rally is on Sunday 4th November and as is now becoming a well-known fixture of the event, CATS will again be running the Bring and Buy stall at the event. People to staff the stall and represent CATS are required and while we expect that the "usual suspects" will turn out, it would be nice to see some new faces. Contact the secretary if you can help and to ensure that you receive an entry pass. The rally is the ideal place to publicise:

The CATS Bazaar

This is our premier showcase event of the year and is on the usual 3rd Sunday in November that this year is the 18th. Again, we need people to help prepare, run, supervise and clear up this event which is as usual in the Scout hall at the rear of Lion Green Road car park.

Table spaces are going well and of course our friend and sponsor Sycom will be there as usual. If you need components, why not order them from Robin and collect them at the bazaar. In any event, don't forget to come for a rummage and meet up with old friends.



Fifty years ago, Les Mitchell G3BHK came up with an idea to bring scouts together from all over the world using amateur radio.

Les said:

"Little did I think when I drew up the plans and rules for the first event that its popularity would increase and spread around the world. Even more astonishing is the fact that after all this time it still holds its popularity and now has a participation of some half a million Scouts and Guides in over one hundred countries involving some ten thousand amateur radio stations. In fact it has become the largest international Scout event ever".

Maura Barber M3URA, aged 12, daughter of CATS member Stuart G6CJR and a member of the 7th Banstead scout troop was given the honour along with Tormod LA8RU aged 85 to be invited to cut the birthday cake at the 50th anniversary birthday party for the jamboree on the air at the world jamboree this year.

Maura's dad Stuart G6CJR who is a scout leader and ADC with Banstead district scouts said: "Maura, being the youngest licenced scout member present was invited to cut the cake with the oldest licensed scout member present. It was an occasion that would make any dad proud!".



Maura Barber M3URA and Tormod LA8RU cut the cake

Jamboree on the air takes place this year during the weekend of 20th/21st October. To mark the occasion, a special badge has been produced and details on how to obtain these badges can be found on the UK radio scouting website: <http://www.radio-scouting.org.uk>

Stuart says, "Our friends at Ofcom have issued scout stations with a very special callsign to celebrate jamboree on the air. Please listen out for Banstead district scouts using the callsign GB50BS".

As usual, to make the event a success, we need as much help as possible. Help would be appreciated from any club member who can give up just a couple of hours over the weekend. Please e-mail Stuart on gb4bds@btinternet.com

432 MHz Low Power 2007 **– The Result**

At lightning speed, the results for our effort on the Sunday of the 2m/70MHz Low Power contest that we participated in last August, have been published on the VHF Contest Committee's website. The rapid appearance of the results may just be because there weren't many entries!

It appears that we lost just two of the contacts that we claimed (which account for the loss of 2 multipliers and overall 18,639 points). So where did we come over all?
6th (last) for our section.

We should not be too disheartened with our position as compared to the other sections, we didn't do too badly.

For the full results click on this link:

<http://www.vhfcc.org:80/results/07/432lp.html>

There's not enough room to publish all the results of the other sections here.

The tabulated results of this section of the contest are shown below.

73 de Andy G0KZT
CATS Contest secretary

Posn	Callsign	QSOs	Score	Multiplier	Total	ODX Call	ODX Km	Power	Ant	Equipment	Group
1*	G4ZAP/P	57	9,527	60	571,620	DO3VG	680	25	2x28Y+2x28Y+19(vert)+Col	FT736,FT726,FT817	A1 Contest Group
2*	G3CKR/P	60	8,399	56	470,344	DO3VG	690	20	2x30Y	TS790	Warrington CG
3	G0VHF/P	37	8,049	45	362,205	DK4U	492	25	4x21Y+2x21Y	FT847	Colchester Contest Group of Colchester RA
4	M0MCG/P	28	6,879	35	240,765	EA1FDI/P	945	25	21Y+21Y	TS2000	Moors Contest Group
5	G3WIR/P	18	2,809	27	75,843	G8BNE	307	25	88 Para	FT736R	Burnham Beeches RC
6	G4FUR/P	19	2,664	27	71,928	GW4EVX/P	297	25	2x19Y	TS2000	Coulsdon ATS

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
 16 October – Quiz & Morse competition

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@g3jvk.co.uk

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/
 .5 October – members' challenge and
 construction competition.

.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
 1 November – Tesla by John Narborough

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.

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

5 November EMC with Colin Richards G3YCR

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

18 October - 'Radio Astronomy' by Evan Duffield M3TJU.

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 & DISTRICT 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.

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!

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

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

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

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

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

18th November CATS 2007 Bazaar.

We have a couple of centre tables left 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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Anyone who would like to get involved with the local RAYNET organization may be interested in this letter forwarded by Stuart G6CJR.



Surrey RAYNET

Providing emergency radio communications
for the community

Dear fellow Amateur

You are all aware I'm sure of the efforts of Surrey RAYNET, in providing supplementary emergency radio communications to User Services such as Surrey County and Borough Councils plus the voluntary ambulance services etc.

We have recently been approached by the Banstead Division of British Red Cross, with a request for help in manning their new Radio Communications Centre in Banstead during an emergency. This would release their own staff to do the blood & bandages function.

Their Comms Centre will be operating PMR equipment plus a 2m / 70cm RAYNET station and will need an Immediate Response Team of four operators plus another team of four for shift relief, if required. **The location is the White Lodge Centre – The Drive - Banstead.**

Operating will involve the passing of received written messages and will not require any triage or other medical decisions. Just passing messages.

Your commitment would be specifically for this location.

However if you are interested in a wider involvement, you would be welcome to assist in helping cover charity cycle rides & walk events etc.

Specific training will be offered, which to qualified Amateurs is not arduous. You will need to be a member of Surrey RAYNET so that you have Personal Accident Insurance door to door cover whilst on duty.

Your help would be greatly appreciated by Surrey RAYNET and the British Red Cross. Please call me or Email me on either of the following contacts :-
Telephone :- 01932 341719
Email : g1xbv@aol.com

We propose to have an Open Evening at the Comms Centre in the near future, once equipment installation is completed.

Many thanks

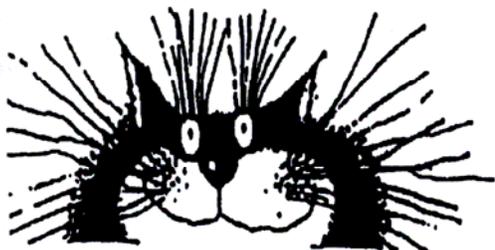
73

Nigel Watson G1XBV County Co-ordinator
Surrey RAYNET

11/12/07

Just one month to go!

**COULSDON
AMATEUR
CATS TRANSMITTING
SOCIETY**



RADIO And
**ELECTRONICS
BAZAAR**

At the 1st Coulsdon Scout Group HQ

**ACCESS VIA
PUBLIC CAR PARK (Rear of)
IN LION GREEN ROAD
COULSDON**

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

**SUNDAY
18th
NOVEMBER
2007**

SYCOM

OFFICIAL CATS SPONSOR
www.sycomcomp.co.uk

**10.00 AM
TO
1.00 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