

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

CATS WHISPERS

November 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 12th November CATS Quiz presented by Rob 2E0AYT

Mon 10th December - Annual General Meeting

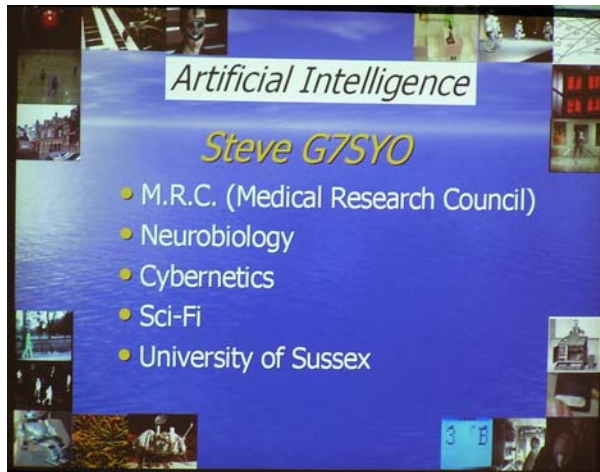
Mon 14th January 2008 – CATS New Year Dinner



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

October meeting Report

Our October meeting was the presentation by Steve G7SYO of a lecture on Artificial Intelligence (AI). And what an interesting lecture it turned out to be. Steve started by explaining how he first became interested in the subject whilst at the University of Sussex where he studied the differences between men and machines and the cognitive sciences that underpin AI. Employment with the medical Research Council accelerated his interest in the area helped by a passion for Science Fiction.



A slide from G7SYO's presentation.

The historic inspiration for AI is traceable to Greek mythology and the film industry has found it to be a rich source with films like 2001 a Space Odyssey featuring HAL, an intelligent computer, and earlier films such as The Forbidden Planet which featured Robbie the Robot.

An early (1985) example of AI is Interactive Voice Recognition (IVR) where human responses to questions are used to cue wanted information and Steve gave a live demonstration of this by accessing a train timetable facility. It can have limitations due to ambient noise for example confusing the computer and it generally only works using one language. More recent developments include Automatic Number Plate Recognition and voice and face recognition.

Steve traced the history through the mechanical era of Babbage and during the war at Bletchley Park under the guidance of Alan Turing who's thinking led to machines that could be programmed to look for patterns and matches in data at (then) high speeds. Much of what was developed led to a major turning point at the famous Dartmouth Conference held in New Hampshire in 1956.



A sparse but attentive audience.

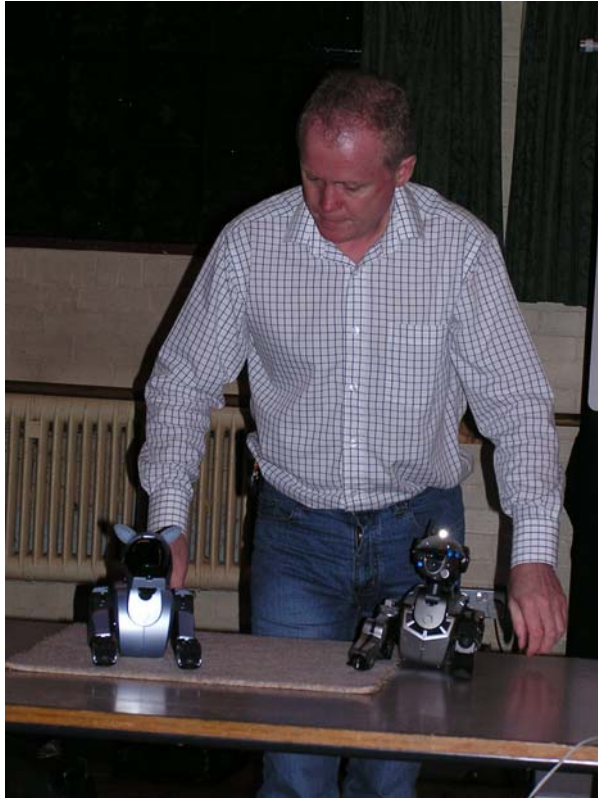
The advent of digital computers led to the development of various programming languages and applications such as project management software and medical diagnostic systems. Some limitations were noted, such as that the computer is very literal and care must be taken to ensure disambiguation so that errors are not introduced by the computer not "understanding" what is input.

Steve next led us on to modern techniques to make machines "think" such as neural networking which attempts to replicate how the human brain learns at a simple level. This was illustrated with a clip from Tomorrows World. An example quoted was the Viking moon lander and an explanation was given of the difficulty of giving a computer enough information of all the possible variations possible in a simple movement to enable recognition. In a human we might call this "experience".

Steve then moved on to his particular area of interest and his hobby – Robotics. An example is a robot organist, which is capable of reading sheet music and converting it into the physical movements required to play it with mechanical fingers on a keyboard. He also showed a robot machine that would emulate a horse.

Representing some really up-to-date technology, we were shown a video of Azimo, a robot developed by Honda that has a much more natural-looking walking gait and which can walk up stairs. This was indeed a far cry from the Hollywood image of robots clanking around but was accompanied by a \$1 million price tag.

To end his lecture Steve produced his current hobby and enthusiasm, a pair of endearing mechanical dogs called AIBO (Artificial Intelligence ro**BO**t) which roughly translated means “companion” in Japanese. These machines are produced by Sony but are far more than toys and actually learn and remember experiences that they encounter about their environment that enables them to navigate using motion sensors and “see” with cameras mounted in the head.



G7SYO demonstrating his two AIBOs

After a film clip showing AIBOs performing at a specialist convention, Steve put his two into action and we observed them exploring the table and learning to play with a ball.



AIBO football in progress

This was an excellent and very well prepared presentation from Steve that really justified a larger audience than the ten members who turned out.

CATS at the Brownies

Monday 29th October was a big night for the 2nd Warlingham Brownies because that was the evening scheduled for them to try for their Brownie Communicator badge. Andy G8JAC had been arm-twisted by his granddaughter who is a member of the pack to lay it on, and he was ably assisted by Andy G0KZT, Steve G3WZK and Paul M3JXN. A 2 metre station was set up in the hall using the CATS IC706 and 'KZT's mast and co-linear antenna.

A small display of radios was put on including a couple of military sets, a BC receiver, some police radios and a cell phone to illustrate different uses and the Brownies enjoyed themselves with a pair of 446 MHz handhelds.



G8JAC trying to explain what was going on to a rapt audience. G0KZT and G3WZK look on.



Making a contact. Another badge on the way for this Brownie.

Each Brownie was given a worksheet that explained the idea of radio and what uses it can be put to, and instructions how to transpose their name into the phonetic alphabet and to compose a short message or question to ask over the air.

Then it was on the air assisted by G0KZT as each Brownie took a turn at making contact using the club callsign GX4FUR/P. Calls were fielded and responded to by M3JXN and G3WZK with Wimbledon club secretary Jim M0CON calling in from his home in Wandsworth and helping out with talking to the girls. Stuart G6CJR also called in to exchange greetings.

A total of 24 Brownies completed the three elements required to qualify and were presented with their badges.

Many thanks to all CATS members who assisted with this very worthwhile exercise.

CATS Activity News

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.

In **January** for the past couple of years we have held a New Year dinner which last year attracted around 20 members and family to an evening meal in the company of radio friends.

We are planning another for 2008 and the committee are considering various venues offering good value for money. One difficulty is finding a venue to accommodate us all together. We need to have a good idea of numbers so if you want to attend, please complete the form that is being emailed to members with this newsletter or return the form enclosed with your hard copy. Forms to be returned no later than **1st December please**.

The date for the dinner will be our regular meeting date of **Monday 14th January**.

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.

A form is being sent with this newsletter for the nomination of members to serve on the committee, which should be submitted to the secretary **before** the commencement of the AGM.

This is your opportunity to get involved with the running and direction of the society.

Three members of the current committee, G0GNK, G8JAC and 2E0AYT have indicated that they will be standing down at the end of this year so some new blood will be required to fill the posts.

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 that is, as usual, in the Scout hall at the rear of Lion Green Road car park. We are running a Bring & Buy stall again following last year's successful venture and people are needed to staff that.

Have you let G8JAC know yet?

We will be setting out the hall early on Saturday evening and willing pairs of hands are always welcome. RV at the hall at **18.00**.

Table spaces are 100% sold out 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.



Announcement!

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Andy G0KZT and Dawn are expecting the arrival of their second harmonic in April 2008. Congratulations to you both!

Motorola buys Yaesu

News fairly hot off the wires is that Vertex Standard, owners of the Yaesu brand has accepted an offer from Motorola to buy a 51% controlling interest in the company. Motorola have stated their intention to raise their share ownership to 80%.

Also flying around at the moment are rumours that Kenwood is considering abandoning the amateur market, at least the HF part.

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!

CRYSTALS WANTED!

3rd overtone crystals between **47.130 – 47.290** MHz. Preferably HC6/U but any package will do. Andy G8JAC QTHR

Kempton Park

We again ran the Bring & Buy stall at the Kempton Park rally and raised £112 for CATS funds. In addition, James G0SDB very kindly donated £50 from the sale of the estate of Ian Bamford G0BGH.

Thanks to G0KZT, G0SDB, G8JAC, M3JXN, G3ZMF, G0GNQ, M3IGP, G6MFM and G6CJR for their assistance at Kempton.

TransPONDer net news

The latest transponder net took place (just about) on Saturday 3rd October and contact was established with Leah KE6MMU and Larry AD6IZ. At our end were Andy G8JAC, Paul M3JXN and Terry G4CDY who of course provides the Echolink node.

Mark W6MW is still working away on a contract in Atlanta and Mark KE6ZRP had been called out to an emergency job so people were a little thin on the ground. Or on the air anyway.

We are glad to learn that the recent wildfires in southern California have not affected the Glendale area directly but there has been considerable damage to property up the coast in the area around Malibu. Many of the houses along the coast that were seen by M3JXN and XYL on their honeymoon trip last year have been totally destroyed by the fires.

The next TransPONDer net and the last one for this year will be on Saturday 1st December so if you'd like the opportunity to wish our friends in our sister club a personal Happy Christmas, the time is 17.15 GMT and the frequency: 145.2875 MHz.

Local Rally & Event Calendar

Dates for your diary:

18th November CATS 2007 Bazaar.

Sunday 10th February 2008
HARWELL RADIO RALLY
At Didcot Leisure Centre, Mereland Road,
Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 8AY.

3rd February 2008 South Essex ARS mobile rally. "Paddocks", Long Road, Canvey Island.

Saturday and Sunday 1/2nd March 2008
FIREPOWER VINTAGE RADIO & JUNK SALE
At Firepower, the Royal Artillery Museum in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich SE London SE18 6ST.
Easy access by train to Woolwich Arsenal Station, buses pass the door and Free car parking.

Sunday 6th April 2008
Radiofairs Amateur Radio and Electronics show at Kempton Park.

10 August 2008 Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest.

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/g3oou/

7 December Christmas meeting & social

4 January 2008 An introduction to Morse

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, 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.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

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

3rd Dec - WiFi and WiMAX with Henry Taylor G8GAR

7th Jan - History of our Local Weather with Ian Currie

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

15th Nov - 'High Power LEDs' by Gareth Evans - G4XAT

13th Dec - Christmas Junk Sale - (2nd Thursday this month only)

17th Jan - 'The Workings of TV Cameras' by Paul Harding - ex BBC, now a freelance OB cameraman

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.

30 November – Surplus equipment sale

CATS Whispers is published monthly by
A Jackson G8JAC on behalf of the
Coulsdon Amateur Transmitting Society.
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THAMES VALLEY A.R.T.S.

Trevor Farris M0CDB 013 7245 767

Club Net Only – G3TVS

Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

Don't forget!

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