

COULSDON AMATEUR TRANSMITTING SOCIETY

G4FUR



M1FUR

# CATS WHISPERS

February 2008



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: Steve Beal G3WZK

Stuart Barber G6CJR

Dennis Noe MONDJ

Frank Emery G3ZMF

**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 20.00 to 22.00hrs.

## 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

Email :

## Forthcoming Meetings

Mon 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008 – DF receiver project by Terry G4CDY

Mon 10 March 2008 – My 40 years in amateur radio by Steve G3WZK

Mon 14 April 2008 – Test and Swap evening



CATS is Twinned with the  
**Crescenta Valley Radio Club**  
Glendale California USA [www.qsl.net/cvrc](http://www.qsl.net/cvrc)

## CATS New Year Dinner

With Christmas out of the way, we convened for what is becoming our traditional CATS New Year dinner. The venue this year was the Good Companions at Hamsey Green.

From 7.30pm a total of 31 members, YLs, XYLs and guests assembled in the small bar adjacent to the dining room and took advantage of the "Goodies" selection of real ales while some members bought wine to go with their meal.

Here's a selection of pictures from the evening.



The conversation flowed and as far as we could see, everyone was enjoying their meals. No complaints were heard anyway!

After paying the bill and adding the customary tip, we ended up with a surplus of £18.50 which has been passed to the treasurer for club funds.

## CATS Activity News

In **February** we will be preparing for the annual CATS fox hunting event with a DF project presented by Terry G4CDY. This looks to be a fascinating technical evening, which will produce some useful kit for members. In **March** we have a presentation from newly-elected committee member Steve G3WZK entitled: My 40 Years in Amateur Radio.

New faces on the committee means new ideas for CATS meetings, so in **April** we are going to have a Test & Swap evening. We will have some RF and electrical test kit available; you bring something that you want tested or want to sell or pass on to others. Then, if anyone's interested in buying it, they can be assured that it works. If no-one in CATS wants it, you can advertise it, confident that it's in working order. If it doesn't work, then the collective heads in the society may well have the answer.

Is there something that YOU would like to see as an activity for our meeting evenings? Could YOU present something that would interest other members? Got an idea for something that we could present? Tell a committee member!

## Membership Matters

It is regrettably that time of year again that we have to remind members that their subscriptions are now due. Those members who attended the AGM and the New Year Dinner were an easy target of course and their subscriptions were collected then. For the remaining members, society rules provide that two months are allowed for renewal to be made.

As will be seen from the minutes of the AGM, the treasurer explained that to meet our basic expenditure of hire of the hall, refreshments, postage etc in the face of ever-rising costs, it was reluctantly necessary to raise the basic subscription to £12 per year. Those over 65 will continue to benefit from a 50% reduction.

The rules give members until 1<sup>st</sup> March to renew, failing which they will be deemed to have resigned from the society. Make sure that you have renewed. *We don't want to lose you!*

## Contesting 2008 #1.

Our first crack at contesting for 2008 kicks off with the 144/432 MHz contest that we have entered for the past few years. This takes place over the first weekend in March and after the experience of 2006, is known to our group of diehards as the "Brass Monkey" contest. Most of the usual band of regulars have already volunteered for duty but of course all members are very welcome to help, operate, make the tea or just drop in to say hello and see how we are getting on. If you can't make it up to the site, then fire up the rig and give G4FUR/P a call. Every point helps!

The site is our usual one at Nore Hill, the field on the west side of the B269 Croydon Road at Woldingham - about a mile past Sainsbury's going south. The map reference is **TQ386564**. We will be setting up camp and the stations from about 11.00 on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March. The person to speak to if you have any questions or to say that you can help is our contests secretary, Andy G0KZT, or call G3ZMF at home.

This contest will be the first opportunity to use our new mast kit. Andy G8JAC and Paul M3JXN took advantage of one of the first weekends when it didn't rain to try out the kit and get used to how it all goes together. A "trial erection" as it was delicately put. This went very well and the result can be seen on the right. Being designed for military use, the kit is very robustly constructed but goes together quickly and easily and can be put up by two men\*. The four legs mean that it is quite stable when free standing and there are four guys that attach to the top at the 40 foot point for additional stability and safety. Hopefully the somewhat hair-raising shoving and heaving needed to get the old mast up are now a thing of the past. The picture (right) shows the bare mast; our pair of 17-element Yagis will mount on the top giving the upper one a height of some 50 feet.

The mast kit includes a stirrup type air pump that conveniently provides some useful exercise as well as pumping the mast up, which it does surprisingly quickly. We also have a small 12v compressor which while it does the job, takes considerably longer.

Once up, the whole mast can be easily rotated by means of a pair of handles rather like a submarine periscope. A calibrated compass ring allows easy setting to any desired bearing.

\* No apologies for mentioning men here; this is a beefy bit of kit! Exceptions made for Russian shot putt champions or equivalent of course.



First trial of our new mast. The twin stacked Yagis will extend the height by another ten feet or so.

## **Bob Mitchell G1PDO**

We regret to advise members of the passing of Bob Mitchell G1PDO in hospital on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January. Bob had been a member of CATS for some years but was unfortunately rarely able to attend our meetings. He always made a point however of attending our annual bazaar.

## **Support the Guides!**

Hopefully you will recall that last year, we undertook a very successful weekend of helping local Guides in the event known as Thinking Day on the Air. Stuart G6CJR is, as many members will be aware, heavily involved in the Scouting and Guiding movement and those who were members in their younger years will recall how useful these organisations were to their development and enjoyment of life.

Stuart is asking for help for Norbury Guides to do Thinking Day on the Air again over the weekend of 16/17 February. This doesn't mean that you have to go camping for the weekend! If you are able to spare a couple of hours or perhaps more to help, even just if it's being on the air to make some contacts, Please get in contact with Stuart. His phone number and email address are on the front page.

## **TransPONDer net news**

Our monthly contact via Echolink with our friends in Glendale was re-established this month with a good net. G4FKK, G4CDY, G8JAC and (a little late because of football) M3JXN at the British end successfully exchanged calls with W6MW (still working in Atlanta), and KE6ZRP, AD6IZ, KE6MMU and KE6SSE in Glendale.

The next net falls on the Saturday of our contest weekend so we will be taking a brief break from 2m SSB to call in from the contest site.

## **Fancy Friedrichshafen?**

Most amateurs are aware of the annual International Exhibition for Radio Amateurs held in Friedrichshafen, Germany. This is a huge event spread across ten halls, similar in scale to the renowned Dayton rally in the USA.

This year, CATS member Dave Young G8VXB and some others are making the trip to Germany

and Dave is extending an invitation to members to join the party. The dates of the rally are 27 – 29 June. Also planned is a visit to the Zeppelin Museum and subject to sufficient interest, a trip on the lake to Switzerland. "Friedrichshafen" as it is generally known is one of the events that every radio amateur should attend at least once in their radio career. Interested?

Contact Dave at [Dave.Young@siemens.com](mailto:Dave.Young@siemens.com).



## **RSGB Top Ham Competition at Kempton Rally 6 April 2008**

After the great success of the first **Top Ham** Competition at last years spring Kempton Rally, Radiofairs are pleased to announce the next RSGB **Top Ham** Competition to be held at the Kempton Radio and Electronics Fair on Sunday 6th April 2008

The Competition is sponsored by the RSGB, Kenwood Electronics, Martin Lynch and RadioFairs.

The format remains the same, everybody at the Rally will get chance to enter the competition, free of charge; the initial round will be relatively simple multiple choice questions on Amateur Radio and electronics. The first 100 entries handed in will all receive a commemorative prize, once marked; the 10% with the highest score will be entered for a valuable prize draw. If you wish, you can go on to enter the **Top Ham** round and the six people with the highest scores on the initial paper will be asked questions, in a TV style quiz, on a stage in the exhibition hall. The final winner will be presented with the RSGB Top Ham Trophy and receive an HF transceiver from Kenwood, the runner up will also receive a prize of a radio.

The Top Ham round will be televised around the exhibition, via local TV repeaters and onto the Internet. For more details see the Radiofairs' website [www.radiofairs.co.uk](http://www.radiofairs.co.uk).

CATS will, as usual, be running the Bring and Buy stall at the rally.

## 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

### **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/)

### **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.

30 January – Annual General Meeting.  
27 February – Web 2 applications by G0VYN

### **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.  
Contact: Walter Blanchard G3JKV  
Email: [wb@g3jkv.co.uk](mailto:wb@g3jkv.co.uk)  
Web site:- <http://www.ddrs.org.uk>

### **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)

7 February – The history of Mr Polley by  
Ron G3PYC

6 March – Junk Sale

### **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 – [www.msars.org.uk](http://www.msars.org.uk)

15<sup>th</sup> February – radio night & tabletop sale

### **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.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

### **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

3<sup>rd</sup> March – Spring Surplus sale  
7<sup>th</sup> April - AGM

**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](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

21 February - 'Fun with APRS and GPS'  
by Olof Lundberg – GØCKV  
20th March - 'The Workings of TV Cameras' by  
Paul Harding

**THAMES VALLEY A.R.T.S.**  
Trevor Farris MOCDB 013 7245 767  
**Club Net Only – G3TVS**  
Saturdays 1400hrs on 40m

**WIMBLEDON & DISTRICT 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.

29<sup>th</sup> February – On Air and construction evening

## **Want to be more up to date?**

Many of our neighbouring clubs send us their newsletters electronically and printed versions are made available for members at CATS meetings. We also send *CATS Whispers* to them so that their members are informed about what CATS are up to.

If you would like to receive other clubs' newsletters by email it's simple: just let CATS secretary know and interesting local amateur radio news and articles will be delivered to your mailbox as soon as it is available. Several CATS members already receive this service – why not you?

The club newsletters currently sent out are Wimbledon & District ARS, Sutton & Cheam ARS, Surrey Radio Contact Club, Reigate ATS, Crystal Palace Radio & Electronics Club, Mid-Sussex ARC, Reigate ATS and Crescenta Valley Radio Club.

## **Local Rally & Event Calendar**

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

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

**24th FEBRUARY**  
BREADHURST RECEIVING AND  
TRANSMITTING SOCIETY RADIO RALLY  
(BRATS) - Rainham Girls School, Derwent  
way, Rainham Kent, just off the A2 & M2 J4. T1  
2m, CP, SIG, C, LEC, TS, OT 09.30/10.00,  
£2.50. Contact [O.wheeler@btopenworld.com](mailto:O.wheeler@btopenworld.com).

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. Info from  
[M1CCF@talktalk.net](mailto:M1CCF@talktalk.net)

### **2nd MARCH**

**Cambridge & DARC Rally** - The Britten Arena,  
Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm,  
London Road, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire,  
PE29 2NH

Located four miles from Huntingdon, on the A1198,  
off the A14. OT 10, £3 (U16 free), CP free, LB, C, T1,  
TS, B&B, FAM. David, G8JKV, 01223 355254, email  
[rally@cdarc.co.uk](mailto:rally@cdarc.co.uk).

### **Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008**

Radiofairs spring Amateur Radio and Electronics  
show at Kempton Park.

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

**10 August 2008** Flight Refuelling ARS Hamfest.

**16<sup>th</sup> November 2008** CATS Bazaar

## **For Sale & Wanted**

### **FOR SALE**

MFJ 1263 microphone control centre. In mint  
condition, never used. Boxed. £ 60



Watson W30 30 Amp power supply  
Good condition. £ 30

Global SWL AT1000 receive-only antenna tuner.  
Suitable for short wave listener. £20

A-Z of British Motor cycles 1893-2000.  
Set of 3 CDs £15.

Alec MOWHY. Montem, Jail Lane, Biggin Hill, Kent.  
TN16 3AU Telephone: 01959 575113  
Email: [alec12345@fiscali.co.uk](mailto:alec12345@fiscali.co.uk)  
All items to be collected from from Biggin Hill.

This space is available to any member (and  
others subject to approval) to advertise any  
radio-related items

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